

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, June 29, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Holiday closures set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The *Leader* will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Normal office hours will resume Wednesday, July 5, at 9 a.m.

Clear Brook City MUD

The offices of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will be closed Tuesday July 4, in celebration of Independence Day. The office will reopen for regular business Wednesday, July 5, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru window side of the building.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who have regular trash service pickup on Tuesday and Fridays will have service on Tuesday, Independence Day, July 4. All trash should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Friday, July 7.

Graduation issues available

Extra copies of the *Leader's* high school graduation issue, published on June 1, are available at the newspaper office, 11555 Beamer. The special edition includes graduation information for Dobie, Clear Brook, South Houston and Clear Horizons Early College high schools and Lutheran South Academy.

Vacation photos sought

The *Leader* is seeking readers' 2017 vacation photos for possible publication. A first-, second- and third-place prize of Schlitterbahn Galveston tickets will be awarded monthly during June, July and August to the best submissions. First place will be awarded eight tickets; second place will be awarded six; and third place will be awarded four.

All submissions should include when and where the photo was taken, identify each person in the picture and describe the trip. All photos must be high resolution. Email photos to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Do not compress photos when emailing.

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.

New Directions to meet

The New Directions Singles group meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. The next meeting is on Monday, July 3. The group has activities and/or guest speakers at the dinner. For additional information, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

Kirkwood Civic Club meets

The Kirkwood Civic Club meets the last Thursday of each month at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. The June meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Free self-defense classes

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes, on Fridays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The courses are taught by experienced martial arts instructors. For more information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Cabrini holds blood drive

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook, and the Knights of Columbus Council 15321 will host a blood drive in honor of Jacob Granados at the church Sunday, July 2, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Granados was born with a rare congenital blood cell disorder and receives multiple transfusions as part of his medical treatment at Texas Children's Hospital. His sister, Emily, was his bone marrow donor. The children's grandparents, Rosa and Alejandro Avina, are members of St. Frances.

To schedule an appointment, visit www.giveblood.org and log in to Digital Donor and enter the sponsor code 3379 or contact Janie Perales at 713-946-1223.

Mt. Olive holds vendor market

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, located at 10310 Scarsdale, will host a summer craft and vendor market Saturday, July 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Barbecue and other refreshments will also be available for purchase.

CrossRoads holds VBS

CrossRoads United Methodist Church, located at 10030 Scarsdale, will hold its Maker Fun Factory vacation Bible school from Monday, July 17, to Friday, July 21. The program is free and open to children from 3 years old through fifth grade. Classes will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. To preregister, visit https://vbspro.events/p/ae6c65. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.

South Belt celebrates Independence Day

Independence Day is around the corner, and South Belt community leaders are once again planning to host the area's annual parade and fireworks show.

Parade

Now in its 30th year, this year's parade will be a salute to all first responders, including police, firefighters, paramedics and military personnel. Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz will again be taking part in the event. Also expected to participate are members of the South-

east Volunteer Fire Department, the Houston Police Department and the Houston Fire Department.

New parade entries include Scotty's Pub, Dobie JROTC, C & D Burger Shop, the H-Town Texas Cookers, the Sagemont Cowgirls and Dobie FFA. Other early confirmed entries include the Sagemont Church Choir, the Dobie Lariettes, Bombers Sports Bar, San Jacinto College and Dobie football.

All are welcome to participate in the event, including both commercial and noncommercial entries. While it is not necessary to do so, participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles, trailers and floats. Prizes will be awarded to the most patriotic and most original entries in both commercial and noncommercial categories. Community groups and nonprofit organizations may sign up for the parade at no charge, unless they wish to be eligible for a prize. Noncommercial entries competing for a trophy are required to pay \$25. Commercial entries are required to pay \$50, whether or not they choose to enter the contest.

Misinformation on Brio

In response to multiple online threads that are spreading misinformation about the safety of the Brio Superfund site and future detention pond site located near Beamer Road and Dixie Farm Road, *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger, who serves as the EPA community liaison for Brio, has written an editorial that appears on Page 2A of this issue.

Sagemont gas leak sparks fear



Many Sagemont residents got a scare the afternoon of Monday, June 26, when a natural gas leak occurred in the 11400 block of Sagedowne. A spokeswoman for CenterPoint Energy said the leak was caused by a third-party contractor and did not pose a serious safety threat. No residents were evacuated, as crews worked roughly six hours to repair the leak. Some residents reported smelling the odor roughly one mile away.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

SJC offers nursing bachelor degrees

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed SB 2118 allowing certain community colleges, including San Jacinto College, to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing and applied technology, applied sciences upon approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and accreditation by the regional accreditor, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges.

"This move by the Texas legislature and Gov. Abbott will help to fill a critical workforce need in our region," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "I applaud and thank our local officials who supported this bill, as well as Sen. Kel Seliger and Rep. Sarah Davis for in-

roducing bills in the Senate and House, respectively. Our region will have a stronger workforce and economy because of this legislation."

San Jacinto College began developing curriculum and program proposals for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Industrial Management in preparation for hearings during the 85th Legislative Session. The college will now fine tune these program proposals for presentation and approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

According to ProjectionsCentral.com, Texas will need to fill 61,610 registered nursing

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Sagemont holds Patriot Celebration

Sagemont Church, located at 11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy E., will host its Patriotic Celebration on Sunday, July 2, in honor of Independence Day.

The event will feature baptisms at the cross, a concert performance from Denver and the Mile High Orchestra, bounce houses for children, a classic car show and food trucks. The celebration will conclude with a fireworks display.

With the exception of the food trucks, all attractions will be free.

The activities will begin at 5 p.m. The program will begin at 7 p.m., with baptism being followed by the free concert.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Those wishing to be baptized should contact John Mark Benson at johmark.benson@sagemontchurch.org or 281-898-4631.

Those wishing to show a classic car should contact Kerry Jones at kerry.jones@sagemontchurch.org or 281-481-8770.

Epperson wins national beauty pageant

By Jay Do

Local high school student Rachel Epperson recently claimed her first national beauty pageant title, after being crowned Miss Teen United States in the United America Pageant.

Epperson advanced to the national level of the pageant after being crowned Miss Teen Lone Star State in a preliminary competition. Held last April in Katy, the Lone Star State Pageant also served as Red Nose Day fundraiser to aid poverty-stricken children.

In its 13th year of honoring women, United America Pageant aims to reshape the image of young women in society, and prides itself on judging contestants by the content of their character, rather than by their physical appearance. The swimsuit competition, for instance, has been replaced with a volunteer service category. The pageant system recognizes females who balance education, career, family life and community service in their communities with grace and beauty.

In such a competition, Epperson excelled in all aspects.

A junior at Friendswood High School, Ep-

person has completed 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 National Cheerleaders Association All-American Varsity cheerleader. In regards to future plans, Epperson hopes to attend Rice University to major in biomedical engineering.

Having only recently decided to compete, this competition season was Epperson's first experience in beauty pageantry.

"Every Thanksgiving, my family and I would go to a pageant, and a lady there had asked me if I was interested in being in a pageant because she thought I was really pretty," said Epperson. "I was only 13 at the time, so three years later, she called me and asked if I was still interested in doing the pageant."

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Due to the length of the parade route, participants are prohibited from walking it on foot.

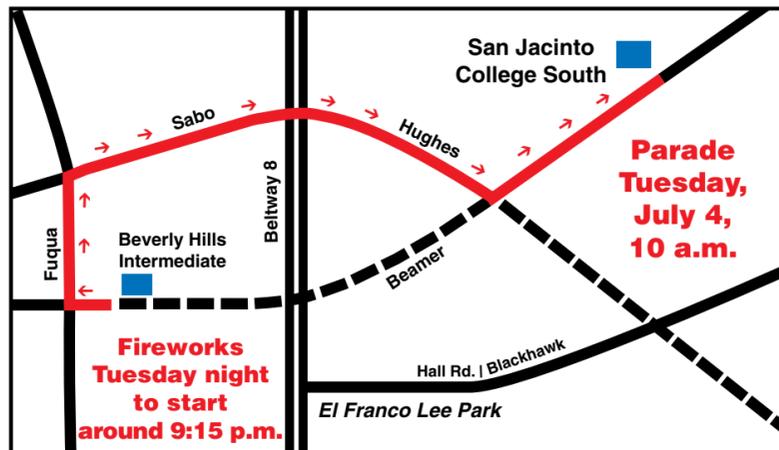
Registration forms are available at www.southbeltleader.com, the *Leader* office, 11555 Beamer, and on Page 6A of this issue. The forms are to be filled out and returned to the *Leader* office, faxed to 281-481-5730 or emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Contrary to earlier reports that stated the deadline to return entry forms was Sunday, July 2, that date has now been extended to Monday, July 3.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, located at 11111 Beamer Road. The route will then head north on Beamer to Fuqua, then east to Sabo/Hughes Road, before

traveling south onto Beamer to the parade's final destination of San Jacinto College South. See related map on this page. Participants are urged to arrive at least an hour early.

Fireworks display

Now in its 29th year, the annual South Belt fireworks show will take place at El Franco Lee Park, located at 9400 Hall Road. (While the fireworks show began in 1988 with the parade, the 1995 display was skipped due to a lack of funding.) Organizers said this year's display, which is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, will be one of the largest to date. The show is set to begin around 9:15 p.m. depending on moonlight, sunset, clouds, etc.



Police chases lead to multiple arrests

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office have been involved in three major pursuits in the last two weeks - all of which have resulted in arrests.

The first incident began around 7:30 a.m. on Monday, June 12, when a driver of a 2001 Chevy truck registered out of Montana allegedly ran a red light at the intersection of Sageglen and Scarsdale. A deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop, but the driver refused to stop and sped off toward the Gulf Freeway.

The suspect headed north on the freeway, and the deputy subsequently gave chase.

The driver of the Chevy exited Edgebrook, then re-entered the freeway at College, then exited again at Monroe.

The pursuit came to a stop in the 8700 block of the Gulf freeway, when the driver struck a stopped vehicle at the Monroe intersection.

The driver was charged with felony evading and assault with a vehicle.

Later that day around 4:20 p.m., a second police chase began at the intersection of Blackhawk and

Hughes Road when a driver refused to stop for a deputy when he attempted to conduct a traffic stop for speeding.

The suspect driver then headed south on Blackhawk at a high rate of speed, and the deputy pursued. The chase came to an end at the intersection of Blackhawk and Scarsdale when the suspect crashed his car.

One of the two occupants of the vehicle was apprehended at the scene, while the second individual ran on foot toward Bogey Way. After a brief search, the second suspect was located under the bridge near the Blackhawk hike-and-bike trail.

The driver and a passenger, both juveniles, were arrested for evading. The driver was charged with evading in a vehicle, while the passenger was charged with evading on foot.

On Thursday, June 15, a deputy pulled over a blue 1999 Ford F-250 pickup truck on the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook for a routine traffic stop.

Upon approaching the truck, which was occupied by two males and two females, the deputy

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Multiple freeway closures planned

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, at least one inside lane on the northbound and southbound frontage roads of the Gulf Freeway from NASA Road 1 to State Highway 96 in League City will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

At least one alternate lane on the northbound and southbound main lanes of the Gulf Freeway from NASA Road 1 to State Highway 96 in League City will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Dec. 31.

Alternate entrance and exit ramps on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Road 1 to State Highway 96 in League City will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Dec. 31.

At least one alternate lane on the northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage roads of the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Parkway to Fuqua will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, July 3.

At least two alternate lanes on the northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage roads of the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Parkway to Fuqua will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, July 3.

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.



Epperson takes national crown

Rachel Epperson was recently crowned Miss Teen United States at the national United America Pageant, held June 9-11 in San Antonio. Unlike other traditional beauty contests, United America pageants focus on educational achievement and community service. An incoming junior at Friendswood High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society, Epperson has selflessly completed more than 400 hours of volunteer work. Epperson is the daughter of local State Farm Agent Thuy Epperson, who is also an organizer of the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

Photo submitted

Publisher's Opinion

Trying to correct Brio information

Facebook can do a lot of good and entertains many. But, unfortunately, a lot of bad, incorrect and misleading information also gets spread quickly. We have watched recently as bad information has been spread regarding the Brio Superfund Site.

One Facebook contributor asked, "What is Brio?" This is a simple explanation from the EPA: Located in Harris County, Texas (to the west of the intersection of Beamer and Dixie Farm Roads) the Brio Refining Site was used as a chemical re-processing and refining facility from the 1950s to 1982. The site was placed on the National Priorities List ("Superfund") on March 31, 1989. Elements of the final remedy for the site included a vertical barrier wall, a site cover system, groundwater flow control, as well as long-term air, ground water, and surface water monitoring. Construction of the final remedy began in July 2000 and was completed in April 2004. Since mid-2004, the Brio site has been undergoing monitoring to ensure that no exposures are occurring.

The EPA conducts a formal review of the Brio site every five years to confirm its continuing protectiveness. The last five-year review, performed in 2013, found that the remedy remained protective and consistent with the remedial action objectives for the Brio site. Additional work is in progress to evaluate and monitor constituents in deeper groundwater. The deeper groundwater from the site flows in a southeasterly direction, cross gradient to the housing development contemplated northeast of the site.

The next five-year review will be completed in 2018. From my standpoint, it was land that was used to recycle chemical waste from numerous chemical companies. At one time the wastes were used to make jet fuel for companies at Ellington Field. The amount of waste far surpassed the abilities of the various companies that owned the property to recycle the waste. The chemical waste was dumped into unlined, open pits. A subdivision was then built next to the facility and, again in my opinion, many were exposed to toxic waste, and many, especially children were greatly harmed. It resulted in the late 1980s and 1990s in many lawsuits. The chemical companies escaped the majority of the liability which fell upon the property developers. The community was very torn on the issue. Many believed as I did that it was a major problem, others thought that those who felt that way were crazy.

It should be clarified that while some are confusing property on which the retention pond is being built as part of Brio, IT IS NOT. The work is being done in the northern part of the former subdivision. But because there is that confusion we will discuss the Brio information.

First a little history for those who don't know the Brio story. I spent approximately 10 years, since 1985, fighting EPA, the federal health department, the county, city and approximately 200 chemical companies in regard to Brio. After 10 years the community, EPA and chemical companies reached an agreement. I was not alone, there were many in the community that helped. Two especially who still live in the community, Dr. Catherine O'Brien and Cheryl Finley; Cheryl and I worked together during the first few years. Catherine and I the last few years. During that time, there were dozens who were very much a part of the Brio saga, without whose help, we never would have been successful. Our goal was safety for the community.

My personal goal was to stop the planned incineration; close the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League fields, close Weber Elementary which was within a five minute walk of Brio and close the Southend subdivision.

It took a few years, but all this was accomplished. I share this because I want people to know that after working so hard with so many to make things safer, there is no way I would go along with putting this community that I love so much at risk today.

During the 1990s, the Environmental Protection Agency asked me to serve as liaison between the community and EPA. That role is of an advocate for the community. It is that role, as well as newspaper owner that I will address the Brio concerns. I do not in any way represent the EPA or Brio. Through the years the relationship with those representing Brio and EPA is much improved. Helping that has been their willingness to work with the community after fighting us for nearly 10 years!

We, the community, got the remedy for Brio changed, after EPA and the chemical companies came to an agreement in federal court. We got their agreement overturned. A feat that had never been done before.

We got a \$50 million incinerator torn down shortly after it was completed without ever burning a teaspoon of toxic waste! And today, most of those that fought us the hardest will agree the community got done what was best for the community. Our remedy proved to be the best even though millions had been spent getting ready for the remedy Congress preferred.

Now, on to the Facebook concerns. **Kasie:** Does anybody know what they are doing at the Brio site? We have been seeing dozens of dump trucks leaving the facility filled with (what I imagine to be) contaminated dirt. The dirt in the trucks falls to the ground as they drive, spreading it out all over the place. So what exactly are they doing over there - and are they planning on rebuilding? Heaven forbid.

Response: None of the work being done connected with the dump trucks are going on any of the Brio property. They are on the property where some of the Southend homes were located. They do not contain contaminated dirt. The dirt is a problem only because it messes up our roads and is much worse when it rains. In fact, when it rains, the trucks now quit running. Too many accidents were caused on the first rainy day they were working.

Rest easy, there are no plans for building on Brio. Never will be unless science comes up with a way for the contaminated soil to be cheaply and safely cleaned. Not in my lifetime! This dirt, which is being excavated, has been tested many times and is from clean areas of the former subdivision. The problem years ago was contaminated air and yards of homes closest to Brio, i.e. Southorchard, with smaller amounts near Southspans and Southhill. **Kasie:** A retention pond next to an old landfill? That should end well. Are you certain they aren't taking contaminated dirt? I wonder if anyone has a good drone they could take pics. **Response:** Don't really need a drone. Check the various maps on computer. The one we have is great and shows the area quite well. **Kasie:** The Brio site was one of the top three chemical dump sites in the nation. We are not

talking about trash. Chemicals from local chemical plants. That stuff doesn't stay in one place. Now they want to hold water on it?

Response: Don't think the site ever was given a ranking, but it was very bad in my opinion due to the fact that people, children and pets lived right across the fence. Most people thought the contamination was from water. But it was air, and in my opinion they should have known that. All the drinking water samples from the Southend subdivision municipal utility district were free of the toxics. But the air was contaminated. The toxics did come from local chemical plants, it was the plants "left over garbage" not good stuff to be around. Nobody is putting water on the site, with the exception of God. And even the rainwater is not allowed to penetrate the cover of the site.

The containment remedy consisted of fill dirt to try and even out the site, a gas collection layer which sucks out chemicals and transports them off site to be destroyed and a thick plastic covering over the entire site with a topping of six-to-eight feet of low permeable soil. Additionally, there is a 50-foot deep slurry wall, except at Mud Gully where the wall is a thick steel wall which also goes down 50 feet. A pumping program recovers groundwater from the interior of Brio causing a gradient inward from the site perimeter. This pumping provides a secondary protection to prevent off-site migration.

Kasie: I just want two questions answered. Where are they taking the dirt and where is the water flowing out of the retention pond?

Response: The dirt is being taken to two general locations, both landfills. The original ones were around Mykawa and Telephone off Beltway 8. Currently it is being transported to the landfill on Genoa Red Bluff that used to be the old Genoa Airport. There it is being used nearly daily as cover for the trash that is being brought into the landfill.

The water, again, check a current aerial map, is going the same place it has since at least the 1960s, down the Beamer Road ditch, through the Mud Gully and eventually into the Gulf. During the "terrible Brio days" (the 1980s and 1990s, not only did the water go there, so did the chemicals. Because Catherine O'Brien and I raised so much Cain about that issue, the state finally tested not only the water, but even the fish! For the first time, we were told at least in Texas, vinyl chloride was found in fish. Then Texas Gov. Ann Richards asked me to meet with her people in Austin and she gave us tremendous help in our fight against what EPA wanted to do at Brio.

Once the problem was admitted, it was rectified. Surface water samples from multiple locations in Mud Gully, and one in Clear Creek downstream of the confluence of the creek and Mud Gully, are tested quarterly by a third-party laboratory. Results are consistently well below the State of Texas standards for these streams. The latest samples were collected on March 16, 2017 and had results well below the stream standards. This practice will continue.

Amy: There are air, water and land monitors in place on the Brio site. It's being monitored. The Brio site was also removed from the national registry 2006.

Response: Amy is correct. Multiple governmental agencies and private property owners have tested the soil in the area where Harris County Flood Control District is excavating. Routine soil testing is not done because it has been found to be absent of site constituents and soil is not mobile like air and water. The now deceased County Commissioner, El Franco Lee told me he did not want the county to buy the property in question, the retention property, if there was any chance it was contaminated. He had thorough testing done. So did the doctors that previously bought the land and sold it to the county. Had the land been contaminated, neither the doctors or the county would have bought it. Air samples at Brio are collected from six sampling stations around the perimeter of Brio twice a year. The results are required to be below the Fence Line Ambient Air Quality Standards (FLAAQS) established by the EPA. The results for the last reporting period were non-detect or well below the FLAAQS. Air monitoring results during the construction of the remedy and post construction have also been far below the FLAAQS.

Response: Do you know how to contact your Councilman? I would not believe some of the hype here; it sounds strangely like a public relations speech. Contact a city official and attempt to get more facts. I live in Pasadena and it's what I do....

Response: There is no city councilman for this area. It is in the unincorporated area, not in the city. It is under the county commissioner; the one who approved the purchase, also had it tested and was convinced.

Eleanor: I've done tons of research and also read from hundreds of people who lived there and what they are going through and how many died if (sic) cancer and their children. If you talk to people who know about these chemicals and have nothing to gain, you will find out that those chemicals will NEVER be 100 percent gone.

Response: Cancer was not the primary problem. There were only two cases where doctors named exposure to Brio as a cause of cancer. The biggest problem was birth defects. That was easier to prove. For adults with cancer living in a high petroleum area like Houston it is difficult to prove causation. We were able to prove to Assistant Surgeon Dr. Barry Johnson of the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry that there was a problem with birth defects, central nervous system disorders, etc. Eleanor is right, the chemicals will never be gone. That is why it is so important they are not only contained, but continually monitored. But again, remember that is on the Brio site, not all surrounding areas. From the 1950s to the early 1990s the chemicals were not contained. Today they are. The federal court mandated agreement between the EPA and the chemical companies requires that monitor continues.

Kasie: I don't think everyone is doomed... but digging precariously close to the dumpsite then adding water is taking a huge unnecessary risk on the entire community, or wherever the water flows.

Response: The water for decades has been flowing in the same places, the worst being Mud Gully, through Brio. The holding pond is as clean as one's back yard.

Kimberly: I bought my house in College Place in 2006. When I went to close on the house (after I had packed all my stuff and put in notice on leaving an apartment that had another family waiting to move in), I was pre-

sented with a paper that I had to sign that basically said that I would not sue if I developed issues from any chemical exposures and that I had no legal rights if I had any medical repercussions due to the Brio sight. Wow!

Response: Many have questioned why people have been asked to sign. To my recollection, the realtor, J. Mike LeBlanc was the first realtor to require buyers to sign. Many falsely believe this is required by the government. It absolutely is not. Due to all the lawsuits that resulted in the 1980s and 1990s, realtors developed this way to protect themselves. To my knowledge, there have been no lawsuits on Brio since the early 1990s.

Charles: The new gated section at Blackhawk and Dixie... The homes at the back border right where the steel sheets were driven 15 feet into the ground to keep the toxins from leaching into the creek.

Response: The only steel driven into the ground was at Mud Gully, and the sheets were 50 feet deep, not 15. They are not adjacent to the gated section. While the gated subdivision is on the west side of the DOP property, it is also on the opposite side of Mud Gully. Certainly not adjacent to the property.

Kaye: It wasn't very long ago that the whole

neighborhood over the brio land site had to be torn down.

Response: Just a clarification. Some say the government mandated the neighborhood be torn down. It officially did not "have to be torn down," but the original developer chose to tear down the homes which are now sitting in a covered up nearby landfill. The developer finally arranged to get the homes off the market, many through legal settlements. The government did not get involved in any way with the selling of the property, or the requirement of signing a disclosure.

Charles: Remember they found contaminants all the way on San Jac property

Response: Again Wrong, Wrong, Wrong! No toxics were ever found on San Jac property. At least not the college property. The only San Jac property anywhere near the truth on this statement would be the San Jacinto River property off I-10. That has toxic waste. No toxics have ever been found at San Jacinto College.

Unfortunately some people, like in the comment below, will believe what they saw in this Facebook posting. Please keep your information correct!!!!!!

Eleanor: Oh, and one thing I wanted to add, when I was in the produce Dept several

months ago, I asked the produce man if they had organic lettuce and he laughed and said, yes, and then added, I don't know why some people come in and ask for organic produce when we live close to the brio site.

Response: This proves my point on why we must be accurate in spreading information. Not just on Brio, but all things.

This week's final comment: More coming next week. I can't believe this is so long, and still did not cover a lot of what is being said.

If anyone would like to see test results for soil, water, air, let me know. They are all public records. Also if you want specific questions answered, email me at mynews@southbeltleader.com. I have filing cabinets of documents and photos of Brio going back 60+ years. Brio was a terrible place. But the whole community is not. Only the small contained area.

The biggest problem with the digging of the retention pond, I have not seen much of on Facebook.

That is what the trucks are doing to our roads. Now that's a problem. Till next week, thanks for reading. Let me know your questions. If I don't have the answers, I will get them.

Brio is very complicated and a serious is-

sue. It is important to get the correct information if it is being passed around. Study the issue.

There is enough factual information available for anyone interested - documented information which is accurate. Brio, although a tragedy for many, is also an intriguing study. But don't confuse it with all of South Belt and remember the retention pond is not Brio!

One good thing about our community: We know where the problems are. We know through aerial photos that date back to the 1950s where the toxics were. Many communities, like along the San Jacinto RIVER recently found out. Some still don't know.

Our air and water have been and still are being tested on a regular basis.

Fortunately those levels are all now all at acceptable state approved levels. Not many communities in the Houston area have that.

Just a word of thanks to the dozens of people who helped with Brio.

Much too sad that we did not have the advantage of the internet and social media. It would have made the job much easier with all the interested residents like those on Facebook today.

-Marie Flickinger

Deaths

Rosemary Chadiour



Rosemary Rogers Chadiour, 73, died June 27, 2017. As a Sagemont resident since 1967, she was devoted and active in her children's lives and community activities.

She is survived by her husband Charles Chadiour; daughter Christine; sons David and Andrew; brother Robert Rogers of St. Pete Beach Florida; and three grandchildren Charlie, Zachary, and Caelyn Chadiour. Rosemary is preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Frances Rogers, and her younger brother, Ralph "Tommy" Rogers.

She served as leader for several Girl Scout troops since 1970, served on numerous committees in the San Jacinto Girl Scout Council, trained other leaders, and taught crafts to a generation of girls and leaders. She was secretary then president of the Stuchbery PTA and was a volunteer for the school's student mentoring program for many years. She was team mom for several football and baseball teams, troop mom for Boy Scout troops, and was secretary for the Sagemont pool.

Rosemary was born July 28, 1943 in Knoxville, Tennessee where her father worked on the WW2 Oak Ridge nuclear facility. She graduated from Port Barre High School in Krotz Springs, La. in 1961 and attended LSU, where she met and married Charles, her husband of 54 years. They have been Texas residents since 1962.

Visitation will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 29 at South Park, The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. at South Park Chapel followed by interment at South Park Cemetery.

Nancy Claire Brooks



South Belt resident Nancy Claire (Tabb) (Harrell) Brooks was born October 26, 1936, and died June 20, 2017, three years after losing her dear husband Louis Brooks. It is bittersweet for everyone to know they are together again.

Nancy is survived by her children Diana Harrell, Rebecca Caux-Harry and husband Mark, David Harrell, Hollie Dickens and husband Joel and Geoff Brooks; her grandchildren Colt, Abigail and Annaleigh Dickens and Jacob Harrell; sisters-in-law Ann and husband Barry Bennick, Shirley Brooks and Chris Tabb; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Nancy was a graduate of Lamar High School, class of '53. She attended Rice University and UTMB-Galveston, earning her bachelor's degree in nursing.

She was a career woman most of her life, retiring from her last position as an operat-

ing room nurse at Methodist Hospital, having earned the first certificate offered for Certified Nurse-Operating Room.

A Christian, Nancy was active at Sagemont Church and participated in charitable, mission and volunteer activities. She spent many hours supporting Medical Bridges, which honored her contribution in 2016 with a Special Recognition Award.

While raising her children, she volunteered with the American Red Cross to give of her nursing skills. She was a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls advancing to Worthy Advisor during her teenage years. This membership put her on a life-long journey of volunteerism and charity, always wanting to share her good fortune with others.

The service celebrating Nancy's life was held June 24 at Niday Funeral Home, followed by interment at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Nancy requested contributions be made to Sagemont Church, Medical Bridges or to one's favorite charity.

Aurora "Goldie" Vela



Aurora Dolores Vela (Goldie), 62, of South Belt, died Monday, June 26, 2017, at Harbor Hospice Hospital, after a brief struggle with cancer. She was born to Salvador Vela Sr. and Estefana Trevino Sept. 20, 1954, in Harlingen.

She is survived by her beloved children Erica Vela, Lee Vela and Stephanie Soloyra; 10 grandchildren Eric Vela, Randy Soloyra Jr., Lee Vela Jr., Destiny Vela, Faith Vela, Thomas Soloyra, Alex Soloyra, Yvette Soloyra, Trae Vela and Analiese Vela; sisters Juanita Dominguez, Clara Vela, Angie Nuncio and Marta Ortega; and brother John Trevino. She also leaves behind numerous loving relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents Salvador Vela Sr. and Estefana Trevino; brothers Seleonio Vela and Salvador Vela Jr.; niece Patricia Vela; and granddaughter Genesis Vela.

The family held visitation Wednesday, June 28, at Forest Lawn Funeral Chapel. Mass was celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church.

Daniel Lee Lazenberry



Daniel Lee Lazenberry, 83, former South Belt resident, died at home June 23, 2017, in Friendswood.

Daniel was born on Sept. 16, 1933, in El Paso Robert G. and Vera M. (Hawkins) Lazenberry.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years Carol Summers Lazenberry; his daughters Margaret C. Lazenberry, Charlotte Brohi, Jacqueline McDonald and Susan Magers; son Hugh Lazenberry; daughter-in-law Lisa Lazenberry; sons-in-law Al Brohi and James McDonald; 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. His son Daniel Lee Lazenberry Jr. preceded him in death.

Daniel served his country with full military honors in the U.S. Army, serving in Korea. He served as an El Paso police officer for ten years and attended Seminary Theological School in New Orleans. However, he discovered his true passion was teaching.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, he moved his growing family to Houston in 1970 and began his distinguished career with the Houston Independent School District, serving for more than 32 years, of which 23 years were with the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

He was most proud that he served his students in the same classroom and with the same principal for all 23 years. Daniel retired from teaching in 2001.

He was passionate about the poems and songs of praise he penned over the years and about the numerous articles he wrote for the El Paso Times.

He was a self-taught musician who shared with his children the sounds of his guitar and hymn singing at bedtime.

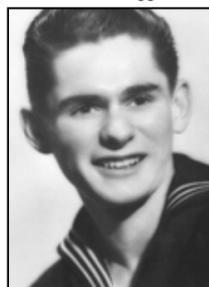
After spending the last 40 years writing about his passion for Jesus Christ, he happily completed his manuscript *The Barricades to Paradise: The Devil's Siegfried Lin*. He completed the manuscript just two weeks before his passing.

Friends were cordially in-

formed to attend a visitation with the family on Wednesday, June 28, at Jeter Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

His homegoing celebration is Thursday, June 29, 11 a.m., at Jeter Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Valgene Holmes will officiate. He will be buried at the Houston National Cemetery. Condolences may be sent in care of Jeter Funeral Home.

Alvin L. DeGraff



Alvin L. DeGraff, 91, longtime South Belt resi-

dent, died on June 22, 2017. He was born in 1926 in Detroit, Michigan, and graduated from Walled Lake High School in 1944.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII in the Pacific on the USS Mertz as a radioman and anti-aircraft gun loader. He was also an accomplished draftsman, working for Ford Motor Company after the war and moving to Cleburne, Texas, in 1956 to work for a farm implement manufacturer.

He and Frances were married in 1957 and they began their family in 1958. In 1964, Alvin moved the family to Houston where he joined others supporting America's space program.

He worked for Lockheed as a draftsman during the Gemini and Apollo programs until funding subsided, and then he worked supporting Exxon as a pipe draftsman until he retired.

He was a wonderful husband and father, instilling dignity and integrity into his children and serving as a role

model for his children on the value of hard work.

Alvin was preceded in death by his mother, Bertha (Geroux) DeGraff and his father Alvin J. DeGraff.

Alvin is survived by his wife; his children Dennis and wife Deborah DeGraff, Geoffrey and wife Cindy DeGraff, Curtis and wife Julie DeGraff and Alisa and husband Roscoe Farmer; his grandchildren Rachel, Hayley, and William DeGraff, LeAnna DeGraff, Casandra and Belinda DeGraff, and Amber and Jayde DeGraff.

Friends were cordially invited to attend a visitation with the family on Monday, June 26, at Jeter Memorial Funeral Home chapel in Friendswood A graveside service was held Tuesday, June 27, at Houston National Cemetery.

A memorial service and reception were held at Servant-Savior Presbyterian Church. Condolences may be sent in care of Jeter Memorial Funeral Home at www.jeterfuneralhome.com.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

The Ashley Pointe Homeowners Association has created a new HOA website. Only homeowners will be approved and have the ability to post and submit work requests. For additional information, visit the Ashley Pointe Subdivision Facebook page or visit ashleypointe.hoa.com.

The members of the Pets of Southbelt Facebook page remind residents to check fences and keep pets inside for the 4th of July fireworks. For more information, visit the Pets of Southbelt Facebook page.

The Sagemont Civic Club Facebook page has uploaded a document that addresses a few of the issues that have been occasionally found in

Sagemont referencing the city code that relates to each issue. Kay Barbour, president of the Sagemont Civic Club, has also reminded residents that it is against city ordinance to park any kind of vehicle on a yard including cars, boats and RVs. Citations will be issued for those violations which only pertain to Sagemont and the neighborhood around Beverly Hills Intermediate, 11111 Beamer. Members of the Sagemont Civic Club Facebook page may email photographs to Barbour of any city ordinance violations at 311sagemont@gmail.com to be posted on the Facebook page. For additional information, visit the Sagemont Civic Club Facebook page.

A member of the People of Sagemont Facebook page has created and uploaded a video of the American flags that were displayed at Sagemont Church for Memorial Day weekend on the People of Sagemont Facebook page. For more information, or to watch the video, visit the People of Sagemont Facebook page.

Sagemont Church will be hosting a Patriotic Celebration Sunday, July 2, at 7 p.m. There will be many activities such as bouncy houses, a car show, a concert by Denver and the Mile High orchestra, food trucks and a fireworks show at 9 p.m. Admission is free and food from the food trucks may be purchased.

Residents are welcomed to bring lawn chairs to watch the fireworks show. For additional information, visit the People of Sagemont Facebook page.

SJC to offer bachelor degrees in nursing

Continued from Page 1A jobs by 2024, an increase of 31.2 percent. San Jacinto College currently offers a RN (registered nurse) through the Associate Degree Nursing program. Graduates of the San Jacinto College nursing program are near or exceed the state and national pass rate standards for the National Council Licensure Examination at 75.68 percent for the South campus nursing program and 86.11 percent for the Central and North campuses combined.

Due to the need of East Harris County hospitals to have 80 percent of their RN workforce with a BSN, the college began working with area universities to offer an associate degree nurse-to-BSN transition program. This allowed students to complete the core course work for the BSN and the licensing as a RN at San Jacinto College before transferring to a four-year college or university to complete the final courses leading to a bachelor's degree. This new option will allow students the flexibility to complete all of the required BSN transition course work at San Jacinto College.

"I am pleased that we were able to help navigate this important policy change into law," said Sen. Larry Taylor (TX-11). "It is vital to meeting the employment needs for our area, providing for more affordable educational opportunities, and allowing San Jac to further its mission to support our community."

"With our regional hospitals working toward achieving magnet status, it is critical that current associate degree nurses in the workforce have the opportunity to achieve the

BSN here in our region," said Kerri Hines, department chair for nursing on the San Jacinto College North campus. "Most of our students are hired with the caveat that they obtain the BSN within three years. Providing an opportunity for students to succeed in their careers is part of the mission of San Jacinto College."

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nurses, 79.6 percent of employers prefer BSN program graduates. Katey Crackel, Director of Education for Bayshore Medical Center and East Houston Regional Medical Center, a campus of Bayshore, says the American Nurses Credentialing Center in 2014 showed that health care facilities with higher percentages of BSN nurses enjoy better patient outcomes and significantly lower mortality rates. In order to apply for Magnet status an organization must achieve a bachelor degree nurse percentage of at least 80 percent.

"We have a long standing partnership with San Jacinto College, and because of that partnership we have been fortunate to sit on many nursing advisory councils at the college, providing feedback on courses we feel need to be added based on the performance of our current hires from San Jacinto College, as well as on curriculum that will be needed for the BSN transition program," said Crackel. "Bayshore Medical Center and its affiliates supported SB 2118 throughout this legislative session, and we are excited about the opportunity to further our partnership with San Jacinto College."

San Jacinto College will also develop program curriculum for a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Industrial Management. With new advancements in the petrochemical field, billions of dollars in plant expansions and the retiring workforce along the Texas Gulf Coast, the demand for workers at all levels of both plant operations and the companies that service the plants is needed. The BAT will allow San Jacinto College to help transition the current workforce that desires to move into middle management positions the opportunity for a career pathway without having to start over at the freshman level to achieve a bachelor's degree. This will help current workers who already have experience in the industry and an associate degree to improve their business skills to obtain career advancement.

"Being able to offer these bachelor degrees will help us strengthen our industry partnerships and address the retiring workforce that our region is dealing with," added Hellyer, who offered numerous testimonies on the topic during the 85th Legislative session. "Our region needs employees who can lead productive and efficient teams. The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Industrial Management will help create a career pathway for current workers who already possess an associate degree, have the background in process operations and maintenance, and would like to move into management positions."

According to the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHMA), East Harris County will need more

than 11,000 workers by 2019, with more than one-third of those in operations and maintenance. San Jacinto College is responding to the need with a new Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology, scheduled to open on the Central campus in 2019. This approximate 145,000-square-foot facility will prepare students for careers at all levels.

Chris Hext, legislative chairman for EHCMA, says that this legislation will provide employees in this industry opportunities that do not currently exist. "The BAT degree will be extremely beneficial in the chemical industry because these are individuals who have been working in our plants and understand our product and processes. The BAT will provide the industry with options to move personnel into a variety of positions as needed in our plants."

"After several sessions, we finally have a statewide bill that allows community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing and applied technology," said Rep. Mary Ann Perez (TX-144), who offered a bill and championed the legislation presented by Rep. Sarah Davis in the Texas House of Representatives. "This will save students tuition money and help address a critical workforce need."

San Jacinto College will soon begin the process of submitting proposals for the two bachelor's degree programs to the THECB, as well as its accreditation agency, the Southern Association of Colleges

Neill changes lives in veteran services office

Melanie Neill graduated from San Jacinto College as the first person in her family to earn a college degree. She now works at San Jac as the veteran services coordinator.

"I fell in love with the veteran population. It was important for me to try to understand what they were going through and be a resource for them in whatever way I could," said Neill.

Neill was raised in Channelview. A local to the area, she spent an enormous amount of time on the San Jacinto College campus.

"My mom would go to the cosmetology school to have her hair done. It's almost like I grew up on this campus," she said.

After attending a high school that didn't focus on college preparatory and af-

ter repeatedly being told she could never earn a college degree, she decided that was exactly what she wanted to do. Determined to prove those individuals wrong and wanting to make something more for herself, she started taking classes at San Jac.

Neill was working multiple part-time jobs and therefore could only take one or two college classes at a time. She refused to take more classes than what she could pay for in cash.

She graduated from San Jac with an associate degree in applied sciences and started working in the bookstore on campus. She was intent on working at the college, applying multiple times before she was hired. She was soon offered a position as an administrative assistant in the financial aid office. Not long after, she took a position as a bookkeeper.

Neill decided that she wanted to return to college once again to earn her bach-

elor's degree in behavioral studies from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Again, she took one and two classes at a time, while also working and taking care of her sick parents.

"I wanted to get that degree in behavioral studies to try to understand people and why we think and behave the way that we do," said Neill. Adding that it was difficult to spend that time at school instead of taking care of her parents, but it was a sacrifice she knew she had to make.

Upon her graduation, Neill returned to San Jac and worked in the testing office. She then moved to her position in the veteran services office as the veteran services coordinator, where she has remained.

"I love working with these veterans because they are the most incredible people I have ever crossed paths with. It is such a diverse group, with all kinds of different personalities, but they are all extremely inspiring. Whatever trou-

bles you think you've had, you talk to a vet and you'll realize your problems are minimal. They've made the ultimate sacrifice," said Neill.

Neill would one day like to go back to school and earn a degree in social work or mental health to be able to further understand and help those around her. She feels lucky to work at a place like San Jacinto College that allows her to pass to someone else those words and ideas that she has learned through her own experiences.

"I enjoy my job and it's not hard to go to work knowing that the job you do has such a large effect on those around you," Neill said. "I love getting to make an impact on students and at the college every day, but in the same sense this college has changed my life and made the greatest impact on me."

For more information on veteran student services at San Jac, visit the San Jac veterans student website.

Davis praises Lamas' help, support

Mason Davis (left), one of the Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Kada Lamas, an instructor of AP computer science.

Davis has spent a number of hours participating in various community service opportunities alongside National Honor Society. He has also volunteered at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival and the Pasadena Animal Shelter.

Davis plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin to major in computer science.

Davis commented about Lamas, "Since I met Mrs. Lamas, she's done nothing but assist me in everything she possibly could."

First, she allowed me to take her AP computer science class with absolutely zero prior interaction with me. With my past knowledge and her class, I received a 5 on the AP test, a very uncommon occurrence. She was extremely supportive and helpful along the way. Following that year, her assistance has not disappeared. Mrs. Lamas has written numerous letters of recommendation for me as well as exposing me to a number of people and opportunities to further myself and maintain an interest in computer science."



The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 Pasadena Memorial High School students. The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running the Top 10 Shining Stars from Dobie and South Houston high schools.

Bay Area Quilt Guild meets

The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Thursday 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.

For the month of July, since the first Tuesday falls on July 4, the meeting is scheduled for July 11. Since July is the service project month, there will not be a guest speaker. Everyone will meet at the church at 1 p.m. and sew until 5:30 p.m., pausing for a light dinner provided by the guild.

The regular business meeting and Show and Tell will follow the dinner. Plan to bring a sewing machine and join the guild for a day of sewing for charity, friendship and fun. There will be other activities if one does not have a sewing machine. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 or visit the website at www.bayareaquiltguild.org.

South Belt Elementary announces end-of-year awards

South Belt Elementary names its year-end award recipients for the 2016-2017 school year.

Principal's Award

Aaden Aguilar, Devin Aguilera, Jacob Aguirre, Kayla Akinfenwa, Gabriel Aleman, Jonathan Alexander, Juwayriyah Ali, Ibrahim Ali, Syed Alijafri, Leovanni Alvarez, Isaiiah Ambriz, Xaviera Ambriz, Aundrea Amescua, Adrian Arreloa, Joshua Arrendondo, Nathan Arriaga, Ibrahim Asif, Makya Augustine, Hayden Austin, Bethany Avelar, Ivan Ayala and Kaila Baltzell.

A'nyia Beasley, Kaci-Lynn Bernard, Paige Bernard, Evan Bowden, Aja Breaux, Caleb Brown, Navien Buendia, Alexandria Byrd, Victoria Byrd, Kayla Calderon, Kylie Campos, Anthony Cancel, Jadyñ Cantu, Savannah Castillo, Sophie Centano, Sophie Centeno, Elizabeth Cervantes, Kakeida Cervantes, Alexander Chavez, Sophia Cleary, Jaman Clemons, Michael Collins, Khloe Coronado, Avageline Cosse, Shawn Deedman, Carlos Delgado and Samantha DeLuna.

Isaac DeLuna, Kayla DeRobles, Vvyvy Do, Kyleigh Dorsey, Langston Edwards, Natalie Espinosa, Alyssa Espinoza, Jade Fernandez, Kenzie Fernandez, Macy Figueroa, Xander Fiterman, Aniya Flemming, Courtney Fletcher, Bianca Flores Pineda, Jaylen Ford, Adrian Garza, Alessandra Garza, Kareli Garza, Aley Garza, Brianna

Garza, Nathan Gaytan and Romeo Gill.

Lynley Gillis, Emily Golenko, Tyler Gomez, Isaiiah Gomez, Isabella Gonzales, Marcos Gonzales, Ryliegh Gonzalez, Yazmine Gonzalez, Abigail Gutierrez, Vivian Hang, Reanna Harvey, Jamin Hernandez, Audriana Hernandez, Emily Hernandez, Aven Hilario-Ruiz, Alexia Hoang, Nolan Hua, Rya Hurd, Nathalia Huynh, Richmond Huynh, Jerry Ibarra, Keli'jah Jackson, Carolyn Jaramillo and Anthony Jennings.

Jake Joslin, Heidy Kamh, Luke Kellen, Xavier Keller, Marina Kostikoglou, Zyha Lam, Jacob Lam, Jaylon Lasker, Gabe Laurila, Allyssa Laurila, Sheyla Le, Nathan Le, Jason Leahman, Jayden Lee, Hayden Limas, Kenndy Livingston, Isaiiah Lopez, Audrey Lopez, Kelvin Lopez, Andres Lopez, Santiago Lopez, Sebastian Lopez, Tatiana Luna, Isaiiah Machado and Jayme Martinez.

Caylee Martinez, Marissa Martinez, Donovan Martinez, Mackenzie Martinez, Mario Martinez, Priscilla Martinez, Jorge Martinez, Mia Mata, Kellan McCalla, Kailen McLaren, Brandon McNeal, Paula Medrano, David Melchor, Lenny Mendoza, Melanie Mireles, Morgan Momie, Katelin Moore, Lauren Moorer, Evan Mora, Vanessa Moreno Trevino and Ava Morin.

Ayden Munoz, Hailey Naughton, Abriana Neco,

Bao Ngo, Mia Nguyen, Grace Nguyen, Cody Nguyen, Hayly Nguyen, Andrew Nguyen, Justin Nguyen, Haley Nguyen, Jennifer Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Trish Nguyen, Arianna Ochoa, Emma Olvera, Eric Ortega, Hope Ortiz, Jabez Palma, Sujina Pandit, Emma Parker, Niko Pelaez and Juliana Perez.

Matthew Perez, Max Perez, Elijah Perez, Damian Perieda, Jonny Pham, Julianne Pham, Kinora Ploucha, Vihaan Prakash, Madison Puente, Damien Ram, Dasia Ram, Gabriela Ramirez, Giovanni Ramirez, Kendrick Ramos, Lyliah Randle Campbell, Maddie Rice, Julie Rich, Jordyn Rodriguez and Mikayla Rodriguez.

Alayna Rodriguez, Aubree Rodriguez, Derek Rodriguez, Mia Roppolo, Merab Saim, Lilianna Salazar, Makayla Salazar, Julian Salazar, Justin Salazar, Paul Salinas, Abriella Sanchez, Carlos Sanchez, Manuel Sanchez, Ketlia Sanchez, Lorenzo Sanders, Sebastian Sanders, Kailynn Scott, Gabby Sepe-

da, Donovan Serna, Jaliyah Silas, Cy'moria Silas and Christiane Simpson.

Kolton Smith, McKenzie Smith, Pitou So, Persephone Soria, Daniel Soto, Bella Starks, Logan Stewart, Emma Stone, Lori Suarez, Tristan Sudario, Mia Bella Sudario Garza, Dexter Sullivan, Jason Ta, Alec Tamegnon, Evan Taylor, Emily Taylor, Krystal Thomas, Danica Titus-Williams, Benson Ton,

Leslie Torres, Christopher Torres and Jennifer Torres.

Jalen Tran, Mina Tran, Samantha Trevino, Gavynn Trevino, Andrew Ullman, Issac Urquieta, Andrea Valdez, Jasmin Vasquez, Faith Vasquez, Katia Vazquez, Jetziel Velasquez, Jabari Venson, Noah Villareal, Joseph Vivier, Thu Vo, Alex Vouffo, Angelina Vu, Megan Vu, Sophia Vu, Robert Walker, Theo Washington, Zyrta Watson, Rachel Wilson, Heather Yount and Addison Yount.

Leslie Torres, Christopher Torres and Jennifer Torres.

Jalen Tran, Mina Tran, Samantha Trevino, Gavynn Trevino, Andrew Ullman, Issac Urquieta, Andrea Valdez, Jasmin Vasquez, Faith Vasquez, Katia Vazquez, Jetziel Velasquez, Jabari Venson, Noah Villareal, Joseph Vivier, Thu Vo, Alex Vouffo, Angelina Vu, Megan Vu, Sophia Vu, Robert Walker, Theo Washington, Zyrta Watson, Rachel Wilson, Heather Yount and Addison Yount.

Perfect Attendance

Lorena Adams, Jacob Aguirre, Kayla Akinfenwa, Noah Aleman, Isaiiah Ambriz, Rolando Ambriz, Olivia Antoine, Leslie Costa, Kaysie Davis-Lewis, Delilah Deleon, Vvyvy Do, Miguel Galan, Reanna Harvey, Jerry Hasbell, Jalen Hill, Jerry Ibarra, Danton Le and Jayden Lee.

Kennedy Livingston, Sebastian Lopez, Caylee Martinez, Donovan Martinez, Jorge Martinez, Julian Melchor, Morgan Momie, Aliah Moore, Bao Ngo, Andrew Nguyen, Daniel Nguyen, Haley Nguyen, Leon Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Trish Nguyen, Jabez Palma, Brendan Parrish, Juliana Perez, Max Perez, Julianne Pham, Kinora Ploucha, Madison Puente, Dasia Ram and Abrianna Reynolds.

Jordyn Rodriguez, Alayna Rodriguez, McKenzie Smith, Pitou So, Alex Soria, Tristan Sudario, Dexter Sullivan, Jason Ta, Kayla Thomas, Leslie

Torres, Jennifer Torres, Blake Treadway, Megan Vu and Ryan White.

Outstanding Citizenship

Aaden Aguilar, Alijah Banda, Kayla Calderon, Ava Castillo, Alexander Chavez, Samantha De Luna, Natalie Espinosa, Aniya Flemming, Courtney Fletcher, Joseph Garza, Romeo Gill, Audriana Hernandez, Alexia Hoang and Marina Kostikoglou.

Jaylon Lasker, Donovan Martinez, Mario Martinez, Pala Medrano, Morgan Momie, Evan Mora, Bao Ngo, Andrew Nguyen, Hope Ortiz, Jabez Palma, Max Perez, Dasia Ram, Leila Reyes, Julie Rich, Alayna Rodriguez and Mia Roppolo.

Lilianna Salazar, Julian Salazar, Carlos Sanchez, Ketlia Sanchez, Kolton Smith, Pitou So, Persephone Soria, Daniel Soto, Mia Bella Sudario Garza, Jennifer Torres, Nolan Tran, Jetziel Velasquez, Alex Vouffo, Robert Walker and Ryan White.

Most Improved

Lorena Adams, Aaden Aguilar, Leovanni Alvarez, Hayden Austin, Teyona Beason, Jordan Bernard, Victoria Byrd, Mia Cantu, Jadyñ Cantu, Sophie Centeno, Kyleigh Dorsey, Maddie Esposito, Jaylen Ford, Joseph Garcia, Marcos Gonzalez, Roberto Granados and Jaylen Hill.

Rya Hurd, Nathalie Huynh, Heidy Kamh, Andy Le, Nathan Le, Jayden Lee, Mackenzie Martinez, Priscilla Martinez, Paula Medra-

no, Jordan Melendez, Hayley Nguyen, Leon Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Luciano Padilla, Vihaan Prakash, Julie Rich, Jeremiah Rivero, Tai Robinson, Jordan Scimmons, McKenzie Smith, Marissa Tavera, Leslie Torres and Blake Treadway.

Honor Roll

Jonathan Alexander, Stephanie Bui, Vvyvy Do, Aniya Flemming, Audriana Hernandez, Jacob Lam, Bao Nguyen, Mary Nguyen, Trish Nguyen, Jabez Palma, Maddison Puente, Derek Rodriguez, Sebastian Sanders, Daniel Soto, Jason Ta and Jalen Tran.

Merit Roll

Daniel Arceneaux, Joshua Arrendondo, Kendall Ashworth, Ivan Ayala, Kylie Campos, Tatyonna Chappell, Abigail Gutierrez, Jake Joslin, Haley Nguyen, Michelle Nguyen, Jayden Reimer, Lei-

la Reyes, Piou So, MiaBella Sudario, Jennifer Torres and Thu Vo.

All Star Readers

Devin Aguilera, Juwayriyah Ali, Ibrahim Ali, Isaiiah Ambriz, Shelby Armstrong, Alijah Banda, Joseph Bello, Aja Breaux, Anabel Cancel, Jaydon Castro, Sophie Centeno, Adam Cid, Sophia Cleary, Kayla DeRobles, Bryce Edwards, Macy Figueroa, Xander Fiterman, Courtney Fletcher, Miguel Galan, Alessandria Garza, Isabella Gonzales and Vivian Hang.

Jasmin Hernandez, La'Riah Houston, Miguel Johnson, Luke Kellen, Marina Kostikoglou, Gabe Laurila, Allyssa Laurita, Hayden Limas, Audrey Lopez, Kelvin Lopez, Isaiiah Machado, Jayme Martinez, Donovan Martinez, Brandon McNeal, Dylan Mohwinkle, Morgan Momie

and Santiago Morales.

Grace Nguyen, Hayley Nguyen, Andrew Nguyen, Emma Parker, Damian Pereda, Juliana Perez, Julian Phillips, Kinora Ploucha, Vihaan Prakeesh, Gabriela Ramirez, Jordyn Rodriguez, Makayla Rodriguez, Alayna Rodriguez, Aubree Rodriguez, Mia Roppolo, Abdul Saim, Lilianna Salazar, Makayla Salazar and Paul Salinas.

Abriella Sanchez, Lorenzo Sanders, Kailynn Scott, Donovan Serna, Logan Stewart, Emma Stone, Dexter Sullivan, Alec Tamegnon, Evan Taylor, Krystal Thomas, Kayla Thompson, Christopher Torres, Justin Tran, Jetziel Velasquez, Robert Walker and Hassan Zamzam.

Math Wizards

Devin Aguilera, Jacob Aguirre, Juwayriyah Ali, Ibrahim Ali, Isaiiah Ambriz,

Olivia Antoine, Nathan Arriaga, Syed Ayan Alijafri, Joseph Bello, Aja Breaux, Jayden Castro, Adam Cid, Kayla DeRobles, Macy Figueroa, Xander Fiterman and Courtney Fletcher.

Miguel Galan, Alessandria Garza, Romeo Gill, Vivian Hang, Jasmin Hernandez, Alexia Hoang, Miguel Johnson, Hayden Limas, Andres Lopez, Isaiiah Machado, Donovan Martinez, Brandon McNeal, Morgan Momie, Evan Mora, Mia Nguyen, Grace Nguyen, Hayly Nguyen, Andrew Nguyen and Vihaan Prakash.

Damian Ram, Kendrick Ramos, Makayla Rodriguez, Lilianna Salazar, Makayla Salazar, Lorenzo Sanders, Abdul Siam, Logan Stewart, Alec Tamegnon, Jetziel Velasquez, Alex Vouffo, Angelina Vu and Hassan Zamzam.

San Jac has lasting impression on Sloterdijk family

The Sloterdijk family can happily say San Jacinto College has had a lasting impact on two generations of the family. Laura Sloterdijk, her sister, and her two children, Michael and Amy, all attended the college.

Laura Sloterdijk was recently recognized for 30 years of service to San Jacinto College and currently serves as the Coordinator of Division Operations for Business and Technology on the San Jacinto College Central campus.

"I'm grateful that I have been blessed to work at this institution and with my San Jac family for 30 years," said Sloterdijk. Adding that being able to help so many students thus changing their lives and that of their families is what is most rewarding.

While still in high school, Sloterdijk was caught skipping school by her father. He then took her to see a school counselor, where he was told skipping had not affected Sloterdijk's GPA and that she would receive no disciplinary action. Her father, angered by Sloterdijk's misbehavior and the lack of discipline from the counselor, pulled her out of school and made her go to work.

She then left home at the age of sixteen, was married, and had her son prior to her

18th birthday. After the birth of her son in 1978, she earned her General Education Diploma (GED) from San Jacinto College to ensure that she could find a good job. Her marriage soon ended and after struggling for eight years to find work at a decent wage and stay afloat, the single mom decided to become a part of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) program at San Jac, where she received a one-year secretarial certificate. She was then hired by that same program to work as a bookkeeper.

Sloterdijk married David, her husband who is now deceased, in 1988 and two years later had their daughter, Amy. She then decided to return to school once again. While earning her degree, she continued to work full time at the college and take care of her two children. Six years later, she completed her associate degree in office administration-executive secretary/administrative assistant.

Sloterdijk has held several positions over her 30 years at the college. She started her career in the JTPA program office but after 14 years moved to work as an administrative assistant for the dean of technical education and Perkins Funds. She then worked as an administrative assistant for the child devel-

opment department, the criminal justice department, the culinary arts and restaurant management department, and the dietetics department. Before taking the position she holds now, she worked as the administrative assistant to the associate dean of consumer services.

Sloterdijk's drive and love of education has inspired several of her family members to also attend San Jacinto College, becoming a part of the San Jac family. Her youngest sister, Charlotte Cheatham, took classes at the college and is now working on her master's degree in business. Her son, Michael Chapa, needed 15 hours to enlist in the army so he pursued his occupational certificate in welding from San Jac. And her daughter, Amy Sloterdijk, received her associate degree in registered nursing and is currently attending San Jac taking courses toward a Bachelor of Science in nursing with the hopes of transferring to the University of Texas-Arlington (UTA).

"My kids knew my education made a difference in our lives and education would make a difference in their lives," said Sloterdijk. "I instilled the need for education not only in my kids and family members, but also in friends and strangers I would

meet."

Thirty years later, Sloterdijk is nothing but thankful. "My San Jacinto College family is just that—my family. I absolutely love them. I could not have asked for more as far as a career," she

said, adding that she's blessed with a job that allows her to assist students in obtaining their career goals by earning a certificate or degree that will ensure them a financially stable job and will help to provide for their families.

Sloterdijk honored



Laura Sloterdijk (right) receives her award for 30 years of service at San Jacinto College from Chancelor Brenda Hellyer. Photo by Andrea Vasquez

UHCL closing for holiday

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day.

Normal hours will resume Wednesday, July 5. For more

information, visit www.uhcl.edu.

In the case of an emergency during a holiday, call the UHCL Police Department at 281-283-2222.

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

Wossene joins VA bar



Ariel S. Wossene, a 2007 Dobie graduate, was sworn into the Virginia State Bar on June 7 in Richmond. In high school, she was a member of the J. Frank Dobie debate team. After graduation, she studied political science at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she was elected student body vice president; served as the chapter president of Pi Sigma Alpha (the National Political Science Honor Society); and was elected the president of Delta Sigma Theta. She interned for the Department of Energy during summer breaks and was awarded a research grant to study international law and politics at the University of California at Berkeley. She graduated summa cum laude from Fisk University and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Later, she was given a scholarship to study law at Washington and Lee School of Law in Lexington, Virginia. While in law school, Wossene became a regional champion in the Fredrick Douglass Moot Court Competition and advanced to the national championship in Portland, Oregon. The following year, she coached the Moot Court team and after she was elected chapter president of the Black Law Students Association, the chapter advanced to win Regional Chapter of the Year. During the summer breaks, she interned in the Federal District Court for the Western District of Texas and the Federal District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. During her third year in law school she researched international law in Montenegro and Albania. At graduation, she was awarded the Randall P. Bezanson award for outstanding contributions to the law school. Currently, she serves as a law clerk to the Honorable Judges of the 23rd Judicial Circuit Court and was awarded by the Ted Dalton American Inns of Court for her outstanding contributions to the Rule of Law program. Growing up in the South Belt community, she attended Stuchbery Elementary and Thompson Intermediate schools stating, "I was fortunate enough to grow up in a supportive community where education and diversity are valued and encouraged." Her proud parents are Robert and Margaret Green Riley.

Master Gardener July events set

The following Master Gardener events have been scheduled for July.

The Harris County Master Gardener Precinct 2 Open Garden Day will be on Monday, July 3, and Monday, July 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Genoa Friendship Garden, located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road.

There will be Master Gardeners available at the events to answer gardening questions.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

"Tomato Culture" will be presented by retired Liberty and Harris County Master Gardener, Lawrence Gibson on Thursday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, which is a new location and address. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

The *Raised Beds, Low Volume Drip Irrigation and Rain Barrels* lecture will be on Thursday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m., at Freeman Branch Library, located at 16616 Diana Lane. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event.

For more information, call 713-274-0950 or visit <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf>.

Abbott inks property taxpayer reform bills

Gov. Greg Abbott has signed four taxpayer-friendly appraisal reform bills to bring added transparency, accountability and simplicity to the property tax process in Texas. Three bills authored by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, SB 731, SB 945, and SB 1286, as well as one bill authored by Rep. Jim Murphy (R-Houston) and sponsored in the Senate by Bettencourt will now become law.

"Any day that you can implement common sense reforms to the property tax process that give taxpayers more options, better information, and more clarity in the overall process is a good day," said Bettencourt. "This package of bills represents another step forward as we continue our effort to bring about meaningful property tax reform and relief for all Texas taxpayers."

SB 731, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dwayne Bohac, raises the limit from \$3 million to \$5 million for a property owner to appeal an Appraisal Review Board decision through binding arbitration rather than filing a lawsuit.

SB 945, sponsored in the House by Murphy, allows a Chief Appraiser in some cases to correct an erroneous denied or canceled exemption.

SB 1286, sponsored in the House by Murphy, requires the Comptroller to establish rules for Central Appraisal Districts and property owners for providing electronic copies of evidence for an ARB hearing, as well as speed up the process on how arbitrators are selected by as much as 30 days.

HB 2228 by Murphy

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

ABIGAIL ENJOYS FIFTH BIRTHDAY!

Best wishes for a happy birthday July 3 are sent to **Abigail Durham** from parents **Courtney and Chris Durham**; brother **Jackson Kyle Durham**; aunt **Kimberly Flickinger**; grandparents **Fred and Leslie Flickinger**; great-grandmother **Olive Falkowski**; great-grandfather **John Fairchild**; great-grandparents **Marie and David Flickinger**; and great-uncle **David Flickinger** (Leader president) and his wife **Ellie**.

NOAH TURNS TWO!

Best wishes for a great second birthday July 5 are sent to **Noah Abarca** from parents **Natalie and Jose Abarca**; brother **Kelvin Lopez**, baby sister **Elliana** and sister **Isabella Abarca**; grandmother **Kina Reyes**; grandparents **David Flickinger** (Leader president) and wife **Ellie**; and great-grandparents **Marie and David Flickinger**.

PARIZA RECEIVES DEGREE FROM BU
Congratulations are in order for South Belt resident **Pariza A. Lovos** who received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Boston University at the May graduation.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 29 through July 5.

Atkinson Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to **Giselle Ortega** July 3.

Burnett Elementary
Amy Vasquez celebrates a birthday July 2. Blow out the birthday candles for **Eliezer Torres** on July 4.

Bush Elementary

The day for a party for **Margaret Mayes** is June 29. Sing a happy birthday song to **Amanda Davis** on June 30. Light the birthday candles Saturday, July 1 for **Marite Portales**.

Frazier Elementary

On Friday, June 30, special birthday wishes are sent to **Yelitza Davila**. **Stacy Anthony** marks a birthday July 2.

Meador Elementary

Light the fireworks July 4 for a birthday celebration for **Becky Armenta**.

South Belt Elementary

Kasi Alayoubi enjoys a birthday July 3. July 4 is the day for a birthday party and fireworks for **Derenda Dehoyos**.

Stuchbery Elementary

Send a birthday greeting July 3 to **Cheryl Wilson**.

Melillo Middle School

Celebrating a birthday June 30 is **Christine Wright**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Light the birthday candles for **Vanessa Schultz** June 30. **Lamona Lemarr** and **Lauren Lester** enjoy a double-fun birthday July 2.

Send a happy birthday greeting July 3 to **William Agan**. A triple birthday celebration is in order for **Emily Morin**, **Ben Portis**, and **Cecilie Williams** on Wednesday, July 5.

Thompson Intermediate

Enjoying a birthday July 3 is **Yadira Lozano**. Blow out the birthday candles July 5 for **Nicole Cannon**.

Dobie High

Students assist engineer with wing design patent

When retired control systems engineer James Lawrence needed assistance with his patent for a new wing design, a team of San Jacinto College students stepped up to the challenge.

Alex Gonzalez, Giovanna Trevizo and Ronald Lloyd worked with San Jacinto College Professor Nate Wiggins through the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP) to assist with a computer-aided design (CAD) graphic and wind flow simulation for Lawrence's patent.

They not only successfully completed and delivered the product on time, they were recognized with an award from the University of Houston-Clear Lake Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts.

"When I heard that he (Lawrence) needed assistance with this patent, I knew our students could step up to the plate and get the job done," said Wiggins, a math and engineering professor who also oversees the Artificial Intelligence Technology (AIT) Lab at San Jacinto College.

"We have the graphics capabilities here, plus our students are always eager to gain this type of industry experience at the undergraduate level and make their mark in engineering," said Wiggins.

San Jacinto College is an Alliance Partner of SATOP, a cooperative program among the states of Florida, New Mexico, New York and Texas that provides free technical assistance and strives to

transfer the knowledge and technology of the space program to small businesses. Lawrence is the owner of Lawrence Aviation Services LLC and applied for engineering assistance through SATOP. The application allowed San Jacinto College to respond and help with his patent.

Lawrence said his next step is to compare the results of the fluid flow simulation from the students with a wind tunnel test of the physical part.

For Trevizo, who is studying engineering, this opportunity gave her a chance to apply her classroom knowledge to a real-world setting. She hopes to one day work in the aerospace industry.

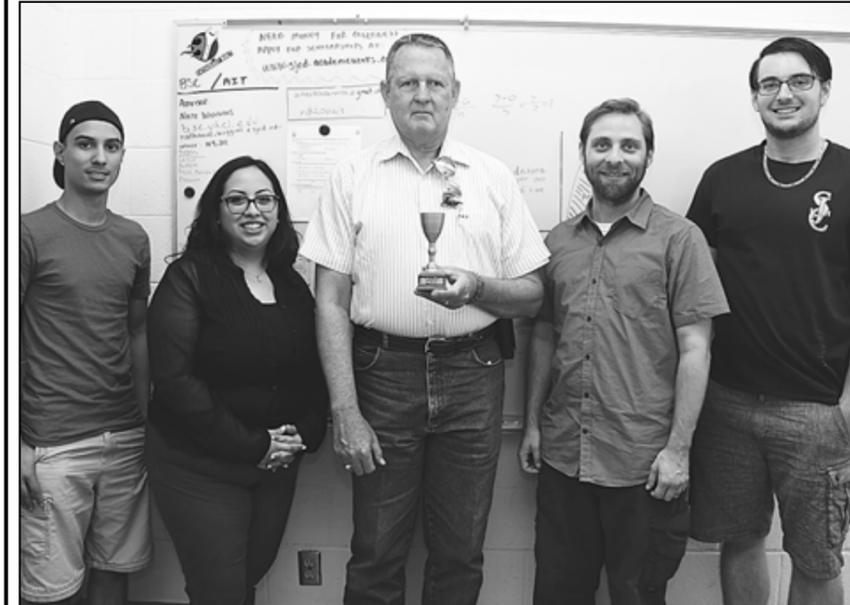
"I applied everything that Professor Wiggins taught us in the design of the wing and a vortex generator," said Trevizo. "I never imagined I would get this chance. From what I learned through this project, I know it will help me in my engineering studies at the university level."

In addition to providing assistance through SATOP, San Jacinto College students are also working on projects that include a hologram chemistry set with Sheer Industries and humanoid robotics in the AIT Lab, supported by the Bridges to STEM Careers program, with funding from the National Science Foundation.

All science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, research and activities at San Jacinto College are supported by the College's STEM Council.

For more information, visit sanjac.edu/stem-council.

San Jac students assist engineer with design



San Jac College students worked throughout spring 2017 on a patent for a new wing design for retired control systems engineer James Lawrence through the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP). Shown, left to right, are students Alex Gonzalez and Giovanna Trevizo; Lawrence, engineer; Nate Wiggins, San Jacinto College math and engineering professor; and student Ronald Lloyd. Photo by Jeannie Peng Mansyur

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
After a heavy rain three trucks from the Custom Ready Mix Company, a concrete mixing company, got stuck in the mud while delivering a load of cement to Scarsdale Park. When the foreman was asked about the incident he admitted "(this happens) after every big rain."

Artificial turf was officially accepted by the Pasadena Independent School Board. This allowed all high school varsity games to be played at Memorial Stadium instead of Auxiliary Stadium.

35 years ago (1982)
Plans were underway for a three-story medical/professional building on Scarsdale Boulevard between the Gulf Freeway and Beamer Road.

Four San Jacinto College South faculty members were appointed to department chairmanships at a special meeting of the board of regents. Chairs appointed were John Bolen, fine arts/communications; Dr. Sandra Quinn, government and economics; Arthur Hardy, business administration; and Dennis Barios-Bosworth, health and physical education.

City of Houston officials reported that the documents necessary to turn the Sagemont Recreation Club over to the city had been prepared. The next step was for the club to call a general membership meeting to vote

on the action.

30 years ago (1987)
An emergency executive session of the Pasadena ISD board of trustees was set to discuss the retirement of Thomas Carrell, who resigned his \$65,000-per-year post as assistant superintendent of elementary education.

Southeast Volunteer Fire Department personnel celebrated the department's fifteenth year in the community with the opening of its first permanent home at 9830 Hughes.

25 years ago (1992)
Brandi Ohman, 17, was crowned Miss South Belt.

The insurance companies for the developer of the Southbend subdivision filed a lawsuit in Houston to force Farm & Home to purchase homes in the subdivision to prevent future claims after the record lawsuit settlement.

20 years ago (1997)
A Community Profile section was published for the first time in the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*. The profile became a yearly feature, and included information on local activities, civic, youth and senior groups, churches, voting information, regular and heavy trash dates, and numbers to call for various information.

Plans were underway for the 10th annual July 4th parade.

15 years ago (2002)
Harris Construction be-

gan working on a subdivision, Fuqua Landing, in the 18-acre lot at the corner of Kingspoint and Fuqua.

Daniel Joseph Lawnciczak, 49, of the 12000 block of Wessex in the Scarsdale subdivision, was released from the hospital and transferred to jail for allegedly beating an officer.

10 years ago (2007)
Clear Creek Independent School District Superintendent Sandra Mossman was selected the 2007 Region IV Superintendent of the Year, making her eligible to vie for State Superintendent of the Year. The Region IV Education Service Center was comprised of 54 school districts and seven counties in the greater Gulf Coast area and served more than 1 million students.

Gov. Rick Perry line-item vetoed nearly \$154 million out of the 2008-2009 annual budget that the Legislature had earmarked for health insurance for community college employees. For San Jacinto College, it was an unexpected \$6.6 million blow.

5 years ago (2012)
The Wells Fargo Bank located at 11102 Scarsdale was robbed. The FBI dubbed the suspect the "Abe Lincoln Bandit" because of his distinctive beard. According to police, the man entered the bank and handed the teller a threatening note demanding money. He then allegedly

November, as he was running unopposed. Ellis received 78 votes to interim Commissioner Gene Locke's 36.

Nelda Sullivan was named president of the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees. She had previously held the position of assistant secretary on the board. Originally elected to the PISD board in 1993, Sullivan formerly worked in the banking industry for 36 years.

A drug warrant was served in the 10100 block of Sagegate. The incident drew the attention of several area residents due to the large number of law enforcement officers involved. Participating personnel included agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration, deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office and officers from the Pearland Police Department. According to DEA spokeswoman Lisa Webb Johnson, suspect Kin Van Vo was arrested for his alleged involvement in a marijuana-growing operation at another location. The Sagegate home, which belonged to Vo's grandmother, was his last known address. Vo was wanted on unspecified federal charges. Local law enforcement agencies were merely at the location in a supportive role. A vehicle registered to Vo was also confiscated from the house.

1 year ago (2016)
Longtime state Sen. Rodney Ellis handily won the Democratic nomination for Precinct 1 commissioner during a closed party election June 25, guaranteeing him the position the following

HCAD releases Android app

On June 13, the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) released its Android app that provides information and services to property owners.

The new Android app has the same features as the previously released iPhone app. The app allows property owners to file a homestead exemption or over-65 exemption, retrieve an iFile number or look up district phone numbers or directions to the HCAD offices.

"The Android app is another example of how we are continually striving to provide new services to make it easier and more convenient for property owners to work with the appraisal district," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

The new Android app enables property owners to apply for an over-65 exemption, prior year exemptions and a percentage of ownership

CenterPoint Energy emphasizes safety

CenterPoint Energy is committed to safety. Though incidents involving damage to natural gas pipelines due to excavation activities can occur, CenterPoint Energy's team is dedicated to being proactive, helping prevent potential incidents or natural gas leaks from happening.

When a contractor or a CenterPoint Energy crew is brought in for excavation during construction, sewer and/or septic blockage occasionally occurs and could potentially result in a hazardous situation involving natural gas and sewer or septic lines intersecting underground.

For safety reasons, CenterPoint Energy urges one to take the following measures:

If a block does occur, CenterPoint Energy warns customers and plumbing contractors against trying to drill through it.

Call 811 so the proper underground natural gas facilities can be located, to help prevent potential damage and gas leaks.

If one thinks that a natural gas line may have crossed a sewer or septic line, contact a qualified professional license and bonded plumber or contractor for a sewer line inspection. They have cameras that are able to properly inspect the inside of a sewer or septic pipe.

If the contractor discov-

ers an issue with any CenterPoint Energy natural gas piping, CenterPoint Energy will work closely with them to resolve the problem.

CenterPoint Energy has made efforts to inform sewer contractors and plumbers to call CenterPoint Energy if they need any assistance.

CenterPoint Energy is available to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Before an excavation or project that might involve underground utilities or pipelines begins, it's important that both customers and contractors have the location of underground utilities marked, which can be done by simply calling 811, free of charge.

State law requires customers to call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, or one's local One Call Center at least 48 hours or two working days before digging.

While natural gas is an important underground utility, customers are also responsible for marking private lines.

These include but aren't limited to private electric drops, invisible pet fences, sprinkler systems, yard lights, sewer and water lines and gas grill lines.

In the case of a suspected gas leak, call the emergency gas leak telephone number, 888-876-5786, and the odor will be investigated at no charge.

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Brook senior founds Need2Feed, aims to aid homelessness

By Jay Do
Local Clear Brook High School senior Fatima Islam has recently embarked on a mission to feeding as many homeless individuals as she can, one meal at a time.

A home-schooled eleventh grader by age, Islam has recently enrolled in Clear Brook High School and is currently taking summer courses in order to graduate high school a year earlier. Islam plans to attend either Queens College or Columbia University in New York City to major in biochemistry with a minor in aviation.

Inspired by her experiences while on a trip with her mother and spurred by a calling from her religious faith, it became imperative to Islam to found a program here in the South Belt community that would serve homeless individuals and lend them a helping hand through the lowest point of their lives.

"A few weeks before we started this project, my mom and I went to New York," said Islam. "We were just sightseeing, but my mom's friend told us to go to the local Islamic center called Muslim Community Center. They have this

restaurant a few blocks that donates food every Friday and Saturday. With that, they go to this mall in Times Square for homeless people and distributed the food there at night. It was a really generous gesture on the restaurant, because it costs around \$500 to feed everyone there, and they were donating this every week. They also had care packages for women which had female hygiene products and face masks and other things. I was really inspired by what I saw while I was there, so when we came back to Houston, I decided I wanted to do a project similar to that, specifically for Ramadan. During Ramadan, we fast from sunrise to sunset. During the period of Ramadan, everyone will go out of their way to find something good to do, so it made sense for us to do this project."

Fittingly deemed Need2Feed, the project aims to feed upwards of 200 homeless individuals every day of the Islamic month of Ramadan by providing meals and care packages through volunteers and donations.

"I made announcements at around 20 dif-

ferent places, and all my friends are using their social media to get the word out and collect money," said Islam. "Another way people contribute is by cooking. Since it's Ramadan, a lot of people will have people over and they'll cook together. We also have a lot of people who want to help out but don't like to cook, so they will write out checks to us. Once it got to the point where we started to have an excess amount of money, we started to make care packages. We make these really nice packages and we fill them with things that they need, like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, things like that. We also have a small drive in our mosque where we collect clothing to give to them if they need it. We've been meeting every Sunday to make these bags, and once Ramadan is over, we'll celebrate by doing a gift distribution."

Need2Feed volunteers currently serve at a number of homeless shelters throughout the greater Houston area.

"We are going to Turning Point Centers, it's a homeless shelter for the elderly, so the majority of the people are going to be 50 and above," said Islam. "They provide very nice and furnished apartments for these people, and they get to stay there from eight months to a year, and that's plenty of time to get back on your feet. Another

one we go to is Bay Area Turning Point, which is a center for victims of domestic violence, so it primarily serves women and young children. We go to the Salvation Army on Tuesdays and the Bridge Over Troubled Waters on Thursdays."

Islam is also a member of Girl Scouts Troop #08651. What began initially as a Girl Scouts project for Islam, Need2Feed has grown into something so much more.

"We started it initially just to be for Ramadan, and I was going to do it as my Gold Award Project for the Girl Scouts," said Islam. "I decided that I would do it for 30 days, but one of the criteria for the Gold Award Project is that it has to be sustainable and it has to be Take Action project, which is a project that targets a root issue. It's not just something like making sandwiches for the homeless and leaving, that's just a service project."

"We are a Take Action project in that we are actually going there every day for 30 days, and then when school starts up, we'll be going a few times a week, depending on people's schedules, and we'll be working at one of five homeless shelters. We go to different places all around town, and we have caterers who donate food and others who donate money. We have about three to five volunteers every day, and we do ev-

erything, from the cooking to the serving to the cleanup."

In addition to serving food to the homeless, Need2Feed also targets many key issues.

"We have a number of target issues we are trying to deal with," said Islam. "The first is homelessness, second is mom and daughter bonding. By giving food to the homeless, we're helping to target the root issue of homelessness, but by cooking together, we help to eliminate the generation gap between a mother and her daughter. A lot of girls want to bond with their mom, but they might not share the same interests. Another target issue that we're addressing is youth empowerment. This project is entirely student led. My friends and I did the announcements to spread awareness and raise funds, my brother designed the website for us and in all other aspects, it is a youth-led project."

Although Need2Feed has only been active for a number of months, the impact being made by the program can be felt resonating on both sides of the serving line.

"It's a give and take situation," said Islam. "From the giving end, people forget how important it is for us to give back. We always forget that in the snap of a finger, a terrible tragedy could happen that could put us in a terrible situa-

tion. That's why it's important for us to give back. The fact that we've had the opportunity for us to help others is really great. I've seen the impact that helping the homeless has made on our volunteers, and it's really amazing. The people who received the food, especially the care packages, absolutely loved them."

Despite its tremendous success in such a short period of time, Islam is already looking for areas where improvements can be made to Need2Feed.

"One thing that we got a lot of good feedback from was the care packages, but the thing with that is that it requires a lot of

funding, so we're focusing on collecting more funds to be used toward that," said Islam. "Another thing that we're working on is the training and education aspect of the project. We work with people that have different disabilities and different personalities, so we have to be able to know how to navigate

those situations, so we can prevent any harmful situations that may arise. We are also working hard to improve the nutritional standards of the meals that we are serving, by making sure that they always get a well-balanced and healthy meal. We do this to inform them of the merits of good health. Finally, I think it's important that we help them handle substance and drug abuse, instead by providing them the resources necessary to remove themselves from their harmful environment, instead of just expecting them to get better on their own."

Individuals interested in contributing to the Need2Feed effort are encouraged to visit the program's website at www.need2feed2017.weebly.com.

For Islam, virtue is its own reward, and the renewed perspective and outlook on life that Need2Feed has taught her has proven to be priceless.

"It's important to remember as we're driving down the street that the homeless guy we see next to us at the light could one day become the next Steve Jobs, someone who can completely change the world," said Islam. "They might just need some help getting back on their feet, and it's important that there are people who are willing to help them."

Girl Scouts project gives back



As part of the Need2Feed initiative, members of Girl Scouts Troop #08651 have been serving food and giving back to homeless individuals throughout the Islamic month of Ramadan. Shown, above, serving at the Bay Area Turning Point Center are, left to right, Sarah Mounadi, Roja Chowdhury, Muniba Mir and Saadia Jannat. Photo by Mona Islam



Need2Feed founder Fatima Islam prepares the food.

Inductees named to CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor

The Clear Creek Independent School District and the Athletic Hall of Honor Board of Directors announce the second class that will be inducted into the elite group of exceptional sportsmen and women.

2017 Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees
Coach Honoree
Coach Max Blansit, Clear Creek High School, 1960 to 1989, track and football, posthumously.
Student Athlete Honorees
Kathleen Trcka Taylor, Clear Creek High School, 1960, tennis and basketball.
Bill Doty, Clear Creek High

School, 1962, basketball.
Dwayne "Curley" Lenox, Clear Creek High School, 1963, basketball.
Rosemary Fleener Durham, Clear Creek High School, 1964, basketball and volleyball.
Paul Hackett, Clear Creek High School, 1966, Basketball, baseball and football.
Terry Mathis, Clear Creek High School, 1967, baseball and basketball.
Steve Stewart, Clear Creek High School, 1967, football.
Larry Kelly, Clear Creek High School, 1967, football, basketball and track.
Mike McClendon, Clear

Creek High School, 1968, cross country and track.
Richard Huhn, Clear Creek High School, 1968, basketball.
Jody Medford, Clear Creek High School, 1971, football.
Clear Creek ISD established the Athletic Hall of Honor in 2016 to recognize the efforts and contributions of former student athletes, coaches and teams who have brought distinction, honor and excellence to themselves and the CCISD.

Due to the number of alumni worthy of the honor, the nominations encompass a specific era each year, folding in CCISD high schools as they were created.

For the current 2017 nomination season, nominations were only considered for candidates active or enrolled from 1948 to 1972 and whose athletic career was linked to the former Webster High School or Clear Creek High School.

"We are delighted to welcome this group of outstanding athletes and individuals to the CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor," said Hall of Honor President, Dr. Lynn Davis. "It's so important that these champions know they left an indelible mark on their school, district and community, one that is still remembered and honored today."

The athletes will be officially inducted on Friday, October 6, 2017, at a special ceremony and reception. They will also be recognized during a ceremony before kickoff of the Clear Creek Wildcats and Clear Brook Wolverines game at 7 p.m. that same evening at CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium.

Nguyen honors Berreth's passion, dedication

Johnathan Nguyen (right), one of the Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Dianne Berreth, an instructor of chemistry.

Nguyen has done volunteer work for the National Honor Society as well as is a member of the National Honor Society and Science Club.

Nguyen plans to attend the University of Houston and major in electrical engineering.

Nguyen commented about Berreth, "Mrs. Berreth is an extraordinary teacher that I have had an honor of having for two years.

"She has a true passion for teaching her students, as she dedicates copious amounts of time just so her students will succeed. Her hard work and dedication has inspired me to also work hard.

"She has made chemistry a fun and interesting class although it is a difficult subject, and she has helped me develop into a better individual as a whole."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being



Need2Feed serves homeless community



Girl Scouts Troop #08651 is leading the Need2Feed endeavor, with the ambitious goal of feeding upwards of 200 homeless individuals each day for the entire Islamic month of Ramadan. Shown, above, at the Bay Area Turning Point Center are, left to right, Bael San, Yasmeen Elfeki, Nada Tantu, Zaina Sarwar, Danya Abusmeish, Inaara Mohammad and Yasmeen Abusmeish. Photo by Mona Islam

Daher grateful for Alanis' teaching methods

Omar Daher (left), one of the South Houston High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Elizabeth Alanis, an instructor of AP English III.

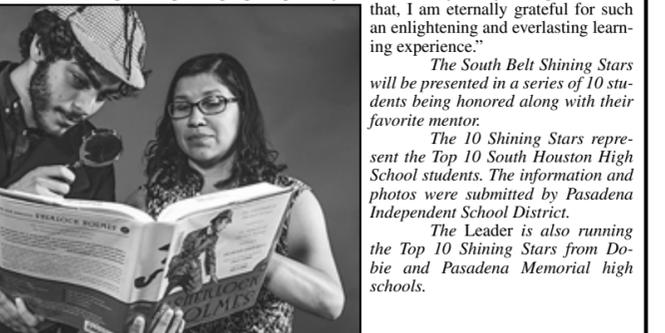
Daher's extracurricular interests were National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. He showed leadership in his involvement by holding the position as Mu Alpha Theta captain. He plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

Daher commented about Alanis, "In the antiquated days prior to grade 11, I viewed English writing, especially on the AP level, as my dreadful weakness. However, everything changed when I took Mrs. Alanis' English class—a class very challenging yet incredibly engaging. Consequently, her powerful methods of teaching caused me to progress past any limit I would cynically anticipate, and for that, I am eternally grateful for such an enlightening and everlasting learning experience."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 South Houston High School students. The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running the Top 10 Shining Stars from Dobie and Pasadena Memorial high schools.



Ponce earns scholarship



The Trent Paul Sims Memorial Scholarship named Brandon Ponce the 2016-2017 recipient of the \$1000 scholarship at the Dobie senior awards assembly. This scholarship is awarded to a senior football player who demonstrates good sportsman-like conduct, a willingness to help fellow players, leadership both on and off the field and a desire to continually improve himself. These are the qualities Trent demonstrated while at Dobie and continued until his passing in 2014. Shown are Tanya Ankenbruck (left), president and co-founder, and Ponce. Photo submitted

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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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2017 South Belt Schlitterbahn vacation contest photos shared



Shown below, Jeff O'Brien celebrated his life-long dream of playing 18 holes on St. Andrews Old Course in Scotland. He was tickled with his score of 87, given that he had also played 18 holes on Jubilee that same morning.



Catherine O'Brien enjoyed high tea at Brown's Hotel in London. The O'Briens also visited the British Museum and Buckingham Palace.

Submissions for the *Leader's* 2017 vacation photo contest are being accepted for possible publication. A first-, second- and third-place prize of Schlitterbahn Galveston tickets will be awarded each month during June, July and August to all winners. All submissions should identify each person in the photo (first and last name) and provide a brief description of when and where it was taken. Email all photos to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

O'Briens visit London



Jeff and Catherine O'Brien spent an entire day at Westminster Abbey viewing the tombs of Elizabeth I and her sister Bloody Mary, Mary Queen of Scots, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Charles Dickens in the poet's corner. The last burial rite held there was in 1991 for film actor Sir Laurence Olivier. They finished the day with Evensong, sung by the boys choir. The boys sounded angelic, but the O'Briens suspected more than a couple of the boys had slingshots hidden under those beautiful red robes.

St. Luke the Evangelist holds ECC graduation



St. Luke the Evangelist held a graduation ceremony on May 21 for the ECC class. Shown at the ceremony, left to right, are (front row) Alina Pena, Luis Solis, Ruben Castillo, Annaelizabeth Wilkerson, Madison Le, Christian Garza, Thien Luu, (back row) Jacob Hernandez, Max Hernandez, Zoey Ontiveros, Ethan Martinez, Jordan McCombs, Zoie Sudario, Alexavier Rodriguez and Vien Nguyen. Photo by Veronica Rodriguez

Epperson wins again

Continued from Page 1A
 "I then joined my first pageant, the Miss Teen Lone Star State 2017, and won it, and ended up going to nationals." A longtime admirer of beauty queens, Epperson now hopes to join their ranks and become an inspiration for other young girls.
 "I had always looked up to girls that I saw in the pageant," said Epperson. "I always thought they were so pretty and so intelligent, and I wanted to be just like them when I was older. One of the reasons that I'm in it now is because I want to be a role model for younger kids, as well as my peers. I really just want to make a new image for girls and make it known that pageants aren't just about being beautiful. You don't just have to be pretty, you have to be smart, too."
 As a first year contestant, Epperson faced a number of challenges and obstacles, the most difficult involving her self-confidence and self-image.
 "When I first started, I was competing against a lot of pretty girls," said Epperson. "Of course, there were some insecurities there."
 Learning to overcome her initial aversions, while not an easy feat, is a priceless lesson Epperson feels she has learned during her short time in pageantry.
 "Pageantry taught me to really just be confident and comfortable in my own skin," said Epperson. "In the end, I felt confident in my own skin, and I felt so happy, and I felt like the most beautiful girl in the world when I was on stage. It also helped me a lot with skills like building relationships and public speaking, because they asked me some on-stage questions, and as a shy person, it really helped me to get out of my shell."
 The journey, however rigorous, became immediately worth it, once Epperson won her first national crown in her first year of competition. For Epperson, the experience is one that she will surely never forget.

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4th of July Parade Entry Form

A parade will be held in conjunction with the July 4th Spectacular. Parade lineup will be at 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, 11111 Beamer. The parade will begin at Beverly Hills Intermediate at 10 a.m. and will continue to San Jacinto College on Beamer Road. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to build floats and participate in the parade.

NO WATER BALLOONS, WATER GUNS, ETC.

For more information, call Marie Flickinger at 281-481-5656. All entries must be received by July 2.

Name of entry _____
 Name of Organization or Business _____
 Person to Contact _____ Email _____
 Address _____ Phone _____

Truck (2 axle) Car Float Truck (3 axle) Other

Due to the length of this parade, we request participants do not attempt to walk.

All entries for community and nonprofit groups are free of charge—unless those participants wish to be eligible for a trophy in the judging contest. These contest entries require a \$25 entry fee. **ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS.**

All entries for business require a \$50 entry fee.
 Commercial float: \$50
 Noncommercial for trophy: \$25
 Noncommercial, not competing: no charge

* Each entrant is liable for the entry & participants involved with their entry. Adult supervision is a must!

Signature (not required if emailed from submit button below) _____

Please complete this entry form & submit, email or drop off at South Belt-Ellington Leader office (11555 Beamer) before July 2nd.

Police chases . . .

Continued from Page 1A
 noticed the vehicle's steering column was broken, leading the officer to believe the truck may have been stolen.
 The deputy then asked the male driver to step out of the vehicle. Rather than exiting the truck, however, the driver threw his vehicle into reverse and rammed the police cruiser.
 A 45-minute chase ensued that took officers all over the Greater Houston area. Three additional Precinct 2 deputies joined the pursuit, along with officers from the Houston Police Department, deputies from the Harris County Sheriff's Office and state troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety.
 The pursuit came to a stop near Highway 288 and Fannin when the suspect vehicle suffered a flat tire after running over a spike strip that had been deployed by state troopers.
 The driver, Christopher Walker of Dallas, was charged with felony evading. The vehicle's three passengers were each charged with criminal trespassing of a vehicle.
 The Ford pickup truck was later determined to have been stolen from Fort Bend County.

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SECTION B

SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Gonzalez recalls record-setting San Jacinto softball career

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Entering the San Jacinto College softball program as another one of head coach Kelly Saenz's prize Houston-area recruits in the fall of 2015, pitcher

Niki Gonzalez has now exited as a multi-record holder, becoming arguably the greatest pitcher in the history of SJC softball.

Gonzalez, originally from Baytown Sterling High School, helped guide San Jacinto College to back-to-back appearances at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I World Series in St. George, Utah.

That in and of itself is quite impressive from a team standpoint.

In doing so, Gonzalez became the college's all-time wins leader with 61, and her 572 career strikeouts placed her at the top of SJC's single-season (302 in 2016) and career lists by a wide margin.

In addition, Gonzalez's 263 1/3 innings pitched this season tied her for

the single-season mark. It was an easy call for the

NJCAA selection committee to name Gonzalez

a first team All-American. Of interest, San

Jacinto College assistant coach Kelsey (McClain) Walters, who played at SJC during the 2008 and 2009 seasons, was the one who saw a couple of her own team records surpassed.

Gonzalez was the second of three siblings to graduate from Baytown Sterling High School and elect to attend San Jacinto College.

Gonzalez's sister, Gabby, was the first family member to play at San Jacinto.

A class grade older than Niki, Gabby played with San Jacinto College in the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

The team's primary catcher for two seasons, Gabby was the team leader in home runs both seasons.

Continued on Page 6B



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At right, San Jacinto College pitcher Niki Gonzalez was a first team All-American this season while setting all-time team records for single-season and career strikeouts as well as career wins.

Brook's Julks begins pro career

Houston Astros' minor league baseball player Corey Julks of Clear Brook High School is off to a solid start with the Class

A Short Season Tri-City Valley Cats in Troy, New York.

Julks, the Astros' 2017 eighth-round draft pick, homered and doubled in his first four games as a professional, which included four starts in right field.

Julks debuted June 24 and homered in his second game. He was 4 for 17 at the plate early on in his debut.

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★NEW! **MANVEL** - Sedona Lakes - Like new 5-4-3, study, stone fireplace, formal dining, gourmet kitchen, stunning backyard oasis with pool, hot tub, fire pit, outdoor kitchen! #JSH

Taylor off, running at Miami



Brandon Taylor, a freshman sprinter at the University of Miami and a 2016 Clear Brook High School graduate, spoke with the Leader about his experience as a first-year collegiate competitor. See story on Page 6B.
Photo/Miami Athletics

Brook to vie at state 7-on-7

Primed with the experience of having played in the big event a summer ago, Clear Brook is poised to make a big splash at the 19th annual Adidas 7-on-7 state championship football tournament, which gets underway in College Station June 30, running through July 1 at Veterans Park.

Making its initial appearance in 2016, Clear Brook understandably found its proverbial hands full with many of the veteran programs in the competition.

Still, Brook went 3-2 overall finding its rhythm on the second day and finishing strong.

This time around, the Clear Brook contingent features plenty of speed and, certainly, experience.

The locals have qualified in the Division I ranks and will go up against Coppell, Lake Travis and McAllen Rowe in pool play action June 30. Games in Clear Brook's

bracket will begin at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

In all, 64 teams will compete in Division I, with 64 more teams set to contend in Division II.

Following pool play June 30, the top two teams based on head-to-head record will advance to the championship bracket, with the bottom two headed to the consolation bracket.

J.J. Smith, himself a standout running back at Clear Brook who graduated in 1991, is guiding the Brook 7-on-7 squad this summer. His son, Jarrett, is already a two-year starter on the varsity football field and will be a senior this fall.

J.J. Smith knows what lies ahead but also believes the Brook group can make some noise. "I think obviously you see the athleticism of some of these (Brook) kids out there, and that's impressive, but to me it's also the maturity and the

growth that we have seen in these players."

SBHLL junior all-stars close in

Seeking a long-coveted Texas District 15 all-star baseball championship, Sagement-Beverly Hills' junior division squad is in the driver's seat, heading to the championship round.

Provided weather allows the schedule to play out as set as of press time, the SBHLL squad will face either Pearland or East End in the championship round Friday, June 30, at the SBHLL's senior division field at El Franco Lee.

The tournament, as is always the case in all-star play, is of the double-elimination variety, meaning SBHLL has the overwhelming edge entering the title round.

The locals used a ton of offense to advance to the finals. In the opener for SBHLL, South Houston

was no match as the locals rolled to a 21-1 win. Facing East End in a winner's bracket matchup, SBHLL came up with a big 14-12 win to solidify its spot in the finals.

Other SBHLL age group all-stars remain in contention in the other divisions, but must come up with key wins to continue to advance.

Continued on Page 2B

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Top 6 to nationals Rising Stars track hits regional event

It's that time again as qualifiers from the Rising Stars Track Club head to the Region 17 competition with a chance to advance to the Junior Olympic Games later this summer.

The Region 17 meet gets started June 29 and runs through July 1 at Hall Stadium in Missouri City.

Ivory Kimble, the long-time head coach of the Rising Stars, is once again encouraged by the performances of each of the competitors.

In all, 19 Rising Star athletes are headed to the regional competition. Kimble likes the chances for all of his qualifiers to reach nationals in at least one event, and counted 16 for-sures based on what he saw in training sessions leading up to the big meet.

"This is the first year in the last six, seven, eight years that we haven't had a Jacoby Davis, Jeremy Davis, Camille Singleton and others out there competing," Kimble said. "Our numbers are down a little bit, still solid in the younger groups."

"With that being the case, we qualified 19 for regionals. I truly believe

at least 16 can make nationals. There's always a chance for all of them to advance."

Camryn Dickson, a veteran of national competition, has qualified for regionals in four events, as has Briana Haywood.

There are more athletes that will have a chance to make their way to nationals in more than a single event.

"It's been another great season out there, and I attribute that to our workouts," Kimble said.

"The training works. We had some visitors from Baytown who walked off the track after completing one run. If you want to advance, you have to work hard and believe in the system."

During the regular season, some of the Rising Star athletes weren't winning as much as is the usual for this team, but Kimble knew the time would come for a turnaround. It did, and now the season is still alive for 19 competitors.

"Our kids always rise to the occasion," Kimble said. "It's great to see their successes."

Rising Stars Track Regional Qualifiers

Athlete	Event	Time/Dist.	Place
Shelby Devereaux	800M	2:26.22	3rd
Shelby Devereaux	1,500M	5:22.13	3rd
Sydney Devereaux	400M	59.52	2nd
Sydney Devereaux	800M	2:18.98	1st
Sydney Devereaux	1,500M	5:02.23	2nd
Camryn Dickson	100M	12.57	1st
Camryn Dickson	200M	25.96	1st
Camryn Dickson	400M	59.03	1st
Camryn Dickson	TJ	34'8"	1st
Briana Haywood	200M	28.02	10th
Briana Haywood	400M	1:04.65	12th
Briana Haywood	LJ	13'4"	5th
Briana Haywood	TJ	27'1 1/2"	4th
Christianne Ross	800M	3:14.44	14th
Chardel Terrell	800M	2:44.20	4th
Chardel Terrell	1,500M	6:14.17	6th
Deon Brown	shot	41'11"	5th
Devin Caballero	1,500M	4:38.07	2nd
Devin Caballero	3,000M	10:10.28	3rd
Jason Doswell	Shot	31'11 1/2"	3rd
Jason Doswell	Jav	73'9"	5th
Trevor Doswell	Jav	56'8"	2nd
Matthew Kovacevich	1,500M	5:14.83	14th
Cameron Devereaux	400M	52.81	8th
Cameron Devereaux	800M	2:03.98	1st
Cameron Devereaux	1,500M	4:24.17	4th
Elijah Jackson	400M	1:05.22	9th
Elijah Jackson	Jav	78'7"	4th
Michael Hidalgo	800M	2:26.74	15th
Christian Ross	3,000 RW	19:04.50	1st
Joshua Ross	100M	14.83	14th
Ayden Salcedo	1,500M	6:07.43	7th
Ayden Salcedo	Jav	77'6"	2nd

AAU Region 17 Meet

South Belt's Rising Stars seek national berths

June 29 through July 1

Hall Stadium, Missouri City

www.AAUathletics.com

SBHLL junior all-stars on cusp

Continued from Page 1B

In the 10-year-old division, Sagemont-Beverly Hills was handed a 10-0 loss by Friendswood in the opening round but then bounced back to defeat East End.

In that one, the locals stayed alive with a 17-5 victory, keeping hopes of a Texas District 15 championship alive.

Because of rain, the remainder of the tournament was postponed and restarted June 28 after press time.

Weather permitting, Sagemont-Beverly Hills was set to face Pearland East in an elimination game. The winner will move on to face Friendswood.

Sagemont's 11-year-old all-star team had a rough go of it, dropping a pair of Texas District 15 games to get sent out of all-star play.

The locals were blanked, 5-0, by Friendswood in a tournament-opening game, and then Sagemont was on the short end of a 24-3 game against Pearland West.

In the 12-year-old division, Sagemont-Beverly Hills is also out of the mix.

The locals began the tournament in strong fashion, dropping South Houston by a 10-2 score.

In a winner's bracket game, Pearland West handed Sagemont a 9-2 setback.

Needing a win to advance, Sagemont-Beverly Hills stayed alive with a 15-4 victory over OFA.

Unfortunately, the 12-year-old major division all-star team saw its season come to a close with a 14-2 loss to Pearland West.

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League all-stars are also looking strong in the senior division.

In a first-round game, Sagemont came up with an 8-7 victory against East End.

With weather also delaying play in the senior division, Sagemont was set to go up against South Houston June 28 after press time.

It has been a little while since SBHLL scored a Texas District 15 title, but this junior group of all-stars looks to be in prime position to get the job done. Perhaps home field advantage will help.

TD15 Junior Championship

Sagemont-Beverly Hills

vs. East End/Pearland

Friday, June 30

SBHLL Sr. Field, 6 p.m.

*Weather permitting

*Rematch at 8 p.m. if needed

*See results eteamz.com/td15

San Jac standout pitcher an NJCAA All-American

Jake Cantleberry's freshman season as a member of the San Jacinto College baseball program wound up being absent of just one thing, yet was plenty memorable.

While San Jacinto lost consecutive national championship games to Chipola (Fla.) and thus missed out on being crowned National Junior College Athletic Association Division I champions, Cantleberry strung together a terrific season on the mound.

And the NJCAA powers that be took notice. Cantleberry, a freshman from Greenwood, Indiana's Center Grove High School, was named as an honorable mention All-American following the 2017 season.

Cantleberry certainly emerged as one of a three-armed pitching monster for San Jacinto College, which finished in the top five in lowest earned run average.

The left-hander went 11-1 with a 1.73 earned run average over 16 games started. In 78 innings of work on the mound, Cantleberry allowed just 56 hits while fanning 89.

Having gone undrafted in the 2017 MLB First-Year Player Draft, Cantleberry is eligible to return to the Gators next season, where he could rejoin fellow freshman

MacGregor Hines (12-3, 3.61 ERA) in the rotation in 2018 as the Gators try to reach the national championship game for a third consecutive season.



Jake Cantleberry

South Belt sports, news

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 10:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Registration 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.ccsd.net>. Once there, click on the summer camps link. More information is available from Thompson at mthomps1@ccisd.net.

Thompson Lions set athletics camps

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff has scheduled a variety of camps and fitness activities aimed at keeping first-year and returning Lion athletes active this summer.

Parents must provide medical insurance coverage as the Pasadena ISD does not do so for these types of events.

Soccer Camp - The Lions' July 10-13 soccer camp for boys and girls will include training in all phases of the game, including offensive and defensive alignments, conditioning, goalkeeping, etc. Registration is \$25 cash only per student. Camp hours are 9 to 11 a.m.

Basketball Camp - The Lions' July 17-20 basketball camp for boys and girls will include training in all phases of the game, including offensive and defensive alignments, conditioning, passing, dribbling, rebounding, shooting, etc. Registration is \$25 cash only per student. Camp hours are 9 to 11 a.m.

Volleyball Camp - The Lady Lions' July 24-27 volleyball camp for girls will include training in all phases of the game, including offensive and defensive alignments, conditioning, passing, hitting, serving, blocking, etc. Registration is \$25 cash only per student. Camp hours are 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information, direct email to coach Jessica Fitzmorris at jfitzmorris@pasadenaisd.org.

Strength/Conditioning Camp - The Lions' July 24-27 strength and conditioning camp for boys and girls will include strength training, agility drills, tire work, stair climbing, ladder work, weight training, conditioning and more. Registration is \$25 cash only per student. Camp hours are 9 to 11 a.m.

Football Camp - The Lions' July 31-Aug. 3 football camp at Dobie High School will include strength training as well as drills in all phases of the game, including passing, receiving, ball carrying, tackling, defensive secondary work and more. Registration is \$25 cash only per student. Camp hours are 9 to 11 a.m.

CCISD's Alumni and Friends a great success

The Clear Creek Education Foundation hosted its second annual CCISD Alumni and Friends TopGolf Tournament.

There were more than 200 guests in attendance, and nearly every bay was occupied with alumni of CCISD as well as friends from around the area.

It was a great afternoon full of fun, fellowship games and prizes as an impressive \$18,547 was raised and will go directly back into CCISD classrooms through the foundations Give-A-Grant Program.

This program includes Teacher Innovative Grants, Student-Teacher Innovative Grants, Mini-Grants, and Special Innovative Grants, all of which encourage and support students and teachers in creating and implementing innovative learning experiences.

The event was planned by a 14 person volunteer committee that included: CCEF Community Marketing and Events Manager, Kelsey Richardson; Chairman, Traci Dvorak; committee members, Janet Brown, Johnathan Cottrell, Eva DeCardenas, Jeanne Devezin, Elana Heinrich, Steve Jackson, Laura Mackay, Sarah Mathai, Jill Reason, Shelley Rodriguez, Carol Saxe, Jim Stewart and Kate Wilkinson.

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San Jac softball unveils 2017 recruits

With back-to-back National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament appearances in hand, the San Jacinto College softball program will look to make it three in a row in 2018 leaning heavily on a strong 2017-2018 recruiting class.

San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz has, particularly in recent years, recruited the Houston area extremely hard, and the results have shown with a total of four national tournament appearances under her watch.

Now, Saenz and her staff will, beginning this fall, look to reload the roster with an incoming freshman class of 11 at the moment, including three Dobie High School graduates.

Dobie's Michelle Kristoff will compete for starting pitching time in the circle, with first team All-American Niki Gonzalez having exited the program.

Yasmine Saenz-Myers will vie for an infield spot.

Allison Bravo, meanwhile, figures to be in the mix as San Jacinto College will have a first-time starter at catcher. San Jacinto will play a roughly 15-game fall schedule starting in September.

San Jacinto College Softball Incoming Freshmen 2017-2018

Player	Position	High School
Allison Bravo	C	Dobie H.S.
Madelyn Daniel	C	Nederland H.S.
Lacy Gabaldon	Util.	Cy-Ranch H.S.
Allyson Gonzalez	Util.	Bay. Sterling H.S.
Rebekah Gonzalez	Inf.	Bay. Sterling H.S.
Denise Gracia	P	G.C. Memorial H.S.
Gigi Hernandez	OF	C.C. Carroll H.S.
Michelle Kristoff	P	Dobie H.S.
Samantha Martinez	Inf.	Texas City H.S.
Yasmine Saenz-Myers	Inf.	Dobie H.S.
Ashley Tran	Inf.	Klein Oak H.S.

At right, Dobie High School Class of 2017 graduate and three-year varsity softball starter Allison Bravo will join two Dobie teammates as part of the 2017-2018 San Jacinto College softball recruiting class. Bravo is expected to vie for the catching job this fall at San Jacinto College but also has outfield experience. Class of 2017 graduates Michelle Kristoff (pitcher) and Yasmine Saenz-Myers (infield) are also headed to San Jacinto College. Head coach Kelly Saenz, who has guided San Jacinto College to back-to-back national tournament appearances, is looking for pitching depth this fall, and she also has to replace as many as nine starters from the team's final national tournament game.



TetraBrazil/SBYSC to host soccer camp

With five World Cups to its name, Brazil stands alone as the most decorated soccer nation.

This summer, aspiring American players will have the opportunity to learn the secrets of Brazil's amazing success directly from more than a dozen Brazilian coaches who will spend 10 weeks traveling around the country and sharing their knowledge.

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has teamed up with TetraBrazil to host the TetraBrazil Soccer Camp July 31 through August 4 at the South Belt Youth Soccer Club's facility at El Franco Lee Park.

This camp will run Monday through Friday. Each member of the TetraBrazil coaching staff will bring an authentic taste of the flair, passion and creativity of Brazilian soccer to the camps.

In addition to learning advanced footwork, new skills and the most effective moves used by top Brazilian players, campers will warm up to samba music, learn Portuguese phrases and discover what it is like to grow up and play soccer in a country where the game is treated like a religion.

Each camper will receive a free TetraBrazil soccer camp T-shirt and soccer ball, a Brazilian soccer poster and camp certificate.

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is offering TetraBrazil soccer camp sessions for the following groups:

- Ages 8 to 11 - Half-Day Camp (9 a.m. to noon), \$162.
- Ages 12 to 16 - Half-Day Camp (9 a.m. to noon), \$162.

Teams are also welcome to attend and receive a week of focused Brazilian instruction to prepare them for the fall season.

Space is limited, and parents are encouraged to register their children online in advance to avoid missing out.

Once the events begin, registration is not guaranteed.

For additional information, camp specifics and to register, visit www.challengersports.com.

For more information about TetraBrazil or the Challenger Sports program, call Mike Rees at 512-416-7706.

Those who wish, may direct email to Rees at mrees@challenger.sports.com.

TetraBrazil is a division of Challenger Sports. Challenger Sports is a corporation registered in

Kansas, which provides camps, clinics, tours, tournaments, team trainers, uniforms and equipment to soccer clubs in each state and throughout Canada.

In addition to coaching youth players, Challenger will also run hundreds of free parent/coach soccer clinics throughout the country in partnership with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Challenger Sports is the only soccer camp that has been accredited by the American Camping Association, which is the national camp accreditation body in the United States and verifies that a camp has complied with at least 300 standards for health, safety, and program quality, recognized by courts of law and government regulators.

Currently in his senior season at Texas A&M, Homan played in 62 games with 60 starts at shortstop, scored 30 runs and reached base at a .316 clip.

During his junior season at Texas A&M, he played in 54 games, with 41 starts at shortstop and earned spots on the All-Tournament team at the Southeastern Conference Tournament and the NCAA College Station Regional.

Schoenvogel, a junior catcher for the Aggies this season, graduated from San Jacinto College in 2016 after spending two seasons with the baseball team. As a sophomore, he earned All-Conference

San Jac baseball's Bond to San Francisco

At right, San Jacinto College outfielder Aaron Bond (6) dives into second base on a steal attempt during the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado. With Bond providing a great deal of pop in the lineup, San Jacinto won its first five games at the tournament and wound up finishing as runner-up. Just days after the completion of his sophomore season at San Jacinto College, Bond was selected by the San Francisco Giants in the 12th round (366 player overall) of the MLB First Year Player Draft. According to the South Bend Tribune, Bond's hometown newspaper, Bond intends to sign professionally and will be assigned to the Giants rookie league team in Arizona.



San Jacinto/TAMU baseball players in series

By Madelon Zimmerman
San Jac Sports

Three San Jacinto College baseball alumni, Austin Homan (Barbers Hill High School), Baine Schoenvogel (Galveston Ball High School) and Walker Pennington (Houston Memorial High School) appeared for Texas A&M University in the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Baseball College World Series.

Homan, a senior infielder, graduated from San Jacinto College in 2015 after spending two seasons with the Gator baseball team. As a sophomore at San Jac, he played in 62 games and batted .363.

He represented Texas in the Texas-New Mexico All-Star game in Round Rock, helped San Jac advance to the National Junior College Athletic Association College World Series, and earned all-Region XIV and Region XIV South All-Conference honors.

Currently in his senior season at Texas A&M, Homan played in 62 games with 60 starts at shortstop, scored 30 runs and reached base at a .316 clip.

During his junior season at Texas A&M, he played in 54 games, with 41 starts at shortstop and earned spots on the All-Tournament team at the Southeastern Conference Tournament and the NCAA College Station Regional.

Schoenvogel, a junior catcher for the Aggies this season, graduated from San Jacinto College in 2016 after spending two seasons with the baseball team. As a sophomore, he earned All-Conference

first team, batting .375.

He helped lead the team to a runner-up finish at the 2016 NJCAA World Series and earned NJCAA World Series all-tournament recognition. Currently in his first season at Texas A&M, Schoenvogel has a .259 batting average, and earned seven runs, a pair of home runs and four runs batted in.

Pennington, a senior outfielder at Texas A&M graduated from San Jacinto College in 2015 after spending one season with the baseball team.

As a sophomore, Pennington helped lead the team to the NJCAA College World Series, earning NJCAA Division I All-American second team, and All-Region XIV and All-Conference honors.

During his junior year at Texas A&M, Walker appeared in 29 games, in-

cluding 13 starts, and had a .258 batting average, scoring 12 runs, hitting four home runs and driving in 16 runs.

Currently in his senior year at Texas A&M, Walker has a .217 batting average and has scored 24 runs, hit four home runs and driven in 33 runs.

The Aggies went 0-2 at the College World Series, losing 8-4 to Louisville and then being eliminated by Texas Christian University by a 4-1 count.

Pennington had a hit and drove in two against Louisville, while Homan had a hit and scored A&M's lone run against Texas Christian.

None of the three players were drafted in the 2017 MLB First-Year Player Draft.

For more information about San Jacinto College athletics, visit sanjacsports.com.



Austin Homan



Walker Pennington



Baine Schoenvogel

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

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 - 299er 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.

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.well-spouse.org>.

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.

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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

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

6:30 p.m.

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 November/December. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

7 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, JULY 1

7:30 a.m.

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.

10 a.m.

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

11 a.m.

Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

1 p.m.

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.

8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 2

1 p.m.

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.

2 p.m.

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.

5:30 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

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.

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.

MONDAY, JULY 3

10 a.m.

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 back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

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.

11:30 a.m.

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.

Noon

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

2 p.m.

Genealogy Group - Parker Williams Genealogy Group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. on first and third Monday at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Public is invited. For details, email Liz Hicks at eroottrot@usa.net.

3:15 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for details.

6 p.m.

New Directions Singles - Age 50 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

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Continued on Page 4B

HELP WANTED

Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT



The Southeast VFD needs you!

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: www.southeastvfd.com to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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South Belt Leader 281-481-5656



CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, JULY 3

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-973-6633 or visit www.oahouston.org.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisishotline.org.

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing Mondays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 session for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 4

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.

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.

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 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, JULY 5

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

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets monthly, first and third Wednesday, noon, Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. December may be an exception. For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

American Business Women's Association Bay Area Vision Chapter - Meets at Bon Appetit Cafe, 18027 Point Lookout Dr., 77058, monthly, first Wednesday, noon to 1:30 p.m. Professional speaker often present. For details, contact Christie O'Rear at christieorear@gmail.com.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon,

2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

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.

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

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.

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, JULY 6

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 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.

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.

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.

To submit items for the

CALENDAR

at the South Belt-Ellington Leader send an email to:

mynews@southbeltleader.com

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, June 29, 3 p.m. Discover what "anime" is, for ages 13 and older. Get a basic knowledge of the history, style and pop culture that surrounds anime.

Friday, June 30, 2 to 4 p.m. Level Up Gaming: Super Smash Bros., for ages 10 and older. Enjoy summer gaming time in the library community room on our 60" Plasma TV with a Nintendo Wii and play Super Smash Bros. Winner stays on, losers rotate out. Come for some crash, bash and smash.

Wednesday July 5, 2:30 p.m. Build a Better World, for ages seven and older. Join us in the library community room for the comedy, magic and life lessons from Mick Corey that bring inspiration.

Wednesday July 5, 2:30 p.m. Basic computer class. Learn how to use a search engine and perform various tasks using internet software. Registration required in advance; space is limited to eight attendees.

The events occurring every week are:

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., for children ages 3 to 5 years, featuring stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m., for toddlers from birth to 3 years, featuring stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.

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, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on library events, phone the library at 281-484-2036. Library hours this week are: Monday, 1-5 p.m., Tuesday, closed; 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. All Harris County public library branches close at Monday, July 3, at 5 p.m. and remain closed for Independence Day, July 4.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:

Thursday, June 29, 3 p.m. Selfie Quest. Teens will use smartphones to locate weird and wonderful items within the library and take selfies.

Saturday, July 1, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class
 To register children / teens for the Houston Public Library Summer Reading program and learn about reading levels and prizes, visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/summer>.

To register for the Adult Summer Reading program visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events/summer-reading-grown-ups>.

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. The library will be closed Independence Day, July 4, in commemoration of the holiday.

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All-American Gonzalez sets records ready as next softball stop develops

Continued from Page 1B sons with 10 in each, and she drove in 86 runs over two seasons while being named an All-Conference player both seasons. Gabby played this season at East Texas Baptist University and, according to Niki, has now elected to end her playing career despite hitting .336 with eight homers and 32 runs batted in for a team that went 38-11.

Looking back to how the Gonzalez-to-San Jacinto College connection began, Niki knows why.

With Gabby already at San Jacinto College as the starting catcher, it was an easy choice to follow a similar trail to San Jacinto College.

"It's always been great to be able to pitch to Gabby with her as my catcher," Niki said.

"This is not a knock on any other catchers I've worked with, but obviously I have a bond and a trust with Gabby that hasn't been there with anyone else.

"I can throw any pitch in any count and be able to trust her judgement and her ability to make a play. It was great. Last year, I just wanted to get to the national tournament for Gabby.

"We did that, and then this year I wanted all of the freshmen to be able to experience the same thing."

While leading San Jacinto to waters previously unreached both as a team and individually, Gonzalez developed a comfort level with both Saenz and Walters.

"Coach Saenz really believed in me and trusted me out there on the field," Gonzalez said. "I did have an increased role this season, but I thrive on that. I feel like I perform best when I know everyone is counting on me to get the job done.

Walters, meanwhile, surely knew some of her San Jacinto College records would one day fall. After all, records are set only to be broken again.

Gonzalez knew she was drawing close to a number of the college's single-season and all-time records. If much was said about it, it was all about the good of the current team.

"I sort of looked at (Walters) as like a second mom at times," Gonzalez said.

"She knows my pitching style, my mannerisms and what is best to say to get the best results. I'll certainly miss both coaches, but it's been a great experience all the way around, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

So what is next for the JUCO All-American? Gonzalez said she is almost certain of attending the University of Houston-Victoria, where several previous San Jacinto Col-

lege players have gone on to compete. She is studying education with the aim of becoming a teacher and also wanted to one day obtain a real estate license.

And Gonzalez will surely try to make a few return trips to San Jacinto College, provided time allows. Rebekah Gonzalez, a class of 2017 Baytown Sterling High School graduate and the youngest of the three sisters, has also signed on at San Jacinto College and will be a utility player in a variety of roles beginning this fall.

Niki Gonzalez knows things will work out just fine for her youngest sister, just like it has for herself and Gabby in previous seasons.

"San Jacinto College, for me, was a perfect place to be for a variety of reasons," Gonzalez said.

"I'm a little bit lazy, but I was able to find the perfect place for me. And we were able to go to nationals both seasons. That's something that had never been done before.

"With my sister there now, hopefully they can keep it going to be at nationals every year. It's a lot of hard work along the way, but it's all worth it. When I think about some of the things we accomplished, I'm really proud."

Clear Brook ex Taylor on track at Miami

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

His freshman season in the books at the University of Miami, former Clear Brook High School track and field star Brandon Taylor is ready to take his speed to the next level with the Hurricanes.

The two-time Texas state track and field meet competitor turned in a solid first season with the Hurricanes, competing in his signature 100- and 200-meter events as well as the 4x400-meter relay.

During the indoor season, Taylor also ran the 60-meter dash as well as the 200-meter dash. At 6.79 seconds, Taylor set his season-best in the 60-meter dash at the Mayo Invitational and later took part at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships.

This spring on the outdoor circuit, Taylor helped the Hurricanes post a time of 40.03 in the 4x400-meter relay, fourth-best in program history.

His top times individually included 10.66 in the 100-meter dash and 21.58 in the 200-meter dash.

Taylor, who gave his freshman season a rating of 7 on a scale of 1 to 10, vows there will be better performances from him come this fall when the indoor season commences.

"It was a hard adjustment in the beginning," Taylor said of competing aside many of the best of

the best, including those as many as three or four years older than him.

"I walked into a meet last year at Clear Brook with a lot of people knowing I was going to win (Taylor was undefeated in the 100-meter dash in 2016 until reaching state)," Taylor said.

"I was going up against some great sprinters this year, some of them 21-22 years old. I didn't win races, so for me that wasn't a successful season, certainly not what I am used to."

If there was solace for Taylor, it was that his coaches at "The U" warned him that it might go this way.

Dietary changes combined with form changes on the track, in addition to never-ending classes, study hall, tutorials and more, all take their toll on even the most seasoned of collegiate athletes.

With a year of experience under his belt, Taylor certainly feels as though he has turned the corner and nearing a return to prominence.

In the classroom, Taylor did well despite the 'Canes hectic travel schedule.

A physical therapy major, Taylor earned a 3.38 grade point average during the 2016-2017 school year and is currently taking a couple of additional summer courses.

As for the city of Miami, Taylor is fine with the glitz and glamour that can come with the scene, but

that's not his game.

"I've never been much of a partier or guy who likes to go out and have fun," Taylor said.

"I'm here to get my education and to improve in my track and field career. I feel like I'm on course for both of those."

"I certainly believe next season will be better in a lot of ways," Taylor said.

"We changed my eating habits, workout routine, my block start, just a lot of different aspects. When you do all of that, there is an adjustment period. No doubt.

"Sometimes you are practicing and doing weight work in the morning, and sometimes it's not that way," Taylor said. "You just have to do what is necessary. It is run more like a business in college."

At right, University of Miami men's track and field competitor Brandon Taylor is looking forward to the start of his sophomore season later this fall after a solid debut with the Hurricanes during the 2016-2017 school year. While at Clear Brook High School, Taylor placed third in the 100-meter dash (10.40 seconds) at the state meet as a junior and was fourth as a senior at state in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

Photo/Miami Athletics

and if you need to be reminded that you are on a track scholarship, that can be done, too.

"There is no lack for motivation here. It's all about performing at a high level."

Another of those adjustments came with Taylor joining Miami's 4x400-meter relay squad. Strictly a 100- and 200-meter guy at Clear Brook, and a great one at that, Taylor ran a leg of the 4x400 during

the majority of the outdoor season.

Indeed, it is a longer distance than he's used to, but Miami coaches believe competing at that distance will only help Taylor improve in the shorter sprints.

For 2017-2018, Taylor said he just may mix in a few open 400-meter races.

During both his junior and senior seasons at Clear Brook High School, Tay-

lor was one of the state's top speedsters.

He did not lose a 100-meter dash race until the state meet, and was nearly as dominant in the 200-meter event.

It's just the start of his career at Miami, but Taylor feels as though he's on schedule. The 2020 Olympic Trials are certainly on his radar.

"Oh, absolutely," Taylor said of the trials. "That's one of my goals."



Texans Mercilus visits Dobie



Whitney Mercilus, standout rush linebacker for the Houston Texans, made a surprise guest appearance at Dobie High School during the Longhorns' voluntary strength and conditioning workouts June 26, discussing things such as work ethic on and off the field, the importance of education and success in the classroom and more. The Texans first-round draft choice out of the University of Illinois, Mercilus, who now has 37.5 career quarterback sacks, was a second-team All-Pro choice in 2016. Submitted photo

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