

Win Schlitterbahn tickets

The *Leader* will award tickets to Schlitterbahn in Galveston to the best vacation photos submitted. See related photos and story on page 6A.

Dobie band registrations set

The Dobie band will hold mandatory student registration nights. The first registration will be for returning members only on Friday, Aug. 7, at 6 p.m. in the band hall. A parent or guardian must attend and sign forms for the student to receive a uniform. All band related items can be purchased, and fees are to be paid at this time. The second registration, for new members (including freshmen), will be held Friday, Aug. 14, at 6 p.m. in the band hall.

Meador preregistration set

Meador Elementary will hold early registration from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 11, for pre-kindergarten students only. On Aug. 12 and 13, preregistration will be for new students in kindergarten through fourth grade. For those who wish to register for the pre-kindergarten program, the child must be present with parent/guardian to register, and students must qualify for the program as bilingual, ESL or low income. Bring the following items to register: original birth certificate; original Social Security card; immunization records showing the required shots are up-to-date; two proofs of residency; must be a current apartment lease or a mortgage agreement on a house, and a current utility bill; and the last report card for grades first through fourth.

Health fair at Easthaven

Easthaven Baptist Church Nurse and Women's Ministry will sponsor a community-wide health fair on Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Easthaven Baptist Church, 11300 Beamer Road.

Health care providers from the South Belt community, Pearland and the Houston area will be present with valuable information for preventive and early detection screenings which address various health issues. A crime prevention specialist from the Harris County Sheriff's Department will also be in attendance. For more information, call the church office at 281-922-5520.

Sagemeadow meets Aug. 13

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will meet Thursday, Aug. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sagemeadow Utility District Building on Hall Road and Blackhawk. For more information, visit www.sagemeadow.org, e-mail info@sagemeadow.org or call 281-485-3548.

St. Luke's children register

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, is providing registration for the upcoming Faith Formation year 2009-10, on Aug. 11 and Aug. 12 in English, and Aug. 13 in Spanish. Parents are to first attend a brief orientation in the social hall at 7:30 p.m. Registration will follow. Sacramental preparation information will be available. Registration forms will not be mailed. For information, call 281-481-4251.

Football tickets at Shiflett

J. Frank Dobie football season tickets are currently available at Roy Shiflett Realtors located at 11559 Beamer.

Season tickets are \$32 each, which includes the eight home games and one season parking pass per family. Student tickets are available for \$2 each and may be used for any varsity regular season game at Veterans Stadium. For more information, call 281-481-3733.

K of C BBQ fundraiser set

The Knights of Columbus, Council 9201, will host a barbecue dinner fundraiser Friday, Aug. 21, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. Dinner will consist of brisket or chicken with sausage, potato salad, beans, onions, pickles, bread and iced tea. Both dine-in or take-out will be available. All funds will help support St. Luke's church and community activities run by the Knights of Columbus.

Perez benefit set for Aug. 8

A raffle and barbecue benefit for the family of Brianna Perez will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, from 3 to 11 p.m. at the American Legion Post 490, 11702 Old Galveston Road. Perez was killed in an automobile accident May 17. The event will feature a disc jockey and a live band and raffle tickets will be available. Barbecue plates will be \$5 each. Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase a raffle ticket, call Stephanie Perez at 832-364-2258. See related story this page.

Lariaette car wash Aug. 8

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold a car wash on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kroger gas station on Sabo.

Melillo registration set

Dixie Melillo Middle School registration will be held Aug. 12 and 13 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parents should bring the child's birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security card, latest report card and TAKS scores, deed/mortgage documents or apartment lease, and utility bill.

Bank robbery suspect remains at large

By James Bolen

The FBI is still on the hunt for Matheos (aka Methos, Matt) Pitikas.

Pitikas, 24, is wanted in connection with the July 25 robbery of the Chase Bank in the 11200 block of Beltway 8 near 45. While Pitikas has yet to be arrested, he has been charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon. His bail has been set at \$30,000.

According to police, Pitikas arrived at the bank around 1:30 p.m. without a vehicle. He approached two tellers, brandished a handgun and demanded money. Pitikas then fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash and reportedly

cut through the backyard of a Sagehollow home that backs up to the bank.

In addition to the FBI, more than 20 vehicles from the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office and the Harris County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident.

HPD Officer S. McGee, the first to arrive at the scene, spotted a suspect, believed to be Pitikas, sitting under the Sagehollow bridge less than four blocks away from the bank.

McGee told the suspect repeatedly to show his hands. The suspect, however, pulled out what is believed to have been a pistol and pointed it at

the officer. Fearing for his life, McGee fired at least once at the suspect, who then fled into the area's storm drainage system.

It is unclear if Pitikas was struck by a bullet. Both a K-9 unit and a helicopter combed the area searching for the suspect, but he remains at large.

McGee was placed on three days leave. As is customary in officer-involved shootings in the city limits, this case is being investigated by the HPD Homicide and Internal Affairs Divisions and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

Records show that Pitikas attended Dobie High

School but did not graduate from the school. He has an extensive criminal record, including convictions for criminal trespassing, DWI, multiple drug possession charges and evading arrest.

The *Leader* has received reports that Pitikas was spotted in the Sagemont Park subdivision in the days following the robbery. This, however, has not been confirmed.

Contrary to other news reports, the FBI describes Pitikas as being white, not Hispanic. The FBI has not released Pitikas' photograph.

Anyone with any information on his whereabouts is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

South Belt Elementary readies for 1st day of school

By Matt Griesmyer

At just under 100,000 square feet, with 40 teachers, 13 paraprofessionals, 12 service staff and a principal and assistant principal, South Belt Elementary School, a part of the Pasadena Independent School District, is having the final touches placed on the building in preparation for the first day of class.

The school, located at 1801 Riverstone Ranch Drive, is the 35th elementary school in the district and will serve students from Frazier and Moore elementary schools.

Principal Candy Howard has been a principal for 10 years, most recently at Jensen Elementary, and has already moved into her office as head of South Belt Elementary.

The walk to the principal's office still seems like an eternity.

"We are opening with five teachers per grade, with the exception of kindergarten, which will have six," Howard said. "We are also starting with bilingual kindergarten for this first year, and every year after we will add another bilingual grade."

The school features classrooms for pre-K through fourth grades and individual pods for each grade level. To begin with, the school will not offer pre-K classes but does have rooms for such programs in the future.

"The big room that is in the middle of the grade pod is the common room," Howard said. "If they want to get all the kids together to do

something, they have that availability. They have closed doors on the entrances to the pods, so when they are closed they are able to operate in an isolated fashion. Each pod is the same, there's always a common area, seven classrooms, storage area, sinks, teacher workroom, and boys' and girls' bathrooms."

Howard further explained that the pod arrangement of the school will aid in keeping a safe environment on the campus.

All classrooms are equipped with document cameras, wireless internet, interactive white-

boards and a computer lab, enabling students to learn with modern technologies. With facilities for around 750 students, each student will take a weekly course to introduce him or her to the technology that will be available.

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year will be Aug. 12-13, with classes beginning Aug. 25. The school will hold a meet-the-teacher night Thursday, Aug. 20, with kindergarten through second grades meeting from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and third and fourth grades meeting from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

PISD, CCISD get FEMA money

Ten months after Hurricane Ike, the Pasadena Independent School District will receive public assistance grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for emergency protective measures taken to prevent the growth of dangerous mold, while in the Clear Creek Independent School District, repairs are almost complete due to FEMA money.

J. Frank Dobie and Pasadena high schools suffered serious water intrusion as a result of roof damage and wind-driven rain during Ike.

The FEMA grants will go into PISD's gen-

Police seek 2 - 3 robbery suspects

Houston police are investigating a robbery that took place Monday, Aug. 3, near Alameda Mall.

The victim, a 71-year-old man who had just undergone heart-transplant surgery, was leaving the Plus4 Credit Union in the 9900 block of Alameda Genoa when a male suspect asked him for a ride. When the driver refused, the suspect forced his way into the man's vehicle and demanded he drive him to Sam's Club in the 11200 block of Fuqua.

Continued on Page 2A

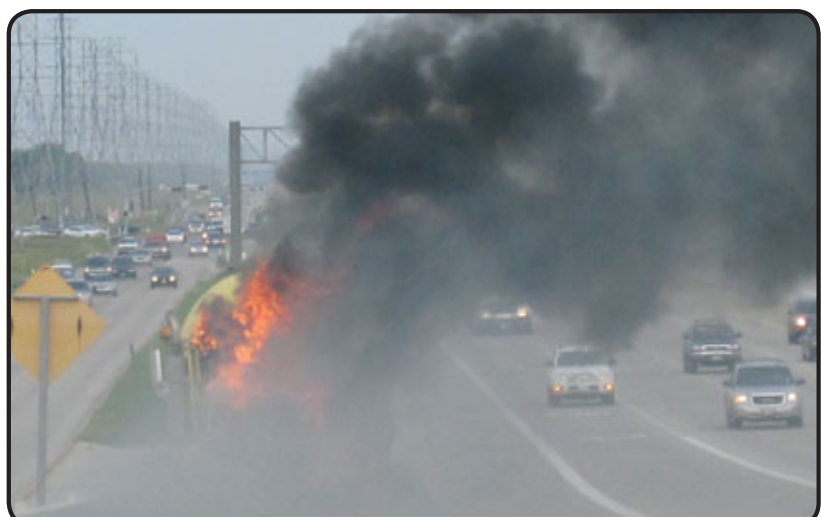
Motorcyclist killed in crash

Houston police are investigating a fatal traffic accident that took place Friday, July 31, at about 9:45 p.m. in the 2600 block of Genoa Red Bluff.

The driver of a black Acura TL was traveling east on Genoa Red Bluff and attempted to pass a slow moving vehicle. The Acura then struck a blue Suzuki motorcycle traveling west on Genoa Red Bluff. The driver of the motorcycle, Joshua Wells, 21, was killed.

At press time, no charges had been filed.

Cement truck catches fire



A cement truck caught fire the morning of Monday, Aug. 3, on the eastbound lanes of Beltway 8 near Sabo Road. A crew from the Houston Fire Department's Station 93 Ellington Unit responded to the incident and extinguished the blaze. At press time, the cause of the fire had not been determined. Photo by Steve Williams

Daigle receives Purple Hearts



Former South Belt resident James Daigle was recently awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army. Daigle, a 1983 Dobie graduate, is shown above having one of his Purple Hearts pinned on by former President George W. Bush at a ceremony in Bush's Dallas office. See related story on Page 6A. Photo submitted

Grand jury's no-bill verdict questioned by Perez family

By James Bolen

The parents of Brianna Perez are hoping to persuade the Harris County District Attorney's Office to open a second investigation into the automobile accident that killed their daughter.

Perez, a 15-year-old Dobie freshman, died Friday, June 5, after spending 19 days in a coma, following a May 17 traffic accident that took place in the 8100 block of Alameda Genoa.

According to police reports, Perez was a passenger in a green Buick Century traveling west on the street near Randolph when the driver of an eastbound white flatbed wrecker, Theophilus Tarlton, 53, turned left into the median and failed to yield to oncoming traffic. The driver of the Buick attempted to drive around Tarlton, but the passenger side of the vehicle struck the rear end of the truck. The Buick then went up on the median and came to a stop near a tree, while Tarlton fled north on Randolph.

Tarlton's vehicle was found two days later at his home less than a mile from the scene of the crash.

The case was presented Monday, June 15, to a grand jury, which opted not to charge Tarlton, handing down a no bill, saying there was a possibility he did not feel the crash in his 1-ton truck.

Perez's mother, Stephanie Perez, does not find this plausible.

"There was visible damage to his truck," she said.

Aside from the vehicle's damage, the story doesn't jibe with what witnesses reported seeing, according to the elder Perez. Although no

one who was not involved in the crash saw the accident, Perez's mother has since spoken to five people who heard it and rushed out immediately afterward.

All five witness accounts suggests Tarlton was aware of the incident, Perez said.

The witnesses were at an ice house near the intersection where the crash occurred and ran to help when they heard the collision. They reportedly all saw Tarlton pause in the street before driving away. Two of the witnesses gave chase — one in a car and one on foot. Both, however, soon lost sight of the truck and returned to the bar.

While all five talked to police for several hours after the accident, police initially took the names of only the two who chased Tarlton, and only these two testimonies were presented to the grand jury, according to Perez. Further, Perez said, it was the driver who chased Tarlton who later led police to his vehicle.

"It was backed up way behind his house," Perez said.

Despite numerous attempts to reach the police following the accident, Perez talked with them only once in the entire 19 days her daughter was in intensive care. She, however, assumed they would follow up on the information provided to them by the other witnesses.

It was not until after the grand jury convened that she discovered only two of the five had been contacted.

"Is it my job to do their job for them or to be by my daughter's side," Perez said.

Once a grand jury chooses not to indict a suspect, there is little that can be done unless they are charged with another offense. Perez is hopeful she has found an ally in Brent Mayr, chief of the district attorney's Vehicular Crimes Section, who said he will try to have a second investigation look into the accident.

The move would seem only appropriate to Perez.

"Their story is full of holes," she said. See related sidebar item on this page.



Readers' Opinions

Semler wants change in right direction

Our last presidential election was won partly and the idea that we needed some changes in America. That part is true. But the path that has been taken since the election raises concern as to where these changes are going.

Since Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973, millions of abortions have been performed. But what is an abortion. Webster's defines it as: the termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus. Death - a permanent cessation of all vital functions: the end of life. So abortion is not simply the termination of a pregnancy, it is the taking of a human life. In making the decision in the case of Roe v. Wade, the court had to make a decision as to when life begins, when the unborn child would be at the point of viability. Rather than asserting that human life begins at any specific point, the court simply declared that the State has a "compelling interest" in protecting "potential life" at the point of viability.

Just as a newborn in a man-made incubator, with brain activity and a heartbeat is considered alive, so should the unborn fetus in the mother's womb, with brain waves and a heartbeat, be considered alive and afforded the protection of our Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment.

Abortion should not be a consideration if an unwanted pregnancy does arise. It is not the termination of a preg-

nancy, it is murder!

Our Constitution guarantees all Americans freedom of religion; but not freedom from religion. Our founding fathers wanted a nation where people were free to follow and practice their religions beliefs. The government can not dictate what religious beliefs the citizens are to follow. This is what is meant by the Separation of Church and State. However, many have used this as a means to block religious expression or symbols of religion from our public schools and government property. To my knowledge, at no time has the Government "required" the displaying of a religious symbol, such as a Bible, or required that sporting events or school days begin with a prayer. These were decisions made by the people, not the government. We are a Democracy. A nation where we are free to practice our religions beliefs; or choose not to follow any religious denomination. And we do not force our beliefs on one another. Nor do we expect others not of our faith to participate in our activities. We may request that they not disrupt the activity, such as with a moment of prayer, but they do not have to participate in the prayer.

Over 86% of our citizens profess to be Christian. In most cases it is the other 14% who want to remove all symbols of Christianity and remove all references to God from our schools, government proceedings, even our currency. Let your representatives and judges know your thoughts. President Ronald Reagan believed, and I quote: "If we ever forget that we are One Nation Un-

der God, then we will be a nation gone under". And may God continue to bless America.

Healthcare in this country is the best in the world. The problem is that the cost of obtaining healthcare is often too high for many people to obtain. The President has asked Congress for a plan to have the government overhaul healthcare in this country. The part of the healthcare system needing overhaul is the cost, not the quality of health care. There are many areas and changes which have been presented to help lower the cost of health care. This includes the cost of drugs, cost charged by different plans, and even recordkeeping changes that could help to lower cost. I will not attempt to go into detail on these items.

One of these issues, currently being debated at this time, is the requirement that all plans include coverage for Abortions and have abortion doctors in their plans.

Many Americans would not want their tax dollars going in support of Abortions.

There is also the issue of illegal immigrants. The bill under consideration, The American's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200) includes, expand Medicaid and exempt illegal aliens from mandates.

Approximately 15-22 percent of the 46 million residents in the U.S. without health coverage are illegal aliens. The current Senate bill expands Medicaid and loosens credit eligibility requirements, which will be a magnet for illegal enrollment and fraud.

Even worse, illegal aliens are ex-

empted from the mandate to buy health insurance, which means that lawful Americans will have to pay a fine for not purchasing insurance, but illegal's will be off the hook. Thus, they have no reason to buy their own coverage or stop receiving taxpayer-funded health services at clinics, emergency rooms, etc.

America does need change. Let's be sure the change is going in the right direction. **Robert J. Semler**

Thomases take on recycling project

Hello, my name is Sol Thomas and I am a Police Officer with the HPD and 4 year resident of Sagemont. I am taking on a recycling project with my two year old son (Ryo) that will teach him and others about the importance of recycling.

We are collecting used Capri Sun pouches (or Koolaid Jammer pouches) in order to be recycled into cool school supplies. We think it is so important to do our part in saving the environment that we are going to be going door to door letting our neighbors know that we are willing to take their used Capri Sun pouches off their hands in order to be recycled.

Our goal is to collect 25,000 pouches by December. We just need help in getting the word out to our neighbors. Please forward us any information, ideas, contacts that may be able to help us in our cause.

Thank you. **Sol & Ryo Thomas**

Legler receives award

Rep. Ken Legler was awarded the Texas House Republican Caucus' Conservative Statesman Award for advocating conservative issues during the 81st Legislature.

"I feel privileged that the



Republican Caucus has honored me with the Conservative Statesman Award. Protecting the Texas taxpayer, promoting transparency in government, encouraging job creation and capping government spending were my top priorities," Legler said.

Freshman Legler's first piece of legislation, HB 1257, provided tax relief to local business owners affected by disasters.

The legislation allows businesses with \$5 million or less in annual revenue that sustained damage in a declared disaster area the option to pay their property taxes in quarterly installments, instead of paying the entire amount January 31.

Other legislation filed by Legler included proof of identity required for an applicant for a driver's license, drug testing for applicants and recipients of unemployment compensation benefits. He also filed for transparency through the availability of certain county, municipal, and school district financial information on certain internet Web sites.

"Rep. Legler's conservative voice was prevalent throughout the session. During debates he took pride in standing up for his constituents and the taxpayers of Texas. This honor is well deserved, and the people of

District 144 should take pride in their state representative," said House Republican Caucus Chair Larry Taylor.

School Supply Giveaway!

Officer Ruben Loreto invites all parents and children that are having a hard time financially this summer. Officer Loreto, along with Ripley House Neighborhood Center, are having a Health Fair for back to school and will be giving away school supplies and back packs.

Children must be present to receive supplies. Kinder to 5th grade.

Saturday, August 15, 10 am-1 pm
6225 Northdale St. (between Belfort and Dixie Dr.)

For more information, please call:
832-893-6644 Officer Loreto

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Police now empowered to force hurricane evacuations

A new state law will allow police to arrest people who, under mandatory evacuation

orders, don't leave town. As it stands, officials cannot compel people to evacu-

ate, only warn that those who stay behind won't have any emergency services at their disposal. The new law gives county judges and mayors

the power to authorize use of reasonable force to remove people from the area.

The law, passed this year, takes effect Sept. 1, in the

heart of hurricane season in Texas. It also applies to other disasters, like fires or floods.

Don't expect police to go door to door arresting people or forcing them from their homes if a hurricane is headed toward Houston.

The law is seen more as a tool to compel people to leave or to be used in special situations. For example, officials could issue a mandatory evacuation for the beaches, giving police the authority to

arrest people who go storm-watching and put themselves in danger. The law also makes people who must be rescued after ignoring mandatory evacuation orders civilly liable for the costs of the rescue.

A mandatory evacuation order often is a course of last resort, for a variety of economic and logistical reasons. Hospitals and nursing homes must move patients, and businesses must let workers leave town. The evacuation provision is part of a larger bill overhauling the emergency code after Hurricane Ike.

Robbery . . .

Continued from Page 1A
Fearing for his life, the victim obliged.

When the two reached Sam's, the suspect told the driver to stop on the side of the parking lot near some tractor trailers. A second suspect met the men there and told the driver to give him his money. The two suspects quickly fled with the cash.

Surveillance footage from the credit union showed the original suspect and an accomplice traveling in a silver van, possibly a Chevrolet. It has not been determined if the second suspect in the van was the same man in the Sam's parking lot.

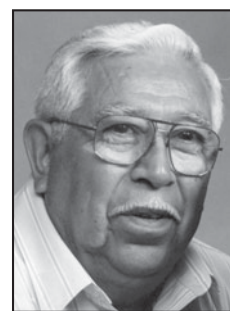
Both suspects seen by the victim are described as being black males in their 40s or

early 50s with Nigerian accents.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Deaths

Santos Cruz Sr.



Santos Cruz Sr., 86, a longtime resident of Houston, died Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at his home.

Cruz retired from Parker Brothers and leaves behind a family, including his wife of 68 years, Mary Cruz. His son is a resident of Sageglen.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Aug. 4, at Niday Funeral Home. A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 5, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Rite of Committal followed at Brookside Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made in Santos Cruz Sr.'s memory to Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Charles "Chuck" Schmitt



Charles R. "Chuck" Schmitt died July 29, 2009, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 9, 1928. He was a longtime Sagemeadow

resident. Schmitt is preceded in death by his parents, Reg and Mary Schmitt, daughter Debbie Ross, and son Thomas Schmitt.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Lou Schmitt, and his children, Michel Schmitt, Barbara Martinez and husband Ray, Donna Pitre and husband Mark, Sallie Wasson and husband Hal, Shawn Schmitt and wife Carrie, and son-in-law Ronnie Ross. Schmitt was a father of seven, grandfather of 10, and a great-grandfather of four.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Joel Richards and wife DeeDee, Heather Page and husband David, Krysti Martinez, Chase and Chelsie Wasson, Daniel Ross, Amber Pitre, Tristan and Keegan Schmitt, along with four great-grandchildren, brothers Bill Schmitt and wife Billie, Fred Schmitt and sister Peggy Drinkard.

Schmitt enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and later joined the U.S. Air Force where he retired in 1969. His passions included working with children to improve their baseball and softball techniques. It was not uncommon to find him at the local ball fields coaching his grandchildren and local neighbors.

He also loved bowling, camping and photography. He and his wife took trips in their RV to Canton, Somerville and Port Aransas. During his free time, Schmitt volunteered at the VA Hospital in the cardiac catheterization division. He was also an active participant and gold-medal winner in the VA Golden Age Games.

The family requests donations be sent to GPA/Houston, P.O. Box 741176, Houston, TX 77274, or visit www.gpahouston.org/donate.htm.

The family received friends Sunday, Aug. 2, and the funeral service was held Monday, Aug. 3, all at Niday Funeral Home. Interment with full military honors followed at the Houston National Cemetery.

Senate backs Harris County Flood Control

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, recently announced the Senate has approved the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

The measure includes \$5.3 million for the Houston Flood Control Project.

"Recent and past flooding in Texas reminds us of the importance of taking steps to prevent flood damage," Hutchison said. "The Harris County flood damage reduction project will help the Houston area prepare for and reduce the damages caused by

future flooding. It will also give residents and business owners peace of mind knowing local floods won't mean temporary or permanent relocation."

The Harris County Flood Control District will use the money to reduce flood damage by channelization, detention, bridge realignment, and non-structural elements like trees and shrubs.

The project will provide one detention basin, miles of earthen channel modifications, and more than 30 bridge replacements or extensions.

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Southeast Volunteer Fire receives blessing



Southeast Volunteer Fire Department attended Mass recently in celebration of St. Florian Day, the patron saint of fire service. Deacon Al Birsinger blessed medals, the vehicles, and all of the firefighters and medics. The medals were given to the medics and firefighters to carry in their cars. They also have St. Florian cards in each of the emergency trucks. St. Florian day is May 4. Pictured with the truck, left to right, are

(front row), Jason King, TJ Golightly, Ty Clark, David Feil, Andy Cao, (back row) Chris Tormey, a Friendswood firefighter, Justin Durkee, Michael Vasquez, Kyle Clark, Birsinger, Mark Alvarez, Roland Barajas, Lt. David Chicas, Sherri Golightly, Lt. Tony Martinez, Nicole Strouhal, Shelly Cino, Assistant Chief Jerry Terrell, Chief Chuck Tylka, Assistant Chief Tom Golightly, and Steve Buckman. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Freedom Alliance scholarship deadline extended

After a tremendous response, and in an effort to reach more eligible candidates, the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund application deadline has been extended. Children of military personnel who have sacrificed life or limb should consider applying at www.fascholarship.com before Aug. 14, 2009, to complete an application or call 1-800-475-6620 for more information.

"We know there are more potential applicants who could benefit from this college scholarship," said Freedom Alliance President Tom Kilgannon. "In an effort to reach as many students as possible, we are happy to announce an extension of the deadline for the 2009 academic year to Aug. 14."

To be eligible for a Freedom Alliance Scholarship, the applicant must be the dependent son or daughter of a U.S. soldier, sailor, airman, Guardsman or Marine who has been killed or permanently disabled (100 percent VA disability rating) as a result of an operational mission or training accident, or

who is currently classified as a Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). The applicant must also be a high school senior, high school graduate or registered as a full time undergraduate student and under 26.

The fund has now awarded \$2.5 million to the sons and daughters of U.S. military heroes.

Many parents of scholarship recipients were killed or permanently disabled in such recent conflicts as Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Sept. 11

terrorist attacks, and the Persian Gulf War. "Our military heroes have sacrificed so much in the name of freedom," Kilgannon said. "This scholarship is one way that we give back to their loving families."

Spotlights on past recipients and more information on the history of the fund can be found at www.FreedomAlliance.org.

Last year 167 individual student scholarships were awarded.

Slights on past recipients and more information on the history of the fund can be found at www.FreedomAlliance.org.

Chamber Fun Bunch to meet August 13

The Fun Bunch, senior group of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, will meet Aug. 13, at 10 a.m. at the Community Center at 11610 Sageyork.

Guest speaker will be Gaston Barmore, presenting

slides of his recent trip in his World War II Command car along the Lincoln Highway. Veterans gathered in Washington, D.C., and motored to California.

Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

Hutchison extends toll ban until September 2010

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, successfully secured language in a transportation bill that would continue the current ban on placing tolls on existing interstate highways.

The ban would affect highways in Texas through September 2010.

In 2007 and in 2008, Hutchison passed legislation that prohibits the tolling of existing federal highways in Texas built with taxpayer dollars.

Hutchison's provision was signed into law as part of the Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 THUD appropriations bills.

"Again this year, I have worked to ensure that Texas motorists aren't charged to drive on roads they have already paid for through their

taxes," Hutchison said. "My provision extends this taxpayer protection for another year, but we must still pursue a permanent prohibition of tolling existing federal highways so we can prevent this form of double taxation on drivers, once and for all."

Efforts to toll newly constructed lanes or new highways would not be prohibited in Hutchison's provision.

The THUD appropriations bill was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now ready for consideration by the full Senate.

Students are required to complete at least six Ad-

vanced Paralegal Certificate Course topics to receive a certificate of completion from UHCL. Upon completion of each course, students will earn four CEUs.

Course fee is \$275 for each Advanced Paralegal Certificate Course.

For more information, call UH-Clear Lake's Center for Advanced Management Programs at 281-283-3121.

Advanced paralegal certificate course set

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will offer an online Advanced Paralegal Certificate Course Aug. 24 through Oct. 9.

Paralegals can continue studying such topics as legal research, victim advocacy, criminal law and family law with the Advanced Paralegal Certificate Course.

Students are required to complete at least six Ad-

Grace Church available to serve the city

By Dana Lizik
Grace Community Church South Campus has made itself available to serve the city, which is why groups like the Houston Fire Department and Houston Police Department contact Grace during tragic times.

Grace hosted the funeral services for both the fallen Houston firefighters and Houston police officer recently.

"We are here to serve the city," Garrett Booth, associ-

ate senior pastor, said. "We have great respect for the police officers and firefighters and for those who serve in any public service, and we want to be able to help support them in times of need."

Booth said that more than three years ago, the Houston Fire Department called Grace and asked it to host a service for a fallen firefighter on the afternoon of Christmas Eve.

Grace did not hesitate to help the HFD and it has continued to make itself avail-

able to serve ever since. Booth said although Grace offers a building that easily accommodates large groups of people, that is not the primary reason groups like HPD and HFD go to Grace.

"We're here to provide ministries to serve the community," Booth said, "and we have a strong commitment to this."

Grace is connected with the second largest homeless shelter in Houston and also frequently helps in the inner-city area.

"We know we're not the only church," Booth said, "but we play our part. Churches all over Houston need to be a good community citizen, and that's just what we're trying to be."

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Tobias earns 149 badges in four years

By Matt Griesmyer
Madison Tobias, a resident of Clear Brook Meadows, will be going into the fourth grade at Moore Elementary. She loves pets, likes to read scary novels and wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

She is also a not-so-typical Girl Scout who has earned more Try-it badges than the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council has to offer.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America, headquartered in New York, is divided into councils each of which has its own Try-it badges Scouts can earn.

Girl Scouts are divided into different groups depending on ages. Girls ages 6 through 8 are Brownies, 9 through 11 are Juniors, 12 through 14 are Cadettes and 15 through 17 are Seniors.

Tobias has earned 149

badges, with 88 coming from the Try-it book for her troop, and the rest coming from councils and troops throughout the United States.

Badges include the Disabled Awareness Badge to honor U.S. veterans, Rock On - earned by studying different stone and crystals - and more. She has even spent the night on the Battleship Texas, earning the right to be called an honorary battleship sailor.

Tobias has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and has filled up three vests with badges representing the numerous accomplishments that she has made.

One of the patches that appears on every one of her vests is one representing the achievement of selling at least 1,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies in one year. Since she was able to sell, Tobias has earned the badge every year.

"It has taught me lots of confidence," Tobias said. "It's one thing to be able to sell Girl Scout Cookies to your friends and family, but to sell to strangers is another



Madison Tobias with all of her badges.

thing. That built my confidence." Tobias refuses to stop there. In the month and a half since she made the transition from being a Brownie to a Junior, she has already earned five badges.

"I want to keep going," Tobias said. "I've always wanted to see what the patches for the next year were going to be like. I thought that the

badges in Daisies were fun, the patches in Brownies and Juniors were going to be even more fun. I want to stick with it as long as I can."

How does Tobias's mother feel about this? "I'm very, very proud of her," said Shannon Tobias. "It's been a lot of fun watching her and the troop mature. They've grown so much in leadership and confidence."

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Foggs win coloring contest



The winners of the first annual coloring contest for Sageglen children are Josiah (left) and Micah (right) Fogg. Homeowners at the annual meeting held on July 20 were invited to vote for their favorite artist. The winners were awarded four tickets to Space Center Houston. Sgt. Zerick Guinn, the invited speaker, shared some tips on identity theft and answered homeowners' concerns about nuisance issues and speeding in the Sageglen area.

Photo by Judith Langham

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Over The Back Fence by Jan

ISAAC AND ISIAH TURN 3!
 Special happy birthday wishes are sent to twins Isaac and Isiah Smith who turn 3 years old on Tuesday, Aug. 11, from parents Darryl Sisco and Linda Smith of Scarsdale. Proud grandparents are longtime Scarsdale residents Darryl and Lupe Smith.

Burnett Elementary
 Carolyn Manning enjoys a birthday Aug. 8. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Geneva Refuge on Aug. 11.

Frazier Elementary
 On Aug. 11, Brenda Rodriguez marks a birthday.

HAILEY TURNS 1!
Hailey Sunshine Cubos, daughter of Claudia and Erik Cubos of Scarsdale, will turn 1 year old on August 11. Best wishes are sent for a wonderful day to Hailey from her sister, Brittney, and brother Erik. Also sending their love are grandmother Diana Fuentes and great-grandmother Amelia Fuentes of South Belt, as well as grandparents Arturo and Marie Cubos and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Jessup Elementary
 Aug. 7 is the day for a birthday party for Elisabeth Garcilazo. Enjoying a birthday Aug. 8 is Katie Ermis. Birthday greetings are sent to Norelia Campos Aug. 12.

Dobie High
 Three cheers for a happy birthday are sent to Eileen O'Connor, Anne Regier and Brianna Vorhis on Aug. 6. Blow out the birthday candles on Aug. 8 for Rachel Helms. Aug. 10 is the day for a triple birthday party for Yvette Giron, Kim Rinehart and Richard Wulf.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
 Claudia and Erik Cubos of Scarsdale will celebrate their second wedding anniversary on August 11. Best wishes are sent to them from their family, friends, and the staff at the Leader.

Meador Elementary
 A birthday is celebrated by Michelle Whitley Aug. 8. Blow out the birthday candles for Molly Savala Aug. 10.

LAUREATE PSI CHAPTER MEETS
 Laureate Psi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its June meeting in the home of Patricia Cox with Camille Nancarrow serving as co-hostess. Twelve members were present, including one new transfer member, Sharon Burden, from Preceptor Alpha Rho. The new theme for this year is *Share our Passport to Adventure*, and the first program was presented by Barbara Jennings as the group journeyed to the country of Russia. The July meeting was planned to be held in the home of Susan Watson in Clear Lake.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 6 through Aug. 12.

Stuchbery Elementary
 Aug. 8 is the day to send a double birthday wish to Dianne Pasquali and Tina Willhoite. Shirleene Lipsey has a birthday Aug. 9. On Aug. 11, Relaine Pitts and Brenda Rodriguez share a birthday.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 E-mail birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Atkinson Elementary
 Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to Martha Mercado and Nilda Ayala Aug. 12.

Morris Middle School
 Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Patricia Ramirez and Rhonda Valencia Aug. 7. Aug. 10 is the day for a birthday cake for Brandy Fitz.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
 Amy Johnson is wished a happy birthday Aug. 6. On Aug. 11, Sherrie Orr and Travis Teichelman share a birthday.

San Jac offers GED testing in Spanish

To better serve people whose primary language is Spanish, San Jacinto College now offers General Education Development (GED) testing in Spanish at all three of the college district's campuses. "The college is offering GED exams in Spanish in order to give students the best possible chance to succeed," commented San Jacinto College's GED Chief Examiner Ronald Hopkins. "While credit courses are taught in English, many people are more comfortable taking standardized tests in their primary language." Hopkins said the rationale behind the option of offering GED testing in Spanish is

part of San Jac's effort to proactively reach out to a growing Hispanic community. "The decision to offer the exam in Spanish was in response to requests from members of the community, including prospective students," he remarked. Eligibility requirements for people who wish to take

Spanish language GED tests are the same as eligibility requirements for the English version of the GED tests - candidates must show proof of Texas residency; pay the application fee and show evidence of a Social Security number (if they have one); be at least 18 years of age (unless under court order); and be officially withdrawn from high school. Candidates who do not have a Social Security number are allowed to take the Spanish language GED test. The cost for taking the GED test, in English or Spanish, is \$80. San Jac accepts a GED certificate in lieu of a high school diploma as an enrollment requirement. However, all credit courses are taught in English, and all students whose native language is not English are required to prove English language proficiency before they take credit courses. San Jac's required English proficiency exam is the COMPASS/ESL exam (Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System, and ESL is English as a Second Language). The COMPASS/ESL exam is administered in English. A student who does not score high enough on the COMPASS/ESL test can take English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses at any one of the three San Jacinto College campuses. For details about the Spanish language GED test schedules, and for other GED information, call 281-998-6150 and ask for the testing and assessment center at the desired campus. For information about San Jac call 281-998-6150 or visit www.sanjac.edu.

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The ECC will hold its Parent Information Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. At this time, we will go over the 2009-2010 ECC policies and procedures, uniform information, admission requirements and children's visitation day. Please contact the ECC office for more information.

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BAWL holds meeting Aug. 6

The Bay Area Writers League holds monthly meetings the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble on Bay Area Boulevard at the Gulf Freeway. The critique group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday at 7 p.m., at the same location. Contact Vice President John Rice about workshops and meeting presenters and

Kim De Lauro about the critique group. This month's speaker is children's writer Dede DuCharme, who will speak on *Writing and Publishing for Children*. Dede Fox attended the University of the Americas in Mexico City and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis. A school librarian, she also teaches with

writers in the schools. Her credits include *The Treasure in the Tiny Blue Tin*, a children's novel, and non-fiction for Rand McNally and Highlights for Children. Her short stories and poetry appear in *Sol*, *Poetry Revolt*, *Swirl* (2006-2009), *Poetry at Round Top* (2007-2009), *A Summer's Poems*, and *Texas Poetry Calendar* (2009-2010). She was a juried poet at the 2007 Houston Poetry Fest, and her poem, *Chapultepec Park*, won the 2008 Austin International Poetry Festival. Dion McInnis, AVP for University Advancement at University of Houston-Clear Lake, will discuss what the university can provide for the league at the 2010 BAWL Writers Conference. He will speak first.

K of C scholarship recipients named



Knights of Columbus Council 9201 recently named the recipients of the 2009 Kyle Kiel and Andy Estrada Scholarships. Each recipient was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to

the college of their choice. Pictured are, left to right, Council 9201 representative, and the four scholarship recipients: Kyle Kiel, Andy Estrada, John Kiel, and Chris Estrada.

the college of their choice. Pictured are, left to right, Council 9201 representative, and the four scholarship recipients: Kyle Kiel, Andy Estrada, John Kiel, and Chris Estrada.

Remember When

30 years ago (1979)
 Dobie High School senior Linda Richardson was named "All American Cheerleader" out of the 600 students who attended camp at Sam Houston State University.

Members of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call reporting rubber burning at a Sagameadow home to find that there was no fire. The odor had come from two skunks in the front of the home.

5 years ago (2004)
 Students in the Pasadena Independent School District, as well as Clear Creek ISD, were set to return to school Aug. 16.

Robert Reid, who played with the Houston Rockets from 1977 to 1988, made a special appearance at a car wash held by the Sagameadow Sluggers at Bayou City Wings.

A 17-year-old South Belt area youth, last seen at her grandmother's house, went missing.

League City was traveling north on the freeway on a red Yamaha motorcycle when he hit a curb. According to police, he then struck a light pole and was thrown from the bike onto the concrete. The impact of the crash caused the light pole to fall. McKenzie was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Texas Education Agency released its 2007-2008 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills results. Overall, the Pasadena Independent School District received an academically acceptable rating from the organization.

25 years ago (1984)
 The sixth annual Kick-a-thon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association was held at the Astroarena. The event was sponsored by the Dobie High School Lariatettes and Channel 39.

Padadena Independent School District board members approved teacher salary increases averaging 15.7 percent over the previous year's, without increasing local taxes for the 1984-85 school year.

1 year ago (2008)
 Tropical Storm Edouard threatened the Houston area, but fortunately never reached hurricane status. While the South Belt area was spared the brunt of the storm, local officials and residents accordingly prepared for the worst. All nonessential Harris County and City of Houston employees were told to stay at home. Many area schools, courthouses and hospitals were also closed as a precaution.

A man was killed in the 12200 block of the Gulf Freeway when he lost control of his motorcycle. Sidney Marvin McKenzie III of

20 years ago (1989)
 Heavy winds spurred by Hurricane Chantal, recorded at more than 70 mph at Hobby Airport, ripped away part of the metal roof of the

Beamer Road Medical Building. Ricardo Gonzales, 31, died when a driver lost control of his car, running into and through Gonzales' home, killing him as he sat in a chair.

15 years ago (1994)
 Sagameadow Municipal Utility District voters overwhelmingly approved a \$6 million bond package to allow the district to purchase ownership in the city of Houston's water plant and expand the district.

Clear Brook High School began offering Mandarin Chinese classes.

Frazier Elementary was the only school out of the PISD's 51 campuses to receive "Recognized" status for above-average performance on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills.

10 years ago (1999)
 Pasadena Independent School District students continued to make impressive gains on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test for the 1998-99 school year.

Students in Pasadena and Clear Creek independent school districts were starting school.

Clear Creek Independent School District received a recognized rating for the 11th time out of 12 years.

Paralegal course set

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will offer an online paralegal certificate course Aug. 24 through Oct. 9. Students will learn the advanced skills of legal research, writing, formal and informal advocacy, and principles of appellate procedure. Course tuition is \$1,089. For more information, call University of Houston-Clear Lake's Center for Advanced Management Programs at 281-283-3121.

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IMAX

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) (11:45 @ \$9), 3:00, 7:40, 10:55

DIGITAL 3D

G-FORCE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (10:05 @ \$8), 12:25, 2:45, 5:25, 7:35, 9:40, 11:45

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA (PG-13) (10:15 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15

JULIE & JULIA (PG-13) (10:35 @ \$5), 12:55, 2:00, 4:05, 5:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55, 12:50

A PERFECT GETAWAY (R) (10:30, 11:40 @ \$5), 1:05, 2:30, 3:30, 4:50, 5:50, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35, 10:40, 11:55, 12:55

ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45, 11:50

THE COLLECTOR (R) (11:25 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30, 11:40

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) (10:35 @ \$5), 12:55, 1:50, 4:20, 5:20, 7:20, 10:30, 10:30, 11:40

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) (11:25 @ \$5), 2:55, 6:10, 9:25, 12:40

STREET DREAMS (R) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:05, 4:10, 6:30

G-FORCE (PG) (10:50, 11:20 @ \$5), 1:00, 1:45, 3:35, 4:25, 6:25, 8:45, 10:50, 12:55

3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

ORPHAN (R) (11:55 @ \$5), 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 8:55, 10:45, 11:55

THE UGLY TRUTH (R) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:20, 2:35, 5:35, 7:55, 8:50, 10:10, 11:10, 12:25

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:35, 3:50, 5:00, 8:35, 11:55

I LOVE YOU, BETH COOPER (PG-13) (10:55 @ \$5), 1:25, 3:55, 6:40, 9:05, 11:25

ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:45, 6:20, 8:40, 11:05, 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:25, 3:50, 6:25, 8:25, 11:25

MY SISTER'S KEEPER (PG-13) (10:25 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:40, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20, 12:45

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (10:20 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:45, 8:05, 11:20

THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00

THE HANGOVER (R) 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 7:35, 9:55, 12:30

DRAG ME TO HELL (PG-13) 6:50, 8:10, 11:30

AMC SELECT

THE HURT LOCKER (R) (11:40 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:55, 7:50, 10:35

(500) DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13) (11:30 @ \$5), 2:10, 4:40, 7:25, 9:50, 12:05

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Jimmy, Gwen reach 50 year milestone



Jimmy and Gwen Gibbs, 37-year residents of Sagemont Park, celebrated their 50 year anniversary July 31. The couple married in 1959 at First Baptist Church in Woodville, Texas, with the Rev. Ernest Martain, uncle of the bride, officiating the ceremony. For their anniversary, the couple enjoyed a family outing with their son, Gary, and wife Rosemary; son Bryan; daughter Teri Gibbs Farrell and husband John and their children Abigail, Jacob, Joshua and Anna. Gary and Teri Gibbs both attended Stuchbery Elementary, Beverly Hills Intermediate and Dobie High. Jimmy was lead

counselor at Dobie, and Gwen was an English teacher at Thompson Intermediate before they both retired in 1991. The couple have been Sagemont Church members since 1972. Jimmy plays the piano for the Bible study department, and Gwen is an active member in the social planning department. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Rosemary Gibbs, Joshua Farrell, Anna Farrell, Terri Gibbs Farrell, John Farrell, Jacob Farrell, (back row) Gary Gibbs, Bryan Gibbs, Gwen Gibbs, Jimmy Gibbs and Abigail Farrell.

Photo submitted

Couple celebrates golden anniversary



Carl and Phyllis Shaulis at their wedding in 1959.

Carl and Phyllis Shaulis celebrate their 50 year wedding anniversary Aug. 8. To celebrate, their four children and grandchildren will take them to dinner in Clear Lake. The couple were presented a check to take a cruise or trip of their choice at a later time this year. Carl retired from Basell in 1998 and now lives his life on the golf course. Phyllis worked for many years as the secretary at J. Frank Dobie High School until she retired in 2000.



Carl and Phyllis celebrate their 50 years.

She enjoys shopping, going to lunch with friends, traveling and spending time visiting her children, Carl and Patti Shaulis; Tammy and Matt Garza; BJ and Daryl Newton; Daryl and Angela Shaulis; and grandchildren Alex and CP, Macie and Madison; Amber, Colton and Jake; Aubrey and Tyler; and step-grandchildren Kristen and Justin.

Photos submitted

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Library events scheduled

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale:
 Play board games and more on Game Day, Thursday, Aug. 6, at 2:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Aug. 8, is the last day to log books for the summer reading program.
 Movie Madness is Thursday, Aug. 13, at 2:30 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for feature title. Family storytime is Tuesday at 7 p.m. Preschooler storytime is Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Toddler time is Thursday at 10 and 11:15 a.m.

Lions Club meets Aug. 11

The Houston Space City Lions Club will meet Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

Women's club to meet

Tri-County Republican Women's Club will meet at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland, Aug. 11, at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Michael Chase, a licensed professional counselor with expertise in counseling mentally ill inmates at the Harris County jail. Visitors are welcome. Lunch will be served and costs \$12. Reservations must be confirmed by calling 281-484-8083.

Volunteers needed at military office

Volunteers are needed for the Military Retired Activities Office located at the Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center at Ellington Field, 14555 Scholl Road in Room 2150. Military retirees, spouses, veterans, etc. are asked to donate three hours per week answering phone inquiries from military retirees and other veterans. On-the-job training is provided any weekday morning from 9 a.m. until noon. After the training is completed, regular assignment will be made in accordance with each individual's schedule. If interested, call the office at 832-380-7000, ext. 3130, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

SoHo Class of '59 holds 50-year reunion

South Houston High School's Class of 1959 will hold its 50-year reunion Friday and Saturday, Sept. 4 and Sept. 5, at South Shore Harbour Hotel, 2500 South Shore Blvd. in League City. On Friday, light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available from 6 to 11 p.m. Attire is casual. On Saturday, Sept. 5, registration is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., buffet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available. Buddy Griffin, "The Man with the Banjo," will entertain, and a slide show will be presented. Visiting and/or dancing to music from the '50s will be held until 12:30 a.m. Attire is informal. All money must be paid by Aug. 14. All prices are per person. Prepays are \$25 for Friday night only, \$60 for Saturday night only, and both nights for \$75. If paid after Aug. 14 or at the door, the cost is \$85. Contact Sondra Traxler Johnson at 903-452-3842 or Bob Fay at 713-501-0541 for more details.

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San Jac offers certification

The Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) division of San Jacinto College is offering a free information session about the Alternative Teacher Certification program, which provides the opportunity to become a certified teacher in the state of Texas. The free session will be held Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the San Jacinto College North campus, located at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston. The session will take place in the Chablis Restaurant, inside the Slovacek Student Center. For more information, call 281-459-7119, or e-mail detra.johnson@sjcd.edu.

BAND to meet Aug. 12

The Bay Area New Democrats will host mayoral candidate Gene Locke and the Texas state representative from District 145, Carol Alvarado at the next meeting, Wednesday Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Harris County Courthouse Bay Area Annex. Topics will include the most recent Texas legislative session as well as Locke's campaign for the mayor's office. BAND meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

Girl Scouts hold outdoor workshop

The Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council will hold an outdoor skills workshop Aug. 11, 12 and 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park in the Pavilion. The cost is \$15. Girls in grades 1 to 7, registered Scout or not, can learn outdoor skills like orienteering, knots, lanyards, solar cooking, tie dying T-shirts and more. For more information and to RSVP call Suzie Gann at 281-484-3978 or Rosemary Chaudoir at 832-978-9806.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Thursday 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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11:00 a.m.
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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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 Contemporary Worship 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:45 & 11 a.m.

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Leader readers share vacation photos



Tanya and Steve Ankenbruck are shown above on Black Sand Beach in Hawaii, where the couple celebrated Tanya's 40th birthday. The pair have been South Belt residents for 40 years.

The *Leader* is publishing South Belt residents' vacation photographs with a prize of four all-day admission tickets to Schlitterbahn in Galveston awarded to the person submitting the best photo.

Published here are some of the entries already received. The deadline to submit a vacation photo will be Aug. 20, 2009.

Any photos received after Aug. 20 will not be eligible to be considered for the Schlitterbahn ticket prize.

The *Leader* staff will judge the photos and announce the winner in the Aug. 27 edition.

The *Leader* will publish as many vacation photos as space permits.

To submit a photo, e-mail high resolution pictures, along with a short description of where the photo

was taken and what is happening in it. Identify each person in the photo using first and last names in left to right order.

Other information that can be included with photo submission includes how long the pictured residents have lived in the South Belt area and what subdivision or neighborhood they are residents of.

Photos can be sent to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Jose and Alex Quiroz are shown to the right on the observation deck of the Seattle Space Needle when the family took a vacation to Seattle.

Photo submitted by Kymberly Quiroz, a first-grade teacher at Frazier elementary



Caught as silhouettes are, left to right, Victoria Garza, Celeste Salazar, Eddie Borrego and Erik Garza at the beach in Sargent, Texas, during the Fourth of July weekend.

Photo submitted by Theresa Salazar

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Kevin and Hunter Stevens are shown above holding a fish they caught at Galveston Island.

Photo submitted by Christina Stevens

Daigle honored . . .

By Dana Lizik (see related photo page 1A)
Former South Belt resident James Daigle was recently awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service in the Army.

Daigle, son of Al and Jimmie Daigle, now of Pearland,

is a 1983 graduate of Dobie High School.

He joined the Navy for two years at age 20 and then joined the Army four years ago after exploring various careers.

Last month, Daigle was honored by having one of his Purple Hearts pinned on by former President George W. Bush at a ceremony in Bush's office in Dallas.

Daigle was stationed in Afghanistan as a medic as part of the 101st Airborne unit, based out of Fort Campbell, KY, also known as the "Screaming Eagles."

The 101st Airborne has been featured in several fictional war movies. Daigle's service, however, is not fictional, and he risked his life in more than 75 combat missions.

He was awarded one Purple Heart for taking a bullet in his leg and the other for injury sustained while the vehicle he was in ran over an improvised explosive device (IED) that exploded.

The Bronze Star is a military award given to those who show combat heroism or meritorious service. Daigle received one for his valor as a medic on many dangerous missions.

Daigle is currently stationed with his wife, Denise,

and youngest daughter Julie in Daegu, South Korea, for two years as a medic.

His other children, Allen, a 2005 Dobie graduate, and Lindsey, live in the United States.

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St. Agnes will host the Aug. 11 varsity opener against Clear Brook at 6:30 p.m.

Again this season, respective volleyball programs have just five full days of workouts and two scrimmage opportunities to prepare for the regular season.

Dobie and Clear Brook, for instance, started workouts Aug. 3. Dobie will scrimmage at Pearland Aug. 7 for a series of matches against Pearland, Deer Park and Elkins beginning at 10 a.m.

The Lady Longhorns' second scrimmage, Aug. 8 featuring Deer Park and Clear Creek, will be held at dual sites.

The varsity and junior varsity matches will be held at Clear Creek beginning at 8 a.m. Dobie will host the freshman matches at 8 a.m.

Clear Brook will scrimmage against Friendswood Aug. 7 at home, beginning at 4 p.m.

On Aug. 8, Clear Brook will scrimmage against Pearland at Pearland. Those matches begin at 9 a.m.

Clear Brook and Dobie will be involved in tournament play Aug. 13-15. Brook will be at the Austin Westwood tournament Aug. 13-15. Dobie will be in the San Antonio Alamo Heights event Aug. 14-15.

Clear Brook at St. Agnes

Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Dobie hosts Elkins

Aug. 11, 6 p.m.

The hurried pace of the high school volleyball season continues as Houston area teams prepare for the start of the regular season.

While the University Interscholastic League has set the start of the season for a day earlier, most programs in the area will open their seasons Aug. 11.

As has been the case for the past several seasons, Dobie will go against Elkins in its Aug. 11 opener. The Lady Longhorns' varsity squad will host the Lady Knights at 6 p.m. in the Dobie gymnasium.

Clear Brook, for the second straight season, will face St. Agnes in its opener.

Early Dobie football workouts go smoothly

The pads have yet to be donned, but just a few days into preseason football workouts, things appear to be going smooth.

Echoing the sentiments of many head coaches this time of year, Dobie's Bobby Cotton was simply pleased to see the entire group injury-free and dealing well with the heat.

"Everybody showed up healthy and ready to go and so far we have maintained that," Cotton said. "The training staff has done a great job of making sure we stay hydrated and as coaches we have continually reminded the guys to drink plenty of water."

On the football issues, Cotton has also been excited. The Longhorns, trying to rebound at the varsity level from a 4-5 run in 2008, are undergoing changes.

Dobie has ditched the wing-T offense in favor of the spread offense, which figures to lean heavily on the passing and athletic ability.

Continued on Page 3B



Third-year Dobie varsity football head coach Bobby Cotton found the quickest way to make his way around to the various Longhorns' practice stations was aboard the team's Gator. During the opening days of practice, Cotton also spent plenty of time on his feet helping put in the team's new spread offense. Photo by John Bechtle

Moreno tennis celebration draws interest

An Aug. 15 day-long reunion in celebration of coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s 25 years in high school tennis coaching is moving along nicely in the planning stages.

Mark Bocado, a 2004 Dobie graduate and event organizer, said as many as 40 former players have already agreed to participate in the doubles event.

Moreno began his coaching career at Galveston's O'Connell High School, where he spent 12 years. He was a member of the coaching staff at Clear Lake High School for two years after that and is now entering his 11th season at Dobie.

Any players who competed for Moreno at any of the three stops are invited to attend the event along with their families. Any administrative staff and faculty members are also welcome.

Dobie has for several years invited alumni back for a tournament to serve up the start of each new high school season. Now, former players are taking things a

step further. The event has been set for early enough in the month of August to accommodate any college students who will need to

return to their respective campuses for the fall semester.

"Coach Moreno has taught us a lot more than

just the sport of tennis all these years," Bocado said. "He can be tough on you at times, but I think we all need that when we are in high school."

"Coach always had our best interests in mind and was trying to show us the right way."

After the day of tennis, those who wish will head to Galveston, where a dinner will be held at Mario's Ristorante, 6023 Ave. Q 1/2.

Bocado said those in attendance may order straight off the menu and enjoy the festivities.

"We've had a lot of people already say they will attend," Bocado said.

Moreno is excited as well. "I'm looking forward to it," Moreno said. "It's special to me to be able to have something like this done for me."

Anyone wishing to join in on the fun may contact Bocado at 832-643-1363. Bocado can be reached via e-mail at markbocado@gmail.com.

See JFD tennis on Page 6B

Under University Interscholastic guidelines, programs which took part in spring drills back in May are not permitted to begin fall practices until Aug. 10.

Those which did not practice last spring, such as Dobie, were allowed to start Aug. 3.

Needless to say, Clear Brook head coach Paul Lanier is among the many Wolverine faithful chomping at the bit to get started.

"Oh, you bet we are," Lanier said. "There's a lot of excitement around here. It's going to be a fantastic feeling to get back out there."

Continued on Page 2B

Defending champ Brook anxious to get started

Clear Brook High School football players and coaches are moving with an extra bounce in their step as the Wolverines anticipate the start of two-a-day workouts Aug. 10.

Under University Interscholastic guidelines, programs which took part in spring drills back in May are not permitted to begin fall practices until Aug. 10.

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"Oh, you bet we are," Lanier said. "There's a lot of excitement around here. It's going to be a fantastic feeling to get back out there."

Continued on Page 2B



New weight room racks and weights arrived on campus at Clear Brook High School in the last week or so, providing a nice welcome to players who have been preparing for the start of two-a-day workouts Aug. 10.

The Wolverines, coming off their first-ever district title at the varsity level in the Class 5A ranks, will be allowed to wear full pads Aug. 14.

Photo by John Bechtle

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2009 Schedule

Aug. 13 - Sept. 3 10-noon & 6-8 p.m.	Aug. 20 - Sept. 11 4-6 p.m.
Sept. 8 - Sept. 29 6-8 p.m.	Sept. 14 - Oct. 5 4-6 p.m.

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Sports calendar

VOLLEYBALL

Friday, Aug. 7

Dobie (all teams) at Pearland scrimmage, 10 a.m.
Clear Brook (all teams) host Friendswood scrimmage, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 8

Clear Brook (all teams) at Pearland scrimmage, 9 a.m.
Dobie varsity at Clear Creek scrimmage, 8 a.m.
Dobie JV at Clear Creek scrimmage, 8 a.m.
Dobie fresh. A and B host Clear Creek scrimmage, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

(Regular season openers)

Clear Brook varsity at St. Agnes, 6:30
Dobie varsity hosts Elkins, 6:00
Clear Brook JV at St. Agnes, 5:30
Dobie JV hosts Elkins, 5:00
Clear Brook freshman A at St. Agnes, 4:30
Dobie freshman A hosts Elkins, 4:00
Clear Brook freshman B at St. Agnes, 4:30

Thursday, Aug. 13

Clear Brook varsity at Austin Westwood tourn.(pool play)
(Brook vs. Killeen Ellison)
(Brook vs. Gatesville)
(Brook vs. Austin)

Friday, Aug. 14

Dobie varsity at Alamo Heights tourn., San Antonio, TBA
Clear Brook varsity at Austin Westwood tourn., TBA

Saturday, Aug. 15

Dobie varsity at Alamo Heights tourn., San Antonio, TBA
Clear Brook varsity at Austin Westwood tourn., TBA

FOOTBALL

Saturday, Aug. 15

Dobie (all teams) hosts Manvel scrimmage, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 20

Dobie (all teams at Elkins scrimmage), TBA

Saturday, Aug. 22

Brook (all teams) at Friendswood scrimmage, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 27

Regular season opener

Dobie varsity hosts Channelview, Newcomb, 6:00
Clear Brook JV Black hosts Lamar, campus, 6:30
Clear Brook JV Silver hosts Lamar, 4:30
Clear Brook freshman Black at Lamar, 4:30
Clear Brook freshman Silver at Lamar, 6:30

Friday, Aug. 28

Regular season opener

Clear Brook varsity at Alice, 7:30
Dobie freshman White hosts Channelview, Auxiliary, 4:30
Dobie freshman Orange hosts Channelview, Auxiliary, 4:30

TENNIS

Saturday, Aug. 15

Manuel Moreno reunion event, Dobie, 9 a.m.

Mon. to Wed., Aug. 17 to 19

Dobie varsity tennis tryouts, 4 p.m.
Dobie varsity team workouts, 6 p.m.

Sports news, notes

Dobie football car wash

Dobie High School's incoming freshman football players will host a car wash fund raiser Saturday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon at Food Town on Scarsdale. Tickets are \$5 each. Proceeds go toward costs associated with football program activities.

SBGSA fall registration

Registration for the South Belt Girls Softball Association's fall season will be held at the league facilities at El Franco Lee Park Tuesday, Aug. 18, Thursday, Aug. 20, Tuesday, Aug. 25, and Thursday, Aug. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 22, and Saturday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More details will come as the registration sessions near.

Colt 45s select baseball

Players age 6 to 14 are invited to try out for one of the Proway Colt 45 teams Saturday, Aug. 8, at 2 p.m., at the League City Sportsplex, 1251 Link Road. The Colt 45s are building teams for the upcoming fall season. For more information, visit <http://www.batxprospects.com>.

SBHLL fall baseball sign-up

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League will host fall baseball registration dates, including Saturday, Aug. 8, and Saturday, Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park. The fee is \$55 per player, with a \$10 discount (\$45) offered to each additional player from the same family. For more information, visit www.eteamz.com/sbhll.

SBHLL general meeting

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League board will host a general membership meeting Thursday, Aug. 13, at the Harris County Annex building (courthouse) on Scarsdale. The board will focus on amending the league's constitution. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. All SBHLL board members are encouraged to attend.

Back to school classic

The annual Back to School Classic, hosted by the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League, is Friday through Sunday, Aug. 21-23. Available age groups are 6-U, 8-U, 10-U and 12-U. Team registration information and details are at www.eteamz.com/sbhll.

South Belt soccer registration

On-line registration in the South Belt Youth Soccer will end Saturday, Aug. 15. Youths in the U-5 through U-18 may register online at southbeltsoccer.org. Practices began this month, and the games will start in September. Games will be played over the course of 10 Saturdays at El Franco Lee and Beverly Hills parks. After the Aug. 15 registration deadline, there will be only selected numbers of openings based on individual age group needs.

NGA/Hooters golf at Golfcrest

Local golf fans will get a chance to see some of the game's finest young players up close and personal during an exciting four rounds of action at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland Aug. 6-9. The National Golf Association Hooters Pro Tour will make a stop at Golfcrest during that time for what is sure to bring plenty of fun for fans of all ages. The Texas Honing Open will be held Aug. 6-9. At press time, the field of players was at 72. For more information about the NGA Hooters tour events, visit www.ngatour.com. Admission is free to the event.

Aug. 6 - Texas Honing Open opening-round action.
Aug. 7 - Texas Honing Open second-round action.
Aug. 8 - Texas Honing Open third-round action.
Aug. 9 - Texas Honing Open final-round action.

Now a senior, Bowman wants breakout season at Utah State

Friends and family of 2005 Dobie High School graduate Xavier Bowman are finally going to get a chance to see him play a football game in Texas.

Bowman, now entering his senior season at Utah State University in Logan, is poised for what he believes can be a breakout season.

Over the past three seasons, Bowman has had much more to celebrate in the classroom, where he is on track to graduate next spring with a psychology degree.

On the football field, he's played in 33 career games but has just 22 catches for 209 yards and three scores.

Ah, but Bowman has one more shot. As a senior, Bowman doesn't have to climb past older, more experienced players on the depth chart. And provided he stays healthy, Bowman is looking to excel in the Aggies' new spread offense.

"I've played behind older guys and accepted my role in the past," Bowman said. "Now this is my time to shine. In this offense, we are going to be in a lot of four- and five-receiver sets. All of us should get a lot of opportunities."

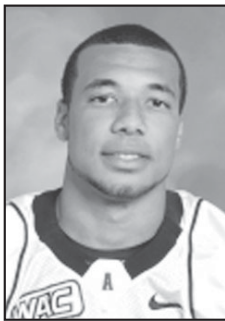
Many of the team's reasons for optimism center around the arrival of first-year head coach Greg Andersen, who had been an assistant coach at nationally ranked Utah prior to this season.

Andersen also hired offensive coordinator Dave Baldwin, who installed the spread offense in the offseason.

"It's going to be great," Bowman predicted. "On offense and defense, the coaches are focusing on

each player's attributes and how we can best be used to be successful.

"We learned a lot of the offense in the spring, and from a football game in Texas.



Xavier Bowman

now everybody is excited to get back on the field."

Bowman made one last weekend trip back to the South Belt area before heading back to Logan Aug. 4.

The Aggies will begin practices soon in preparation for a tough Sept. 3 season opener at Utah.

The Aggies, predicted to finish seventh in the Western Athletic Conference this season, will also take on Brigham Young and Fresno State in difficult conference play.

USU will also take on Texas A&M in College Station a non-conference game Sept. 19.

Utah State went 3-9 last season before school officials shuffled the deck on the football staff. Bowman thinks the changes can do wonders.

"I'm definitely excited," he said. "In college football, there's much more to it than having good players and going out on the field and winning games."

"It's about having the support and leadership at all

levels. "I'm not knocking anyone on the previous staff, but we now have a fresh start and, I think, a chance to have a great year."

Bowman is hoping for a good year not only for the Aggies but for himself.

After being one of the Houston area's leading pass catchers as a senior at Dobie, Bowman has not had the sort of personal success he envisioned on the football field. Perhaps 2009 is his year.

"I've never been a big stats guy in terms of 'I got this' or 'I got that,' but this year I want that for myself," Bowman said. "Hopefully, I can play at the next level after this year, but if I don't, I at least want to have a successful senior season to look back on."

"That chance is here for not only myself but a lot of us. It's not going to be easy for us, but we can do it."

At 6-foot-3, 200 lbs., Bowman possesses the size to play professionally.

Whether he does or doesn't make it is out of his control. His educational growth is not.

"I want to earn my Ph. D. in psychology," Bowman said.

"I'm going to work very hard in the spring semester (with the hopes of at least getting a pro tryout).

If that doesn't happen, I'll probably apply to grad school somewhere in the Houston area and finish my masters."

So far, so good for Bowman in the big picture. But he wants more.

Perhaps Utah State's spread offense will lead to more opportunities for the former Longhorn star.



The South Belt Sluggers, a 9-under select baseball team, took second place at the Westbury Summer Classic. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Zach Medina, Triston Gibson, David Zermeno, Anthony Aguilera, (middle row) DeJuan Dixon, Zachary Scruggs, Hunter Garcia, Kevin Gartner, Matthew Smith, Kaleb Sanders, (back row) coaches Kent Sanders, Taji Garcia, Dave Smith and Kenneth Scott.

Sluggers select baseball places second

The 9-under South Belt Sluggers rebounded from an opening loss to take second place at the Westbury Summer Classic.

After losing the first game, 8-6, to the West U Thunderbirds, the Sluggers found themselves with their backs against the wall.

The Sluggers were led by DeJuan Dixon, Triston Gibson, Anthony Aguilera and Zach Medina as they ran away with

a 21-9 win over the Bellaire Bombers.

The next game loomed as the most important of the tournament for the Sluggers. The Sluggers needed not only a win but a shutout to advance.

Kevin Gartner was up to the task. Gartner hurled one of the finest games of the season for the Sluggers, throwing a 1-hit shutout.

The Sluggers rolled to a 16-0 win against the Houston Express behind a double-digit hit attack led

by Kaleb Sanders, Hunter Garcia, David Zermeno and Dixon.

The Sluggers moved on to face neighborhood rival H-Town Jokers in a semi-final showdown. The Sluggers held on to win 4-1 and punch their ticket for the final.

The Sluggers were paced by outstanding pitching and great defense. Gartner started and threw 3-1/3 innings, and Garcia closed it out going the final 2-2/3. Zachary Scruggs, Matthew

Smith, Medina, Sanders and Gibson were the defensive standouts, and Garcia led at the plate with a triple and double while scoring two runs.

The Sluggers later fell 7-0 to West U and finished second. "Our team battled hard all weekend, and I couldn't be more pleased with the effort," manager Taji Garcia said.

"We have continued to improve over the past six weeks, and I am very proud of my guys."

As athletics season nears, Wolverines' weight room scores upgrades

A weight room makeover, complete with plenty of upgrades, will greet Clear Brook High School athletes this school year.

Thanks to a large fundraising commitment initiated by the Wolverines' football booster club, things are looking mighty spiffy in the school's weight room these days.

Clear Brook head football coach and boys' athletic coordinator Paul Lanier noticed the need for change after he was hired at the school prior to the 2007-2008 school year. He also knew where the help would need to come from.

Luckily for the athletes at Clear Brook, a determined group of football boosters, guided by president Wayne Priestly, stepped in.

"I have known for a long time that the weight room was in need of upgrades and new equipment," Priestly said.

"When I sat down with coach Lanier shortly after he arrived back then, he indicated that one of his focuses was going to be getting the weight room up to par."

It took some time and will take more time to pay for, but the Wolverine athletic community now has what it needs.

"Our weight room is now up there with the best

around," Lanier said. "We talked to our boosters and were able to get some things done with a company to get us some help. It's a big deal for us, and I know the kids have really responded to the changes."

Priestly, whose stepson is standout running back Brandon Ellison, said it all starts with a desire on the part of the boosters to deliver what the athletes need to excel.

When Priestly and some of the current board members got involved around the time of Lanier's arrival, the football booster club had little money or support. Much of that has changed now.

The football booster club is now thriving in support, and the group is subsequently able to get more things accomplished.

The club has made the first of three annual installment payments to cover the cost of the weight room overhaul. Two other payment dates will come in 2010 and 2011.

Priestly said more will need to be done this year and in the years to follow to ensure Clear Brook athletes get what they deserve to be at their best.

"Our athletes have excelled at a high level for a lot of years, but Clear Brook didn't have what some of

the other schools in the district have," Priestly said.

"That's not the case anymore, but we still have to pay for these things through fundraisers. We'll get there, but we will need the help of donations and sponsorships along the way."

For Priestly and his fellow Wolverines' football boosters, it's all about doing the right thing.

"Coach Lanier has brought back a winning attitude, and we are again doing so well in football," Priestly said.

"These kids deserve our support. Our Web site (www.clearbrookfootball.com) is updated daily, and we are planning a bowl-athon and other fundraisers during the year."

Priestly pointed out that what is being done now at Clear Brook in the athletic department and, more specifically football, will benefit athletes for years to come.

"We have a solid group of boosters who have dedicated themselves to helping our athletes achieve great things," he said.

"These upgrades are going to help athletes five, six, seven and eight years down the line. Maybe more. The future looks good for us, but we always need more help and more parents willing to do their part."



Wolverines ready to begin practice Aug. 10

Continued from Page 1B

Coming off a season for the record books that included the Wolverines' first Class 5A district title, it's easy to see why hopes are high for 2009.

Still, the Wolverines will have their work cut out for them at the varsity level.

Clear Lake, which lost only to Clear Brook while posting a 5-1 district mark in 2008, should once again be talented.

Clear Springs, which will play varsity football for just a second season, is one of the early favorites to win the 24-5A crown.

Then there's Dickinson, which in 2008 celebrated its 5A arrival by making the playoffs under veteran head coach Warren Trahan.

Some early season rankings have the Wolverines finishing as high as second in the 24-5A ranks.

That might be considered a slap in the face of the returning district champion. As for Lanier, he takes it all in stride and expects his players to do the same.

"I tell the players that

all of those rankings and so forth are for entertainment only," Lanier said.

"It provides for good entertainment, but you still have to produce and win football games on the field."

"When you win consistently, then usually you are well thought of in those rankings and such. We weren't predicted to win our district last year but we did. In most rankings, we aren't picked to win this year, but there is nothing keeping us from doing that."

So obviously, as Lanier heads into season three as the Clear Brook head coach, he's looking for the team to again make things happen for itself.

The team will be operating with a new quarterback, but there is enough experience on both sides of the ball to warrant another successful season.

The big benefit this season could come in the fact that these Wolverines expect to win and to be in contention for the 24-5A. This wasn't the case for much of the decade pre-Lanier.

"We like the direction things are going, but you can never rest on what you did a season ago," Lanier said.

"As we have all seen, one mistake can cost you a game. Right now, we want to get the guys on the field and get back to work. The big key for us is to hit the ground running."

"I like the work we were able to get done during the spring, and the guys have been up here working hard in the weight room. Hopefully, it's a case of us just needing to sharpen up a bit as we move forward."

With the Wolverines set to play in the Gulf Coast Classic in the season opener Aug. 27 against Class 4A power Alice on the road, the program has a chance to make a statement.

A win over Alice would not only give the Wolverines plenty of momentum for the remainder of the season but would also give the players and program more respect.

"The Alice game is a showcase, and we want to go to Alice and come back

with a win," Lanier said. "That places more emphasis on the preseason and our preparation. We are representing the Houston area in that game, and we want to win."

From there, Clear Brook will face Aldine Nimitz and Strake Jesuit, two strong programs, in nondistrict play. Then the 24-5A slate arrives.

"Our district is always going to be balanced," Lanier said.

"Every week you have to be ready to play. In 2007, we felt like we left some opportunities on the field because of turnovers."

"Last season we were able to take care of the football better in district play and make some things happen for ourselves."

"Our goal every year is to remain competitive and to put ourselves in a position to make the playoffs and eventually go for a state championship. That's what we are aiming to do this season."

It all starts Aug. 10 for the Wolverines.

Dobie's journey toward 2009 football season begins, two-a-days in full swing

Aug. 15 scrimmage date against Manvel closes in; Channelview opener looms Aug. 27

Continued from Page 1B
Cotton said he and his staff were pleased with the way the group as a whole turned out for practice ready to go. No steps backward were needed.

"Our level of retention from the spring, even in the freshman group coming in from Thompson and Beverly Hills, has been great," Cotton said.

"It always helps when you can get out of the gate quickly and not have to stop and re-teach things."

As for the Longhorns' new spread offense, the players are adjusting well. Cotton, who along with assistants Charlie Burton and Kenneth Foster, is guiding the Longhorns through the nuances of the new system, has been happy with the results.

"I think the bottom line is the guys like the offense, and they are really putting in the work to make sure we get it down," Cotton said.

"It's an offense that is designed to take advantage of your athletic ability as a team. We believe we have that athletic ability in

place."

Dobie's first eligible day to practice in full pads is Aug. 7. That's when the Longhorns will really begin to turn things up in preparation for a pair of scrimmages.

The football program will go through a short practice Aug. 8, and two-a-days resume Aug. 10. The first Dobie scrimmage is Aug. 15 on campus against Manvel.

"Right now we couldn't be happier given that we are only a couple of days into things," Cotton said. "It's

LP's Perkins won't play

La Porte's Kendrick Perkins, one of the region's top running backs, won't play football this season.

A source with knowledge of the situation told the *Leader* that Perkins informed the coaching staff of his decision July 30.

Perkins, a two-sport star, is giving up football to focus full time on baseball. He is reported to have agreed to play baseball at Texas

A&M University in the fall of 2010 and also has aspirations of playing professionally. He was not selected in the 2009 major league baseball amateur draft.

As a junior, Perkins rushed for 1,762 yards and scored 25 touchdowns, guiding the Bulldogs to the fourth round of the playoffs. On the baseball field, Perkins helped La Porte to the District 22-5A crown.

obvious the guys have taken care of themselves in the summer. Our play in 7-on-7 has really helped us get a head start on the spread offense.

"From here, it's all about taking it one day at a time and preparing for the season. Defensively, the guys are working hard. As a group, I think things are going to come together very well."

That's a good thing because the regular season is drawing closer and closer as the days pass. The Channelview Falcons await.



Zach Fondal, a member of Dobie's offensive line group, pushes a sled toward the finish line during a team drill as part of two-a-days. Fondal is bidding to make his way onto the starting varsity line as the team inches toward the opener.



Dobie varsity assistant coach Chris Swinnen (right) puts members of the Longhorns' defensive front through the paces during the second day of two-a-day workouts Aug. 4 on campus. The Longhorns will continue their workouts through much of next week before preparing for the first of two scrimmages. Dobie hosts Manvel Aug. 15 in a series of scrimmages that will feature the freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity squads. The Longhorns will have a second scrimmage at Elkins Aug. 20.

Photos by John Bechtel

Countdown to kickoff – Dobie Longhorns

Aug. 7: First workouts in full pads; (8 a.m.)

Aug. 8: Incoming freshman car wash at Food Town (see Page 2B).

Aug. 10-14: All teams continue two-a-day workouts, leading up to opening scrimmage.

Aug. 15: Dobie hosts Manvel Mavericks in scrimmage at Dobie (all levels), 9 a.m.

Aug. 20: Dobie at Elkins Knights in scrimmage (all levels), 4 p.m.

Aug. 27: Dobie varsity hosts Channelview Falcons, 2009 season opener, Newcomb Field, 6 p.m.



Junior Shelby Bradley (left) and Mantej Gill, a sophomore, are just two of Dobie's student athletic training staff members who braved the heat for the start of football practice on campus.



Dobie defensive lineman Sefita Kefu anticipates the snap of the football during a drill on the second day of the Longhorns' two-a-day workouts. Kefu, a three-year varsity performer, is being counted on to provide leadership up front as the Longhorns prepare for opening night.

Davis pair excels at track nationals

Rising Stars Track Club athletes Jacoby Davis (left) and Jeremy Davis competed in the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics Championships in Greensboro, N.C. Jacoby Davis took second place in the bantam boys' triathlon, and his twin, Jeremy Davis, took third place in the bantam boys' high jump competition. The Davis twins are students at Bush Elementary. Their parents are South Belt residents Erica and Terence Davis. The boys also play football for the Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League.

Submitted photo



No BAFL Fun Day, regular season Aug. 22

For the first time in many years, there will be no Fun Day of scrimmage action to salute the start of the Bay Area Football League season.

In previous seasons, each of the league's programs gathered at the Pearland Dad's Club. Scrimmages were held to help the players get prepared for the regular season.

During this past offseason, BAFL officials voted to do away with Fun Day for at least the 2009 season.

League practices began Aug. 1 and are continuing at team practice sites across

the area. The opening day of the regular season is Aug. 22.

The Ellington Rams begin play Aug. 22 at the Manvel Ravens. The Rams play their home openers Aug. 29 against the La Marque

Cougars at Lutheran South Academy.

The Sagemont Cowboys open the season Aug. 22 at the Friendswood Mustangs, then host League City Aug. 29. The Southbelt Dolphins host La Marque Aug. 22.

Jokers barbecue fundraiser

The Houston Jokers, a 9-under select baseball team composed of South Belt area players, will host a barbecue fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 15 at the Doghouse Saloon, located at 2502 Old Galveston Road.

The \$7 plates will in-

clude brisket, sausage, beans, rice, potato salad and all of the fixings.

The plates will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the team, visit the Web site at www.houstonjokers.web.com.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

Al-Anon – Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.

Diabetes Support Group – A support group for young adults with diabetes. All subjects are open for discussion: new technologies, research advances, fears, phobias, dating and other personal matters. Meets the first Thursday of each month at 1315 St. Joseph Parkway #1705, Medical Place One. Contact Dan Steiner, CDE, at 713-756-8536 for more information.

The Bay Area Writers League – Meets the first Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble at Bay Area Boulevard and the Gulf Freeway. Newcomers are welcome.

Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 281-204-2481.

FRIDAY, AUG. 7
7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday

through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

Free Line Dance Class – The Friendswood Senior Citizen Program offers free line dancing classes. The class is held at the activity building, located at 416 Morningside. All area senior citizens, 55 or older, are invited. Previous experience not required. For more information, call 281-482-8441.

Moving Forward Women's Adult Children Anonymous – The ACA group meets Fridays at noon at the Up The Street Club in Webster, 508 Nasa Parkway, in room 4. ACA is a 12-step program of hope, healing and recovery for people who grew up in alcoholic or dysfunctional homes. For more information, call 281-286-1431.

Frontier Squares – Meets to square dance at the NASA Gilruth Center on Space Center. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or George Wieland at 281-286-5682, or visit www.frontiersquares.com.

Grief Support Group – For any adult who has lost a loved one. Meets every Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. For more information, call 281-487-8787.

Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free exercise and speech therapy from 7 to 8 a.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

Free Exercise Class – Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Registration is required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.

Scrabble Club #511 – Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua from 6 to 9 p.m. All who enjoy the game or want to learn to play are invited to join. For more information, call 281-488-2923.

Civil Air Patrol Meeting – Weekly at Ellington Field in the Civil Air Patrol Building. Call 281-484-1352 and leave a message for more information.

Continued on Page 4B

HELP WANTED

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National power San Jacinto College takes on road-weary volleyball slate

The San Jacinto College volleyball team announced its 2009 schedule this week, which will begin August 28-29 at the Texas Tornado Tournament in Houston. The squad will host six home matches, beginning with Temple College on Sept. 1. Other home matches include Lee College (Sept. 24), Laredo (Oct. 2), Coastal Bend (Oct. 3), Galveston College (Oct. 7) and Wharton County Junior College (Oct. 13).

Following the home opener against Temple, San Jacinto will embark on a three-week road trip beginning in Brenham at the defending national champion Blinn College's Labor Day Classic September 4-5.

The following weekend will see San Jacinto play at the Willowbrook Patriot's Day tournament, followed by a weekday trimatch in Temple featuring Temple College and Tyler Junior College.

The Ravens will open conference play against Galveston College, then head to the North Central Texas College Classic before returning home.

Midseason play for San Jac includes the Panola College tournament and a trip to Miami to face national powerhouse Miami Dade College.

"It's not an easy schedule," said head coach Sharon Nelson, who will be in her eighth season at San Jacinto this August.

"We travel every weekend, but we will be seasoned and fine-tuned to know what to do in numerous situations against all calibers of talent."

San Jacinto College will once again participate in Dig Pink, a national breast

cancer awareness rally being held throughout October to raise awareness and funds.

Each year, high school and college volleyball teams across the country participate in the initiative.

Last year San Jacinto raised more than \$600 to fight the cause.

This season's Dig Pink match will be Oct. 7 against Galveston College.

The 2009 Region XIV tournament will be played

November 7-8 at a location still to be determined.

The national championship returns once again to the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, November 18-23.

San Jacinto finished last season fifth in the nation, the best finish under Nelson's tutelage.

San Jac returns four players from last season's 33-3 squad, including setter Abbey (Parker) Barnett, who led the National Junior College

Athletic Association in assists a year ago and was a first-team all-conference selection and the Region XIV co-setter of the year.

Nelson has added a slew of newcomers, including two NCAA Division I transfers and one from the NCAA Division II ranks.

All Raven home matches are played at Anders Gymnasium on the San Jacinto College Central campus, located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.



Entering her eighth season, San Jacinto College head volleyball coach Sharon Nelson has the Ravens ready to face a tough schedule. In 2008, San Jacinto finished fifth at nationals.

SJC marketing

Coyote soccer players arrive Aug. 1



The San Jacinto College soccer preseason is officially under way. Players reported Aug. 1 to begin workouts, get registered for classes and get housing issues squared away. Coming off the team's most successful season in school history in 2008, head coach David Santesteban (above) has now welcomed quite a few first-year players this time around. A season ago, the Coyotes went 18-2-2 overall, playing in the National Junior College Athletic Association's national title game for the first time in school history. San Jacinto lost that game 1-0, but Santesteban and his Coyotes are back to make another run at the crown in 2009. Scrimmage action begins Aug. 21 for the Coyotes, and the team opens the regular season Sept. 5 against Barton County in the school's first-ever evening match.

SJC marketing dept.

Priest to SFA baseball



Cody Priest (left), shown here with Dobie High School catcher Justin Eckols, will continue his education and playing career at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches after signing a letter of intent with the Jacks. Priest, a first team all-district performer as a pitcher for Dobie in 2009, will primarily pitch at SFA. He will be joined by his older brother, Ryan, who will be a senior this fall.

Photo by John Bechtle

Dobie netters eye workouts; fall team play is Aug. 20

Members of the Dobie High School tennis varsity squad will soon have a chance to keep the program's recent string of successful fall seasons alive.

A season ago, Dobie finished

second to Memorial during the fall team tennis season but went on to advance to the Region III quarterfinals for the first time in two decades.

Coach Manuel Moreno

Jr., entering his 11th season at Dobie, has set the fall schedule.

After the special Moreno reunion matches Aug. 15 (see Page 1B), the Longhorns will open the season

by hosting Pearland Dawson Aug. 20 at home. District play begins Sept. 22.

Moreno has again stacked the Longhorns' schedule with a slew of tough competition.

It won't be easy for the Longhorns, who lost a large number of seniors to graduation, particularly on the boys' side of the net.

But Moreno's Longhorns have found ways to persevere in recent seasons.

The team's Region III success last season was not completely unexpected, yet it showed the team's desire to compete for every point of every match.

As the 2009 fall season

nears, Moreno is again eager to get out on the courts. His message to all returning players is clear.

"I hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are ready to get back into the swing of things again," he said.

"After the best team tennis season (2008) we have enjoyed so far during my time as coach, your goal should be to advance even further into the playoffs in 2009.

"You all are aware we are going to be a lot younger and a lot less experienced on the boys' side of the court," he said.

"But you've taken on challenges and adversities like this before and have responded with flying colors. You can do it again as a team."

Moreno's words have certainly rung true over the past several seasons.

Dobie High School

Varsity tennis schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 15	Moreno reunion event	9 a.m.
Aug. 17-19	Team tryouts	4 p.m.
Aug. 20	Pearland Dawson	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 28	Clear Springs	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 29	at Galveston Ball	9 a.m.
Sept. 1	Clear Brook	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	Clear Creek	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Baytown Sterling	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 11-12	at Corpus Christi tourn.	TBA
Sept. 15	Friendswood	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Baytown Sterling	3 p.m.
Sept. 19	Nederland	8:30 a.m.
Sept. 19	Copperas Cove	2 p.m.
Sept. 22	*Memorial	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	*at South Houston	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	*Deer Park	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	*La Porte	3 p.m.
Oct. 6	*at Pasadena	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	*Sam Rayburn	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	*at Pearland	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	Dobie exes matches	9 a.m.
Oct. 22-24	22-5A championships	TBA
Oct. 30-31	Region III championships	TBA
Nov. 6-7	State championships	TBA

* - District 22-5A match

Dobie High School

JV/Freshman tennis schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 17	at Friendswood	3:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	*at Memorial	3:15 p.m.
Sept. 30	*at Deer Park	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	PISD tourn. (Strawberry)	TBA
Oct. 21	at Baytown Sterling	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	*at Pearland	3:15 p.m.
Oct. 28	*at Clear Creek	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	*at Clear Brook	3:15 p.m.
Nov. 10	Houston Memorial (Fr.)	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 12	Houston Memorial (JV)	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 17	at Clear Springs	3:15 p.m.
Nov. 20	PISD fall tournament	TBA

Future stars attend Dobie summer baseball camp



Twenty South Belt area youths attended the end-of-summer baseball camp at Dobie High School, hosted by Longhorns' varsity head coach Miguel Torres and his staff. Those who attended included, left to right, (front row) Fernando Perez, Kobe Ruiz, Stephen Skaklovitz, Nathon Doss, Humberto Vela, Phoenix Watkins, Juan Trujillo, Euro Diaz, Alex Gonzalez, Alberto Quiroga, Isa-

iah Brooks, (second row) Torres, P.J. Cruz, camp assistant Ronnie Thomas, Ty Lozano, Adrian Flores, Aaron Gonzalez, Blake Montross, Tyler Baumann, Hector Alonzo, Ryan Shofner, Dobie varsity assistant coach Shaun Stanton, John Alec Harrison and Grant Wilhelm and Dobie volunteer assistant coach Greg Mitchell.

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