

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Misinformation on Brio

In response to multiple online threads that are spreading misinformation about the safety of the Brio Superfund site and future detention pond site located near Beamer Road and Dixie Farm Road, *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger, who serves as the EPA community contact for Brio, will write an editorial to appear in next week's edition and be posted online.

Jet crashes at Ellington

At press time Wednesday, June 21, the *Leader* received reports of an F-16 Fighting Falcon from a detachment of the 138th Fighter Wing, stationed at the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, crashing on takeoff around 10:30 a.m. The pilot safely ejected and was being evaluated at a local medical facility. The aircraft, under the direction of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, was conducting a training flight. See next week's *Leader* for additional information. See related photo on this page.

Apartment catches fire

Multiple emergency units responded to a fire Wednesday, June 21, at the Sabo Village Apartments, located at 10701 Sabo near Fuqua. The blaze was reportedly caused by a cooking fire. No additional details were available at press time. The timing of the fire coincided with the jet crash at Ellington Field (see related story above), leading many residents to believe the two incidents were related.

Gulf Freeway closures set

The northbound lanes of the Gulf Freeway from Scarsdale to Fuqua will be completely closed from 9 p.m. Friday, June 23, through 5 a.m. Monday, June 26. Both the eastbound and westbound ramps from the Gulf Freeway to Beltway 8 will also be closed for the duration of the repairs. Residents should be aware, however, that previous notices of the same closures did not come to fruition as published. At press time, it remained unclear what had caused the multiple discrepancies.

Graduation issues available

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

Vacation photos sought

The *Leader* is seeking readers' 2017 vacation photos for possible publication. A first-, second- and third-place prize of Schlitterbahn Galveston tickets will be awarded monthly during June, July and August to the best submissions. First place will be awarded eight tickets; second place will be awarded six; and third place will be awarded four. All submissions should include when and where the photo was taken, identify each person in the picture and describe the trip. All photos must be high resolution. Email photos to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Do not compress photos when emailing.

Beltway 8 closures set

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

Election, meeting postponed

The Sagemont Maintenance Committee's annual election and meeting, originally scheduled for June 24 and June 27 respectively, have both been postponed until August. See future editions of the *Leader* for additional information.

Scarsdale Civic group meets

Scarsdale Civic Association's monthly homeowners meeting will be Monday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse, 12127 Teaneck.

Knights hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, June 25, at St. Luke's Church, 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. All are welcome. For additional information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358 or John Urdiales at 713-991-1425.

New Directions to meet

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

Kirkwood Civic Club meets

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

2 arrested following SWAT standoff

Two brothers are in custody after a four-hour SWAT standoff at the Clear Creek Landing apartment complex in the 11700 block of Beamer at Hall Road early Sunday, June 18.

Officers from the Houston Police Department were the first to respond to a possible assault at the complex's swimming pool shortly before 2:30 a.m., quickly followed by deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office.

Upon their arrival, authorities were notified

that the two males had taken the alleged assault victim to an upstairs apartment, where screaming could be heard from outside.

After attempts to reach the victim were unsuccessful, deputies reached out to the Harris County Sheriff's Office SWAT team, technically known as the Harris County High Risk Operations Unit, for assistance. When the SWAT team's initial efforts to reach the victim were also unsuccessful, it gained entry to the apartment by

detonating a small explosive near the front door around 6:30 a.m.

"I just woke up to a big boom," said neighbor Mandy Lewis. "I asked my husband if he heard the noise, and he said 'yeah, I think they are working on the road.' I said 'no that wasn't road work noise.'"

The two brothers subsequently surrendered to police. One of the two was reportedly dating the female victim.

Contrary to other media reports, police said there was only one victim, not two. Police also said the victim at least suffered a concussion during the incident, contradicting other reports

that stated she was unharmed. At press time, the victim was undergoing additional medical tests to determine if other internal injuries were incurred. Police noted, however, that the victim was not cooperating with authorities.

Other media reports also stated that the victim had been thrown down the stairs prior to the standoff. Investigators told the *Leader*, however, the victim had allegedly been dragged up the stairs by her hair.

The names of the two suspects had not been released at press time, as the investigation was ongoing and official charges were pending the victim's medical test results.

SWAT swarms apartment



Two brothers were arrested early Sunday, June 18, following four-hour hostage situation at the Clear Creek Landing apartment complex in the 11700 block of Beamer at Hall Road. A SWAT team from the Harris County Sheriff's Office, shown above, was eventually needed to gain entry into the suspects' apartment. The SWAT unit gained access by detonating a small explosive device near the apartment's front door. Photo by Mandy Lewis

South Belt celebrates Fourth of July

Several local organizations, elected officials, businesses, and residents are gearing up for the annual South Belt Independence Day parade, set to take place Tuesday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m.

Now in its 30th year, the parade will feature a variety of decorated vehicles and floats, classic cars and emergency vehicles. The route will wind its way from Beverly Hills Intermediate to San Jacinto College South via Fuqua, Sabo/Hughes Road and Beamer.

This year's event will be a salute to all first responders. Members of the Houston Fire Department, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office are expected to take part, as are local military personnel.

Once again, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz will be taking part in the parade.

Other early confirmed entries include the Sagemont Church Choir, the Dobie Lariatettes, Bombers Sports Bar, San Jacinto College and Dobie football.

Participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and floats, as prizes will be awarded in various categories. Trophies will be given to the most patriotic and most original entries in both the commercial and noncommercial categories.

All residents, organizations and businesses are welcome to enter. Community and nonprofit

groups may sign up for the parade at no charge, unless they wish to be eligible for a prize. A \$50 fee is charged for commercial entries. Noncommercial entries may enter the contest for \$25.

Entry forms are available at www.southbeltleader.com, the *Leader's* office, 11555 Beamer, and on pages 6A and 2B. The forms are to be filled out and returned to the *Leader's* office, faxed to 281-481-5730 or emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com by July 2.

While the parade starts at 10 a.m., participants are urged to arrive early, as the lineup for the caravan will begin at 9 a.m.

Fireworks display

On the evening of July 4, residents will not want to miss the annual fireworks display, as organizers are saying it will be among the largest in the event's 29-year history.

The pyrotechnics display is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

Organizers said they plan to spend roughly \$45,000 on the fireworks show this year. By comparison, organizers spent only around \$3,000 on the first South Belt fireworks display in 1988.

While the fireworks will be set off at El Franco Lee Park, located at 9400 Hall Road, they should be visible throughout much of the South Belt community.

The annual fireworks display is scheduled to begin around 9:30 p.m.



Stuchbery changes guards

There was recently a changing of the guards at Stuchbery Elementary, as Jose Hernandez (right) will now serve as the school's principal. Hernandez will replace outgoing Stuchbery Principal Carolyn Waller (left), who is resigning after serving 35 years in the education field. Hernandez has worked in the Pasadena Independent School District for 13 years, serving as both a teacher and an administrator. Most recently, he served as assistant principal at Jensen Elementary. Hernandez will officially assume his new role this fall.

Photo by James Bolen

Beltway 8 is eerily barren



Beltway 8 was eerily quiet the afternoon of Wednesday, June 21, following a plane crash at Ellington Field that closed several entrances and exits along the area tollway. The above photo was taken at 2:20 p.m. near the Gulf Freeway intersection. The tollway reportedly reopened around 4 p.m. See related story on the sidebar of this page. Photo by Marie Flickinger

SJC students to conduct cancer research at University of Iowa

Conducting cancer research is how Trung Vu, Kenley Miller, Kevin Rodriguez and Simon Mendoza from San Jacinto College are spending their summer as the only community college students accepted to the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program.

The CURE program, supported by the National Cancer Institute, and a partnership between the University of Iowa and collaborative aca-

dem institutions, is designed to provide an atmosphere to train undergraduate students in cancer research. Once selected, the students are assigned mentors at the University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, where they study in different labs and work alongside principal investigators as paid undergraduate researchers for eight weeks during two consecutive summers.

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Causes of two deaths undetermined

After several weeks, the causes of two recent South Belt deaths have yet to be determined, according to medical examiners.

Alexander

Roughly three months after the death of Christopher Alexander, the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences has yet to determine what killed the man.

Alexander was found unresponsive at an apartment complex located at 1400 Redford near Edgemoor and the Gulf Freeway on Tuesday, March 21.

Patrol officers and paramedics responded to the call around 10:45 p.m. after receiving reports of the man collapsing after having an altercation with a female.

Alexander was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

According to witnesses, Alexander appeared to be impaired by an unknown substance prior to and during the altercation.

The female was detained at the scene but was questioned and released.

At press time, a spokesman for the Houston Police Department said the case was still an open homicide investigation.

Hong

Approximately one month after someone died having jumped from the Fuqua overpass onto the southbound lanes of the Gulf Freeway in an apparent suicide attempt, medical examiners have yet to determine whether the fall or a subsequent collision killed the man.

According to investigators, Binh Ngoc Hong leapt from the overpass into oncoming traffic shortly after 6 a.m.

A vehicle then reportedly struck Hong but kept driving, refusing to stop and render aid. Police said the driver may have been unaware he struck the man.

Hong, 40, of the 10800 block of Kingspoint, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The incident caused extensive traffic delays for several hours.

Anyone with information on the driver is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Hit and Run Division at 713-247-4065.

Hernandez named Stuchbery principal

At a recent special-called meeting, the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved Jose Hernandez to serve as principal of Stuchbery Elementary.

"I am excited to become a part of the Stuchbery Stallion family," Hernandez said. "I feel blessed at the opportunity to become a part of the great things happening in the South Belt community."

Hernandez has served the school district for 13 years. He began his career as a bilingual science teacher at Schneider Middle School from 2004 to 2006. He continued to teach bilingual and special education classes at Keller Middle School until 2008. In 2010, Hernandez took on the role of assistant principal at Jensen Elementary.

Hernandez earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas-Pan American (now the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) in biology and a master's degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in educational management. He earned his educational certifications in bilingual studies and administrative leadership.

Hernandez's wife Suzanne - a former PISD teacher and librarian - is the owner of the Wiggle Room in Pasadena. A former South Belt resident, Suzanne Hernandez is a 1999 Dobie graduate.

Hernandez is replacing outgoing Stuchbery Principal Carolyn Waller, who recently resigned after serving 35 years in education.

Hernandez will officially start his new position in August.

In My Opinion

New bill far from a permanent solution

As you have probably seen in media accounts, the Legislature has passed a bill making very substantial changes to the City of Houston's pension systems. The bill as passed was 260 pages and mind-numbingly complex. When added to the existing statutory language, the Houston pension statutes will now run over 90,000 words, which in and of itself is absurd.

The bill follows the general outline of what Turner proposed last October, but as the result of lobbying by the business community and grass roots activists, the Legislature made significant changes to Turner's original proposal. This is the first time that groups representing the taxpayers showed up in Austin to be heard on pension legislation. In the past, local elected officials and the employee groups would make a deal and the Legislature would rubber stamp it. That is not what happened this time.

Let me begin by emphasizing that while the final bill moves us in the direction of solving the City's pension problems it is far from a permanent solution. Many of the City's claims about the virtues, like it will allow the City to pay off the pension debt in 30 years or it will save a million dollars a day, are patently false. And other than the \$1 billion in borrowed money, the bill actually allows the City put less money in the plans over the next 5-6 years. Hardly a way to reduce the debt.

So, the City will face another pension crisis. The timing of that crisis depends in large measure on how the investments in the pension plans perform over the next few years. If they continue to perform as they have in recent years (10-year average = 5.6%), that crisis will be sooner rather than later.

A detailed review of the bill is impossible here. For those of you who want to take a deep dive, you can review the bill [here]. But here is the Cliff Notes version:

1. Pension Cost Reductions for Infusion of Bond Proceeds - The only part of the new legislation that is likely to make any real difference in the City's pension costs and debt are benefit reductions and increases to the employee contribution in the amount of about 15% or \$2.6 billion. It is important to emphasize that this reduction in pension liabilities is estimated because the actual amount of the savings is dependent on factors in the future, like interest rates. Nonetheless, the savings are substantial and will bend the cost curve down in the future.

The benefits reductions fall into two categories.

The police and municipal plans agreed to about \$1.7 billion in cuts in exchange for the City's agreement to infuse \$1 billion from the issuance of pension bonds. Some of you will recall that in the last mayoral campaign this was one of the scenarios I suggested as a tool to reduce the unfunded liability. At the time, Turner was adamantly opposed, arguing, "You can't solve debt with more debt." Fortunately, Turner changed his view.

There are also benefit cuts and contribution increases totaling about \$900 million for the fire fighters pension plan. I have long criticized the fire fighters for being slow to accept that their benefit structure was unsustainable, but the changes to the fire fighter plan are deeply troubling to me. Unlike the police and municipal plans, the fire fighters did not agree to the cuts in their benefits and will not get any bond money.

Also, the cuts to the fire fighters' benefits were dramatically more severe than those agreed to by the police and municipal plans. The average benefit cut per member to the fire fighter benefits under Turner's plan is about \$150,000 compared to about \$90,000 for police and \$28,000 for municipal.

There is no question that the benefits for fire fighters are the most generous benefits of the three plans and were badly in need of reform. However, this plan does something that every candidate for mayor in 2015, including Turner, promised to never do - take away benefits that had been previously earned by our employees. How many times did you hear all of us who ran for mayor declare "a deal is a deal" and promise that earned benefits would never, absent an agreement, be cut. We, as a City, have now done just that and in doing so have clearly broken our word to the current and retired fire fighters. That is not something that should be taken lightly or celebrated.

2. Voter Approval of Pension Bonds. One reform that was won by the business community and grass roots groups was the requirement that any new pension bonds must be approved by voters. When the Legislature allowed cities to issue pension bonds in 2003, the legislation was silent on whether voter approval was required. The Attorney General's office has interpreted that silence (incorrectly I believe) to mean that voter approval is not required. As a result, the City has already issued about \$600 million in pension bonds without getting voter approval.

That will no longer be the case. The bill now requires the City to obtain voter approval before issuing any new bonds. I have long said that pension bonds can be a tool to help manage our pension problems. But like any tool, they can be used properly or they can be misused. Voter approval is an important check to make sure any future pension bonds are not misused.

You may recall that when taxpayer groups first insisted on a voting requirement on bonds, Turner declared it was a poison bill that would kill the bill. But apparently after Turner saw polling that nearly 80% of Houstonians thought they should vote on any new bonds, the provision became less toxic.

3. The "Corridor." The third major component of the bill is a complex mechanism that is intended to limit the amount that the City will contribute to the pension plans in the future as a percentage of payroll, which has come to be known as the "corridor." As nearly as I have been able to determine, no other entity, public or private, anywhere in the country, has ever implemented anything like the corridor. It is a completely untested and experimental model.

It is also hideously complex and the provisions are ambiguous and in some cases internally inconsistent. That, in my experi-

ence is a recipe for litigation and I suspect you will see plenty of that in the future. You will also see the administrative costs for the plans, which are already too high, rise even more.

The real flaw in the corridor mechanism however, assuming it is actually enforced, is that it primarily relies on future increases to employee contributions if the City's contribution rises above the limit. It is highly likely this will occur because the plans are unlikely to achieve the 7% investment target over the long run. And a small miss on the investment return equates to very large increases in the employees' contribution. These increases will be so large at some point in the future it will not be feasible to enforce the corridor. That is the event that will likely precipitate Houston's next pension crisis.

4. Phasing out Defined Benefit Plans. The biggest disappointment with the bill is that there is no immediate phasing out of the defined benefit model. The bill does include a safety net of sorts that provides that if any of the plans fall below a 65% funded level, they must move all new employees to a cash balance plan. Cash balance plans have some elements of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Unfortunately, the bill also includes extraordinarily long grace periods (four years for police and fire and ten years for municipal) which will likely make the provisions meaningless for all practical purposes. In all likelihood, the City will see its next pension crisis long before the expiration of those grace periods.

Nonetheless, the inclusion of this safety net is an important symbolic victory, because it is a concession that phasing out defined benefit plans is the real solution to the City's pension problems.

5. The Constitutional Question. There is one issue outstanding that may make this entire effort for naught. There is a provision in the Texas Constitution that grants the right to set actuarial assumptions to the pension boards. Of course, the entire point of the corridor is to force the pension boards to share that power with the City and the bill establishes certain limitations on the pension boards' discretion in setting the assumptions. While there is certainly an argument to be made that the pension boards should not be exclusively vested with the power to set assumptions, that seems to be what the State Constitution provides. The fire fighter pension board has already filed suit to declare the legislation unconstitutional.

The other boards currently have no plans to sue, but may find they are forced to do so to avoid liability from their members. Also, it is possible that any member of the plans could bring such a suit. Of course, that litigation will take time to resolve. If the City implements the plan and then it is declared unconstitutional several years from now, we will have a real mess on our hands.

Notwithstanding Turner's public confidence that the City will prevail in this litigation, the City legal staff was manic during the negotiations to get the fire fighter board to agree not to sue. I make no prediction about the outcome on the merits, but certainly on its face, the legislation appears to violate the constitution.

There is also another practical effect of the fire fighters' lawsuit. The Texas Attorney General must approve the issuance of any bonds by local governmental entities. Generally, their policy is to not sign off on any bonds when there is any pending litigation. Whether the Attorney General's office would find this litigation affects the issuance of the pension bonds is an open question. But generally, that office has been pretty conservative in making such determinations.

6. Conclusion. Shortly after Bill White was elected in 2003, he received the bombshell that the pension plans were underfunded by over \$2 billion. White undertook a series of reforms that reduced benefits and he issued pension bonds to shore up the plans. But he left the defined benefit model in place. A dozen years later, our pension debt had tripled.

White's reforms unquestionably reduced the future costs of the pension plans, but ultimately his incremental approach proved not to be a permanent solution. Such is the case with this plan. It too reduces the pension costs immediately, but instead of biting the bullet and beginning the phase-out of defined benefit plans, it relies on an untested and what will be proven to be unworkable mechanism to do what moving to defined contribution plans would have accomplished without the cost, complexity, litigation and uncertainty of this plan. And as a result, Houston taxpayers and employees will suffer in the long run.

Bill King

Jackson comments on political views

"It" was the 'back' that stopped with Harry Truman. "It" is character; good or bad. "It" is the responsibility of serving the people of The United States, not just some but all the people; the poor as well as the rich, the disenfranchised as well as the privileged, those con as well those pro, the needy as well as the greedy.

"It" should be a simple matter that one would be more insulted about the now accepted fact that Russia meddled -or attempted to meddle- in our democratic process rather than about a personal joke about his hands. However, that isn't the case. "It" shouldn't be ignored that he can dish out criticism of his opponents (Crooked Hillary, Crazy Bernie, Lying Ted ...) but cannot tolerate any of himself. None. No matter that the truth may be using his own words and actions as contradictions to earlier words or actions.

His promise to support veterans and their concerns starts to sound hollow when he blocks @VoteVets, an organization representing hundreds of thousands of veterans, simply because they have been critical to some of his policies including the "Muslim ban". And they are not alone in being blocked for whatever infraction he deems at the moment. He feels totally at liberty to take to Twitter with any thought or any subject or about anyone at any time. But when someone Tweets back with anything he doesn't like he feels free to block them. Who is next? Where does it stop?

There was a Tweet about abolishing the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals because they stopped his "Muslim ban". And then there was talk within his privy council of changing the First Amendment to allow the executive branch to sue the media for libel if they published or aired something considered ... detrimental(?) to the president. Today the First Amendment... tomorrow the Second? What next, outright censorship?

He does not accept opposition from the other branches of government, whether Democrat or Republican. The Supreme Court should not be impartial but rather weighted to his ideas, and the Congress

Ed Jackson

Flood Control gives tips on storms

The Harris County Flood Control District with the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the National Weather Service are monitoring a tropical system that could potentially affect the area into Thursday morning.

The main concern with this weather system for Harris County is heavy rainfall that could result in street and bayou flooding.

At 10 a.m. Tuesday a tropical storm watch was issued for the upper Texas coast from High Island, Texas, to San Luis Pass, Texas, including Galveston Bay and Harris County. At 10 a.m. a tropical

storm warning was extended westward from Intracoastal City, Louisiana, to High Island, Texas.

The Harris County Flood Control District's Flood Operations team will monitor the weather system as it approaches and is taking the following steps in advance of the storm:

- Confirming proper operation of the 153 gauges.
- Confirming appropriate levels of staff are available to respond and monitor the event.
- Preparing phone bank operations to open, if needed.
- Inspecting trash racks to ensure they are clear of debris.

Genealogy in jammies

Bay Area Genealogical Society invites the public Friday, June 30, to hear professional genealogist and family history consultant Sue Yerby share tips on researching from home. The meeting is in the Chapel at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive. A meet-and-greet begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org or call Kim Zubek at 281-992-2636.

Avalos appreciates Van going above, beyond

Katia Avalos (left), one of the South Houston High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Abby Van, a teacher of calculus BC.

Avalos has volunteered at South Houston Elementary during its festivals as well as at local animal shelters.

Avalos plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin

to obtain her basics in pre-med and begin her first steps as a physician assistant.

Avalos commented, "Ms. Van has helped me not only as a teacher but as a friend as well. She is willing to stay after hours and work through any problems I am having difficulty with. Whenever I have a question about college or what is best for my future, I go to her for advice, which she gladly offers. Without Ms. Van, I would be struggling with calculus and unsure of what major to pursue."

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

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

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



Nguyen states Moses is the best principal

Steven Nguyen (right), one of Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Franklin Moses, Dobie High School principal.

Nguyen has been accepted into the University of Texas Austin in the Electrical Engineering program.

Nguyen commented about Moses, "Mr. Moses is the most

charismatic person I've ever met. From giving me fist-bumps to blessing the students at Dobie with countless privileges, Mr. Moses is a pretty cool guy. He is undoubtedly the best principal, beginning my high school career by implementing Mega-Lunch, for which I am forever grateful, and ending it with an academic program ten times better than when I entered Dobie. Mr. Moses has inspired me to fight against my own genetics and pour out all my greatest efforts to reach the heights that he has achieved, in terms of both physical stature and success."

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

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

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



Schwarze learns valuable lessons from Suarez

Zachary Schwarze (right), one of the Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Matthew Suarez, an orchestra teacher.

Schwarze has been involved in the community through HOSA and through service projects for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He has also volunteered for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Schwarze plans to attend the University of Houston to

major in liberal art studies with minors in political ethics and Mandarin Chinese. Afterward, he hopes to attend law school at the UH Law Center. His ultimate goal is to practice international law with the United Nations.

Schwarze commented about Suarez, "Never has anyone seen a teacher with as much sass and wit as Mr. Suarez. Our entire orchestra has come to the realization that you simply can't win at banter with him. He's just too good. Equal to his snap, though, is his fire for teaching. I've never met anyone with such a passion for the violin, along with the ability to communicate that passion to students by way of teaching. I'll never forget the valuable lessons Mr. Suarez has taught me, and I only hope he's just as proud as I am to say that 'we got 'em, girls.'"

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

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

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



Deaths

Norman Beris



Longtime South Belt resident Norman Beris, 82, died June 15, 2017. He was born Jan. 5, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York.

Norm is preceded in death by his wife Darlina Gail Beris and his parents Isidore and Ann Beris. He is survived by his children Michael Beris (Karen), Robin McDaniel (Anthony) and Eric Beris (Crissy); and grandchildren Lauren Lopez, Reese McDaniel, Joseph Beris, Addison McDaniel, Abigail Beris, Rachel Beris and Jacob Beris.

Norm served in the Army in Korea. After serving he received an honorable discharge. He moved first to New Orleans and then to Houston.

Be sure to also follow flood control on Twitter @HCFCD for live updates.

Norman worked in the medical supply field most of his career. Even after retirement, he continued to volunteer in the medical community at Medical Bridges. He assisted physicians and facilitated missions to medically underserved populations. In 2016, Norman was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteering.

He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. His hobbies included collecting rocks, baseball cards and stamps. He enjoyed sharing these hobbies with his family.

The service honoring Norman's life was held Wednesday, June 21, at Niday Funeral Home. Interment followed at South Park Cemetery.

Joy Elaine King



Joy Elaine King, 86, died in Houston, on June 3, 2017. She suffered from several health issues for the past 12 years, and finally succumbed to Alzheimer's disease. She was born in Daisetta, Texas, on Dec. 5, 1930, to Arnold Joseph and Mattie Hebert.

She is preceded in death by her parents; daughter Caryn Elaine King; and daughter

Cheryl Marie Booth and son-in-law Richard Booth. The family is an original Sage-meadow family, living in the area 42 years.

Joy is survived by her husband of 68 years, Harry David King; sons Charles David King, Philip Anthony King and Steven Andrew King (wife Tami); daughters Colleen King-Hu (husband Sui Dong Hu) and Lisa Mitica; sister Barbara A. Junek; brothers A.J. Hebert Jr. (wife Pat) and Shelton Lee Hebert; grandchildren Jennifer Erb (husband Jeff), Charles D. King Jr. (wife Lindsey), Robbie Roberts (wife Jodi), Kristi Rodriguez (husband Ben), Ethan A. King, Amber L. King; several great-grandchildren; and numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

Joy and David met while in the second and third grades in elementary school, and Joy said she decided in the seventh grade that she was going to marry David. During 68 years of marriage, she never changed her mind. Joy loved music. She had a beautiful soprano voice, and played piano as well. She sang in the church choirs of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Luke's for many years, and she enjoyed singing the Lord's Prayer for numerous weddings. She enjoyed traveling, especially cruises. Joy also enjoyed family gatherings with her children and their families, as well as with her Cajun relatives in Louisiana.

The funeral Mass was celebrated June 6 at the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church. Rite of Committal was at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery in Blessing, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

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

Thursday, June 22, 2 p.m. Adult book discussion of *Truth be Told* by Hank Phillippi Ryan. Come and share thoughts.

Thursday, June 22, 3 p.m. Teen book discussion of *Book vs. Movie* in the library community room. Was the book better than the movie? Join the debate discussing young adult books that were made into movies.

Friday, June 23, 4 p.m. Anime club for ages 10 and older starts the summer with an extended edition by playing the feature film *Summer Wars*, rated PG.

Monday, June 26, 3 p.m. Basic Life Skills: Pet Care and Adoption for ages 13 and older. During National Cat Adoption month, learn skills necessary to care for pets. Information is presented on how to adopt a pet, what pet to get, some common pet ailments and more. Come and learn in the library community room and discover this information.

Tuesday, June 27, 2 p.m. Movie and markers. A family-friendly film will be shown in the library community room. Come and enjoy a fun film and coloring while the movie plays.

Wednesday, June 28, 2:30 p.m. Airplane Extravaganza with Civil Air Patrol, for ages 7 and older. The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. As ambassadors of aerospace, they will visit the library to teach aspects of flight through a variety of paper airplanes. Join the cadets and officers in the library community room for folding, flying and fun.

Wednesday, June 28, 2:30 p.m. Computer class: Computer Basics - This class introduces a first-time user to the desktop computer. Participants will be familiarized with terms used and with different components and features of the computer. Register in advance as space is limited to 8.

The events occurring every week are: Wednesday, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., for children ages 3 to 5 years, featuring stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

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

Saturdays, Vietnamese learning time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information, speak with Loc Bui.

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Saturday, June 24, 10:15 a.m. Spanish computer class

Wednesday, June 28, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

Children and Teen events: Thursday, June 22, 3 p.m. Video game design (twins and teens)

Tuesday, June 27, 10:30 p.m., Ice Age - Nutty scientists will delight kids with magical properties of dry ice with exciting experiments. (All ages)

To register children/teens for the Houston Public Library Summer Reading program and learn about reading levels and prizes, visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/summer>. Camp STREAM is a free two-day summer program that allows students the opportunity to participate in activities relating to each aspect of STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math). For more information and to register, go to: <http://houstonlibrary.org/camp-stream> or call the library at 832-393-2580.

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

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public. Bracewell hours are: Sunday, closed; Monday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, noon - 8 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

J. Frank Dobie High School honor roll for sixth six weeks

J. Frank Dobie High School has announced its honor roll for the sixth six weeks.

Ninth Grade

Alejandra Nicole Abascal, Abrianna Isabel Aguilera, Gisselle Lizbeth Alfaro, Luis Armando Almaguer, Taylor Avery Alvarez, Ashley Elizabeth Amaro, Andrea Carolina Amaya Mejia, Diego Ernesto Amaya Mejia, Tamecia Nicole Anderson, Edwin Adalberto Andrade Ortiz, Blase Chukwuebuka Tai-Ie Anoruo, Colby William Arnold, Anilu Itzayana Arrieta, A'lexis La Sur Austin-Woodrow, Yulissa Avitia, Ailyn Gisselle Balderas and John Andres Barreiro Quintero.

Eduardo Benavides, Alyssa Mercedes Bernal, Sarah Michelle Betancourt, Alesia Michelle Bill, Deon Kentrell Blacknell, Justin Duane Blogg, Karen Nicole Bonilla, Sean Auston Bonin, Breanna Mechele Boutte, Marshall Arthur Bradley, Dominic Alvarez Caballero, Jennifer Elizabeth Carcamo Lovo, Jayla Cherie Carmouche, Christen Chantil Carpio Moni and Deric Allen Carrera.

Janie Manely Carrizalez, Miguel Angel Cerda Pardo, Diego Alan Cerda, Jacob Edgar Chavez, Jolany Janeth Chavez, Kevin Bernard Christie, Victoria Pham Chu, Courtney Van Chung, Joshua Daniel Collins, Sophia Colmenares, Danielle Joy Columba, Alexander Corpus Estrada, Claudia Vanessa Cortinas, Shelby Ranay Couchman, Johana Nohemi Cristal Eiel, Bianca Gabrielle Cruz and Esperanza Daniela Cruz.

Dailyn Jazmin Cruzado Baez, Katherine Marie Cueva, Izaiyah Rey Cumpian, Enoc Ruben Curiel, Bailee Phi-Anh Dang, Tammy Tam Dang, Huy Quoc Khanh Dao, Victoria Thien-Nga Dao, Purba Angela Daria, Darius Jamar Davis, Jessica Rene De La Cerda, Darian Jay Delgado, Sebastian Quentino Delgado, Lauren Alexander Deramus, Khang Hoang Do, Quang Ngoc Do and Hoan My Tran Doan.

Ivan Arturo Dominguez, Angelina Phuongthanh Dong, Alonso Dosal, Marcus Jordan Doss, Alejandro Julian Duenez, Kay Duong, Annette Florine Eonne, Joshua Dean Erickson, Jonathan Espinal, Rudy Espinal, Efoza Osage Ewanshia, Granely Feliciano, Chloe Renee Flores, Gerson Alexis Flores, Nancy Mitchell Flores, Stephanie Judith Flores, Viviana Frias and Lee Andrew Frost.

Emily Karol Galvan, Noe Alejandro Garcia Moreno, Adrian Garcia, Andrew Garcia, Mayela Lizbeth Garcia, Roque Garcia, Nayeli Garibay, Valerie Marie Garibay, Madison Lane Garrett, Yanely Garza, Eden Gaytan, Brianna Lynnette Gomez, Daniela Gomez, Noah Elijah Gonzales, Daniel Gonzalez, Eduardo Gonzalez, Vivian Nicole Gonzalez, Kyus Ivan Gordon, Alejandra Zafiro Graciacs and Kianna T'nae Groves.

Miquela Danielle Guajardo, Rogelio Dejesus Guajardo, Carlos Catalino Guillen, Gabrielle Gutierrez, Mikayla Marie Gutierrez, Amy Guzman, Emily Guzman, Kayla Alia Hall, Alina Isabel Herazo, Laila Ellyse Hernandez, Steve Sevazytan Hernandez, Xavier Hernandez, Athena Tuyet Ninh Ho, Jacob Vinh Ho, Kennedy Bao Ho, Peter Quoc-vuong Hoang, Tiffany Thanh Hoang and Shek Md Julker Hossan.

Kelly Paulette Hudson, Kacy Abigail Huerta, Doan Thy Ba Huynh, Katelynxuan Thi Huynh, Vivian Quynh Huynh, Jessica Adaobi Ibe, Aniyah Joy Johnson, Faith Morgan Johnson, Master Naphathphon Jongburananan and Caroline Renee Jordan.

Mckayla Jayne Karsten, Tasmeha Jahan Kazi, Michelle Alexandra Kelley, Mahruck Khan, Irene Sojung Kim, Patrick Joseph Kimes, Joyelle Dawn Marie Knight, Truong Vu quang Lai and Ashley Marie Lam.

Phat Minh Lam, Daniel Isaiiah Lazcano, Hannah May Lazo, Gia Hoang Le, Jacob Hong Phuc Le, Jessica Kimmai Le, Phuong-thu Mai Le, Trung Vu Dinh Le, Vicki Phuong Le, Kari Edith Leija, Taylor Anita Levias, Elaine Anh Lien, Jeremiah Forsyth Little, Erin Marie Loosier, Samantha Eliana Lopez, Sarah Michelle Lopez, Milow Lozano, David Edward Lukner, Trung Quang Luu and Vivian Luu.

Tiffany Karely Oviedo, Allie Tae Parker, Rut Noemi Perdomo Castillo, Maria Fernanda Peredo Aguilera, Christopher Jose Perez Medrano, Yanely Damayra Perez, Evamaría Perla, Anthony Perrett, Charlee Alexandria Peters, Kelly Nguyen Pham, Ngan Kim Pham, Timmy Thanh-Tu Phan, Abraham Joe Pizano, Kiandra Kamille Porter and Tristan Mackenzie Pozo.

Nolan Leslie Pringle, Axel Cubas Ramirez, Marissa Ramirez, Kiareliz Daylee Ramos, Chloe Marchelle Ray, Jonathan Gabriel Resendez, Christian Reyes, Emily Jazmin Reyes, Jose Alberto Reyes, Manuel Alejandro Ricuarte Trejos, Gerardo Jesus Rivas, Daniel Eduardo Rivera Arita, Ambar Argentina Robles, Ariel Christina Robles, Adriana Rodriguez, Ashley Anay Rodriguez and Ashley Isabelle Rodriguez.

Julian Alexander Rodriguez, Julissa Ann Rodriguez, Naomi Sarai Rodriguez, Sirena Elaine Rodriguez, Miracle Joyce Rollins, Alex Christian Rosales, Lariah Renee Gaeffler, Davon Shaquille Ryan, Aliyah Janae Salas, Caroline Marie Salinas, Cassandra Marie Salinas, Cecilia Marie Salinas, Nicholas Estevan Salinas, Tommy Alexander Salinas, Ana Isabel Sanchez, Eloy Sanchez and Ryan Eugene Sarazen.

Hailey Michelle Schwerdtfeger, Marquice Trevion Scott, Jose Xavier Segovia, Miranda Nicole Serrano, Maryam Shahid, Fernando Sifuentes, Felicity Michelle Soto, Anthony Wayne Swilley, Vincent Quang Ta, Charlize Aurora Tamayo, Everett Allen Taylor, Alexis Orloo Thomas, Kobe Isiah Thompson, Preston Scott Tipton, Minh Hoang To, Aidan Christopher Torres, Alyssa Jennifer Torres and Imegen Rayne Torres.

Shakty Sofia Torres, Sidney Milen Torres, Ashley Andreaduron Tovar, Alexander Vu Tran, Andrew Minh Tran, Benjamin Vu Tran, Charlie Kha Tran, Hoang Thanh Tran, Justin Hieu Ngoc Tran, Khieu Quang Tran, Savannah Elizabeth Tran, Simon Toan Tran, Son Hai Truong, Ashley Joanne Tsikis, Sarah Micaela Tyler, Amaode Uchendu, Kiara Zafiro Valencia and Mo Nai Ann Vallery.

Gabriel Eduardo Vargas Diaz, Yazmin Guadalupe Vasquez, Alexys Rayne Vela, Oscar Norberto Velasquez, Cammy Ngoc Vo, Cyndietu Thi Vo, Kathy Hoang Vu, Angela Vy Vu, Jessica Ngoc-Anh Vu, Mary Ngoc Vu, Tan Duy Vu, Thuyen Cao Vu, Trang Dai Ngoc Vu, Kenny Phi Vuong, Kyerra Lannell Wallace, Zoe Elizabeth Whitely, Kayla Michelle Willett, Zachery David Willett, Jeffrey Alan Wilson, Andrew Jacob Zepeda and Kimberley Judith Zomet.

Alondra Acevedo, Alejandro V. Aguirre, Noemi Alba, Martin Alvarado, Alexis Denise Alvarez, Druscilla Nicole Alvarez, David Patrick Amaya, Hector Ulises Anaya, Alexandra Yoselin Andrade Ortiz, Bria Antunez-Vargas, Victoria Isabel Aranda, Sergio Edgardo Arellano, Isai Arenas, Josiah Elias Constante Arenas, Aslyn Gesselle Argueta Torres, Arismendy Aristo, Andrea Grace Arredondo and Julian Arredondo.

Unity Anastasia Ayala, Victoria Noemi Ayala, Ulvi Baktashi, Corina Gisselle Banda, Vivian Alizeyah Banda, Wyatt William Baxley, Alessandra Liana Bellini, Christian Antoine Blacknon, Aylin Michelle Bonilla, Kelvin Ivan Bonilla, Deon Jady Brown, Diego Alesandro Calderon Vargas, Meloni Camacho, Roberto Elias Campa, Daniela Canales and Ricardo Garza Canales.

Top teachers from Burnett



Jay Lee, Burnett Elementary principal (right), recognizes Donia Colello (left) as the New Teacher of the Year and Alethea Smith as the Teacher of the Year for the elementary campus.

Fred Roberts names final 2017 honor roll

Fred Roberts Middle School announces its honor roll for the fourth nine weeks.

Fifth Grade

Imaad H. Ali, Dayvin Alvarado, Carlos M. Amaya Vargas, Kailynn X. Andino, Jimena Antunez-Vargas, Hamza Arif, Rey Arredondo, Leobardo J. Aviles, Angelo M. Baluyut, Houston J. Banda, Mohammad M. Bataineh, Jeremiah L. Beverley, Daniel-Alexander A. Bonilla, Tiana L. Bradley, Alan H. Bui, Rebecca Y. Cabello, Jorge A. Camacho and Carolina A. Cantarero.

Luis A. Carrascal, Brissa C. Chavez, Desanae E. Cisneros, Ricardo Cordova, Kaitlyn J. Corona, Niki M. Corona, Amyiah R. Cotton, Emma L. Cruz, Lisa M. Curiel, Aislynn D. Curtis Brooks, Yalat K. De Luna, Arath Dodier, Princess P. Edogawarin, Joselyn Y. Febus, Hugo Flores, Katya I. Flores, Kelly M. Flores, Carlos G. Funez, Natalia M. Gamez, Aranzasu Garcia, Emily A. Garcia and Leticia M. Garcia.

Mauricio A. Gloria, Miranda G. Gonzalez Garza, Pablo S. Gonzalez, Yareli J. Gonzalez-Hernandez, Alana M. Gorez, Xitlali D. Gutierrez, Izmael Guzman, Ayesha Hassan, Earl J. Haymond, Abdallah A. Helal, Emily M. Hernandez, Nathan R. Hernandez, Rodrigo Hernandez,

Xally P. Hernandez, James E. Jackson and Jonathan T. Le. Sameer K. Lodhi, Ximena A. Lopez, Nathaniel K. Luna, Jennifer Ly, Vincent Mac, Abigail M. Martinez, Gisetee J. Martinez, Edward Medina, Frida Mejia, Giovanni Mendoza, Nyalyn M. Metiviet, Shauna M. Miles, Adrian R. Monita, Jazzylin J. Moya, Victoria A. Ngo, Anh D. Nguyen, John T. Nguyen and Peter T. Nguyen.

Terry T. Nguyen, Tuyet T. Nguyen, Anastasia E. Odum, Alex Olivares, Joiliana C. Pena, Mariana R. Perales, Izabeth Pineda, Iris V. Premanand, Mariana Ramos, Randy D. Reyes Chicas, Kimberly S. Rivera, Yair E. Rivera, Kiana N. Rodriguez, Gustavo R. Salinas, Dominick A. Sanchez, Alyson R. Schwausch, Anna Serpas, Allisyn H. Sockwell, Maddisyn L. Sockwell, Alex Soloya, Oscar Sosa, Mcavory G. Stine and Yecenia V. Tamez.

Hermynie Taylor, Layla M. Torres, Michael H. Tran, Mai Anh N. Truong, Jayden N. Valdez, Julius N. Valdez, Jeneby L. Varela, Matthew L. Velazquez, Laisha V. Villarreal, Teresa N. Vu, Linh N. Vuong, Gisselle G. Wittenberg, Mary R. Young and Zuriyah R. Zavala.

Sixth Grade
Belén Abeja, Caroline L. Acuna, Brittni N. Aguilar,

Mario Aguilar, Zoe M. Aguilar, Elkin A. Alfaro, David Alvarado, Keauno N. Andrade, Madison R. Arcozo, Miguel A. Armenta, Angel J. Arroyo, Rabab Asif, Angel Baldaras, Bianca Bermudez Sarabia, Saad Bhatti, Destini L. Brown, Yahir A. Cano, Arely Carrillo, Joel A. Cazares, Kyra J. Cervantes and Kayla J. Coleman.

Jonathan Contreras, Eduardo I. Cruz, Joanna Davila, Andrew T. Do, Derrick M. Doss, Nam M. Duong, Yoali Q. Enriquez, Phoenix X. Fielden, Ma D. Figueroa, Iveth Flores, Lizbeth Flores, Kaylee D. Frank, Rafael Galan, Sophia A. Garay, Angel G. Garcia, Evan A. Garcia, Laci J. Garrett and Haley C. Garza.

Lauren M. Garza, Noah S. Gaytan, Cameron J. Gilbert, Joshua Giraldo, Julianna R. Gonzales, Brianna N. Gonzalez, Leonardo Gonzalez, Victoria A. Gonzalez, Mahir B. Hoque, Ryan J. Humphrey, Kareemah M. Kothiyah, Thalia N. Le, Eliason P. Lewis, Daniel M. Licerio, Grecia D. Lopez Serna, Hector Lora, Madeline A. Lopez and Justin H. Mai.

Kimberly N. Mai, Lluvia D. Martinez Martinez, Kristin Martinez, Natalia A. Martinez, Yair A. Martinez, Tashjae B. Mccann, Cindy S.

Sha'kira Nicole Carl-

isle, Lenny Chantel Carpio Moni, Alyssa Lauren Carrico, Yazmin Athena Carrillo, Iasmi Lachelle Carlington, Jadda Marie Carter, Angel Alexander Castillo, Connor Anthony Caughlin, Elsa Ceballos, Diocelina Chavez-Sanchez, David Alexander Chicas, Preston Van Chung, Erik Cruz Cisneros and Tania Lashaun Collier.

Montserrat Contreras Vazquez, Joshua Neal Cox, Jealeesa Renee Crawford, Angela Leticia Cruz, Oliver Delarosa, Yousef Arsan Diab, Aaron Quoc-Hung Dinh, Kevin Dinh, Dang Hai Doan, Jacklyn N. Duong, Katelynn Nguyen Duong, Tiffany Tram Duong, Jacqueline Duque, Elizabeth Bettye Early, Osasere Edo-Ewanshia, Maritza Elizalde, Mariela Elizondo, Christopher Matthew Escalera, Angela Escamilla and Leah Graciela Escobar.

Eric Escobedo, Jonathan Caleb Escobedo, Melanie Le Espinosa, Myra Isabel Espinoza Flores, Emily Jovanna Estrada, Michelle Ann Fernandez, Hiram Isaias Flores, Jason Jordy Flores, Kaitlin Denise Flores, Katherine Flores, Ruben Flores, Igra Fru, Quinn Caler Gabino, Atziri Galarza, Ana Isabel Gallardo, Stephanie Gallegos, Natasha Rae Gangestad, Miranda Teresa Garcia Valdes, Benito Ivan Garcia and Jennifer Marcela Garcia.

Yaletzy Leslie Garcia, Yareli Garcia, Bria Antonae Garza, Olivia Renee Garza, Paulina Garza, Genesis Isela Gaytan, Adam Israel Gil, Megan Erin Glass, Dariana Renee Glenn, Angel Isaiiah Gomez, Eduardo Gomez, Destinee Rai Gonzales, Jonathan Gonzalez, Stephanie Nicole Gonzalez, Victoria Lauren Gonzalez and Daija Danielle Green.

Karen Anh Green, Jeremy Guerrero, Emily Kristel Guzman Ibarra, Megan Tien Harris, Nicholas Alexander Hartnett, Carmen Paola Hernandez Ibarra, Katelyn Nicole Hernandez, Natalie Yamilet Hernandez, Roxanne Nicole Hernandez, Sofia Raquel Hernandez, Julissa Marie Herrera, Nadia Itzel Herrera, Brian Khang Le Hoang, John Hoang, Trevor Anthony Hondros and Lunzell Dunvon Houston.

Ivy Lynnngoc Hua, Kimberly Dinh Huynh, Trina Huynh, Van Thanhthandy Huynh, Darius Stephen Jackson, Jade Elizabeth Jacobo, Rocio Jimenez Rebollar, Edgar Uvaldo Juarez, Joshua Elmer Kay, Reginald Dwane Lancaster, Hoang Vu Le, Melody Ngoc Thuy Le, Nathan Nhut Srah Le, Nhi Catherine Tu Doan Le, Thompson Le, Vincent Thienlac Le, Nayeli Legaspi, Genie Alexis Leija and Laila Nicole Leija.

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Continued on Page 4A

Roberts honor roll named

Continued from Page 3A
Medina, Edwin M. Mendez, Paula Mendoza, Aldo D. Morales, Mario A. Moreno, Monica C. Munoz, Javoris J. Myles, Angel T. Nguyen, Bao H. Nguyen, Isabela V. Nunez, Jason I. Obawemimo, Raymond V. Olsen, Janice S. Padilla, Mariana L. Pantoja, Cayla M. Patterson, Thaddeus G. Perrodin and Samuel Pineda.

Reyes, Destiny A. Rodriguez, Mariah L. Rodriguez, Sadie F. Roessler, Jessica K. Rohmfeld, Marissa Rojas, Marcelus R. Roy, Adrian J. Sanchez, Grace I. Serrano, Damian Solis, Christian A. Torres, Aidan T. Tran, Hao N. Tran, Sherbano M. Vajlani, Francisco Valadez, Alexandra Vega, Guillermo Velazquez, Kate-Alexandra K. Wang, Rye L. Williamson and Ainsley R. Willis.

SJC summer camp registration still open

San Jac College is putting on a variety of fun and enriching summer camps for kids of all ages at all of its campuses. There is something for everyone, from sports to maritime adventure and robotics, to theater, music and much more. Camp prices vary, depending on the camp. Some scholarships are available to those who qualify to help with camp tuition.

Below are a few of the camps listed for the summer. For the full calendar, visit www.sanjac.edu/calendar/summer-camp.

Engineering with duct tape
Using all kinds of materials, from recycled materials to duct tape, this camp offers students the chance to explore the fun side of engineering with the joy of duct tape. The camp will be held from June 26 to June 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at San Jacinto College Central in building C-20-267. The camp is for students ages eight through 10 and the cost is \$125.

For more information, contact Isaac Chavarria at 281-998-6150.
Maritime Venture Camp
The San Jacinto College Maritime Venture Camp is a fun and exciting way for students to learn all about the maritime industry.

The camp will be held from June 26 to June 30, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The camp will be held at the Maritime Technology and Technical Training Center, located at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte, in the Maritime Building, room 240. The camp is for students ages 14 to 17 and the cost is \$25.

For more information, call San Jacinto Maritime at 281-456-5483 or email sanjacinto.maritime@sjcd.edu.
Energy Venture - career in the energy industry
Energy Venture is a summer one-week day camp that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities, along with skills needed in the energy industry.

The camp will be held from June 26 to June 30, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon at the San Jacinto College South campus. The camp is for students ages 12 to 15 and cost for the camp can be free for students who qualify. For information, visit www.energyventurecamp.org or call Ashley Williams at 281-478-3635 or email ashley.williams@sjcd.edu.

Water-bots pro (advanced)
If one really understands what it takes to program, problem solve, code and how to make robotics possible, this is the camp to at-

UHCL Kids camp held

Kids U from UH-Clear Lake's Center for Educational Programs features a variety of half-day camps in June and July to inspire exploration and learning in students from pre-K through twelfth grade. Topics include crime scene investigation, computer programming, video game design, public speaking, writing and storytelling, survival skills, dinosaurs and more. Price ranges from \$139-\$149 depending on the theme. For more information, call the Center for Educational Programs at 281-283-3530 or visit <http://kidsu.uhcl.edu>.

Could I be Pregnant?
I need a pregnancy test
I need to know what to do
We are here for you. We care!
All services are Free and Confidential
281-484-0005
Beltway 8 South
Crisis Pregnancy Center

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

KELLY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Kelly Buckman, Clear Brook City MUD board member, enjoys a birthday June 24 and is sent greetings by friends, family and the Leader staff.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO CHUCK
Belated birthday wishes are sent to **Chuck Maricle** for a June 17 birthday from family, friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 22 through June 28.

Atkinson Elementary
Marking a birthday June 27 are **Patricia Guerrero** and **Tulu Sarkar**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Maria Zamora** and **Abby Guerra** June 28.

Burnett Elementary
Ashley Arguelles celebrates a birthday June 23. Send a happy birthday greeting June 24 to **Diahana Wilks**. Blow out the birthday candles June 26 for **Nancy Fehst**.

Bush Elementary
The day for a party for **Jacquelyn Kennedy** is June 27.

South Belt Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song June 22 to

Natasha Fisher. On June 23, light the candles on a birthday cake for **Susi McDaniel**.

Stuchbery Elementary
The day for a cake for **Lauren Nalepa** is June 22. Blow out the candles June 23 for **Dana Sylvester**. June 24 is the day for a party for **Kristin Wallis**.

Melillo Middle School
Kristin Konzelman enjoys a birthday June 28.

Roberts Middle School
Sing a happy birthday song June 22 to **Samantha Torres Perez**. Send a nice birthday greeting June 27 to **Gracie Hernandez**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Gilberto Bonet enjoys a birthday June 22.

Dobie High
Leshunda Page celebrates a birthday June 22. Send a special birthday card to **Kevin Roca** on June 23. Enjoying a birthday June 25 is **Jacob Rogers**. Share a layered birthday cake June 26 with **Maria Morales, Ana Valencia** and **Reggie Wilson**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Julie Bennett** June 27.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The Leader sends happy birthday wish-

es to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Thursday, June 22: **Cassy Gutierrez, Brian Goodwin, Erin Ortiz, Rob Kemp, Sherri Huffman, Bonnie Lamb, Anna Jeffries** and **Jennifer Nestle**; Friday, June 23: **Darryl Reed II, Sylvia Alcalá, Jamal Khan** and **Christa Guthrie**; Saturday, June 24: **Barbara Stevens, Stephanie Guzman** and **Lisa Yarzy**; Sunday, June 25: **Caryn Cybulski, Vicki Cox, Keith Lawler, Rebecca Parchmont** and **Michelle Pewthers**; Monday, June 26: **Phil Sandlin, Eric Waguespack, Telena Bence, Suzy Matthews, Maricela Juarez** and **Laura Arnold**; Tuesday, June 27: **Lorie Medina, Zel Bell, Ruth Clay, Amy Luedecke Pederson, Ynot Guillory, Danielle LeBlanc Judge** and **Robyn Bryant**; and Wednesday, June 28: **Jan Edwards Barker, Daren Williams, Kim York Hillis, Kristin Konzelman-DeLaRosa** and **Carla Pronio**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email birthday, anniversary, 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.

SJC only community college students chosen for CURE

Continued from Page 1A

Eight students were selected from across the United States for this summer's program. Miller, who is studying to become a pharmacist, said he looks forward to the research opportunity that could one day change lives. "My mother was diagnosed with thyroid cancer a year ago, and my sister has juvenile arthritis; these factors drive me to seek this type of opportunity to help others," he said.

Prior to the summer, Vu, Miller, Rodriguez and Mendoza spent weeks preparing for the program with their mentor Christopher Wild, San Jacinto College department chair of physical sciences and engineering. Wild has conducted

cancer research for approximately 10 years. His meetings with the four student researchers covered the topics of basic research etiquette, searching and reading the relevant scientific literature, understanding the basic biology of cancer, and learning about the specific research projects they will work on during the summer.

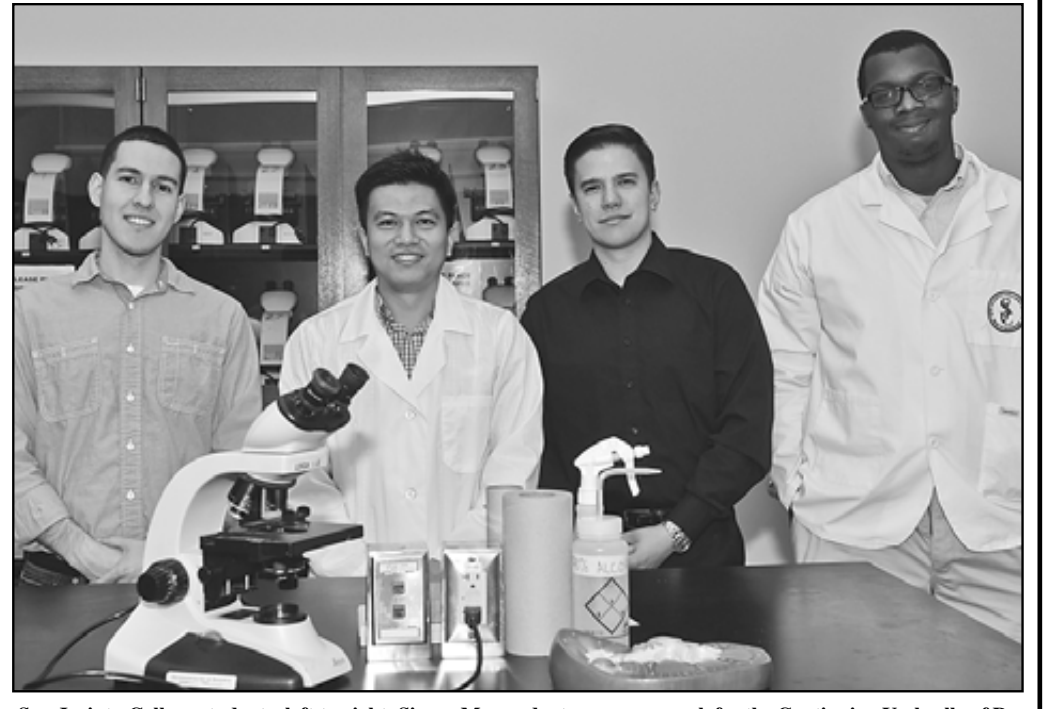
Wild offered some final words of advice to the students as they prepared to spend the next two months at the University of Iowa, "Some aspects of the research experience will be new and intimidating but remember that you were chosen for this program, and you will be learning at the cutting edge of cancer research. You can make a difference."

Melillo teachers of the year



Diane Wheeler, Melillo Middle School principal (center), congratulates the campus New Teacher of the Year **Megan Medina** (left) and Teacher of the Year **Bridget Warren** on their accomplishments. Photo submitted

SJC students doing cancer research at Iowa



San Jacinto College students, left to right, **Simon Mendoza, Trung Vu, Kevin Rodriguez** and **Kenley Miller** traveled to the University of Iowa this summer to conduct cancer research for the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program, supported by the National Cancer Institute. Photo by Andrea Vasquez

South Belt Chamber of Commerce launches networking opportunities

By Jay Do

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, spearheaded by President Kay Barbour, will soon be launching a number of networking events. The first round of these activities will include Good Morning South Belt and Work It Wednesdays.

Aimed at further solidifying the bonds of membership among local business leaders and chamber members, these events foster luncheons and guest speakers to encourage its members to meet and collaborate with each other.

"Generally speaking, a primary function of a chamber of commerce is to offer networking opportunities for our members," said Barbour. "Both events were founded by the need to offer additional opportunities to our members."

Bets on the Bay
Congregation Shaar Hashalom will host a Casino Royale event, a night of casino games, magic show, food, door prizes and fun. Tickets include casino chips and food. Regular tickets are \$72, and include \$5,000 in chips. The 007 tickets are \$126, and include \$10,000 in chips and VIP entrance.

Bets on the Bay will be at the League City Ballroom, Johnny Arolfo Civic Center, 400 W. Walker in League City on Sunday, June 25, starting at 7 p.m. The fundraising event will benefit the congregation. The entire community is invited. Young adults ages 13 and older are welcome.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. Contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or esh@shaarhashalom.org for more information.

Good Morning South Belt is a monthly networking event that focuses on bringing together chamber members and prospective members of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to develop professional relationships in a relaxed environment.

Local businesses open their doors for these hosting events, which feature food and drinks, door prize drawings, tours of member businesses and, among its other business-related activities, the opportunity to connect and network with other business leaders.

Good Morning South Belt is a complimentary networking opportunity provided to chamber mem-

bers, and offers the opportunity for attendees to mingle with other professionals while supporting the host and learning more about the company.

The event is usually held on the first Friday of each month from 7:45 to 9 a.m.

"The primary purpose of this event is networking," said Barbour. "Secondary is the ability for the host company to promote their business and gain some exposure from the pre-publicity of the event."

The second networking event to initiate alongside Good Morning South Belt is Work It Wednesdays. In stark contrast to the large and open atmo-

sphere of the former, Work It Wednesdays aims to be a series of intimate lunch gatherings to be located at the chamber office with engaging speakers that are relevant and of interest to the business community.

Work It Wednesdays is set to be held at 11:45 a.m. on the third Wednesday of every month, beginning in June. In order to maintain the intimate setting of the event, seating for this event is reserved to 16 attendees.

Barbour understands that as both of these initiatives are new, they will require some time to grow within the community.

"I have five reserved for this week's Work It Wednesdays, but it's the

first one," said Barbour. "It will take a while to catch on."

Topics planned thus far for Work It Wednesdays include *Everyone Communicates; Few Connect, Small Business Fraud, How Your Business Can Survive a Disaster, Using Census Data to Promote Your Business, Social Media 101 and Updating Your Information in the Chamber Database*. The discussion of each topic will be guided by a guest speaker who specializes in the particular field.

"The speakers are determined by the topic," said Barbour. "Experts in the chosen topic are asked to speak."

Reservations for Work It Wednesdays may be made in several ways. Interested participants are encouraged to reserve a seat through the chamber website at southbeltchamber.com, through an invitation via an email that was sent to chamber members or by contacting the chamber directly.

In addition to Good Morning South Belt and Work It Wednesdays, Barbour is continuing to look for more innovative ways to allow the chamber to serve its members and its community.

"I'm sitting in a conference later this week to learn about some other things we can have to offer

our members," said Barbour. "We're looking to start a young business professionals group, it's something that a lot of the chambers are doing now. We're also thinking about a Connecting South Belt Women group."

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)

Jill Miller, 14, and Angela Shiflett, 18, won in their division at the State Imperial Miss contest held in Galveston.

Eight members of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department were certified by the State of Texas as firemen. The men had to train more than 152 hours to achieve this honor.

35 years ago (1982)

The City of Houston banned fireworks altogether and planned to deal with the possession of fireworks as a major offense.

Pasadena Independent School District students' averages were to be lowered by two points for each unexcused absence. This policy was to be the counter-balance for the bonus point policy, which awards students extra points at the end of the semester for good attendance.

Two bounty hunters staked out a residence in the 11600 block of Sageglen looking for a suspect who jumped bail on two pending cases.

30 years ago (1987)

Soil samples taken at the boundary where the Southbend subdivision butted up against the abandoned Brio Refining property confirmed that the site's waste pits did not extend into the

subdivision.

Moore fifth-grade teacher Cliff Swearingen was named assistant principal at that school, replacing Mark Priest, who became principal at McMasters Elementary. Frazier first-grade teacher Mable Pratt was named assistant principal at Young Elementary.

25 years ago (1992)

Southbend developers, as well as chemical companies which dumped toxins at the abandoned Brio refinery site adjacent to Southbend, agreed to a \$207.5 million out-of-court settlement.

The Pasadena School District lost \$2.5 million in state funding as part of the state's \$231 million proration shortfall.

20 years ago (1997)

Edwin Navarrete, 19, was arrested in connection with the murder of Damon Smith, 21, at his Scarsdale home.

Ruben Perez, 21, and his brother Robert were killed after a horse ran in front of Ruben's 1993 Geo on Interstate 10.

Dr. Cary Robinson, who was principal at La Marque High since 1993, was named to replace Sandra Mossman as principal of Clear Brook High School.

15 years ago (2002)

An 8-foot concrete wall was proposed to replace wooden fences along parts of Scarsdale, Beamer and Blackhawk.

Site redesign of the new Dobie because of the wetlands caused the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees to approve a \$10,000 cost for accelerated construction on the Dobie agricultural facility. Due to the wetlands, the Dobie tennis courts were relocated to the area of the original Dobie agricultural facility.

10 years ago (2007)

Flooding occurred along Sabo following a downpour. Many in the area blamed the recent construction of apartment complexes in the area for the worsening conditions.

Lt. Jonathan Carter of the U.S. Coast Guard returned from a 13-month tour of duty in the Persian Gulf. He was welcomed home by several fellow members of the 1994 Dobie football team.

San Jacinto College Chancellor Bill Lindemann announced that he would retire in May 2009. At a special meeting, the board of regents unanimously designated Brenda Hellyer the sole finalist for his replacement. Hellyer had been with the college for seven years, serving as both

the executive vice president of the San Jac College Foundation and vice chancellor of fiscal affairs.

Thompson Intermediate seventh-grader Alayna McDonald received the Daughters of the Republic of Texas award, and eighth-grader Roberto Reyes received the Daughters of the American Revolution award at the annual awards ceremony held at Sagemont Church.

5 years ago (2012)

Greg Smith, superintendent of schools for the Clear Creek Independent School District, was named the Superintendent of the Year for Region 4, which represents 53 school districts. Smith had been the district's superintendent since 2008.

Genoa Elementary pre-kindergarten teacher Cheryl Helaire won the 13th annual Marian and Spero Martel Early Childhood Educator Award, presented by the Children's Museum of Houston. A 1982 Dobie graduate, Helaire was recognized for her dedication to early childhood development. For her efforts, she received a \$1,000 honorarium and a one-year membership to the museum.

1 year ago (2016)

Clear Creek Independent School District's Clear Horizons Early College High School, located on the San Jacinto College South campus, was recognized by the nonprofit advocacy group Children at Risk as being one of the top-10 high schools in the Greater Houston area. In all, 1,331 public schools were evaluated - 171 of which were high schools. CCISD's Clear Lake High School was also ranked in the top 10.

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Beverly Hills announces honor roll

Beverly Hills Intermediate has announced its honor roll for the sixth six weeks.

Seventh Grade
Angelica Corazon Acac, Eris Felipe Acosta, Adalyn Alanis, Ronny Lee Alexander, Jaidyn Brianna Almaguer, Naydelin Almaguer, Fredis Alberto Alvarez, Estely Amezcua, Jeffrey Steven Arqueta, Hussiel Arias, Gerardo Armenta, Matthew Paul Arnesen, Jazmyne Melaynie Backman, Mariana Nataly Badillo, Jared Barreira, Nayleen Batista and Raul Xavier Belman.

Anthony Paul Benavides, Riani Tania Benton, Logan Christopher Blair, Bryana Sarai Borjas, Jaizayah Yordany Brito, Savannah Marie Brookland, Cynthia Elaine Canfora, Fernando Carrera, Eloy Cavazos Ramirez, Daniel Guadalupe Cavazos, Colton Ray Chahayed and Mya Anna Laura Chapa.

Jasmine Giselle Chew, Idalia Contreras, Malia Alexandria Curry, Trajan Miles Davis, Michael Robert De La Garza, Demetria Delgado, Miguel Angel Diosdado, Emmanuel Lavontre Drain, Kenny Nguyen Duong, Analaura Elizarraras, Heron Espinoza, Jordan Christian Ewing, Jocelyn Abril Flores Sanchez and Sarahi Flores.

Aaron Frias, Evan Nicolas Fuentes, Celeste Eloisa Gallardo, Katie Suzette Gomez, Aracely Nataly Garcia, Isabella Ariana Garcia, Tiana Marie Garcia, Annabelle Garza, Michael Andrew Garza, Briana Michelle Gomez Portillo, Zinaya Lynn Gonzales Muniz, Gloria Minerva Gonzales, Malayja Zaniyah Gonzales, Andrea Marley Gonzalez and Isaac Abel Gonzalez.

Ivan Gonzalez, Jennefer Suzzeth Gonzalez, Jesus Enim Gonzalez, Leslie Gonzalez, Paris Sky Gonzalez, Ronnie Gonzalez, Christopher Earl Gondeau, Daniel Eduardo Grajales, Delia Michelle Grantham, Damarus Lavon Groves, Mariah Marie Guerrero, Briana Gutierrez, Carolina Marie Gutierrez, Zoe Mychell Guy and Estevan Baldemar Guzman.

Israel Guzman, Scottlyn Moira Hamilton, Faith Marie Hardee, Kyla Marie Hart, Lashunda Lanette Hatte-Pool, Rodolfo Hernandez, Susan Yvette Hernandez, Genevieve Francis Herrera, Phuc Nguyen Thien Hoang, Sarrionna Karina Hobbs, Eriell Cimone Hollis, Madelyn Huerta, Jaquan Xavier Hughes, Andrew Khoa Huynh, Thuat Nhu Huynh and

Tina Huynh. Emily Alexa Iglesias, Andrew Milton Ingram, Camron Robert Luis Jackson, Remi Elon Jackson, Nicole Jasso, Trevon Johnson, Keely Nicole King, Christofer Laygo, Thong Minh Le, Ayana Trenell Lee, Zamira Hunter Lewis, Marcus Joseph Lind, Carlos Jesus Lopez, Celeste Amunet Lopez, Michelle Alexandra Lopez and Alexandra Luna.

Payton Elise Manuel, Ayesha Usman Mariwa, Brianna Naomi Marroquin, Astrid Yoquebed Martinez, Juanangel Martinez, Karen Paola Martinez, Lael David Martinez, Lilliana Marie Martinez, Xavier Martinez, Astrid Dayana Matamoros Montoya, Mariella Mykayla Michael Matthews, Jose Reginald Matthew Maxwell and Boston Simone Mcafee.

Brynn Margaret Riley Mchugh, Emma Reese McKenzie, Tiffany Alexa Melendez, Kaitlyn Ashlee Meza, Kierstin Hailee Meza, Aala Osama Mohamed, Lydia Montalvo, Andrew Adonai Montano, Angel De Jesus Morales, Yair Moreno Rodriguez, Jesalynn Ruth Moreno, Shayla Janae Morrison, Elizabeth Ann-Marie Mullins and Tjasa Ariyana Murray.

Hoang-Ky John Ngo, Brandon Nhat Nguyen, Chi Thi Linh Nguyen, Jaelyn Uyen Nguyen, Jeenny Nguyen, Kathleen Nguyen, Lilly Thanh Nguyen, Natalie Thoa-Han Nguyen, Thien Phuc Thi Tran Nguyen, Thuc Ngoc Anh Nguyen, Tung Quang Nguyen, Victoria Dnep Nguyen, Andrea Sofia Diez, Justin Ochoa and Nicholas Oscar Ochoa.

Damaris Anjanee Oder, Anwar Sadat Olezene, Angel Gabriel Oliva Lopez, Miriam Isela Orellana, Patrick Alexis Ortega, Nicole Padilla, Cyrus Alexander Perez, Amy Pham, Ashley Dang Pham, Emily Quynh Huong Pham, Kristyn Thanh Pham, Thuy Cassidy Diem Pham, Tina Mai Pham, Tommy Minh Pham, Randy Phan, Kaitlyn Triny Shandory Posada, Aiden O'Neal Provost, Marilee Quiroga, Adrian Quiroz and Victoria Elizabeth Ramirez.

Christopher Reyes, Xavier William Ritter, Lizbeth Rodriguez, Khloey Nikole Rowe, Angelica Rubio, Angel Fabian Saenz, Paris Nicole Saldarriaga, Luis Fernando Salinas, Izabel Alya Sanchez, Santos Davila Sanchez, Sebastian Renee Sanchez, Jessica Ivette Santana, Elma Saray Santos Salgado, Kelly Torrie Saucedo and Maya Treshae Scott.

Alexis Marie Segovia,

Jazmine Elizabeth Segovia, Cristian Xavier Sepulveda, Roselin Serrano, Amira Ni'kkole Shephard, Jamie Marissa Smith, Chelsey Xitlalyc Sosa, Kevin Duy Su, Giselle Alexis Suarez, Kenneth Louis Tezeno, Brayah Amanie Thornton Vann, Rosmary Torres Lara, Briana Jamilet Torres, Brissa Jasmine Torres and Dominic Melecio Torres.

Iliana Denae Torres, Jose Alejandro Torres, Vanessa Elizabeth Torres, Eric Quy Tran, Tracy Tram Tran, Vanessa Van Thanh Tran, Violet Tuong Vy Tran, Julian Trevino, Gisela Trigueros, Kailey Jianne Tsikis and Jose Isaac Valladares Guzman.

Kristal Monserra Vargas, Nicholas Esteban Vasquez, Daniela Vazquez, Celene Velasquez, Gabriel Xavier Velasquez, Venerable O. Villanueva, Jimmy Vo, Melanie-Tu Thi Vo, Hailey Hien Vu, Kathleen Quynh Vu, Ngan Thi Kim Vu, Aalycia Lelani-Qui Warren, Auloun James Xouphphackdy and Michael Alejandro Zambrano.

Eighth Grade
Jacob Daniel Acevedo, Armando Alanis, Bryan Albarra, Saul Alejo, Heidy Raquel Alfaro, Ivory Elesandra Alvarado, Asir Savion Anderson, Jayla Marie Arenas, Emily Marie Arqueta, Jacqueline Arredondo, Jhannatul Jil Asfi, Brianna Lizeth Ayala, Janie Eyenid Ayala, David Giovanni Banda, Jonathan Banda, Kristen Alicia Barba, Ayana Socorro Becerra and Katherine Marie Belle.

Aleyda Benavides, Noe Botello, Kameron Jay Brinkley, Jaelyn Kellon Brown, Elizabeth My Hong Bui, Julia Thao Bui, Madeleine Ngoc Tuyet Bui, Tony Mai Bui, Danielle Marie Bulman, Jazlyn Arella Byron, Ernesto Calvillo, Esmeralda Calvillo, Alberto Josue Campa, Yarlina Carolina Campos and Rayden Xavier Canales.

Alize Cantu, Samantha Marie Carrillo, Deanna Edilia Castellano, Matthew Alejandro Castillo, Zenaïda Castillo, Matthew Eliezer Centeno, Jefferson Cevallos, Alissa Marsha Coleman, Katherine Cores, Ivana Coto, Nicholas Antonio Covarrubias, Makayla Darnae Cross, John Bernard Cruz, Amillyon Shraylyn Davis and Yelizavet Renay De La Cerda.

Natanael Delgado, Geriah Amiree Derouen, Quan Hoang Dinh, Di Kha Do, Celene Le Duong, Brett Xavier Einspahr, Roberto Elizalde, Guadalupe Escalera, Erick Fernando Escobar, Marilyn

Alyssa Espino, Francisco Estrada, Karen Yamilet Estrada, Asia Emnai Fleming, Lizbeth Flores, Lizeth Flores, Melany Flores and Emma Rose Fonseca.

Gerald Anthony Fonseca, Yosserick Yahir Funez, Rene Antonio Gallegos, Annabell Celeste Gamez, Ivan Gamez, Andrew Yahve Garcia Hernandez, Damian Garcia, Emily Nichole Garcia, Janie Isabel Garcia, Karsten Alexander Garcia, Andrea Garibay, Natalie Marie-Elena Garza, Zachary Anthony Glover and Alyssa Renee Gomez.

Martha Guadalupe Gomez Ramirez, Daisy Gonzalez, David Jesus Gonzalez, Benjamin Garrett Griffin, Darren Javon Groves, Alicia Marie Gutierrez, Karla Patricia Gutierrez, Kiet The Ha, Ashanti Taailayh Hart, Linley Victoria Hawkins, Briana Kshal Haywood, Penelope Hernandez Mendoza, Emily Alexis Hernandez, Sarah Celeste Hernandez, Joseph Sebastian Hinojosa and Ylisse Ianna Hinojosa.

Anthony Loc Ho, Jennifer Nguyen Ho, Amy Anh Hoang, Kelly Hoang, Carlie Rae Hogan, Quang Hong, Janya C'ne Hunt, Cindy Trinh Huynh, Briana Zulem Jamaica, Luis Mario Jamaica, Briyanna Nicole Jenkins, Sylenea Rose Johnson, Briana Isabelle Keim, Hayden Jay Lazo, Christi Kieu Le, Ha My Thi Le, Andrea Leon and Jesus Jael Leon.

Abel Alexander Limachi, Tarzis Jonathan Lobos, Aaliyah Marie Loosa, Yoselin Loza Alfaro, Allen Javier Lopez Robles, Joseph Paul Lukner, Truc Thanh Luu, Jesse Manuel Maldonado, Faiazah Maleehah, Emilio Gaetano Marin Novoa, Nashmi Usman Mariva, Nohemy Marquez, Lailah Martinez, Cadie Colleen Masterson, Cynthia Consuelo Mata and Taizhon Allen Mckinney.

Patricia Medina, Nawal Saleh Mehdawi, Sakinah Nogodion Yasmin Meite, Keily Nicole Mendoza Gavidia, Nicholas Antonio Mendoza, Angela Isabel Menendez, Marcelo Jaheim Merced, Ashley Sofia Miranda, Carolina Sarai Miranda, Elias Alexander Montez, Francisco Abel Morales, Lisette Moreno, Josue Munoz and Sashiana Milagro Munoz.

Alayna Angeliqqe Muriilo, Mia Faith Alyssa Myers, Thien Ngoc Ngo, Andrew Ngoc Nguyen, Augustin Hoang Nguyen, Bryan Thanh-hieu Nguyen, Dang Tran hai Nguyen, Diana Nguyen, Huy Mai Nguyen, Jason

Hoang Nguyen, Kenneth Thien Nguyen, Tom Minh Tam Nguyen, Tri Thuan Tam Nguyen, Viet The Nguyen, Precious Ifeamaka Oko and Kaylie Jordan Olivarez.

Xavier Christopher Olivarez, Bianca Renee Ontiveros, Tristan Juan Pedraza, Yessenia Lizbeth Pena, Alejandra Perez, Isaiiah Dominick Perez, Valentina Perez, Tony Minh Pham, Ky Ky Duong Phan, Thao Tinh Nhu Phan, Destiny Pichardo and Alyssa Nicole Pina.

Lizbeth Alejandra Pineda, Vivian Aaliyah Postel, Vincent James Powell, Aekkapope Pumpetch, Natalie Quinteros, Chloe Emma Ramirez, Lessly Ramirez, Amya Tyranea Ray, Francesca Paola Reyes, Isaiiah Xavier Reyes, Katherine Marie Rivas Ramirez, Lauren Ashley Robinson, Benito Gabriel Rodriguez, Joseph Sebastian Rodriguez and Juan Carlos Rodriguez.

Kaxandra Ignacia Rodriguez, Tatiana Mia Rodriguez, Tanya Vanessa Rodriguez-Juarez, Jazmine Jeanette Rojas, Sandy Ruiz, Emily Lauren Rummel, Jocelyn Salazar, Hailey Salomon Abdiel Sanchez, Adamari Celeste Sanchez and Alexis Janae Sanders.

June Delilah Santillanes, Elias Uriel Saracho, Karen Vanessa Saucedo, Yahir Abraham Serna, Amari Deon Singleton, Kloe Lanette Smith, Taleisha Michelle Smith, Kaleigh Grace Sommerfelt, Jasmine Renee Soto, Theresa Brook Stroman-Spaniel and Travis Blake Stroman-Spaniel.

Dylan Thanh-Trung Ta, Diego Emiliano Tapia, Deja Nychol Thomas, Keion Marquise Thompson, Kourtlyn Denise Thornton, Samuel Tinoco, Jose Rafael Tolentino, Daniela Torres, Gerardo Torres, Deborah Thy Tran, Kathy Mai-Trang Tran, Sydni Skylyn Tran-Ayala, Deceangel Trinh, Julie Ngoc Trinh and Joshua Turribates.

Jaeden Zachary Tyler, Marisol Isabel Valadez, Sergio Valdez, Trinity Lynn Vanek, Gia Marie Vargas Diaz, Marina Carrillo Vasquez, Diep Thi Ngoc Vo, Quan Tuan Vo, Thuc Uyen Vo, Tony Vo, Joseph Nguyen Vu, Son Hoang Vuong, Celine Shanel Webster and Saniya Semaj Wilson.

Some of the objectives

Meador thanks safety patrol



The Meador Elementary staff are thankful for the excellent job done by this year's safety patrol. These fourth-grade students arrived at school early and helped monitor the halls, the cafeteria, the front porch and raised the flags every day. The Meador staff recognizes the leadership and great role models these students exemplified at Meador. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Bethany Espinoza, Anabel Torres, Emir Espinoza, (back row) Isabella Hernandez, Alani Lanza, Neveah Ben-Smith, Sarah Espinal, Mario Lara, Aleks Saldana and John Salazar. Not pictured is Mollie O'Rourke. Photo by Tara Merida

SJC students complete EECC program

Now in its fourth year, 48 students to date have completed the San Jacinto College Energy Education and Career Corps (EECC) program thanks to support from \$80,000 in grant funding from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.

Since 2013, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation has awarded an annual \$20,000 workforce development and education grant to the college to help support 12 San Jacinto College engineering design graphics students selected for the EECC program. Each fall 12 students are selected through an application process to participate in the EECC program.

Once accepted, students participate in paid engineering or drafting-related internships and complete at least 288 work-based learning hours as a requirement for their associate of applied science degree or technical certificate.

Some of the objectives of the EECC program are to demonstrate legal and ethical behavior, safety practices, and interpersonal and teamwork skills. Students also engage with employers by demonstrating professional written and verbal communication, using the terminology of the engineering and drafting industry and using reference materials to research standards for given drawings and assignments.

In addition to their internship, students also participate in career preparation classes with topics on financial literacy, job search strategies, employer networking, business etiquette, resume and career counseling. These San Jacinto College students have gained expert training, education, support and mentorship within the energy industry.

San Jac student Daniel Adams had the opportunity to work on projects benefiting NASA.

"As a design intern for NanoRacks, I had a fantastic experience working in the world of aerospace interacting with engineers that provide support to NASA and the International Space Station (ISS)," said Adams. "I had the incredible opportunity to help with generating 3-D models and drawings for components of CubeSat systems for deploying small satellites from the ISS."

Bank of America continues to connect communities to better economic futures by funding workforce development education, helping connect individuals to employment opportunities and contributing to community economic growth.

"Our ongoing partnership with San Jacinto Community College exemplifies Bank of America's belief that education and employment are integral to the long-term stability of communities everywhere," said Hong Ogle, Houston president, Bank of America. "By working together, more Houston stu-

dents will be able to harness these hands-on learning skills and professional developmental training opportunities to further advance their career, and ultimately, build more financially stable and successful lives."

San Jacinto College engineering design graphics professor Mary Ann Blake also added that the grant enables students to focus on their internship without some of the burden that comes with financial distractions which can hinder student success.

"The EECC grant allows the interns to gain experience and apply their knowledge and skills to their job by lessening the strain caused by financial necessity," said Blake. "Our engineering design graphics students, employers, the college and our community have formed valuable partnerships that create an invaluable perspective in pursuing the skills and knowledge being sought by industry."

UHCL, CCISD celebrate partnership marks by significant milestone high school graduation

While every high school graduation is special, this year's rite of passage marks a significant milestone for a partnership that was forged 15 years ago between the Clear Creek Independent School District and the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The students who began as kindergartners in CCISD's first two-way immersion program are walking this year, and the district and university representatives who helped launch the dual-language program are as proud as parents.

In 2002 the two entities joined together to establish McWhirter Elementary School in Webster as a professional development laboratory school. It was an innovative partnership intended to help a low-performing school improve its academic performance.

Several novel initiatives were implemented at McWhirter, which have since become standard procedures throughout the CCISD school district.

Initiatives include instructional or academic coaches who are lead teachers without classrooms of their own. Instead, they work side-by-side with classroom teachers, modeling lessons and helping them to become stronger educators. The concept was called embedded professional development. In the mid-2000s it was a new and unique approach honing teachers' skills, which traditionally had been reserved for after hours, weekends or summers.

Today, these coaches are in all CCISD elementary schools. The program is now being rolled out throughout the district's secondary schools as well.

However, no initiative was as controversial as the dual-language, two-way, immersion program, which placed native English-speaking children in classrooms with native Spanish-speaking children where classes were taught predominantly in Spanish.

"Initially there was resistance," said UH-Clear Lake Professor Emeritus James Sherrill, who served as the College of Education's associate dean at the time. He co-chaired the professional development laboratory school steering committee with then-Assistant CCISD Superintendent Sandra Mossman.

"No one believed it would work. The trouble is, we were trying to judge language

learning by adult standards," he said. "I couldn't learn it. But it will work for little Johnny."

UH-Clear Lake Professor of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Laurie Weaver also served on the steering committee. She was charged with improving McWhirter's bilingual program. Weaver presented the committee with stacks of research data supporting the two-way immersion concept.

"Research shows two-way immersion programs result in the best academic achievement for English language learners," she said. "And, it just so happens that it's good for English-speaking kids, too."

In fact, the data show that native English speakers often meet or exceed the performance of their peers who participate in English-only classrooms, with the added benefit of being bilingual.

"The performance level in kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 is behind, but by the time they reach grade 5 they are at par or above," Sherrill said. When McWhirter principal Michael Marquez joined the team 10 years ago, the first two-way immersion class had already completed kindergarten,

first and second grades and was beginning third.

"These are the tough years," he said. "Not only do we need to meet the children's language needs, but we also need to meet their academic needs - and, oh by the way, we're accountable by the State for TAKS (now called STAAR testing)," he said. "That assessment from the State helped validate that it was a great program."

Marquez said that some students, when taught and tested in their native English or Spanish only, sometimes did not pass TAKS. "Then we had this group of kids that took it (TAKS) in a second language and who were successful. So it was a complete validation that we were on the right track."

Research supports the cognitive benefits of bilingualism, Weaver says.

"Whether Spanish speaker or English speaker, when you learn two languages you tend to be better at problem solving," she said. "You are used to having two languages coming at you, so you are sharper. And there is recent research that shows bilingual people are less likely to develop Alzheimer's. They think it has something to do

with the brain, and how you are using the brain, and using the two languages."

So how does a two-way immersion program work? First of all, kindergartners aren't given a list of verbs to conjugate. Instead, the teachers - including Margaret Parks, who has been with the program since the beginning and will retire this year - use a repertoire of strategies to make themselves understood, such as body gestures, pictures and acting out. Also, kids are assigned buddies so an English speaker and a Spanish speaker work together. Some Spanish students who know some English even become mediators and interpreters to an extent.

Children learn more from their peers than from their teachers, Marquez noted. For example, he says, if you have two children who are exactly alike in all details except for the type of classes, the student in the two-way immersion program will have greater English ability and better proficiency than the student in the bilingual class. "The native Spanish speaker in two-way immersion has been exposed to English by peers. The one in bilingual educa-

Continued on Page 6A

Hancock one step closer to its dream



Hancock Elementary is one step closer to making its dreams of having a park for students a reality, thanks to John Sweitzer. The Pasadena Health Center CEO donated \$5,000 to help the school build a Spark Park. Construction to build the park is set to begin soon and will be completed by the end of summer. Shown are, left to right, Misty Harrison, school nurse; Veronica Sandoval, school principal; Sweitzer; Amber Macneish, Pasadena Independent School District coordinated school health specialist; and Pam Tevis, coordinated health, physical education and wellness. Photo by Reesha Brown

Foundation set to host 22nd annual golf tournament

The 22nd Annual San Jacinto College Foundation Golf Tournament will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at Golf Club of Houston, home to the prestigious PGA Tour's Houston Open, located at 5860 Wilson Road in Humble.

The annual charity event provides scholarship funding for San Jacinto College students through event sponsorships and a tournament raffle. Last year's tournament raised \$245,000 benefiting scholarships and student success program support.

Current tournament sponsors include the Albemarle Foundation, Albemarle Corporation, Austin Commercial, Goldman Sachs, Lubrizol, Steven Cowart, Texas Citizens Bank and Huit-Zollars Inc.

Students like LaDazeja Charles have a greater chance of completing their degree or certificate with the support of scholarships.

"The San Jacinto College Foundation and my scholarship donor have provided me with a priceless gift that will be cherished," said Charles, a Promise for Their Future scholarship recipient. "This scholarship has given me the assurance of future success, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart."

This year's tournament will feature the Fairways to a Brighter Future raffle. Participants can purchase tickets for \$100 each for a chance to win a \$10,000 grand prize shopping spree.

The drawing will be held at the tournament at 11:30 a.m., at the Golf Club of Houston. Various second prize drawings follow. Participants need not be present to win. For more information on the Fairways to a Brighter Future raffle, visit sanjac.edu/foundation/raffle.

Each year at the golf tournament, the foundation honors one of its members with

a Lifetime Legacy Award, commemorating the recipient's years of service to the foundation which have helped change students' lives through access to education. This year's Lifetime Legacy Award will be presented to Dr. Gerald Cobb, former educator and superintendent of Galena Park Independent School District and co-founder and retired chairman of Woodforest National Bank.

Cobb has been a generous supporter of the foundation since 1996. He served as the first chairman from 1996-1999, was a foundation board member for 21 years and was recently named emeritus.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

For more information on available sponsorship opportunities and to register a team, visit sanjac.edu/foundation/golf.

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Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Español	
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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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2017 South Belt area vacation photos shared

Maricles visit the Nimitz



The Maricle family enjoyed Memorial Day in Bremerton, Washington, at the promotion of their daughter and Dobie graduate Zi Yang to lieutenant, U.S. Navy. Zi is currently serving onboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz CVN-68. The Nimitz and its strike group is deploying to the Western Pacific. Shown on the Nimitz are, left to right, Xia Yang, Zi Yang, Chuck Maricle and Charles Maricle. *Photo submitted*

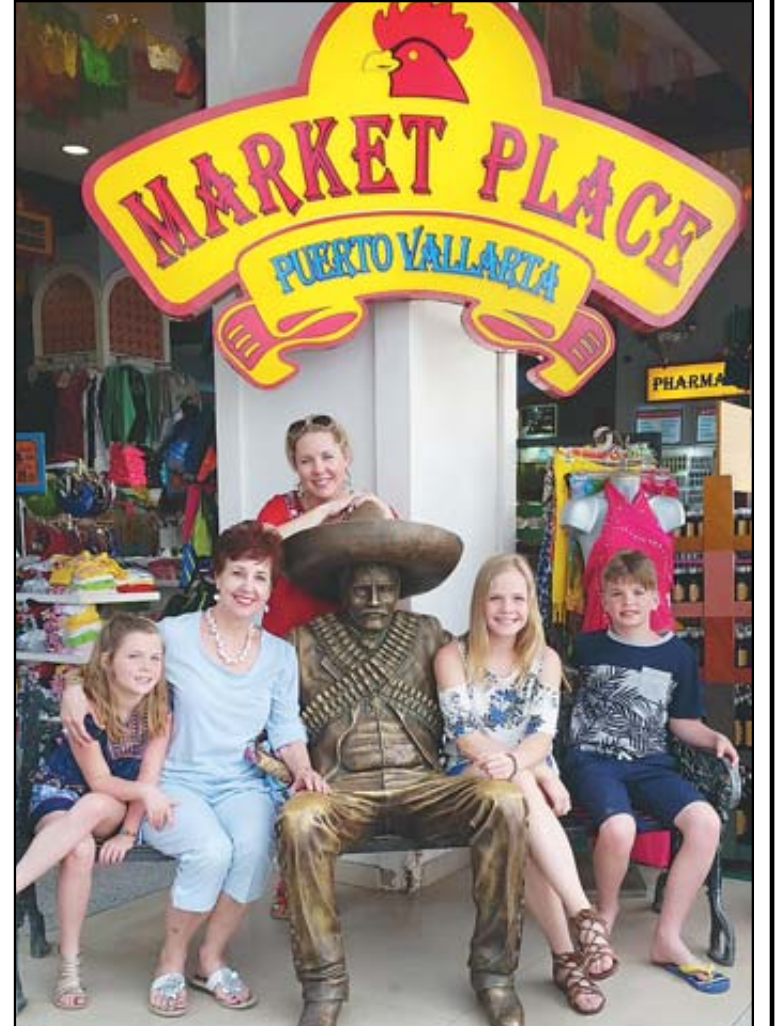
Submissions for the *Leader's* 2017 vacation photo contest are currently being accepted for possible publication. A first-, second- and third-place prize of Schlitterbahn Galveston tickets will be awarded each month during June, July and August to all winners. All submissions should identify each person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

Hawk experiences Alaska



South Belt resident Cynthia Hawk is shown with a dog sled team in Juneau, Alaska. Hawk was joined by a business associate and longtime friend. They embarked on a cruise that stopped at several ports. After a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier in Juneau, they embarked on a dog team excursion. *Photo submitted*

Morgan joins kids for vacation



Terrie Morgan, longtime South Belt resident, recently joined her son and his family on a family vacation to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) McKenna Nickens, Morgan, Mallory Nickens, Mason Nickens, and (back row) Tana Nickens. *Photo submitted*

Texan Bank hosts Inaugural Kidz Harbor event June 24

On Saturday, June 24, Texan Bank will host the Inaugural Kidz Harbor Splash Into Summer Bash for 60 youth living in the group foster home at Kidz Harbor (638 Harbor Drive) in Liverpool, Texas.

The five hour event will begin at 1 p.m. and will be held exclusively for the youth residents to provide them a fun summer experience to beat the heat and display their talents.

"We believe that every child should have a fun and memorable summer that is worth talking about when they return to school," said Kristi Koncaba, president and chief operating officer of Texan Bank.

"Our business culture emphasizes 'servant leadership' and our Texans Serving Texans program allows our employees and their families to live out our mission of helping those in our community that need a helping hand. They get to experience the joy of giving back to others such as the youth of Kidz Harbor."

The day will be filled with games and entertainment stations that include everything from balloon animals, structured and unstructured indoor painting sessions, volleyball, bean bag toss, and, of course,

swimming and other water-related activities.

A fishing station will be provided by the Houston Asian Anglers organization at the campus lake. As they partake in the activities, the children can snack on popcorn or shaved ice provided by retailer, Kona Ice of Alvin. Additionally, to close out the activities, the youth can showcase their athletic prowess and teamwork in the "Harbor Warrior Olympics" obstacle course.

The evening will conclude with a dinner and awards ceremony beginning at 5 p.m.

"We're grateful Texan Bank selected Kidz Harbor as its primary charity," said Sharon Beard, vice president of Kidz Harbor executive board. "Their partnership has allowed us to provide our youth items that benefit their basic physical and emotional needs and beyond. We are looking forward to this day and creating an experience the children will never forget."

Texan Bank selected Kidz Harbor to be its designated charity in the final quarter of 2016. The bank and its employees kicked off 2017 with two projects: a basic needs drive in January, followed by building, installing and staining closets for the youth rooms in March and April. The organizations hope to debut a mentoring program for Kidz Harbor youth by the year's end.

More than 30 donors joined Texan Bank in producing the event either through monetary or in-kind donations.

With the additional funds raised in support of the Splash Into Summer Bash, the bank will purchase school clothing for the youth which will be distributed late this summer during its Back to School Back Pack Drive.

More information may be found at www.texanbank.com.

Background information about Kidz Harbor, including background and donation opportunities, can be found at www.kidzharbor.org.

Uh, Creek Grads . . .

Continued from Page 5A

not normally have that interaction with. That really is the biggest difference."

Liseth Torres, a 2017 graduate of Clear Lake High School, began the first two-way immersion class as a native Spanish speaker. She is the first in her family to graduate high school and attend college. "I am grateful for the program," she said. "It really helps to understand how two cultures come together and you can still be part of both and not just one."

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Tax receipts lower after Super Bowl

The Texas Comptroller reported that the Houston's sales tax receipts for June, based on April sales, were down by slightly more than 2 percent.

After 18 months of consecutive year-over-year declines, the city saw an increase in its sales taxes in March and April, reflecting January and February sales, which were boosted by the Super Bowl.

Sales tax receipts for those months increased by 6 percent from last year, about a \$5.5 million pickup. In May the city showed a slight decrease before posting this month's 2 percent decline.

In the last two years, Houston has posted year-over-year declines 20 times. For the FY2016-2017, sales tax collections were down by 2.5 percent from last year and the calendar year-to-date collections so far this year are down by 5 percent, even with the one-time shot in the arm from the Super Bowl.

On the bright side, it does appear that the precipitous decline that began in late 2012 has flattened out. Of course, where it goes from here will largely be dependent on oil prices.

The sales tax receipts for Houston's neighboring cities were mixed. Most saw increases, but several saw significant decreases.

Generally, the suburban cities on the east side of Houston have held up better, probably because their economies are more closely tied to the oil and gas downstream, which continues to do well. Also, the suburban cities that are farther from Houston have generally done better.

The budget just adopted by City Council for FY2017-2018 projects a 1 percent increase in sales tax receipts for next year. That may be achievable if oil prices recover. If not, it is probably overly optimistic.

4th of July Parade Entry Form

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

NO WATER BALLOONS, WATER GUNS, ETC.

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

Name of entry _____

Name of Organization or Business _____

Person to Contact _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

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

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

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

All entries for business require a \$50 entry fee.

Commercial float: \$50
 Noncommercial for trophy: \$25
 Noncommercial, not competing: no charge

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

Signature (not required if emailed from submit button below)

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

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Houston Astros ink Brook/UH's Julks - he's on to Tri-City

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Corey Julks, selected by the Astros in the eighth round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft June 13, is now in Troy, New York, ready to make his debut with the Tri-City Valley Cats, the Astros' Class A short season affiliate in Troy, New York.

underwent a team physical June 19 and was ticketed for the Valley Cats. What a special time it was for Julks, a three-year varsity baseball starter and Class of 2014 Clear Brook High School graduate. While his University of Houston baseball team saw its season end at the Houston Regional, Julks, a junior, had made it known that he was ready to skip his senior season with the Cougars in favor of signing professionally regardless of when his name was called in the draft.

That said, it had to be the crowning moment of his baseball life to be chosen by his hometown Houston Astros. After all, he could one day be manning an outfield spot at Minute Maid Park. "It was absolutely exciting to get that phone call," Julks said of his chat with scout Noel Gonzalez of the Astros. "No doubt a special time for me and my family. It's my hometown team. It's just been awesome. I can't wait to get this journey started."

He's always performed well in the classroom, and regardless of the sport, he's determined to excel. D.J. and Corey both

played as youths in the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League and eventually played as Clear Brook High School. During his

senior season at Clear Brook, Corey Julks originally signed with Angelina College. But Julks' collegiate

career wound up taking a different path largely due to a single-day performance against Clear Falls in a District 22-6A game

in the spring of 2014, after he has agreed to attend Angelina. Facing Falls' stand-out pitcher Collin Fries, who had signed to attend the University of Arizona that same spring, Julks homered off Fries and made several other plays as part of a solid performance.

baseball representatives offered his son the opportunity to play with the Cougars at the Division I level.

Julks' freshman season was just the start of something special. He played in both the infield and outfield for the Cougars, playing in 48 of the team's 53 games. Hitting .302 with 11 doubles and 302 with 11 doubles and

Julks By The Season

2015: Hit .302 with 11 doubles, 5 homers, 38 RBIs. Post-season conference all-tourney pick.

2016: Hit .332 while starting 54 of 55 games. Had 10 doubles, 3 homers, 28 RBIs.

2017: Hit .335 while starting 57 of 59 games. Had 12 doubles, 9 homers, 45 RBIs.

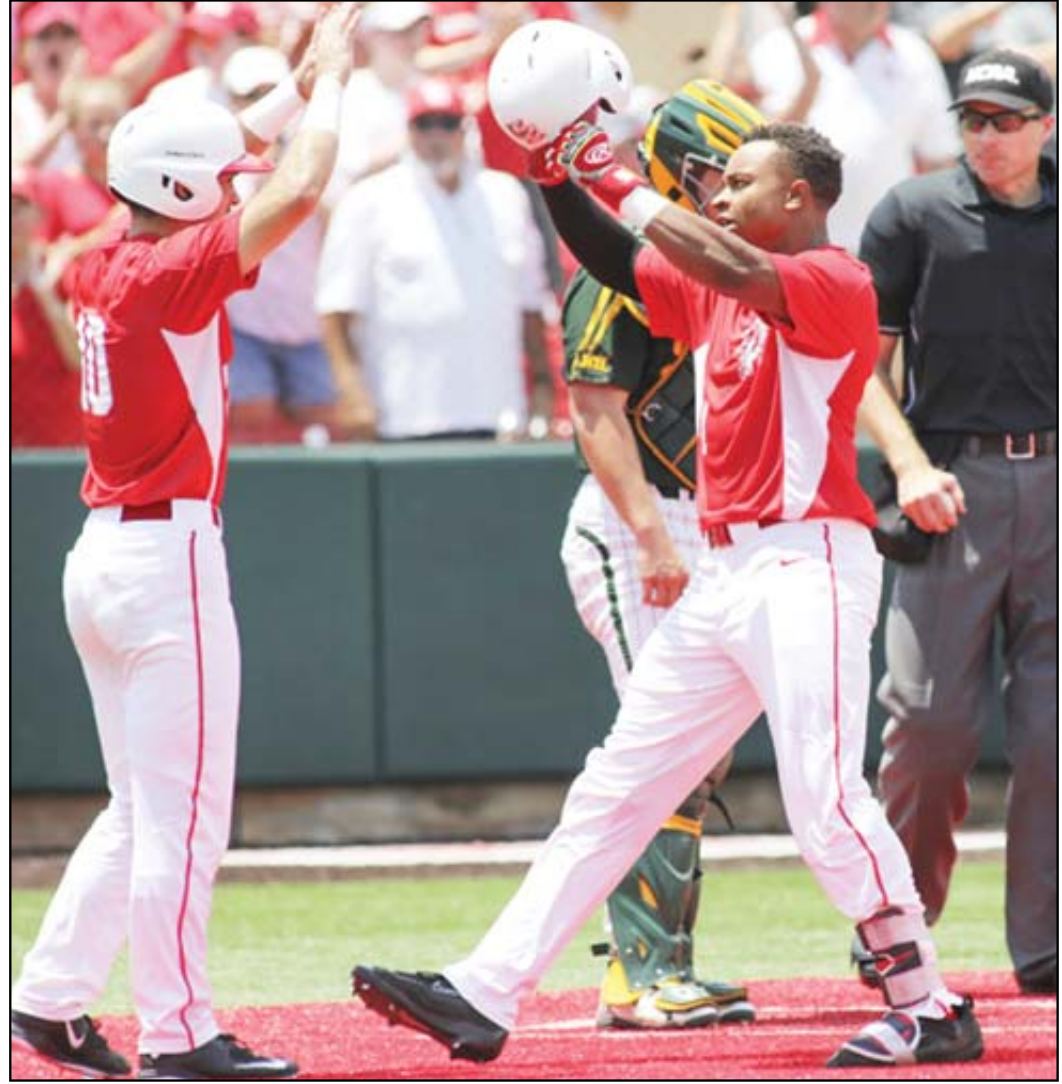
A week or so before the draft, Julks' father, Daren, spoke to the Leader about his son's early development and lifelong dream to play professional baseball.

Both men recall countless hours spent in the batting cages at U.S. Golf and Games, and the younger Julks' rise in the game.

Daren Julks, raising sons D.J. and Corey as a single father, also remembers Corey benefiting from spending so much time on the playing field with D.J., who as a 2009 Clear Brook High School graduate, is five years older than Corey.

"A lot of times Corey had to tag along with D.J. because I was working, and he had to watch his little brother," Daren Julks said. "I really think he benefited from being around the older players and competing against them."

That, plus the fact that dad says Corey has always been very determined.



University of Houston left fielder Corey Julks (right) celebrates with teammate Conner Wong (10) after homering against Baylor earlier this month in the Houston Regional. Julks went to the Houston Astros

in the eighth round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft. Meanwhile, Wong, a Pearland High School graduate, was chosen in the third round by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Photo courtesy of UH athletics

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Brook's Torres to tee off at McMurry

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Count Class of 2017 Clear Brook High School graduate Mary-Ester Torres as one of the overachievers who has combined her smarts and athletic ability into a chance to continue her love of competition - in this case the game of golf.

Torres will leave the Houston area later this summer for Abilene, where she is set to continue her education and links career at McMurry University.

For both Torres and the McMurry women's golf program, it seems like the perfect match.

Because McMurry resides competitively in the Division III ranks, there are no athletic scholarship funds permitted. Instead, students must find tuition options through their academic endeavors, and Torres has had little trouble with that.

Owner of a 4.2 grade point average and having graduated within the top 30 percent

of her senior class at Clear Brook, Torres clearly knows how to achieve in the classroom.

It's not easy for a high school athlete in any sport to play collegiately, and it may be even harder in the women's golf game. Rosters run only six to seven players deep in many cases, and it's a year-round sport that requires constant practice and play.

Sometimes last summer, when Torres realized that the thought of playing golf collegiately could shift from dream to reality, she used some of her brilliance to get the ball rolling.

Using an online application designed to match athletic programs with prospective graduates, Torres found McMurry University early on and settled on joining the War Hawks this spring.

"The coach there (Jay Rees) really showed an interest and said that there was a spot for me," Torres said.

"I've been to the campus three or four times now and

just love it there. I've also been in touch with another freshman who is going to be my roommate

"I'm looking forward to it. The weather in Abilene (seasonally) is much different than here. It's going to be a new experience for me, but it's one that I am ready for."

Torres said her father, Celso Torres, began playing golf about 20 years ago and has now for years been a member at Golfcrest Country Club in Green Tee Terrace.

It was her father who got her started in the game of golf all those years ago, and her mother, Deborah, has also been a constant beam of support.

Yet while Mary-Ester did begin playing golf at Westbrook Intermediate, it wasn't until roughly her sophomore season at Clear Brook High School that she focused in on her goal of playing collegiately.

"My dad has been my coach for a long time, and



Mary-Ester Torres developed into Clear Brook's top female golfer this season and will now continue her playing career at McMurry University in Abilene.

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Texas District 15 all-star play set

The 2017 Texas District 15 all-star baseball tournament slate is about to pick up steam ahead of the July 4 holiday.

Leagues involved in the 10-year-old division will convene at the South Houston Little League facility. There, opening round play includes Sagemont-Beverly Hills taking on Friendswood Thursday, June 22, at 8 p.m.

The tournament also includes Pearland East and Pearland West, host South Houston and Dixie. The tournament is scheduled to run through June 29.

South Houston is also the host site for the 11-year-old tournament. Just four leagues will battle for the Texas District 15 crown, with Friendswood facing Sagemont-Beverly Hills in an opening-round contest Friday, June 23, at 8 p.m. Pearland West and Pearland East will also vie for the crown.

The much-anticipated 12-year-old division tournament figures to be one

of the more hotly-contested of the bunch, with OFA, East End, Pearland East, Pearland West, Sagemont-Beverly Hills and South Houston battling it out.

With the Pearland Little League providing host services, Sagemont-Beverly Hills will open play June 23 at 8 p.m. against South Houston.

Dobie High School is the host site for the Junior division all-star tournament as SBHLL will take on the likes of East End, Pearland and South Houston for the crown.

The locals will go against South Houston Saturday, June 24 in a noon game. East End meets Pearland in the 10 a.m. opener.

The senior division tournament will take place at the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League site as SBHLL takes on East End in a June 23 game at 8 p.m. Pearland, OFA and South Houston are also in contention for the tournament title.

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South Belt Rundown 13-under is champion of USSSA Global NIT select tourney

The South-Belt based tournament June 17-18, capping the championship with a big 8-4 win over the Texas Ballers at Dow Park on the final day. Offensively, Christian Torres provided the pop with a pair of home runs, including a deep drive over the wall at the Wrigley Field site at League City's Big League Dreams on the first day. Christian Medina was outstanding on the mound, allowing just three hits with four strikeouts in an early-round game. Jacob Cueva and Ryan Saxton also teamed up for a fine defensive play to close out the Rundown's first victory. In the title game, the

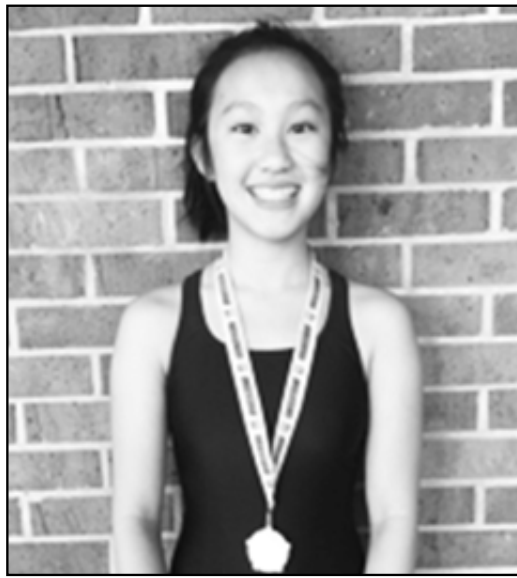
Rundown again got outstanding work on the mound, from Allan Gonzalez, Matthew Castillo, and closing with Cueva. This core group of players began competing in select baseball tournaments in 2016 after representing the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League as the 12-under major division all-stars. The team then won the USSSA event as the Pirates. Now calling themselves the Texas Rundown, this local team is off to a great start this summer. The fun continues.

SBAST Sharks Honor Swimmers of the Week

The South Belt Area Swim Team Sharks, celebrating 46 years of success this spring/summer season, have named their Swimmers of the Week for the seventh week of the season. The coaching staff selects the honorees based on solid attendance, effort and attitude.



Jose Vaca and Giselle Rodriguez
9-10-year-old winners



Megan Nguyen
11-12-year-old winner



Gizelle Rodriguez and Reyes Vega
8-under winners



Fiona Garcia and Ethan Nguyen
11-12-year-old winners



Allura Monroe and Evan Ybarra
13-18-year-old winners



The Texas Rundown, a 13-under select baseball team made up largely from a core group of Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League all-stars, went undefeated to win the United States Specialty Sports Association's 300-Point Global NIT tournament. Members of the Texas Rundown are, left to right, (front row)

Bryce Sanchez, Ryan Saxton, Jaydon Carter, Christian Medina, (back row) coach Daniel Ramirez, Zachary Ramirez, Allan Gonzalez, Dylan Dixon, Marcus Jacques, Christian Torres, Matthew Castillo, Jacob Cueva, Matthew Arnesen and manager Jose Torres.

South Belt community sports, registration, news

Dobie youth volleyball camp

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host the Lady Longhorns' youth camp June 27-29 at Dobie High School. Incoming third- through sixth-grade students as of the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to attend. The cost is \$40 cash only per participant. The fee includes a camp T-shirt and camp award certificate. The staff will provide instruction in all phases of the game, including serving, passing, digging, blocking, hitting and more. Those wishing to secure their spot early may direct email to Sexton at dguierrez2@pasadenaisd.org to obtain an entry form. Payment may also be made in the Dobie High School front office this month. Parents must provide medical insurance coverage as the Pasadena ISD does not do so for these types of events.

Lady Wolverines' youth volleyball camp

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

The camp is designed for incoming third- through ninth-grade students as of the 2017-2018 school year. Camp one is for third through fifth graders and will be from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Camp two is for sixth- through eighth-graders and will be from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Camp three is for advanced eighth-graders and ninth-graders and will be held from 10:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Registration is \$100 for camp one and \$120 for camps two and three.

Families are required to provide participants' medical insurance. Forms are available at <http://clearbrook.ccsid.net>. Once there, click on the summer camps link. More information is available from Thompson at mthompson1@ccsid.net.

Dobie youth girls' basketball camp

Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Shane Brown and his staff will host the Lady Longhorns' youth camp June 26-28, from 9 a.m. to noon at the school. Students entering the fourth through ninth grades as of the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to attend. Cost is \$55 per student and includes a camp T-shirt. For additional information or to register, direct email to Brown at rbrown@pasadenaisd.org.

Thompson Lions set athletics camps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Alcoholics Anonymous – "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scrabble Club #511 – Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. No meetings on holidays.

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

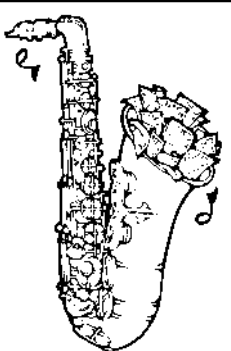
Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting – Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Enter door next to recycling bins. For details, call 713-973-6633 or visit www.oahous.org.

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4B



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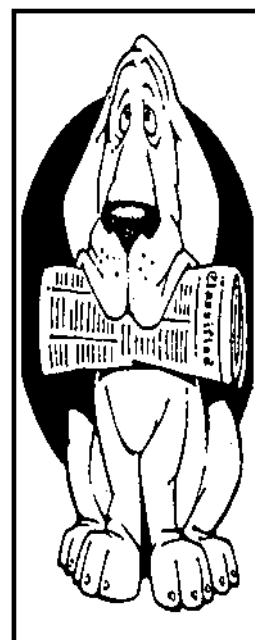
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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

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

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.

American Begonia Society - Houston Satellite meets on the fourth Tuesday, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Pkwy. (on the lake side), Seabrook. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nlix@texascitizensbank.com.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

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

Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for details.

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

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

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

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

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free. Call Cris at

832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 7 p.m.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturnpoint.org for information.

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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South Belt-proud Julks to make Astros' minor league debut

Continued from Page 1B five homers, Julks turned it up a notch, particularly late in the season. Playing each of his last 29 games in the outfield, Julks helped lead the Cougars to the American Athletic Conference championship and was an all-tournament pick. Julks then elected to compete in the famous Cape Cod League, a popular summer destination for many collegiate players. The outfielder enjoyed a better than expected summer at the plate in the wooden bat league and simply hasn't stopped producing for the Cougars. A two-time Ameri-

can Athletic Conference performer with the University of Houston, Julks was tabbed as "Mr. Post-season" by Cougars' head coach Todd Whitting. Julks said he went through a little bit of an offensive lull late in the regular season, frequently laying off good pitches to hit and swinging more at pitchers' pitches. On balls he did make contact with, Julks found himself trying to yank everything to left field. Back to the batting cages he went, focusing on driving fastballs back up through the middle of the field while pulling breaking balls. His hard work

paid off. Julks' two homers in the Houston Regional were absolute bombs, and it could have helped make the Astros' draft decision an easy one. While the host and top-seeded Cougars lost to eventual tournament champion Texas A&M in the Houston Regional, Julks homered twice and doubled two more times in four games. He also made an ESPN highlight-worthy grab in left field against Iowa. Julks said he was hoping to be chosen on the second base of the MLB draft, within the top 10 rounds.

What eventually occurred is something of a storybook tale for the longtime South Belt area family. "It was unbelievable," said Daren Julks. "He called me and said 'Dad, guess what? I'm a Houston Astro.' We both just started screaming. 'There were a lot of teams that had talked to him and expressed interest, but we never heard too much out of the Astros. To get that call is something we will never forget.' This part of the journey complete, Corey Julks knows he has realistically accomplished little more than the chance to keep his baseball dream alive. The MLB draft includes 40 rounds each season, so the pressure is always on to produce and advance, or move on to the 9-to-5 world eventually. "I've heard the stories about the long bus rides and other things about life in the minor leagues, but I just want to get to work," Julks said. "I'm going to give it my all and see what plays out. I've been given the opportunity, and I'm going to make the best of it." Primarily an outfielder at the University of Houston but a shortstop at Clear Brook, Julks has been told by Astros' officials that they like his versatility and could very well play any of the outfield spots or in the infield, likely at second base. At the end of the day, however, it will be Julks' offensive output that will most determine his future in the pro game. While Daren Julks knows his words very well

sound like dad-speak, he does point out a key point as his son prepares to begin this new chapter. "He will not be outworked, I can tell you that much," Daren Julks said. "Now that all he has to worry about is baseball, he'll be out early every day and will put the extra work in. "If he is given the chance to advance and there is a path to Houston, he will get here." And Julks can also count Clear Brook varsity baseball head coach Gene Flores as another supporter who believes the player has what it takes. Flores pitched collegiately at the University of Houston and has a clear understanding of what the process entails and just how difficult it is to simply get to where Julks is presently. He's also seen Julks develop as a person and player for the past several years. "Absolutely, Corey has a chance to reach his goal of playing in the big leagues," Flores said. "His offensive is going to be his calling card, but he has also shown some versatility on the defensive side. "We spent some time together in December, and we sort of projected a top seven rounds outlook for him. He went in the eighth round, so that's not bad. "You look at what he was able to do in some of those big games. There just weren't many pitchers who enjoyed having to face him. "Obviously, he needs more exposure to the advanced pitching that he will see, but everybody goes through that. I like

his chance. Health is always a big factor, but Corey knows how to take care of his body." Flores also plans to tell Julks' story to many future young Wolverine players. "It's possible to achieve your dreams, but you have to be willing to put in the extra work. Corey has shown plenty of that." For those wondering, the Astros' organization included funding for Julks to finish out the remainder of his college education when he sees fit. A health major, Julks is in his junior year academically and is well on his degree path. He simply has some other business to tend to now.



After his son, Corey (left) was drafted in the eighth round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft earlier this month and subsequently agreed on terms of a contract to begin playing in the Houston Astros' minor league system, Daren Julks said he could never have imagined a better Father's Day gift. Corey Julks will begin play with the Astros' Class A short season Tri-City Valley Cats in Troy, New York. Photo courtesy of Daren Julks

Corey Julks played three varsity seasons at Clear Brook High School and then was primarily an outfielder for three seasons at the University of Houston. Julks has been told by Houston Astros' officials



Corey Julks played three varsity seasons at Clear Brook High School and then was primarily an outfielder for three seasons at the University of Houston. Julks has been told by Houston Astros' officials that he is expected to see time at the three outfield spots in addition to second base. However, Houston drafted Julks largely based on his offensive capabilities. Photo courtesy of the University of Houston

Hedrick – 100 career matches



Class of 2006 Clear Brook High School graduate Cyp Hedrick made his 100th career appearance in the USL as a member of the San Antonio FC June 17, having returned from an injury. Hedrick, who played at San Jacinto College and Coastal Carolina University after high school, was originally drafted by Sporting KC in the 2012 MLS SuperDraft. He was injured that season but has since become a big-time defensive presence in the USL. In 2016 as a member of the Oklahoma City Energy, Hedrick logged 2,610 minutes of action, seventh-best leaguewide. USL photo

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