

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Gulf Freeway to close

There will be a total closure of the northbound main lanes of the Gulf Freeway from FM-518 to El Dorado Boulevard from 9 p.m. Friday, May 19, to 5 a.m. Monday, May 22. All traffic will be diverted to the northbound frontage roads.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Road 1 to Fuqua will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, June 1.

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

Beamer closure planned

Beamer Road will be completely closed at Beltway 8 from the evening of Friday, May 19, to the evening of Saturday, May 20.

This will be a full closure of the northbound and southbound lanes of Beamer under the beltway. Both U-turn lanes will also be closed.

Alternate routes include Sabo Road and Blackhawk.

The measure is to ensure driver safety, as work on the beltway overpass is expected to cause debris to fall onto the Beamer thoroughfare below.

CBM holds annual sale

Clear Brook Meadows will hold its annual spring garage sale on Sunday, May 21. Each participant will hold his or her own sale.

LSA holds summer camps

Registration is open for summer camps at Lutheran South Academy. Camps are available for art, baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, book creator, football, forensic science, Lunch Bunch, physical education, Pioneer Power Camp, photography, Pride Camp, scuba, soccer, tennis and volleyball.

For students interested in weights, strength and agility, Pride Camps are available for students entering grades 6-8 and 9-12 in the fall. The Pioneer Power camp is for students entering grades 9-12 and is great for students in football, boys soccer, basketball, baseball and volleyball. Camp length varies depending on the camp.

Go to www.luthersouth.org for more details and camp registration.

JFD cheer holds car wash

Dobie cheerleaders will hold a car wash Saturday, May 20, at Snowie's, at Beamer and Scarsdale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$5.

Beltway 8 closures set

Both the Blackhawk exit and Monroe entrance on Beltway 8 will be closed through Saturday, July 8. The closures are associated with widening Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Brook cheer holds clinic

The Clear Brook High School cheerleaders will hold a spring cheer clinic Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Houston Texans Cheerleader Natalie will make a special appearance. The clinic is open to ages 4 through high school. Cost is \$50 and includes lunch and a shirt. To register, visit www.clearbrookcheer.com.

Free self-defense offered

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, located at 11507 Hughes Road, on Fridays through May 26, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The class is taught by experienced martial arts instructors. For additional information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Dobie holds Pop Show

Dobie High School will host its annual Pop Show Thursday, May 18, and Friday, May 19, in the school auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.

Bay area quilters meet

The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, located at 10310 Scarsdale Blvd.

Fellowship begins at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting and program begins at 7 p.m.

This month, the guest speaker is Silvi Sealy, and her program will be a trunk show of quilts made of Kaffe Fassett fabrics.

Join the group for a fun evening and come see Silvi's colorful quilts. Guests are welcome. For additional information, call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 or visit bayareaquiltguild.org.

Faith Missionary holds sale

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 9850 Mango, will hold a fundraising yard sale Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will also be a grilled hot dog sale. Cost is \$5 for two hot dogs, a bag of chips and a drink.

Dobie ninth-grade center opening postponed

The opening of the new Dobie ninth-grade center has been postponed until early 2018, according to Pasadena Independent School District officials.

Originally scheduled to open in August 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year, the campus is now expected to open in January 2018.

School officials sent a letter to parents notifying them of the delay.

"The building will be first class, state of the art and beautiful," said Dobie Principal Franklin Moses and Dobie Ninth-Grade Campus Principal Mike Van Essen in the joint letter. "Construction crews have been working diligently the past 14 months. We want to make sure that all parts of this campus are in pristine condition and ready to be utilized for your student's arrival. Factors out of our control, such as weather conditions and other circumstances have delayed the opening of

the new campus to January 2018."

To be located at the southeast corner of Fuqua and Monroe, the campus was approved by voters in November 2014 as part of a \$175 million bond package.

The new facility is needed to alleviate overcrowding at the area school, as Dobie has been at its maximum capacity for more than a decade.

When the new Blackhawk campus was constructed as part of a 2000 bond issue, it was designed to accommodate 3,000 students. A subsequent bond issue in 2004 increased student capacity by 525, bringing the total to 3,525.

Campus enrollment, however, topped 4,000 students at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

Last school year, the campus had 14 portable buildings, including 12 double-classroom buildings and two quad-classroom buildings.

Ellington holds groundbreaking



A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held at Ellington Airport for the facility's new state-of-the-art air traffic control tower. The \$12.4 million project will replace the airport's existing tower, which suffered structural damage in 2008 during Hurricane Ike. Shown above at the event are, left to right, Keith Graf, director of Aerospace and Aviation, Office of the Governor of Texas; Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Dave Martin, District E City Council Member, City of Houston; Mario C. Diaz, director of Aviation, City of Houston; and Arturo Machuca, general manager, Ellington Airport and Houston Spaceport. (See related story on Page 4A.)

Photo submitted

Chamber honors top-10 graduates

Community leaders and elected officials gathered Tuesday, May 16, at a luncheon hosted by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to honor the top-10 2017 graduates from Dobie High School, Lutheran South Academy and Clear Horizons High School.

Dr. Victor Van Phan, an orthopedic surgeon from Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, once again served as the featured speaker at the event.

Phan, a 1988 Dobie graduate, stressed to the esteemed students the need for a strong work ethic. Having lost both of his parents by the age of 14, Phan said he grew up always having to work two to three jobs to survive.

"What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger," Phan said.

The speaker recalled growing up just three miles away from the Golfcrest Country Club

where the luncheon was held and applying for a job while still in high school. He was forced to look elsewhere, however, when he was told he would have to purchase three white shirts – something he could not afford at the time.

Phan told the students that life will not be without its challenges.

"You will fail," Phan said. "Your parents haven't taught you that. Whether in college or your career, you will fail. It's what you do during that failure that defines who you are. Failure is not a weakness."

Phan further reminded the students of their own mortality.

"You will die," Phan said, before reciting a quote he attributed to Abraham Lincoln. "It's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years."

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Phan addresses students

Dr. Victor Van Phan, an orthopedic surgeon from Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, served as the featured speaker Tuesday, May 16, at a luncheon hosted by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to honor the 2017 top-10 graduates from Dobie High School, Lutheran South Academy and Clear Horizons High School. A 1988 Dobie graduate, Phan's inspiring story is one of rags to riches. Prior to becoming a physician, Phan worked as a volunteer and a custodian at the area hospital. Phan generously donated \$10,000 in scholarship funds to local graduates.

Photo by Rebecca Lilley

In the fall of 2014, Dobie was named one of the 100 largest high schools in America. With a reported 3,452 students, Dobie ranked No. 88 on the list.

According to PISD officials, however, Dobie's enrollment at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year was actually 3,708 students (1,005 freshmen, 994 sophomores, 887 juniors and 822 seniors). Using this figure, the school would have been ranked No. 56 on the list.

By 2018-2019, enrollment at Dobie is expected to reach 4,200. PISD officials expect the proposed campus to reduce enrollment at the pri-

mary campus to approximately 3,100-3,200 students, with a capacity for enrollment at the ninth-grade center of 1,000-1,100 students.

The facility will house only first year ninth-graders. Students will have the same academic and extracurricular opportunities as students on the main campus.

School officials are confident the postponement is in the students' best interest.

"We certainly understand that this is not ideal, but be assured that we will still be able to keep our three promises to each incoming freshman

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HPD officer charged with DWI after annual South Belt cook-off

A Houston police officer has been relieved of duty after being charged with driving while intoxicated after leaving the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off on Saturday, April 29.

Officer Jose Ayala was officially charged on Tuesday, May 10, after blood test results determined he had a blood alcohol level of 0.082. He had initially been detained for suspicion of drunk driving.

According to police, Ayala left the cook-off in a white Corvette shortly after midnight and was stopped by Precinct 2 deputies after he was witnessed driving recklessly, almost hitting an officer who was directing traffic.

Once detained, Ayala identified himself as an HPD officer, and Houston police were called to

the scene. Ayala reportedly admitted to drinking four beers and two shots of whiskey between 8 and 11:30 p.m. and agreed to take a blood test.

Ayala joined the force in 2013 and works in the Southeast Patrol. He will remain off duty until the case is resolved.

The charge comes just four days after another Houston police officer was charged with DWI.

In that incident, Officer Ronald Gilbert, 27, was found passed out in his patrol vehicle while on duty in the 15400 block of Galveston Road in the Clear Lake area around 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6.

A five-year veteran of the department, Gilbert was also relieved of his duty until the case is resolved.

CCISD Robonauts create a Ruckus



Students from the Clear Creek Independent School District's robotics team, The Robonauts, recently placed second in the world at a competition held at Minute Maid Park. For its entry, the team designed a shooting robot named Ruckus. Shown above at the event with Ruckus are, left to right, Coach Justin Ridley, Reed Blanchard (Clear Lake), Ryan Stockton (Clear Springs), Ethan Reed (Clear Springs) and Brennan Butcher (Clear Brook).

Photo submitted

CCISD robotics place 2nd in world

Students from the Clear Creek Independent School District placed second in the world at a recent robotics competition.

More than 15,000 students from around the world traveled to Houston last month, putting their innovation skills to the test at the inaugural FIRST Championship, held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Minute Maid Park and Discovery Green.

The four-day event, attended by nearly 30,000 people, came down to a heart-pounding conclusion Saturday, April 22, in front of thousands of cheering fans at Minute Maid Park when teams from FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) and FIRST Tech Challenge competed in match finals.

With a structure much like March Madness, CCISD's The Robonauts finished as the number one seed in the Newton Division, then selected three teams, Citrus Circuits, Davis, Calif.; Columbus Space Program, Columbus, Ga., and En-

ergy HEROs, Houston. This "alliance" then went on to win the Newton Division, which earned the alliance a trip to the Elite Eight, more affectionately called "Einstein." In front of more than 25,000 robotics fans, The Robonauts had a great showing in the FRC world finals by placing second in the world.

The team had competed across the country prior to the world championship.

The Robonauts are the CCISD's high school robotics team with coaches from the school district and the NASA Johnson Space Center.

The team is composed of 64 members from throughout the district, with 24 members being from either Clear Brook High School or Clear Horizons Early College High School.

Local team members include Yuka Abe (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Taylor Cao (Clear Brook, 11th grade), Sakshi Kulkarni (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Amanda Lu (Clear Brook, 11th grade).

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Sagemont to honor Texas soldiers

Beginning Sunday, May 28, and continuing through Friday, June 2, the Sagemont Church grounds will become a memorial garden with 38,000 flags to remember all fallen Texas soldiers from every battle from 1836 to the present.

Sagemont Church invites the Greater Houston community to come and join this remembrance of service members who sacrificed their lives in battle. With the theme *Every Flag Has a Name*, each of the 38,000 flags represents a fallen Texas soldier, and the flags will be laid out with precision similar to that of the national cemeteries. The Flag Memorial will be centered around the church's 170-foot-tall cross. Guests are encouraged to personalize the experience by leaving names of fallen loved ones on a Memorial Wall located on the church property.

On Sunday, May 28, at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

in the church's main Worship Center, the day's morning worship services will focus on remembering and honoring fallen soldiers and their families. On Monday, May 29, at 9 a.m. outside the church's main entrance near its empty tomb, a Memorial Day service will be led by former U.S. Army Chaplain Grant Rothberg. At that service the names of 120 Houstonians who have died in recent battles will be read aloud.

From Sunday, May 28, through Friday, June 2, several display areas will be open for the public to visit while remembering those who have died on the battlefield. Outdoors will be the 38,000 Flag Memorial and Memorial Wall, where the public is invited to post the names of fallen loved ones. Indoors in the church's lobby will be a life-size model of the Liberty Bell, along with a Wall of Honor featuring names and photos of service

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In My Opinion

Franklin, Van Essen on Dobie 9th grade

As we conclude this current school year at J. Frank Dobie High School, we are excited about and making preparations for the 2017-18 school year.

This school year has been a banner year for Dobie, and we have no doubt that next year will even be BETTER!

The 2017-18 school year will be a year of transition like never before for our students, teachers and parents.

This will be Dobie's 50th year in existence in the South Belt area, and what a more fitting year to open a 9th Grade campus for our incoming freshmen and begin an Early College High School program.

Dobie 9 is at the corner of Fuqua and Monroe and will house all incoming freshmen to Dobie.

The building will be first class, state of the art and beautiful. Construction crews have been working diligently the past 14 months. We want to make sure that all parts of this campus are in pristine condition and ready to be utilized for your student's arrival.

Factors out of our control, such as weather conditions and other circumstances have delayed the opening of the new campus to January 2018.

We certainly understand that this is not ideal, but be assured that we will still be able to keep our three promises to each incoming freshmen at J. Frank Dobie High School, which is to keep them safe, provide them with a high quality education and an ultimate high school experience.

We will continue to inform you of the progress and notify you of any changes during the fall semester.

We do appreciate your patience and trust to do what is best for your students.

Franklin Moses
Principal
Mike Van Essen
Dobie 9 Campus Principal

Houston gets to vote on pension bonds

As you may have heard, the Texas Senate passed a bill yesterday which makes sweeping changes to the City of Houston's pension systems. I am still reviewing the language of the final bill and will have a summary for you in a day or two, but one very important provision requires that future pension bonds be subject to voter approval.

There has been a long-standing tradition in Texas that bonds repayable from property taxes, referred to as general obligation bonds, must be approved by voters.

In 1999, the Legislature formalized this tradition in Government Code §1251.

When the Legislature authorized pension bonds in 2003, the legislation was silent on whether voter approval was required.

The Attorney General's office has previously ruled that this silence on the voter approval allowed municipalities to issue bonds without voter approval. So, the roughly \$1.5 billion in pension bonds that have been issued by Houston, Dallas and El Paso, have all been issued without voter approval.

Senator Huffman made an early commitment to include a vote on pension bonds in her bill. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and Senator Bettencourt both backed her up on the commitment. Turner initially railed against the provision, insisting it was a poison pill, but in negotiations over the weekend, Turner folded and agreed to its inclusion. Apparently the "poison" was not so lethal after all.

It is, however, unclear whether Houston taxpayers will get to weigh in on the initial \$1 billion of bonds Turner intends to issue as part of the deal with the police and municipal plans for reduced benefits. This is because unless the bill passes both houses of Legislature by a two-thirds majority it cannot become effective until September 1.

Local library events set

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Basic computer classes are offered on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. Phone the library for information and registration details, or check the library's home page at www.hcpl.net.

Friday, May 19, 5 p.m. Summer Volunteer Orientation for teens 12 and older

Saturday, May 20, 10:30 a.m. Memorial Hermann Community Benefit Corporation presents *How to Talk So Your Doctor Will Listen* (Spanish and English). Talking to one's doctor shouldn't be very difficult, but it can be. Come and learn how to be more involved in health care and how to ensure the doctor is not just hearing but also listening.

Wednesday, May 24, 5 p.m. Basic Life Skills - Identity Protection Basics. Learn what personal information is on the internet, who has access to it, and how to protect one's identity.

Every week at the library: Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Saturdays, Vietnamese learning time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

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

Bracewell Branch Library
The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Thursday, May 18, 6 p.m. Book Club: *On the Road*; 6:30 p.m. Knitting and Crochet

Saturday, May 20, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class; Saturday, May 20, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. English learning; 3 p.m. Citizenship class; Tuesday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. Baby storytime; 10:30 a.m. Toddler playtime; Wednesday, May 24, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime; Wednesday, May 24, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

To register children/teens for the Houston Public Library Summer Reading program and learn about reading levels and prizes, visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/summer>. Early registration continues through May 31 for teachers registering students. General registration begins June 1.

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

Camp STREAM is a free two-day summer program that allows students the opportunity to participate in activities relating to each aspect of STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math). For more information and to register go to <http://houstonlibrary.org/camp-stream>.

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

Elected officials share their words

Bettencourt: Let the people vote

Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) last week responded to Mayor Turner's remarks recently that simply requiring the City Hall to honor any future public vote on switching new City of Houston employees' pension plan from defined benefits to 401(k) style defined contribution pension plans "that does just gum up the process." The amendment, by Bettencourt, simply says that if an election is held on this issue that the city will respect the wishes of the voters.

"I am amazed that my simple amendment, which does nothing more than say the City of Houston must honor the results of a citizen-driven petition referendum, has caused so much consternation at City Hall," said Bettencourt. "My position is clear: Let the people vote."

Petitions signed by roughly 35,000 Houstonians have been submitted to the City of Houston by Texans

for Local Control calling for a vote on the type of pension plans that will be offered to new employees in the future. Since these plans involve the investment of billions of taxpayers' dollars, they should have voice on this matter and, pending certification by the city secretary, will mean that the question of putting newly hired employees into defined contribution plans will be on the ballot on the next uniform election date. Currently 20,000 valid signatures are needed to call for a city charter election in Houston.

"Mayor Turner stated that the purpose of his press conference was to ask the general public for its help and for them to weigh in on the process," continued Bettencourt. "I can think of no better way to allow the public to participate in the process than to respect the results of the citizen petition referendum already signed by 35,000 Houstonians calling for this issue to be put to a

vote." The proposed amendment language came from Senate Bill 1752, which was filed by Bettencourt earlier in the session, which says that public voters on charter amendment referendums to move new hires to defined contribution 401(k) plans that 96 percent of the private sector has will be honored under state law. "Respecting the people's vote is the bedrock of American democracy," Bettencourt said.

"All you have to see is the billions of dollars of pension liabilities in Dallas, our \$8 billion-plus pension problem in Houston to know it is past time to switch new employees to plans the taxpayer can afford.

All the consternation at City Hall that exists on letting the people vote on a referendum isn't in the taxpayers' interest. Ignoring them has repeatedly caused concern litigation. A new direction is required to alleviate it."

UHCL releases faculty research briefs

The following are studies done by members of the University of Houston at Clear Lake faculty:

User, navigational system
Has this ever happened? You are driving along when the tiny voice coming out of the navigation system takes the long way around to the destination, even though there is a shorter route.

But drivers may do as they are told, trusting that the electronic companion knows more than you do. Steven C. Sutherland, University of Houston-Clear Lake assistant professor of psychology, investigates this dependence with colleagues in the article "Effects of the Advisor and Environment on Requesting and Complying with Automated Advice."

"Given the rapid technological advances in our society and the increase in artificial and automated advisors with whom we interact on a daily basis, it is becoming increasingly necessary to understand how users interact with and why they choose to request and follow advice from these types of advisors," says Sutherland. "More specifically, it is necessary to understand errors in advice utilization."

The article was published by the Association for Computing Machinery in the periodical ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems: Special Issue on Human Interaction with Artificial Advice Givers.

Co-authors include Northeastern University's Casper Hartevelde, assistant professor of Game Design and Michael E. Young, who heads the Department of Psychological Sciences at Kansas State University. They propose a framework for studying interactions between automated or artificial advisors and the humans who interact with them.

They considered several factors as variables, notably the environment, the cost (in money, time, or effort) of the

advice and the reliability of the digital advisor.

"We found that less predictable environments, more reliable advisors and lower costs for advice led to overutilization, whereas, more predictable environments and less reliable advisors led to underutilization," Sutherland wrote. "Moreover, once advice was received, users took longer to make a final decision, suggesting less confidence and trust in the advisor when the reliability of the advisor was lower, the environment was less predictable, and the advice was not consistent with the environmental cues."

"These results contribute to a more complete understanding of advice utilization and trust in advisors."

To find out more about UHCL's Department of Psychology, visit www.uhcl.edu/human-sciences-humanities/departments/psychology.

Using game theory to model power grid stakeholders' resiliency
When weather brings disaster, one of the vulnerable victims is the power grid, says University of Houston-Clear Lake Assistant Professor of Engineering Management Xiaojun (Gene) Shan.

Several factors exacerbate that vulnerability, he points out. The grid becomes more fragile as more homes, businesses and industries increase power demand. Moreover, without financial commitments to long-term investments, power failures can multiply.

"It is imperative to improve the resiliency of the electric power grid before the next extreme weather event occurs," Shan writes in the article, "Game-theoretic Model for Electric Distribution Resiliency/Reliability from a Multiple Stakeholder Perspective," for the journal, *IJSE Transactions*. Resiliency can be described as "the ability to rebound quickly to the original state given a major interruption in the elec-

tric power grid," Shan says.

He and co-authors Frank A. Felder and David W. Coit use game theory to model the interactions between private and public commitments to investment in electricity infrastructure. Financial commitment to resiliency investment directly affects the grid's ability to rebound after a disaster, they point out.

They modeled the interactions between independent, investor-owned facilities and public utilities to study whether investor-driven decisions can achieve social optimum, the point at which social benefits and social costs intersect - the "win-win." They found in their modeling that without governance, independent stakeholders - driven by financial concerns - don't achieve social optimum, which could have ramifications for customers of privately-owned central heat and power or CHP plants.

Felder and Coit are professors at Rutgers University. Felder is also director of the Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy at Rutgers.

Different cognitive levels at different reading levels

A new study of elementary school students suggests that certain cognitive abilities predict reading comprehension above and beyond basic reading skills. Furthermore, at different grade levels, students apply different cognitive abilities. "Although the empirical relationship between general intelligence and academic achievement is well established, that between specific cognitive abilities and achievement is less so," wrote University of Houston-Clear Lake's Julia England Strait with co-authors Scott L. Decker, Alycia M. Roberts and Emma Kate Wright. Strait is a clinical assistant professor of school psychology and director of UHCL's Psychological Services Clinic.

The two authors report their findings in "Cognitive Mediators of Reading Comprehension in Early Development" in the latest edition of *Contemporary School Psychology*, the journal of the California Association of School Psychologists.

The study investigated the relationship between specific cognitive abilities and reading

comprehension across a sample of 835 children of different ethnic backgrounds in grades 1-5. It referenced a 2007 study that gave name to two different forms of intelligence: "fluid" intelligence, the ability to solve new problems, use logic in new situations and identify patterns; and "crystallized" intelligence, the ability to use learned knowledge and experience. Results suggested crystallized knowledge is a common cognitive contributor to reading comprehension across all the elementary grades. Other cognitive variables - specifically fluid reasoning and auditory processing - were significant in grades 1 and 2.

Long-term retrieval emerged as significant in grades 3 and 4. These variables receded in importance by the fifth grade. "Although phonics and phonological processing-related interventions continue to be appropriate for children struggling with comprehension in early elementary grades, even above and beyond the influence of basic reading skills, interventions across all grade levels should include activities for building

the jobs today. This need will continue on into the foreseeable future. So what you're doing is exactly what our community needs," added Taylor.

Through its partnership with the city, UHCL opened UHCL Pearland Campus in fall 2010. In 2011, the Texas Legislature allowed UHCL to transition from an upper-level to a four-year university. The first freshmen and sophomores enrolled in fall 2014.

UHCL interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost A. Glen Houston served as the groundbreaking event's master of ceremonies.

He disclosed that Alvin Community College, which has been a partner since UHCL opened in 1974, will begin offering undergraduate classes at UHCL Pearland campus in the fall.

"There are so many great opportunities in this area and this adds to the opportunities we're going to have for young people," Thompson said. "This will be the first four-year university for Brazoria County. We'll have students who will be able to come here and get their degrees, not have to leave home and receive an affordable education. And that is very, very exciting to me."

Mayor Reid told local dignitaries that the city and the university should continue looking ahead to the future of their partnership.

"You already know they (the health care industry) need

Vita Mae Jattar



Vita Mae Jattar, 82, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to many, died May 3, 2017, after a long, courageous battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

She is preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Bessie Ragusa; husband David Jattar and daughter Sharon Marie Grizzaffi.

Vita was born Feb. 7, 1935, in Houston. She was the oldest of four siblings, Joseph Ragusa, Jo Ann DeStattes and Mary Jo Atkin-

Death

son. She grew up in East End of Houston and attended Stephen F. Austin High School where she met and began a 52-year marriage with her high school sweetheart, David Jattar.

She spent the next 20 years as a military wife and mother of three children, Debra, Sharon and David, and worked as a part-time loan officer until she retired.

In 1972, she returned home to raise her family in Sagemont and became an active member of St. Luke's Parish. Her life brightened greatly when she became a grandmother (Memaw) and positive role model to Patrick Grizzaffi, David and Holly Jattar. She held each of them in her heart and would do anything for them.

She enjoyed people and all activities associated with having fun. She was always happy and ready to celebrate at the drop of a hat.

When she became a great Memaw to Hayden and Auytin Rose Jaeger, children of Holly, her life was complete. She loved family time and

especially holidays, when everyone was gathered together enjoying her wonderful cooking. Most of all, her family especially enjoyed her famous salad with homemade Italian dressing; to this day they are still trying to duplicate it. It must have been the "special spoon" with which she measured the ingredients, and they all fought to be the taste tester for her.

After her husband died in 2007, she moved to the senior community of Bella Vita.

She blossomed in her new environment with even more social activities and new friends to keep her busy.

Vita became an independent and strong woman. Among friends, family and social events (dominoes, card games, quilting, road trips, cruises, and happy hours), it was difficult to find her at home. She loved her family, she loved her friends old and new, she loved to be with people and lived life to the fullest.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, May 12, 2017, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

[crystallized knowledge]-related vocabulary and background knowledge.

"These skills appear to be particularly important for developing reading comprehension, rather than just basic reading skills," Strait and her co-authors said.

"Students in upper elementary and beyond may also benefit from adding explicit instruction in long-term storage and retrieval strategies more than from phonological interventions," they said, and concluded, "Educators should keep in mind that fluid-reasoning abilities are particularly important for developing reading comprehension skills in the early grades."

Three of the study authors are graduates of University of South Carolina, Columbia. Decker is director of the Social Psychology doctoral program there.

Wright is a psychology trainee in group practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. Roberts is a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, University Hospitals, Cleveland.

UHCL Pearland facility opens in 2019

University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus broke ground on a three-story, \$24.6 million Health Sciences and Classroom Building that will allow expansion of programs in nursing and other health care careers.

Scheduled to open spring 2019, the facility will eventually include a satellite operation of UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

Construction was made possible by a bill passed in the 2015 Texas Legislature, championed by state Sen. Larry Taylor and state Rep. Ed Thompson with support from Pearland Mayor Tom Reid, the Pearland Chamber of Commerce and Pearland Economic Development Corporation.

"This is really quite an accomplishment for the City of Pearland and for the University of Houston-Clear Lake," Taylor said at the April 28 groundbreaking ceremony.

"You are doing great things for our community," Taylor cited the necessity for more trained health care workers.

Nationwide, health care jobs are expected to grow 26 percent to 35 percent by 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, making it the fastest-growing employment segment.

"You already know they (the health care industry) need

dozen other cities.

Rep. Matt Rinaldi (R-Irving) added an amendment to revert to language passed in the Senate and remove pensions from educators convicted of misconduct by stating, "Crimes against children are an unbearable evil."

An amendment to the amendment by Rep. Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) left it up to judicial discretion if the convicted educator's portion of the pension could be released to a spouse.

The bill now returns to the Senate for either concurrence or conference.

"The citizens of Texas have been heard, as they have been repeatedly shocked and appalled about the conduct of supposed adults preying upon students for sexual relationships," concluded Bettencourt.

contact John Harbaugh at John.Harbaugh@hcpl.net.

Members of Nextdoor.com have witnessed a white GMC Yukon parked outside their home with, reportedly, Hispanic men inside the vehicle.

The vehicle drove off when noticing the owners arriving home. The owners followed the white Yukon occupied by the men and witnessed the suspects stopping and looking at two other houses in the area. In the process, the owners were able to obtain a photograph of the vehicle's license plate to report it to the police. The license plate on the white Yukon belonged to a black Mercedes cargo van. The vehicle has been seen around the 11000 block of Sage-downe and around Sagemont.

For more information, contact Ericka at 281-989-9990 or visit the *Kirkwood Civic Club Facebook* page.

Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd, will hold its Summer Volunteer Orientation Thursday, May 18, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. This year's theme for the annual pop show is called "Rumble in the Jungle." The Friday night performance will be senior recognition night. Admission is \$7. For additional information visit the *Dobie Choir Facebook* page.

The Kirkwood Civic Club will hold a community meeting on Thursday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11506 Hughes Road.

For more information, contact Ericka at 281-989-9990 or visit the *Kirkwood Civic Club Facebook* page.

talents will serve not only our students but the communities and our partners."

Jennifer Fritz is assistant professor of Behavior Analysis and director of the Severe Behavior Disorders Research Clinic at UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, or CADD. She is also a Pearland resident.

New Dobie facility will open late

Continued from Page 1A
at J. Frank Dobie High School, which is to keep them safe, provide them with a high quality education and an ultimate high school experience," Moses and Van Essen said in the notification letter.

"We will continue to inform you of the progress and notify you of any changes during the fall semester.

"We do appreciate your patience and trust to do what is best for your students."

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan
The Dobie Choir will host its annual pop show Thursday, May 18, and Friday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. This year's theme for the annual pop show is called "Rumble in the Jungle." The Friday night performance will be senior recognition night. Admission is \$7. For additional information visit the *Dobie Choir Facebook* page.

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For more information, contact Ericka at 281-989-9990 or visit the *Kirkwood Civic Club Facebook* page.

For additional information, visit the *South Belt & Sagemont area crime alert Facebook* page.

SB 7 passes House, headed to Senate

The Texas House unanimously passed Senate Bill 7, by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) by a vote of 146-0. Rep. Ken King (R-Cadian) sponsored the bill in the Texas House and brought the bill to the House floor on Tuesday, May 9.

Previously, the bill was unanimously passed in the Texas Senate by a vote of 31-0.

The bill would prevent educators who engage in inappropriate relationships with students from being able to jump from school district to school district without facing any consequences. Data provided by the Texas Education Agency shows that there has been a 65% increase in cases involving an improper student-educator relationship in just a two-year period, April 2015 through April 2017.

"I am proud to carry this legislation in the House and do the right thing for students in Texas," said King, the House sponsor of SB 7. "Our children should be able to feel safe in their schools and it is our job to protect them."

SB 7 is widely supported by educator groups, school board groups and the education community. Key provisions include:

- Automatic revocation of teaching certificate if offender receives deferred adjudication for an educator misconduct offense or any offense that would require them to register as a sex offender.
- Expanding reporting requirements to include not only superintendents, but principals as well, with penalties for failing to report.
- Expanding TEA's investigative authority from intra-

district to inter/district relationships.

An educator certificate may be revoked if they assist a person in obtaining employment at a school and they knew that person had engaged in sexual misconduct.

"Educator misconduct is a statewide plague that has unfortunately been on the rise," said Bettencourt. "Inappropriate relationships between students and teachers must be stamped out, period. The 'passing of the trash' will stop as educators with this problem will lose their certificate and be out of the education system."

Educator misconduct reports have previously been filed all across Texas, including in Austin, Bastrop, Cleburne, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Jeffersson, Katy, San Antonio, and more than two

Meador celebrates Cinco de Mayo with parade

Meador held its annual pre-K Cinco de Mayo parade on May 5. Pre-K students dressed up, passed out flowers and paraded down the halls of the school for the staff, students and parents to see. Below, left to right, Emily Chevez and Aulani Arriaga show off their outfits for the parade. Photos by Tara Merida



Shown above, left to right, (front row) Aaron Salas, Daniela Torres, Alba Marroquin, (second row) Isabella Fernandez, Arianna Vasquez, (third row) Jacob Serrano and Julio Salazar.

San Jac sets calendar dates, deadlines

San Jacinto College has announced its upcoming events.

Summer Registration
Registration is open, and payment is due on day of registration by 7 p.m., for classes beginning on June 5 and July 10. Visit sanjac.edu/ap-registry/overview/registration for more information on steps to register.

Summer Camp Registration
Summer camp registration is open. San Jacinto College is offering a variety of camp activities for children of all ages. For a complete list of summer camps and links to register, visit sanjac.edu/summer-camps.

Continuing Education summer courses
Registration is open for noncredit summer courses in the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development division. Courses available include the areas of applied technologies and trades, business and professions, computer and ad-

vanced manufacturing, health occupations, maritime and lifelong learning. To register, visit sanjac.edu/continuing-professional-development/registration.
Community Education Center events
The San Jacinto College Community Education Center, located on the Central

campus in room C-1.108, will host the following May workshops that are free and open to the public. To register, email communityeducation@sjcd.edu.
May 19, Stretching and Relaxation Session, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
May 23, Glimpse of China, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CCISD pays tribute to volunteers of the year

As the school year comes to a close, the Clear Creek Independent School District honored those who never seem to wind down – the volunteers and community partners who generously support the 42,000 students and 44 campuses of CCISD. It was a celebration of game changers.

big talent and even bigger laughs as the students from Clear Creek High School's League of Extraordinary Improvisers, under the direction of theater instructor Bradley Hewlett, shared their flair for the unique medium of improv. "Because of you, a wayward course may have been corrected," said CCISD su-

perintendent Dr. Greg Smith in his welcome at the annual Volunteer and Partnership Breakfast. "An uncertain future secured, or the impossible made possible. That's a game changer in the rule of play in Clear Creek ISD and it's why we are here to celebrate you today." Smith was referring to the many ways in which the

community backs public education and, in fact, has long been setting the pace for sweat equity invested in CCISD students and schools. Acts of generosity of time, treasure and advocacy were all celebrated beginning with the 2017 Community Partner of the Year, the Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers. CCART is 300

members strong and volunteers contribute thousands of hours in support of the staff and students of CCISD as well as several surrounding school districts. CCART members fulfill this commitment through many initiatives from reading with a child in need of individual guidance, to collecting and donating thousands of books each year to the Child Book Project which benefits children of Title 1 campuses. CCART president Judy Gordon accepted the award along with several members of the board of directors.

CCEF hosts annual fashion show

The Clear Creek Education Foundation (CCEF) hosted its 11th annual fashion show on April 2 at Mercedes-Benz of Clear Lake. Themed "I Love CCISD... Where Inspiration Becomes Reality!" more than 300 guests were in attendance and raised more than \$20,000 to support academic enrichment programs in the Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD). "CCEF works year-round to develop and host programs that truly make a difference in the lives of CCISD students," said CCEF Executive Director Kaci Hanson. "Our

fashion show is a special time to educate the community on our initiatives and enlist their support, while showcasing many of the programs we love through this fun filled event. This year's event did not disappoint." The Fashion Show showcased many things CCEF loves about CCISD. Complete with runway seating, hors d'oeuvre stations provided by 10 local restaurants, and talent vignettes featuring CCISD students, it was an event for all to enjoy. The "I Love CCISD" Fashion Show was directed by national fashion event producer, Lenny

Matuszewski Jr. Models included 75 CCISD high school juniors and guest models who are in good academic standing, involved in school and community activities, and who demonstrate all that is positive about CCISD. Student entertainment groups including the Clear Falls Jazz Ensemble led by Russell Zavalla, Clear Lake High School Soundwaves led by Raul Dominguez, Clear Springs High School Audio Video and Production led by Amber Pecsénye and the Clear Springs Theatre led by Mark Stonebarger wowed the

audience. The event was planned by a 22-person volunteer committee that included: Kaci Hanson, executive director; Kay Lee Benoit, chairman; and committee members Kim Barker, Katy Bastedo, Marshall Bennett, Summer Brauer, Amanda Eaves, Melinda Emmons, Paige Fahey, Kimberly Fleming, Tisa Foster, Ann Hammond, Midge Herrod, Holly Hughes, Ellen King, Elizabeth McCarty, Donna McMartin, Sarah Moutz, Claudia Pardivala, Sonia Ponchak, Jill Reason, Deena Rigby, Skyler Rossacci and Elizabeth Wang.

Each campus also selected a volunteer of the year who has been instrumental in the success and achievements of this school and students. This elite group of volunteers was asked to stand and be recognized by the more than 200 in attendance. Listed below are the campus Volunteers of the Year:

CCEF fashion show a success

Emcees for the evening were CCISD principals Michael Houston, Clear View High School (left), and Brett Lem-

ley (M.C. Hammer), Clear Horizons Early College High School (right). Photos by Elizabeth McCarty



Student model Margaret McCarty strikes a pose after walking down the runway.

Student model Carsen Lee is all smiles as he makes his way down the runway.

UHCL announces upcoming events

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has announced its upcoming events. Sign up for UH-Clear Lake summer sessions
New and returning students at University of Houston-Clear Lake can register for summer courses in open registration through June 2 for the summer sessions, which begin June 5.
Open registration for fall runs through Aug. 25. Class schedules are available online at www.uhcl.edu/academics.
For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar at 281-283-2525 or email records@uhcl.edu.

games, fishing, birding and more while learning more about the Bay Area ecosystem starting June 5 at University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.
The Environmental Institute of Houston offers day, half-day and evening sessions. Themes include Discover Nature Camp, Citizen Science Camp and Hunger Games Camp. Prices range from \$20-\$250 per child depending on the session.
For more information, call EIH, 281-283-3045 or visit www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute.

Attend hands-on cybersecurity workshop
There is a hands-on cybersecurity workshop scheduled for high school juniors and seniors the first full week in June. Seating is still available for high school juniors and seniors who wish to attend the University of Houston-Clear Lake Cyber Security Institute summer day camp June 5-8.
Enroll now for hands-on experience with network configuration, Linux, vulnerability scanning and more in the world of cybersecurity. Registration is \$300. Visit www.uhcl.edu/cyber-security-institute/cyber-camp.aspx to register or for more information.

UHCL closes for Memorial Day
University of Houston-Clear Lake will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. No classes will meet and all offices, including UH-Clear Lake's Alfred R. Neumann Library, will be closed. To find out more about the university, visit www.uhcl.edu.
For emergencies during the holiday, call the UHCL Police Department, 281-283-2222.

CC Education Foundation seeks nominations for annual awards

Nominations are now being accepted for annual awards for Distinguished Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) Alumni, CCISD Superstars and the Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award. Recipients are selected by the Clear Creek Education Foundation.
The Distinguished Alumni award is presented to a CCISD graduate who has excelled in his or her chosen profession and has made a significant contribution to his

or her community. The CCISD Superstar is an individual who has made exceptional contributions that benefited the district (may or may not be a CCISD graduate).
The Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award will go to an individual who has made exceptional contributions that benefit the district and community as a small-business owner.
Nomination forms may be found on the Education Foundation website at www.clearcreekeducationfoundation.org. All nominations must be submitted by Tuesday, August 1.

Nominations may be mailed to the Clear Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1631, League City, TX 77574 or emailed to Kelsey.Richardson@clearcreekeducationfoundation.org. Awards will be presented at the Education Foundation Annual Gala on Saturday, November 4 at South Shore Harbour Resort.

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- Brookwood**
Stephanie Comin.
- Clear Lake City**
Gladys Ruiz.
- Falcon Pass**
Heather Shaw.
- Ferguson**
Sherri Creedon.
- Gilmore**
Faith Lacy.
- Goforth**
Gwen Torstrick.
- Greene**
Gabi Rosciano.
- Hall**
Dr. Lavanya Rajagopalan.
- Hyde**
Alyssa Kelley.
- Landolt**
Carrie Bolton.
- League City**
Jan Sattem and Peg Sattem.
- McWhirter**
Mercedes Rosado.
- Mossman**
Cari Sprecher-Reinke.
- North Pointe**
Jennifer Simmons.
- Ralph Parr**
Roxanne Zamora.
- Robinson**
Erling Mendoza.
- Ross**
Shannon Bennett.
- Stewart**
Paula Guthrie and John Guthrie.
- Ward**
Dana Bearor.
- Weber**
Kendra Treadwell.
- Wedgewood**
Sean Rives.
- Whitcomb**
Kerriann Kievit.

Groundbreaking for Ellington's new control tower

In economic development circles, it often takes years to see a project through from start to finish. Such has been the case with the new, state-of-the-art air traffic control tower at Ellington Airport. On Monday, April 24, several dignitaries and interested stakeholders attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$12.4 million project. (See related photo Page 1A.)

Members of the staff of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership attended the ceremony, since they played a significant role in obtaining funding for the project.

BAHEP met with representatives from the Houston Airport System, Ellington Field Military Operations, and others over several weeks in 2015 to develop an application for the \$3.1 million Texas Military Preparedness Commission Defense Economic Assistance Adjustment Grant (DEAAG) to assist in building the new tower. BAHEP then continued to assist HAS in follow-up actions to implement the grant.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell stated, "This new tower is not only crucial to the missions of the military stationed at Ellington Joint Reserve Base, but also to the continued development of Ellington Airport and especially the Houston Spaceport."

"Featuring new radios to improve communication with planes and an automat-

ed weather observation system, the tower will greatly enhance operations. This was a huge win for everyone involved."

Mario C. Diaz, director of aviation for the City of Houston, declared, "This is an important step forward for Ellington Airport, and a critical project to ensure the vital aviation operations based there can be carried out safely and efficiently."

In addition to the \$3.1 million DEAAG, the Houston City Council also approved \$9.3 million from the HAS Airport Improvement Fund to be used toward construction of the tower.

The project is eligible for \$2 million in grant funding through the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program, as well.

At 143 feet in height, the new control tower will stand at almost double the height of the current tower, which is more than 60 years old and bears many scars including damage from Hurricane Ike in 2008.

City of Houston engineers determined that it was not cost effective to repair the current tower, and, while emergency repairs were made, the existing tower still is vulnerable and cannot likely sustain the impact of future storm force winds.

The current tower will remain in use until the new one is in operation, which is anticipated to be by the end of 2018.

PISD announces fine arts calendar

The Pasadena Independent School District has announced its Fine Arts Performance calendar for May and June.

Performances are listed by name, date, time and location:

Dobie High School Theatre Comedy Showcase, on May 18, at 4 p.m., at Dobie auditorium;

Gardens Elementary Music Kindergarten Celebration, on May 18, at 6 p.m., at Gardens cafeteria;

De Zavala Middle School Fine Arts Festival - The Sixties, on May 18, at 6 p.m., at De Zavala School gym;

Lomax Middle School Beginner Band Concert, on May 18, at 6:30 p.m., at Lomax;

Miller Intermediate Choir Pop Show, on May 18, at 6:30 p.m., Miller cafeteria;

Roberts Middle School Choir Movie, Musicals Program, on May 18, at 6:30 p.m., at Roberts Aviator stage;

Sam Rayburn High School Band Percussion Concert, on May 18, at 7 p.m., at Rayburn auditorium;

Park View Intermediate Orchestra Spring Concert, on May 19, at 6:30 p.m., at Park View cafeteria;

Sam Rayburn High School Band Pops in the Park, on May 19, at 7 p.m., at Strawberry Park;

Dobie High School Choir Pop Show, on May 18 and 19, at 7 p.m., at Dobie auditorium;

Sam Rayburn High School Band and South

Houston High School Ellington Field Centennial Celebration, on May 20, at 10 a.m., at Ellington Field;

Hancock Elementary Fourth Muscipalooza Concert, on May 22, at 6 p.m., at Hancock cafeteria;

Miller Intermediate Band Spring Concert, on May 22, at 6:30 p.m., at Miller;

McMasters Elementary Music Talent Show, on May 23, at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., at McMasters cafeteria;

Moore Elementary Music Choir Spring Show, on May 23, at 6 p.m., at Moore cafeteria;

Dobie High School Orchestra Spring Concert and Senior Recognition, on May 23, at 6 p.m., at Dobie auditorium;

Park View Intermediate Band Spring Concert, on May 23, at 7 p.m., at Sam Rayburn High School auditorium;

Sparks Elementary Fourth Grade Finale - Honor Choir, Recorders and Class Dances, on May 25, at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., at Sparks cafeteria;

Pasadena Memorial High School Choir Pop Show, on May 25, at 7 p.m., at Memorial;

Fisher Elementary Fourth Grade Musical "Let's Rock," on May 25, at 6 p.m., at Park View Intermediate cafeteria;

Sam Rayburn High School Choir Pop Show, on May 25 and 26, at 7 p.m., at Rayburn auditorium;

Atkinson Elementary Talent show, on June 1, at 8:30 a.m., at Atkinson cafeteria.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR MARY

Happy birthday wishes are sent from friends and the Leader staff to part-time Leader staffer and full-time Dobie student Mary Doan who celebrated a birthday May 7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COURTNEY

Courtney Durham enjoys a birthday Saturday, May 20. Best wishes are sent from husband Chris and children Abigail and Jackson Durham; parents Fred and Leslie Flickinger; sister Kimberly; uncle David (Leader president) and his wife, Ellie Flickinger; grandmother Olive Falkowski; grandfather John Fairchild; grandparents Marie and David Flickinger; and friends and staff at the South Belt Leader.

BEST WISHES TO JACLYN

Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to former Leader staff member Jaclyn Ramirez Tremont on May 20, from her friends, family and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 18 through May 24.

Atkinson Elementary
Special birthday wishes are sent May 20 to Lina Padron.

Burnett Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for Karessa Whitely is May 21.

Bush Elementary

Marianela Diaz enjoys a birthday May 21.

Frazier Elementary
Send a warm birthday greeting May 18 to Susan Blue. Irma Garza celebrates a special day on May 19. May 22 is the day for a birthday cake for Marisol Cervantes.

Meador Elementary
Marking a birthday May 20 is Gloria Serrato. Birthday greetings are in order for Narua Alfaro on May 24.

Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday party for Jennifer Christen is May 22.

Stuchbery Elementary
The day for a birthday present is May 24 for Ester Vazquez.

Roberts Middle School
Send a happy birthday greeting May 18 to Jessica Arroyo. Light the candles on a double-layer cake May 20 for Denise Gourley and Charlyna Silver. Send a happy birthday greeting May 23 to Kelli Redd.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
The day for a party for Daniel Jacobs is May 19. Micah Strickland is wished a happy birthday May 21. Birthday greetings are sent to Marianella Tyler May 23.

Thompson Intermediate
May 22 is the day for a birthday get-together for Grace Salinas. Blow out the birthday candles May 23 for Nellie Tyler. George Martin is wished a happy birthday May 24.

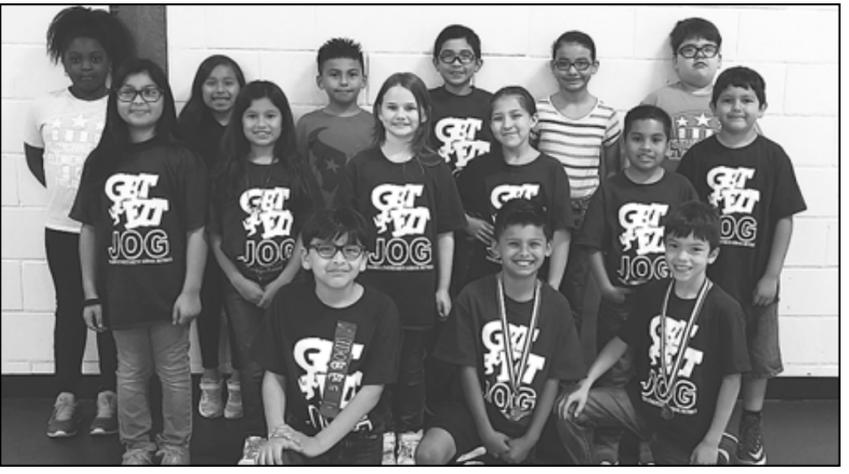
Dobie High

Stuchbery competes in PISD Get Fit Jog

Stuchbery Elementary students participated in the Pasadena Independent School District Get Fit Jog. Students from both third and fourth grade represented the school. The third-graders shown above are, left to right, (front row) Frankie Adame, Adam Williams, James Constance, (second row) Aaliyah Sepulveda, Keyli Vanhouten, Taylor Chappell, Nevayah Sanchez, Henry Nunez, James Saenz, (back row) Robin Oba, Rosalynn Molina, Isaac Mendez, Nicholas Sepulveda, Elena Charles and Matthew Perez. Williams placed third, Constance placed seventh and Adame placed 29th.

Photos by Susan Brady

The fourth-graders shown are, left to right, (front row) Vivian Nguyen, Michael Williams, (second row) Angel Padilla, Ariana Ramirez, Conner Torres, (back row) Eliana Gilbert, Alfonso Gonzales, Jerry Labastida and Julian Saenz. Williams placed second and Nguyen placed 33rd in the competition.



Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
Audrey Smith of Pasadena was named Teacher of the Year for the intermediate level. She was an art teacher for seventh- and eighth-graders.

Joe Borja, a local resident and pharmacist, escaped serious injury last week when he was shot

in a robbery attempt at his store, Metro Pharmacy.

35 years ago (1982)
The board of trustees of Pasadena schools approved a pay hike of approximately 14 percent for the district's 1,881 teachers, and they received a preliminary budget which showed district expenditures increasing by roughly 13 percent.

The chairman of the South Belt Crime Watch Association set up a meeting for representatives of area subdivisions to consider a proposal to establish a supplemental security service by constables in the South Belt area.

30 years ago (1987)
Country music singer Larry Gatlin gave a speech to the students of Stuchbery Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate.

U.S. District Judge James DeAnda accepted a supplemental decree, which settled a discrimination lawsuit won by the U.S. Department of Justice over the Pasadena Independent School District. The settlement called for the school district to pay no more than \$530,000 in back pay to black teaching applicants who were proved to be discriminated against.

25 years ago (1992)
The Pasadena Independent School Board voted 4 to 3 to allow 58 seniors who failed the TAAS test to participate in graduation ceremonies, although those seniors were not awarded a diploma.

Eight Dobie baseball players were named to the District 23-5A all-district team. They were Allen Johnson, Cory Westfahl, Mark Wingo, James Perales, Craig Artze, Shawn Odom, Ryan Keith and Matt Black.

20 years ago (1997)
The Dobie softball team beat Keller High School 5 to 3 to win the state championship. It was the team's third state title in five years.

Dobie student Lindsay Davis visited with House Speaker Pete Laney and Rep. Garnet Coleman as part of the Empowering Teen Leaders program of the Texas Agriculture Extension Service.

Dobie's Nathan Mitchell outpitched Spring's Josh Beckett (later a major league pitcher for the Florida Marlins) to help the Longhorns advance to the regional semifinals. Dobie won 5 to 1.

15 years ago (2002)
South Belt resident Tommie Sue Odell, 55, died as a result of a one-car accident.

Dobie assistant coach Heather Martinez had her number retired at a Lady Longhorn softball banquet. Martinez was a high school All-American and a member of Dobie's first two state championship teams in 1993 and 1995.

Beverly Hills Intermediate academic team jumped from second to first place at the Region XIV Pentathlon Championship after it was discovered a student's test

score had not been counted.

10 years ago (2007)
A benefit was held for 12-year-old Thompson student Justin Penton-Shaulis who was victorious in his nine-month battle with cancer.

Clear Creek Independent School District voters approved a \$183 million bond. The bond was approved by 73 percent of the voters and was to pay for the district's planned fifth high school, two new elementary schools, an intermediate school and major renovations at the district's two ninth-grade centers.

The bond passage raised the district's tax rate 2 cents per \$100 of taxable property value, bringing it to \$1.32.

CCISD voters elected Ann Hammond for an at-large position to serve on the district's board of trustees.

5 years ago (2012)
Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced Southwest Airlines would pay the estimated \$100 million cost for the five-gate expansion at Hobby Airport needed for the international flights. Under the proposal, the city would own the expanded facilities without taking on any debt. In return for its investment, Southwest would pay no rent for its use of four of the five new international gates. Southwest would also use the customs facility rent-free.

1 year ago (2016)

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Directors named Angela Stallings and Steve Fullen associate superintendents of Campus Development.

Stallings and Fullen had each formerly served as both assistant principal and principal at Dobie High School.

The St. Francis Cabrini annual bazaar was held May 22 on the church grounds at 10727 Hartsook St. The bazaar featured a barbecue dinner, Mexican food, trash and treasure, kiddie land, beverages and games for all ages. A raffle was held with Visa gift cards awarded as prizes.

Genealogical group meets

The public is invited to attend a meeting and potluck dinner of the Bay Area Genealogical Society on Friday, May 26.

Bring a dish and share a meal as the group listens to speaker Thomas Green discuss research resources and strategies for SAR and SRT membership.

Potluck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7 p.m. in the Chapel at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive.

For more information, go to www.TxBayAreaGen.org or call Kim Zrubek at 281-992-2636.

CCISD honors volunteers . . .

Continued from Page 3A

Ed White ESTEM Magnet
Shanna Obenberger
Intermediate Schools

Bayside
Angie Chaviers.
Brookside

Dana Lee.
Clear Creek
Ana Menefee.

Clear Lake
Linh Pugh.
Creekside

Susan Hill.
League City
Jill Kaale.

Seabrook
Lisa Tang.
Space Center

Heather Supan.
Victory Lakes
Roxann Zamora.

Westbrook
Danielle Castle.
High Schools

Clear Brook
Sanjukta Payra.
Clear Creek

Clear Falls
Joe Pugh.
Clear Falls

Clear Horizons ECHS
Vanessa Pelayo.

Clear Lake
Cathie Delgado.

Clear Springs
Mary Kantara.

Clear View
Chris Glass.

Volunteers of the Year:
Elementary and Secondary

Dr. Lavanya Rajagopalan from Hall Elementary and Joe Pugh from Clear Creek High School.

Rajagopalan was praised for her initiative in starting a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) club at Hall Elementary and bringing along several other scientists and engineers in the process to volunteer their time and talent with the students.

A Clear Creek graduate himself, Pugh was described as "a Texas fan who bleeds maroon for the Clear Creek Wildcats."

His son Tanner surprised him with the award and recognized him for his steadfast support of many campus programs and athletics as well as Clear Creek ISD.

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Early College High School students lauded



Pasadena High Early College High School senior Sulfior Betancourt receives a medal from Pasadena Independent School District and San Jacinto College for earning an associate degree while in high school. Left to right are Dr. Brenda Hellyer (San Jacinto chancellor), Betancourt and Dr. DeeAnn Powell (PISD superintendent of schools).

Photo by Reesha Brown

Early college students honored

San Jacinto College and Pasadena Independent School District honored 49 Pasadena Early College High School (PECHS) students recently at the Chancellor's Dual Diploma Medal ceremony for earning associate degrees while in high school.

"You achieved some incredible milestones in your life," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "You have taken advantage of your high school years and will earn a high school diploma and also an associate degree. Congratulations. We are really proud of you."

In partnership with San

Jacinto College, PECHS provides district students with the opportunity to receive college credit starting in the ninth grade, leading to the completion of their Associate of Arts degree and high school diploma. Students can earn up to 62 credits in various fields that put them on the fast track to post-graduate and career opportunities.

This year, PECHS students earned multiple scholarship awards totaling \$950,000, with three students earning the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation scholarship, given to only 400 students nationwide.

"Your hard work and your focus have truly paid off," said PISD superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell. "You met my high expectations and, most importantly, the standards to earn your degrees."

This is the third group of students to graduate from PECHS since it started in 2011. The early college high school program will expand this fall to each high school campus following the success of the pilot at Pasadena HS.

"We united for the past four years and through all of the love, we matured into young adults," Francisco Bautista, PECHS valedictorian said. "I hope that the memories we have created and the obstacles we have overcome will stay with us throughout the years."

The PECHS graduating Class of 2017 will officially walk across the stage May 13 at NRG Stadium to receive their associate degrees.

"As a 1987 graduate of Pasadena High School, I am proud to say it is now time to spread your wings and fly like the mighty eagles you are," Powell said. "Keep working hard, keep your eyes focused on your ultimate goals and never forget where you came from."

Sagemont honors fallen

Continued from Page 1A

The outdoor displays will be open dawn to dusk daily, and the indoor displays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Several photo stations will be available for those wishing to take photos of the memorial. Guests are encouraged to tag photos of the memorial on Facebook or Instagram with #sagemontflagmemorial.

The church's desire is to remember with gratitude those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). Sagemont Church invites all in the area to pause this Memorial Day and join the church in honoring those who laid down their lives on the battlefield.

Harris County Master Gardeners set May events

The Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 recently scheduled its events for the month of May.

Insects in the Garden

May 18 at Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, at 6:30 p.m. Events are free and for more information on Insects in the Garden, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf> or call 713-274-0950.

Open Garden Day and seminar

May 23 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 3033 Bear Creek Drive. The event is free and features hands-on activities for children and adults centered on the month's Green Thumb topic. RSVP required. Contact ogd.harrishort@gmail.com to RSVP.

ABC13's Cisneros visits SJC

Cynthia Cisneros, ABC13's vice president of Community Affairs, recently visited San Jacinto College to give students tips to success and discuss the importance of academic and soft skills.

Approximately 100 students, faculty and staff members were in attendance from the areas of college prep and the Women of Integrity and Men of Honor programs. The event concluded with a Q&A session.

As a follow-up to her visit, Cisneros treated the Women of Integrity and Men of Honor students to a tour of the ABC13 studio, where they were greeted by some familiar faces from the ABC13 news team.



Cynthia Cisneros (middle right), ABC13's vice president of Community Affairs, recently gave San Jacinto College students Juan Tapia (left), Olivia-Gonzalez-Ortega (middle left), and Kemnoe Stael (right) a tour of the ABC13 studio. Photo submitted

CCISD robotics win 2nd in world competition

Continued from Page 1A

Elena Michnovicz (Clear Brook, 11th grade), Claire Romero (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Chanmarie Un (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Christa Westheimer (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Jessa Westheimer (Clear Brook, 12th grade), Brennan Butcher (Clear Brook, 12th grade), Danny Nguyen (Clear Brook, 11th grade), Bhargav Parthasarathy (Clear Brook, 11th grade), Marcus Schlauch (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Wit-

tiker Schlauch (Clear Brook, 12th grade), Alec Shih (Clear Brook, 10th grade), Hunter Smith (Clear Brook, 11th grade), Michael Vidales (Clear Brook, 12th grade), Zain Virani (Clear Brook, ninth grade), Gabrielle LaRochelle (Clear Horizons, 11th grade), Megan Perry (Clear Horizons, 12th grade), Aaron Beaty (Clear Horizons, 11th grade), Alex Campos (Clear Horizons, 11th grade), Nuriel Canizal (Clear Horizons, 12th grade) and Cha-

mika Dharmawardene (Clear Horizons, 11th grade).

For its project entry, the team designed a shooting robot named Ruckus. For additional information on Ruckus, visit <https://roboticscompetition.news/2017/04/21/team-118-robonauts-talks-with-us-about-shooter-design-and-their-pneumatic-philosophy/>.

The Robonauts, named in recognition of the NASA humanoid, participated in the

FIRST Robotics Competition, the varsity "Sport for the Mind." "It's as close to 'real-world engineering' as a student can get," coaches said.

FIRST Robotics Competition combines sports excitement with rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources and time limits, teams are challenged to raise funds, design a brand, exercise teamwork and build and program robots to perform tasks against competitors.

The tournament proved to be rewarding for both coaches and students alike.

"For the Robonauts, the 2017 Houston FRC championship event was exciting, nerve-wracking, and it was a tremendous learning experience for both our students and mentors," said Lead CCISD Mentor Candace Campanelli. "We are extremely proud that we made it to the world championship finals and were able to see all our hard work pay off."



Clear Brook robotics student Chanmarie Un is pictured above. Un's parents, Pete and Rene Un, manage the Danny's Donuts on Scarsdale.



Students from the Clear Creek Independent School District recently placed second in the world at a robotics competition, held at Minute Maid Park. Mentors and students from the team shown above are, left to right, Justin Ridley (mentor), Bill Bluethmann (mentor), Chanmarie Un (Clear Brook student), Adam Schoenberg (Clear Lake student), Hunter Smith (Clear Brook student) and Logan Farrell (mentor). Photo submitted



More than 25,000 robotics fans attended the FIRST Championship, held at Minute Maid Park late last month.

Community members help with Study Abroad interviews



On April 28, members of the South Belt community participated in interviewing Pre-AP sixth-grade students regarding their semester long study abroad projects. The students were required to research a career path of interest, an overseas university that offers a degree in the chosen career path, and the country of the university's location. Community members acted as scholarship committee interviewers and asked students questions about their projects, education goals, and ca-

reer goals. Community members are, left to right, (front row) Dr. Karen Hickman, Dr. Dixie Melillo, Bobbie Zamminer, Ana Moreno, (second row) Ana M. Moreno, Donna Branch, Maria Padilla, Claudia Lott, Lesly Coleman, Laura Benavides, Claire Murdoch, Jacqueline Carmona, (third row) Richard Crandall, Randy Dugas, Joshua Williams, Vince Lott and John Myer. Not pictured is Capt. Charlie Salazar. Photo by Debra Yocum

Free legal clinic for veterans to be held

Veterans who need legal advice or legal assistance can visit a free legal clinic scheduled in Galveston on Saturday, May 20. The clinic will be held at the Galveston VA Outpatient Clinic, 3828 Avenue N from 9 a.m. until noon.

No appointment is necessary. The clinic is co-sponsored by the Galveston County Bar Association and the Houston Bar Foundation's Veterans Legal Initiative.

Any veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran, can receive one-on-one advice and counsel at the clinic from a volunteer attorney in any area of law, including family, wills and probate, consumer, real estate and tax law, as well as disability and veterans benefits.

Veterans who need ongoing legal representation and who qualify for legal aid may be assigned a pro bono attorney through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers to handle their case. For more information about the legal clinic and other legal services for veterans, call 713-759-1133 or visit www.hba.org.

Bay Area Singles Club to meet

The Bay Area Singles Club Monthly Dance will be May 20 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at VFW Lodge at 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson, Post No. 6378.

Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. For more information, call 409-948-1156 or 281-337-3112.

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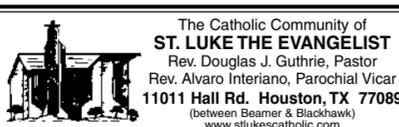
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AARP 199 meets May 19

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 19, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway in Seabrook (the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway). Everyone is invited to attend meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Each month, the group has entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors. Every two months the group has a potluck lunch.

The speakers for Friday, May 19, will be Erika Arguelles and Chanda Phanphongsane, from the Area Agency on Aging, who will present the Healthy Homes Fall Prevention Program at 10:30 a.m.

The group also organizes day trips by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next day trip will be on Wednesday, June 7, to the Neches River in Beaumont for a pontoon boat ride. Lunch will be at the Golden Corral followed by a tour of the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum.

For those who are interested in joining the group, annual dues are \$6 per year/per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP to join any local chapter. For more information, contact Quin Shepperd at 281-486-7770 or Qeshepperd@yahoo.com.

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In 2012, Dr. Rainwater received the Mastership Award from the Academy of General Dentistry, one of the profession's most distinguished honors awarded to less than 2 percent of dentists in the U.S. and Canada.



Dobie 2017-2018 cheerleaders announced

Dobie High School has announced its Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheer Squads for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Junior Varsity Squad is shown in the photo at right, left to right, (front row) Valerie Gonzalez, (second row) Olga Cisneros, Alayna Murillo, (third row) Starr Shelton, Neriah Nanez, Juliana Moreno, (back row) Katherine Belle, Alan Nguyen, Chloie Ray and Andrew Salas.

The Varsity Squad is shown below, left to right, (front row) Bailee Dang, Genesis Juarez, Reagan Razo, Alize Murillo, Bianca Galindo, (back row) Michelle Kelley, Sara Otwell, Briana Loredo, Aliza Alfaro, Andres Melchor, Laila Hernandez, Maya Ann Scott, Shelby Couchman and Victoria Ayala.



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Keith Schauder, M.D.
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Athletic physicals – urgency is stressed

Dobie students involved in extracurricular activities are being urged to take advantage of inexpensive physicals Wednesday, May 24, beginning at 1 p.m., in the school's gymnasium. Lopez added that he has seen the delays encountered by those who wait until preseason workouts start in August to do this. Students must have an athletic physical on file at Dobie before taking part in any extracurricular activity during the 2017-2018 school year. There are no exceptions. To register, call Dobie athletic trainers Lopez or Ruth Gonzales-Grasty at 713-740-0370, ext. 04270 or 04137. Thompson Intermediate's athletic physicals are set for Thursday, May 18. For additional details, see information on Page 3B.

Coyote softball aims at first national title

By Amanda Fenwick
San Jac Sports
The San Jacinto College softball team is now at the national tournament, having clinched the Region XIV championship May 9 with an 8-2 win over Tyler Junior College at the Roadrunner Complex on

the Angelina College campus. San Jac secured a berth in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I softball tournament with a 1-0 win Monday over Blinn

College. "We are so excited to be headed back to the national tournament," said head coach Kelly Saenz, who is in her 14th season at the helm of the San Jacinto College women's softball program.



At right, with Niki Gonzalez (left) leading the way, the San Jacinto College women's softball team began its quest for a first-ever National Junior College Athletic Association Division I national championship May 17 after press time. San Jac, the No. 7 seed at the tournament, faced Chattanooga State in the opening round. The tournament runs through May 20 in St. George, Utah. Shown with Gonzalez is Region 14 women's athletic director Dr. Tim Drain. Photo by Gary Stallard

"Our players and coaching staff have worked hard all season to get to this point. This is a testament to our team and to San Jacinto College."

San Jacinto College (41-19 overall to this point in the season) entered the Region XIV tournament as the No. 1 seed from the South and co-conference champions for the first time since 1999.

San Jac posted three shutouts in the tournament before defeating Tyler 8-2. Sophomore ace Niki Gonzalez (Baytown Sterling High School) pitched all 28 innings in the tournament, allowing just two runs, one of them earned.

Gonzalez, the college's all-time winningest pitcher, is now 32-4 with four saves on the year.

Her school-record 32 wins is the best in the country, and her 1.31 ERA is 11th best.

Gonzalez's 241.0 innings pitched is second nationally, and she has also thrown 248 strikeouts (currently second all-time at San Jac) ranking her second in the NJCAA.

Also, freshman Taylor McHenry (Deer Park High School) leads the team in hitting with a .408 batting average with 74 hits, including 12 doubles, four triples and three home runs. She is also the team's leader in stolen bases with 18.

Sophomore Dani Damian is the team leader in several categories, including doubles (13, tied with Riley Bullen and Mackenzie Kotrla), home runs

Continued on Page 6B

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Athletic Physicals

Thursday, May 18 – Thompson Intermediate, 3 to 5 p.m., cost \$20.

Wednesday, May 24 – Dobie High School, beginning at 1 p.m., cost \$25.

Dobie football spring game May 26 at Veterans

At right, Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman and his staff will lead the Longhorns into the 2017 spring game Friday, May 26, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Game time is 4:30 p.m. Up to this point, the Longhorns have been working out/studying four times per week.



Arroyo takes over Battlin' Bears

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor
Pardon Michael Arroyo if he's been a little frazzled of late. It's understandable given the number of hats he's had to juggle over the past several weeks. Who's Michael Arroyo? He's the former Beverly Hills Intermediate

assistant coach turned Dobie High School assistant coach who is now back with the Battlin' Bears. Well, sort of. Hired by Beverly Hills Intermediate principal Stacey Barber to succeed longtime coaching legend Ben Portis as the Bears' boys' athletic coordinator,

no one could blame Arroyo if he wished for better timing. Since being hired at BHI in early April, Arroyo and his wife have experienced the birth of their second child, and he's had to close loose ends at Dobie while trying to get established in his new role with the Bears. Oh, and he finished up his master's degree work along the way.

There are only so many
Continued on Page 2B



Michael Arroyo has spent his 10-year career in education all within Pasadena ISD, including six years at Beverly Hills Intermediate and four at Dobie High School. Now, he's back at BHI.

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Was previously at BHI, then Dobie

Beverly Hills Intermediate boys' athletics to welcome Arroyo as Battlin' Bears' leader

Continued from Page 1B hours in a day, friends. Seriously, Arroyo is no doubt thrilled to be at Beverly Hills. He returned from his child's birth May 5 and has now introduced himself to the Morris Middle School students as well as those at Beverly Hills Intermediate. The incoming coach will now spend the rest of the school year finalizing coaching staff moves, if there are any to be made, and he'd like to tidy up some around the facilities, basically setting things up his way. Portis, a Pasadena ISD lifer of 40 years, has been and, Arroyo anticipates, will continue to be a great source of knowledge and experience. But Portis, who officially retires this summer, will be handing

things off to Arroyo, and he's more than ready. "I'm super excited to get things going at Beverly Hills," he said. "I love the high school level, but I just feel like I have more to offer these kids at Beverly Hills. "At the end of the day, we all want to see the kids at Beverly Hills succeed, and we want to see Dobie be successful as well. Now, I'm getting back to the ground level. "(Beverly Hills) is where young men and women get their start in competitive athletics at the school level. "I understand the tradition here at Beverly Hills. Everybody wants to put their own mark on a program, to lead and to make a difference." It's for these reasons and more that Barber ultimately

handed Arroyo the keys to the boys' athletic program on her campus. Barber had previously worked with Arroyo at BHI, so a familiarity was there. A search committee was formed. But ultimately it was Barber who had to decide among many worthy candidates just who merited the role. "Michael puts these kids first and foremost, and works to understand their needs and the best way to proceed in a given situation," Barber said. "We are not replacing Ben Portis. That just doesn't happen after everything he has meant and done for our school, our programs and this community. With that said, Michael Arroyo is the right person to help us continue our expectations and suc-

cess in athletics." Arroyo is leaving behind a variety of coaching roles as well as solid facilities at Dobie. While there, he was a subvarsity football coach and also led the Lady Longhorns' junior varsity girls' soccer team. But Beverly Hills Intermediate, which was formerly home to Dobie High School, has three athletic fields, a practice track, an expansive weight room, a pool and more. "The facilities and the support have always been here for us to be successful. I saw that the first time around," Arroyo said. "I'm not looking to make drastic changes. It's all about creating an environment that best allows these kids to be successful both in and out of the classroom. We will work

hard to ensure that is the case." Arroyo has scheduled several voluntary activities for the summer months. Before that, though, he has some important events scheduled prior to the end of the school year, including another date - May 30 - for students to have the chance to obtain the mandatory athletic physicals for the 2017-2018 school year. When the next school year begins this August, Arroyo simply envisions a fresh start, both for himself and the students. "Coach Portis has been a friend and mentor throughout my career," Arroyo said. "It's an honor to be the next person to lead this proud program. I can't say that I'll have a 40-year career, but I am on board for the long haul. I'm proud to be back with the Battlin' Bears as we move the program on."

Beverly Hills Athletics Schedule of Events

- May 23 - Meet the Coach Night, BHI Cafeteria, 6 p.m.
 - May 24 - 2017-2018 Athletics Physicals, Dobie Field House, 2:45 p.m.
 - May 30 - 2017-2018 Athletics Physicals, Morris Middle School, 2 p.m.
 - June 5-8 - Battlin' Bears Youth Basketball Camp, BHI Gymnasium, 10 a.m. Boys and girls welcome.
 - June 12-16 - Open Facilities - BHI Gymnasium
 - June 19-23 - Open Facilities - BHI Gymnasium
 - June 26-30 - Open Facilities - BHI Gymnasium
 - July 10-14 - Open Facilities - BHI Gymnasium
 - July 17-21 - Bears' Football Camp Head Start, campus fields, 8 a.m. *Friday lockers/equipment will be issued.
 - July 24-28 - Bears' Football Camp Head Start, campus fields, 8 a.m.
 - July 31-August 3 - Bears' Football Camp Head Start, Dobie fields, 9 a.m.
 - August 10 - Football lockers/equipment, BHI locker room, 1 p.m.
 - August 17 - BHI Football Program Parent Meeting, TBA
 - August 21 - First day of school/ first football practice.
- Follow the Beverly Hills athletics program on Twitter @BHI_Athletics for exact times and dates. Other late-summer plans to come.

Padilla, Herrera begin state run

A month after having qualified for the Class 6A State Championships, the Clear Brook mixed doubles team of Andres Padilla and Maria Herrera are set to test their skills. Padilla, a senior, and the freshman Herrera were runner-up at both the District 24-6A Championships and then the Region III Championships. In doing so, the pair became the first individual or team from Clear Brook to reach the spring season state championships since the 1998 campaign. Neither player was born then. So now it's on to Texas A&M University for the state championships. The Region III finalists from Clear Brook will take on Houston Memorial's Sarah Mabee and Andrew Shuvalov in a quarterfinal matchup Thursday, May 18, at 12:30 p.m.

The tournament will run through May 20. The Wolverines figure to face an uphill battle at state, but so what? This is a mixed doubles team that has overachieved in the eyes of some. Anything that happens from this point forward might be considered icing on the cake. It all begins May 18 with the quarterfinal round of matches at Texas A&M University. Whatever happens at state, the future is bright for both of these players. Padilla is set to join the team at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, beginning this fall. As for Herrera, she will have three remaining seasons at Clear Brook High School and could become one of the program's all-time greats before she is done.



The Clear Brook High School mixed doubles team of Maria Herrera (left) and Andres Padilla are set to take on the best of the best at the Class 6A state tennis tournament.

Pioneers' Paling picks Concordia men's soccer



Lutheran South Academy varsity soccer player Carter Paling (second from left) will continue his education and playing career at Concordia University in Nebraska after signing a letter of intent with the Bulldogs. During the 2017 season

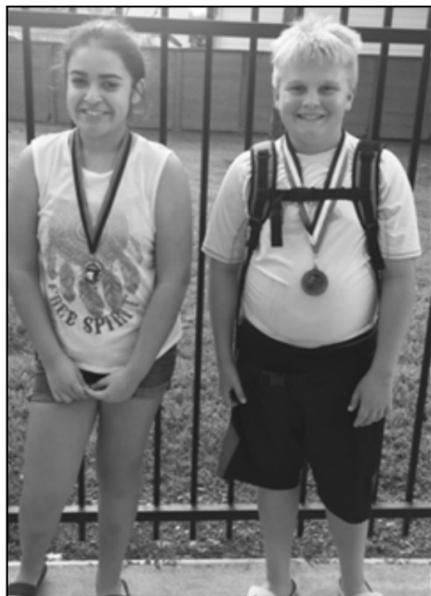
with the Pioneers, Paling scored 46 goals and added 17 assists. Those with Paling at the signing included, left to right, Mark Paling (father), Susan Paling (mother) and Tyler Paling (brother).

SBAST Sharks Honor Swimmers of the Week

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



Avery Tran and Joshua Quach
11-12-year-old winners



Dahira Gutierrez and Riley Mercer
13 to 18-year-old winners



Savannah Tellez and Leo Martinez
8-Under winners



Hayden Willis and Hayle Ma
9-10-year-old winners

Lutheran South's Patrick to East Texas Baptist hoops



Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' basketball player Jakob Patrick (second from left) is set to continue his education and playing career at East Texas Baptist University in Abilene after signing a letter of intent with the Tigers. Those with Patrick at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Jonathan Patrick (father), Hollie Patrick (mother), Scotty Patrick

(brother), (standing) Dusty Holbrook (Amateur Athletic Union league coach), Andre White (Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' basketball assistant coach), Jeremy Loudon (Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' basketball head coach) and John Silver (Amateur Athletic Union league coach).

South Belt Youth Soccer Club, TetraBrazil set youth camp at El Franco Lee Park

With five World Cups to its name, Brazil stands alone as the most decorated soccer nation.

This summer, aspiring American players will have the opportunity to learn the secrets of Brazil's amazing success directly from more than a dozen Brazilian coaches who will spend 10 weeks traveling around the country and sharing their knowledge.

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has teamed up with TetraBrazil to host the TetraBrazil Soccer Camp July 31 through August 4 at the South Belt Youth Soccer Club's facility at El Franco Lee Park.

This camp will run Monday through Friday. Each member of the TetraBrazil coaching staff will bring an authentic taste of the flair, passion and creativity of Brazilian soccer to the camp.

In addition to learning advanced footwork, new skills and the most effective moves used by top Brazilian players, campers will warm up to samba music, learn Portuguese phrases and discover what it is like to grow up and play soccer in a country where the game is treated like a religion.

Each camper will receive a free TetraBrazil

soccer camp T-shirt and soccer ball, a Brazilian soccer poster and camp certificate.

In addition, any child who registers online at www.challengersports.com at least 45 days prior to camp will receive a genuine TetraBrazil soccer replica jersey.

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is offering TetraBrazil soccer camp sessions for the following groups:

Ages 8 to 11 – Half-Day Camp (9 a.m. to noon), \$162.

Ages 12 to 16 – Half-Day Camp (9 a.m. to noon), \$162.

Teams are also welcome to attend and receive a week of focused Brazilian instruction to prepare them for the fall season.

Space is limited, and parents are encouraged to register their children online in advance to avoid missing out. Once the events begin, registration is not guaranteed.

For additional information, camp specifics and to register, visit www.challengersports.com.

For more information about TetraBrazil or the Challenger Sports program, call Mike Rees at 512-416-7706.

Those who wish, may direct email to Rees at mrees@challenger

sports.com. TetraBrazil is a division of Challenger Sports. Challenger Sports is a corporation registered in Kansas, which provides camps,

clinics, tours, tournaments, team trainers, uniforms and equipment to soccer clubs in each state and throughout Canada.

In addition to coaching youth players, Challenger

will also run hundreds of free parent/coach soccer clinics throughout the country in partnership with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Challenger Sports is the only soccer camp that has been accredited by the American Camping Association, which is the national camp accreditation body in the United

States and verifies that a camp has complied with at least 300 standards for health, safety, and program quality, recognized by courts of law and government regulators.

Lutheran South baseball's Smith headed to Alvin C.C.



Lutheran South Academy baseball standout Michael Smith (seated second from left) will continue his education and playing career at Alvin Community College after signing a letter of intent with the Dolphins. Those with Smith at the signing included left to right, (seated) Mike Smith (father), Theresa Smith (mother), Aaron Schneider (Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball head coach), (standing) A.J. Bettcher (Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball assistant coach) and Darrin Forse (Smith's select team coach).

South Belt area sports, registration, news

SB Dolphins offer registration

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League have set upcoming registration dates for the 2017 season, with practices starting in July. The registration dates include May 20, and June 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont Community Center. Games begin in August, and the regular season runs into November.

Athletic physicals at Thompson

Incoming seventh- and eighth-grade Thompson Intermediate student-athletes will have the opportunity to take advantage of discounted physicals at the school. Physicians will be on hand Thursday, May 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. to administer the physicals. The cost is \$20 per student.

Current athletic physicals are mandatory for those wishing to take part in any summer, preseason or in-season activity pertaining to Thompson athletics. There are no exceptions. The Lions will soon begin optional summer camp activities, and anyone wishing to participate must have a current athletic physical on file at the school prior to taking part.

Dobie voluntary conditioning sessions

Dobie's coaching staff will host a conditioning camp for incoming freshmen through incoming seniors as of the 2017-2018 school year.

The sessions will run Monday, June 12, through Thursday, July 20. There will be no Friday workouts. Cost for those who preregister is \$50 per student, and there is a sibling discount available. Those who register on June 12 will pay \$60. The preregistration deadline is June 10.

Payments may be made with cash, money order or credit cards. No checks will be accepted. The first session, designed for incoming sophomores through seniors, will run from 8 to 10 a.m., while the 10 a.m. to noon session is designed for incoming freshmen. All participants must have a current athletic physical on file at the school prior to taking part in any of the workouts. There are no exceptions.

In addition, Pasadena ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for events of this type. Thus, parents will be required to provide this coverage for their children. For more information, direct email to Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman at MNorman@pasadenaisd.org or call 713-740-0370. Dobie will also host a headstart camp for incoming freshmen early in August, prior to the start of preseason football workouts. Details on those events will appear in future *Leader* editions.

Blackhawk Seahawks' FB to register

The Blackhawk Seahawks are set to debut in the South Texas Youth Football Association this season, and the organization is seeking football players as well as spirit team and cheerleading squad members.

Youths ages 5 to 12 prior to August 1, 2017, are eligible to compete as members of the Seahawks' organization.

Registration will be held Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The session will be held at The Royal Palace, 9944 Kleckley Dr., across from Alameda Mall. Registration is \$275 per football player and spirit/cheer member. For information, call president Lisa Sanchez at 832-969-8542.

Brook voluntary conditioning sessions

Clear Brook's coaching staff will host a conditioning camp for incoming seventh-grade students through incoming seniors as of the 2017-2018 school year.

The sessions will run Monday, June 12, through Thursday, Aug. 3. There will be no Friday workouts. Cost for those who preregister is \$70 per student, and there is a sibling discount available. Those who register on June 12 will pay \$80. The preregistration deadline is May 31.

Payments may be made with cash or money order. No checks will be accepted. The daily schedule for incoming sophomore through senior boys includes weight room work at 7 a.m. and outdoor conditioning at 8 a.m. For all girls, there will be outdoor conditioning at 7 a.m. followed by weight room work at 8 a.m.

Incoming freshman boys will have outdoor conditioning at 8 a.m. followed by weight room work at 9 a.m. Seventh- and eighth-grade boys will have outdoor conditioning at 9 a.m., followed by weight room work at 10 a.m.

All participants must have a current athletic physical on file at the school prior to taking part in any of the workouts. There are no exceptions.

In addition, Clear Creek ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for events of this type. Thus, parents will be required to provide this coverage for their children. For more information, direct email to Clear Brook varsity football head coach Mike Allison at mallison@ccisd.net or Jamie Scott at JaScott@ccisd.net.

Brook youth soccer camp

Clear Brook varsity boys' soccer coach Chris Stromeyer will host the annual Wolverines' youth skills camp June 6-8, from 8 to 10 a.m., at Clear Brook High School. Students entering the first through the ninth grades as of the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to attend.

Registration fee is \$60 per student. Participants are required to bring their own water, cleats, shin guards and practice clothes. Families are also required to provide participants' medical insurance. For more information, direct email to cstromey@ccisd.net.

LSA's Thomas picks UMHB baseball

Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball player Jake Thomas (seated center) will continue his education and playing career at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor after signing a letter of intent with the Crusaders. Those with Thomas at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Joann Thomas (mother), Andrew Thomas (father), (standing) Aaron Schneider (Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball head coach) and A.J. Bettcher (Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball assistant coach).

Submitted photo



CALENDAR

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THURSDAY, MAY 18

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

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

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

6 - 8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC – Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

7 a.m.

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

10 a.m.
El Franco Lee Center Zumba Class – at the center, 9400 Hall Road.

10 a.m.
Interfaith Care Partners – ministry at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St., for those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, strokes, etc. and caretakers, meets on the third Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for continental breakfast, arts/crafts, exercises, entertainment, devotional break, lunch, and game. Family members or acquaintances are invited. For details, call the church at 713-946-5768; Claudia Rojas at 713-682-5995; or visit www.interfaithcarepartners.org.

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

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

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

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

7:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association – bluegrass music show and jam session on the third Saturday (except December.) Stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. Free. Johnny Arolo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For details, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

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

SUNDAY, MAY 21

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

2 p.m.
Grief Support Group – For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day,

Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

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

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

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

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

MONDAY, MAY 22

10 a.m.
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 details, or drop in.

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

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

Continued on Page 4B

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We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: www.southeastvfd.com to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, MAY 22

Beginning Line Dancing - at El Franco Lee Senior Community Center, noon on Mondays, 9500 Hall Road.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 3:15 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's, 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for details. 6 p.m.

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. No meetings on holidays. 6:30 p.m.

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 6:30 p.m.

Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Enter door next to recycling bins. For details, call 713-973-6633 or visit www.oahouston.org. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611. 7:30 p.m.

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org. **TUESDAY, MAY 23**

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565. 10 a.m.

American Begonia Society - Houston Satellite meets on the fourth Tuesday, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Pkwy. (on the lake side), Seabrook. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 11 a.m.

Ballroom Dance Lessons - at the El Franco Lee Senior Community Center, 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, 9500 Hall Road. Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. Noon

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nalix@texascitizensbank.com. 1:30 p.m.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318. 7 p.m.

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

Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Luby's (11595 Fuqua). For details, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

AAA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9 a.m.

El Franco Lee Senior Center - lecture on hurricane awareness at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24 at the center, 9400 Hall Road. 9:30 a.m.

Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly

(Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for details. 10 a.m.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 1 p.m.

Hometown Heroes Park - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204. 6:30 p.m.

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 7 p.m.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243. **THURSDAY, MAY 25**

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 6 - 8 p.m.

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

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

Well Spouse Support Group - meets the last Thursday at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, with the spouse of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare is free. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For details, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>. 7 p.m.

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

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

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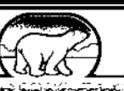
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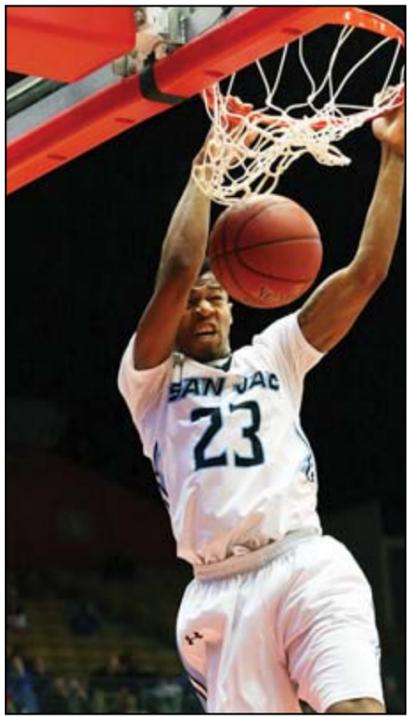
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San Jac hoops tryouts



The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will hold tryouts for the 2017-2018 season Saturday, June 10. Tryouts will take place at Anders Gymnasium on the San Jacinto College Central campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a \$25 processing fee for the tryouts, and participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability. Participants should plan to arrive no later than 10 a.m. Questions about the tryouts should be directed to the San Jacinto College men's basketball office at 281-476-1849. The men's basketball team made its 21st overall National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Championship appearance after earning the automatic bid with a Region XIV championship. The team finished the season with a 33-2 overall record. Five San Jacinto College men's basketball players earned Region XIV postseason honors and head coach Scott Gernander was named the region's Coach of the Year. Above, South Houston High School graduate Elton Dyer played for SJC this season.

San Jacinto College baseball makes way to JUCO world series

Another season, another National Junior College Athletic Association JUCO World Series appearance for the San Jacinto College baseball program.

If it isn't the case, it sure seems that way after the Gators dispatched Navarro 17-9 May 16, in the Region 14 champion-

Down 5-0 to Navarro early, San Jac batted around in the third, fourth and fifth innings, scoring 1 run in all and leading to the easy win. Navarro would have had to defeat San Jac twice back-to-back to advance to the world series.

SJC sophomore Aaron Bond was the catalyst in

dominating frames, leading the Gators to an 11-5 win.

Bond, 3 for 5, homered and drove in three runs. Mario Moralez was 2 for 5 with a run scored and an RBI. Nick Perez had three hits, scored twice and drove in a pair of runs.

**San Jacinto 6
Navarro 0**

San Jacinto blanked

Navarro 6-0 in a second-round game as starting pitcher Kaleb Roper was simply dominating.

Over eight shutout innings, Roper allowed five hits and two walks while striking out 12.

Benjamin Butler pitched the ninth inning, striking out three.

Offensively, Smith was 2 for 5, and Luke Watson had two hits and

scored twice. Bond, an Atlanta Braves' draftee from 2016 who did not sign, was 2 for 4 with a pair of runs scored. He also had an RBI single and a run-scoring double.

Wyatt Cross homered for San Jac, driving in a pair of runs.

**San Jacinto 11
Paris 5**

Top-seeded San Jacin-

to opened the tournament with a bang, scoring six runs in the first inning against Paris en route to an 11-5 victory.

San Jac, owner of one of the nation's top pitching staffs, had its arsenal on full display against the Dragons.

Jacob Cantleberry started and went five innings, allowing two hits but fanning nine. Six walks hurt Cantleberry.

Three relievers covered the final four innings, allowing just two hits and a run.

In the big six-run first inning, the Gators got a three-run double from Sergio Macias, who also had a two-run homer in the fifth inning for a five-RBI game.

Michael Smith scored three runs for SJC, and Paris made four errors.

Region 14 Tournament

San Jacinto 11, Paris 5

San Jacinto 6, Navarro 0

San Jacinto 8, Angelina 2

Championship Game

San Jacinto 17, Navarro 9

ship game, qualifying for a world series appearance for the third straight season.

San Jacinto has now reached a JUCO record 25 world series tournaments. The program has won 5 championships, the last coming in 1990. In 2016, the locals reached the series finale before losing.

Pitching was the key in three regional tournament wins this time around, but the offense gave a tired pitching staff a lift in the championship game.

this one, going 4 for 5 at the plate with three runs scored and seven runs batted in.

San Jac scored five runs in the third and fifth innings and four more in the fourth to pull away.

Reliever Devon Roedahl went 3 1/3 innings, fanning four and allowing just a hit for the win.

**San Jacinto 8
Angelina 2**

Bidding for a spot in the championship game, San Jacinto turned to starting pitcher MacGregor Hines against Angelina, and Hines did his job.

The right-hander struck out 12 over seven

SJC softball hopes 2017 championships the charm

Continued from Page 1B (8), runs batted in (45) and strikeouts (23).

San Jac's 41 wins so far this season marks the 10th time in school history with at least 40 wins.

As a team, San Jac is hitting .387 on the year, and the pitching staff owns a 2.67 ERA.

In 2008, San Jacinto College made its first appearance at nationals and finished a program-best fourth at the event.

Now comes a fifth opportunity to win a national title.

The NJCAA Division I Softball Championship takes place May 17-20, 2017, at Canyons Complex in St. George, Utah.

At right, San Jacinto College's Alexis Deleon fields a throw at first base during the team's Region 14 postseason tournament championship game win over Tyler. Now the No. 7 seed at nationals, San Jacinto is making a bid for a first-ever national championship in St. George, Utah.

Photo by Gary Stallard

This is the second consecutive trip to the national tournament for San

Jacinto College, and the fourth in school history. In 2016, San Jacinto College

finished seventh nationally and 38-25 overall as a team.

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



San Jacinto College men's basketball player Chris Harris (left) is one of three Raven players set to continue his education and playing career at a four-year university. Harris will head to the University of Houston beginning this fall. At right is San Jacinto College men's basketball head coach Scott R. Gernander.

SJC hoopsters pick universities

Three San Jacinto College men's basketball players have signed national letters of intent to continue their basketball careers and educations at Texas four-year universities.

Corey Davis (Lafayette, Louisiana/Lafayette High School) and Chris Harris (Houston/Madison High School) will play next season at the University of Houston, while Jordan Duffy (Upper Marlboro, Maryland/James M. Bennett High School) has signed to play at the University of North Texas.

All three are expected to earn their associate degrees from San Jacinto College by August.

Davis, a 6-foot, 2-inch guard, started in all 35 games for San Jac this season. He averaged 17.4 points, 3.7 assists, 3.2 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game.

He recorded 14 20-point games, including scoring a season-high 27 points, twice.

Davis was 19th in the country in 3-pointers, connecting on a team-high 98-of-213. Davis was a

National Junior College Athletic Association first-team All-America selection and first-team all-Region XIV selection.

Harris averaged 5.7 points and 6.3 rebounds per game as a sophomore, playing in all 35 games for San Jac.

His 2.9 blocks per game average was third in the country. The 6-foot, 10-inch center connected on 57.6 percent (87-of-151) of his shots from the field.

Duffy led the team in scoring, averaging 19.4 points per game, a mark that ranked him 35th nationally.

His 660 points this season was 11th in the country, and put him over the 1,000-point mark for his San Jac career, finishing with 1,062 total points.

Duffy also led the team in assists with 164 total, ranking him 37th in the country. The 6-foot, 2-inch guard was a third-team NJCAA All-America selection, and earned first-team all-Region XIV honors.

"I'm extremely proud of these guys for their hard work on and off the court,

which earned them the looks from several coaches and schools around the country," said San Jacinto College head coach Scott Gernander, who completed his fifth season at the helm of the men's basketball program.

"They were a big part of our success this season, and I am excited to watch them continue their basketball careers at the next level."

San Jac finished the 2016-2017 season with a 33-2 overall record.

The team was the overall No. 1 seed at the NJCAA national tournament, its 21st national tournament appearance.

San Jac earned the automatic bid to the NJCAA national tournament with a Region XIV championship. It was the second trip to Hutchinson under Gernander, who guided the 2015 team to the national tournament on an at-large bid.

For more information about the San Jacinto College men's basketball team, visit the San Jacinto College athletics website at www.sanjacsports.com.

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