

Lariaettes hold car wash

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold a car wash on Saturday, July 25, at the McDonald's on Fuqua from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance from any current Lariaette line member or at the car wash. Any donations are gladly accepted.

Sageglen summer hours set

Sageglen Community Association summer office hours are: Closed Monday, and open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Summer literacy at San Jac

San Jacinto South will host its annual Summer Literacy Institute on July 30 and 31 at South campus, 13735 Beamer. Educators at all levels, local and statewide, are invited. Online registration is open through July 29, and on-site registration will be available on July 30 and 31.

Registration fee is \$70. The event will take place at the South campus inside the student center banquet room. On-site registration will be from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., with breakfast beginning at 8 a.m.

For online registration, visit https://secure.touchnet.com/C22834_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=5&STCATID=2.

For more information, email Kina Lara at kina.lara@sjcd.edu or Joanie DeForest at joanie.deforest@sjcd.edu.

CrossRoads VBS July 27-31

CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd, 2015 Everest Vacation Bible School will take place July 27-31, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for ages 4 years old through entering fifth grade. Registration donation is \$10 (includes a T-shirt) or \$15 (includes T-shirt and VBS music CD). Register and pay online at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/EZ/cokeburyhouston. For more information, contact Alison Myers, children's director, at 281-484-9243, ext. 204.

Schlitterbahn tickets for pics

The South Belt-Ellington Leader is seeking readers' 2015 vacation photos for possible publication. A first- and second-place prize of Schlitterbahn tickets will be awarded monthly during July and August to the best submissions. Each month's first-place winner will be awarded eight tickets, while each month's second-place winner will be awarded six tickets. All submissions should include where and when the photo was taken, as well as identify each person in the picture 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.

Lariaettes set dance clinic

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes will hold their Summer Dance Explosion July 30 and July 31 at Dobie. The clinic is open to both boys and girls in grades Pre-K through eighth grade. Clinic hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, with special awards and a show-off for parents beginning at 3 p.m. on July 31. The clinic includes a souvenir and certificate. Lunch and snacks will be served both days. Participants will experience two days of dance, technique, crafts and games. The cost of the clinic is \$40 in advance, which can be paid to any current Lariaette line member or \$50 at the door.

Child care center reunion set

The San Jacinto College South child care center will host a preschool reunion on Friday, July 31, in the student center banquet room (Building 11) from 6 to 8 p.m. Former families and employees are invited to attend to reunite and share memories of the center before it closes later this summer. After serving the community for decades, the center will permanently shutter its doors Aug. 31 due to its aging facilities and related infrastructure. Refreshments will be served.

Stuchbery registration set

Stuchbery Elementary will hold Pre-K registration Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. To enroll in Pre-K, students must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 and must qualify for the program. Early registration for kindergarten through fourth grade will be held Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For Pre-K requirements or any additional information, call Stuchbery's office at 713-740-0752 or visit the PISD website at www.pasadenaisd.org.

Benefit set for Puente

A benefit for Sonia Puente will be held Saturday, July 25, at Scoreboards, 12880 Beamer, beginning at noon. Puente was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at 27 and has battled the disease for the past nine years.

Barbecue plates will be available for \$8. Proceeds from the benefit will help with medical bills so she can stay focused on her health for her two daughters.

Kirkwood to meet July 30

The Kirkwood Civic Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, July 30, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, at 6:30 p.m. For information, call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

Hobby prepares for international flights

Southwest Airlines recently unveiled its international destinations that will originate from the new international concourse at Hobby Airport.

With the start of international flights beginning Oct. 15, construction continues on the international terminal project including a five-gate concourse, federal inspection services facility, multilevel parking garage with 3,000 spaces and

roadway modifications.

"Construction began almost two years ago, and it's exciting to see the facility take shape as we approach opening day," said Houston Airport System Deputy General Manager Jesus Saenz. "While the bulk of the project has been completed, the team is working swiftly on the remaining aspects to ensure that we have an opening day

fresh facility on Oct. 15."

Many aspects of the construction projects have already been completed, including the upper U-ramp, new utility pathways and enhanced roadway lighting.

The pedestrian crossover bridge sections were erected in June and will connect the new garage and the terminal by this fall.

Southwest will officially open its new ticket counters on Sept. 1. Airport beautification improvements are also soon to come, including entryway monuments and enhanced landscaping.

The Hobby project is the latest step forward in the continued growth of international passengers coming to Houston Airport System commercial airports.

Both Hobby Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) saw record-breaking numbers in 2014, with more than 53 million passengers combined traveling through the two airports. Of that, nearly 10 million were international travelers passing through IAH.

Those numbers figure to only grow with the opening of the Hobby International Terminal Project, and the economic impact to the Houston area will be significant.

A study conducted by HAS estimates the Hobby International Terminal will bring an additional 1 million air travelers each year, which will mean 10,000 new jobs to the region and provide a \$1.6 billion impact annually to the local economy.

Hughes Road project underway

The long-awaited project to repair Hughes Road from Beltway 8 to Sagecanyon is currently underway and will continue for roughly 500 days.

To minimize traffic congestion around Frazier Elementary, work will begin there first while school is out, according to City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department spokesman Alvin Wright.

The first stretch of the road to be repaired will be the westbound lanes near Frazier from Sagecanyon to Sagemeadow.

Once those lanes are complete, crews will work on the eastbound lanes. Wright said it is

hoped this phase of construction will be complete by the time school starts on Aug. 25. Wright further said it is hoped that the stretch of road in front of Stuchbery will also be done before school resumes. Plans in the near future call for diverting traffic from the beltway past the area school on the Stuchbery side of the road, while crews work on the Sagemont Church side of the road.

In the works for more than a decade, the Hughes Road project will remove existing paving and replace it, along with curb, gutter and sidewalks on both sides of the street and provide necessary storm sewer upgrades and street lighting.

Kelly Buckman on CBC board



Kelly Buckman, wife of the late Steve Buckman, was recently sworn in to fill the remainder of her husband's term on the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District's board of directors. Steve Buckman died June 20 after a long illness. Kelly Buckman will serve until the term expires in May 2016, at which time state law requires her to run for the position again. Shown above with Buckman are, left to right, MUD attorney Neil Thomas and board members David Flickinger, Chuck Tylka, Jim Bishop and Jim Towey.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Pct. 2 hosts Citizen's Police Academy

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office will host its third annual Citizen's Police Academy from Aug. 11 through Oct. 27 at the John Phelps Courthouse, located at 101 S. Richey in Pasadena. The meetings will take place every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Citizens Police Academy is a 12-week program designed to give residents a working knowledge of the constable's office, including police procedures and protocol.

Through the CPA's interactive courses, participants learn many aspects of law enforcement, such as the Texas Penal Code, patrol procedures, gang awareness, terrorism information and many other topics.

Residents will gain a better understanding of how police services are conducted in their communities and see how and why deputies make some of their decisions in the course of their duties. Graduates of the CPA play a vital role in their community by improving communication

between citizens and law enforcement and by providing local input and support throughout the county.

The constable's office hopes the graduates will become partners with the organization in identifying problems and solutions to the crime issues affecting the community.

The CPA is free, and enrollment is open to qualified individuals, but space is limited to the first 40 qualified applicants. Prospective applicants must be at least 21 years of age and reside in Precinct 2. A thorough background check will be conducted on each applicant.

Residents interested in participating in the CPA may pick up an application at either Precinct 2 Constable's office: 10851 Scarsdale or 101 S. Richey Suite C in Pasadena.

Applications must be turned in no later than Monday, Aug. 10.

For more information, contact Precinct 2 Sgt. Cindy Vara Leija at 713-477-2766.

County to hold two shredding events

Local law enforcement agencies are planning two separate document shredding events in the near future for the South Belt community.

Identity theft has become one of the costliest crimes in the nation. In addition to helping prevent thieves from physically getting their hands on the discarded personal and confidential information of others, the events will also help by heightening general public awareness on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.

Constable's office

The Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office will host a document shredding event

Wednesday, July 29, at El Franco Lee Park, 9500 Hall Road, from 3 to 7 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt. Cindy Vara-Leija at 713-477-2766.

Sheriff's office

The Harris County Sheriff's Office will host a shredding event Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Harris County Courthouse Annex, located at 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Residents may bring up to five banker boxes or grocery bags full of documents.

For additional information, call 713-759-9454.

County auctions foreclosures online

By Jay Do

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan is beginning preparations for a drastic change to the process by which foreclosed properties are auctioned to the public, and taking a large step away from the current and time-tested method.

"The process that we have going on now has been in place for well over a hundred years," said Sullivan. "The first Tuesday of every month, we conduct a sale of a foreclosed property on the steps of a courthouse. While that may have been a good system a hundred years ago, 50 years, even 10 years ago, Harris County has grown so large it's gotten to the point where we are hav-

ing the auctions outdoors, so it's in the heat, it's in the cold, it's in the rain, it's in whatever the crazy Houston weather decides to throw at us. It's not efficient, and it's not convenient for taxpayers or bidders to participate in these auctions. That's why we came up with the idea of doing online auctions, and we asked state Sen. Paul Bettencourt and state Rep. Dan Huberty to carry the bill, and that bill passed both houses. That means that on Jan. 1 of 2016, we can begin offering foreclosed properties for sale on the Internet, as well as on the courthouse steps."

In order for a property to be foreclosed, Sullivan and his office must first try to collect any delinquent

Houston police seek robbery suspect

Houston police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect wanted in at least 15 robberies in southeast and southwest Houston since April 2015.

The suspect is described only as a Hispanic male, 25 to 30 years old, approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing about 185 pounds. He is always seen wearing a long-sleeved shirt and a baseball cap. He has a mustache or goatee and has dyed his hair red or blonde.

The suspect has worn shorts and brown work boots and is also believed to have a tattoo of a blue flame on his right calf. The suspect seems to target women and places a shirt or bandana over his face as he threatens the victim with a pistol or shotgun.

It is believed a second Hispanic male may be involved as a driver in a black four-door Chevrolet Malibu with a partial license plate #FYW.

The suspect is believed responsible for at least three robberies this past week and is showing increased violence with each encounter.

He is believed to have robbed the following locations:

- Sally's Beauty Supply at 10013 Alameda Geona on Thursday, July 16, at 3:15 p.m.

- Pizza Patron at 11400 Gulf Freeway on Wednesday, July 15, at 12:30 p.m.

- Sonic at 13908 Galveston Road on Monday, July 13, at 6:10 p.m.

Anyone with information on the identity of the suspect is urged to contact the HPD Robbery Division at 713-308-0700.

Burglaries at FFA barn

By Jay Do

Students of Dobie High School's Future Farmers of America were victimized by a thief Tuesday as they checked on their animals at the FFA barn on Blackhawk. The thief allegedly broke the windows into both of the female students' vehicles, grabbed their purses containing money and other belongings and left in a red, four-door Dodge truck. The incident took place between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Tuesday evening.

As of press time, there was no word from law enforcement as to the status of the situation.

Residents are urged to be fully conscious of their surroundings and to hide their valuables before leaving their vehicles unattended.

Deputies make arrests, prevent suicide

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office have kept busy, making multiple criminal arrests and preventing a possible suicide attempt.

During a traffic stop Monday, July 13, in the 2500 block of Shaver around 2 p.m., Deputy Jason Curry suspected the driver was giving false information and the passenger was under the influence of narcotics or alcohol. Curry determined the driver was in fact lying about his information and was found to have a parole violation warrant on a homicide charge.

Bobby Davis, 23, of Dayton was arrested for the felony warrant and charged with misdemean-

or failure to identify.

The front-seat passenger was found to have three open Pasadena misdemeanor warrants. She was also found to have attempted to hide a syringe on the floorboard area of the vehicle. The syringe was recovered, and the contents tested positive for methamphetamine.

Kristian Bass, 22, of Friendswood was arrested for the three warrants, and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance.

On Wednesday, July 15, deputies responded to a welfare check call on Slate River in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision to find a mother and

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Boykins tackles illegal dumping

Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins recognizes that illegal dumping is a serious issue that continues to plague many communities within the district.

As a response to this issue, during the recent legislative session, Boykins worked with State Rep. Borris Miles and asked him to introduce legislation to increase the punishment for illegal dumping. The legislation, which has been signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott, increases the maximum fine for various types of illegal dumping

to \$4,000. Those who engage in the practice of illegal dumping must know that this is a serious offense with serious consequences.

Boykins has coordinated with the Public Works Department to utilize District D Council Service Funds for the creation of No Illegal Dumping signs. Boykins is asking for assistance in identifying the areas where residents would like the signs to be placed. Send information to Project Coordinator Chelbi Mims at chelbi.mims@houstontx.gov or call 832-393-3001.

Pasadena ISD seeks nominations

The Pasadena Independent School District is accepting nominations for its 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award.

Nominees must demonstrate a commitment to the educational, social, spiritual and personal growth of the young people of the community

through volunteer efforts in Pasadena schools or any youth-related organization. They must also live or work within the boundaries of the school district.

The Distinguished Citizen Award will be presented at a special reception in the fall. A bronze

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Deputies remove road debris



Personnel from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office were called to remove debris from the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8 Friday, July 17, as it was blocking traffic. Shown above removing the obstruction are Deputy Daniel Bustos and Sgt. Robert Sanchez. The windowpane was placed on the center esplanade, where it was later picked up by someone.

Photo by Jay Do

In My Opinion

Area writer launches book

Life long resident LaCount writes 1st book

Deaths

Weld: Regarding Blackhawk memorial

Regarding the controversy of the memorial on Blackhawk:
I cannot fathom, and pray I never have to go through what this lady has regarding the death of her child. Having the memorial for several weeks is appropriate. However, it has been three years. I believe it is time for the memorial to come down. If this is left, we

will be obligated to let others place theirs for any length of time. We had one for a good while on Scarsdale where a man died on his motorcycle. There was also one close to Chase bank for a while. These came down. The proper place is his burial site.
As far as those who angrily stated that the HOA was insensitive, I do not believe that to be the case. I agree with the HOA. They might have handled it better, but at least they didn't arbitrarily pull it down.
David R. Weld

Kids' Backporch Productions presents The Wizard of Oz

The *Wizard of Oz* is landing at Kids' Backporch Productions. A novel by Frank L. Baum that was adapted into one of the best known films of all time, the story follows Dorothy (famously played by Judy Garland) and her little dog, Toto, as they set off down the yellow brick road to see the Wizard of Oz.

meet a fantastic cast of characters – the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, the Munchkins – and sing one catchy song after another (*Over the Rainbow, Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead, We're Off to See the Wizard*).
Put on some ruby red slippers on Aug. 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 9 at 3:30 p.m. and follow the road to

C.A. Nelson Auditorium in Pearland for this musical fantasy, which features a cast of kids, teens and adults, as well as a live orchestra.
Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$8 youth. Purchase tickets at www.kidsbackporchproductions.org or at the door.
For more information, call 281-412-5350 or email at kboffice@yahoo.com.



From the Kids' Backporch Production of *The Wizard of Oz* are, left to right, Madelyn Klinkerman as the Scarecrow, Deron Evers of South Belt as the Lion, Natalia Leslie as the Tin Man, Sydney Gibson as Dorothy and Milete Klinkerman as the Wicked Witch. Not shown: Tiffany Evers of South Belt plays Glinda, and Jillian Evers of South Belt plays multiple characters such as a Jitterbug, Ozian and Munchkin.
Photo submitted

GOP fundraiser July 25

A "Fun" Raiser, hosted by Clear Lake Area Republicans, is set for Saturday, July 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Landolt Pavilion at Clear Lake Park.
Admission is \$30, which includes dinner and will be free for accompanying children 7 and under.
A live performance by the Blues Other Brothers and a silent/live auction will be held. Gun giveaway chances will be available in advance at any local functions as well as the day of the event. Also included are a moon walk, food and fun for all.

Crohn's & Colitis group meets July 28

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Bay Area Support Group will meet Tuesday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the State Farm Insurance office at 12941 Gulf Freeway Suite 101. Patients and caregivers are invited to attend. Meetings are free.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Branch
The following events are scheduled this week at the Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.
The fire department will be at the library on Monday, July 27, at 2:30 p.m. Come and see the engines and equipment that firemen use to save lives.
On Wednesday, July 29, at 2 p.m. Movie Madness will feature *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*, rated PG.
Guitar Hero 3 is set for Thursday, July 30, at 4 p.m.
Wednesdays – Preschool storytime is at 10:30 a.m.
Thursdays – Toddler storytime is at 10:30 a.m.
Saturdays – Vietnamese Storytime: Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m., and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information, speak with Loc Bui.
For more information on programs, call the Parker Williams Library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library
The following summer reading program events are scheduled for July at Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint.
A kid's craft and a movie are set for 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 23; Movie Time will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 24; Tom's Fun Band is set for Tuesday, July 28, at 2 p.m.; and Music and Movement is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29.
Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday – Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from noon to 8 p.m., Friday from 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Bracewell Library at 832-393-2580.

Kent helps Nguyen see fruits of labor in art

Dona Ngoc Nguyen, one of J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Sherrie Kent, AP Art instructor.
Nguyen and Kent 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. As a volunteer, she painted an art wing mural, helped during the Mellilo Middle School movie nights, volunteered for the Veterans' Art Mural for Brookdale Assisted Living, worked on the Dobie Fine Arts Collaboration project and volunteered for the Soccer Goal Elementary School carnival painting.
Extracurricular activities include National Art Honor Society, PDFLAC (Pasadena ISD Foreign Language Academic Competition), student council, Art Club and Manga Club. Nguyen participated in the Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE), passed on to state VASE twice,

won Gold Seal at VASE, won first place in Culture Shapers, won first place in the Pasadena Live Stock Show & Rodeo Art Competition, received award of Gold Key in the Scholastic Art & Writing competition for art. She also painted murals for the community, helped as a library assistant and a Web tech assistant.
Nguyen demonstrated leadership skills as Art Club president and Manga Club adviser. Nguyen said, "From my freshman to my senior year, Mrs. Kent has helped me augment my art skills through her ways of expressing creative approaches to construct and mentally visualize art pieces.
"By expanding my horizons and techniques with her advice, she has taught me skills that I still practice and use today in my contest and personal artworks. She has poured hours of her time into refining me and helping me pull through my life's toughest moments. Thanks to her, it is clear for me to see the fruits of my labor, and all of our hours have truly paid off."
Nguyen plans to attend the Art Institute of Houston with a career in animation, specifically Japanese animation, and work in Japan with professional anime studios such as Mad House.
The *South Belt Shining Stars* will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the sixth in the series of 10.
The *10 Shining Stars* represent the Top 10 Dobie 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 Memorial and South Houston high schools. (See Pages 3A and 5A.)



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By Jay Do
Local South Belt resident Juanita LaCount is preparing for the launch of her first children's book, *The Adventure of Cate R. Pillar* that will take place on Saturday, July 25, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Lyrical Performing Arts School of Music, located at 5202 Cedar St. in Bellaire.



LaCount received her B.A. from Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges, Philippines, and she studied acting with the direction of Joseph Elmore Jr. with Ambition Films Entertainment. She is currently an actress, a print and commercial model, a composer and a guitarist. She is also a freelance writer and a poet.

The Adventure of Cate R. Pillar is inspired by LaCount's journey through life and illustrates Cate's journey prior to her transformation. She was mistreated and judged because of her outside appearance. When she was a caterpillar, everyone wanted to hurt her. They made fun of her because she looked scary. When she became a beautiful butterfly, everyone wanted to be her friend.

"My life experiences and what happened in my life inspired me to write this book," said LaCount. "When I was in the fifth grade, I was bullied really badly by these two students. They would threaten to hurt me if I didn't let them copy my answers on every test, and they threatened to hurt me if I told anyone. It was a real struggle for me because they still hurt me because they still hurt me regardless. They would kick me, hit me, run away with my lunch. Coming from a big family of 11 kids, we didn't really have a lot of nice things. The kids that I went to school with, from elementary school to high school, all treated me like I was not even there. They never talked to me, just because I didn't have nice clothes and I was smaller than them. They all treated me horribly, just because I was different. I tried my best to learn as much as I could in school, but when that kind of bullying becomes a part of life, it becomes very difficult.

I was told that I was a nobody and that I could never make it on my own, but we are all special in our own ways. I had to struggle to get to where I am today. 2010 and 2011 were the hardest years for me. I only had one job, I was sickly and I was bitter inside. I was financially, mentally and emotionally broken. One day, I decided that it was time to stop feeling sorry for myself and to take control of my own life. I turned to God and decided to let go of the past in order to move on with my life. Since then, I have had so many opportunities as an actress, a model and now a writer."

LaCount began her acting career in July of 2011 after responding to a casting call on Craigslist. When she first auditioned for the role, she never expected that someone would take her seriously because she had no prior experience in acting. Much to her surprise, she got the part, and her life has not been the same since. Although her climb up the ladder of success was exceptionally difficult, LaCount firmly believes that she could not be the person she is today had she not taken on the challenges life threw at her.

"I was bitter before, but looking back at it now, I understand that even though those were very difficult times in my life, those experiences molded me into becoming the person that I am today," said LaCount. "One day, I saw a caterpillar and it was just so ugly and scary, but I knew that one day, it would turn into a beautiful butterfly. It reminded me of my own life. Growing up, I had no friends and nobody wanted anything to do with me, but now that I'm successful, everyone suddenly wants to be my friend. I think it's sad, because they were never there for me growing up. I just smile when I think about it now, because everything's all good now. I have more books coming out, and I had a production company approach me that wanted to do a documentary about my life. That will be the beginning to the next part of my life and I'm very excited for the future. I never expected any of this to happen. I was just looking for a job on Craigslist one day and found one about a casting call for a commercial. I got the job and that job soon led to me being a model. I'm just so overwhelmed by all my recent success, and I'm so happy that I've been able to transform my life from a cold and bitter nobody into someone happy with a bright future."

LaCount's effort in writing and publishing *The Adventure of Cate R. Pillar* was fueled and driven by her steadfast commitment to see to it that no child has to go through what she went through for the better part of her childhood.

"It was never my dream to become an actress or a model, but I had always wanted to be a writer," said LaCount. "My goal in writing and publishing this book is to share my life story, and I hope that it will help lift up kids and other people who are going through a rough time. I just want them to know that there is hope and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

LaCount strongly believes that acquiring a proper education is far more important and valuable than any amount of popularity or social status in school.

"I want to encourage the kids to really focus at school," said LaCount. "When they're at school, they're not there to get famous or be popular. They're there to listen to what their teachers are saying and to learn from it, because no one can take away what they have learned. For the parents that are sending their children to school, they have to let their kids know that they are loved. That way, they are not bullied or turn into bullies themselves. I don't want kids to have to go through what I went through. Kids are going to want attention at school, but it's important for them to realize that they need to learn and that's what they're there for. They don't have to be popular or have a lot of friends, as long as they get a good education. A mistake that so many kids today make is that they look at the now, when they should be looking ahead to the future."

Surprisingly, the most important piece of advice LaCount has to offer to children being bullied is to forgive and forget.

"They have to tell somebody," said LaCount. "No matter how scared they are, they have to tell someone, either their parents, or their teachers or an adult. They cannot hide, because the bullies need to be stopped. As adults, we have to listen to our children and take their concerns very seriously. The most important thing that they have to do is to forgive, because if they do not forgive, they will go on with their lives carrying all that hatred and bitterness. They cannot move forward with their lives until they have forgiven and let go of the past."

District Clerk Daniel set to begin supplying jurors for grand juries

The District Clerk's jury operation will begin supplying all grand jurors through random selection in Harris County if Gov. Greg Abbott, as expected, signs a bill passed by state lawmakers July 31.
The bill will prohibit the current practice statewide of allowing judges to pick a key man, who in turn lines up people to serve on grand juries.
The practice came under fire after the Houston Chronicle and other media organizations reported that some grand juries have been led by current or former law enforcement personnel. In some instances, these grand juries decided whether police officers would face charges for shooting suspects.

The law likely would go into effect Sept. 1.
District Clerk Chris Daniel said, "We will put the new law into practice when it goes into effect. The new selection process will instill more confidence in the justice system, and we welcome it for that reason."

The law should have minimal effect on the district clerk's office other than the jury wheel may be depleted a little more quickly because the DCO will be supplying jurors for grand juries, DCO Chief Deputy Kevin Mauzy said.

Under the law, the only method to empanel a grand jury will be for a judge to direct that 20 to 125 individuals be summoned as potential grand jurors. From those summoned, 16 would be selected for grand jury service (12 would be grand jurors, and

four would be alternates). The bill says the grand jurors and alternates should come from a cross section of the county.
Mauzy said, "One purpose of the bill is to restore public confidence in the grand jury process by ensuring that grand juries represent a cross section of the community, something that could be lacking under the current method. Utilizing the jury wheel to select grand jurors could deplete the jury wheel at a quicker rate, causing the district clerk's office to reconstitute the jury wheel sooner than it otherwise would have. But that effect would really be inconsequential."

Some Harris County judges already were forming grand juries based on random selection. These judges have been coming to Jury Plaza to find grand jurors.

Deputies combat crime

Continued from Page 1A
her son arguing in front of the house. Deputies initially watched from a distance but rushed up and grabbed the male after his mother had gone inside the home. The man was discovered to be hiding a pistol in his waistband.
The mother told deputies her son was depressed and planned to pull the gun on the officers so they would shoot

and kill him. The unnamed male was taken into custody for a psychiatric evaluation.
Once again, Precinct 2 Sgt. Robert Sanchez would like to remind residents who have concealed handguns to always take them inside their residences rather than leave them in their vehicles, as many have been stolen in recent weeks and end up in the wrong hands.

Senior golf tournament set

Council Member Dwight Boykins is committed to his pledge to assist senior citizens who live throughout the district with minor home repairs.
The District D Council Office and the Seniors Assistance Fund Board of Directors will host the second annual Swingin' for Seniors Golf Tournament on Monday, Aug. 17. Proceeds from the golf tournament will benefit the Senior Assistance Fund, which assists District D senior citizens with minor home repairs at no cost to them or taxpayers.
Last year, contractors repaired more than 77 homes through the program. Repairs included screen door repair, home lighting repair, bathroom faucet replacement, gutter replacement, back door panel replacement, and much more.
The purpose of the program is to ensure that minor repairs are addressed before they become major issues.
Those who are interested in participating as a team or volunteer for this year's Swingin' for Seniors Golf Tournament, contact Chelbi Mims at 832-393-3001 or email chelmi.mims@houston.tx.gov.

Rudy T. Rincon



Rudy T. Rincon, 78, died on Monday, June 22, 2015, at Harbor Hospice Facility after a long battle with colon cancer. He was born on June 9, 1937, in Waelder, Texas.

Rincon is preceded in death by his grandfather, Carlos Rincon; his parents, Belen and Maria Rincon; sister Lupe Rincon Gonzales; brother Ysaia "Chayo" Rincon and son Rudy T. Rincon.

He is survived by his daughter, Sylvia Velasquez, and husband David of South Belt, and grandsons Carlos B. Rincon, Davin Velasquez and Nick Velasquez; great-grandson Joseph Allen Rincon; son Ken Rincon; son Michael Rincon and partner Joe Elder; daughter Jaelyn, husband Eric Lopez and grandchildren Annelise, Madeline and Eric Andrew; son John Michael Rincon, girlfriend Maya Kim and son Caden; six sisters: Benita Martinez, Mary Ramirez, Beatrice Rodriguez, Lydia Padilla, Janie Beles, Virginia Rincon; six brothers: Charlie Rincon, Joe Rincon, Tony Rincon, Danny Rincon, John Rincon, Larry Rincon; and aunts, uncles, numerous cousins and nieces and nephews.

Rincon owned the Avalon Barber Shop in upscale River Oaks for more than 45 years, where he had customers who turned into lifelong friends, including local residents, former Mayor Bob Lanier, Bill White, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, and U.S. Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, as well as many Houston businessmen, doctors and lawyers. He would treat each and every one with the respect and kindness that made him successful.

A memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2015, beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, remember Harbor Hospice at 11990 Kirby Drive, Houston, TX 77045.

Sam J. Valenti III



Sam J. Valenti III, 78, died peacefully on July 15, 2015. He was born on July 30, 1936, and was the eldest child of Mary and Sam J. Valenti Jr. He was a South Belt area resident.

Valenti was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Josephine; his sons, Steve and wife Julie, John and wife, Kathy, Sammy, and daughter, Mary Jo; his grandchildren, Rachel Valenti, Jason Davis and wife Kyra, Kendall Valenti, Gina Valenti, Lauren Davis, Michael Valenti, and Kristen Davis; his siblings, Mary Klohn, Gloria Norman, Paul Valenti, and Phillip Valenti and wife Lori.

Valenti attended St. Joseph and St. Theresa elementary schools. He graduated from St. Thomas High School in 1954 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Houston in 1959. While a student at the University of Houston, he was a member of the Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity and the Chemistry Club.

Valenti worked in the physics department at M.D. Anderson hospital for a couple of years. He was employed by Celanese Plastics Co. in 1961. This division was later changed to Solvay America, and Valenti continued to work there until his retirement in 2001. He held many positions including chief chemist, quality control manager, environmental supervisor, and regulatory coordinator. While working at Solvay, Valenti and Josephine were able to take trips by extending business trips into vacation trips. The most

memorable was their trip to Paris and Rome.

Valenti was a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. He enjoyed being with friends and was a member of the Sacred Heart Society and the Solvay Annuitants. He was known as a great poker player with friends and family and was known to win "most of the time."

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, July 18, 2015, at 11 a.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. Burial followed at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jason Davis, Michael Valenti, Alden Speer, Scott Klohn, Joe Michael Carrabba, Larry Sanders, Joe Matraga and Phillip Waterwall.

Chester Lee Marston



Chester Lee Marston, 94, longtime South Belt resident, died Sunday, July 19, 2015, in Houston, Texas.

Marston served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. While serving on the USS Thurston, he was a part of men protecting and keeping the Germans from sinking the Battleship Texas.

He is survived by his children, Bobbie Flannigan and husband Timothy and Leah Mock and husband Ron; grandchildren: Jarred McKinney, Tara Celano and husband Anthony, Katrina Richardson and husband Mike, and Cameron Flannigan; and five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 24, 2015, from 5 until 7 p.m. at South-Park Funeral Home, 1310 North Main St. in Pearland.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 25, at 3 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Burial will follow at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Jeannette Enriquez



Jeannette Enriquez, 67, of Houston, died Sunday, July 19, 2015. She was born in Houston on June 9, 1948, to Romulo and Mary Chavez.

Enriquez was a lifetime South Belt resident. She worked as a jeweler until she dedicated her life to her son, Mikey. She had a passion for her family, crabbing, cats, her faith, and Las Vegas. Enriquez was preceded in death by her son, Mikey Enriquez.

She is survived by her husband, Julio; children Lisa and David Keener, Jesse Sanchez Jr., Carolyn Sanchez, and Marilyn and Rex Ramirez; grandchildren Taylor, Gabriella and Delaney Keener, Jeremy and Nicholas Sanchez, Noah and Isabella Ramirez; her mother, Mary Chavez;

her siblings, George and Norma Chavez, Roman and Sylvia Chavez, and Michael Chavez; stepchildren Debbie and Larry Snyder, Patricia and Rick Savard, and Julio Jr. and Sherry Enriquez; step-grandchildren Cameron, Aidan, Christopher, Jonathon, Samantha and Christina; and numerous family members and friends.

A visitation will be held Thursday, July 23, 2015, from 5 to 8 p.m. with a rosary beginning at 7 p.m., all at Forest Park East Funeral Home.

The celebration of Enriquez's life will be held Friday, July 24, at 3 p.m. at Forest Park East Funeral Home. Interment will immediately follow in Forest Park East Cemetery.

Daniel Anthony Arp



Daniel Anthony Arp, 55, of Houston died in the line of duty as a commissioned security officer for Howard Security on Wednesday, July 15, 2015. He was born on Jan. 5, 1960, to Norbert Francis and Patricia Ann Arp. He was a longtime South Belt resident.

Arp graduated from Klein High School and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Arp is survived by his mother, Patricia Arp; brothers David and John Arp; and sister Deborah Watkins and husband Patrick.

A remembrance service was held Tuesday, July 21, 2015, at Niday Funeral Home. Deacon Jesse Tollett presided. Interment was at SouthPark's Resurrection Cemetery in Pearland.

Pallbearers were Robert Louvier Jr., Laura Bartlett, Pat Stanton, Howard Ta, Joshua Channing and Phillip Mecurio.

Rebecca C. Lozano



South Belt resident Rebecca C. Lozano, 85, died Friday, July 17, 2015. She was born to Gumicino and Elena Cirilo on March 16, 1930, in Cuero, Texas.

Lozano is preceded in death by brother Manuel Cirilo and sisters Lidia C. Manross, and Rachel C. Postel.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Marcelino P. Lozano; her children, daughter Marissa Lozano and son Marcelino (Marc) C. Lozano; her brother, Joel Cirilo; and her sister, Sara C. Villareal.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, at Templo Bethel with burial at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

G.A.P. Academy Kindergarten Round-Up
Registration for 2015-2016 School Year
Families will be provided the opportunity to meet the teachers and experience what our school has to offer your child, such as curriculum and parent organization.
We also provide before and after school care and more.
Join us for this special event on **Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, at 7 p.m.**
This will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to also meet our administration and tour the campus.
11410 Hall Rd. Houston, TX 77089 281-481-3630

Sullivan works to have online auctions ready by 2016



Mike Sullivan

Continued from Page 1A
 taxes from the property owner. "We are selling properties on which the owner has not paid their property taxes," said Sullivan. "Those taxes can be to a school district, they can be to a municipality, they can be to a MUD. For any governmental entity that has a tax outstanding, we can, and do, push for foreclosure so that we can collect taxes that are due. We don't just willy-nilly go down the list and decide which properties to sell. The property owners are given so many chances to pay. "They received certified mail notifications, we phone them, we have people who go out to look at the property to make sure it's not a senior or a disabled individual who is not physically capable of paying their taxes, we offer payment plans, we help them with property tax exemptions to help reduce the amount that they owe, and we really do as much as the law will allow us to do to help these property owners pay their taxes. If we go out to a home, for example, and we see wheelchair ramps, that's an indication to us that that situation may be extenuating circumstances.

We really do make the extra effort to help these individuals as much as we can." Proceeds from the sale of any foreclosed property go toward the recovery of lost taxes. "The idea is to recover the taxes that are owed," said Sullivan. "The benefits of this are that we can get these properties into the hands of investors or potential homeowners who will clean the property up and clean the neighborhood up." Sullivan and his staff are currently the leaders of the shift toward online auctioning of foreclosed properties and are spearheading the effort by pushing to have the program operational by the start of 2016. "We are designing the system right now," said Sullivan. "There are not many states that have online auctioning systems in place for foreclosed properties, I believe California does and Florida does. We're talking to all the counties in those states that have it to devise a system that is easy to use and produces good results. This will probably take us six to eight months. I'm shooting for Jan. 1 to be the date where we can have a hybrid system, where we'll be able to allow online auctions, as well as the auctions that are currently being held in front of the courthouses. Jan. 1 is a goal, and that is something that we're striving for. I'm not sure that the law will allow me to do away with the courthouse auctions, but I'm sure that the Internet auctions will become the prominent and preferred method for investors and buyers to use. Right now, at the Family

Law Center where we have the sale, we can have the crowd that is 10 to 15 people deep, so you cannot hear the constable that is running the auction, and opportunities are missed. It's a very inefficient, and it's archaic. "When I campaigned for the position of Harris County tax collector two years ago, I campaigned on bringing better technology to the office and improving customer service. I believe this will fulfill both of those campaign promises." The Harris County tax assessor-collector's office has had growing success in its current tax sale program. The addition of an online platform will increase it significantly. Once fully operational, Sullivan believes that the online auctioning of foreclosed properties will lead to more owed taxes being recovered. "We anticipate a higher number of bidders," said Sullivan. "Keep in mind, because it's on the Internet, people can bid from around the world. Because the bidding pool is larger, potential buyers are most likely going to drive up the prices, which in turn gives us more of the recovered taxes. Once that sale has taken place, we insist that the owner moves in or that the investor renovates the property, put it in better shape, put a renter or a homeowner in there and improve the quality of life throughout the community. It reduces crime, it breaks the broken window theory, and it does a lot of good things, the least of which is putting the property back on the tax roll." Due in part to the poor economy, property values

have been steadily decreasing over the last few years. Sullivan believes that online bidders for foreclosed properties will help to alleviate that issue. "I do anticipate property values to be increasing, just because it's going to come down to a situation of supply and demand," said Sullivan. "We have a certain number of properties that we can auction off every month, so that becomes predictable, but the number of people that are going to be able to bid on it is going to increase drastically. A wider group of

bidder will drive the sales price up. We've been driving up the number of sales, as well as the amount of taxes that were recovered from the sales over the last several years, and I believe the online auctions will allow us to continue that growth." While Gov. Greg Abbott signed SB 1452 permitting the sales of foreclosed properties online into law only last month, Sullivan believes that the program is sure to be a big success. "The reason that it takes a while is that, one, we have to develop the programs,

but, two, we have a lot of coordination to do," said Sullivan. "We have to coordinate with the constables' offices and the deedholders to make people aware that a foreclosure is taking place on their property. "We work with the county attorney's office and the finance office. There are a lot of stakeholders involved. It's going to take all of us working together to make this a successful system, but I know that we are all committed to it and that it's going to work."

Gonzalez founds baking business

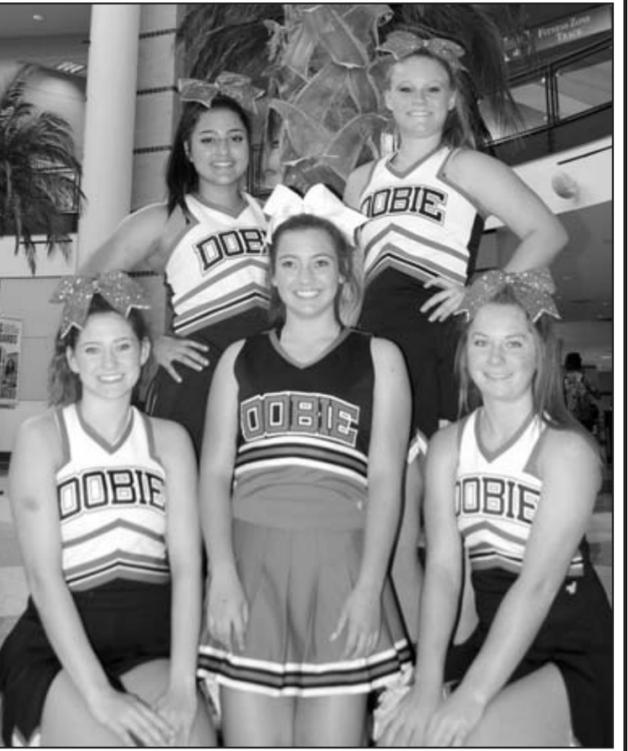


Shelby Gonzalez is shown above posing with a newly baked graduation cake made fresh from scratch. Gonzalez's products are all constructed with meticulous attention to detail.

By Jay Do
 Local South Belt resident and former Dobie student Shelby Gonzalez has recently been making great strides in the development and establishment of her new baking business, Shelby's Sweet Treats. An honor student, a member and officer of the J. Frank Dobie High School Orchestra, a dedicated H-E-B employee, Gonzalez can now add "aspiring entrepreneur" to her list of accomplishments. Gonzalez began baking shortly prior to her 15th birthday, after stumbling upon a cupcake tutorial and demonstration on the Internet. "During my freshman year, we had a little family dinner, and we were all watching YouTube videos," said Gonzalez. "I came across this video explaining how to make cupcakes. I thought it looked pretty easy and simple, so I made my first batch and started giving them to my family and friends." Initial response to Gonzalez's baked treats were overwhelmingly positive. The day soon came when Gonzalez came to the realization that she possessed a tremendous

talent for baked goods and came to the conclusion that a business could be born from her newly found abilities. "Everyone who I gave my first batch of cupcakes to seemed to really like them," said Gonzalez. "I began to start selling them to students at school, and they all seemed to love it, so I began to start baking as a business and going by the name, Shelby's Sweet Treats." In the short time since Gonzalez began baking, she expanded her product line to include cakes, cookies and other baked delicacies, and she has continued to work at an expeditious pace to broaden her knowledge and cultivate her skills to produce more difficult and challenging baked goods. "I spend a lot of my time watching videos and looking at pictures of cakes and trying to replicate them as closely as I can," said Gonzalez. "My uncle also shares my passion for baking, so I always go and ask him for help and advice if I need help with something." Gonzalez's passion for baking is fueled by her continuing ambition to learn more and the support structure of her family and friends.

All-American Cheerleaders



Five Dobie High School Cheerleaders were named NCA All-American Cheerleaders at the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Cheer Camp held at the University of Houston in July. They were nominated throughout the week by NCA staff members for the different skills in which each showed mastery. Then on Thursday night, they performed and were judged individually in front of parents, teammates, coaches and staff. The girls had to do three jumps, the camp cheer and show off individual tumbling skills. The staff chooses only those who show all-around cheerleading skills. NCA All-American Cheerleaders are, left to right, (front row) Hannah Brady (senior), Sara Otwell (freshman), Megan Cook (senior), (back row) Jazmine Howard (junior) and Julia Lohse (senior). Lohse, Brady and Cook were also given NCA Staff applications for the summer of 2016. Photo submitted

PLT to present Dirty Work at the Crossroads

Pasadena Little Theatre, Houston's oldest community theater in continuous operation, will present as its initial production in the all new Black Box Theatre, *Dirty Work at the Crossroads*, a melodrama by Bill Johnson and directed by Mal Morley. This family-friendly, Gay '90s melodrama (or 'melodrammer' if one prefers) is an old-school production with audience participation including booing the villain, cheer-

ing for the hero and heroine, and popcorn-throwing. It will host five performances only: Fridays and Saturdays, July 24, 25, 31 and Aug. 1, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 2, at 3 p.m. Pricing is \$8 (11 years and up) and \$5 (10 and under). Join PLT for an all-out fun time as it inaugurates its Black Box performance space located at the rear of the building. The Black Box perfor-

mance space will usually be host to more intimate and/or progressive productions not available on the main stage. Make plans now as seating is limited in the Black Box with open seating. (Flex passes not redeemable for Black Box productions.) To purchase tickets, make reservations or for more information, log onto www.pasadenalittletheatre.org or call the box office at 713-941-1758.

Dirty Work at the Crossroads cast members shown are, left to right, Alan Gardiner-Atkinson, Avry Diaz of South Belt, Dianne Foussac and Linda Ann Wyman.

Minter values Cole as coach in sports, life

Jacob Lee Minter, one of Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Gerald Cole, varsity football coach. 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. Minter regularly volunteered at the local nursing home, assisted with the school musical, volunteered at the Rugged Race and Pasadena Rotary fish fry, and often attended various events with National Honor Society, student

council and his church. Extracurricular activities for Minter include varsity football, varsity track, varsity powerlifting, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and student council. Minter has served in positions in football leadership council, football team captain, National Honor Society treasurer, student council co-president, Texas Boy's state delegate, Pasadena Noon Optimist Student of the Month, class president, and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee. Concerning the future, Minter plans to attend Baylor University to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, followed by medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon. Minter said, "Throughout my schooling, I haven't had a teacher or coach more memorable than Coach Cole. He is diligent, stern and very comical (as a good coach should be). Coach Cole pushes his players not only to better themselves as athletes, but as men. He teaches offensive linemen how to take on a monstrous, 350-pound defensive end and also how to take on the real-world problems of everyday life. Of all my teachers, Coach Cole is undoubtedly the one who cares the most for his students' futures. He's a big man with a big heart, and I can't thank him enough." The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the sixth in the series of 10. The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 Pasadena Memorial High School's 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. (See Pages 2A and 5A.)



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PISD seeks nominations

Continued from Page 1A
 plaque will be dedicated at the reception and placed at the front entrance to the Administration Building. Past recipients of the Distinguished Citizen Award include (1995) Faye Schimek, (1996) Kathryn Whitfill, (1997) Kathleen Morris, (1998) John Phelps, (1999) Denise Converse, (2000) Gilbert Aguilar, (2001) Eddie Dansby, (2002) Judy and Russell Lamontagne, (2003) Dr. Paul Covell, (2004) Rosalie Kuntz, (2005) Emory Gadd, (2006) Charles Davis, (2007) Herman Williams, (2008) Carroll Smith, (2009)

Terry Brotherton, (2010) Bill Barmore, (2011) Dana Philibert, (2012) Linda Lukaszewski, (2013) Melvin Cowart and (2014) Nelly Quijano. Those wishing to submit a nomination should return a completed form, along with any supporting documentation such as newspaper clippings or resumes, by Aug. 14. To submit a nomination and to see more information about past honorees, visit www1.pasadenaisd.org/District.

Citizen. For information, call 713-740-0186.

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SAGEMONT PLAYSCHOOL
Calling All Parents with Young Children!

Sagemont Church Playschool Registration Underway!
 Registration for the 2015-2016 Playschool year is still underway. Playschool is a mother's day out program offered for children ages six weeks through four years old as of September 1, 2015. It is held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays from September to May. For more information, contact the Children's Ministry office at **281-481-8770, ext. 2632**

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SJC announces upcoming events

San Jacinto College recently released its calendar of events for July 24 through July 31.

The South campus is located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston; Central campus is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena; and North campus is at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston.

Registration for fall
Registration continues for fall term classes that begin on Aug. 24, 2015. Register at sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration. Payment is due Aug. 13.

Registration remains open for fall 2015, but all financial obligations incurred after the payment deadline of Aug. 13 not covered by financial aid, installment payment plan, third party agreement, or scholarship must be paid on day of registration.

Meningitis vaccinations
Meningitis vaccinations will be available on all three campuses throughout the Summer at San Jacinto College. For a list of locations, dates, times and costs, visit sanjac.edu/meningitis.

Summer Literacy Institute
San Jacinto College will host its annual Summer Literacy Institute on July 30 and 31 at the San Jacinto College South campus Student Center. Topics will include House Bill 5, Adult Basic Education, Developmental Education, and acceleration models to college readiness. Session strands will include mathematics and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Local and statewide educators are invited to attend.

Online registration is open through July 29, and on-site registration will also be available. The registration

fee is \$70. For online registration, visit https://secure.touchnet.com/C22834_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=5&STCA TID=2.

For questions or more information, email kina.lara@sjcd.edu or joanie.deforest@sjcd.edu.

Summer camps
San Jacinto College will host a variety of fun and enriching summer camps for kids of all ages at each of its three campuses. Camp prices vary, depending on the camp. The following camps are coming up in August:

- PASS Program, Math Level 1, available at South, North, and Central campuses – Aug. 3 to 6
- PASS Program, Math Level 2, available at South and Central campuses – Aug. 3 to 6
- PASS Program, INRW, available at South, North, and Central campuses – Aug. 3 to 6

- Maritime Venture Camp, South campus – Aug. 3 to 6
- Lost in Space Camp, Central campus – Aug. 3 to 6
- Engineering FUNdamentals with LEGOs Summer Camp, Central campus – Aug. 10 to 14

- PASS Program, Math Level 1, available at South, North, and Central campuses – Aug. 10 to 13
- PASS Program, Math Level 2, available at South and Central campuses – Aug. 10 to 13
- PASS Program, INRW, available at South, North, and Central campuses – Aug. 10 to 13

Some scholarships to help with camp tuition are available for certain camps to those who qualify. To register, visit sanjac.edu/calendar/summer-camps.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

ABIGAIL CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY!
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Abigail Martinez**, who turns 9 on July 24, from her mom **Erica**, dad **Alex**, brothers **Alex II** and **Axel**, and sister **Audrey Martinez**. Abigail is a student at Genoa Elementary, and the family celebrated on July 19.

HAPPY 7TH ANNIVERSARY!
Wishes for a happy seventh anniversary on July 26 are sent to **Steven and Rebecca (Heeth) Irvine** from parents and Kirkwood residents **Richard and Nancy Heeth**.

BEST WISHES TO GRADUATE DANIEL Joe and Yolanda Dominguez, long-time Sagemont residents, vacationed in the San Francisco Bay Area attending grandson **Daniel Chan's** graduation from Menlo High School. Daniel is the son of **Laura Dominguez Chan** ('85 Dobie graduate) and **Craig Chan**. Best wishes go to Daniel from his sister, **Lauren**, brother **Nathan**, grandparents **Lino and Ida Chan** as well as his uncles, aunts and cousins. Family and friends wish him the best at Stanford University in California.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 23 through July 29.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Maria Dsouza** July 29.

Bush Elementary
Enjoy a double-layer birthday cake with

Rubi Contreras and Tonya Goan on July 25. **Maria Hernandez** celebrates a birthday July 27.

Frazier Elementary
A birthday greeting is sent to **Allisen Stewart** on July 23. Light the birthday candles July 25 for **Virginia Light Meador** **Elementary**.

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

Moore Elementary
July 26 is the day for a cake for **Gloria Guillen** and **Myra Nevarez**. Blow out the candles on a double-layer cake for **Martha Perales** and **Cindy Walker** July 29.

South Belt Elementary
Hortencia Armenta and **Sara Simmons** are sent birthday greetings July 26. A birthday greeting is sent to **Lakitha Green** July 28.

Stuchbery Elementary
Glenda Sears is wished a happy birthday July 25. Blow out the birthday candles July 29 for **Susan Brady**.

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

Dobie High
Rebekka Gabino and **Cam Luong** enjoy a birthday July 24. The day for a cake for **Rowena Hickman** is July 25. Birthday greetings are sent to **James Freeman** July 26.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

Thursday, July 23: **Mario Salazar, Angeles Gomez, Melinda Evans and Amanda Karsten**; Friday, July 24: **Richard Schreier, Montoya Wiltturner, Connie Alberti, Richard Golenko and Pete Ortiz**; Saturday, July 25: **Kelly Jones, Jose Abarca, Larry Bennett, Kathy Taylor, Steven Thiele, Stephanie Gutierrez, Cherie Cundiff, Mario Rodriguez and Brodie Riner Jr.**; Sunday, July 26: **Kenneth Sublett, Jeffrey Frugia, Jackie Maduzia, Magda Adams, Debra Patterson, Emiel Adams, Maricela Solis Crow, Kendrick Woods, Jenny Batson, Terrie Nichols, Kenny Fernandez, Eric Madsen, Gina D'Orazio and Elizabeth Bazan**; Monday, July 27: **Lydia Garcia, Joanne Mata and Sean Kean**; Tuesday, July 28: **Ariana Mena, Trina Akins, Al Maldonado, Johnny Carmona, Alyssa Chambers, Tori Mask, Dana Milburn and Sandy Nelson**; and Wednesday, July 29: **Codie Salyer, Linda Brisbay, Oscar Rodriguez, Wanda Veltman, Tracy Samford, Gina Trevino, Danielle Taverner, Albert Perez and Tiffany Barras**.

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

Business women to meet Aug. 13

South East Express Network (SEEN) of the American Business Women's Association will welcome Fay Watson to its August meeting.

Watson has an extensive background from Boy Scouts to Adjunct Professor at University of Houston-Clear Lake to Keep Pearland Beautiful. She is a recent graduate of the 2014-2015 Leadership Pearland program sponsored by the Pearland Chamber of Commerce, and will be speaking about her experience with the program and how it has benefited her in her professional life.

Watson will discuss how the program offers emerging leaders innovative educational opportunities designed to stimulate a higher degree of community involvement and

the desire to be more knowledgeable about local, county, state and federal government and organizations. She will touch upon 11 aspects that are a gateway to decision makers.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque (private meeting room) at 9005 Broadway (518) in Pearland. The cost of \$20 covers the meal and meeting fee.

For more information, visit the SEEN website at www.SEEN-ABWA.org.

Business women and men throughout the community are invited to attend. For reservations, contact Patrice Thurston at 203-559-6124 or patricethurston@americanerpower.com.

Dobie sets class reunions

Class of 1970 45-year Reunion
The J. Frank Dobie Class of 1970 will hold its 45th reunion on July 25, from 6 to 11 p.m. at Las Brisas Mexican Bar and Grill. More details can be found on Facebook, search for "Dobie Class 1970 Reunion."

Class of 1975 40-year Reunion
The J. Frank Dobie Class of 1975 will hold its 40-year reunion Sept. 25-26 at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center, 2500 S. Shore Blvd. in League City. Tickets are \$85 per person if paid by Aug. 1.

Tickets at the door or after Aug. 1 will be \$100 per person. This includes dinner and entertainment for Saturday night. A block of rooms at a special rate will be available.

For more information, call Susie Holmes Holt at 281-222-4140, Pam West Saxton at 832-330-8368, or Debbie Green Harrell at 832-818-5028.

Class of 1995 20-year Reunion
The J. Frank Dobie Class of 1995 will hold its 20-year reunion Friday, Aug. 7, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at Cadillac Bar (private party room), 1802 Shepherd Drive in Houston.

To access the invitation or to pay to attend, go to <http://www.reunionscoop.com> then click on Roll Call of Reunions and follow the directions.

The reunion will be casual. Payment is to the planner, Reunions by Class Act. For more information, call 713-780-0020. The cost is \$42 each (classmate or guest) if paid online by 5 p.m. (Houston time) Wednesday, Aug. 5. If paid at the door, \$55 each, cash only.

Chamber prepares shirts for students



Volunteers folded and packed polo shirts in preparation for distribution to area schools at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Education Outreach Committee's folding party. Shown in the photo at right, **Lauren Laake** (standing), for Councilman **Dave Martin's** office, packs a box of shirts with, left to right, **Merinell McCollum** and **Evan Austin**. Austin also works for Martin. Above are (clockwise from left) volunteers **Nelda Campbell**, **Lauren Laake**, **Rebecca Lilley** and **Merinell McCollum**.



Photos by Lori Rodriguez

Lions Club meeting set

The Houston Space City Lions Club will meet Tuesday, July 28, at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For more information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

Remember When

35 years ago (1980)
Sagemont residents were receiving checks from the liquidation of Sagemont Maintenance Committee assets which were payable to "homeowners." This was

confusing renters and could have caused legal problems.

The nude body of an unidentified female murder victim was found floating in the sandpit directly behind Beverly Hills Park.

Vandalism was becoming a major problem in the Sagemeadow and Kirkwood South parks.

A South Belt area female was abducted from Alameda Mall and raped by a man wielding a gun.

30 years ago (1985)
A prekindergarten program for qualified 4-year-olds was to begin the following September at Atkinson Elementary.

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Junior All-Stars won the Houston Metro Championship and advanced to the National Junior Olympic Tournament in Las Cruces, N.M.

The PISD elementary gifted and talented program expanded to include Atkinson and Meador. This resulted in all six South Belt area schools having the program.

W.B. "Bill" Smith, Beverly Hills' first and at that time only principal, announced his upcoming retirement.

South Belt Security Alliance failed in its attempt to get a gag injunction against Southeast Security, but a Harris County judge issued a warning to both sides to stay clear of one another.

25 years ago (1990)
South Belt MUD customers were preparing to convert to surface water by the end of the year. The change would bring higher water bills since the city owned the water.

Dr. Richard Cook, who had worked with and written about incineration for the U.S. government and other agencies, was the featured speaker at a South Belt area citizens' meeting.

Dr. Ron McLeod began his job as superintendent of the Clear Creek Independent School District.

Development of Ellington Field took another step with the addition of passenger service offered by Continental Express.

Padadena ISD board members hoped to save \$500,000 in annual maintenance by hiring an outside firm to manage the department.

In order to meet rising demands for personnel, PISD board members agreed to hire approximately 250 new people, which would include 100 new teaching positions.

20 years ago (1995)
A leech was used to find an artery in the hand of 2-1/2-year-old Joshua Makuaole after he lost two fingers on one hand. The tot had stuck his hand into a running lawnmower and had to have reconstructive surgery.

The Clear Creek Independent School District board unanimously agreed to hire John E. Wilson to replace outgoing superintendent Ronald McLeod.

The Christopher Edward Williams Memorial Leadership Scholarship fund was set up at the Texas Commerce Bank on Beltway 8.

Local constable deputies arrested three teens for allegedly burglarizing vacant homes in Southbend.

15 years ago (2000)
Jacob Pearsall, 19, died of injuries from a motorcycle accident.

Justice Eric Andell of the 1st Court of Appeals visited the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon.

David and Cissy Chollett adopted two Ukrainian babies, Garrett and Sidnee.

10 years ago (2005)
CCISD trustees moved

to delay legal action against the city of League City in an attempt to resolve issues concerning the district's fourth high school.

The long-awaited connection between Scarsdale and Yost roads was a step closer with the letting of the contract for the Harris County portion. The \$6.19 million contract for the paved roadway and the bridge over Clear Creek dividing Harris County and Pearland was awarded to Infrastructure Services, Inc. It was expected to take 365 days to meet with the Pearland side.

PISD was studying options to replace Superintendent Dr. Rick Schneider after he announced his retirement effective December, 2005. The scope of applicants was limited to PISD employees. Kirk Lewis, assistant superintendent under Schneider, was eventually hired as superintendent.

Former Dobie student Gerald Green was drafted by the Boston Celtics basketball team. Green, a Wood Meadow resident, was the 18th pick in the draft.

5 years ago (2010)
Several businesses in the 12000 block of Beamer Road were vandalized. Houston police responded to at least five separate calls where property had been damaged. The vandals reportedly smashed a pair of glass doors to gain entry to the Sagemont Animal Hospital. A company truck at the Universal Lube and Oil had its windows smashed out. Police responded to an alarm call next door at Solutions Pest Pet Pool, but did not file a report, as there was no visible damage. The vandals smashed the front window of the Cajun Craven restaurant. The vandals also damaged the Ultimate Nail Spa. The Trinity Pen-

tecostal Church and Allstate Insurance suffered damage. In all but one of the instances, nothing was taken from the businesses.

1 year ago (2014)
James Taylor, 32, was fatally shot at an apartment complex in the 9400 block of Clearwood. Witnesses said Taylor arrived home at his apartment and then returned to his vehicle to get something. As he was walking back to his apartment, he was shot several times by an unknown suspect. Taylor made it back to his apartment but then collapsed. Neighbors reportedly tried to save him, but it was too late. No immediate arrests were made.

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Fords reflect upon 10 years in South Belt

By Jay Do
A local family will soon be celebrating their 10th anniversary since moving to the South Belt community from New Orleans. While a business opportunity initially brought them to the Meadows of Clear Creek subdivision, the Ford family soon found that the community and its people had a lot more to offer than a paycheck.

"My husband, Gary, had an opportunity for a job transfer out here," said Melanie Ford. "At the time, we were almost divorced. When that job opportunity came up, I took it to be a doorstep from God to save our marriage. We came out here, and we started exploring the local churches and classes within churches. My husband never went to church back in New Orleans, but he started exploring churches with me when we moved out here. I figured any church that could get him in was worth a shot. We were on the brink of getting a divorce when we moved here and we're still together today, so it goes without saying that this community, through exploring the churches and classes together, has saved our marriage."

The members of the South Belt community wasted no time in welcoming the Ford family with

open arms and making them feel as though they had lived here their entire lives. "I had spent my entire life in New Orleans, and I had been a part of a very specific religion, so I had not explored much of the community," said Ford. "When we moved here and I was forced to explore for a church, I was amazed by all that this community had to offer. Gary and I looked into at least 10 different churches before we finally found our favorite one, and we loved them all. We were so impressed by all the classes that they offered and the fact that they were open to the community, regardless of whether or not you went to church there. I had grown up as a Catholic my entire life, but we looked into all sorts of different churches when we moved out here, and we found the people here to be very receptive and accepting of us. That was where we really found our family, because we had no one else out here with us at the time. It was more than the religious aspect of this area that appealed to us. It was the heart of the people and the heart of the community that really drew us in."

As it turned out, the Ford family could not have chosen to move at a better time, as one of the most destructive hurricanes in the history

of the United States devastated their hometown only weeks after their departure. The rest of their family did not share the same luck and was forced to seek refuge in the Fords' new home for a time.

Once again, the members of the South Belt community opened their arms wide and offered aid and support in whatever way that they could.

"The support from this community when Katrina hit my hometown was just absolutely amazing," said Ford. "It was extensive, and it was mind blowing. People from churches, teachers from schools, volunteers from the local Red Cross, they all came together to help our family that came to seek refuge from the storm in our house. The kids that came to stay with us during that time went to Weber Elementary, and the faculty and staff there were very concerned and made sure to contact us to see if we had any needs. One teacher had a freezer full of frozen meats, and she donated that to us so that we could feed the 25 people that were living in our home at the time. Another teacher who had recently lost some weight donated some of her old clothes to some of the ladies that were living there, because they didn't pack any-

thing to come with them. All the people that came did not expect the devastation and destruction that Hurricane Katrina brought, and they expected to stay with us for a weekend, so they did not pack a lot with them. They came here very unprepared, and the community made sure to get them all the help that they needed in terms of food and clothing. That was very heartwarming and helpful to us, because there was no way that we could have supported that many people in our household financially."

Over the decade that the Ford family has resided in the South Belt area, they have adapted well to fit into the community and have dedicated themselves to giving back to the people who welcomed their family in.

"Gary has gone from being a non-church goer to becoming a leader in our church for Celebrate Recovery," said Ford. "That's an organization that's open to any and all of this community, and it provides support for hurts, habits and hang-ups. He occasionally feeds the homeless, and he serves with the kids' ministry for our church. He speaks at local schools and at his workplace about Celebrate Recovery to make people become more aware that

help is available for them if they need it. Because of what he's learned through Celebrate Recovery, he's gone from doing pretty much nothing to becoming much more engaged in his community. He now works as a vibration technician for a local refinery.

My daughter, Brandie, at the time, had been ineligible for Pre-K, but because of our house having to serve as a place of refuge for such a large number of people, Weber allowed her to join their Pre-K program, and she is about to start high school at Clear Brook High School.

My son, Brandon, has just finished two years at San Jacinto College and is planning on attending the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

I started volunteering a lot at Weber, and eventually I started working there as a substitute teacher because I was so grateful to them for all the help they provided my family. I now work a lot with special needs students and have taken a permanent position to work with resource students with learning disabilities. That's how our family has adapted over the years to this community, and it's been a true joy and blessing, to say the least."

The Ford family still makes an effort to visit their hometown and pay homage to their ancestry.

"We go back pretty often, because it's not too far away," said Ford. "We try to go on a vacation every summer and some of the major holidays. We try to go back and visit at least three times a year. I'm from the Houma Indian tribe, so all of my relatives have lived there forever. One of the things I gave up in moving here was being able to work with the Indian youth, so every summer, we try to go over there to help with the Indian camps."

Ford wholeheartedly believes that the members of the South Belt community have made a tremendous impact in her life and the lives of her husband and children.

"The people of this community have become our family away from family," said Ford. "We've been blessed to find accountability and support through the friendships that we've made here. The people here are role model parents and role model citizens, and I've learned a lot from them through the years. Now that we've maintained our membership at our community church, we've developed closer relationships with members of our community through going to church, attending the ministries and classes. We get together and do barbecues and stuff in the summer and other things throughout the year."

"It's the same thing working with Weber Elementary. It's not all about the pay because I've been able to form really great relationships with the staff there and the students and their parents. Both my husband and myself love our jobs, and our children are getting an excellent education. We couldn't be happier with our lives right now, and a large part of it is because these people have become our family. Living here has been very rewarding. This community has saved my marriage, and it provided refuge for my family members when Katrina hit. It's just been an absolute blessing to be able to become a part of this community."

Gurnells celebrate 15th anniversary



South Belt residents Severen T. Gurnell and Loretta Williams Gurnell, college sweethearts and graduates of Central State University in Ohio, celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary on July 15, 2015. The two were introduced on the Central State campus, dated well into Loretta's graduate school studies and were married in Dayton, Ohio, on July 15, 2000, at the Carillon Historical Park at 4:30 p.m. in the outside air at the bells, sharing with family, friends and visitors to the city from Germany who had never seen an outside wedding before. The couple wore traditional African garbs which were made specifically by Loretta's basketball teammate at Central State University from Senegal, Africa, whose family from Mali, Senegal and Gambia West Africa handmade for each person in the bridal party. The most memorable moment of their wedding was the African Spice ceremony where Severen and Loretta tasted several different spices such as sugar, water to neutralize, salt, honey, cayenne pepper

and many others representing the many different tastes, moments and emotions they would encounter during their marriage. In addition, after a nine-day getaway honeymoon in Big Sky, Mont., Severen and Loretta returned to find out they shouldn't have unpacked all of their gifts because they were moving, and it was going to be far. Texas is where they would call home. As residents in the South Belt area, they are professionals in geography and middle school science. As an Indiana State Basketball Hall-of-Famer, educator and coach for more than 15 years, Severen coaches within the community and conducts private one-on-one fundamental basketball training for youth of all ages. Loretta teaches science while maintaining the organization, SuperLady Live Movement, where girls ages 10-17 develop to strengthen families while transforming community through six pillars: health, look, faith, finances, presentation and relationships. The couple have two sons, Swazi, 9, and Menelek, 7.



Brandon, Melanie, Gary and Brandie Ford

Business women install new officers

South East Express Network (SEEN) of American Business Women's Association

installed new officers at its June 9 meeting. The new board was hon-

ored to have the 2013-2014 national president of ABWA, Lori Burch, and National

Treasury, Gaylyn Devine, present to conduct the installation ceremony.

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Olivetti inspired by Gladney-Lemon to stay positive

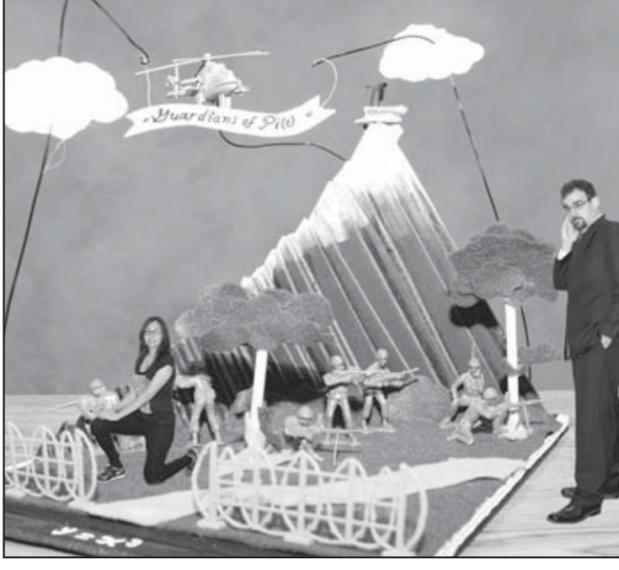
South Houston High School's Shining Star Dianet Olivetti is shown with distinguished educator Alexander Gladney-Lemon, who instructs AP AB-Calculus.

Olivetti and Gladney-Lemon 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.

Olivetti has done volunteer work with school recycling, Mathtys Elementary Fall Festival, American Heart Association Heart Walk, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and St. Michael's Orphanage. Her extracurricular activities include National Honor Society, Ecology Club, student council, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) and Hispanic Honor Society.

After high school, she plans to attend the University of Texas A&M at Galveston and acquire a bachelor's degree in marine biology. Concerning her teacher, Olivetti said, "The first time I met Mr. GL, I thought he would be a serious person; however, he has been the complete opposite. He is an amazing calculus teacher, who never fails in making his students laugh."

"Furthermore, he is patient and helpful. Whenever I have trouble understanding a problem, he always makes sure I completely understand it before continuing. Also, he understands that we have a billion other things going on, like other AP classes and scholarships, and because of this he allows us to do our work at our own pace. Even though this year he went through a tough time,



he did not let that bring him down, and therefore he has inspired me to always keep my head up and stay positive. Mr. GL is one of the best teachers I have ever had, and I am genuinely thankful that I got the opportunity of having him as a teacher during my last year of high school."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the sixth 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 Pasadena Memorial high schools. (See Pages 2A and 3A.)

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Leader shares 2015 vacation photos

Arambula tours Europe



Arambula appears to be holding up the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Florence, Rome, on June 18.

Amanda Arambula, 17, from Pasadena, journeyed across the globe this summer to all parts of Europe, including Spain, Italy and France. She visited Madrid, Barcelona, Provence, the French Riviera in Avignon, Pisa in Florence, and Assisi in Rome. She traveled through EF Tours, a student tours and educational travel, with teachers from the Spanish department and students who attend or are 2015 graduates of J. Frank Dobie High School. "I heard of the opportunity two years prior. After waiting so long, it was departure time. Arriving in Europe was so overwhelming seeing new things, hearing different languages spoken, and eating and trying new things." Out of the 12 days being there, Pisa in Florence was her favorite. Seeing the Leaning Tower of Pisa was so exciting. The people, food and sight-seeing in Rome was beautiful. Madrid and Barcelona come up second and third as her go-to places. Arambula says she is so very thankful to her family for letting her go on this amazing trip and welcoming her back home with open arms. She hopes to return one day with them.

Mata family has fun in the sun

Jillena Mata, daughter Gianna Mata, husband Art Lopez, and parents Willie and Debbie Mata recently traveled to their favorite and most convenient place to travel as a family – Mexico. They explored Cabo San Lucas, Cancun and Isla Mujeres. The Matas are longtime South Belt area residents.



In Cancun, 4-year-old Gianna is shown lying near the beach with a baby tiger.



Gianna, Jillena, Art, Willie and Debbie relax on the beach at Isla Mujeres. They all enjoyed the clear, blue water and white sand.



Jillena and her father, Willie, in Cabo San Lucas.



Jillena, Gianna and Art jump for joy on the beach at Isla Mujeres with Art Lopez.

Gallegos in Florida



Pictured, top to bottom, Makayla Gallego, Jennifer Gallego and fiancé Dominique Shackelford have fun at Daytona Beach during a family trip to Florida. While in Florida, they visited the Holy Land, Disney World's Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios and Lego Land. They are members of Sagemont Church. Makayla is 7 years old and attends Beta Academy. She has a passion for gymnastics and fashion. Jennifer grew up in the Highland Meadow subdivision. They currently reside in Pasadena.

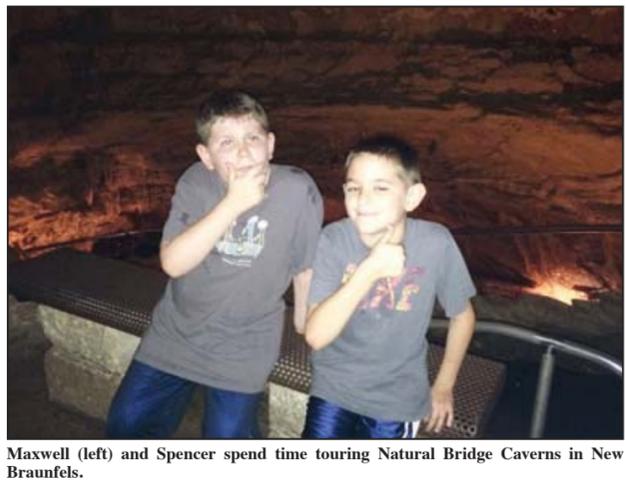
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Family enjoys visit with friends



Spencer Cash spins his big brother, Maxwell, in a chair swing.

While visiting friends in New Braunfels in June, Francesca (Warnock) Cash, her husband, Tom, and their sons, Max and Spencer, enjoyed some sightseeing. The family lives in the Durham Park subdivision. Sons Max and Spencer attend Laura Welch Bush Elementary School. Max will enter fourth grade in the dual language program, and Spencer will begin the third grade this fall. Every summer, the family trip is a visit to Tom's best friend and his wife, Bob and Ann Howells, in New Braunfels. They have 10 acres that allows them to hike, feed the deer and relax in complete serenity. They usually tube the Guadalupe River, but since the water level was so high, it was closed for tubing. For a change, Tom and Bob took the boys to Natural Bridge Caverns instead, while Francesca enjoyed a spa day with Ann. Francesca is a longtime South Belt area resident and a 1989 J. Frank Dobie High School graduate. She is the youngest of the Warnock children to attend Dobie after her four older siblings, Tony (1981), Lynnette (1982), Arthur (1984) and Patsy (1987).



Maxwell (left) and Spencer spend time touring Natural Bridge Caverns in New Braunfels.

Murphys, Moraleses vacation in The Big Easy



Don and Shari Murphy of Sagemont, along with their grandchildren, Ava, Isaac and Luke Morales of Pearland, took the Amtrak Sunset Limited train from Houston to New Orleans. The family vacationed in New Orleans from July 7 through July 12, 2015. While in The Big Easy, they enjoyed an adventure on a swamp boat tour seeing alligators, visited the French Quarter, and toured the historic St. Louis Cathedral. They also took a cruise on The Natchez Steam Boat down the Mississippi River (bottom right photo).

At left, Ava, Isaac and Luke Morales outside the historic St. Louis Cathedral.



Luke, Ava and Isaac Morales are ready to board the train from Houston to New Orleans.



Luke, Ava and Isaac Morales on the Natchez Steam Boat traveling down the Mississippi River.

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Shari Murphy, Luke, Ava and Isaac Morales and Don Murphy toured the St. Louis Cathedral.



Ava, Isaac and Luke Morales with Don Murphy in the French Quarter.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

JFD's Norman visits Croatia

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Mike Norman is focused on continuing to make a positive impact on the Dobie football program once preseason workouts begin in less than two weeks. But Norman and his son, Zachary, can take

comfort in knowing they've once again done the same for a group of football players in Croatia. In July, the Normans made what has become an annual journey to Croatia as part of the HIS PRINT Ministries group. Together, the locals help train and

Continued on Page 3B



At left, a Saturday morning visit to Dobie High showed a completely vacant facility, including all of the athletic fields, the field house, parking lot, etc. It's looked similar during the week for the most part. But all of that is about to change as the facility will come to life in a hurry. Among the events, the Dobie football program will host an incoming freshman camp July 30-31, and the football, volleyball and tennis programs will begin preparation Aug. 3. The Ellington Rams, who utilize the Dobie football field for their home games on Saturdays, will host their home openers on Aug. 29 against the Texas City Stingrays.



Current Dobie High School varsity football coach Mike Norman (at right) oversees the progress of a pair of Croatian football players during what has become an annual trip for him and his son, Zachary, since 2012. Photo courtesy of HIS PRINT Ministries

High school preseason to take center stage

The athletic facilities at Clear Brook and Dobie high schools might be exceptionally quiet at the moment - it's par for the course in July of almost every year. But things are about to rev back up in a

big way. Monday, Aug. 3, is a big day around the facilities. That's when preseason workouts for football, volleyball, tennis and cross-country are eligible to get underway. However,

the Clear Brook and Dobie football coaching staffs will also be hosting youth camps in the coming days for incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students as of the 2015-2016 school year.

Dobie youth camp
Norman and his staff will kick things off by hosting Camp Head Start, open to incoming seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students as of the 2015-2016 school year.

The camp will run July 30-31, from 8 to 11 a.m. both days. Members of the Dobie coaching staff will instruct players in all phases of the game, including blocking, tackling, throwing, catching, running and more. It also represents a great opportunity for future JFD players to get acclimated to the program and the expectations involved.

Families who register their child by July 29 may

BAFL football workouts start July 25

The 2015 Bay Area Football League preseason is just days away. Each of the league's 16 programs will host initial workouts beginning Saturday, July 25, across the area. From there, team officials will notify players and parents as to what the weeknight practice schedule will be moving forward.

The Ellington Rams, boasting the senior division Super Bowl championship in 2014 with a perfect 13-0 record, will begin anew as they host their opening workout July 25, at Wilson Park. That first workout will begin at 8 a.m.

The Sagemont Cowboys will host their opening workout at El Franco Lee Park from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Meanwhile, the Southbelt Dolphins will begin things with an 8:15 a.m. workout at Blackhawk Park.

BAFL's regular season will kick off Aug. 15 at a variety of locations across the league.



The senior division Ellington Rams, including quarterback Able Harris (2), won the 2014 Super Bowl with a dominating performance to cap a perfect 13-0 season. Now the 2015 season is nearing, and programs such as the Rams, Sagemont Cowboys and Southbelt Dolphins have Super Bowl plans.

National T&F awaits Rising Stars

Having begun workouts months ago in hopes of reaching this very point in the season, select members of the Rising Stars Track Club are now set to test their skills against the rest of the nation.

By most recent count, 21 Rising Stars athletes in a variety of age groups are now ready to travel to the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games, set for August 1-8 on the campus of Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Va. Several other athletes qualified for nationals but

will not travel with the rest of the team because of either financial constraints or other obligations. For

the others, it's a chance to take on the rest of the country at one of the summer track and field sea-

son's premier events. It's something the Rising Stars have been very good at in the decades of success shown under head coach Ivory Kimble and his staff.

Twelve of the team's athletes qualified for nationals in as many as three events, and another nine advanced in a pair of events.

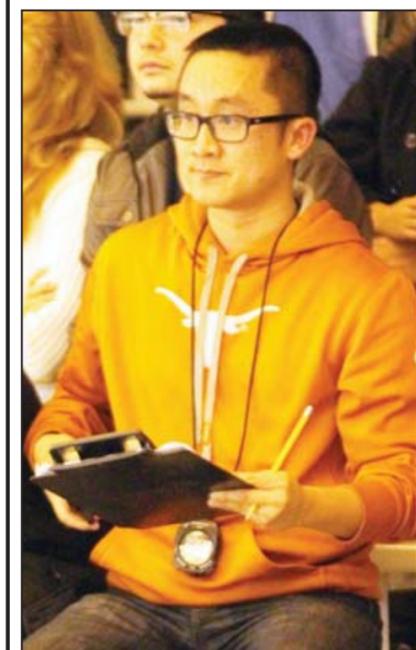
"These young men and women have been working very hard throughout the spring and summer," Kimble said.

"The hard work is necessary and the pain is going to be there in an effort to reach your best, but the rewards are great.

"This is an unusual year in that we were able to see so many of our athletes

Continued on Page 2B

JFD offers swim camp



Dobie High School swimming coach Bradley Nguyen (above) will host the Longhorns' annual youth camp Aug. 3-6 at the Beverly Hills Intermediate pool, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each day. The fee is \$60 cash or check (made out to Dobie H.S. swim booster club) and includes a camp T-shirt. Participants should wear swimming attire and bring goggles, towel, water, etc. Parents of participants are required to cover medical insurance/costs as the Pasadena ISD does not cover students' insurance for summer fitness/recreation programs. For more information, direct email to Nguyen at KTNgyuen@pasadenaisd.org.

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- High Velocity Drying (In Tunnel)

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- Wash
- High Velocity Drying (In Tunnel)

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Rising Stars tracksters hope national championships provide huge rewards

Continued from Page 1B qualify for nationals in more than one event. In fact, most of them qualified in at least two events and others in three. That's a unique circumstance in my experience in this sport."

So, does the Rising Stars Track Club have any legitimate hopes for national championships? Of course.

Matthew Kovacevich, 13, is a distance runner who has put himself in the mix for titles in four events in Norfolk.

Kovacevich was the Region 17 champion in the 1,500- (4 minutes, 46.50 seconds) and 3,000-meter runs (10:40.45), despite having been a competitive runner for just two years.

The distance runner will also take part in the 800-meter run at nationals, in addition to the long jump.

"I just want to go out

there and do my best," Kovacevich told the *Leader*. "I think I have a good chance. Sometimes it's hard if the events are held too close together, but all I can do is compete."

Na'diya Shelby, taking part in the 800- and 1,500-meter runs, also has hopes of doing well in the national competition.

She won the long jump event at regionals (10 feet, 7 3/4 inches).

In a pair of distance events, Shelby also thinks she can fare well. She was second in the 800- and 1,500-meter runs while punching her ticket for nationals.

Camryn Dickson, who already has medaled at nationals during both the 2013 and 2014 seasons, is another Rising Star who could deliver big results.

Now 11, Dickson was the winner of the 100- and 200-meter dashes at regionals, and she also qualified in the 400-me-

ter event after taking third place.

Chardel Terrell, 9, is on her way to nationals to go for medals in three different events.

Terrell will be in the hunt in the long jump as well as the 800- and 1,500-meter runs.

Braylan Shelby also turned in a terrific effort at the Region 17 event and could be in for several honors at nationals.

Shelby, 10, qualified in the 800- and 1,500-meter runs in addition to the long jump.

As for Cameron Devereux, 14, he will also have a shot at medaling in three different events.

Devereux was sensational at regionals, finishing third in the 800- and 1,500-meter runs. He also placed third in the javelin event.

Joshua Ross is yet another athlete who has the opportunity to come up big at the national event.

Ross has qualified for the 1,500-meter racewalk as the Region 17 champion, and he also will take part

in the shot put after qualifying.

There are plenty of other athletes who are plan-

ning to make their mark at nationals.

Mark Milton, who will be a sophomore at Clear

Brook High School, is set to compete in the 200-meter dash at nationals.

The young athlete en-

joyed a big first season with the Wolverines and has continued to excel this summer.

Many others will be given their chance to show off their skills on the big stage.



The Rising Stars Track Club's season was highlighted by the fact that so many athletes who qualified for nationals did so in as many as two and three events for the grand finale at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Va. Those who are headed to nationals include, left to right, (front row) Trevor Doswell, Paul Burgess, Nadi'ya Shelby, Chardel Terrell, Camryn Dickson, Braylan Shelby, Joshua

ua Ross, (middle row) Kelby Williams, Christianne Ross, Sydney Devereaux, Shelby Devereaux, Matthew Kovacevich, Jason Doswell, Christian Ross, (back row) Cameron Devereaux, Caleb Devereaux, Mark Milton, Cody Turner, Kalia Hendrix, Jaden Brown and Luis Figueroa.

Fall sports preseason work set to get underway Aug. 3

Continued from Page 1B do so for \$30 cash, money order or credit card. No checks will be accepted. Walk up registrants will

pay \$40. To register online, visit jfrankdobie.com and follow the instructions on the Camp Head Start link.

Brook youth camp Like Dobie, Clear Brook will also host a youth camp for incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students as of the 2015-2016 school year under the direction of Wolverine varsity football coach Mike Allison, also in his first season.

The Wolverines' Football Mini Camp will be held July 29-30, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. both days.

The fee is \$60 per student, which will include a camp T-shirt.

Football workouts Following those youth camps, the coaching staffs at both high schools will stare straight at the beginning to preseason workouts - Aug. 3.

At Dobie, all returning sophomore, junior and senior players are required to report at 1:30 p.m., while the freshmen will report at 5:30 p.m.

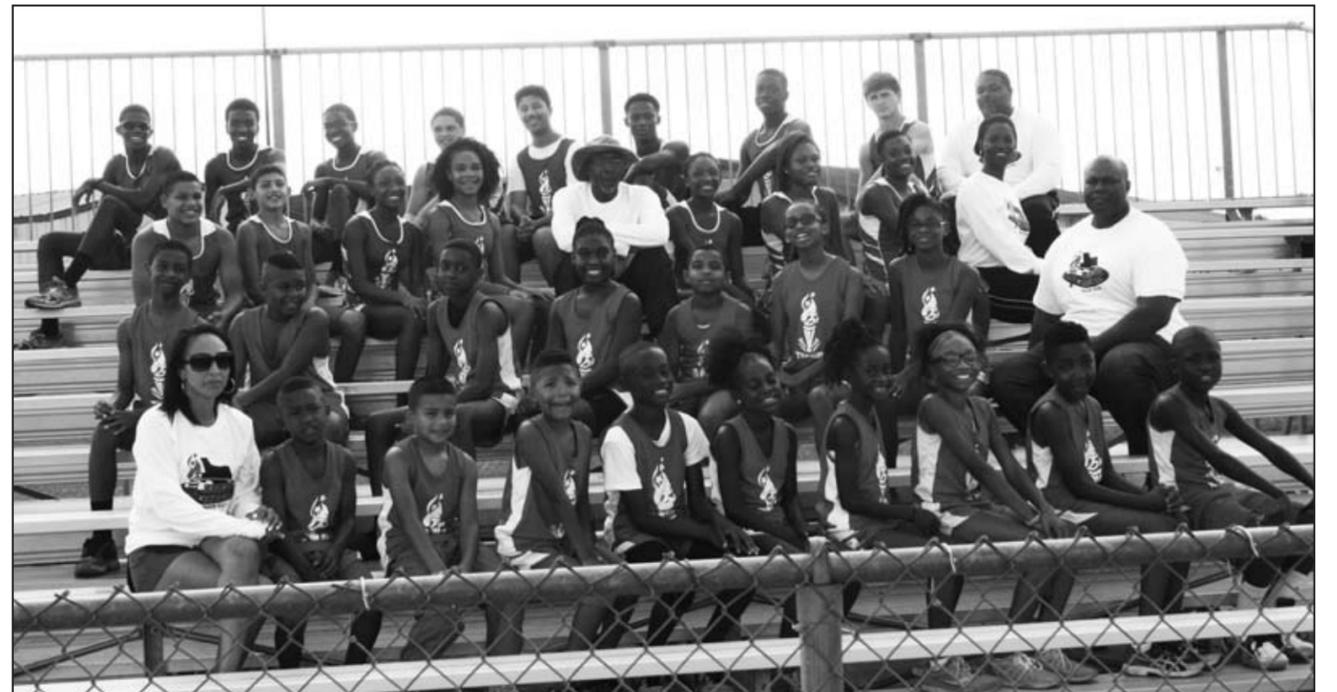
The coaching staff will then notify players of any times changes regarding the workouts.

Volleyball workouts The Dobie and Clear Brook volleyball staffs will host the start of preseason workouts Aug. 3.

The first week of workouts will include scrimmage action prior to the start of the regular season Aug. 11.

Dobie, seeking a fast start under the guidance of first-year head coach Dawn Gutierrez, will open the season Aug. 11 against Elkins and North Shore in a tri-match at Dobie High School.

Clear Brook, meanwhile, will open its season with a series of matches at St. Agnes.



The Rising Stars Track Club enjoyed yet another banner season this spring and summer. Members of the team and their coaches include, left to right, (front row) assistant coach Maday Verdecia, Trevor Doswell, Noah Caballero, Ramiro Garivay, Braylan Shelby, Chardel Terrell, Nadi'ya Shelby, Camryn Dickson, Menelek Gurnell, Paul Burgess, (second row) Christian Ross, Jason Doswell, Kelby Williams, Anaya Givens, Joshua Ross, Christianne Ross, Amari Single-

ton, assistant coach Shannon Shelby, (third row) Devin Jacob Caballero, Matthew Kovacevich, Shelby Devereaux, Camille Singleton, head coach Ivory Kimble, Sydney Devereaux, Chandel Burgess, Kalia Hendrix, assistant head coach Erica Davis, (back row) Jacoby Davis, Caleb Devereaux, Cameron Devereaux, Deon Jady Brown, Luis Figueroa, Mark Milton, Jeremy Davis, Cody Turner and assistant coach Terence Davis.

Sports news, notes

Lady Wolverine volleyball

Clear Brook varsity volleyball coach Meredith Thompson, her staff and current and former collegiate players will combine to host the 2015 Lady Wolverines' youth camp July 27-30 at Westbrook Intermediate.

Students entering the third through ninth grades as of the 2015-2016 school year are eligible to attend.

The first session (8 to 9:30 a.m./\$80 per student) is for students entering third through fifth grade. The second session (8 to 10:30 a.m./\$100 per student) is for those entering the sixth through eighth grade who are competing in the beginning stages of the game.

Eighth-grade students playing club volleyball and who were on their respective seventh-grade A team this season as well as ninth-grade students are eligible to attend the 10:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. session for \$100 per student.

The entry form can be obtained at www.clearbrookathletics.com.

For more information, direct email to Thompson at mthomp1@ccisd.net.

Dobie VB boot camp, tryout

Dobie High School varsity volleyball coach Dawn Gutierrez and her staff will host the Lady Longhorns' voluntary boot camp for incoming freshmen as well as returning program players as of the 2015-2016 season.

The camp will be held July 27-30 at Dobie, from 9 a.m. to noon each day. The cost is \$40 per student. Parents of participants are required to cover medical insurance/costs as the Pasadena ISD does not cover students' insurance for summer fitness/recreation programs.

Gutierrez will also host official Dobie team tryouts Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (varying times) in the school gym.

Any player wishing to participate must have a current athletic physical on file at the school before being cleared to try out.

For more information, call Gutierrez at 281-889-3481 or direct email to her at dgutierrez2@pasadenaisd.org.

Dobie netters invite ex players

The Dobie High School tennis program will host its annual exes matches Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Longhorn courts. Current members of the Dobie program will compete against former Longhorn players in doubles competition. The action will begin at 9 a.m. Any former JFD varsity tennis players interested in competing may direct email to Dobie tennis head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. at mmoreno@pasadenaisd.org.

Lions set more key dates

The Thompson Intermediate football coaching staff has released more key dates as the start of the school year nears. Those returning to the eighth-grade football program may pick up their practice equipment Friday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon. Students planning to play seventh-grade football may pick up their gear from 1 to 3 p.m. There will also be a second equipment pickup date, Monday, Aug. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. Football practice will begin on the first day of school, which is Tuesday, Aug. 25. Those wishing to participate in any practice or workout must have a completed athletics physical for the 2015-2016 school year on file at the school prior to participation. There are no exceptions. The Thompson football program will practice in pads for the first time on Saturday, Aug. 29, with seventh-grade students involved from 9 to 10 a.m. and eighth-grade students involved from 10:30 to noon. Other information will be available in the *Leader* when merited.

SBHLL Back to School baseball

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League will host its annual Back to School tournament for 16-under teams Aug. 21-23 at the league facility at El Franco Lee Park. The team fee is \$300, and each team is guaranteed at least three games. Each team must also provide two game balls. For more information, call Chris Escalera at 832-630-4007 or direct email to chubrock30@yahoo.com.

Dobie duo lifts Houston RBI baseball



Kaelon Woods (left) and Isaiah Myers, members of Dobie's 2014 varsity baseball team, gave the Houston RBI summer baseball program a big lift en route to the senior division league championship. Woods compiled a 6-0 record along the way, posting an earned run average of 2.76 with one complete game and a pair of one-hitters. Woods, who also played both corner outfield spots, was selected to compete with the league's travel team. Myers played in the infield, hitting .560 at the plate. He also chipped in on the hill, going 2-0 along the way. Both players are entering their senior year at Dobie High School next month.

Bengals 10U wins national baseball championship



The Houston Bengals 10U AAA select baseball team brought home the championship at the Independent Texas Nationals World Series. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Nathan Smith, Jason Hendrickson, Doug Schumann and George Marek. (middle row) Nate Burg, Ashton Schumann, Jack Marek, Mateo Skeete, (back row) coaches Brian Smith, Jason Hendrickson, Doug Schumann and George Marek.

SBGSA all-star 12s headed to nationals



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 12-year-old all-star team went undefeated to capture top honors at the Mid-Summer Invitational at Bear Creek Park, building momentum for the Amateur Softball Association's Class B Nationals in Dallas next month. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Chloe Flores, Makayla Guajardo, Leslie Longoria, Celeste Salazar, Karisa Hernandez, Lexy Rodriguez, (middle

row) Ashley Garcia, Marisa Soto, Felicity Soto, Diarra Hypolite, Erika Tafolla, coach Ramon Tafolla, (back row) coach Art Guajardo. Not pictured are coaches Charlie Salazar and Nick Garcia, and player Ale Perez. The team has a fundraising account set up to help cover expenses associated with attending nationals. Those interested may visit <http://www.gofundme.com/12usouthbeltgirls>.

Normans give back, via Croatia

Continued from Page 1B guide Croatian players in the game of football.

The game, usually not offered in Croatian schools, has not advanced to the level shown here in America, but that doesn't mean it's not improving.

The Normans and others can take some of that credit.

Norman, who is in his first season as Dobie's varsity football coach after more than two decades as an assistant at Pearland High School, met HIS PRINT Ministries Director David Moss through Pearland High School varsity football coach Tony Heath.

Heath and Moss were once neighbors, and the connection with Norman was made a little over four years ago.

Since the summer of 2012, then, Norman and his son have traveled to Croatia to do their part on the football field.

For both, it's simply a way to give back within a game that has and will almost assuredly continue to be good to them.

Mike Norman said most of the players involved in the program are either high school or college-

aged. There are no football programs in schools. Instead, available athletics are offered in club form.

The talent and physical attributes of Croatian players versus those of American players can be similar, but certainly in fewer numbers.

There were 58 players attending the camp this summer, including a 23-player club team Ser-

bia that traveled some 12 hours to be able to attend. Once they arrived, they slept in tents as nightly accommodations. Now, that's dedication.

"Their heart, effort and a willingness to listen and learn is something you wish every football player you coached had," admitted Norman.

"They love the game and have a desire to soak

up every bit of knowledge and experience they can get. It's truly refreshing.

"It's a tremendous blessing and a great experience for my son and me. My son is 20 and goes to Texas A&M. He wants to be a coach at some point, and this is just a way that we are able to give back."

Now it's back to work at Dobie, and Norman is more than ready.

Thompson Intermediate Football Camp

July 27 to July 30 (M-TH) at the school

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Grade entering 2015-2016:

Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Positions: Offense: _____ Defense: _____

I wish to enroll my child in the 2015 football camp. I understand that neither the coaches nor anyone connected with the football camp will assume any responsibility for accidents, medical, dental or other expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained during the camp. I further acknowledge that my child is physically fit to participate.

Parent / Guardian signature: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Emergency contact/phone: _____

Physician/phone: _____

Camp to be held at Thompson Intermediate School

Cost is \$25 per student. Please no checks or money orders. Cash only.

Camp hours are 9 to 11 a.m. for all participants.

Report 15 minutes early July 27. Bring tennis shoes. Cleats optional.

For more information, direct email to coach Doug Sawyer at DSawyer@pasadenaisd.org.

San Jac athletes earn dean's list, other academic honors

Thirty San Jacinto College student-athletes across six sports have been recognized for their success off the field and court.

"We are very proud of the academic performance of our student-athletes," said Sharon Nelson, athletic director and head volleyball coach at the San Jacinto College Central campus.

"Our student-athletes place a strong emphasis on their academic performance, and it has paid off. This is truly a testament to their hard work to achieve their goals in the classroom, as well as on the court and field."

Dean's List, Fall 2014

Chase Arledge, men's basketball; Sadiq Inuwa, men's basketball; Hannah Baker, volleyball; Delaney Driver, volleyball; Manon Geoffroy, volleyball; Kacey LeBlanc, volleyball; Hannah McRee, volleyball; Anna Rodrigues, volleyball; Rachel Warner, volleyball; Stephen Mulchor, men's soccer; Ian Barbosa, men's soccer; Elizabeth Garcia, softball; Brigitte Gauvin, softball; Tiffany Jakubec, softball; Bridget Stein, softball; Trevor Bragadeste, baseball; Garrett Davis, baseball; Patrick Donaho, baseball; Austin John-

son, baseball; Erik Nouis, baseball; Alex Phillips, baseball; and Sarah Davis, women's basketball.

Dean's List, Spring 2015

Chase Arledge, men's basketball; Sadiq Inuwa, men's basketball; Hannah Baker, volleyball; Delaney Driver, volleyball; Manon Geoffroy, volleyball; Kacey LeBlanc, volleyball; Rachel Warner, volleyball; Stephen Mulchor, men's soccer; Ian Barbosa, men's soccer; Gonzalo Orozco, men's soccer; Elizabeth Garcia, softball; Brigitte Gauvin, softball; Tiffany Jakubec, softball; Katy Potter, softball; Bridget Stein, softball; Brittany Woods, softball; Trevor Bragadeste, baseball; Rex Hill, baseball; Austin Homan, baseball; Austin Johnson, baseball; Erik Nouis, baseball; Alex Phillips, baseball; Walker Pennington, baseball; and Douglas Halloway, baseball.

Academic All-Region (GPA above 3.25)

Delaney Driver, volleyball; Rachel Warner, volleyball; Austin Johnson, baseball; Walker Pennington, baseball; Erik Nouis, baseball; Alex Phillips, baseball; Douglas Halloway, baseball; Jonathon Meyer, baseball; Sarah Davis, women's basketball

NJCAA Academic Honors Superior Academic Achievement (3.80-3.99 GPA)

Delaney Driver, volleyball; Elizabeth Garcia, softball; Brigitte Gauvin, softball; and Austin Johnson, baseball.

Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60 - 3.79)

Rachel Warner, volleyball; Chase Arledge, men's basketball; Walker Pennington, baseball; Erik Nouis, baseball.

The college's volleyball and men's basketball programs were also honored as All-Academic Teams

(cumulative GPA above 3.0).

The 2014-2015 school year saw a record 1,936 student-athletes from 324 National Junior College Athletic Association member colleges earn national academic honors.

Visit the NJCAA website for a complete listing of the 2014-2015 NJCAA Academic Student-Athlete Award winners.

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

JFD tennis adds preseason workouts



Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has decided to kick-start the program's preseason for all returning varsity players and those expected to compete for a varsity roster spot. The workouts will be held Thursday, July 23 as well as Thursday, July 30, both from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Longhorn courts. The team will also have additional workouts Aug. 3-7.

Athletic physicals are a must-have

Just over a week remains prior to the start of preseason workouts for cross-country, football, tennis and volleyball at the high school level.

That means it's almost time to get back out on the playing surface, but not before athletes take care of any off-field issues, including completing an athletics physical for the 2015-2016 school year.

Per University Interscholastic League guidelines, athletes who do not have a completed physical on file at their attending school will not be allowed to take part in any form of team-related workouts.

Seemingly every year, coaches come away dismayed at the number of

athletes who show up for workouts but do not yet have an official physical on file. It's time to get it done.

For questions or paperwork necessities, direct calls to Dobie High School campus athletic coordinator Mike Norman at 713-740-0370.

Intermediate school athletes will not begin football or volleyball workouts until the first day of school - Aug. 25.

The same rule applies. Without a completed physical, athletes cannot practice.

The University Interscholastic League, the official governing body of extracurricular activities in Texas public schools, has mandated this.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 23

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drlandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911.

Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, noon, 2245 N. Main (building next to pawn shop). For information, call 713-856-1611.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise for individuals with Parkinson's disease, 4 to 5 p.m., Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital Clear Lake, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Call 713-313-1652 or visit www.hapsonline.org for a list of all services.

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

AI-Anon (English Speaking) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

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

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.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each 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.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drlandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911.

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., (Hwy 35), in building next to pawn shop. For more information, call 713-856-1611.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

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.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St.,

(Hwy 35), in building next to pawn shop. For more information, call 713-856-1611.

11 a.m.

AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For persons 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.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drlandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drlandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911.

Grief Support Group - For any adult who has 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 Parkway. For information, call 281-487-8787.

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

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 Narcotics Anonymous NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland (building next to pawn shop). For more information, call 713-856-1611.

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.

MONDAY, JULY 27

AI-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 - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drlandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911.

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 Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 2245 N. Main (building next to pawn shop). For more information, call 713-856-1611.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. For adults with Parkinson's disease only.

Continued on Page 4B

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, JULY 27

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 more information. 6:30 p.m.

Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - meets Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518). Enter door closest to recycling bins. For more information, call 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), First Presbyterian Church in the youth building on the Westminster side. For more information, call 713-856-1611. 7 p.m.

Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - Group meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the staff meeting room. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Betty Bielat at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, 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 the fourth Tuesday of each month, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Parkway (on the lake side), Seabrook. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458. 10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon, 2245 N. Main (building next to pawn shop). For more information, call 713-856-1611. 1 p.m.

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

Ballroom Dance Practice - Tuesdays, Hometown Heroes Park, League City. Come and enjoy free ballroom dancing, 1 to 3 p.m., on a beautiful 3,630 sq. ft. floating hardwood floor. Dancers practice to a large variety of ballroom music. Instructor available to assist people with new moves. Everyone is welcome! For questions, call 281-554-1180. 1001 East League City Pkwy. 1:30 p.m.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - TOPS #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, at 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 6 p.m.

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518) at the First Presbyterian Church in the youth building on the Westminster side. For information, call 713-856-1611. 7 p.m.

Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For information, 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, JULY 29**

7 a.m.

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or drop in. 10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 2245 N. Main (next to pawn shop). For information, call 713-856-1611. 6 p.m.

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., room 215, at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just in. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, meets at 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518) at the First Presbyterian Church in the youth building on the Westminster side. For more information, call 713-856-1611. 7 p.m.

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Confidential domestic violence support group for women, 7 p.m., 210 S. Walnut off NASA Pkwy. between I-45 South and Highway 3. Call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com for information. 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525. **THURSDAY, JULY 30**

7 a.m.

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each 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 - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, noon, 2245 N. Main (building next to pawn shop). For information, call 713-856-1611. 4 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise for individuals with Parkinson's disease, 4 to 5 p.m., Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital Clear Lake, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Call 713-313-1652 or visit www.hapsonline.org for a list of all services. 6:30 p.m.

Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Park and Recreation Center on Hughes Road. For more information call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990. 6:30 p.m.

CrossRoads Support Group - Those who are the husband, wife or partner of a chronically ill/disabled person may join a new support group, Well Spouse, the last Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale. Free childcare provided. For more information, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit the Well Spouse Association at <http://www.wellspouse.org>. 7 p.m.

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

Al-Anon (English Speaking) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in. 8:30 p.m.

Alateen - Provides support for teenage children, friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in. 8:30 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.



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South Belt celebrates Fourth of July & vacations



Houston Fire Department and Southeast Volunteer Fire Department Paramedic Cary Hunter is shown riding through the parade on horseback with Olga Assed.



Hollie Fulsom, Mystie Fulsom, Laney Barnwell, Elizabeth Leal, Mario Leal and Maria Leslie are shown taking to the Fourth of July parade aboard the San Jacinto College float to proudly show their nation's colors.

Parade photos by Kimberly Flickinger, Robert "Bruce" Summers, Davy Flickinger and Marie Flickinger

Leader seeks vacation photos

The *Leader* is seeking readers' 2015 vacation photos for possible publication. A first- and second-place prize of Schlitterbahn tickets will be awarded monthly during June, July and August to the best submissions.

Each month's first-place winner will be awarded eight tickets, while each month's 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 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.



Pedroza family enjoys time together

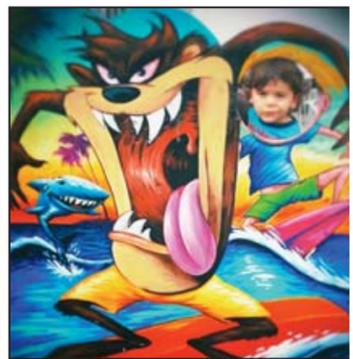
Former South Belt resident Jennifer Mays, and her husband, Jesse Pedroza, enjoyed spending time with their son, Liam Ethan Pedroza, during several hot days recently. The couple adopted Liam when he was 17 months old through an agency in San Antonio in August 2014.

Jesse Pedroza and Liam Ethan Pedroza are just chilling in the pool at Liam's godparents' house in Houston.



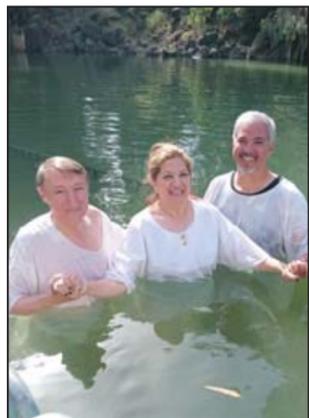
At left, Liam plays in the Splash Pad at the Aquarium in San Antonio.

Below, Liam surfs with TAZ at Fiesta Texas in San Antonio.



Montoyas visit Israel

Gabriel and Sophia Montoya, longtime South Belt residents, visited Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, Israel, in May 2015, where they visited the holy sites. Gabriel is an ordained deacon and he helped Pastor Jim Hummel baptize the people in their tour group.



(Left photo), left to right, friend and pastor, Jim Hummel, baptizes Sophia and Gabriel in the Jordan River, and (right photo) Gabriel and Sophia exit the Yardenit Baptismal Site on the Jordan River after being baptized.



(Left photo) Sophia and Gabriel stand under the Via Dolorosa sign at the Way of the Cross. The path through the narrow alleys of the Old City of Jerusalem commemorates a tortured Jesus bearing his cross, and (right photo) Gabriel and Sophia stand in front of a giant menorah in Jerusalem with their Gate 1 tour group.

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