

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

[www.southbeltleader.com](http://www.southbeltleader.com)

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### Kirkmont sign is missing

This past week, a sign for the Kirkmont subdivision went missing. The sign was located on the southbound side of Blackhawk near the Riverstone Ranch subdivision, where drivers would be exiting the Kirkmont neighborhood. Anyone with information about this is urged to contact the *Leader* at 281-481-5656 or [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com).

### Lariaettes hold summer clinic

The Dobbie Lariaettes are having their annual Summer Dance Explosion clinic Thursday and Friday, July 27 and 28, including dancing, games, crafts and lunch. The clinic will be held at Dobbie High School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for children in pre-K through eighth grade. Cost is \$50 at the door, cash or money order only.

Show offs will take place Friday, July 28, at 3 p.m. in the Dobbie auditorium. Participants will receive a clinic souvenir. For additional information, contact Myrna Alanis by email at [Myrnaalanis@yahoo.com](mailto:Myrnaalanis@yahoo.com).

### Vacation photos sought

The *Leader* is seeking readers' 2017 vacation photos for publication. A first-, second- and third-place prize of Schlitterbahn Galveston tickets will be awarded 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. 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](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com).

### SVFD offers free screenings

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department will offer free glucose readings and blood pressure screenings on Friday, Aug. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Walgreens located at 10850 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, visit the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page or the *Southeast Volunteer Fire Department* Facebook page.

### Free self-defense class offered

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

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

At least one alternate lane on the northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage roads of the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Parkway to Fuqua will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 5. At least two alternate lanes on the northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage roads of the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Parkway to Fuqua will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Aug. 4.

### Gulf Meadows VBS planned

Gulf Meadows Church Kids' Quest Child Development Center, 8012 Fuqua, will hold its Finding Jesus vacation Bible school Monday, July 24, to Friday, July 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. The program is open to ages 2 through 12. The cost is \$45 and includes lunch. For more information, call 713-987-9503.

### Lariaette car wash July 22

The Lariaette car wash will be held Saturday, July 22, in the McDonald's parking lot, 11323 Fuqua. Tickets are \$5 presale and can be purchased from any current Lariaette. Driveups are welcome. Donations accepted.

### Seahawks sign-up set

The Blackhawk Seahawks football and cheer program for boys and girls ages 5-12 is holding a sign-up and information session at Dobbie every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. through Friday, Aug. 18. For information, call Vice President Matthew Perez at 832-692-0535.

### Crohn's, colitis group meets

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Bay Area Support Group will meet Tuesday, July 25, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at State Farm Insurance, 12941 Gulf Freeway, Suite 101. Patients and caregivers are invited to attend.

## Water rates increase for some residents

Residents living within the Houston city limits may have recently noticed an increase in their water bills.

A city ordinance passed in 2010 requires the Combined Utility System of the Public Works and Engineering Department to implement an automatic annual rate adjustment effective April 1 of each year. The rate adjustment under the ordinance for April 1, 2017 was a 3.4 percent increase. This rate adjustment is based on a combination of the 2016 Houston Regional Consumer Price Index of 1.6 percent plus the city of Houston's population increase of 1.8 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. According to city officials, this annual rate adjustment is intended to help cover cost

increases that impact the provision of safe, clean drinking water and the collection and treatment of wastewater. This includes operational costs, as well as the costs involved in the repair and replacement of portions of the city's aging infrastructure.

The rate adjustment should have been reflected in residents' May bill.

Residents living in unincorporated parts of the county that are serviced by local municipal utility districts might also notice an increase, as the districts may opt to pass the added costs onto the consumer.

According to Sagemeadow MUD President Ted Heinrich, residents of the subdivision should have received an increase of roughly 3 percent on their

June water bills.

While the Clear Brook City MUD has yet to levy a rate increase, district consultant Chris Clark said a meeting is scheduled for late July to renegotiate its current deal with the city.

Unlike other local MUDs, the Clear Brook City MUD is part owner of the City of Houston's Southeast Water Purification Plant. Other co-owners include the Gulf Coast Water Authority (City of Galveston and City of League City), the Clear Lake City Water Authority (City of Nassau Bay), the La Porte Water Authority, Harris County MUD No. 55, the City of Pasadena, the City of South Houston, the City of Webster, the City of Friendswood and Baybrook MUD No. 1.

Any such increase in the Clear Brook City MUD would come fresh on the heels of a previous rate increase that went into effect in December 2016 to provide for five additional patrol deputies for the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office.

The \$7.22 increase was broken down as follows:

- \$3.25 per month for constable contract increase
- \$1.06 per month for Southeast Volunteer Fire Department rate increase
- \$1.31 per month for City of Houston water rate increase

• \$0.22 per month for City of Houston sewer rate increase

• \$1.38 per month for infrastructure maintenance

Under the new rate, Clear Brook City MUD residents using the minimum of 7,000 gallons of water per month saw their rates increase from \$60 to \$67.22.

While the Sagemeadow and Kirkmont municipal utility districts are also responsible for paying for the new constable contract and SVFD rate increases, neither of the MUDs have yet to make any changes to their utility rates.

Heinrich said, however, that will likely change soon, as Sagemeadow MUD board members are expected to ratify a rate increase at a meeting later this month. Sagemeadow residents should expect to see an increase of roughly \$3.50 per month on either their August or September water bill, Heinrich said.

While the Kirkmont MUD has yet to raise its rates in response to the city's recent increase, or the added Precinct 2 patrol deputies, Kirkmont MUD Manager Linda Arnone said such a measure was not off the table.

Arnone said, however, it was not listed on the MUD's July agenda.

### Firefighters start heated petition



Residents have been braving the summer heat to support the Houston Fire Department's petition for equal pay to that of the Houston Police Department. Shown above are, left to right, Bo Skucius, Natalia Settlemire, Sherry Settlemire, Alana Settlemire and Capt. Rob Ramirez. Photo by Jay Do

## Firefighters petition for pay increase

By Jay Do

A number of local firefighters of the Houston Fire Department have recently begun fighting a heated battle of a different sort.

Passed by the Texas House in May of this year, Mayor Sylvester Turner's pension reform bill hopes to bring an end to the City of Houston's fiscal crisis, one that has spanned over 16 years. Even as he cheered the bill's passage, Turner warned that more work lay ahead, a clear nod to the series of referendums looming this fall.

Among those challenging the bill are members of the Houston Fire Department, who feel the bill unjustly strips them of their pensions, while not paying them at the same rate as other city agencies, namely, the Houston Police Department.

The disparity in pay between the two agencies has grown considerably over the course of the past several years. The starting pay of a firefighter cadet is \$28,900, while a police officer

cadet can expect to start at \$42,000. This trend remains consistent with higher ranks in both departments, as firefighters are paid, on average, 60 percent less than police officers, when compared at a rank by rank basis. The firefighters have earned 3 percent pay raises since 2011, whereas the police officers have enjoyed pay raises of 26.44 percent since 2011. Furthermore, the Houston Fire Department operates with a \$458 million annual budget, compared to the \$775 million budget of the Houston Police Department.

Outraged by this staggering disparity, Houston firefighters have taken to the streets to take matters out of politicians' hands, and into the hands of voters.

Appealing to Section 9.004 of the Texas Local Government Code in which the governing body of a municipality on its own motion may submit a proposed charter amendment to the mu-

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## Local police make bizarre drug bust

A call about a suspicious person at an apartment complex on Algonquin at Scarsdale led to a bizarre drug bust early Monday, July 17.

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office responded to the call around 3:45 a.m. to find a male standing by himself in the parking lot of the complex. Responding deputies said they detected a strong marijuana odor coming from a nearby gray Cadillac.

The suspect acknowledged the Cadillac was his vehicle and reportedly gave his consent for deputies to search the car. As the suspect was attempting to unlock the vehicle with his remote control, the trunk of a second nearby car, a white Cadillac, unexpectedly opened. The suspect told

deputies the white Cadillac was also his vehicle.

A search of the gray Cadillac yielded Ecstasy pills, methamphetamine and marijuana. The suspect was detained, while the deputies called a K-9 unit from the Houston Police Department.

When the police dog arrived, it hit on the white Cadillac, where officers found more Ecstasy pills and marijuana, as well as cocaine. The suspect was also found to have \$1,300 in cash on his person.

Mark Frausto, 22, was arrested and charged with three counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Both of the suspect's vehicles were seized by police.

## County unveils new hurricane app

By Jay Do

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on Thursday, June 1, and will continue through Nov. 30.

This year's hurricane season is expected to be busier than usual, as meteorologists with the Tropical Storm Risk predicting a total of 17 named storms (sustained winds of 39 mph or higher), seven hurricanes (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) and three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher) this season.

Experts are anticipating this year's hurricane season to be the most active since 2012. By comparison, 2016 only had 15 named storms. The 30-year average is 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

Residents of the South Belt community are no stranger to the fact that the weather is unpredict-

able and often changes at but a moment's notice. As such, all residents should plan accordingly, in the event that a major storm should strike the area.

Emergency preparedness starts with being informed, and the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management offers a free mobile application that aims to provide the most comprehensive resource to aid citizens in building a personal preparedness plan before a major storm, while providing real-time updates during emergency situations.

Deemed ReadyHarris, the mobile application is an all-hazards overview of disaster information. Using the ReadyHarris application, residents will be able to share their status with selected contacts, receive critical emergency alerts through push notifications, locate Harris Coun-

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## HFD Station 70 saves driver



Houston firefighters are shown above using an ax to rescue a woman from her vehicle following an accident at the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8 around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19. According to a witness, the driver of the red truck was traveling south on Beamer when he ran a light and struck the woman's car as it was traveling east on the beltway feeder. The female driver was conscious and did not appear to have life-threatening injuries. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## \$95K check stolen from CBCMUD

A check for more than \$95,000 was recently stolen from the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District.

Originally intended for the City of Houston as payment for water service, the \$95,533.13 check never reached its destination. The theft was noticed the following billing cycle when the city said it never received the previous month's payment.

Clear Brook City MUD officials reached out to the district's bank and determined the check had not been cashed yet, and a "stop payment" was placed on it, and another check was issued to the city.

A few days later, the MUD received a call

from Bank of America regarding a check in the amount of \$95,533.13 being made out to Charles E. Johnson of Charles J Hair Styles in Tolleson, Arizona. While the check was deposited into the individual's account, no cash was ever dispersed, as the check had been placed on hold.

Investigators from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office said they believed they had a suspect identified, but their leads hit a dead end when the individual's parole officer was unable to positively identify him through the bank's surveillance footage.

Clear Brook City MUD officials said this was not the first time large checks made out to the city had been stolen.

## Picon to enter workforce



Israel Picon (shown above) recently graduated from the Pasadena Independent School District's Lewis Career and Technical High School with enough qualifications to begin a career in welding. Opened in the fall of 2014, the campus allows students to train in various in-demand occupation fields and graduate with the necessary certifications to enter the workforce. See related story on Page 4A. Photo submitted

# In My Opinion

## Garcia explains 'The People's Budget'

While members of the Republican majority are competing to see who can make the deepest cuts, there is a budget proposal before Congress that would boost the economy for all of us while cutting the number of people in poverty in half.

It's The People's Budget, proposed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

The People's Budget invests in safe and productive infrastructure, education, affordable housing, health care and nutrition, child care and working family tax credits. It calls for increasing the minimum wage.

These investments will create 3.6 million jobs, and set us on a path to cut poverty in half in ten years. The People's Budget invests \$2 trillion in infrastructure spending, expanding rural broadband, universal pre-K and free college tuition at state and community colleges.

Which would transition America and the American people into a 21st Century economy and transform our energy, water and transportation systems.

Expand our commitment to efficient renewable energy and green jobs, including job assistance and training for those transitioning from fossil fuel to clean energy jobs.

Protect and expand affordable healthcare for millions of Americans, including support for states to transition to a single-payer healthcare system and provisions to lower prescription drug price.

Create and promote a fair tax system that benefits working families by ending tax loopholes, corporate giveaways and tax breaks for billionaires and Wall Street and ensuring that billionaires and Wall Street pay their fair share of taxes.

Every year without fail our elected representatives give over half of the discretionary budget to the Pentagon, leaving less than half to be divided up to fund education, healthcare, environmental spending, infrastructure, and everything else.

Emily Garcia

## Guthrie writes on Brio, press speaking truth

Thank you for your 6/29/17 editorial updating the community about the Brio situation. Having been born and raised in this part of town (Meadowbrook and New Meadowbrook Freeway) and having spent four years as assistant pastor at St. Frances Cabrini I knew some of the Brio story.

What I have also learned over the years is the story of your courageous and determined effort to tell the truth about this issue.

Thank you for publishing the truth despite the personal and professional cost.

I believe that now, more than ever, we need a press that speaks truth to power. Thank you for keeping that press alive. Sincerely yours,

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie  
Pastor  
St. Luke the Evangelist  
Catholic Church

## SEEN-ABWA hosts speaker on apps

Join the South East Express Network (SEEN) of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) for the monthly luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque (private meeting room), 9005 Broadway, Pearland.

Twenty dollars covers the meal and meeting fee. RSVP by Tuesday, Aug. 8, at <http://www.seen-abwa.org/>.

The public is invited to hear guest speaker, Kristena Hackett, as she shares her expertise on social media apps made easy.

## Local library events set

### Parker Williams Library

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

Thursday, July 20, 3 p.m. Volunteer Opportunities answers questions about where and how to volunteer and what to do to complete volunteer hours. Explore different volunteer opportunities in the community. (Ages 13 and older)

Friday, July 21, 4 p.m. Anime club continues the summer session in the library community room with an extended edition of playing the mini-series FLCL (Fooly Cooly) (rated TV-14)

Saturday, July 22, 11:30 a.m. Balloon animals. Youth, ages 10 and older, meet at the library for some free balloon animals.

Monday, July 24, 3 p.m. Basic Life Skills: Barbecuing (ages 13 and older). The practice of barbecuing is found in different cultures. Discover the origin of barbecuing and join a tradition in the library community room to learn how to safely char some meat meats.

Tuesday, July 25, 2 p.m. Movie and markers. Meet in the library community room for the showing of *Iron Giant* (rated G, 84 minutes), an activity for ages 3 and older. Enjoy a fun film, free air conditioning and coloring while the movie plays.

Wednesday, July 26, 2:30 p.m. Puppet Pizzazz Extravaganza. Meet in the library community room for an hour of stories and puppets. See a variety of puppets brought to life by world class puppeteer Greg Ruhe and listen to the fantastic stories he tells from around the world. This activity is appropriate for ages 7 and older.

Wednesday, July 26, 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.

Wednesday, July 26, 6 p.m. 3D printing demo. This is a free introductory tutorial to 3D printing that is geared for adults.

The events occurring every week are:

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

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

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

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, July 20, 3 p.m. Sweet Construction. Design and build a structure out of candy. (Ages 9-18)

Thursday, July 20, 6 - 7:45 p.m. Not Your Mama's Book Club

Saturday, July 22, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class

Tuesday, July 25, 10:30 a.m. All About Turtles. Enjoy the turtle conservation program with live specimens on exhibit.

Wednesday, July 26, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

To register children/teens for the Houston Public Library Summer Reading program and learn about reading levels and prizes, visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/summer>.

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

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.

# Elected officials share their words

## Invitation for small businesses

By Rep. Pete Olson

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22) invites TX-22 small businesses to apply to join his Small Business Advisory Council (SBAC). The goal of this council is to advise Olson on federal policy issues that impact the small business community.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our communities," said Rep. Pete Olson. "The representatives on this advisory council will provide me with a direct line to our small business community and allow me to better represent their views in Congress. It's deeply important to me to provide small businesses with every resource available to encourage growth and opportunities. I look forward to hearing from these business leaders and serving as their voice in Washington."

Representatives selected to participate will serve on the SBAC, which will hold four roundtables over the next year. The roundtables will be open to all small businesses in TX-22 and will discuss topics including, technology, cyber security, intellectual property, obtaining grants, workforce development and education, and doing business with the government. Only representatives from small businesses within TX-22 are eligible to apply. Completed applications are due to the Pearland office by Aug. 4. For applications and more information, visit Olson's SBAC page.

## Houston fireman fighting for parity pay with HPD

Continued from Page 1A

unicipality's qualified voters for their approval at an election, the department now petitions and aims to collect 21,000 signatures from Houston residents that are registered voters. If this quota is met, the proposed amendment will be brought to the ballot in November for voters to decide its fate.

Deemed the Houston Firefighter Charter Amendment, the charter aims to require parity in the compensation provided to Houston firefighters compared to the compensation provided to Houston police officers on a rank by rank basis.

Among those leading the effort is Capt. Rob Ramirez of the Houston Fire Department. Ramirez is a longtime resident of the South Belt community, and is also a member of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department.

"As public servants, I believe that we are all important," said Ramirez. "We are just as important as the police officers, and our pay should reflect that. The starting salary for a firefighter cadet is \$29,000, and that may be okay for a single 19 year-old, but for someone who is going in with a family, they're having to look for government assistance because the pay is so low."

The department's decision to forego high pay raises in return for retaining its pensions has resulted in its current predicament.

"When we bargained for our raises, we always wanted to preserve our pensions," said Ramirez. "We had a well-funded pension, so we gave up pay increases, as long as they did not take our pension away. We shot ourselves in the foot when we did that, because now they're taking our pension away and giving it to other city workers, like the police officers and the garbage collectors, as part of Mayor Turner's pension reform."

Although they are comparing their pay to that of police officers, the Houston Fire Department wants to make it clear that this effort is in no way an attack against the Houston Police Department, but rather an effort to earn what they feel they deserve.

"We've given upfront pay raises to hold onto our pensions, whereas the Houston Police Department has sacrificed pension benefits in order to get pay raises," said Capt. Keven Desai. "We're not in any way saying that they don't deserve it, but the mayor himself has said the City of Houston needs pension parity. It's something that he's been quoted as saying, and it's something that he's worked hard on over his

tenure. All we're saying is that if they want pension parity, then we want pay parity."

Ramirez feels the passion that firefighters have for their profession has contributed to the department's current dilemma.

"It's just sad and upsetting that we're not being paid at the same rate, because it makes us feel like we're not as important," said Ramirez. "We're almost our own worst enemy, because we love what we do so much that we've looked the other way for so long and now we've ended up in this predicament. It's almost like being a volunteer firefighter. Those guys don't get paid anything, they do for the passion of the job."

Ramirez and Desai have worked tirelessly through the summer heat to collect the signatures required to meet the 21,000 quota, and are often seen garnering support at local businesses, including Alameda Mall and Foodarama.

"We're knocking on doors, doing block walks," said Ramirez. "We are going to different events around the city, as well as asking for support of the community through radio stations, Facebook and other social media outlets. We've been featured on a number of television channels, including ABC 13."

The response from the community that they serve has been nothing but positive.

"The community has been very receptive and a hundred percent supportive of what we've been doing," said Desai. "They are shocked when they hear the disparaging differences between the Houston Fire Department and the Houston Police Department."

Even with the positive response from the community, Desai is still uncertain of the

Houston Firefighter Charter Amendment's ability to pass in November.

"With all the negative things that have happened to firefighters recently, I don't feel confident about anything," said Desai. "I hope that the citizens know what we do for them and know that we do it for the right reasons."

For the members of Houston Fire Department, though, their service to their city and their commitment to serving others supersedes any issues regarding politics.

"We are the third largest fire department in the nation, and we are ranked number one in terms of city services," said Desai. "We have great medical personnel that constantly rank either first or second in the nation in terms of the number of lives saved in cardiac arrest calls. Whether this gets approved or not, if it makes it to the ballot and the voters vote it down, the quality of the service that we provide to this city will not be affected."

"There's no time for politics when we're on duty. If you call us, we'll be there."

Residents interested in aiding the Houston Fire Department's cause and supporting the Houston Firefighter Charter Amendment are urged to visit their website at [www.LetTheVotersDecide.us](http://www.LetTheVotersDecide.us) for more information, and above all else, spread the word.

"We're asking for the support of this community now and in November," said Ramirez. "Get the word out and spread it around as much as you can. We're not asking for much, we're just asking for fairness and equality. Please make it out to the voter polls in November and support us."

## Bay Area Genealogical sets meets

Native American Genealogy Research will be the topic discussed at the July meeting of Bay Area Genealogical Society, which will host professional genealogist Marjorie Lowe, a well-known Native American genealogy expert.

The meeting will be held on Friday, July 28, in the Chapel of University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive in Houston. The meet-and-greet is at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. For more information, go to [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) or call Kim Zrubek at 281-992-2636.

## July Master Gardener events set

The following Master Gardener events have been scheduled for the July. "Raised Beds, Low Volume Drip Irrigation and Rain Barrels" lecture will be on Thursday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m., at Freeman Branch Library, located at 16616 Diana Lane in Houston. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. For information, call 713-274-0950 or visit <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf>.

## Israeli folk dancing in July

The dancing continues at the synagogue. What was intended to last only for four to five months is now entering its seventh year, as the participants do not want to stop dancing. The sessions are not built on one another, so missing a few sessions or just starting doesn't matter. Catching up is quick and everybody enjoys excellent cardio work while having fun.

The dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on Mondays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. This month's sessions will take place July 24 (no session on July 31 for Fast of Tish'ah B'Av). Sessions are \$4 a session or \$35 for 10 sessions for CSH members and \$5 a session or \$45 for 10 sessions for non-member.

This cost covers expenses. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Congregation Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited. For more information contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or email [csh.houston@gmail.com](mailto:csh.houston@gmail.com).

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# Deaths

## Daryl Jennings Henderson Terry



Daryl Jennings Henderson Terry, 93, born in Atlanta, Georgia, died on June 24, 2017 in Houston.

She was preceded in death by her parents Tyre Lee Jennings Jr. and Ellie Louise Martin Jennings; her first husband Joy Martin Henderson of Bryan, Texas; and her husband William Patton "Pat" Terry Jr. of Copperhill, Tennessee. She was also predeceased by her loving brother Tyre Lee Jennings III and wife Madylene; and nephew Durham Jennings and his son Matthew Jennings, all of Houston.

Daryl is survived by her daughter Nancy Henderson Haupt; grandsons Grant Haupt, Jordan Haupt and his wife Lauren and three great-granddaughters, Kristen Haupt, Rachel and Melissa Haupt; niece Linda Holder and husband Mickey and family; and niece Kay Montgomery and husband David and family.

After a childhood spent in Atlanta, she moved with her parents to Dallas, where she graduated from Adamson High School in 1941. There she focused on a business curriculum and mastered shorthand and typing to prepare for secretarial work. Daryl was employed as an administrative secretary for Shell Oil Company, both in Houston and Atlanta, and retired after a 26-year career.

She was also a devoted member of the Baptist Tabernacle in downtown Atlanta where she met her second husband Pat. He was a loving stepfather to her daughter Nancy and devoted grandfather to both of Nancy's sons during their formative years.

Daryl was an avid reader who loved her Bible and enjoyed fiction books. She loved looking through her many cookbooks and entertaining her family and friends, not sparing the fine china and silver.

When her grandsons came along, she was very involved in caring for them and loved and adored them. She was also blessed to have three beautiful great-granddaughters whom she cherished.

Daryl will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

A memorial service is Saturday, July 29, at 10 a.m. at South Park Funeral and Cemetery in Pearland, with interment immediately following at South Park Cemetery.

Condolences may be made at [www.southparkfunerals.com](http://www.southparkfunerals.com).

## George Howard Gothard Jr.



George Howard "Herb" Gothard Jr., 94, of South Belt, died Sunday, July 16, 2017. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Cotsie, and his sons Thomas (Tommy) and Herbert (Don) Gothard.

George is survived by his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grand-

children. George served proudly in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Following his active duty, George served in the Navy Reserve, assisting with the service and maintenance of the USS Texas.

George retired in 1986 from Walgreens, having worked there for more than 30 years.

He was a member of Sagemont Church, where he served as a volunteer with senior adults. Visitation will be held from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, July 20, at Forest Park Lawnside. The funeral service and burial will immediately follow visitation.

## Norman Joseph Mondor



Norman Joseph Mondor died on July 12, 2017, in Houston. He was born in Biddeford, Maine, to Robert J. and Alice F. (LaCharite) Mondor on Sept. 10, 1954, the seventh of 17 children.

He grew up in Saco, Maine, and attended local schools, graduating from Thornton Academy in 1972. Upon graduating from high school, he worked at various jobs, including the Saco Tannery. In 1976, Norman met the mother of his children while living in Maine and they soon started a family, having a daughter first.

In 1979, Norman moved his family to Texas where he attended trade school in Pasadena and began his lengthy career as a journeyman line-man. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 66. The birth of a son soon followed. Norman lived in the South Belt area for almost 40 years.

Norman was a devout Catholic, and an active steward in his parish at the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus Council 9201. Norman's stewardship included participation in the church's fish fries during Lent and the spaghetti dinners throughout the year. He assisted in the beautification efforts of his church by landscaping and planting the countless sago palms on the church grounds. He helped anyone who needed help.

On Friday, July 21, a rosary will be recited at 1:30 p.m., followed by the celebration of a funeral Mass at 2:30 p.m. at St. Luke's, 11011 Hall Road. A reception will be held in the social hall at the church following the Mass. A memorial service will be held for Norman in Maine at a later date where his ashes will be laid to rest. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

## GPD Group joins SBWV Architects

GPD Group announced that SBWV Architects, a leading architectural firm based in Houston, has joined their team.

SBWV Architects specializes in the planning and design of educational facilities and has extensive experience including early childhood centers, elementary schools, intermediate schools, middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, college and university buildings, and a wide range of athletic and support facilities. The union of these client-centered companies represents more than 80 years of outstanding experience throughout the states of Ohio and Texas.

"This is an exciting opportunity," said SBWV's Charles Bourgeois, American Institute of Architects (AIA). "Both SBWV Architects and GPD Group were founded on similar principles, and we look forward to continuing to provide the highest level of architectural and engineering services to our clients through our combined strengths and expanded capabilities."

For GPD, this teaming means having the ability to provide full service architectural and engineering capabilities to clients in an extended geographic reach. For SBWV, it means being able to offer additional in-house services not previously available. SBWV, known for their expertise in the educational market, will now be able to serve clients with full-service engineering design, planning, construction, site development and environmental service capabilities. As a part of the transition, SBWV employees will remain at their Houston office located at 2121 Sage Road.

"The merger will benefit both companies and their clients by providing more resources and experience, as well as expanded geographic reach," said Darrin Kotecki, professional engineer, GPD Group president. "Teaming with SBWV Architects allows both firms to better serve existing and future clients in Ohio, Texas and around the country."

## De La Garza thankful for Ngo's teachings

Alexa De La Garza (left), one of South Houston High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator David Ngo (right), a band director.

De La Garza has volunteered for Marching Band events, as well as National Honor Society events and Student Council events. She would also help with intermediate basketball tournaments, middle school band activities and judo tournaments.

De La Garza plans to attend the University of Houston and would like to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

De La Garza commented about Ngo, "Not only is he an outstanding director, but Mr. Ngo has been a supportive mentor since he became the head band director. Although I only spent a year with him, he was the first teacher who pushed me to become a better musician and person in life. I'm thankful for him teaching me how to face every single problem in life with patience, and for helping me find the confidence I needed to believe in myself. Wherever I go I will always keep his wise words in mind, and never forget what a great teacher he was."

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.



**PASSION. PRIDE. PURPOSE.**

**Pasadena ISD has many reasons to be #PISDProud!** The district boasts a rich history of success that stems from our award-winning educational programs to our talented students and staff. Their accomplishments are not limited to educational accolades. Through our fine arts, athletics and academic programs, students and staff have infinite opportunities to showcase their talents and shine. We are proud to highlight some of Pasadena ISD's top moments from the 2016-2017 school year.

**DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ★ Pasadena ISD graduation rate soars to 90.9 percent.
- ★ Eight Pasadena ISD schools earned all possible TEA distinction designations in the 2016 state accountability system; achieving a Met Standard rating and earning upwards of seven distinction designations.
- ★ A total of 47 of the 60 Pasadena ISD rated campuses earned at least one TEA distinction designation in various categories, an increase of 11 campuses from the previous year. A total of 132 total distinctions were earned by Pasadena ISD schools.
- ★ Pasadena ranked No. 9 best city for high performance on the national EEL's list for academic performance on state standardized tests among low-income students.
- ★ Pasadena ISD named "Best Communities for Music Education in America" for 11 consecutive years.
- ★ Pasadena ISD received the Houston A+ Challenge Strengthen award for the Connect Personalized Learning program.



- ★ Pasadena ISD Business Office earned five awards; including the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle, two awards on behalf of the Association of School Business Officials International, and the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ★ Melillo Middle – first time "Texas Schools to Watch" honoree.
- ★ Beverly Hills Intermediate – "Texas Schools to Watch" Re-Designation campus.
- ★ Dobie Boys Soccer – 2017 Region III Champion and 6A State Semifinalists.



- ★ Dobie and Pasadena High performed at the Super Bowl LI Halftime show.
- ★ Pasadena Memorial Lady Mavs Softball Team – 2017 Regional Quarterfinalists.
- ★ South Houston High – Cheer America iNational Champions.
- ★ Pasadena High's Evelyn Esquivel – Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Division Champion.
- ★ Stephani Llerena – Pasadena ISD's first student representative selected for prestigious Washington Journalism Media Conference.
- ★ South Houston High's production of "Once Upon a Mattress" earned five Tommy Tune nominations.
- ★ Sam Rayburn's Martha Galan and Memorial's Alondra Cruz – "Best of Show" Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Contest winners.

**STAFF RECOGNITION**

- ★ South Houston High School choir teacher Brenda Varvoutis was selected as a finalist in the Region 4 -Teacher of the Year program.
- ★ The Texas Board of Education honored Young Elementary math teacher Misty Ruth as one of 10 state finalists in the Presidential Award for Excellence competition.
- ★ Dobie Coach Steven Higginbotham awarded Tom R. Norris Memorial Award's Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year for the State of Texas. Under his direction, Dobie's academic decathlon teams have earned spots in the top 10 at state nearly every year.
- ★ Park View principal Dr. Robert Hasson, Jr. was named the UH-CL 2016 Marilyn S. Sims Leadership Service Award recipient.
- ★ Memorial's Lloyd Love was recognized by the Dallas Ecological Foundation as Educator of the Year for 2016.



- ★ Memorial biology teacher Amber Deschamps-Jones – University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award winner.
- ★ Pasadena High culinary arts teacher Santos Macias was named the third place award winner in the 2017 Texas Alternative Certification Association's (TACA) Internship program.



# UHCL for all ages

The University of Houston-Clear Lake released its most recent briefs.

**Admissions Preview**  
Transfer and graduate students are invited to learn more about UH-Clear Lake, and apply and receive on-the-spot admissions during UHCL Admissions Preview on July 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Services and Classroom Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Attendees can participate in tours, financial and scholarship workshops, and learn more about Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships. Friends and family are welcome to attend. On-the-spot admissions decisions are available for certain programs, and applicants wanting to participate should bring transcripts and test scores.

To register, visit [www.uhcl.edu/admissions/events/admissions-preview](http://www.uhcl.edu/admissions/events/admissions-preview). Email Open HouseRSVP@uhcl.edu or call 281-283-2515 for more information about the event.

**Friday Morning Continuing Education**

Find out trends in Mexican art and how revolutions influence literary works at the last installment of Friday Morning Continuing Education summer series July 21, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Bayou Building, Patio Café. The cost to attend includes a \$12 membership fee and an \$18 course fee for each individual class, which pays for materials, borrowing privileges from UHCL's Library, discounts from the UHCL bookstore and more. For more information or to register, call 281-283-3033 or visit [www.uhcl.edu/academics/extended/friday-morning-ce/](http://www.uhcl.edu/academics/extended/friday-morning-ce/).

**Film - Lost in Paris**

Watch three eccentric characters collide in Paris in the romantic comedy film *Lost in Paris* as part of UH-Clear Lake's Film and Speaker Series on July 22, at 7 p.m. in UH-Clear Lake's Student Services and Classroom Building lecture hall. Attendees will hear from Christine Paul, director of Foreign Language, in a lesson before the film screening. Tickets are \$4 or free with a UHCL student ID. Parking is free in student lot D. For more information, contact the Student Life at 281-283-2560, or at [www.uhcl.edu/campus-life/arts/film-speaker-series/](http://www.uhcl.edu/campus-life/arts/film-speaker-series/).

**Film speaker series: A Quiet Passion**

Cynthia Nixon portrays Emily Dickinson in the film, *A Quiet Passion*, which will be shown at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 22, in UH-Clear Lake's Student Services and lecture hall, 2700 Bay Area. Conor Bracken, assistant director of UHCL Writing Center and the 2017 Frost Place Chapbook Fellow in American poetry, will read Dickinson selections as well as his own work. *A Quiet Passion* is rated PG-13. Admission and parking are free. For information, visit [www.uhcl.edu/campus-life/arts/film-speak-series/](http://www.uhcl.edu/campus-life/arts/film-speak-series/).

**Send kids to science, technology camps**

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Kids U has something for one's young scientist or engineer to discover at Kids U, offered through UHCL's Center for Educational Programs, featuring two concurrent camps in science and technology, with grade-appropriate activities K-8. Registration is \$149 per student. The camps listed below are scheduled from July 24 to 27 at the UHCL Arbor Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

**Science camps**

Grade levels kindergarten and first will explore ocean life, discover sharks, dolphins, clown fish, squid, stingrays and more at the "Under the Sea," camp from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Grade levels second and third may attend "Kitchen Chemistry," from noon to 3 p.m. This camp is designed to answer questions such as "What makes food puff up and sodas fizz?" Camp attendees will make snacks such as homemade root beer and yeast bread.

The camp for grade levels fourth and fifth called "How Do Things Move?" is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. Participants explore Isaac Newton's laws of physics by making balloon rocket cars and hovercrafts and more.

Sixth to eighth grade levels who attend the camp "CSI: UHCL," 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., will examine how Crime Scene Investigation forensics are used to solve mysteries.

**Technology camps**

"Programming for Beginners with Bee Bots and More" camp is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. for grade levels pre-K, kindergarten and first. Kids will learn to program with Bee Bots, Daisy the Dinosaur and Hopscotch.

The camp "Digital Playground" is scheduled for grade levels second to third and fourth to fifth from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in which kids will create avatars, 3-D images animated graphics and more for a website. (An email account is required.)

"Bloxel Game Builder - Your Imagination's Turn to Play" is the camp planned for grade levels second to third and fourth to fifth, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Kids will learn to build, capture, design, play and share video games.

Another camp for grade levels second to third and fourth to fifth is "Inventors of Tomorrow" from noon to 3 p.m. Kids will use interchangeable, electronic building blocks to invent almost anything - from instruments to robots - and build creative confidence, problem-solving and collaboration skills.

"Aegis" is the camp for grade levels fourth to fifth and sixth to eighth from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The camp combines the interaction of video games with the storytelling power of graphic novels, and students engage in computer science, learn basic programming skills and robotics for a complete STEM experience.

"Introduction to Video Game Design & Development" is for grade levels fourth to fifth and sixth to eighth, from noon to 3 p.m. Students take charge and create their own video games. For more information, visit [kids.uhcl.edu](http://kids.uhcl.edu) or call 281-283-3530.

**Need teaching resources? Check out UHCL online**

Visit the UHCL College of Education's Center for Professional Development of Teachers online. Educators can find hundreds of curated references, resources and referrals by starting a free search at [www.uhcl.edu/education/centers-initiatives](http://www.uhcl.edu/education/centers-initiatives).

To find out more about UHCL College of Education, call 281-283-3600 or email [education@uhcl.edu](mailto:education@uhcl.edu).

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOSE!

Greetings for a happy birthday on July 25 are sent to **Jose Abarca** from his wife **Natalie**; children **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah**, **Elliana** and **Isabella Abarca**; mother-in-law **Ellie Flickinger** and her husband, **David Flickinger** (Leader president); grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger**; and friends and staff at the **Leader**.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 20 through July 26.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song to **Kim Edwards** on July 20. **Tania Lozano** celebrates a birthday July 21. Blow out the birthday candles on a double-layer cake July 23 for **Stacy Davis** and **Eryqa Glenn**.

**Bush Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song to **Vanessa Gil** and **Erin Hubert** on July 20. Sing a double chorus of a birthday song with **Rubi Contreras** and **Tonya Goan** on July 25.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles July 25 for **Virginia Light**.

**Meador Elementary**  
Marking a birthday July 25 is **Maria Gonzalez**.

**Moore Elementary**  
July 26 is the day for a cake for **Gloria Guillen** and **Myra Nevarez**.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting July 22 to **Maria Martinez**. **Hortensia Armenta** celebrates a birthday July 26.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
**Ella Escalona** is wished a happy birthday July 22.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Celebrating a birthday July 23 is **Amee Stoneman**.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Light the birthday candles July 21 for **Yara Quintanilla**. Marking a birthday July 23 is **Joseph Silva**.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Sing a chorus of a birthday song July 20 for **Rosalba Lopez**.

**Dobie High**  
The day for a double birthday celebration for **Saiyeda Blanco** and **Kevin Erickson** is July 22. **Dawn Gutierrez** marks a birthday July 23. **Rebekka Gabino** and **Cam Luong** enjoy a birthday July 24. Birthday greetings are sent to **Rowena Hickman** July 25.

**FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
The **Leader** sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a

birthday this week:

Thursday, July 20: **Junior Lynn**, **Curtis Eads**, **Mary Johnson**, **Chris Cole** and **Joey Cowdoy**; Friday, July 21: **Natalie Sweet**, **Denise McMurrough**, **Vanessa Veltman** and **Danielle Clay**; Saturday, July 22: **Judith Kemle** and **Hey-Zues Lara**; Sunday, July 23: **Mario Salazar**, **Angeles Gomez**, **Melinda Evans** and **Amanda Karsten**; Monday, July 24: **Richard Schreier**, **Montoya Wiltner**, **Connie Alberti**, **Richard Golenko** and **Pete Ortiz**; Tuesday, July 25: **Kelly Jones**, **Jose Abarca**, **Larry Bennett**, **Kathy Taylor**, **Steven Thiele**, **Stephanie Gutierrez**, **Cherie Cundiff**, **Mario Rodriguez** and **Brodie Riner Jr.**; and Wednesday, July 26: **Kenneth Sublett**, **Jeffrey Frugia**, **Jackie Maduzia**, **Magda Adams**, **Debra Patterson**, **Emiel Adams**, **Maricela Solis Crow**, **Kendrick Woods**, **Jenny Batson**, **Terrie Nichols**, **Kenny Fernandez**, **Eric Madsen**, **Gina D'Orazio** and **Elizabeth Bazan**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email, birthday, congratulations or anniversary information to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line.

Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

# CTHS's Picon to enter workforce as welder

Israel Picon recently graduated from the Lewis Career and Technical High School with enough qualifications to start a career in welding.

Picon developed a passion for welding after recognizing a need for more professionals in the industry.

"Everybody wants to be a lawyer or a doctor," Picon said, "but we need welders, too."

"I am proud to say that I will be the first welder in my family."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the welding trade is projected to grow 4 percent by 2024.

Employers usually look for entry-level workers who have received technical training in high school or a post-secondary institution. Individuals typically start a career in welding with a high school diploma, earning about \$45,000 in the state of Texas.

These labor statistics encouraged Picon to prepare for a career in welding.

He traded weekends and summers to take on the added responsibility of studying college-level courses at San Jacinto while maintaining a 4.59 grade point average at Lewis CTHS.

In four years, he earned industry professional certifications from San Jacinto College, the American Welding Society in structural welding, the National Center for Construction Education and Research and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Picon has garnered respect from professionals in the business after winning first place at the ABC National Craft Championship, where he competed against welders across the country.

"It was such an amazing feeling," Picon said.

As an aspiring welder, Picon knew that the Lewis CTHS would help him make

a seamless transition into the workforce.

"I don't think the traditional high school experience would have been the right fit for me," Picon said. "I ended up in the right place."

Pasadena ISD's first and only Career and Technical Educational (CTE) high school offers eligible students a unique opportunity to gain

hands-on experience and certifications in industries that are in high demand.

Picon credited teachers at Lewis CTHS for helping him discover his passion for welding and excelling in school.

"Mr. [Ezequiel] Garcia helped me out a lot," Picon said. "I was already pretty good, but Mr. Garcia taught me a lot about welding and

about life."

Picon plans to work in the welding industry, then return to college and become a welding instructor after he retires.

"I want to help kids like my teachers helped me."

For more information about the Lewis Career and Technical High School, visit <http://careerandtechnical.pasadenaisd.org>.

For more information about Daugherty, "I have to say my favorite thing about Mr. D, other than his hilarious history jokes or extensive knowledge of the subject, has to be his tie selection, which always seems to match the lesson of the day."

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.

# Remember When

**40 years ago (1977)**  
Heavy machinery started clearing and leveling the land in preparation for the groundbreaking of San Jacinto College South campus.

**35 years ago (1982)**  
The northbound lanes of the Gulf Freeway between Choate Road and Friendship were completely closed so a Life Flight helicopter could land to attend a 48-year-old victim of a tractor fatality. The man, William Lira of League City, was pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses said the tractor ran over Lira while he worked on it.

**30 years ago (1987)**  
PISD was working to fill two administrative positions, both of which saw their former holders leave under controversial circumstances. Committees were set up to screen applicants for the positions of assistant superintendent of elementary schools and food services director.

**25 years ago (1992)**  
A "substantial pay increase" for PISD employees was being sought by Vicki Morgan, the chair of the district's board of trustees budget committee.

**20 years ago (1997)**  
City Council Member Frank Mancuso spent almost an hour blasting Mayor Kathy Whitmire at a Beverly Hills Civic Club meeting. He urged the attendees to call all five at-large council members to help defeat Whitmire's proposed remedies to balance the annual budget. Two of Whitmire's remedies included a \$6 per month garbage tax and charging admission to the Houston Zoo.

**15 years ago (2002)**  
More than 60 residents attended the Super Neighborhood meeting to discuss flood prevention, who would care for yards of flood buyout homes being demolished and the effect a new apartment complex would have on flooding.

**10 years ago (2007)**  
Joyce Lewis, the last original faculty member of Frazier Elementary, retired. The librarian began her tenure at Frazier when the school opened in the 1975-1976 school year.

**5 years ago (2012)**  
Brandon Ray Morgan, 37, was charged in the death of Jeannie Waynette Wiebke, who was confined to a wheelchair. According to police, Houston firefighters responded to an explosion and fire at Wiebke's home but were initially unable to enter the residence due to the intensity of the blaze. An autopsy determined Wiebke had been beaten and strangled prior to the fire occurring.

**1 year ago (2016)**  
Arson investigators determined that the fire was intentionally set, and the explosion was caused by an oxygen bottle. It is suspected that Morgan used the oxygen to set the house ablaze in a bid to cover up the crime.

The Houston Airport System officially reopened Hobby Airport's departure-level roadway/drop-off ramp with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The endeavor was part of the airport's ongoing, multiyear \$4.9 million renovation project.

A 19-year-old Dobie graduate died July 15, after

an accidental shooting that took place in the 12000 block of Sageland near Sagedowne. Jacob Lara was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to police, Lara and his 16-year-old girlfriend were trying to latch the safety lock on a gun when it discharged, striking him in the face. The female called 911, but Lara was already dead by the time paramedics arrived. Lara had reportedly just purchased the handgun.

Arson investigators determined that the fire was intentionally set, and the explosion was caused by an oxygen bottle. It is suspected that Morgan used the oxygen to set the house ablaze in a bid to cover up the crime.

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# Technology aids disaster planning

Continued from Page 1A

ty emergency shelters, display updated evacuation route maps and get live weather updates and alerts.

Additionally, the application features a number of tools for residents to be prepared for major storms, including a step-by-step guide to developing a personalized family disaster plan and a series of survival tips in the event of an emergency.

The personalized emergency plan comprises an emergency supply kit checklist tailored to the user's needs.

The checklist includes the following: a customized emergency food supply shopping list, an emergency communication plan to notify loved ones of the user's status and critical information to prepare the user's home for the impending emergency. Once the plan is developed, it is stored on the user's smartphone and can easily be shared with family members and friends.

The ReadyHarris mobile application also features 11 integrated eGuides, aimed at informing residents about emergency situations that they

are likely to face. These guides include "Emergency Preparedness for People with Functional Needs"; "Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners"; "Fire Safety"; "Floods"; "Hurricanes"; "Keeping Kids Safe"; "Safety at Home"; "Tornadoes"; "Thunderstorms"; "Wildfires"; and "Winter Storms."

The application is provided in both English and Spanish, and comes at a time when recent surveys find that residents depend on their smartphones more than ever for breaking news, important government information and what is happening in their community.

The application is available on both the Apple iOS and the Google Android platforms, and may be downloaded from the iTunes and Google Play application stores, respectively.

Residents are urged to download the application and store it on their mobile devices for the duration of the hurricane season.

More information on how to prepare for severe weather and other disaster situations can be found at [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org).

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# Once Upon A Mattress



Kids' Backporch Productions brings "The Princess and the Pea" to stage in its summer musical of "Once Upon A Mattress."

July 28th - 29th at 7 p.m.  
July 30th at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

C.A. Nelson Auditorium, 2337 N. Galveston Ave., in Pearland.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens (65+) and \$9 for youth. You may order online at [kidsbackporchproductions.org](http://kidsbackporchproductions.org), leave a will-call order at 281-412-5350, or purchase tickets at the door 30 minutes before curtain time.

This is KBP's 62nd production! Giving Kids a "little taste of Broadway" since 2005!

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## CCISD Board seeks nominations for award

The success of a school district and its students does not lie solely in the hands of great teachers and administrators, but also in the steadfast support of its community.

In the Clear Creek Independent School District, dedicated community members volunteer their time and efforts by contributing to the quality of life for schools and the growing number of students within the district.

Each year the district's board of trustees asks stakeholders to nominate community members who champion CCISD and are deserving of a very special award.

The board of trustees is now seeking nominations for the 2017 Citizen of the Year.

The award is given each year to honor an outstanding community member for their support of CCISD programs and activities.

Former recipients include Joyce Abbey, Harv Hartman, Robert Davee, David Braun, Dr. James O'Malley, Gib Larson, and Lucien Q. Junkin.

The board of trustees established an endowment fund which the Citizen of the Year will have the opportunity to designate to a CCISD academic program or classroom activity in the

recipient's name which will be announced at the Clear Creek Education Foundation's Annual Awards Gala on Saturday, Nov. 4, at South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center in League City.

Recipients eligible for this award must meet the following requirements:

Demonstrated a commitment to CCISD through volunteer efforts;

Contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of CCISD;

Maintained a reputation across the CCISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public

education; Voluntarily served the district and its students and patrons over an extended period of time.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Aug. 1 to be considered for the 2017 award.

Nomination forms are available online on the foundation's website and the district website. Nominations may be emailed to [Krichardson@clearcreekeducationfoundation.org](mailto:Krichardson@clearcreekeducationfoundation.org) or may be mailed to:

Clear Creek Education Foundation, Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, P.O. Box 1631, League City, TX 77574.

## Community report earns Excalibur Award

San Jacinto College is among the winners in the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Houston Chapter's 2017 Excalibur Awards, which honors outstanding professional accomplishments in the development and execution of comprehensive public relations programs and individual tactics.

The college was awarded the bronze Excalibur Award from PRSA Houston on Thursday, June 29 in the annual report category for its redesign of the 2016 San Jacinto College Annual Report to the Community.

The San Jacinto College Report to the Community highlights the annual accomplishments of students, employees and the college, while also providing a financial snapshot of the institution and the San Jacinto College Foundation.

The 2016 report project was led by Josh Wilson, graphic designer; Andrea Vasquez, communications coordinator; Jeannie Peng Mansyur, senior communications coordinator; Rob Vanya, communications coordinator (retired); and

"I am very proud of the marketing team for the work they put in with the redesign of the 2016 Report to the Community," said Teri Crawford, vice chancellor, marketing public relations and government affairs at San Jacinto College.

"The marketing team had a vision for this project, and they brought it to life. I am pleased to see that they were recognized and honored by the PRSA Houston Chapter for their outstanding work."

Mary Hind, project coordinator.

The Public Relations Society of America is the world's largest professional organization for public relations professionals, with nearly 20,000 members and more than 500 in Houston. PRSA represents business and industry, consulting firms, government, associations, hospitals, schools, professional service firms and nonprofit organizations.

For more information about PRSA Houston, visit [prshouston.org](http://prshouston.org).

## Rossodivita cites Caudillo's unparalleled efforts

Maria Rossodivita (left), one of the Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Rene Caudillo, an AP U.S. history instructor.

Rossodivita has done volunteer work for the City of Pasadena Strawberry Festival, Rugged Race, Crenshaw Park Clean-Up and the Houston Food Bank. She has also performed Christmas songs at Chik-fil-A.

She plans to attend the University of Houston and hopes to attain a bachelor's degree in chemistry or political science.

Rossodivita commented about Caudillo, "Mr. C is an outstanding person who goes beyond the limits of a teacher's purpose to simply educate. Throughout my junior year, Mr. C taught the values and virtues of America while implementing the same ideals in his students. Mr. C transforms his passion for the past to develop the minds of the future."

"His unparalleled efforts to inspire his students is evident as he pushes me to strive for my full potential, confidently believing in my aspirations. The ambition and virtue I hold in my heart is greatly due to the efforts of Rene Caudillo to motivate his students."

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.



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## Dave Martin to host park ribbon-cutting

Council Member Dave Martin along with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) invite residents to attend the "First Serve" ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new sand volleyball pit located in Oak Meadow Park.

The ceremony will occur on Thursday, July 27 at 6 p.m at Oak Meadow Park, located at 500 Ahrens in Houston.

In 2017, Council Member Martin allocated more than \$60,000 of his Council District Service Funds toward improvements at Oak Meadow Park.

Through partnership with HPARD and the Oak

Meadow Civic Club, the office was able to facilitate the improvement of the sand volleyball pit.

Other renovations at the park include the purchase of 13 new picnic tables, the installation of a walking path around the park, as well as an upgrade to existing playground equipment.

Martin is excited to welcome the community members to the new sand volleyball pit and encourage residents to get outside and stay active.

For more information on the event, contact Martin's office by calling 832-393-3008 or via email at [districtc@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtc@houstontx.gov).

## Clark twins marry local girls



On Earth Day, April 22, 2017, at 3 p.m., Mitchell Andrew Clark and Tara Ann Stanley were united in marriage in a beautiful outdoor ceremony in the Clark backyard. The ceremony, which was simple and sweet, suited them both so well. Their longtime childhood friend Jonathan Santos, Navy E4-Petty Officer 3rd Class, officiated. In attendance at the ceremony were only close family and friends. Many other friends arrived after the ceremony for the reception and to spend the evening together at the house. The groom is the son of Dewey and Terry Clark, longtime residents of the Sagemont area. He has two brothers, his twin Michael and Matthew. Paternal grandparents of the groom are the late Paul and Maxine Clark of Houston. Maternal grandparents of the groom are Ronald and Sunny Stinson of San Angelo. The bride is the daughter of Tanya Keller who is also a longtime Sagemont area resident. She has two sisters, Priscilla and Tabitha. Maternal grandparents of the bride are Priscilla and Mike Bailey, also of Houston. The wedding was a very special time with family and friends. The couple will reside in Tara's family home in the Sagemont area until leaving for Japan on July 22 for the next year or so. The couple met in 2002 when Mitchell started attending Moore Elementary. Tara became best friends with Mitchell's older brother Matthew after they met through a mutual friend at Moore Elementary. Mitchell and Tara became friends but did not start dating until 2008 after both families weathered the storm at the Clark house during Hurricane Ike. Mitchell graduated from Dobie High School in 2012. He then obtained an Associate of Applied Science degree with a certificate in Process Technology from San Jacinto College and is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He is currently working at the H-E-B in Pearland and the Petsmart near Baybrook Mall while going to school. Tara graduated from Dobie High School in 2010. She then received an Associate of Applied Science degree in general studies from San Jacinto College and a Bachelor of Science degree in behavioral science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She then attained a teaching certificate and spent her first year teaching fifth grade science at De Zavala Middle School with the Pasadena Independent School District. She applied to the Japan Exchange and Teaching program (JET) two years in a row and was offered a position in April as an assistant English language teacher for the upcoming school year. They leave July 22 for a year or more for Hokuei Town in Tottori Prefecture, Japan, population 14,718. The town is located in the southern portion of western Japan along the coast of the Sea of Japan. Tottori Prefecture is the least populous prefecture in Japan and is the former home of famous Manga artist Goshu Aoyama. The Goshu Aoyama museum is located in Hokuei Town. The prefecture also boasts of the largest sand hills in Japan with a sand museum that displays elaborate sand sculptures plus many other places of interest, one of which is the cherry trees of Kyusho Park. Oh, the Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss is an appropriate saying for the new couple. They are looking forward to wonderful adventures as they begin their lives together.



On June 9, 2017, at 7 p.m., Michael Wayne Clark and Tyara Xiomara Hernandez were united in marriage in a beautiful semi-formal ceremony at House Estate in Hockley, Texas. It was a wonderful venue in a restored 1890's Victorian mansion on 18 acres of beautiful grounds. Pastor James Kilgore of Life Church officiated. The couple wrote and recited their own vows to each other. The best men were the groom's brothers, Matthew and his twin Mitchell Clark. The groomsmen were three of Michael's fellow 2017 West Point graduates Drew Maillet, Gabriel Padilla and Bing Bing Xie plus childhood friends Carlos Rice and Juan Gonzales. The matrons of honor were the bride's sisters Erika and Sofia Hernandez. The bridesmaids were Jessica Crenshaw and Janelle Flores, two of the bride's friends from nursing school, plus childhood friends Rachel Jagdeo, Veronica Nicholson and Veronica de la Fuente. The wedding was followed by a dinner and reception with dancing enjoyed by many friends and family members from far and wide. It was a special night enjoyed by all who attended. At the end of the evening the couple exited under a canopy of sparklers held high by the remaining guests and fireworks as they entered the getaway car. The groom is the son of Dewey and Terry Clark, longtime residents of the Sagemont area. Paternal grandparents of the groom are the late Paul and Maxine Clark of Houston. Maternal grandparents of the groom are Ronald and Sunny Stinson of San Angelo. The bride is the daughter of William and Lily Hernandez who are also longtime Sagemont area residents. She has two sisters, Erika and Sofia. Paternal grandparents of the bride are Jose Ramon and Thelma Castellon of Houston. Maternal grandparents of the bride are Cesar and Irma Garza of Houston. The couple met while at Beverly Hills Intermediate in the orchestra but did not talk much. This changed when they were freshman at Dobie High School when Michael ended up helping Tyara with homework and preparing for a test during their lunch period. Both continued to be active in the Dobie orchestra until graduation. Michael graduated from Dobie in 2012. On Dec. 7, 2011, he took his oath to join the Texas Army National Guard Reserves while finishing his senior year of high school. He served in the National Guard until spring of the next year then went on to the United States Military Academy at West Point in the summer of 2013. He graduated from West Point on May 27, 2017, with a dual Bachelor of Science in defense and strategic studies and Portuguese. Tyara graduated from Dobie in 2012 as well. She attended the University of Arizona in Tucson on an academic scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year. She then returned to Houston to attend San Jacinto College. She received an Associate of Science degree in nursing on Dec. 11, 2015. She is currently working at San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in the Neonatal ICU and working on her Bachelor of Science in nursing. After their honeymoon in Cancun the couple will reside in Pasadena. Michael will report to Ft. Benning, Georgia, for training and Ranger school on July 20. After completion of the training they will be stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where Michael will be part of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Tyara will either be working in the neonatal ICU on post or at the hospital in Honolulu. Also appropriate for the couple is Oh, the Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss. The newlyweds anticipate new adventures as they begin their lives together.

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# 2017 South Belt Schlitterbahn vacation contest photos shared

## Brewer goes diving in Puerto Rico

South Belt resident Greg Brewer (below) is shown with his diving instructor Tony McClure. Brewer went to finish his Professional Association of Diving Instructors Advanced Open Water SCUBA certification in Puerto Rico.



For his certification, Brewer did a total of five dives over the course of three days. The crew of the Miss Calabash posed for a photo with Greg Brewer. Above are, left to right, Edwin Lopez, Brewer, Tony McClure, Matthew Eames, Mike Scott, and Joviani Caravaggio. Below left, Brewer waves hello while diving.

Photos submitted



## Jameses visit family in South Carolina



Bob and Mary James took a road trip to South Carolina to visit their son and his wife Peter and Tammy Gross and their two grandchildren Zane and Chloe. Shown above, Zane made a new friend at Lazy 5 Ranch located in Mooresville, North Carolina. The ranch allowed a drive through the ranch and feeding animals from the safety of one's car. Shown below left, left to right, Mary, Zane, Bob and Tammy enjoy downtown Rock Hill, North Carolina. Below right, Mary and granddaughter Chole enjoy tea in the restaurant Amelie's, also in Rock Hill. The restaurant was a little touch of Paris including "locks of love" on the railing outside.

Photo submitted



## June contest winners announced

The June winners of the Leader's 2017 vacation photo contest have been announced, with Cynthia Hawk taking top honors for her Alaska photo that ran in the June 22 edition. Susan Leung placed second for her California photos that were published in the July 6 edition, and the Castillo family came in third for its photos taken in Mexico that also ran in the July 6 edition (photos were received in June). For more information on the contest, see Page 1A.

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## Ford enjoys a visit to New Orleans Aquarium



Clear Brook High School student Brandi Ford visited the New Orleans Aquarium. Ford loves to scuba dive and to see ocean life. Shown above, she is seen with a diver in the tank behind her.



Shown above, Ford even made a penguin friend at the aquarium during her visit.

Photo submitted

## Lucas vacation spent welcoming new baby



Cody and Destiny Lucas spent their vacation adding a new addition to the family. On June 19 at 4:22 p.m., they welcomed their son Brantley Neil Lucas into the world. Brantley weighed eight pounds and 14 ounces. Destiny grew up in the South Belt area and is now a nurse. She graduated from San Jacinto College South in 2015. Cody was a firefighter for 10 years and now works in the oil field with G.E. Oil & Gas as a field service technician.

Photos submitted

## Sisters visit Florida



Seven-year-old Kayla Williams and three-year-old Zoey Hutchison took a road trip to Pensacola, Florida. It was the girls' first road trip and first time in Florida. Kayla attends Parkwood Elementary. Photo submitted

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# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

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## Sports personality Flores remembers South Belt upbringing

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**Dr. Angel Román**

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**  
MLB Network and NHL Network studio host Robert Flores has now spent more years away from the South Belt area than he and his family were here decades ago, but in many ways he will forever have a special place in his heart for "home."

Flores said. "It was a special, special time for my family and I, no doubt. "It was just a wonderful community to have grown up in and enjoyed my formative years. We went to Atkinson, then Beverly Hills and Dobie. It was the prototypical family upbringing."



**Dobie High School class of 1988 graduate Robert Flores is now relishing his on-air work at the MLB Network as well as the NHL Network after spending a decade with ESPN and ESPN's SportsCenter. He was inducted into Dobie High School's Hall of Honor in 1988.**

Flores now resides in New Jersey while working for the dual network sports shows.

He previously spent a decade as an on-air anchor at both ESPN and ESPN's SportsCenter before making a move in 2016. A member of Dobie High School's class of 2014 Hall of Honor, the 1988 Longhorn graduate grew up in Sagemont along with his mother and father, Linda and Mike Flores, as well as his brothers, Richard and Rodney.

By 2000, the Flores family had largely exited Houston for other areas.

Mike Flores, a long-time coach in the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League died in 2000. Linda, meanwhile, remarried and currently resides in San Antonio.

Looking back on it, Robert Flores said he sometimes wishes he had relished his time in the South Belt area more so than he did at the time. Still, the memories will forever be great.

"There are certain aspects that I certainly feel like I took for granted,"

### Pearland Rotary hosts gridiron lunch

The Pearland Rotary's annual Gridiron Luncheon is taking shape as more and more high school varsity football head coaches are confirmed to speak during the event.

The luncheon is set for Tuesday, Aug. 1, at noon, at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in the Green Tee subdivision.

The respective head

coaches confirmed to attend, including Dobie's Mike Norman, will give attendees a brief preview of their program heading into the 2017 campaign.

Other head coaches from districts 22-6A, 21-6A and 23-6A are expected to attend.

Luncheon tickets are \$30 per person or \$25 for a group of four or more.

Reservation by RSVP

must be done by July 28.

To reserve a luncheon spot, direct email to Noble Alix at nalix@texascitizensbank.com or to Jeff Brennan at jhbwaterguy@yahoo.com.

### High school volleyball starts workouts Aug. 1

The 2017 high school volleyball season is nearing its start as teams from across the state begin workouts Tuesday, Aug. 1, as allowed by the University Interscholastic League.

The programs at Clear Brook and Dobie will be-

gin workouts with freshman tryouts at 8 a.m., and the returning players will train later in the day and throughout the remainder of the week.

The regular season for the Lady Wolverines and Lady Longhorns will get underway Tuesday, Aug. 8.

### Clear Brook, Dobie football mark special schedule dates

The 2017 high school football season is still six weeks away from opening kickoff, but that doesn't mean parents of Clear Brook and Dobie players can't begin marking their calendars now.

At Clear Brook, the Wolverines will waste little time in recognizing the class of 2017 seniors.

Wolverine head coach Mike Allison has set Senior Night to coincide with the team's Saturday, Sept. 2 regular season opener against Bellaire, which will be held at Challenger Stadium in Webster, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Wolverines will

also take care of homecoming festivities relatively early in the season, with the annual big game coming Friday, Sept. 29, against Clear Falls. Game time is 7 p.m. at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

As for the Dobie Longhorns, the school's annual homecoming festivities will play out Friday, Oct. 27, as Dobie goes against the South Houston Trojans in a 7 p.m. contest, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The Longhorns' annual Senior Night is set for the final game of the regular season, Friday, Nov. 10 against the La Porte

Bulldogs, also at 7 p.m. at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

For a look at Clear Brook and Dobie's full 2017 varsity football schedules as well as Aug. 25 scrimmage news, see Page 2B.

But I didn't say much to Rich because I didn't want to mess with the process. I flew into Houston and then my uncle and I drove to San Antonio.

"Our mother lives there, so it was a great moment. Clearly, we were all thrilled for those young men and for Richard and his staff."

"Winning a state title is something that can never be taken away. It was another one of those moments as a family in your life that you'll never forget."

**Post Dobie years**  
Flores graduated from Dobie in 1988 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston in radio and television.

He worked at a local network in the Austin area until 2004.

An on-air verbal slip led to his dismissal, but six months later he landed an audition with ESPN. The rest, shall we say...

"My agent was able to get me an audition at ESPN," Flores recalls. "Had it not all played out like it did, I might still be in Austin or another regional city."

"I had a great time working at the city level and covering sports. I was fortunate to get an opportunity with ESPN, and it was a great run."

After 10 years at ESPN, Flores decided to make a move, specifically to MLB Network and NHL Network. He made the change primarily because it was time.

"I just think sometimes you need a change for both yourself as a person and your career," Flores said.

"I loved my time at ESPN and made a lot of great friends and built trusted relationships. But I

also cherish my time here with MLB and NHL.

"It's been great to this point, and I look for many, many more years of keeping the world informed via our platforms."

"Major League Baseball speaks for itself, and the NHL is terrific, especially come playoff time. Covering teams battling for the Stanley Cup is as exciting as it gets."

**Still love his Astros**  
Flores, a noted fan of professional wrestling, also still closely follows the Houston pro sports franchises.

With the Houston As-

tros rolling through the 2017 season with the best win-loss record in the American League, aspirations of a possible return to the World Series and more is certainly in play this season.

Like many sports reporters, Flores doesn't proclaim to know any more about the inner-workings of the Astros' organization than the next person, but he has those same high hopes for his hometown team.

The Astros last advanced to the World Series in 2005 and were swept by

Continued on Page 2B

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**Important Football Dates**  
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**Brook Homecoming - Friday, Sept. 29, vs. Clear Falls, Challenger, 7 p.m.**  
**Dobie Homecoming - Friday, Oct. 27, vs. South Houston, Veterans, 7 p.m.**  
**Dobie Senior Night - Friday, Nov. 10, vs. La Porte, Veterans, 7 p.m.**

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## SBGSA's 6-under all-stars take second at Sealybration



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 6-under all-stars turned in another great performance this summer, taking second place at the 8th annual Sealybration Stars and Strikes Classic. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Vida Montemayor, Maddison Montemayor, Camila Padua,

Daniella Cisneros, Abygail Herrera, Khayla Juarez, (middle row) Journey Peterson-Calderson, Molly Castañeda, Alayna Rodriguez, Alizae Muñoz, Cecilia Velasquez, (back row) assistant coach Robert Juarez, head coach Sal Castañeda, assistant coach Jay Rodriguez and assistant coach Julio Montemayor.

## Locals help Pasadena Legends 8U at world series

A trio of South Belt area residents played a big role in helping the Pasadena Legends 8-under select baseball team to a successful spring and summer season. The Legends, competing in the Nations Baseball division, went 52-17 overall this summer, eventually taking second place at both the state tournament and the world series in Beaumont. At right, Legends' head coach Jonathan Garcia (center) and his sons Joey Garcia (left) and Johnny Rey Garcia were key parts of the team throughout the season as the Legends rolled to win after win. Other members of the Legends included Max Garza, Javier Ontiveros, Trey Perez, Donovan Cooper, Sebas Mora, Guero Rincon, Alex Peña, Rodrigo Perez, David Corona, assistant coach Leslye Mora and assistant coach David Corona.

Submitted photo



## Moreno again puts JFD netters to the test

Let there be little dispute about it. The Dobie Longhorns' varsity team tennis squad is one of the region's busiest during the fall semester.

It's a tried and true method for success, according to Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr., and he plans to test it again in 2017.

There are high school tennis programs that compete in just a handful of nondistrict dual matches and then compete in district play. There are still others that compete in a nondistrict tournament or two prior to league play. Not the Longhorns. They go all out, all the time.

Moreno, poised to begin his 19th season at Dobie and 34th overall in the high school tennis ranks, believes the Longhorns only improve by playing more matches.

It is no secret that some of not quite a few Dobie tennis players enter the program as freshmen with far less court experience than some of the other big-name schools. The solution? Play tennis, then play more tennis.

As usual, the Longhorns will open the 2017 regular season with a series of matches against a group of those who have formerly played at Dobie.

The annual series has been heavily controlled by the former players in the past, but the 2017 Longhorns are going to be very experienced, particularly on the boys' side of things.

After that, Dobie will play nondistrict matches against regional powers such as Dawson, Friendswood, Clear Creek, Clear Brook and others.

Locally, the Longhorns will make the trip to Clear Brook High School Aug. 29,

to face the Wolverines in what promises to be an exciting neighborhood duel.

In District 22-6A action, the Longhorns figure to again battle defending league champion Deer Park for the district title.

Dobie is also looking to

advance to the Region III championships for the first time in several seasons.

If hard work and plenty of preseason preparation make a difference, the Longhorns should be in position for a strong season during the team season.

## On-air personality has local connection

Continued from Page 1B the Chicago White Sox.

Just days prior to his chat with the *Leader*, Flores said he had watched replays of some of the Astros' National League Championship Series in 1980 against the Philadelphia Phillies. Though the Phillies rallied late in the final game of the series to advance to the World Series,

Flores vividly recalls the excitement the Astros brought to this city then. Perhaps this season will bring more.

"Clearly, this team is more talented than that 1980 team, and probably as good or better than the 1986 (National League Western Division champion) or 2005 (World Series loss) teams," Flores said.

"But there is no guarantee. You look at the Cubs from last year. They rolled through the regular season much like the Astros have this year, then had to come back from a 3-1 deficit against the Indians in the series.

"That said, you have to give Astros' ownership and general manager Jeff Luhnow credit. They have

scouted and drafted well, and brought in key free agent signees. The Astros certainly have the pieces in place to get it done. It'll be fun to see how it all plays out."

And it'll be fun for years to come to see how Flores' career plays out on the national stage. At 45 now, he has many more years to put his mark on

the sports landscape.

South Belt residents will be able to put a local connection to the face they see on MLB Network and NHL Network in the future.

He may live in New Jersey, but Flores will always hold South Belt near and dear.

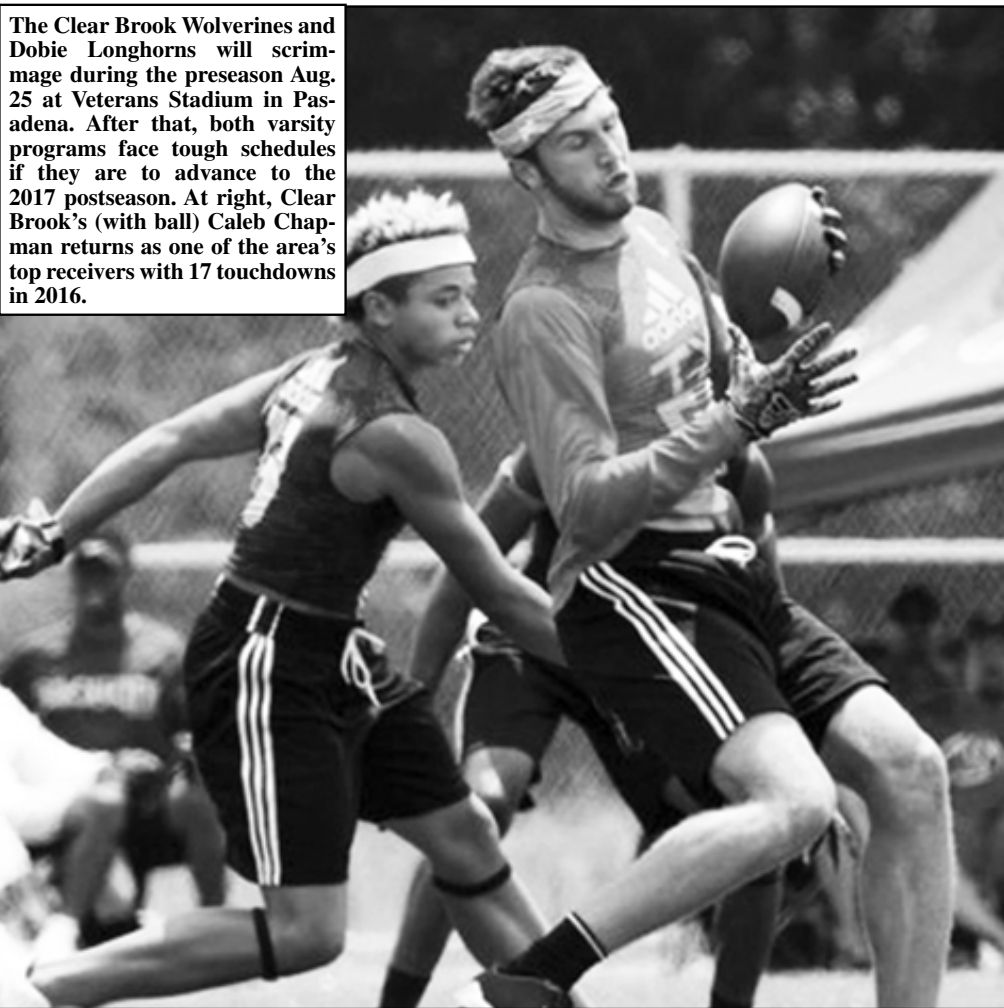
### Lady Lions set VB camp July 24-27

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.

## Wolverines, Longhorns aim at football playoffs

The Clear Brook Wolverines and Dobie Longhorns will scrimmage during the preseason Aug. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. After that, both varsity programs face tough schedules if they are to advance to the 2017 postseason. At right, Clear Brook's (with ball) Caleb Chapman returns as one of the area's top receivers with 17 touchdowns in 2016.



## Local sports camps, news

### Dobie/Brook youth football camps

Incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students, including those planning to attend Thompson Intermediate, Beverly Hills Intermediate or Dobie High School as of the 2017-2018 school year, are invited to attend the Longhorns' Camp Head Start for football hopefuls.

Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman, his staff, as well as staff members from Beverly Hills and Thompson will provide instruction July 31 through Aug. 3 at Dobie High School.

The sessions will run from 9 to 11 a.m. each day. Preregistration is \$40 per student. The fee is \$50 per student on July 31.

Payment will be accepted via cash, money order or credit card. No checks will be accepted. To register, direct email to Norman at MNorman@pasadenaisd.org.

Families may also make online payments at [https://www1.pasadenaisd.org/departments/departments\\_a\\_b/business\\_financial\\_services/business\\_office\\_procedure\\_manual/cashier\\_s\\_office/rev\\_trak\\_reporting/](https://www1.pasadenaisd.org/departments/departments_a_b/business_financial_services/business_office_procedure_manual/cashier_s_office/rev_trak_reporting/).

Participants will receive instruction in all phases of the game, including the fundamentals of blocking and tackling, position drills and techniques, and individual position drills. Camp Head Start will also provide a great opportunity for students to get an early understanding of how things will progress, as well as expectations at their intended school.

The Pasadena ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for events of this nature, so families will be responsible for providing such.

### Brook invites youths, too

Clear Creek ISD students will have the opportunity to attend Clear Brook's 2017 Mini Camp, set for July 27-28 at the school.

The sessions will run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. each day. Incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students as of the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to attend the camp. The fee is \$60 per student if pre-registered by July 20, or \$70 per student for those who register at 7:30 a.m., just before the start of workouts July 27.

Clear Brook varsity football head coach Mike Allison, his staff as well as those at the intermediate level will be on hand to provide instruction in a variety of skill sets, including agility, blocking, tackling, receiving, kicking, passing, punting and more. All registrants will receive a camp T-shirt.

Clear Creek ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for this type of events, so parents will be responsible for handling their own coverage. For more information or to register for the camp, direct email to MAllison@ccisd.net.

### Brook youth volleyball camp starts July 24

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.ccisd.net>. More information is available from Thompson at [mthomps1@ccisd.net](mailto:mthomps1@ccisd.net).



## Dobie High School

### Varsity fall team tennis schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
July 20	Unofficial workouts	6 p.m.
July 27	Unofficial workouts	6 p.m.
Aug. 1-4	Varsity team workouts	6 p.m.
Aug. 5	Dobie exes matches	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	at Dawson	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	Willis	4 p.m.
Aug. 9	Friendswood	4 p.m.
Aug. 10	at S.A. Clark	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 11	at S.A. Reagan	8:30 a.m.
Aug. 11	at Converse Judson	5 p.m.
Aug. 15	Katy	5 p.m.
Aug. 16	at George Ranch	9 a.m.
Aug. 17	Clear Falls	9 a.m.
Aug. 18	Clear Creek	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 22	Clear Springs	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 25	at Dickinson	3 p.m.
Aug. 29	at Clear Brook	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	Alvin	3 p.m.
Sept. 8	Morton Ranch	3 p.m.
Sept. 15	Copperas Cove	8:30 a.m.
Sept. 15-16	Remembering Ike (Galv.)	TBA
Sept. 19	*West Brook	3 p.m.
Sept. 22	*at South Houston	3 p.m.
Sept. 26	*Sam Rayburn	3 p.m.
Sept. 29	*at Pasadena	3 p.m.
Oct. 3	*Deer Park	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	*La Porte	3 p.m.
Oct. 10	*at Memorial (Taylor)	3 p.m.
Oct. 16-21	Area Playoffs	TBA
Oct. 23-27	Region III championships	TBA

\* - District 22-6A match

## Dobie High School

### Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 25	Clear Brook scrimm. (V)	7 p.m.
Sept. 2	at Summer Creek (Turner)	6 p.m.
Sept. 8	Clear Springs (V)	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Morton Ranch (V)	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Dawson (V)	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	*at Deer Park (Abshire)	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	*Memorial (V)	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	*at Sam Rayburn (V)	1 p.m.
Oct. 27	*South Houston (V) (HC)	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	*at Pasadena (V)	7 p.m.
Nov. 10	*La Porte (V) (SN)	7 p.m.

(V) at Veterans Stadium, Pasadena (HC) Homecoming (SN) Senior Night

## Brook High School

### Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 18	Texas City scrimm. (CC)	TBA
Aug. 25	at Dobie scrimm. (Veterans)	7 p.m.
Sept. 2	Bellaire (CC) (SN)	6 p.m.
Sept. 8	at La Porte (Bulldog)	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	at South Houston (V)	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	*Clear Falls (CC) (HC)	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	*Clear Creek (CC)	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	*at Friendswood (Winston)	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	*Clear Lake (Vet., L.C.)	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	*Clear Springs (CC)	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	*Alvin (Vet., L.C.)	7 p.m.
Nov. 10	*at Dickinson (Vitanza)	7 p.m.

(CC) at Challenger Stadium, Webster (HC) Homecoming (SN) Senior Night

# Nationals appearance caps Dobie bowling's memorable 2017 season

By Jay Do Leader staff

The Dobie High School bowling team finished their competition season this summer with a phenomenal performance at the United States High School Bowling National Championship.

Held June 24-25 in Smyrna, Tennessee, the national championship was hosted by the United States High School Bowling Foundation, a nonprofit organization that actively promotes the growth of high school bowling throughout the nation.

Taking the reins from former coach Sharon Howard earlier this summer, coach Steven Mullins led the team to the national competition with only a limited amount of time to work with them.

A 2005 Dobie graduate, Mullins enjoyed bowling as a child, but was unable to bowl for Dobie, as the school did not sponsor a team at the time.

As such, Mullins jumped at the opportunity to coach the bowling team and help provide students with an opportunity that he did not have.

"I actually came from a lot of the bowling programs that they are now involved in," said Mullins.

"When I was at Dobie, there was no bowling team. For me, it's paying it forward. It wasn't there for me, but these kids are involved in the same programs with a ton of the people that I was involved with when I was a kid, so it's cool to see them get the opportunity to succeed and to go to these national competitions and put themselves up against everyone else."

In order to qualify for a coveted spot to compete among the best teams in the nation, high school teams must first fulfill a number of requirements and advance through a series of preliminary competitions.

"They did great to even make it there, because the national competition is something that you have

to qualify for," said Mullins.

"The requirements for the tournament were that you go through your district, you do well enough at regionals to qualify for state, and you do well enough at state to advance to nationals."

The journey to nationals was a long one, filled with endless practice and tireless dedication. It's one that team captain Robert Lazo knows well.

"We went bowling two to three times a week leading up to the competition," said Lazo.

"Armadillo Lanes really helped us out and gave us a good price on our practice hours. That gave us a lot of stamina going into the competition."

This was just, as the team knew they would face considerable opposition from more well-prepared competitors at the national competition.

Advancing to the nationals for the second consecutive year, the team had earned itself a reputation and returned with a target on its back.

"This is our second year going, so a lot of the other teams knew who we were, and they wanted to beat us," said Lazo.

"While some of the other teams had three or four good bowlers, we came in with all eight well-prepared bowlers."

The fruits of their labor were worth it, as the boys team placed seventh in the nation.

Suffering the disadvantage of a smaller team, the Dobie girls team placed 23rd.

Considering the high level of the competition, Mullins could not be more pleased.

"The girls did not make the first cut, but they did really well, considering the fact that we did not have a full squad of girls competing," said Mullins.

"The boys team came out in full strength, and they made it through the first three cuts."

"To get some perspective on how high level this

competition is, the state champs from Illinois, Wisconsin and Texas did not even place in the top 24 teams.

"For the boys to get seventh is extremely fantastic, because the level of competition is insane."

The boys team also performed exceptionally in the singles round. Lazo, as well as Jose Hernandez and Noah Meija, all made it through the first three cuts.

Lazo and Hernandez placed 52nd and 124th, respectively, out of more than 300 individual bowlers before the night was over.

As the tournament continued late into the night, the game began to take its toll on the team.

"It got really tough for our players as the night went on," said Mullins.

"We were there until probably 12:30 at night, and for them to go through that many games, I know they had to have been exhausted by the end of it."

Meija had a particularly challenging evening, standing in third place after the first two rounds, only to be knocked down to 16th and eventually 28th place in the following rounds.

"It was sad, because I knew that I was going to go down after the third round," said Meija.

"It was certainly disappointing because I had made it so far, and it definitely hurt, but it was late and we were all getting pretty tired at that point."

The team's performance cemented Dobie's reputation as a force to be reckoned with among high school bowling teams. For Lazo, though, the experience in itself is something he will never forget.

"It's a very nerve-wrecking and a very emotional experience," said Lazo.

"To compete with so many people in a bowling alley who all love what they're doing is a very moving experience. It's definitely a once in a lifetime experience."

Lazo's advice for incoming bowling students reveals the simple secret to their success.

"They need to get close with their team," said Lazo.

"The big part of our success came from the chemistry that we all shared. The boys team, especially, was more like a family than it was a team."

"That's what sets us

apart from those other teams. We all know each other well, and we're always there for each other."

Moving forward, Mullins knows he has his work cut out for him in preparing a team to replace this outgoing one that will achieve a similar level of success, but he has a plan in order to do so.

"I think the hardest thing to combat is the fact

that the kids on this team are really good, and they have been for the past couple of years," said Mullins.

"I think part of the reason that they are so good is because of the culture that they've been surrounded by."

"A lot of these kids have been bowling since they were 5 or 6 years old, and they've been supported by their parents and

their family and friends. "The only way to repeat this success is to keep this culture up. These guys and girls don't get this good overnight."

"They get this good over a decade. The only way for them to get to that level is to have the support that the current bowlers have had."

"The best way for this program to continue to

improve is to support that growth and try to keep that culture of winning, while also keeping the family culture and the excitement that goes along with all of this."

For Mullins, the opportunity to coach the Dobie bowling team has been nothing short of rewarding.

"It's been great to see how consistent hard work and thoughtful effort can make you better, and that goes beyond just bowling,"

said Mullins. "To me, it's not about bowling, it's about the effort that they put into learning and understanding that to get growth, you have to put in practice."

"They've put in that time, they've worked consistently and they've done this the right way. To see that growth has just been absolutely fantastic. I can't be any prouder of these kids!"



Coming away with a seventh-place finish at the United States High School Bowling National Championship, Dobie's club bowling team wrapped up a spectacular season as a group, and several individuals also stood out. Meanwhile, the Lady Longhorns' team finished 23rd at the national competition. Members of

the Dobie varsity boys' bowling team are, left to right, (front row) coach Rudy Luna, Alexander Camargo, Jose Hernandez, Francisco Camargo, Robert Lazo, John Garcia, (back row) Nicolas Luna, Noah Meija, Nicolas Guerra and coach Steven Mullins.

## San Jacinto men's basketball scores team academic honor

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team was awarded a Team Academic Excellence Award by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

This is the fifth annual award created by the NABC Committee on Academics.

The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement by a team with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the 2016-2017 season.

The San Jac men's basketball team had a GPA of 3.06, which also earned

a National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic Team honorable mention.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and of the recognition because it shows that they can be outstanding ballplayers on the court and still take care of their business in the classroom," said San Jacinto College head coach Scott Gernander.

"Everyone involved understands they are held accountable and realizes all of the resources San Jac has to offer for them to become successful. They are

truly student-athletes."

The San Jac men's basketball team is one of five community colleges to earn this award out of 110 universities and colleges from across the nation.

The men's basketball team ended the 2016-2017 season with an overall record of 33-2.

The team made its 21st overall appearance at the NJCAA Division I Basketball National Championship, earned a Region XIV title, and had two of its players named to the NJCAA's All-American team.



The San Jacinto College softball coaching staff, led by head coach Kelly Saenz (above) was awarded the 2017 Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Earlier in the 2017 season, Saenz earned her 500th career victory.

## San Jacinto College softball lands staff of the year honor

The San Jacinto College softball coaching staff was recently awarded the 2017 Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The softball coaching staff is made up of head coach Kelly Saenz and assistant coaches Kelsey Walters and Selena Reyna.

"This is a prestigious honor for our coaches and for our college. Our coaches are dedicated and serious about their work with our athletes. They love the game and they care about our players," said Dr. Alalata Harris, San Jacinto College vice chancellor of strategic initiatives.

"The members of the coaching staff model discipline, hard work, high expectations, fair play, and solid performance for our players. They live those values, and I am so proud to see them recognized by their colleagues at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association."

Saenz this spring finished her 14th season at the helm of the San Jacinto College softball team.

Earlier this year, she celebrated her 500th career win.

Since being named head coach in 2004, her teams have won 61 percent of their games, earned two Region XIV titles, and made four National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament appearances.

Walters, a Pasadena Memorial High School graduate, this spring completed her fifth season as an assistant coach.

A former pitcher for San Jac, she broke several of the pitching records and held the record for most wins in a season and most innings pitched until 2017.

After graduating from San Jac, Walters played at McNeese State University, where she guided the Cowboys to a 69-56 record.

Reyna is in her second season as an assistant coach. She attended Ball State University, where she helped the Cardinals win back-to-back Mid-American Conference championship titles, their first National Collegiate Athletic Association regional game against the University of Notre Dame, and the Mid-American Tournament Championship.

The staff will be honored December 9 at the NFCA Coaching Staff of the Year Brunch at the NFCA National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The San Jacinto College softball team finished the season with a 42-21 record. San Jac's 42 wins this season mark the 10th time in school history with at least 40 wins.

The softball team was 2017 NJCAA Region XIV champions and made its fourth trip to the NJCAA Division I Softball National Championship.

# CALENDAR



### THURSDAY, JULY 20

**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.

**Noon 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.

**Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets the third Thursday, monthly, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Call 281-481-1238 for details.

**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, JULY 21

**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.

**Interfaith Care Partners** - ministry at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St., for those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, strokes, etc. and caretakers, meets on the third Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for continental breakfast, arts/crafts, exercises, entertainment, devotional break, lunch, and game. Family members or acquaintances are invited. For details, call the church at 713-946-5768 or visit [www.interfaithcarepartners.org](http://www.interfaithcarepartners.org).

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

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

**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, JULY 22**

**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, JULY 23**

**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.

**MONDAY, JULY 24**

**Vacation Bible School** - Join the adventure at Gulf Meadows Church for the Finding Jesus 2017 VBS, July 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Children will experience the adventures as they hear of Bible characters walk on water and cross the Red Sea and can draw closer to God in discovering the power of Jesus. The cost is \$45. Lunch is provided. Call the church at 713-987-9503 to sign up.

**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.

**Noon 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](http://www.hapsonline.org) for details.

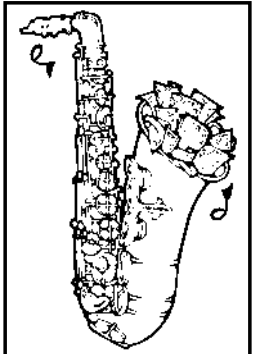
**Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. No meetings on holidays.

**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.oahouston.org](http://www.oahouston.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.

Continued on Page 4B



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**11555 Beamer 281-481-5656**

# CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

## MONDAY, JULY 24

**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.

## TUESDAY, JULY 25

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

9 a.m. - noon

**Vacation Bible School** - Join the adventure at Gulf Meadows Church for the Finding Jesus 2017 VBS, July 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Children will experience the adventures of a lifetime as they hear of Bible characters walk on water and cross the Red Sea and can draw closer to God in discovering the power of Jesus. The cost is \$45. Lunch is provided. Call the church at 713-987-9503 for more information and to sign up.

9:30 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

**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.

Noon

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

Noon

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

1:30 p.m.

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

2 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

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

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

7 a.m.

**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.

9 a.m. - noon

**Vacation Bible School** - Join the adventure at Gulf Meadows Church for the Finding Jesus 2017 VBS, July 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Children will experience the adventures of a lifetime as they hear of Bible characters walk on water and cross the Red Sea and can draw closer to God in discovering the power of Jesus. The cost is \$45. Lunch is provided. Call the church at 713-987-9503 for more information and to sign up.

9:30 a.m.

**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.

10 a.m.

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

Noon

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

1 p.m.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has free Hump Day Dance to

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

**StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter** - informational 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.

6:30 p.m.

**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.

7 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

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

## THURSDAY, JULY 27

9 a.m. - noon

**Vacation Bible School** - Join the adventure at Gulf Meadows Church for the Finding Jesus 2017 VBS, July 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Children will experience the adventures of a lifetime as they hear of Bible characters walk on water and cross the Red Sea and can draw closer to God in discovering the power of Jesus. The cost is \$45. Lunch is provided. Call the church at 713-987-9503 for more information and to sign up.

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10 a.m.

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

Noon

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

6 - 8 p.m.

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

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

6:30 p.m.

**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](mailto:houstonwellspouse@gmail.com) or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

7 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

**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.

To submit items for the **CALENDAR**

at the  
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# South Belt community celebrates July 4th holiday



Shown far left and left, people are getting ready for the Fourth of July fireworks display at El Franco Lee Park. Shown right, Precinct 2 Deputy Clint Brown played taps before the fireworks display at the park. When he began playing, the entire group of people at the park became silent. The Fourth of July fireworks display is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off event.

Photo submitted



## Pageant Queen enjoys fireworks



Miss American Coed Pageant Queen Miss Southwest Sweetheart Brooklynn Nichols had a blast and enjoyed the Fourth of July fireworks at El Franco Lee Park. Nichols will be in fifth grade this fall and attend Goudeau Accelerated Preparatory (GAP) Academy. She was born and raised here in the South Belt area. During the 2016-2017 school year, Nichols scored as high as the 12th grade level on her standardized test which includes math, word study skills and language, to name a few. Nichols enjoys competing in pageants and being a great role model for children. Her motto is "If you can believe, you can achieve!"

Photo by Michelle Martin

## JFD FFA ties for Most Original



The Dobie FFA and the Lariaettes tied for 1st place for Most Original non-commercial float in the annual July 4th Parade. Shown representing Dobie FFA, left to right, Samantha Carter, Jacqueline Mendoza, Elie Loredo and Wyatt Baxley.

Photo by Laura Benavides



Shown, Lorraine Swanson (back), Dean Baier's sister; seven-month-old Courtland Clark, daughter of Megan Clark; and Hector DeGomez, El Franco Lee Park manager.



David Flickinger (left) and Noah Abarca enjoy the festivities.

Photos submitted

## Alafa wins Most Patriotic



Highland Meadow resident Rudy Alafa won Most Patriotic noncommercial in the annual Fourth of July parade. Alafa's float featured the likes of J.J. Watt who saluted all servicemen and first responders.

Photo by Laura Benavides

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