

South Belt-Ellington Leader

40 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, August 18, 2016

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Vacation contest ending

The *Leader* is seeking readers' 2016 vacation photos for possible publication. A first- and second-place prize of Schlitterbahn tickets will be awarded monthly for the best submissions. Monthly first-place winner will receive eight tickets, second-place winner will be awarded six. All submissions should include where and when the photo was taken, as well as identify each person in the picture (first and last name) and tell the story about the trip. All photos must be high resolution. Email photos to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Do not compress photos when emailing. Photos must be submitted by Aug. 26.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, Aug. 22. Alternate exit and entrance ramps will be closed. At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Tuesday, Aug. 23. Alternate exit and entrance ramps will be closed. The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

Meet Moore teachers

Moore Elementary will hold its Meet the Teacher Night Thursday, Aug. 18, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Students can meet their new teachers and drop off school supplies. Class lists will be posted on the front windows by 4 p.m. that day. For information, call Moore secretary Silvia Luna at 713-740-0656.

Crohn's, Colitis group meets

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Bay Area Support Group will meet Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the State Farm Insurance office, 12941 Gulf Fwy., Suite 101. Patients and caregivers are invited to attend. Meetings are free.

BHI holds Bear Camp

Beverly Hills Intermediate will hold *Bear Camp* for seventh-grade students on Friday, Aug. 19, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The event will give students a chance to meet teachers, learn school traditions and purchase spirit items. A parent meeting will take place at 12:15 p.m. to discuss the school's dress code, tablet information and Beverly Hills classroom expectations.

Meet Burnett teachers

Burnett Elementary will host its Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, Aug. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. Parents and students are welcome to attend and bring their supplies.

Spaghetti fundraiser set

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a fundraising spaghetti dinner Friday, Aug. 26, in the St. Luke Catholic church social hall, 11011 Hall Road, from 5 to 7 p.m. Meals feature all-you-can-eat pasta covered with original KC 9201 sauce, two made-from-scratch Italian meatballs, garden salad with Italian dressing, French bread and iced tea or lemonade. The cost is \$7, eat in or take out. For children under 12, the cost is \$3 (one meatball), eat in only.

Blood drive

The St. Luke's Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive Sunday, Aug. 21, at the church's social hall from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Blood is needed every day for medical needs due to health and injuries. Everyone is welcome. For additional information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358 or John Urdiales at 713-991-1425.

St. Luke's registration set

St. Luke's church will continue registration for its Faith Formation sessions the weekend of Aug. 20 and 21 after all Masses. Parents are welcome to register their children preschool through high school in the education building. Faith Formation sessions will begin the week of Sept. 11. The next available time to register will be after Sept. 11. A special blessing to celebrate the beginning of the new school year will take place at Mass Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m.

Boykins holds golf tourney

On Monday, Sept. 12, Houston City Council member Dwight Boykins will host the third annual 'Swingin' for Seniors Golf Tournament' at Hermann Park Golf Course. The tournament raises money for the Senior Assistance Fund, which improves the quality of life for District D senior citizens by providing minor home repairs at zero cost. Visit www.seniorassistancefund.com/events.html or call 832-393-3001 to receive further registration details or to become a sponsor.

Sagebriar home catches fire



A house in the 10000 block of Sagebriar near Sabo Road caught fire Thursday, Aug. 11. The blaze was reported by a neighbor who said he heard two explosions at the home before seeing the flames. The homeowners were out of town on vacation at the time of the incident. The cause of the fire, which caused extensive damage to the rear of the home, was still under investigation at press time. No one was injured.

Photo by Jim Elder

County officials hold gun meeting

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and San Jacinto College South hosted a public meeting on the state's new open carry and campus carry gun laws Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Organized by Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado, the event featured presentations from Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan's office and Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson's office.

The open carry law, which went into effect at the beginning of this year, allows licensed handgun holders, who previously had to keep their firearms concealed, to now carry them openly in a hip or shoulder holster.

Despite previous concerns, Anderson said the new regulation hasn't been much of an issue for the state.

"With open carry, we were all a little nervous about it," Anderson said. "But it's been a non-event. I haven't seen one yet."

Minor offenders offered second chance

Harris County officials will host an event aimed at helping people resolve minor criminal offenses Saturday, Aug. 27, at Sagemont Church from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Organized by Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson, *Make It Right!* will give people with outstanding Class C warrants or other pending charges in Harris County precincts 2 and 8 a chance to clear them up without having to go to court or the fear of being arrested.

All offenses must be low-level, nonviolent misdemeanors. Traffic offenses and felonies will not be eligible for dismissal.

This sentiment was shared by Harris County Assistant District Attorney Justin Wood.

"It's been unremarkable," Wood said. "Most people concealed before, and they still conceal."

The state's new campus carry law, which allows those with concealed handgun licenses to carry their weapons on college and university campuses, took effect at public universities Aug. 1. The law will take effect on community college campuses the following year on Aug. 1, 2017. Private universities may opt out of the new law.

As law enforcement officials are adjusting to the new regulations, Delgado assured attendees that citizen safety was paramount.

"We're not sure, nor can we predict how these new laws will affect the community, but rest assured our priority is to keep people safe and follow the law," Delgado said.

See related photo on Page 2A.

Acceptable offenses include criminal mischief (less than \$100); criminal trespass; continuing obligation of a child now an adult; minor consuming, possessing alcohol; minor in possession of tobacco; parent contributing to a non-attendance; issuance of a bad check (though defendants still have to pay restitution); failure to ID; failure to appear; drug paraphernalia; public intoxication; disorderly conduct; and theft (of less than \$100).

The function will also feature a job fair and free legal resources.

For information, call 713-274-0490.

Swimming pools to close for season

Summer is coming to an end, and several local swimming pools are closing for the season.

The Sagemont and Beverly Hills swimming pools will close for the season after Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5. The pools will each be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on the holiday.

The Ashley Pointe, Riverstone Ranch and Highland Meadow pools will also close after Labor Day. Ashley Pointe pool hours are from 1 to 9 p.m.; Riverstone Ranch pool hours are from

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Highland Meadows pool hours are from 3 to 8 p.m.

The Clear Brook Meadows pool will remain open two weekends past Labor Day, closing Sunday, Sept. 18. Pool hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Sageglen pool will remain open weekends through the month of September, closing for the season Sunday, Sept. 25. Sageglen pool hours are noon to 9 p.m.

Boykins visits South Belt community

Houston City Council Member Dwight Boykins held a community meet and greet at Sagemont Community Center Wednesday, Aug. 17.

The council member spoke on a number of issues, ranging from trash can placement to the increase in area homelessness (see related story on this page).

Boykins said he intends to enforce city regulations that require trash cans to not be visible from the street. Several previous offenses reported by the Sagemont Civic Club were reportedly dropped due to a computer glitch.

While he expressed surprise over the area's growing homeless problem, Boykins said he also intends to enforce regulations that prohibit the practice.

Boykins noted the city does have programs in place to help the homeless, but the affected individuals often opt to not take advantage of the offered food and shelter.

The council member further noted the need to weigh the concern of the community affected by the homeless, not just the concern for the homeless themselves.

Area homeless cause concern

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale, will host a round-table discussion on the issue of local homelessness Tuesday, Aug. 23, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Speakers will include representatives from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz' office, the Houston Police Department and other city departments.

The South Belt community's homeless problem has gotten significantly worse in recent months. The *Leader* has received more complaints about the situation in the last two weeks than in the entire previous year.

While homeless people can be found spread throughout the area, the largest concentration of them can be found under the overpasses along Beltway 8, particularly at the Sabo/Hughes Road intersection.

Several of the individuals, some with pets, can regularly be seen panhandling at the intersection. Houston police reported that a homeless female, allegedly under the influence of the synthetic drug Kush and drinking a beer, walked right into traffic at the intersection Tuesday, Aug. 9, causing a vehicle to strike her. The female suffered minor injuries and was issued a citation.

A longtime Kirkmont resident reported to the *Leader* she was aggressively pressured by a homeless male with a dog at the Sabo intersection to go to the nearby store's ATM and withdraw money to feed the animal. A Houston police officer was witnessed removing the transient from the location following the report.

A second resident who spent her recent birthday picking up trash at the Sabo site reported finding multiple plastic bags full of feces.

"I wanted to give back to the community," the resident said. "It turns out I saw a little too much."

Despite the increase in the number of home-

less in the South Belt area, both city and county officials contend the overall number has sharply dropped in recent years.

Since 2012, the City of Houston has worked with more than 100 collaborative partners to house more than 7,000 homeless individuals, including 4,735 homeless veterans. Overall homelessness in the city has been reduced by nearly 57 percent during this period, officials said.

"Merely maintaining our momentum of reducing homelessness is not enough," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "It is not about managing homelessness, but solving it. Homelessness may be a complex, centuries-old issue, but I have no doubt that we will continue to achieve the long-term goal of effectively housing Houston's homeless. Our efforts in all these activities will continue to focus on long-term, data-driven solutions."

County officials have taken similar steps.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) provides services to the estimated 4,500 homeless individuals living in the unincorporated areas of Harris County. HOT works with a coalition of community based service providers to provide access to housing, medical care, substance abuse treatment and mental health care.

The HOT team was developed by Sheriff Ron Hickman in November 2015 with the financial assistance of the Harris County Sheriff's Office Foundation. Since its inception, the team has responded to 843 calls for service, made 729 contacts, transported 166 individuals to temporary housing and secured permanent housing for 63 individuals.

A meeting scheduled by the sheriff's office on Aug. 14 to discuss the homeless issue in the Clear Lake area was postponed due to inclement weather. See future editions of the *Leader* for a new date.

Hughes construction causes confusion

Ongoing construction on Hughes Road continues to anger many residents, who complain of frequent accidents and traffic congestion related to the construction.

Of particular concern is the intersection of Hughes and Beamer, where traffic confusion has caused numerous collisions in recent months.

A request from the *Leader* to the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department seeking the official number of automobile accidents that have taken place at the intersection since work began around six months ago took roughly six weeks to receive a questionable response.

According to PWE officials, only three accidents have been reported at the intersection since March: one on March 10, one on April 21 and one on June 8.

The *Leader*, however, has taken photos of at

least five accidents at the intersection in the last six months, and none of the dates match up with city records.

Further, multiple officers from the Houston Police Department and owners of businesses located at the intersection have told the *Leader* they estimate the number to be much higher - at least one per day, by all accounts.

Part of the city's 2015 Capital Improvement Plan, the project will reconstruct Hughes from Beltway 8 to Sagecanyon. The \$11.7 million project is designed to mitigate flooding in the vicinity of Hughes Road, as well as provide key upgrades such as water lines, sanitary sewers, new concrete pavement, sidewalks and curbs, street lighting, traffic control and new signage.

Despite all of the current issues, construction is reportedly on schedule and set to be complete by the end of the year.

Police seek bank robbery suspect

The FBI is seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect who threatened and robbed tellers at the First Convenience Bank located inside the Kroger grocery store at 11701 S. Sam Houston Parkway E. on Monday, Aug. 1.



According to investigators, the robber entered the bank around 11 a.m. and handed a teller a threatening note demanding cash. After receiving an undisclosed amount of money, the suspect left the area on foot and in an unknown direction.

No one was physically hurt during the robbery. No weapon was observed by witnesses.

The suspect is described as a black male, in his late 30s to 40s, standing approximately 6

feet tall and weighing around 180 pounds with a black mustache. He wore a beige fisherman style sun hat, sunglasses, a tan and green button-down shirt with a white undershirt, blue jeans and white tennis shoes.

Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of this bank robber. Anyone with information about this crime is urged to call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the FBI Houston Field Office at 713-693-5000. Crime Stoppers tips can be submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or by text message. Text TIP610 along with crime tip to CRIMES (274637) or visit www.crime-stoppers.org. Tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers through the Crime Stoppers of Houston app which can be downloaded at the app store for both iPhone and android devices. All tipsters remain anonymous.

Boykins visits Sagemont



Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins (second from right) held a public meeting at the Sagemont Community Center Wednesday, Aug. 17, to discuss local issues and resident concerns. Shown to the left with the council member are, left to right, Henry Sanchez and his wife Karen Sanchez, who serves as treasurer of the Sagemont Park Civic Club, and Kay Barbour, who serves as president of the Sagemont Civic Club.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Cepeda thanks San Jac for helping veterans

I want to personally like to say thank you for retaining the best counselors at the North and South campuses of San Jacinto College for helping us Veterans make the transition into the Civilian world. I can honestly say that I felt at ease and relaxed when the counselors were guiding me on the best courses to take and guide me on the best path to lead. We need more Counselors like this in the civilian world. I came into the North campus Veteran Center one day to register for the upcoming semester and even though a counselor (Melanie Neill) was very busy and had to push out a report, she stopped everything and helped me register for the next class. She has helped me many of times, but this was an instance where it just stood out.

The instructors too are just as vital. One memorable Professor was Gil Price at the North campus. He was in the Business Management Department mostly, but he was absolutely very helpful in guiding us students for what it is like in the real world in business with his personal experiences.

Thank you again for a wonderful staff at San Jacinto College. I truly appreciate each and every one of them.

The counselors that I would like to recognize are: Eugene Bernard from the South campus at the Veteran Center and Melanie Neill at the North campus.

I also would like to recognize Gil Price at the North campus.
Carlos A. Cepeda
Recent Graduate

Gary Waits: We dodged a Bullet!

If you are like me, I didn't know that community newspapers, like our very own *South Belt - Ellington Leader*, have been bought out by The Hearst Corporation.

I read about this in a front page *Leader* article dated Aug. 11, 2016. It was a relief to read the quote of Marie Flickinger, publisher, saying "I wouldn't have sold had they asked."

Marie is the *Leader*, and we are blessed to have her as our leader, who has regained her health, thanks to excellent medical care and all of those prayers that were sent up for her. This is a good reason to celebrate the continuation of our local newspaper and the health of its publisher. Many will remember her telling other power brokers, like Monsanto and Flood Control, that she is not selling. Over the years she was the news, not just one who reports it.

We don't want to have her voice muted by politicians and captains of industry. How many times have you seen a picture in the *Leader* that was taken by Marie Flickinger! She has always done what is needed, whether it is cub photographer or being a lobbyist for the South Belt. We are grateful for her and all that she does in our neighborhoods.

-Gary Waits
Publisher's note: I really appreciate your kind comments, but for that which we have accomplished, many get credit, our great staff, our advertisers and most important our readers and loyal supporters like you. Gary, you have always been there to support and get involved to make things better. Thanks to you and the many others who have made it possible for me to have had 40 years (so far) of fun and enjoyment with the paper. **-Marie Flickinger**

Pablo Castellano: Let's show love, unity together

We are a generation in the midst of many

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale. Thursday, Aug. 18, 4 p.m. Zootopia Craft and Movie (PG) Friday, Aug. 19, 4 p.m. Anime Club. Bleach (TV-14) Saturday, Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m. Preparing Your Garden to Plant Winter Vegetables. Tuesday, Aug. 23, 10:30 a.m. Start Your Construction Career. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2:30 p.m. - Internet Basics. Call the library to register. Wednesdays, Preschool Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, Toddler Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Classes are at 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui. For more information on these programs, phone the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for August 18 - 24 at the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint. Thursday, Aug. 18, 6 - 7:45 p.m., Adult Book Club - Not Your Mama's Book Club. Book selection this month is *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys. Saturday, Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m. - noon - Computación Básica (Spanish Computer Class) Wednesday, Aug. 24 - Adult Computer Classes 2 p.m. Computer Basics - Course covers the main parts of a computer. Common computer terminology is defined and features of different computers and types of productivity, communications, educational, and entertainment programs are explained. 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics - Course explains the purpose of the Internet, what is needed to connect to it and important terms. Students learn how to use web browsers and search engines. Students will be introduced to English vocabularies specifically to searching the Internet. 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint - Students learn basic functions of this program to create presentations, including adding graphics and multimedia. Students learn to identify the printing options for presentations.

Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday - noon to 8 p.m., Friday - 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no children's programs (Family Storytime, Storytime Craft, Baby/Toddler Storytime and Playgroup) in August. Programs will resume the week of Sept. 5. For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580.

Corrected home values announced

The Harris County Appraisal District corrected a number it had presented to the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief.

The average market value of a single family residence for 2015 was \$214,000, not the \$241,000 the district had reported at the May committee hearing.

"As chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief, I believe it is important to provide updated information to property owners," said Sen. Paul

Bettencourt (SD-7). "We discovered this discrepancy after the hearing, and I contacted new Harris County Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger to provide the correct number."

"We have always tried to promote transparency at the appraisal district and provide accurate information to all the residents and elected officials we serve," said Altinger.

The average market value of a single family residence for 2014 was \$187,179 according to HCAD records, and the average market value of a single family residence

for 2013 was \$162,728.

"Over a three-year period, these numbers show home values rose 32 percent, which is what I had estimated at the time of the hearing," Bettencourt said. "This represents a significant increase, and that is why we are studying the property tax process and appraisal system to develop options to reduce the tax burden on property owners." The Harris County Appraisal District today corrected a number it had presented to the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief.

Auction recovers lost revenue

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan is working to reclaim lost revenue for Harris County residents.

Thousands of properties sit vacant throughout the county, creating unsafe conditions and lowering property values.

Many property owners are delinquent, and for years they failed to meet their tax obligations. With help from the county's delinquent tax attorneys, Lineberger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, drastic improvements are made to eyesore properties across Harris County.

"Delinquent property taxes unfairly burden the taxpayers of Harris County, and we

Singles dance set

The Bay Area Singles Club Monthly Dance is Aug. 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. at VFW Lodge, 5204 Highway 3, Dickinson, Post 6378. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. For more info call 409-948-1156 or 281-337-3112.

need to recover every dollar possible," said Sullivan. Each month, the county holds a tax sale. The goal is to collect delinquent taxes and put neglected properties into the hands of new owners.

For the month of August 2016, a total of 351 properties were posted for sale. Sullivan successfully reclaimed \$3,216,074 for the citizens of Harris County.

To date for the year of 2016, the office has reclaimed \$23,034,282 from the monthly tax sale. To learn more, visit www.hctax.net.

For questions, call 713-274-8000.

Ryan, PISD board members visit



The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and San Jacinto College South hosted a public meeting on the state's new open carry and campus carry laws Tuesday, Aug. 9. Organized by Judge Jo Ann Delgado, the event featured presentations from the office of Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan (center) and Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson (not shown). Shown above at the event with Ryan are Pasadena Independent School District board members Jack Bailey (left) and Fred Roberts. See related story on Page 1A.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Bell speaks on importance of calling 811 before digging

Texans are being reminded today of the importance of calling 811 before doing any digging around homes or in neighborhoods.

Texas state law requires every citizen who plans to dig, contractors and the general public alike, to call and have any buried lines marked before beginning any excavation.

What Texans do not know is that when operators of buried lines fail to mark as required by law, and their underground facilities are damaged, services and businesses are disrupted. The operators of the underground facilities will then sue the excavator.

Because Texas law does not have any provision holding operators of buried lines who fail to mark the location of their utilities accountable, contractor insurance companies are forced to settle these cases.

This provides noncompliant operators with both economic benefit and potential enrichment - even when the excavators have complied, and the operators have violated the law.

The result of operator noncompliance is raising insurance costs for contractors and creating loss of reliable utilities, such as telephone lines and fiber optic Internet, on which Texans depend.

During the 84th Legislature, Representative Cecil Bell Jr. offered legislation to create parity and stop frivolous lawsuits. HB 2535 would have clarified that an excavator who has fully complied with Chapter 251 of the Utilities Code by calling 811 "shall not be liable for damage of unmarked underground facilities and lines." Further, HB 2535 would have changed the law so that an operator who fails to comply may be liable for damages to its facilities and for damages incurred by the excavator as a result of the failure to mark.

"As a contractor whose self-employed experience in the industry spans more than 30 years, I have first-hand knowledge of this statute, of the industry and its practices," said Representative Bell. "Because there are no operator penalties for failure to comply, the frequency of lawsuits being filed against homeowners, small businesses, counties, and contractors is steadily increasing year after year. I support 811 and protecting buried utilities. Operator compliance is essential to protecting buried utilities in Texas. It is my intention to re-file this important legislation in January,

protecting Texans who comply with the law from being

sued by those entities who do not comply with the law."

Moore welcomes new teachers



Moore Elementary recently welcomed three new members to its staff. Shown above are, left to right, first grade teacher Liana Luna, success teacher Patricia Valdez and dyslexia and intervention teacher Gerri Watkins. Photo submitted

Club seeks members

The Frey Garden Club-South Belt Area chapter is seeking members. Affiliated with the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, Texas Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, the group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month between September and May.

Meeting locations vary each month. For information, contact Christa Kaiser at 281-481-6160 or kkaiser@sprynet.com.

Band seeks musicians

A community band is seeking musicians to join the group of music loving folks with a wide variety of skills and talent. Membership ranges in age from high schoolers to senior citizens.

Rehearsal meetings are held Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Pearlard's Robert Turner High School. For information, contact Bobby Wren at 832-654-0906 or email bobbywren@hotmail.com.

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RE/MAX
Inner Loop

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Pasadena ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, August 30, 2016 in 1515 Cherry Brook, Pasadena, Texas 77502. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.0700/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.2800/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	4.61 % increase
Debt Service	-1.22 % decrease
Total expenditures	4.05 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$15,088,698,648	\$16,028,147,751
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$176,105,394	\$236,981,709
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$11,813,468,515	\$12,548,995,989
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$137,879,056	\$185,541,247

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$703,890,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.0700	\$0.2800*	\$1.3500	\$2,997	\$6,227
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.0878	\$0.2812*	\$1.3690	\$3,006	\$6,131
Proposed Rate	\$1.0700	\$0.2800*	\$1.3500	\$3,011	\$6,011

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$107,667	\$119,532
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$75,323	\$83,460
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.3500	\$1.3500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,016.86	\$1,126.71
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$109.85

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.3500. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.3500.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$59,500,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$40,500,000

South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Howard pres-elect of state association



Candy Howard

Candy Howard, principal at South Belt Elementary, will serve as Region 4 president-elect for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA).
 "I am very proud to represent Pasadena ISD principals in my role on the board, and hope to share our concerns and ideas with others in the organization," Howard said.
 "Together we can make our collective Pasadena ISD voice be heard on both the regional and state level."
 Howard was also recognized as Pasadena ISD's Elementary Principal of the Year for 2016.
 Howard has dedicated 32 years of service to the Pasadena ISD, starting her career at Kruse Elementary from 1984 to 1997. Howard then rose to a leadership position at Jensen Elementary first as assistant prin-

cipal and then principal from 1997 to 2000. In 2009, Howard was named principal of South Belt Elementary where she continues to inspire students and staff.
 Officers from the 20 TEPSA regions across the state were installed at the association's summer leadership conference.
 "TEPSA's regional officers play a vital role in building leadership capacity and supporting association members at the local level," said Harley Eckhart TEPSA executive director.
 TEPSA, whose hallmark is educational leaders learning with and from each other, has served Texas school leaders since 1917.
 Member-owned and member-governed, TEPSA has more than 5,900 members who direct the activities of 3 million Pre-K through eighth grade children.

Dobie bowlers compete in nationals



Members of the J. Frank Dobie High School Bowling Team recently competed in the U.S. High School Bowling National Championship in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Both teams represented the state of Texas well, with the boys team finishing fourth in the competition. Competing team members shown above are, left to right, (front row) Jose Hernandez, (middle row) Clarissa Castillo, Shelby Henderer, Monica Zabala, (back row) Robert Lazo, Daniel Harder, Kaylynn Garcia, Nyomi Carrington, Chelsey Keener, Shannon Howards, Brandon Harder and Nicholas Guerra. Photo submitted

PW library hosts construction programs on careers, NCCER test

Parker Williams Branch Library, at the intersection of Beamer Road and Scarsdale Blvd., hosts two upcoming events for job-seekers in construction industries.
 On Tuesday, Aug. 23, the library will host a program entitled "Jump-Start your Career in Construction Crafts." Participants can find out more about the demand for pipefitters, welders, industrial electricians, boilermakers and other construction craft areas; learn how to communicate their skills; and learn about a networking resource linking job-seekers with companies and training. Speakers include representatives of Workforce Solutions, Globalwide Talent recruiting, and SteelToePro, an industry-sponsored website linking job-seekers with companies and training. This free program begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m.
 The library also will host free math tutorials for employees with experience in construction industries and who are planning to take the test for NCCER (National

Center for Construction Education and Research) certification. The tutorials take place on Saturday, Aug. 27 between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
 Register for either event by calling 281-484-2036.

The programs are part of a grant the library received from the Institute of Museum and Library Science and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to purchase NCCER trainee guides comprising 15 different construction craft areas. NCCER certification is widely recognized in construction industries and enables employees to achieve journey-level status in their field.

Carter assumes USCGC Legare



Coast Guard Commander Jonathan Carter

Carter assumes command

Coast Guard Commander Jonathan Carter, a 1995 Dobie graduate, assumed command of the USCGC Legare in a change of command ceremony on July 12 in Portsmouth, Va. Carter, who received his commission in 2000 after graduating from Sam Houston State, relieved Commander Todd Vance, the Legare's skipper the past two years.
 The Legare is a 270-foot medium endurance cutter with a crew of 110. The ship's mission focuses on drug and migrant interdiction in the Atlantic, Caribbean

and Eastern Pacific. Presiding over the ceremony, held on the deck of the Legare, was Vice Adm. William "Dean" Lee, the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area commander. The change of command ceremony was the last for Lee, who is retiring after 35 years in the Coast Guard.
 Carter takes command of the Legare after a two-year assignment at the Pentagon as a Politico-Military Affairs officer with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He previously served as commanding officer of the USCGC Aquidneck during operations in the Arabian Gulf

and territorial waters of Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
 From 2007 to 2009, Carter served on the staff of the President's Emergency Operations Center at the White House. He was the first Coast Guardsman ever named to that position.
 He also served as executive officer on two other Coast Guard cutters, the Key Biscayne and the Tampa. Carter and his wife, the former Amy Michalczak, have three children: Alison, Katelynn and Matthew.



Coast Guard Commander Jonathan Carter (right) joins Vice Adm. William "Dean" Lee (center) and Commander Todd Vance in a change of command salute marking the command handover of the USCGC Legare on July 12 in Portsmouth, Va. Lee, the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area commander, presided over the ceremony. Vance has served as captain of the Legare for the past two years. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Leake.

CCISD welcomes Davila, new Director of Parent Assistance

The Clear Creek Independent School District recognizes that parents and guardians are seeking only the best when it comes to



Tony Davila

district-level contact for parents, and will have direct access to district administrators to address these campus-based issues in an efficient manner. This will allow appropriate staff to stay focused on teaching and learning.
 "I look forward to serving the community of Clear Creek ISD and establishing positive relationships with school personnel, parents, and community members," said Davila. "This district is at the forefront of so many parent engagement initiatives and I hope to add to the tremendous talent pool that exists here, all of whom are working to do what's best for our children."
 Davila brings a varied background in fostering positive and productive relationships with parents

and other stakeholders in the public education system. From his start as a middle school math teacher and then assistant principal in Alvin ISD, to his most recent position working with parents and staff as a behavior specialist for Pasadena ISD, his long list of achievements contribute to a solid understanding into the inner workings of a school district. He also has experience as a positive behavior interventionist and support coach, a district youth mental health trainer and a district-wide social emotional trainer.
 It is important for parents and guardians to abide by the CCISD School Board Policy which requires them to address each issue or concern at the campus level first. The Parent Assistance Center and its director can assist as a neutral party to assure student and/or parent concerns are fully considered if they are not resolved at the campus level. As a rule, neither the director of parent assistance nor the superintendent substitutes their judgment for that of the building principal for campus level decisions within his or her authority.
 Clear Creek ISD continues to strive toward achieving one of its key strategies of 'ensuring mutual understanding and support through effective communication' through the appointment of Davila and the addition of the Parent Assistance Center. For more information on the Parent Assistance Center, visit www.ccisd.net/departments/parentassistance or call 281-284-0000.

Kids star in UT training video



Going for a nature walk around campus are Harumy Jimenez-Reyes, San Jacinto College North Children's Center toddler classroom teacher, and young students of the children's center, including, left to right, Dhamoni McGrue, Rowan Bell, Christian Herrera, Cole Diosdado, Annabelle Echols and Dakota Chenier. At right, Nirmin Elbjairmi, instructional developer for the Children's Learning Institute at UTHealth, gathers video footage of the group to be used for education courses and training at the university. Photo by Rob Vanya

UT takes training video at San Jacinto College children's center

Representatives from a major university recently visited the San Jacinto College North Children's Center to take video footage that will be used for education courses and training in the university's child development program.
 Representatives from the University of Texas Children's Learning Institute toured the SJC North Children's Center, and then filmed staff members as they performed various duties of providing care for young children. The San Jacinto College facility is a lab school that supports learning for young children and models best practices in early childhood development. The facility is affiliated with associate degree and certificate programs, licensed through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
 "We are very happy with the classroom activities we captured on video," commented Jasmine Wiggins, Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) special projects coordinator. "We truly appreciate the San Jacinto College teachers' commitment to creating high-quality learning experiences for the children in their classrooms."
 Wiggins said the UTHealth Children's Learning Institute regularly develops resources for early childhood teachers to use in the classroom. "Many of our resources include authentic video of teachers working with children in the classroom, showcasing teachers' instructional practices and classroom arrangement," she said. "We are currently developing new educational and outreach materials for early childhood teachers. We are very selective when choosing locations for classroom filming, since we are hoping

to capture high quality teacher-child interactions. SJC North Children's Center was selected because of the quality of the program, its teachers and their teaching practices."
 Bethany Stansell, North campus child development lab school director, said it was a "distinct honor and privilege" to be selected by the UTHealth Children's Learning Institute for the video project. "I am super proud of the SJC North Children's Center team and their collective and ongoing efforts to provide high quality child care in an industry that typically under-values them," she commented. "We work tirelessly to adapt our approaches and strategies to positively promote the importance of early childhood education and the work we do with our children, families and students each day. The opportunity to be recognized by the Children's Learning Institute, who helps drive change in early childhood across our nation and state, is confirmation of our combined efforts each day and we are excited to have been selected."
 The Center serves as a training ground for San Jacinto College students that provides a real life view of children and how they learn. Students can apply the theories learned in class through observations and hands-on experiences. Additionally, the Center offers child care services for San Jacinto College students, employees and community members who want a quality child development program for their children. "San Jacinto College child development students have opportunities to study and observe in an environment with ongoing teaching that reflects best practices based on current research in early childhood education," commented Caresal Bolts, North campus child development program director. "At the children's center, students put into practice

many of the concepts and strategies they learn and discuss in early childhood classes. By observing and working with experienced early childhood professionals, students are better prepared for careers in early childhood and have the ability to positively impact the lives of children and families."
 As living proof, San Jacinto College graduate Tamara Hicks puts training she received at the children's center to good use every day as a child care professional. Hicks earned an early childhood development associate degree from San Jacinto College in 2011 and now works at the SJC North Children's Center as a lead infant II teacher (10 to 20 months old). She is also pursuing a bachelor's degree from Ashford University.
 Hicks said the UTHealth Children's Learning Institute made a wise decision by selecting the SJC North Children's Center as a site for student training videos. "We take pride in our work and have the best interest of every child at heart," she said. "We use our skills and training to provide and model quality child care on a daily basis. We ensure that our children are in a safe, loving, nurturing and engaging environment. We not only work in child care, child care is our work and our passion."
 Hicks chose child development as a career because of her love of working with young children. "I love to witness the children's 'aha' moments," she commented. "I enjoy being a part of creating a foundation of learning for each child I serve."
 San Jacinto College operates children's centers that also serve as educational training facilities for child development students at the North and Central campuses. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/center/child-development/early-childhood-studies.



Danielle Knight (Percy Talbot), Juliet Barron (Shelby Thorpe), and Carla Guidry (Hannah Ferguson) celebrate good fortune in *The Spitfire Grill* presented by Pasadena Little Theatre. Photo submitted

PLT presents Spitfire Grill

Pasadena Little Theatre, Houston's oldest community theater in continuous operation, continues its 62nd season, the Something To Talk About season, with *The Spitfire Grill* by James Valcq and Fred Alley. Based on the 1996 film by Lee David Zlotoff, this play won the Richard Rodgers Production Award, by The American Academy of Arts and Letters.
 Percy Talbot, a young woman released from prison, is looking to make a fresh start. Based on an old travel brochure that once adorned

her jail cell, she chooses the rural town of Gilead, Wisconsin. The local sheriff finds a place for her to work at Hannah's *Spitfire Grill* where the town "welcomes" her with suspicion and distrust and she finds that the town itself is in despair. Through an unusual contest, friendships are formed and hope grows, transforming the futures of the characters as they learn to trust one another.
 PLT's presentation of *The Spitfire Grill* features as director well known actor and director, Craig Trauschke

with musical direction by Crystal Elise Mata along with an outstanding cast.
 This production opens on Aug. 26 and continues weekends through Sept. 11. Friday and Saturday show times are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. There is one Thursday show at 8 p.m., Sept. 8. This is PLT's special Two-Can-Attend for \$20 night. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. For more information call 713-941-1758, or log onto www.pasadenalittletheatre.org.

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Lozano graduates



Jacob Andrew Lozano, a 2012 Dobie graduate, attended and graduated from Texas A&M University, College Station, with a mechanical engineering degree on May 12, 2016. During his four years at Texas A&M, Lozano worked two internships with Proctor & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. Last summer, he had an internship with General Electric Oil and Gas in Houston. In August 2015, he accepted an offer for full-time employment upon graduation with GE's Edison Engineering Development Program, which requires a two-year rotation, moving to a different state every six months while exploring four divisions within the company. Lozano is currently at GE's Nuclear Plant in Wilmington, N.C. He will enter graduate school at North Carolina State University in the fall pursuing a master's in mechanical engineering. His parents are Jimmy and Cynthia Lozano of Kirkmont.

Bay Area Quilt Guild to meet

The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church located at 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship begins at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting and program begins at 7 p.m. The September guest speaker is award-winning quilter M.J. Fielek and her program is *Bucket List Quilts*. Fielek discusses what is available so the quilts are easy to make. These are the items that many quilters want to make, but are afraid to try.

Fielek will also conduct a workshop the following day Wednesday, Sept. 7, on binding, including picking the right color, making a perfect corner, two-color binding, binding with flange, and other techniques. The cost of the workshop is \$40, and pre-registration is required. Guests are welcome. To register for the workshop or for more information on either event, call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757, or visit the website bayareaquiltguild.org.

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HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY, CASSANDRA
Special birthday wishes are sent to **Cassandra Lazo** Aug. 18 from dad and mom **Jose and Grace Lazo**, and grandparents **Luis and Teresa Macias**, who say, "We love you!" Family and friends also send best wishes.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY ELLEN
Birthday wishes are sent to **Mary Ellen Morgan** Aug. 23 from her husband, **Larry**, son **Tommy**, daughter **Elizabeth Echols**, son-in-law **Tim Echols**, grandson **Justin Echols** and the *Leader* staff.

CHIEKO CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Greetings are sent to **Chieko Webb**, who enjoys a birthday Wednesday, Aug. 24, from husband **Ken**, **Teresa Webb** and friends at the *Leader*.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY, REBECCA
Belated birthday wishes are sent to Director of Physician Resources at Memorial Hermann Southeast, South Belt Chamber board member and active community member **Rebecca Lilley**, who celebrated a birthday Aug. 11, from friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District enjoy birthdays Aug. 18 through Aug. 24.

Burnett Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Melisa Evans** Aug. 18. Share a slice of birthday cake with **Romona Dawson** Aug. 22.

Bush Elementary
Light the birthday candles for **Blanka Padilla** Aug. 20. Aug. 22 is the day for a celebration for **Agatha Candappa**.

Meador Elementary
Marking a birthday Aug. 19 is **Chantay Hill**. Blow out the birthday candles Aug. 20 for **Kristin McDonald**. Marking a birthday Aug. 24 is **Kim Cowan**.

Moore Elementary
Enjoy a slice of birthday cake with **Patti Parker** Aug. 23.

South Belt Elementary
Amanda Cheney is sent a birthday greeting Aug. 23.

Stuchbery Elementary
Aug. 21 is the day for a birthday party for **Cory Klein**. **Tracy Duron** is wished a happy birthday Aug. 20.

Meilillo Middle School
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 18 to **Valerie Espinosa**. On Aug. 21, happy birthday greetings are sent to **Jewell Deleon**. Enjoying a birthday Aug. 22 is **Maria Diaz**. Light the birthday candles for **Anabel Camaliche** Aug. 23.

Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a birthday Aug. 19 is **Joe Pena**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Blow out the birthday candles for **Jamy Smith** Aug. 18. Enjoying a birthday Aug. 23 is **Ellen Murphy**.

Thompson Intermediate
Erica Carroll celebrates a birthday Aug.

19. On Aug. 21, blow out the birthday candles for **Sophia Medrano**. The day for a cake for **Bertha Izaguirre** is Aug. 22.

Dobie High
The day for a party for **Cindy Mutz** is Aug. 21. Birthday greetings are sent to **Roland Deyon** and **Corbin Govers** Aug. 22. **Kathleen Boyd** celebrates a birthday Aug. 24.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS ENJOY BIRTHDAYS
The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Thursday, Aug. 18: **Marty Gomez**, **Cathy Shipley**, **Shametta Benson**, **Corina Lopez**, **Jo Anne Muse**, **Vita Bernal**, **Annette Barrientos** and **Chris Cook**; Friday, Aug. 19: **Robert Mireles**, **Nathan Nguyen**, **Pamela Walters**, **Jody Urschel-Oun**, **Shandy Lecourias**, **Pamela McDonald** and **Derrick Pyper**; Saturday, Aug. 20: **Rachel McClure**, **Claire Speck**, **Kaysie Fojt Roach**, **Raymond Jackson** and **Todd Nathans**; Sunday, Aug. 21: **John Linares**, **Kip Ledgerwood**, **Gabrielle Loya**, **Brandi Washer** and **Leticia Gonzalez**; Monday, Aug. 22: **Pat Gonzales**, **Monica Castro**, **Kassi Richardson**, **Mylie Alaniz-Sosa**, **Herman Garcia**, **Chrystal Sulak**, **Janie Chapa**, **Sonia Shearow-Parson** and **Bill Edwards**; Tuesday, Aug. 23: **Viv Castillo**, **Mary Miller**, **Jim Kunkel**, **Carl Stonecipher**, **Lardo Crocker**, **Shelly Rivera**, **Mary Morgan**, **Trey Smith**, **Mary Wessfall** and **Patti Parker**; and Wednesday, Aug. 24: **Linelle Taylor**, **Saul Correa**, **Mike Justice**, **Sammy Mejia**, **Yessica Musquiz**, **Alyssa Keller** and **Amber Burda**.

Council Member Martin seeks Super Bowl volunteers

Council Member Dave Martin is excited to announce a one-of-a-kind Super Bowl fan experience is coming to City of Houston District E. The Houston Super Bowl Host Committee is inviting everyone to celebrate the start of football season and the beginning of the road to Super Bowl LI by visiting its Touchdown Tour, the first of its football-themed events this fall.

The Touchdown Tour will feature interactive games, a Houston Texans mobile locker room, giveaways, music and more. Food and beverages, including beer, will be available for purchase. "The Houston Super Bowl Host Committee is committed to giving everyone an unparalleled Super Bowl experience," Sallie Sargent, the President and CEO of the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee, said. "We want to bring the excitement of Super Bowl LI into the community so everyone is able to have a great Super Bowl experience."

The Touchdown Tour's kickoff event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 27 in the parking lot of the nonprofit science and space learning center, Space Center Houston. Retired astronaut Scott Kelly, who recently returned from a year in space, will return the NFL football that spent five months alongside him in the International Space Station to the Host Committee in a special 10:30 a.m. ceremony. While entry to the Touchdown Tour is free, the normal \$6 charge for on-site parking at Space Center Houston will be in place.

"We are excited to partner with the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee to help kick off its Touchdown Tour," said Space Center Houston President and CEO William T. Harris. "And what better place in Space City to hold it than at Space Center Houston!"

In addition to football-themed activities, guests will be able to enjoy unique

experiences from both NASA and Space Center Houston at the Aug. 27 Touchdown Tour, such as the Driven to Explore multi-media mobile exhibit and a display of the Orion capsule, NASA's new and most-advanced spacecraft.

Space Center Houston will host the free Space Robotics Field in which visitors will go through robot training camp, plan their strategy on the practice field and then compete in a Space Robotics Challenge football game, all while learning about innovative robotics. The Center will also feature retired astronaut Clay Anderson in a book signing from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Additionally, visitors with a ticket to enter Space Center Houston will find a day of special activities inside, including pop-up science labs, four panels of astronauts, and other space experts speaking about the shuttle program, commercial spaceflight, deep-space exploration and space station science.

Additionally, tickets are available to have a special lunch with an Astronaut and also experience other activities at the Center. Council Member Martin looks forward to sharing this wonderful event with District E residents, tourists, and the surrounding communities.

For more information or to volunteer, visit the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee's website and follow the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram; contact Kevin Cooper, Host Committee, 713-816-1482, or kcooper@houstonbowl.com; or Meredith Moore, Space Center Houston, 281-244-2139, or mmoore@spacecenter.org.

Those wanting information may also contact the District E office at 832-393-3008 or districte@houstontx.gov.

Club seeks members

The Frey Garden Club-South Belt Area chapter is seeking members. Affiliated with Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, Texas Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, the group meets monthly at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month between September and May. Meeting locations vary monthly. For information, contact Christa Kaiser at 281-481-6160 or ckaiser@sprynet.com.

Band seeks musicians

A community band is seeking musicians to join a group of music loving folks with a wide variety of talent. Membership ranges in age from high schoolers to senior citizens. Rehearsal meetings are Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Pearl and's Robert Turner High School. For information, contact Bobby Wren at 832-654-0906 or email bobbywren@hotmail.com.

Ground official broken for Dobie 9th-grade center



The Pasadena Independent School District officially broke ground on the new Dobie ninth-grade center Tuesday, Aug. 9 at the corner of Fuqua and Monroe. The campus will alleviate overcrowding at the Dobie high school. The campus is set to open next August for the 2017-2018 school year. From left to right, Marie Flickinger, publisher, *South Belt-Ellington Leader*; Emory Gadd, associate pastor of Sagemont Church; Alyta Harrell, associate superintendent of campus development for Pasadena Independent School District; DeeAnn Powell, superintendent of PISD; Kenny Fernandez, South Belt resident and PISD board member; Jack Bailey, PISD board member; Nelda Sullivan, president PISD board; Mariselle Quijano, PISD board; Franklin Moses, J. Frank Dobie High School principal; Marshall Kendrick, PISD board member; Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Justice of the Peace; and Kirk Lewis, former PISD superintendent.

Photo by Reesha Brown

Remember When

40 years ago (1976)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to 92 calls during the first six months of the year and sought additional members to fill day- and night-time shifts. Julia Garza of Kirkwood won a Tiffany & Co. bracelet through Crutchfield Carpet Co.

35 years ago (1981)
Across-the-board school lunch price increases were approved by trustees of the Pasadena Independent School District. Elementary school prices were raised from 95 cents to \$1, intermediate from \$1.05 to \$1.15, and high school from \$1.15 to \$1.25. Dick Kabal of the Texas Highway Department told members of the South Belt Community Improvement Association that the contract for completion of the South Belt from Fairmont Parkway to Beamer Road could be awarded in the first or second quarter of 1982 if no major right-of-way acquisitions or utility problems arose.

30 years ago (1986)
Frank Braden, principal of Dobie High School, was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Pasadena Independent School District. The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the 1986-87 school year budget of \$98,734,416 at a special called meeting.

25 years ago (1991)
Members of Homes Environment and Lives in Peril discovered documents indicating a toxic waste pit was once located in the old United Sports Association property and possibly in Southbend. King of Glory Lutheran Church extended a letter of call to Cynthia Annette Vold Forde to serve as its new pastor.

20 years ago (1996)
The former Dan Boone Chevrolet on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua was scheduled to be torn down to make room for AutoNation. Five families chipped in approximately \$36 each to get a street light on Dumas Street in Gulf Palms. Ninety-five residents of ZIP code 77089 had a total of \$32,333.45 in funds overpaid to the state of Texas just waiting to be claimed. The Pasadena Independent School District was one of only two districts with an enrollment of more than 30,000 to be named a recognized district for the fourth consecutive year, in a report released by the Texas Education Agency.

10 years ago (2006)
The ninth annual Evening of Cuisine, a fundraiser for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, was planned. Precinct 2 deputy constables reported burglaries of two businesses as well as arrests for family violence and evading. Houston Police began investigating the shooting death of Larry Savala, 26, who was killed outside the Club Rumba on the Gulf Freeway service road at Kingspoint. CCISD insurance premiums increased 300 percent to \$3.9 million. The district, however, gained \$2.7 million from Texas House Bill 1. In addition, the district planned to implement its Project Excel program during the 2006-2007 school year.

5 years ago (2011)
Due to persistent drought conditions and decreasing water levels in Lake Houston, Mayor Annise Parker said that the city was en-

acting its mandatory Stage 2 water conservation plan. The measure required residents to water lawns at night or early morning, and no more often than twice a week. To further conserve water, the mayor asked residents to refrain from washing their vehicles or filling swimming pools and to limit showers to five minutes, turn off water while brushing teeth and wash only full loads of clothes and dishes.

1 year ago (2015)
The San Jacinto College Board of Trustees unanimously voted to call for a \$425 million bond referendum in the Nov. 2015 election. The funds would provide workforce training, make renovations and improve infrastructure. Nine buildings were renovated — most of which were more than 30 years old. The measure easily passed, with 68 percent voting in favor of it.

Stuchbery has Facebook page

Stuchbery Elementary recently launched its official Facebook page. To see the page, visit www.facebook.com, then search for "Stuchbery Elementary School."

San Jac College briefs

Fall 2016 classes begin
San Jacinto College fall 2016 classes begin on Monday, Aug. 22. All first semester, first 12-week, eight-week, six-week, five-week and four-week classes begin.

Payment is due on the day of registration. For more information, visit sanjac.edu.

Take 2 Enrollment
If students miss the start of classes on Aug. 22, they can still enroll in Take 2 classes that begin Sept. 6. Visit sanjac.edu/steps-enroll for information on how to enroll.

San Jacinto College campus bookstore hours
All San Jacinto College campus bookstores will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 19; and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 20. For additional operation hours and information, visit sanjac.edu/student-services/student-success-facilities/bookstores.

North Campus Premier Day
The San Jacinto College North campus will host its annual fall Premier Day for new students on Friday, Aug. 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the student center Monument Room (N12.200). Students will learn about college resources, hear from college faculty and staff and engage in fun activities throughout the day.

Volleyball vs. Temple College
The San Jacinto College volleyball team will face Temple College on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 5 p.m. All volleyball games are played at the Central Campus in Anders Gymnasium (building 18) and are free and open to the public.

University of Houston transfer recruiting visit
Transfer recruiters from the University of Houston will be at the San Jacinto College North campus beginning at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24 in lobby of building 9. For more information contact Zina Gross at zina.gross@sjcd.edu.

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For more information, go to www.stlukesatholic.com and look for the Early Childhood Center link or you can contact the ECC Office directly at (281) 741-7497 or eccoffice@stlukesatholic.com

Wilson grateful for Nweke's continued support

Raven Wilson, one of J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Maureen Nweke, an instructor of Pre-AP Biology.

Both were honored at the annual Pasadena Independent School District Shining Stars Gala, which recognizes the top students from each high school and their favorite teachers.

Wilson has volunteered with the Madge Bush Transitional Living Center, having donated and delivered food for Thanksgiving. Wilson has been involved in a number of extracurricular activities, including the varsity choir, TMEA

All-Region Choir, Spanish National Honor Society, Key Club, Health Occupations Students of America and various theater productions. She has enjoyed the leadership position of vice president of the choir. Wilson plans to attend a university and major in psychology. She aims to obtain a PhD in clinical psychology and eventually own her own practice geared towards youth and young adults. She also hopes to become more fluent in Spanish, in which she hopes to minor.

Regarding her teacher, Wilson said, "I believe that there are people in life who are imperceptibly capable of influencing you to be inherently better. Mrs. Maureen Nweke was someone who saw this, and encouraged me, as with all of her students, to be better. She is a teacher that is genuinely invested, and is thus destined to make a difference. She is a teacher who saw me, and genuinely supported me, and she is a teacher that I will never forget."

The South Belt Shining Stars will present a series of the students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the ninth in the series of 10. The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 Dobie High School students. Information and photos were supplied by the Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running Top 10 Shining Stars from Memorial and South Houston.



SJC grad plans on opening own nursing home

While working as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), Abbie Dillard befriended a fellow CNA. Her new friend was attending San Jacinto College with plans of becoming a registered nurse (RN), and suggested that Dillard do the same.

"She encouraged me to attend San Jacinto College and become a nurse," said Dillard.

"She told me I was smart and had the skills. The only problem was I had a fear of needles, but I got over that quickly," Dillard enrolled in classes at the college while maintaining her position as a CNA and soon became a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN).

"Getting my LVN at San Jac helped me earn the money I needed to continue my education and become an RN," Dillard continued. During her time at San Jacinto College, she found a mentor in Dr. Karen Alexander, who served as director of the nursing program at San Jacinto College at the time.

"Dr. Alexander took me under her wing almost immediately," commented Dillard. "She was the one who always pushed me to continue my education and never give up."

"I went with her to Reno, Nevada for a service-learning project, an experience that helped me realize I really was on the right path." Dillard is still working with her mentor, as she is now at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) preparing to graduate with her bachelor's degree in nursing and a minor in health management.

"Abbie was a delight to teach as she worked diligently to retain all the information that she was provided with during the nursing theory and clinical courses," said Alexander, who is now the director of the nursing program at UHCL.

"I found her to be very proactive, positive and zealous to continue her education at the RN level. Abbie's ability to apply her nursing knowledge to the fullest in a real time environment became evident during all her clinical assignments. Abbie has consistently shown progression, and she always strives to raise the bar of excellence in nursing."

After earning her Nurse Practitioner License, Dillard hopes to open her own nursing home. She has been passionate about caring for the elderly ever since she was a child. "When I was younger my great-grandma had bladder cancer, so I was always helping my grandma take care of her," said Dillard. "I have always loved elderly people, and that situation made me realize how I could help care for them."

Dillard currently works as the overnight charge nurse for the post operation unit at the Bay Area Regional Medical Center. In this position she is in charge of all activity and patients within the unit. If

Dillard achieves goals through SJC



Abbie Dillard works to achieve her own goals and inspires others to do the same. Photo by Calyn Hoerner

Esteban inspires Tran to pursue chemistry

Alison Tran, one of Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Luz Esteban, an instructor of chemistry.

Tran has done volunteer work at her school's theater productions, her church, the Houston Food Bank, Zoo Boo, the Houston Public Library, local elementary schools and nursing homes.

She has also participated in many extracurricular activities and organizations, including the chamber orchestra, Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society and National Hispanic Honor Society, with leadership positions as class vice president, orchestra treasurer and vice

president, National Honor Society secretary and Business Professionals of America treasurer.

Tran plans to attend the University of Houston to pursue a chemistry major and apply to medical school to achieve her dream career as a pediatrician. She commented about her teacher, "I have had numerous talented educators throughout my academic journey who I am very thankful for. Mrs. Esteban is no exception. She is a very funny, smart and passionate teacher who is willing to go above and beyond for any of her students. With her teaching, she has taught me to love chemistry and also inspired my decision in becoming a chemistry major. I am honored to have had her as my beloved teacher and I am ready to see what the world of chemistry has to offer me as I continue my journey into college."

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

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

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



Gutierrez becomes mentor to Hernandez

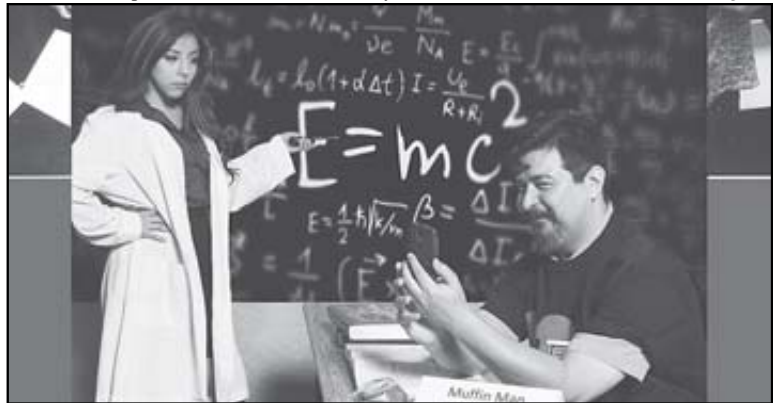
South Houston High School's Shining Star Samantha Shantel Hernandez is shown with distinguished educator Paul Gutierrez, biology instructor. Hernandez has volunteered with the National Honor Society and student council. She has engaged in extracurricular activities including Health Occupations Students of America, National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Speech and Debate, Key Club, Student Council, Student Advisory Committee, Certified Nurse Assistant program and the drill and track teams, with leadership positions as Health Occupations Students of America president, class parliamentarian and Mu Alpha Theta secretary.

Hernandez plans to attend the University of Texas to earn a bachelor's degree in biology before applying to the McGovern Medical School to pursue a career in orthopedics. Regarding her teacher, Ly said, "Meeting Mr. Gutierrez was and will continue to be one of the biggest blessings of my life. In him, I've found not only an instructor, but a mentor and a friend. This selfless and jovial individual has inspired me to be considerate and amiable, in turn benefiting countless other individuals. His personal and professional success are so admirable that I can only hope to someday be as accomplished and influential as the esteemed 'Delta'. Thank you for everything you've done for me these past two years and for everyone's sake, I hope you never change."

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

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

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



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Pruneda, Rodriguez families attend cruise

The Pruneda and Rodriguez families took a cruise on the Carnival Breeze to Key West, Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas. While on

their trip, they toured Key West and visited the beach. In Freeport, they spent the day scuba diving. In Nassau, they all enjoyed the day at the Blue Lagoon beach.



Jasmin Pruneda, Gabriel Rodriguez and Isabela Pruneda enjoy Taino Beach in Freeport, Bahamas.



Shown at the Carnival Breeze cruise ship in Key West, Fla., are, left to right, Adrian Pruneda, Gerardo Pruneda, Norma Pruneda, Isabela Pruneda, Gabriel Rodriguez, Danny Rodriguez and Jasmin Pruneda.



Left, Isabela Pruneda is shown feeding sharks at the Key West Aquarium.

Jasmin Pruneda, Gabriel Rodriguez and Danny Rodriguez ride a water bike at Blue Lagoon in Nassau, Bahamas.

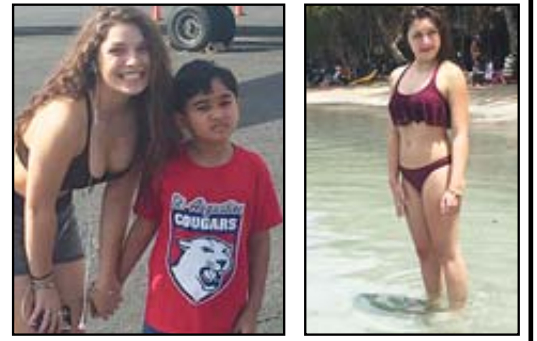


Martinez family enjoys Colombia, Panama

Marco Martinez, wife Angela Escamilla and son Marc Martinez recently traveled to Colombia and Panama on their summer vacation. While on their trip, they explored the streets of Bogotá, Colombia, and enjoyed the sandy shores of Playa Estrella, Panama.



Angela Escamilla, Marco Martinez and son Marc Martinez enjoy the beach in Playa Zapatilla, Panama.



Angela Escamilla and Marc Martinez await their flight in Panama. Angela wades in shallow water (above, right) among the starfish in Playa Estrella, Panama.



Marc Martinez rides a llama at La Candelaria in Bogotá, Colombia.

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Huston visits Universal Studios Florida



Former South Belt resident Merrick Huston and mother Jennifer Holliman recently visited Universal Studios Florida, located in Orlando, Fla. Huston is the grandson of David and Barbara Huston who have resided in the South Belt community since 1974. Huston is shown above with a wax figure of President Abraham Lincoln.

Restaurants to benefit CCISD Foundation

The Clear Creek Education Foundation announced it will host its third annual "Dine Out to Donate" event Monday, Oct. 3 and has a record number of 67 restaurants. Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their Oct. 3 revenue which varies from 10 to 50 percent to CCEF to benefit the students and teachers of Clear Creek Independent School District.

"This year, the response to the Clear Creek Education Foundation's Dine Out to Donate has been tremendous," said Kaci Hanson, CCEF executive director. "The community continues to demonstrate its strong support of the Clear Creek Independent School District."

The process is simple - patrons enjoy a meal at a participating restaurant, and restaurant proprietors donate a portion of the proceeds to CCEF.

Patrons are encouraged to bring the printable flier that can be found on the Foundation's website. A list of participating restaurants can be found at www.clearcreekeducationfoundation.org/dine-out-to-donate/.

Abbie Dillard ...

Continued from Page 5A own story and offering words of encouragement to others following in her footsteps. "The key is that you just can't give up; you have to reach for the stars," she says. "There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Your education is worth all of the stress and tears."

Shabbat coming

The traditional Jewish Shabbat service is rich in songs and melodies. Congregation Shaar Hashalom will experience a special musical Shabbat - "Acoustic Shabbat" - service, featuring Joe Buchanan, on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. The Shabbat will take place at Congregation Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real. The community is invited to attend. For information contact the synagogue at 281-488-5861, email csh@shaarhashalom.org or visit www.shaarhashalom.org.

Alonzos enjoy fun in the sun



Michael and Melissa Alonzo recently visited Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Both Michael and Melissa are longtime residents of the South Belt community, residing in the Sagemont subdivision and volunteer as martial arts instructors at the Sagemont Community Center on Friday nights.

Happy 15th Cassandra

Cassandra Lazo recently celebrated her Quinceañera in Mexico with family and friends who traveled from Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Laredo, Portland and El Salvador. She is the daughter of Jose and Grace Lazo from Pearland. Her theme was Superheros which was not an easy thing to do, but with the help of Andy Carlos and Emmotions Events, it surpassed all expectations. Thank you to all who helped this be a success. This picture was taken at Castillo Santa Cecilia in Guanajuato.



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Opening weekend nears

JFD, Brook FB eye regular season

By John Bechtel Sports Editor
Roughly eight days prior to the start of the regular season, the Dobie Longhorns appear to be on schedule in preparation for the opener - coming Aug. 27 against Summer Creek at Veterans Stadium.

Dobie accomplished what it wanted to in the scrimmage opener against Strake Jesuit. Multiple running backs, including sophomore starter Kris Morris, scored touch-

downs. Broderick Martin and Jeff McCall also stepped up.

The offense protected the football, with no turnovers surrendered. Meanwhile, the defense created

a turnover.

"We did fine for the first scrimmage," Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman said.

"We protected the football and got in and out

of our sets pretty good. The defense played pretty well, and I believe we created a turnover. All in all, it's basically what we wanted to see for the first scrimmage."

Now it's on to Clear Brook as the Longhorns will get their first look at the sparkling amenities at Columbia Challenger Stadium in Webster.

For those with 9 to 5 jobs, it'll be hard to make the start. The junior vars-

Continued on Page 2B

Clear Brook hosts Dobie scrimmage
Friday, Aug. 19, 8:30 a.m.
Columbia Challenger Stadium

High school volleyball teams progress

Just a little more than a week into the regular season, the Clear Brook and Dobie varsity volleyball teams are headed in opposite directions.

The great thing? Clear Brook and Dobie will face each other, with the Lady Wolverines hosting Dobie Friday, Aug. 19, at Lady Wolverine Gymnasium.

Clear Brook has held

an advantage in the annual series with a string of wins, but Dobie is hoping to start a winning streak anew with some success against the Lady Wolverines.

CB now 5-5
Despite playing in arguably the state's most talent-rich opening weekend tournament and facing two Houston area pow-

turned the tables with a 30-28, 25-22, 23-25, 21-25, 15-10 victory over Houston Memorial.

Jordan Russell, a Fab 50 player entering the season according to the Houston Area Volleyball Coaches Association, smacked down 29 kills to lead the Lady Wolverines to the home win.

Continued on Page 2B

At right, Dobie's Alex Cuaping serves as teammate Ricky Perez mans the net during the Longhorns' team tennis matches against former Dobie players Aug. 13, at the Longhorn Courts. A throng of former JFD players turned out to compete in the annual exes matches as Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. set up a series of doubles matches throughout the morning. For more on the current Longhorns, who take on neighborhood rival Clear Brook Aug. 23, see Page 3B. Additional photos and information about the exes matches will come in a future Leader edition.

Photo by John Bechtel



Busy Dobie tennis team set to face Brook

A work in progress. That's simply what the 2016 team tennis season is going to be for the Dobie Longhorns.

Dobie will have its share of success this season. Head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. demands it. He knows how to best prepare a group of young talent for team success.

Admittedly, the positive results may take a bit lon-

ger to be reaped, but there are already positive signs.

The Longhorns are 2-3 this season with plenty of matches coming in a hurry - weather permitting.

Dobie took a trip to San Marcos to open the season Aug. 8-9, beating two op-

ponents to reach the final.

In the season opener, Dobie defeated Converse Judson 12-7. In a semi-final round matchup, the Longhorns downed host San Marcos 10-9.

The match stood at 9-8 Dobie before girls' No. 6 singles player Bao Nguyen

Continued on Page 3B

Dobie hosts Clear Brook
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Thompson, Bears' FB staffs ready as players show

Football practice at the intermediate school level doesn't begin until the first day of school — Tuesday, Aug. 23. But that doesn't mean the respective coaching staffs at both Beverly Hills Intermediate and Thompson Intermediate aren't already excited about the possibilities.

The Battlin' Bears and Lions were highly-competitive at the seventh-grade level in 2015. Thompson, in fact, won Pasadena ISD crowns at the seventh-grade B and both eighth-grade divisions a season ago.

As for the Bears, they, too, were in title contention in 2015, appearing in a pair of PISD championship games.

A good majority of those eighth-grade athletes from a season ago are now

preparing to play at Dobie High School, paving the way for the next generation at the intermediate level.

Lions expect to win again
Since the 1970s, expectations have been high at Thompson Intermediate, with the Lions seemingly in the mix for football titles on an annual basis.

For 2016, Lions' head football coach Doug Sawyer and his staff will expect nothing less.

It all starts after school Aug. 23. The season begins in mid September, and the Lions plan to roar.

"That first week we are in shorts, T-shirts and helmets for the first few days, so we are really looking forward to that first Saturday practice (Aug. 27)," Sawyer said.

"That's when we will

really get things going. Our seventh-grade squads did a great job last season, so we certainly expect the eighth-grade levels to have a lot of success."

Sawyer also had the chance last school year to get a look at some of the incoming seventh-grade students who attended either Dixie Mellilo Middle School or Fred Roberts Middle School during the 2015-2016 campaign.

He and his staff are now ready to integrate those student-athletes into the program.

"We saw some guys with some pretty good size and some pretty good speed and quickness, but you just never know until you get them in a uniform and see what they can do."

"Toughness is another aspect that is hard to judge

until you get going. But overall, I think we have a pretty talented group coming in."

The Lions will engage in their annual Red and White scrimmage Saturday, Sept. 3.

Details in terms of food availability and other concessions are still in the planning stages, but the football side of things will feature seventh-grade scrimmage action at 9 a.m., followed by the eighth-grade action at 10:30 a.m. Sawyer turns no prospective players away, so the Lions will play in the A, B and C divisions this season.

Beyond that, it's about extending one of the school district's longest legacies.

"At the end of the day it's about preparing these

young men for future competition at Dobie High School — the majority of them for sure," Sawyer said.

"But we have had a lot of success at Thompson, and getting that winning tradition started here never hurts."

End of a BHI legacy
What a special season it should be at Beverly Hills Intermediate in 2016.

The focus surely is on the Bears winning football games, but there's more news within the program that simply cannot be ignored.

Head football coach Ben Portis, who spent four years at Thompson Intermediate during his career, is about to start his final campaign after more than 40 years in education.

Under Portis' leader-

ship over the years, the Beverly Hills' program has certainly rivaled those of Thompson or any of the other eight district schools.

Now, as Portis shuffles through athletic physical forms and helps those who still need the appropriate paperwork completed, he realizes it's the last time he'll have to do these types of things.

He also won't miss fighting what has become an uphill battle on some fronts. In years past, more students stayed in tune and in touch each off-season, taking part in both the conditioning program in the summer as well as the football camp.

And more families stayed up to date on the requisite paperwork, something Portis hopes

doesn't become a problem once school starts.

"It really hit me last spring when I was asked to lead some of the school cheers," Portis said. "It was hard to get through some of them without the emotions coming into play. But I think at the end of the day, you know when your time is complete."

"Our summer numbers have been down some, and kids staying involved in the offseason or during the spring sessions has dropped off," Portis said. "It's all part of keeping connected and being ready to go when a new school year begins. We'll get there this year, but we may have some extra things to take care of."

Portis said he simply hopes to disappear once he retires, but he knows

that won't be easy. Former players and certainly associates will likely want to plan big events.

Portis wants to focus on football. Like those at Thompson, the Bears will begin workouts the afternoon of the first day of school. On Sept. 3, the Bears' annual Food, Fun and Football extravaganza will feature plenty for all comers. Then it's on to the season.

"Our seventh-graders did a real good job last year, so we expect that to

continue," Portis said.

"Our incoming seventh-grade class looks strong, too. So we are excited to see what can be accomplished this season."

"That first week, it's about measuring talent, rhythm and sequence. We get things pulled together every year, and we'll do it this year. We are all excited to get it going."

So Portis' legendary career will come to an end. But some things never end, and that includes the Bears' desire to win titles. That will live on.

Wolverines, Dobie tangle at Columbia

Continued from Page 1B
ty scrimmage comes at 8:30 a.m., followed by the varsity at 9:30 a.m. Another football program from Clear Creek ISD had reserved the facility for the night session.

Some of the goals for the second and final scrimmage will be the same. Staying healthy, of course, is at the top of the list.

But this scrimmage will be run more like a regular season contest, with assistant coaches manning their usual spots in the press box, etc. More attention will be paid to the kicking game.

"We will increase our play selection, but you're still looking for the same basic things," Norman said. "It'll be a game simulation, giving guys the look and feel of a real game."

"Other than that, we

just want to make sure we come out of it healthy and ready to go for that season opener."

After that, it's on to preparation for the regular season opener. Dobie hosts Summer Creek of District 21-6A on the final evening of opening week-end — Saturday, Aug. 27, at Veterans Stadium. Kickoff is at 6 p.m.

No disrespect to Summer Creek, but regardless of opponent, Dobie's No. 1 priority is to come out of the first week of the season with a win.

Last season, Norman's first as head coach at Dobie, the Longhorns were crushed in the opener at Deer Park.

The varsity team's first win came in game No. 5 against Pasadena. That wasn't the goal then, and it certainly won't be this time around.

Tourney play continues

Brook VB goes 4-4 at Pearland; JFD winless

Continued from Page 1B
With Russell pounding down sets from fellow Fab 50 team member Jaden Newsome, the Lady Wolverines have played well to start the season.

At the 2016 Adidas Pearland Invitational, Clear Brook went 1-2 in pool play the opening day, Aug. 11, but then reeled off three straight wins on day two.

In bronze division action, the Lady Wolverines then dropped a pair of hard-fought matches on the final day of play.

To open pool play Aug. 11 at Manvel High School, the Lady Wolverines faced New Braunfels in a morning match, with New Braunfels coming away

with a 14-25, 25-12, 25-14 victory.

Play continued that afternoon as Clear Brook took on Coppell. In that one, Coppell took the victory at 25-18, 25-19, on its way to a 3-0 record in pool play.

In the final match of pool play for the Lady Wolverines, victory came as the locals handed La Porte a 25-17, 25-13 setback.

The second day of the Adidas Pearland Invitational was golden for the Lady Wolverines, who scored three wins along the way.

A 25-21, 25-20 win over Ursuline Academy got things going before a battle against District 24-

6A foe Clear Lake ensued. This time, Clear Brook set the tone early and came away with a 25-20, 25-23 victory.

To cap off a splendid day of action, Clear Brook went up against Ridge Point, winning 25-22, 23-25, 25-17.

At that point, the Lady Wolverines had won four of six matches and moved on to Bronze bracket play.

On the final day of the event, Highland Park handed Clear Brook a tough 25-21, 25-20 defeat.

In its final match of the tournament, Clear Brook was beaten, 25-17, 25-21, by Argyle.

It was simply a tough go of it for each of the 80 teams involved in the Pearland Adidas Invitational.

Clear Creek came away with the best finish among any of the Houston area entries, defeating Dawson in its final match to take ninth place. Overall, the Lady Wildcats went 7-1 in the tournament.

Lewisville Hebron, the defending Class 6A state champion, wound up winning the tournament title with a victory over Plano West in the championship match.

Lucas Lovejoy, the top overall seed in the tournament, made the Gold bracket quarterfinals before losing to Amarillo.

Hebron entered play as the No. 5 seed in the tournament. Pearland, the tournament host, won five of seven matches overall.

JFD at Northside S.A.
Dobie, meanwhile, took a team building trip to San Antonio for the annual Northside ISD Invitational.

The Lady Longhorns enjoyed plenty of camaraderie and saw some of the sights of San Antonio, but the wins were hard to come by.

In an opening-round match, Schertz Clemens defeated Dobie 25-11, 25-11. Later in the day, Dobie went against San Antonio Holmes, with Holmes tak-

ing a 25-17, 25-16 victory.

On the second and final day of the tournament, Boerne defeated Dobie 25-20, 25-21.

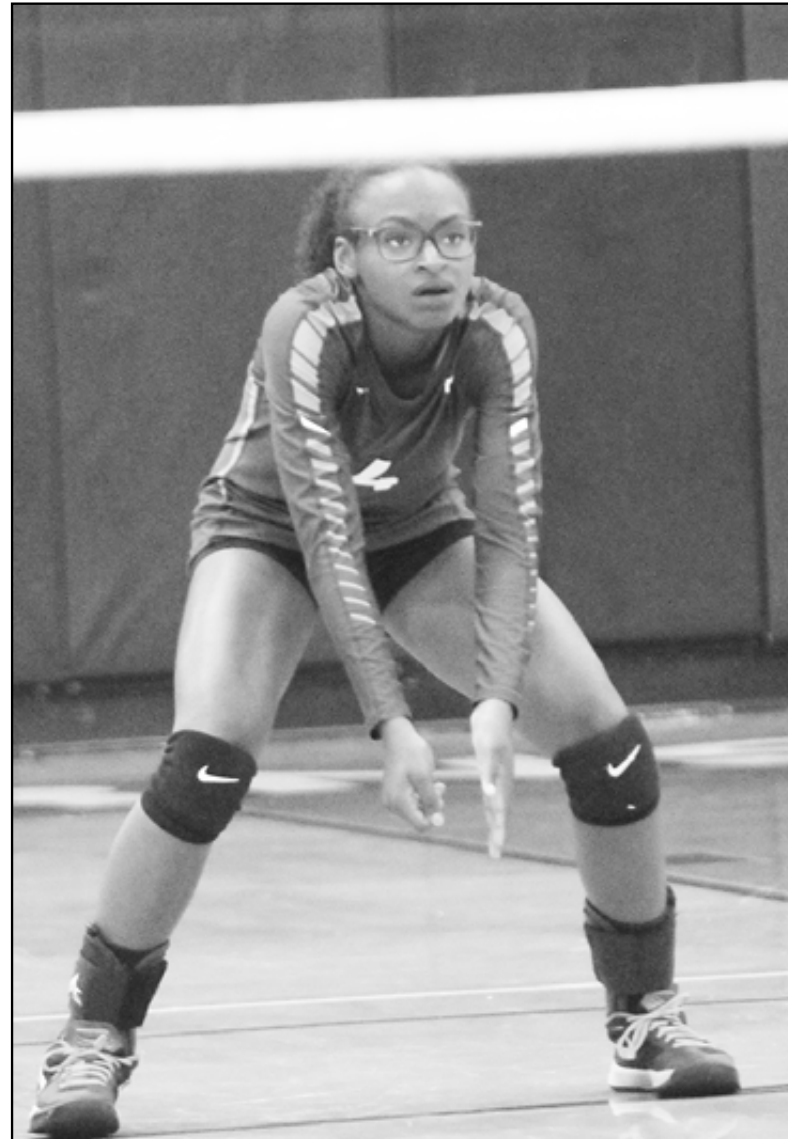
Dobie played a final match against Converse Judson, and Judson kept

Dobie winless with a 25-23, 25-20 victory.

Clear Brook and Dobie will go head-to-head Aug. 19, and then take part in the Dickinson Invitational Aug. 20. More nondistrict play ensues next week.

For Clear Brook, it's about keeping some of its recent positive momentum going.

For Dobie, it's time for the wins to start coming after a bit of a slow start to 2016.



Dobie's Crystal Glover and her volleyball teammates have made their way through the first week of the regular season with their fair share of success. Now comes a string of nondistrict matches, including a Friday, Aug. 19 road trip to neighborhood rival Clear Brook. Varsity action begins at 6 p.m.

Sports Calendar

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Aug. 18

Dobie freshman A at Pasadena Invitational, TBA

Friday, Aug. 19

Brook varsity hosts Dobie, 6:00

Brook JV hosts Dobie, 5:00

Brook freshman A hosts Dobie, 4:00

Brook freshman B hosts Dobie, 4:00

Saturday, Aug. 20

Dobie varsity at Dickinson Invitational, TBA

Brook varsity at Dickinson Invitational, TBA

Dobie freshman A at Pasadena Invitational, TBA

Tuesday, Aug. 23

Brook varsity at Dulles, 6:30

Dobie varsity hosts Dickinson, 6:30

Dobie JV hosts Dickinson, 5:30

Brook JV at Dulles, 5:30

Brook freshman A at Dulles, 4:30

Dobie freshman A hosts Dickinson, 4:30

Dobie freshman B hosts Dickinson, 4:30

Friday, Aug. 26

Brook varsity at Stratford, 5:30

Dobie varsity at Eisenhower, 5:30

Dobie JV at Eisenhower, 4:30

Brook JV at Stratford, 4:30

Brook freshman A at Stratford, 4:30

Dobie freshman A at Eisenhower, 4:30

Dobie freshman B at Eisenhower, 5:30

Brook freshman B at Stratford, 4:30

Tuesday, Aug. 30

Brook varsity hosts Bellaire, 6:30

Dobie varsity hosts Spring, 6:30

Dobie JV hosts Spring, 5:30

Brook JV hosts Bellaire, 5:30

Brook freshman A hosts Bellaire, 4:30

Dobie freshman A hosts Spring, 4:30

Dobie freshman B hosts Spring, 4:30

TENNIS

Thursday, Aug. 18

Dobie varsity hosts George Ranch, 9 a.m.

Dobie varsity hosts Dickinson, 4:00

Football

Friday, Aug. 19

Dobie varsity at Brook scrimmage, 10 a.m.

Dobie JV at Brook scrimmage, 9 a.m.

(Columbia Challenger Stadium, Webster)

Saturday, Aug. 20

Southbelt Dolphins at Missouri City Vikings

(Hunters Glen Park, 8 a.m.)

Sagemont Cowboys host North Shore Mustangs

(Blackhawk Park, 8 a.m.)

Ellington Rams host League City 49ers

(Dobie High School, 8 a.m.)

Thursday, Aug. 25

Dobie JV Orange at Summer Creek, campus, 6:00

Dobie JV White at Summer Creek, campus, 4:30

Dobie freshman Orange hosts S. Creek, campus, 6:30

Dobie freshman White hosts S. Creek, campus, 4:30

Friday, Aug. 26

Brook varsity at Bellaire, Butler, 7:00

Saturday, Aug. 27

Dobie varsity hosts Summer Creek, Veterans, 6:00

Dobie Longhorns

2016 Cross-Country

Boys' and Girls' Schedule

Date	Location	TBA
Sept. 9	Beach Run (Galveston)	
Sept. 16	Deer Park Invitational	
Sept. 23	Running Rayburn Texans	
Sept. 29	Bulldog Invitational	
Oct. 14	Pasadena Invitational	
Oct. 20	22-6As (La Porte)	
Oct. 29	Region IIIs (SHSU)	
Nov. 12	State (Round Rock)	

Cowboys sweep; Dolphins top Rams in openers

It's only the first week of the Bay Area Football League regular season, but the Sagemont Cowboys and Southbelt Dolphins have tons of reasons to be excited about both the present and future.

The Cowboys have to be pleased with the start to the season.

Heading over to Pasadena High School for a four-game series against the host Pasadena Panthers, the Cowboys came away with four wins.

The Cowboys' senior and junior division teams cruised to shutout wins, combining for a 60-0 score.

The senior Cowboys rolled to a 38-0 win to close out the day. In addition to the four wins, the Cowboys also got a terrific performance out of their pee wee division squad.

At Blackhawk Park, the Southbelt Dolphins proved to be too much for the Ellington Rams. The Rams did come away with a 29-19 victory in the junior division contest, but the Dolphins controlled the action the rest of the way. Southbelt scored a 26-0 victory in the senior division

game and then overcame the junior loss to win both the sophomore and freshman games.

The Texas City Stingrays and Pearland Patriots joined the Cowboys as undefeated programs heading into the second week of the season.

So it's on to week two. The Cowboys, with their Two Guns Up slogan, will play at El Franco Lee Park for the first time this season, hosting the always-tough North Shore Mustangs.

Meanwhile, the Southbelt Dolphins are off to Missouri City to take on the BAFL newcomer Missouri City Vikings.

And the Ellington Rams, looking for a few more wins after a tough start against the Dolphins, will host the League City 49ers at Dobie High School.

As always, game times include pee wee play at 8 a.m.; seniors — 9 a.m.; juniors — 10:45 a.m.; sophomores — 12:30 p.m.; and freshmen — 2:15 p.m.

Week 2 games

Saturday, Aug. 20

Southbelt Dolphins at Missouri City Vikings
Hunters Glen Park

Sagemont Cowboys host North Shore Mustangs
El Franco Lee Park

Ellington Rams host League City 49ers
Dobie High School

BAFL Week One Scores

	Sr.	Jr.	Soph.	Fr.
Cowboys	38	22	19	24
Panthers	0	0	13	7
Dolphins	26	19	31	20
Rams	0	29	19	13

Local sports notes

Shiflett has JFD season tix

There's still time for Dobie High School football fans to purchase discounted season ticket packages for the 2016 season.

Now through Friday, August 19, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Pasadena Independent School District 2016 football season ticket packages will be on sale in the PISD Ticket Office, located at 2906 Dabney in the Phillips Field House. Individual tickets only will be available after August 19.

For Dobie High School football fans, the packages will also be sold at Roy Shiflett Realtors, 11559 Beamer Road (the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8 next to the South Belt-Ellington Leader office) as well as the PISD Ticket Office.

General office hours at Roy Shiflett Realtors are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday in addition to 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Those wishing to purchase tickets may call ahead at 281-481-3733.

The cost for tickets is \$6 each (\$36 for six Dobie games at Veterans Stadium). This is a savings of \$1 per ticket off the \$7 gate price. There are no reserved seats sold.

Student tickets are also available for \$3 each and may be used for any varsity regular season game at Veterans Stadium.

Varsity home games will be played at 7 p.m. on Fridays and 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Dobie will play its season opener at Veterans Stadium on Saturday, Aug. 27, against Summer Creek. Additionally, the Longhorns are scheduled to play a pair of Thursday night games, first against Memorial and then against Sam Rayburn.

SBYSC sign-up continues

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is now accepting on-line registration for the fall 2016 season as youth boys and girls age 4 to 18 are welcome to join the league.

Children eligible for the under 5 to under 8 (4, 5, 6 and 7-year-olds) will pay \$115 to register, while children in the under 9 and under 10 groups (8 and 9-year-olds) will pay \$130. Those in the under 11 and older (10 to 18-year-olds) will pay \$170 to register.

Families may register their children by visiting www.southbeltsoccer.org, and simply follow the prompts. After registering on-line, families will be required to present a copy of their child's birth certificate to the SBYSC team coach.

Only credit card/debit card payments will be accepted at the time of on-line registration. A late fee will be assessed after Sept. 1, 2016.

The registration fee covers/includes uniform shirt, shorts and socks in addition to the league-wide fundraiser. Parents will be responsible for providing shin guards, soccer cleats and a practice ball.

Practices begin this month, with games set to begin in September. Regular season games will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, either at El Franco Lee Park or Beverly Hills Park.

SBGSA fall ball online sign-up

The South Belt Girls Softball Association is now hosting online registration only through Aug. 21 for its fall developmental season.

Girls age 4 through 16 are eligible to compete during the season, with games being played on Saturdays beginning either in late September or early October and running through early November.

The fee is \$30 per player, in addition to participation in a fundraising effort (or buy-out option is available). Families may complete the online sign-up process at http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=2145261.

For additional information, direct email to SBGSA officials at southbeltgirlsoftball@live.com or call Christina Bautista at 713-269-1780.

Out of the gate fast, Longhorn netters stay busy early on

Continued from Page 1B
 scored a big win to help Dobie take the team win. It's the kind of victory the Longhorns will have to have down the road, to say the least.
 Nguyen won the first set and then lost the second. She trailed in the super tiebreaker but came back for a 10-5 win.
 Moreno said Nguyen might have realized that she held the fortunes of the Dobie team on her racket and thus the nerves set in. Regardless, Nguyen scored the win.
 "That was big for us," Moreno said. "We actually

went on to win 10-9, but getting that 10th win late in matches is something that we may have to get from a variety of players throughout the season.
 "Ideally, we want to build a lead in the doubles and give ourselves some breathing room, but that's not always going to happen. Bao came through with a big win for us."
 In the final, Dobie went up against a superior Schertz Clemens team and lost that one 18-1.
 Coming back to Houston, Dobie lost to Friendswood 19-0. Going against a group of former Dobie

players Aug. 13 at Dobie, the current group of Longhorns was dealt a 14-5 setback.
 To be fair, a good number of the former Dobie players have only been away from the competitive court for a year or so. And, it's always competitive when this series takes place.
 Moreno, unconcerned about the final verdict in such a family-friendly venue, was happy to see so many members of his past Dobie teams again.
 "We had more than 40 this time around, and it seemed like they just kept

coming out," said Moreno, crediting former Longhorn player Dat Nguyen for his help in getting so many former players out to compete.
 "It's just great to see so many of the former players out. It means so much to the younger players, who get to hear some of the stories and really can gather so much from the experience."

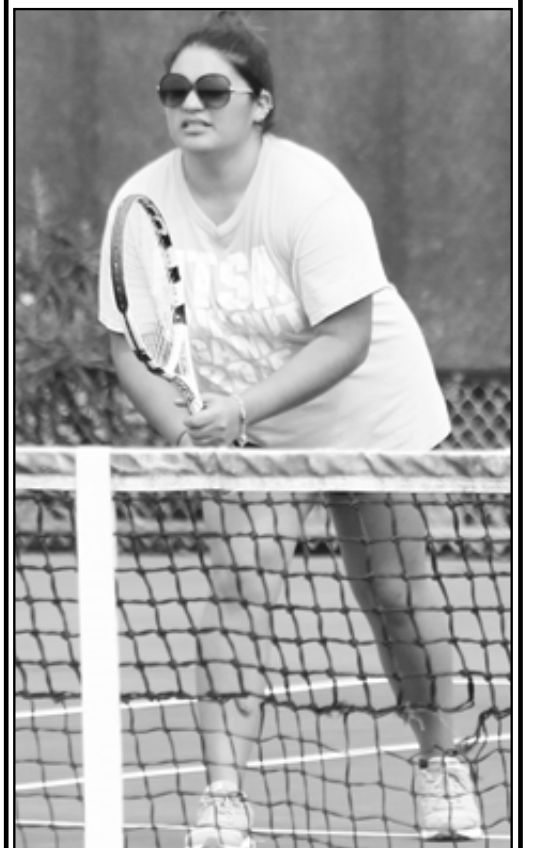
As for the current Longhorns, Moreno believes this team, with so little varsity experience, can improve with each passing day.
 "So far, (the season) has been a pleasant surprise," Moreno said.
 "We knew coming into the season that some players were going to be asked to play in roles that they haven't previously been

asked to do. Some of these players weren't even on the singles ladder in a position to compete a season ago, and now not only are they in a position to help, but they are playing significant roles."
 Take the boys' and girls' No. 1 singles players for example. Ricky Perez at No. 1 for the boys and Leilani Vargas for the girls are likely to remain there.

Perez has been with the varsity team now for two seasons, and Vargas for three.
 Both are talented players who have contributed quite a bit. They have played well early on, and will continue to be asked to do so.
 "Leilani has played very well, and so has Ricky," Moreno said. "It's

going to be a challenge for like a challenge, and so do a lot of these kids. But I these kids."

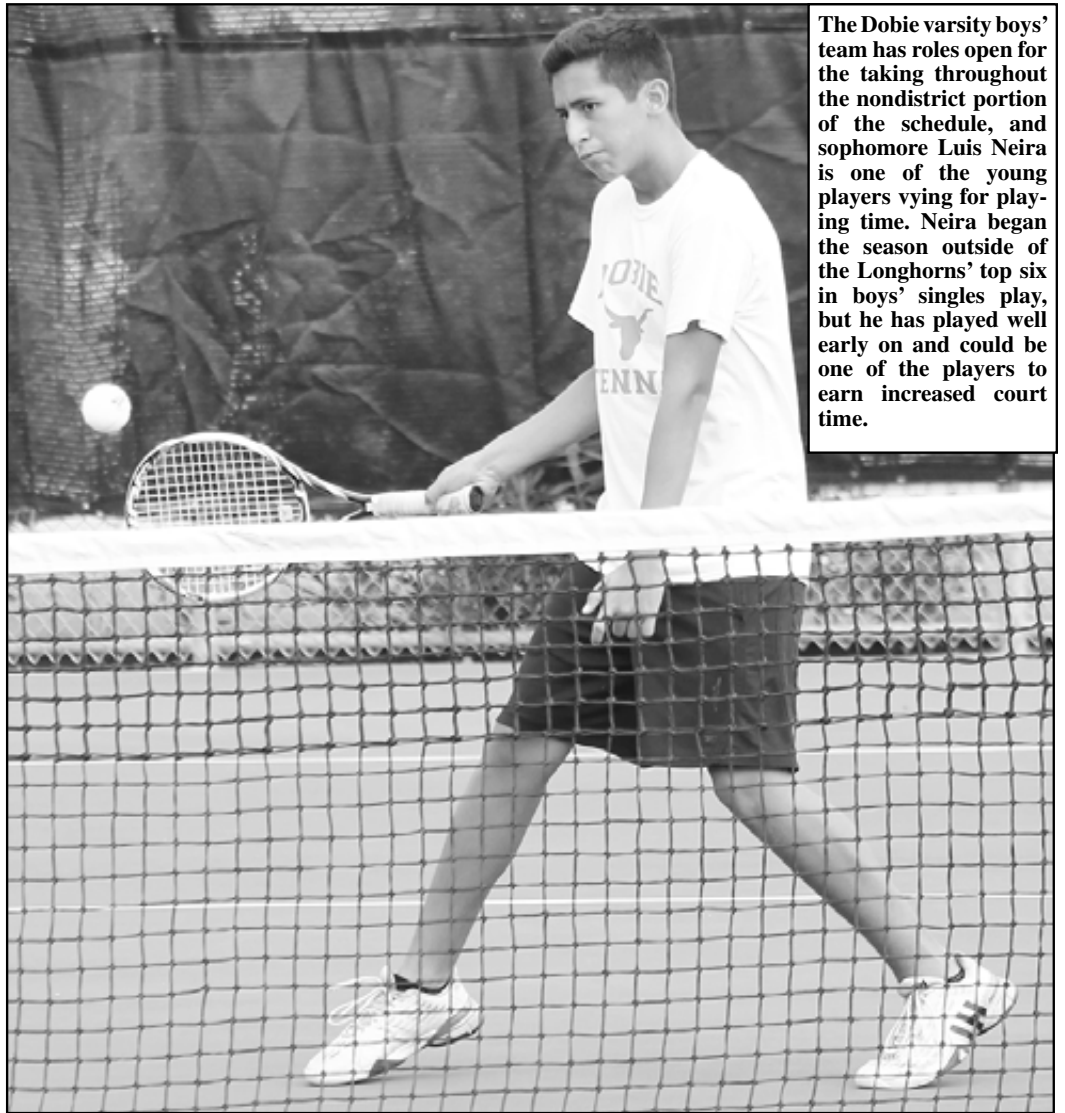
Exes turn out en masse



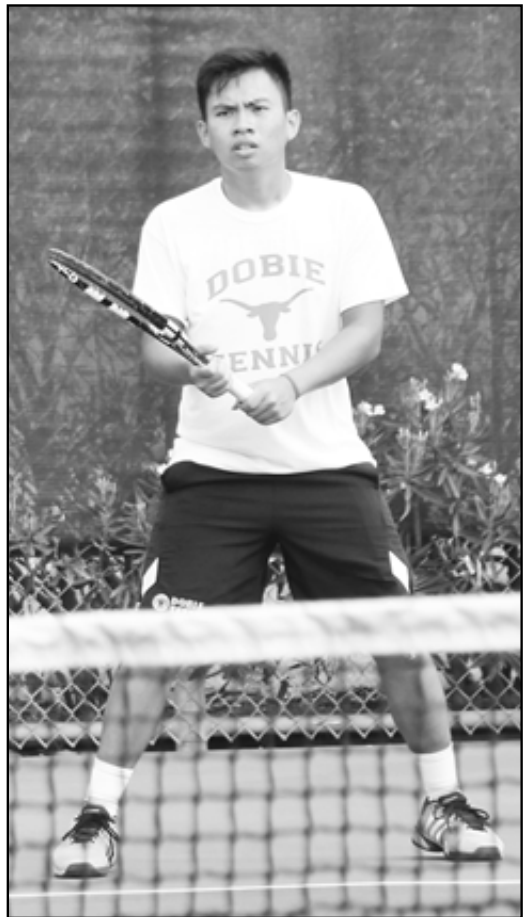
Former Dobie tennis player Ivette Alba was one of more than 40 players who turned out for the Longhorns' annual exes matches. See more about the event in the Leader following the Labor Day break.



Steven Phan blasts a forehand return back at his opponent during nondistrict competition to begin the 2016 team tennis season at Dobie. Phan began the season as the Longhorns' No. 6 boys' singles player.



The Dobie varsity boys' team has roles open for the taking throughout the nondistrict portion of the schedule, and sophomore Luis Neira is one of the young players vying for playing time. Neira began the season outside of the Longhorns' top six in boys' singles play, but he has played well early on and could be one of the players to earn increased court time.



At left, Dobie's "Big" Tommy Nguyen awaits a serve during match play at the Longhorn Courts early this season. Nguyen and his teammates have combined to win two of five matches as the nondistrict portion of the schedule presses on. The Longhorns' goal is to be as prepared as possible for the start of the District 22-6A season, which comes Sept. 20, against league newcomer Beaumont West Brook. Dobie continues play Thursday, Aug. 18, with a pair of home matches. George Ranch will be at Dobie for a set of matches at 9 a.m., with Katy set to appear at 3 p.m. On Friday, Aug. 19, the Longhorns will face Willis at 2 p.m. Dobie's annual duel with Clear Brook comes Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 2:30 p.m.
 Photos by John Bechtle



At left, Dobie's Ann Truong prepares to receive serve during a doubles match at Dobie High School. With only roughly a dozen or so girls' players available, Truong and some of her teammates have plenty of chances to contribute this season. So far, Truong and the rest of the Lady Longhorns have played well.

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of AA, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 6 p.m.
Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - A social group interested in the culture, music, heritage and language of German immigrants in Texas. Meets monthly on the third Thursday, 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Call 281-481-1238 for information.
 6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.
Survivors of Suicide Support Group - offers support and coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details and location, call 713-533-4500 or visit www.crisishotline.org.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.
 7 p.m.
Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
Alateen - Support for teenagers, friends and family mem-

bers of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - AA meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For information, call 713-204-2481.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
 10 a.m.
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., with continental breakfast, arts, crafts, exercises, entertainment, devotional break, lunch, and game. Family members or acquaintances are invited. For information, call the church at 713-946-5768; Claudia Rojas, Interfaith Care Partners, at 713-682-5995; or visit 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 of AA, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Road 39, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA,

open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 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.
Al-Anon - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Friday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Friday, 8 to 9 p.m. Family members and friends of problem drinkers or addicts learn they are not alone, share, learn principles of Al-Anon and learn about choices available to them. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
 7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women whose lives are affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - bluegrass music show and jam session on the third Saturday (except December). Stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. Free. Johnny Arolo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For details, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

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.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
 1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 2 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at dr.glandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.
 2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. For details, call 281-487-8787.
 5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., Chapel of the Educational Building at Life Church in Houston, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for information or to RSVP for child care.
 6:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Candlelight Meeting, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 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.
 Continued on Page 4B

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-204-2481.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for information, or just drop in.

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

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

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of AA meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For more information, call 713-856-1611.

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

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Mondays at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua, 6 p.m. Come and improve crossword game playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for information.

6:30 p.m.
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 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org.

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.

Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365.

7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - New AA meeting, Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery Program, open meeting Monday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building, 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For more information, call Russell Garcia at 832-483-6715.

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or drop in.

9:30 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, 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 of AA meets at noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

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

1 p.m.
Ballroom Dance Practice - Tuesdays, Hometown Heroes Park. Enjoy a variety of ballroom music, free dancing, 1 to 3 p.m., on a beautiful floating hardwood floor. Instructor available to assist. Everyone is welcome! For questions, call 281-554-1180. 1001 East League City Pkwy.

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.

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

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care

are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

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.

Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Luby's (11595 Fuqua). For details, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or drop in.

9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (except November and December) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for information.

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 of AA meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, 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 - 7:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Wednesday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 5:30 p.m., followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 6:30 p.m., then a Bible study led by both pastors (English and Spanish). Everyone is welcome!

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

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

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

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

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

6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. For more information call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

Well Spouse Support Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, the last Thursday of each month with those who are the husband, wife or partner of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free childcare provided. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For information, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

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

Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Alateen - Support for teenagers, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - AA meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For information, call 713-204-2481.

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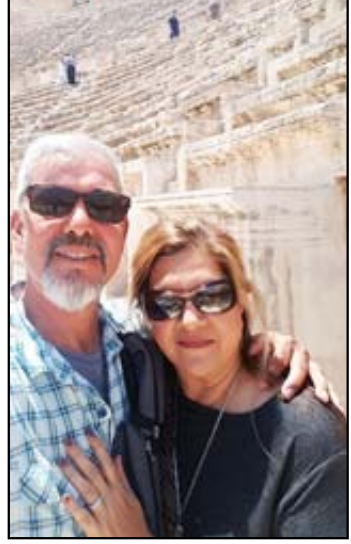
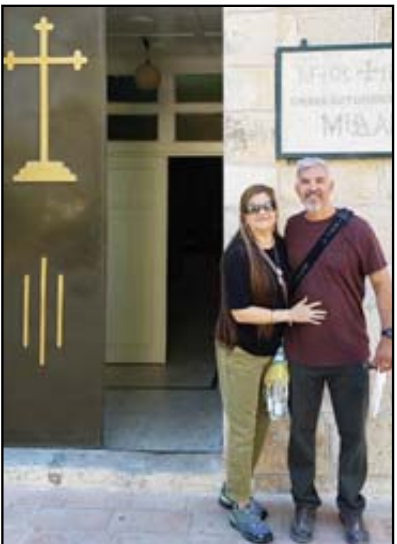
Montoya couple in Amman

Longtime residents of the South Belt community Gabriel and Sophia Montoya recently vacationed in Amman, Jordan. Gabriel flew in to Amman from Afghanistan to rendezvous with Sophia who flew in from Houston. The couple started their trip in Amman, drove to Madaba, the Dead Sea, Petra and returned to Amman to finish their holiday.



Sophia and Gabriel pose for a picture overlooking the city of Amman.

Gabriel buys handmade jewelry from a local merchant in Petra.



Sophia and Gabriel visit St. George Church in Madaba, Jordan.

Gabriel and Sophia enjoy the history of the Roman Colosseum and Flavian Amphitheater.

Pavalonises see South Dakota

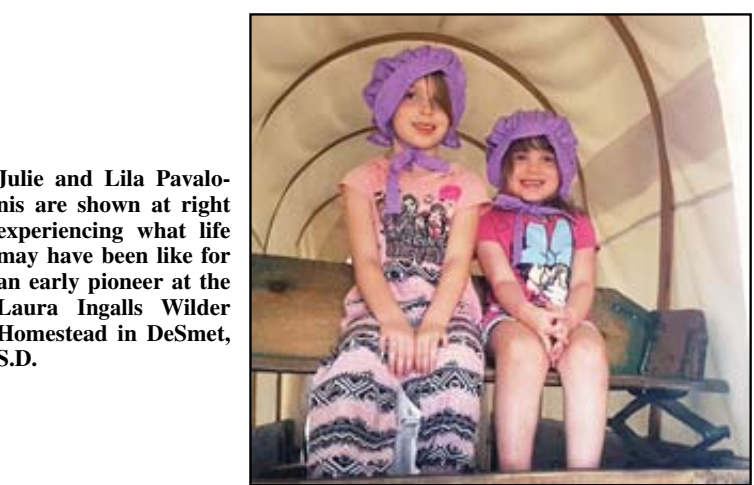
Chelsea Pavalonis, daughters Julie and Lila Pavalonis and son Luke Pavalonis recently visited South Dakota on an exciting adventure. While on their trip, the family rode horses and experienced life as a pioneer at the Little House on the Prairie, saw the Lakota Hoop Dancers, took a tram up to Mount Rushmore, went to a mining ghost town, climbed rocks in the Badlands and took a breathtaking drive through the Needles Highway.



Members of the Pavalonis family are shown above with the Lakota Hoop Dancers at the Crazy Horse Monument. Left to right, wearing their bonnets, are Julie and Lila Pavalonis, with their brother in the stroller, Luke Pavalonis.



Shown at left, enjoying the scenery of the Needles Highway in Custer State Park, Custer, S. D., are Lila and Julie Pavalonis.



Julie and Lila Pavalonis are shown at right experiencing what life may have been like for an early pioneer at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Homestead in DeSmet, S.D.



Lila and Julie are shown above learning what education was like for children of pioneers at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society in DeSmet, S.D.

See additional vacation photos on Page 6A



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