

Child dies after drowning

A three-year-old boy died Wednesday after drowning in the family pool on Saturday, June 18. The pool was located at the child's home in the 9900 block of Sagedowne in the Sagemeadow subdivision. The child had been transferred to Texas Children's Hospital where he died on June 29.

July Fourth closures set

South Belt-Ellington Leader
The Leader office will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Clear Brook City MUD

The Clear Brook City MUD office will be closed Monday, July 4, in celebration of Independence Day. The office will reopen for regular business Tuesday, July 5, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-through window side of the building. Residents will have regular trash pickup July 4. All trash should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Thursday, July 7.

Vacation photos sought

The Leader is seeking readers' 2016 vacation photos for possible publication. A first- and second-place prize of Schlitterbahn tickets will be awarded monthly during June, July and August to the best submissions. Each month's first-place winner will be awarded eight tickets, while each month's second-place winner will be awarded six. All submissions should include where and when the photo was taken, as well as identify each person in the picture and tell the story about the trip. All photos must be high resolution. Email to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Do not compress photos.

Band seeks musicians

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

Club seeks members

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

American Legion picnic

American Legion Post 490, 11702 Galveston Road, will host a free picnic Monday, July 4, from noon to 6 p.m. The event will feature a live band, free food, drinks, watermelon, corn, a hot dog eating contest, a pie eating contest, horseshoes, a volleyball tournament, cornhole, a baby pool, snow cones, a moon bounce and other games. Games begin at 2 p.m.

Lariaettes hold car wash

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold a car wash from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 2, at Snowies, 10902 Scarsdale. Tickets are \$5 for a car wash and an extra \$3 for a tire shine. Drive-ups are welcome and donations accepted.

Library seeks books

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. is in need of donations of gently used books, both soft and hard cover, fiction and non-fiction, especially children's books, CDs, DVDs and current magazines are also accepted.

Orchestra holds car wash

The Dobie Orchestra will hold a car wash from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 2, at Snowies, 10902 Scarsdale. Tickets are \$5 for a car wash and an extra \$3 for a tire shine. Drive-ups are welcome and donations accepted.

Kirkmont Section 1 meets

The Kirkmont Association Section 1 will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, July 13, at 10102 Blackhawk, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will take place Wednesday, Aug. 10. Resident questions, comments or concerns can be emailed to mykirkmont1hoa@yahoo.com.

METRO closures set

In observance of Independence Day (July 4), METRO will operate on the following schedule: METRO buses will operate a Saturday schedule of service; Park & Ride buses will not operate that day; METRO Rail will operate a Saturday schedule of service; all METRO RideStores and Lost and Found will be closed Monday, July 4; and METRO's Customer Care Center will be open Monday, July 4, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be contacted at 713-635-4000 or 713-635-6993 (TDD).

South Belt celebrates Fourth of July

Celebration includes the Rev. John Morgan as grand marshal, largest fireworks display in event's history

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

Now in its 29th year, the parade will feature a variety of decorated vehicles and floats, classic cars and emergency vehicles. The route will wind its way from Beverly Hills Intermediate to San Jacinto College South via Fuqua, Sabo/Hughes Road and Beamer.

The theme for this year's event will be An-

niversaries, as Sagemont Church and the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League are both celebrating their 50th anniversaries, and the Leader is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The Rev. John Morgan, senior pastor at Sagemont Church, will serve as grand marshal for the event. Morgan is also celebrating 50 years as pastor of Sagemont Church.

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

Other early confirmed entries include the Sagemont Church Choir, the Ellington Rams youth

football team, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the Sagemont Cowgirls youth cheerleaders and a group of Christian motorcyclists.

Also participating again this year is longtime Beverly Hills resident and former U.S. Marine Joe Hinojosa.

For his parade entry, Hinojosa plans to adorn his pickup truck with a life-size replica of a fighting Marine.

Hinojosa was inspired to buy the statue after seeing a similar one at a cafe near the Grand Canyon. After scouring the Internet for a couple of months, Hinojosa's son was finally able to find the item at a warehouse north of Dallas, along with replicas of Elvis Presley and Santa Claus.

Hinojosa joked that the purchase of the item, which cost more than \$1,000, nearly cost him his

marriage.

The former soldier said he displays the statue in his yard on holidays and even loaned it to Atkinson Elementary to show on Veteran's Day.

Having fought in Vietnam, Hinojosa is very proud of his service.

"I'm proud to have served my country. I'm very patriotic. I believe in flying the American flag in front of my house," Hinojosa said, adding that he once purchased 25 American flags to distribute to his neighbors to fly.

All residents, organizations and businesses are welcome to enter. Participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and floats, as prizes will be awarded in various categories. Community and nonprofit groups may sign up for the parade

Continued on Page 2A

Ellis wins commissioner's race



State Sen. Rodney Ellis (second from left) was elected by local Democrat precinct chairs Saturday, June 25, to fill the Precinct 1 commissioner seat left vacant by the late El Franco Lee. Shown above at the election with Ellis are, left to right, county precinct chair Ed Robinson, state Sen. Sylvia Garcia and state Rep. Carol Alvarado. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Ellis selected new Pct. 1 commissioner

Longtime state Sen. Rodney Ellis handily won the Democratic nomination for Precinct 1 commissioner during a closed party election Saturday, June 25, effectively guaranteeing him the position this November, as he will run unopposed.

Ellis received 78 votes to interim Commissioner Gene Locke's 36 votes. Precinct chair and party organizer Nathaniel West Sr. received two votes.

While Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins was nominated to run for the position, he opted to step down and throw his support behind Locke.

Ellis will likely take the seat in January, replacing Locke, who had been appointed by Harris County Judge Ed Emmett this past January to fill the remainder of the late El Franco Lee's term.

The election was not without controversy, as only local party precinct chairs were allowed to cast votes, essentially leaving county voters without a say in a contest that will have a long-lasting impact.

Prior to his death, Lee had served in the position for more than 30 years, as he rarely faced serious challengers in the heavily Democratic precinct.

Despite getting off to a rocky start, due to disagreements over parliamentary procedure, the election eventually ran smoothly, with precinct chairs casting their votes by merely standing behind the candidate of their choice. (See related photo on Page 5A.) Party officials had earlier ruled that secret ballots were prohibited.

Longtime public servant

Born and raised in Houston's Sunnyside

Continued on Page 3A

Hughes construction irks residents

Ongoing construction on Hughes Road from Beltway 8 to Sagecanyon is angering many residents, who complain of frequent accidents and traffic congestion related to the repair work.

The Leader has received numerous reports from residents that the construction work has caused mass confusion and poses a safety hazard.

Of particular concern to many residents is the intersection of Hughes and Beamer. The intersection has been the site of several accidents. A Houston police officer who wished to remain nameless told the Leader at least one accident takes place at the crossing per day.

"It's too confusing," the officer said. "I avoid

it at all cost. Good luck if an individual is intoxicated. I wouldn't put myself in that position."

The Leader has also received complaints from local business owners who said the construction is affecting their livelihood. One business owner reported that work crews cut his phone line Tuesday, June 28, prompting him to close shop, due to not having an internet connection. This marked the second time such an instance had occurred since the repair work began.

Part of the city's 2015 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the \$11.7 million project involves replacing pavement, curbs, gutters and sidewalks along Hughes, as well as providing necessary storm drainage and street lighting.

Gant killed in wind-related auto crash

Former South Belt resident and longtime Pearland Independent School District board member Virgil Gant died in an automobile accident Sunday, June 26, in Crockett County. He was 68.

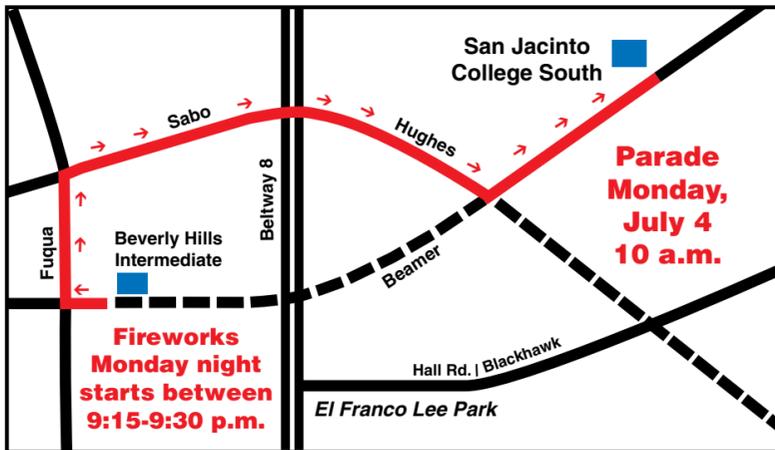
According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Gant was traveling west on I-10 about 14 miles from Ozona around 9:30 a.m. in his 2008 Ford F-250 truck when strong cross winds caused a trailer he was pulling to sway and become separated from his vehicle. The accident caused Gant's truck to roll over twice before coming to a stop on the north side of the freeway.

Gant suffered extensive injuries and was pro-

nounced dead at the scene. Two passengers were also injured in the crash and were taken to the Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo in stable condition. All three were reportedly wearing their safety belts at the time of the accident.

Originally elected to the Pearland ISD board in 1997, Gant was the longest-serving current member, serving a total of 16 years. He had taken a hiatus from the Pearland board from 2006 to 2009. During his tenure with the board, Gant served in many leadership roles, including board president and most recently, as a member of the Long-Range Planning Steering Committee. In 2014, Gant received the Master Trustee designation from Texas Association of School Boards. Gant had also served on the Pearland Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

No funeral arrangements were available at press time. Check the Leader's Facebook page for additional information.



Sullivan named new PISD president

Nelda Sullivan was recently named president of the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees. She had previously held the position of assistant secretary on the board.

Originally elected to the PISD board in 1993, Sullivan formerly served as assistant vice president and branch manager of Southwest Bank of



Sullivan

Texas-Shaver branch. She has 36 years of banking experience, 29 years in management. Her involvement in civic activities includes leadership roles in the Pasadena South Rotary Club, Soroptimist Club International of Pasadena, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Houston Professional Women and the American Heart Association.

In addition, she serves as chairwoman on the Board of Trustees of the Bayshore Medical Center, the Pasadena Police Academy Advisory Board and the Boy Scouts of America. Sullivan

Continued on Page 3A

Signal coming to Hughes, Blackhawk

Harris County recently began constructing a traffic light at the intersection of Hughes Road and Blackhawk.

According to Precinct 1 Project Coordinator Larry Allen, work on the project began on Monday, June 13, and is expected to take approximately 40 days to complete.

The contract was awarded to Statewide Traffic Signal.

Installation of the new signal is expected to cost \$219,000.

Allen said the light is needed to help with traffic flow at the intersection.

A traffic light at the crossing had been proposed multiple times in the past, but earlier stud-

ies conducted by the county showed that the amount of traffic at the intersection did not warrant a signal.

Allen said growth in the community has now, however, prompted the need for such a traffic light.

Allen further said community safety played a role in the decision to install the new signal.

While the intersection has had a relatively low number of auto collisions when compared to other crossings in the area, Allen said the county is planning ahead and accounting for future growth.

"Precinct 1 wants to stay ahead of the curve," Allen said.



Former JFD cheer now Cougars

Two former Dobie High School cheer captains, Julia Lohse (left) and Hannah Brady, have made the cheer team at the University of Houston. The pair have also been hired as National Cheerleading Association staff members and will be working with cheer teams all over the state. Both students also attended Thompson Intermediate. Lohse is the daughter of Fred and Kelly Lohse, and Brady is the daughter of Mark and Susan Brady.

Photo submitted

Pasadena Little Theatre begins 62nd season

By Jay Do
The South Belt's own Pasadena Little Theatre has recently embarked on its 62nd season, making it the oldest community theater in the Greater Houston area and placing it among the longest operating theaters in the state of Texas.

Established in 1955 and chartered by a group of proactive residents seeking to promote theater culture and arts to the city of Pasadena, the Pasadena Little Theatre has continued to grow and expand at a rapid pace, despite numerous setbacks throughout the early days of its development.

"In the beginning, performances were held in gymnasiums and churches until 1961 when an old church was purchased on Tulip Street and transformed into a performance venue," said Julie Owen, president of the Pasadena Little Theatre. "A disastrous fire in 1983 destroyed the theatre.

A site at 4318 Allen-Genoa Road was rented in 1983 and purchased as PLT's permanent home in 1985. Extra space has been added twice with the most recent in 2008.

This addition was built to enable more rehearsal space, children's classes, parties, Black Box performances and the annual New Year's Eve Casino Night Gala Fundraiser."

Aimed to promote and cultivate the culture of the theatrical arts, the Pasadena Little Theatre has committed itself to delivering quality theater productions to patrons of the community and to exposing the youth of the community to the theatrical lifestyle.

"Our mission is to bring quality entertainment and theatre education to Pasadena and the surrounding areas," said Owen. "Through our Young Actors Workshops we are introducing theatre to all ages."

As a community theater and a non-profit organization, the Pasadena Little Theatre faces a number of difficulties not beset to larger, conventional theaters, forcing it to operate in a more resourceful manner.

In doing so, a strong sense of camaraderie is formed between the members of the theater that has proven invaluable in the growth and success of the organization.

"Being a community theater means that everyone involved from our board to our actors, stage crew, front office, concession stand and raffle basket sales all volunteer their time to make our theater your home town theater," said Owen. "Being non-profit means we don't run the theater to make a profit. All profit goes back into the theater and other productions.

Otherwise, the Alley Theatre Under The Stars and others would volunteer also. We have no one on the payroll. Budgets for our productions are determined solely by our success, we borrow no money for our productions. Over the years, we have accumulated a lot as far as props and costumes go, but our volunteer actors and production staff also furnish items from their homes or closets also. We, involved with the Pasadena Little Theatre, are always looking for volunteers and new members who are a wel-

come addition to our theater."

The Pasadena Little Theatre focuses on serving the community not just by providing quality exposure to theatrical arts through high caliber theater productions, but also by placing an emphasis on giving back and servicing the community.

"Our primary focus is providing first class entertainment for our patrons," said Owen. "Through our Young Actors Workshops and play readings we also focus on theatre and the arts education. For our 62nd season we are also asking patrons to participate in voluntary donation drives for other non profits. The drive for our current show benefits The Center for Healing of Racism."

Despite their recent resounding success, the members of the Pasadena Little Theatre continually look for opportunities to grow and promote the thespian arts and culture to a larger audience.

"We have come a long way from performing in school gymnasiums and have a permanent home on Allen Genoa Road," said Owen. "The Pasadena Little Theatre belongs to the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, we are a member of the San Jacinto Day Foundation, American Association of Community Theatre and Texas Nonprofit Theatres, Inc. Through our participation in these organizations we will continue to grow within the community.

"For the first time, our 62nd season includes three Black Box performances which increases our season to 10 shows. We are excited to be offering cutting edge theatre this season in our Black Box venue and we plan on also introducing Experimental theatre in the Black Box venue in the future years to attract more audiences and actors. We will continue to provide main stream the-

atre on our Main Stage for our regular patrons."

For Owen, being a part of the Pasadena Little Theatre bestows a surreal and magical experience unlike any other in the world.

"It gives me great satisfaction to be part of a production and watch it grow from beginning rehearsals to actual performances," said Owen. To watch the faces of the audience, to hear their laughter and their applause. And our volunteers in the lobby get the satisfaction of the same including the positive comments between acts and as people congratulate the actors after the show. It is very fulfilling and positive."



The Pasadena Little Theatre is currently celebrating its 62nd season. Shown above are David James Barron, Anne Bryant and South Belt resident Janet Sharpley in a scene from *The Foreigner*.

Ellis selected as lone candidate

Continued from Page 1A
neighborhood, Ellis, 62, served three terms on Houston City Council and as chief of staff to the late U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland before being elected to the state Senate in 1990. He earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, before continuing his education at the University of Texas, where he earned both a master's degree and a law degree. He and his wife Licia Green-Ellis have four children.

Domino effect
Ellis' nomination will likely have a domino effect because he will now have to withdraw his name from the November ballot for his Senate seat, setting the stage for at least one more controversial closed election, as area precinct chairs will once again be tasked with selecting a replacement.

An estimated 94 precinct chairs from

Ellis' Senate District 13 - 78 from Harris County and 16 from Fort Bend County - will meet again July 16 to select a new candidate. The winner will run unopposed in November.

At least three state representatives from the area are said to be interested in Ellis' Senate seat: Garnet Coleman, Borris Miles and Senfronia Thompson. Should the precinct chairs select a state representative to fill the Senate seat, yet another closed election will be decided by precinct chairs to fill that vacancy.

Any such opening would need to be filled by August in order to appear on the November ballot, party officials said.

Former City Controller Ron Green and former Houston City Council Member C.O. Bradford have also expressed interest in running for Ellis' Senate seat. Boykins has reportedly opted to not seek the position.

Sullivan to head Pasadena board

Continued from Page 1A
was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce in 1993 and as the 1993 Woman of Excellence by the Houston Federation of Women.

Sullivan also was awarded a congressional certificate by the 29th

Congressional District of the State of Texas for outstanding service to the cities of Houston and Pasadena in 1995. I

In 1990, she was named Volunteer of the Year by the American Heart Association. She is a mother of three, a grandmother of seven and the great-grand-

SJC music program adds digital church organ to course repertoire

Dr. B.J. Westbrook recently donated \$100,000 to the San Jacinto College Foundation for the purchase of a digital church organ for the college's music department. Shown, left to right: First row: Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director; Dr. B.J. Westbrook; Mickie Westbrook; Renee Ydelle; John Painter; and Kelly Waterman. Second row: Dan Mims, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees chair-

man; Eric Late, San Jacinto College department chair for music/audio engineering; and Dr. Martha Braswell, San Jacinto College music professor. Third row: Kevin Morris, San Jacinto College dean of business and technology; Rick Bocoec, Johannus Organs of Texas; Bill Palko; Dr. James Braswell, San Jacinto College dean of administration; and Dr. Paul Busseberg, San Jacinto College music professor. Photo by Amanda Fenwick



After 12 years in the making and thanks to a \$100,000 donation to the San Jacinto College Foundation from Dr. B.J. Westbrook, San Jacinto College has a new instrument to add to its classical music course offerings - a digital church organ.

"I hope this donation will help to continue to bring students to the San Jacinto College music program, especially those who enjoy the iconic sound of pipe organ music," said Westbrook. "I'm happy to be a part of such an endeavor and to be a supporter of this great institution."

Remaining funds from Westbrook's donation to purchase the digital organ for the college's music program will go toward establishing a Westbrook family endowment with the Foundation.

"Dr. Westbrook has taken the initiative to leave the San Jacinto College Foundation in his will," said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director. "His planned gift began with

ry Club of North Shore has allowed me to witness first hand his generosity and commitment to the community. Dr. Westbrook truly embodies 'service above self.'"

The digital organ, which is now on display at the San Jacinto College Central Campus Monte Blue Music Building concert hall, is a Johannus Ecclesia D-570 digital church organ. Along with traditional church hymns, the organ also lends itself to iconic musical compositions echoing Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin. Probably one of the more infamous organ compositions heard throughout Hollywood and Broadway is Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor," heard in countless renditions of The Phantom of the Opera. San Jacinto College music professor Dr. Martha Braswell adds that organ music is still enjoyed today, more than people think.

"There is a great demand not only in the Pasadena area, but around the nation as well, for trained organists to provide service music for traditional church services and to provide great performances of compositions by historical composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Caesar Franck and Marcel Dupre," said Braswell.

"The San Jacinto College music department continues to have one of the most successful community college music transfer student programs in the state. Our students are sought after by major university music education programs in Texas. This is one area that we

Angelica DeJesus grateful for educator Loan Peabody's motivation and wisdom

Angelica DeJesus, one of J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Loan Peabody, an instructor of Latin. Both were honored at the annual Pasadena Independent School District Shining Stars Gala, which recognizes the top students from each high school and their favorite teachers. DeJesus has volunteered with the National Honor Society, Key Club and HOSA at various school functions and community volunteer opportunities. She

has held leadership positions as vice president of the National Honor Society, treasurer of the Latin Club and study captain of the Latin Club, with a focus on Greek history. Concerning the future, DeJesus plans to major in chemical engineering at the University of Houston's Honor College. Regarding her teacher, DeJesus said, "When I had Mrs. Peabody my freshman year, she was always motivating, encouraging, and convincing me to do my best. She has constantly been a support system that I have been able to go to for help or advice. She has showered me with nothing but support and words of wisdom throughout high school, and I will forever be thankful for the guidance she has given me. Be it Latin or life, I know I can go to Mrs. Peabody for help, and that is what makes her special to me."

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



Instructor Gardner cultivates Fuentes' interest with upbeat, positive teaching

South Houston High School's Shining Star Samantha Alexis Fuentes is shown with distinguished educator Robin Gardner, psychology instructor.

Fuentes has engaged in extracurricular activities including student council, National Honor Society, and Key Club with leadership positions as student body vice president of the sophomore and junior classes. Concerning future plans,

she plans to attend college to pursue a Ph.D. in pharmacy. In regards to her teacher, Fuentes said, "Mrs. Gardner fostered my interests and taught me a plethora of new information while also keeping the class entertaining and exciting. Every day I was excited to see what the new topic would be in my psychology class.

"I applaud Mrs. Gardner for her upbeat personality and her dedication to teaching. She is one of those teachers that you are lucky to come across, and I believe she deserves more recognition for being so awesome."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the second in the series of 10. The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 South Houston High School students.

The information and photos were supplied by the Pasadena Independent School District.

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



Espinoza thankful for Trahan's inspirational impact

Natalia Espinoza, one of Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Kristi Trahan, an instructor of physics.

Espinoza has done volunteer work with National Honor Society, the Salvation Army and local church fairs and festivals.

Espinoza has enjoyed leadership positions as treasurer of Interact Club and class treasurer.

Concerning future plans, Espinoza plans to attend Texas

A&M University to pursue a major in biology and hopes to begin a career as a veterinarian. Espinoza commented about her teacher, "Mrs. Trahan truly cares about every one of her students and has always encouraged us. She impacted my life in many positive ways and has become such an inspiration for me. I could not imagine having a better physics teacher. Thanks to her, I've learned many new things relating to physics and life itself. She sacrificed time when we needed help with work or just advice. Mrs. Trahan truly defines an exceptional teacher. I'm glad I met this wonderful woman that I can call mentor and friend."

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



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Residents urged to be wary of fraud, scams

As storms and flooding wreak havoc across Texas, FEMA officials are warning of another danger: scam artists and unscrupulous contractors are out to fleece communities and survivors struggling to recover from disaster.

Be aware of post-disaster scams involving those who pose as housing inspectors and claim to represent FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration:

- Ask for identification. Federal and state representatives carry photo ID. A FEMA or SBA shirt or jacket is not proof of affiliation with the government.
- FEMA inspectors never ask for banking or other personal information.
- FEMA housing inspectors verify damage but do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. They do not determine eligibility for assistance.

Building contractors
Natural disasters bring out fraudulent contractors offering clean-up and repairs. When hiring a contractor:

- Use licensed local contractors backed by reliable references; recovery experts recommend getting a written estimate from at least three contractors, including the cost of labor and materials; and read the fine print.
- Demand that contractors carry general liability insurance and workers' compensation. If he or she is not insured, you may be liable for accidents that occur on your property.
- Avoid paying more than half the costs upfront. Doing so offers little incentive for the contractor to return to complete repairs.

Post-disaster donation pleas
Con artists play on the sympathies of disaster survivors, knowing that people want to help others in need. Disaster aid solicitations may arrive by phone, email,

letter or face-to-face visits. Verify charitable solicitations:

- Ask for the charity's exact name, street address, phone number and web address, then phone the charity to confirm that the person asking for funds is an employee or volunteer.
- Don't pay with cash. Pay with a check made out to the charity in case funds must be stopped later.
- Request a receipt. Legitimate nonprofit agencies routinely provide receipts for tax purposes.

State or federal aid offers
Beware of anyone claiming to be from FEMA or the state and asking for a Social Security number, bank account number or other sensitive information. Scammers may solicit by phone or in person, promising to speed up the insurance, disaster assistance or building permit process. Others promise a disaster grant and ask for large cash deposits or advance payments. Here's how to protect yourself:

- Federal and state workers do not solicit or accept money. FEMA and SBA staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. If anyone has doubts, do not give out information. File a police report.
- If anyone suspects fraud, call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721. If someone is a victim of a home repair or price-gouging scam, call the office of the Texas attorney general at 800-252-8011. For information regarding disaster-related fraud and how to protect yourself, visit texasattorneygeneral.gov/cpd/disaster-scams.

For more information on the Texas recovery, visit the disaster webpage for the May storms at fema.gov/disaster/4272; or visit the Texas Division of Emergency Management website at txdps.state.tx.us/dem. Follow on Twitter @femaregion6.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

ABIGAIL TURNS FOUR!
Best wishes for a happy birthday July 3 are sent to **Abigail Durham** from parents **Courtney and Chris Durham**; newborn brother **Jackson Kyle Durham**; aunt **Kimberly Flickinger**; grandparents **Fred and Leslie Flickinger**; great-grandmother **Olive Falkowski**; great-grandfather **John Fairchild**; great-grandparents **Marie and David Flickinger**; and great-uncle **David Flickinger** (*Leader* president) and his wife **Ellie**.

NOAH CELEBRATES HIS FIRST!
Best wishes for a great first birthday July 5 are sent to **Noah Abarca** from parents **Natalie and Jose Abarca**; brother **Kelvin Lopez** and sister **Isabella Abarca**; grandmother **Kina Reyes**; grandparents **David Flickinger** (*Leader* president) and wife **Ellie**; and great-grandparents **Marie and David Flickinger**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHERRY!
Best wishes are sent to the former South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce executive director **Sherry Trainer** who celebrates a birthday July 5 from her family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 30 through July 6.

Atkinson Elementary
Light the birthday candles for **Gisell Ortega** July 3. The day for a party for **Olga Soto** is July 6.

Burnett Elementary
Amy Vasquez celebrates a birthday July

2. Blow out the birthday candles for **Eliezer Torres** on July 4.

Bush Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Amanda Davis** on June 30. Light the birthday candles July 1 for **Marite Portales**. Marking a birthday July 3 is **Celena Bustos**.

Frazier Elementary
On June 30, special birthday wishes are sent to **Yelitza Davila**. **Stacy Anthony** marks a birthday July 2.

South Belt Elementary
Kasi Al Ayoubi and **Karla Camacho** enjoy a birthday July 3. July 4 is the day for a birthday and fireworks celebration for **Derenda Dehoyos**.

Stuchbery Elementary
July 3 is the day for a birthday party for **Cheryl Wilson**. **Cristel Olier** is wished a happy birthday July 6.

Melillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday June 30 is **Christine Wright**. Marking a birthday July 6 is **Sherry Gates**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Light the birthday candles for **Vanessa Schultz** June 30. **Lamona Lemarr** and **Lauren Lester** enjoy a double-birthday July 2. A triple birthday celebration is in order for **Emily Morin**, **Ben Portis**, and **Cecillee Williams** July 5.

Thompson Intermediate
Enjoying a birthday July 3 is **Yadira Lozano**. Light the birthday candles July 5 for **Nicole Cannon**.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles June 30 for

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

Thursday, June 30: **Darla Arenas, Kimberly Villarreal, Susan Jenins-Cowan, Kimberly Filson, Marlene Varela, Sonya Hernandez and BJ Parmelee**; Friday, July 1: **Siobhan Strambler, Barbara Porbandt, Tina Ramirez, LaKechia Cole-Dixon and Piper Sais**; Saturday, July 2: **Mary Collins, Brent Garza, Carrie Ramos, Leslie Eaton, Michelle DeGomez, Paul Staton, Randy Weber, Eddie Shields, Darrel Black and Carolyn Benitez-Pineda**; Sunday, July 3: **Nancy Smith, Frank Castillo, Bill Phenix, Benny Outland and Kelly Goolsby**; Monday, July 4: **Detric Bowie, Tina Garrett, Bob Shaw, April Smith, Miles Thomas and Brent McCrary**; Tuesday, July 5: **Stacey Imboden, Jeanette Tickell, Chris Constance, Shannon Raymond Covington, Francisco Campos, Elindabeth Kolar, James Notias, John Colunga, Ashley Chapman and Stacey Buchanan**; and Wednesday, July 6: **Teri Perkins, Cristel Anne, Lisa Shepherd, Bonnie Miller, Wally Barbier and Cristel Lasater**.

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

Lewis CTHS 2016 graduate competes in SkillsUSA

Lewis Career and Technical High 2016 graduate Cristian Mendez has been chosen to participate in the 52nd annual SkillsUSA competition held Thursday, June 23, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mendez placed first in the state in electrical construction wiring to advance to the national competition.

Known as the world's largest showcase of skilled trades, more than 15,000 students, teachers, educational leaders, and representatives from 600 national corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions are expected to participate in the competition.



Shown is Cristian Mendez (left) and his instructor Preston Bishop, Lewis CTHS HVAC and electrical instructor. Mendez placed first in the state for electrical construction wiring and will compete in the SkillsUSA competition held in Louisville.

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Remember When

40 years ago (1976)
Barbara Taylor of Sagemeadow was named the Solo Grand Champion at the United States Twirling Association competition.

Scarsdale resident Tim Crawford scared off a prowler attempting to enter his home. The unidentified male took a swing at Crawford with a sharp object, cutting Crawford slightly on the stomach. The prowler then ran off.

35 years ago (1981)
Clear Creek Independent School District trustees adopted a new pay scale

which gave district teachers and other district employees a 13.3 percent pay hike. The pay increase put CCISD beginning teachers with a bachelor's degree earning \$14,505 annually and beginning teachers with a master's degree earning \$15,275.

Brad Womack, Doug Pettit and Bert Wilms were elected from a seven-man field at the annual meeting of the Kirkmont II Homeowners' Association.

30 years ago (1986)
The City of Houston delayed approving a master plan for Ellington Field while it negotiated with a prospective new tenant whose presence would dramatically alter the airport's future.

Further investigation for single-member districts for Pasadena School District was approved at the regular board meeting. The board approved a study by Bracewell and Patterson law firm which would allow the district to be broken up into various districts, with each district having a representative.

25 years ago (1991)
Rita Garcia, Dobie High School senior, was crowned Miss South Belt.

An out-of-court settlement for \$19 million was reached by attorneys for Farm and Home Savings and attorneys for 214 children for medical expenses and education in a case involving the Brio Superfund toxic waste site.

20 years ago (1996)
The Texas Department of Transportation opened the Beltway 8/Mykawa overpass.

Kenneth Alan Martin Jr., 3, drowned in an above-ground pool.

15 years ago (2001)
The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees reduced the homestead exemption for district residents by one half, to a 5 percent deduction.

Steven Dittrich, 12, a seventh-grade trombone player at Brookside Intermediate, came to the rescue of 14-year-old friend Chris Crumel of Freeport at the Sam Houston State University Band Camp. It was reported by Dittrich that he was swimming in the pool when he noticed Crumel was in a "cannonball" position at the bottom of the pool. He looked at him for a moment to see if he was kidding around and then swam down to the bottom of the pool and pulled him to the top. A camp counselor and Dittrich pulled the drowning Crumel out of the pool and onto the safety deck. The lifeguards were summoned, and they administered CPR to Crumel.

10 years ago (2006)
At the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church, South Belt resident John Heckler was honored for 50 years of service with the Knights of Columbus. The Rev. Stephen Horn officiated the Mass.

An increase in motor vehicle burglaries and other crimes prompted South Belt community leaders to pursue the hiring of another deputy for Constable Gary Freeman.

5 years ago (2011)
A South Belt man was arrested on multiple charges after driving for more than two miles with a partially dismembered hit-and-run victim in his passenger seat early Tuesday. According to police, James John Onak, 49, reportedly told the deputy that he knew he had hit something on the freeway but was not aware the victim was lying in the passenger seat. Investigators said Onak appeared to be highly intoxicated, and a mandatory blood draw was taken. Onak was charged with felony accident involving injury and a misdemeanor count of DWI.

Clear Creek Independent School District officials announced that the Clear Horizons Early College High School would remain open for the 2011-2012 school year. The announcement came after the district's general meeting, at which board members discussed money-saving recommendations proposed by the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee.

1 year ago (2015)
At a press conference on June 30, Houston Mayor Annise Parker formally announced the Federal Aviation Administration's approval for Ellington Airport to become the nation's 10th commercial spaceport. Houston City Council initially approved the spaceport in July 2013. The launches being proposed for Ellington Airport would involve reusable launch vehicles executing horizontal, rather than vertical, take-offs, departing in a fashion similar to commercial aircraft.

A Sagemeadow resident

Mayor, police chief host severe weather forums

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Acting Police Chief Martha I. Montalvo joined area agencies recently in announcing the kickoff of a severe weather and emergency preparedness campaign aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities during future severe weather events.

The educational campaign, dubbed "Turn Around, Don't Drown," focuses on flood safety with information from the HPD, the Houston Fire Department, the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management and the Harris County Flood Control District.

The campaign will include a series of informational workshops, presentations, brochures and promotional safety giveaways.

HPD has purchased 2,000 "car escape tools" to be distributed to citizens at the presentations, while the supplies last.

The Houston Police Federal Credit Union and Yellow Cab Greater Houston Transportation Company will also purchase steel-tipped car escape tools to be distributed with other giveaways at the workshops.

Ready Houston has also provided promotional giveaways for the campaign.

Mayor Turner said the campaign aims to encourage

citizens to wait, and not venture out on the roadways in severe weather events. "The best approach is always to stay home but if you should find yourself in a car in rising water, we want you to know what to do to save yourself. Don't become our next flood-related fatality. Make your plan now!" said Mayor Turner.

A new flood safety brochure with valuable information and photos is available on the HPD website at http://www.houstontx.gov/police/pdfs/brochures/english/turn_around_dont_drown.pdf.

HPD Acting Police Chief Montalvo urges motorists to heed warnings and any traffic barricades on roadways.

"When we say 'Turn Around, Don't Drown,' that also means to not drive around any barricades our officers or city officials placed in the road. They're doing that for a reason and that is to keep drivers safe and away from high water and danger," said Acting Chief Montalvo.

Scheduled workshops presented by campaign partners are:

- Sunnyside Multi-Service Center - Wednesday, July 13, 10 a.m. to noon.
- Magnolia Multi-Service Center - Wednesday, July 20, 10 a.m. to noon.

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Hardy couple celebrates 60th anniversary in Sagemeadow



James and Rose Hardy celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30, 2016. The couple were married in Houston on June 30, 1956. They have five children: Patricia Seymour and husband George; James Hardy Jr. and wife Kendra; Kenneth Hardy and wife Sheila; Dianna Stuber and husband Stew; and Ronnie Hardy and wife Shelley. The latter four are graduates of Dobie High School. James and Rose also have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They have been residents of Sagemeadow for 40 years and are members of the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church.

San Jacinto College provost Jones lauded for exceptional service to college, students

Leading by example isn't just a professional mantra for San Jacinto College South Campus Provost Dr. Brenda Jones. It is a way of life.

"Each team member brings something of value to the table," Jones said. "As a leader, it's my responsibility to exhibit a fair, transparent, approachable, trusting, ethical and caring behavior that enhances the growth of every employee while improving the quality of organizational life at the College."

Jones first came to San Jacinto College in 2001 as the program coordinator for corporate education in the Continuing and Professional Development division and was a part-time business faculty member. She later became a business department chair at Lee College, and after completing her Ph.D. in educational hu-

man resource development from Texas A&M University, accepted a dean position at Galveston College. In 2010, she returned to San Jacinto College as the dean of business and technology, and in 2012 was offered the position of South Campus provost after a national search.

Her dedication to student success and employee advancement is evident in San Jacinto College's recent endeavors and awards she has received. As a member of the College's Strategic Leadership Team, Jones assisted in the promotional efforts that helped to pass the 2015 bond referendum, allocating \$425 million for building renovations, technology upgrades and new building construction.

Jones also was instrumental in developing the Pasadena Independent

School District Dr. Kirk Lewis Technical High School, the Pearland ISD Robert Turner College and Career High School, and led the team that secured the recent partnership with Baylor University as one of 10 Texas community colleges chosen as part of the Baylor Bound transfer program. Recently she was named a recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society Shirley B. Gordon Award, which honors college presidents and administrators who support PTK student success in their respective institutions.

"I'm extremely proud of what we were able to accomplish," Jones said. "All of these were major projects that will impact our students for years to come, and I'm fortunate to have contributed a small part to

Stockton recognized for service



University of Houston-Clear Lake President William A. Staples (right) presented a special glass nameplate to outgoing Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Carl A. Stockton during a reception honoring the work of the departing provost. After nine years at UHCL, Stockton will become chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery in Montgomery, Alabama. Photo by George Mattingly II

UHCL honors Stockton legacy

Exiting University of Houston-Clear Lake Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Carl A. Stockton has left his mark on the university, as many expressed at a June 16 reception honoring his legacy. He departs to take a post at Auburn University in Montgomery.

"Stockton, who has served as head of UHCL's academic affairs for nine years, has been a key part of several historic milestones at the university," said President William A. Staples.

The creation of the university's second and third doctoral programs, the opening of UH-Clear Lake Pearland Campus and the expansion to a four-year university are a few of the many changes at the university during his tenure.

"It's impossible to say in few words what Dr. Stockton has done for the university," Staples said. "Being a provost at a university is one of the most difficult jobs. You're called on to make the best decision you can. Often times there are competing opinions and competing requests."

Stockton begins his new position as chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery on July 1.

A number of staff, faculty and students expressed their appreciation for Stockton's support and good wishes for his future. Several told stories about Stockton's im-

port in supporting upgraded science labs and the university's mock courtroom, both resources that continue to benefit UHCL students.

Stockton was also officially inducted and recognized by the UHCL chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, for his dedication to the university.

UHCL has seen dramatic growth in international enrollment under Stockton's leadership, said Executive Director of the Office of International Admissions and Programs Sameer Pande. He expressed gratitude in his address to Stockton.

"You challenged us and helped us to be better because of those challenges," he said.

Executive Assistant to the Provost Charise Armstrong said Stockton's commitment to the university to be authentic as proven by his and his staff's numerous contributions. "He has been kind, approachable and friendly," she said. "I know I don't speak for myself alone, but I will miss him greatly."

Other university community members noted Stockton's commitment to shared governance, accessibility for advice and guidance, his passion for golf and vocal pride in his daughter.

Stockton gave the closing remarks, thanking the university community for its support as he achieves a major personal goal to become the head of a university.

"It's been a wonderful nine years," he said. "We've

gone through a number of changes. I know it hasn't always been easy. At the end of the day, I try to think of the best interests of the students."

The most difficult part of leaving, he added, would be leaving behind the people he's come to know, and he closed his remarks by assuring the standing-room-only crowd that they all have a friend and colleague in Alabama.

Stockton became the university's provost in 2007, joining UHCL from the University of Texas at Brownsville. In his time at UHCL, the university saw record enrollment, which as of fall 2015 stood at nearly 9,000 students.

He also established UHCL's division of online programs, worked to increase research support of faculty and developed and expanded study-abroad opportunities. Funding received from external grant acquisition also increased by 47 percent under his leadership.

He played a lead role in continuing UHCL's tradition as a community-minded university, forging partnerships with Johnson Space Center, area community colleges and many others.

Associate Vice President of Information Resources Glen Houston has been appointed interim senior vice president for academic affairs and provost pending a search to permanently fill the position.

To learn more about UH-Clear Lake, visit <http://www.uhcl.edu>.

CCISD Board seeks Citizen of the Year nominations

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

In the Clear Creek Independent School District, dedicated community members volunteer their time and efforts by contributing to the quality of life for our schools and the growing number of students within the District. Each year the District's Board of Trustees asks stakeholders to nominate community members who champion CCISD and are deserving of a very special award.

The Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustees is now seeking nominations for the 2016 Citizen of the Year. The award is given each year to honor an outstanding community member

for their support of CCISD programs and activities. Former recipients include Harv Hartman, Robert Davee, David Braun, Dr. James O'Malley, Gib Larson, and Lucien Q. Junkin. The Board of Trustees established an endowment fund which the Citizen of the Year will have the opportunity to designate to a CCISD academic program or classroom activity in his or her name.

The recipient will be announced at the Clear Creek Education Foundation's Annual Awards Gala on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center in League City. Recipients eligible for this award must meet the following requirements:

- Demonstrated a commitment to Clear Creek ISD through volunteer efforts.

- Contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of Clear Creek ISD.

- Maintained a reputation across the Clear Creek ISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public education.

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

All nominations must be submitted no later than August 5 to be considered for the 2016 award. Nomination forms are available online on the foundation's website and the district website. Nominations can be emailed to kahanson@clearcreekeducationfoundation.org. Forms may also be mailed to: Clear Creek Education Foundation, COTY Selection Committee, P.O. Box 1631, League City, TX, 77574.

Burgess, Green set bipartisan legislation to increase cost transparency for patients

Congressman Michael Burgess, M.D., along with South Belt area Congressman Gene Green recently introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at making health care more affordable by promoting greater transparency around the costs of health care services for patients.

The Health Care Price Transparency Promotion Act of 2016 calls upon the states to establish and maintain laws requiring disclosure of information on hospital charges and to make such information available to the public.

In addition, it should provide individuals with information about estimated out-of-pocket costs for health care services.

"At no point in the course of care should patients ever be left in the dark, lacking critical information to make the most informed decision about treatment options, particularly when it comes to cost."

"Our current health insurance system insulates patients from the true cost of health services," said Burgess.

"This legislation takes

the first step towards ensuring true price transparency in the health care market."

"The fact that patients rarely know what health care services cost until after they've received them and the wide variety in pricing, make the health care market uniquely difficult to navigate," said Green.

"Greater transparency around prices of health care services will enable patients and families to choose lower-cost, high-value care and promote competition in the market. This bill is an important first step towards empowering patients and advancing value-based care."

This bill also calls for research on: the types of cost information that individuals find useful in making decisions regarding healthcare; how this useful information varies according to an individual's health insurance coverage, and if so, by what type of coverage they have; and ways that this information may be distributed in a timely and simple manner.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, total health care spending in the United

States grew 2.9 percent in 2013 and another 5.3 percent in 2014, reaching \$3 trillion or \$9,523 per person.

This is a \$300 billion increase in total spending since 2011 and is projected to grow at an average rate of 5.8 percent per year. As a share of the nation's gross domestic product, health spending accounts for 17.5 percent and expected to reach 19.6 percent by 2024. The bill has the support of numerous groups including the American Hospital Association (AHA).

"We strongly support the Health Care Price Transparency Promotion Act. This legislation builds on existing state efforts, while requiring insurers to provide information on estimated out-of-pocket costs for health care services, often the most valuable information for insured patients. Patients should have all available tools to help them make important choices about their care," said Tom Nickels, Executive Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy at the American Hospital Association.

Unusual way of electing new commissioner



State Sen. Rodney Ellis easily won the election to replace the late El Franco Lee as Precinct 1 commissioner Saturday, June 25. The election was unique, in that only local party precinct chairs were allowed to cast votes, essentially leaving county voters without a say in the contest. Democrat Party officials prohibited secret bal-

lots in the election, requiring precinct chairs to instead cast their vote by standing behind the candidate of their choice. Voters in favor of Ellis are shown above standing in support. A similar election will take place July 16 to select Ellis' replacement. See related story on Page 1A. Photo by Marie Flickinger

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San Jacinto College South Campus Provost Dr. Brenda Jones' dedication to student success and employee advancement has become evident throughout the 15 years of her career at the college, marked by the recent successful endeavors and the accolades with which she has been bestowed.

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Cruz on Supreme Court's Texas ruling

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz today issued a statement in light of the Supreme Court's ruling on *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, a case examining Texas HB 2, which established health and safety standards for abortion providers and facilities.

The Supreme Court reversed the Fifth Circuit's decision, ultimately striking down provisions of Texas HB 2.

"The Supreme Court's ruling in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* is profoundly disappointing," Cruz said. "Texas enacted HB 2's commonsense health standards to ensure that women receive safe care.

"Unfortunately, the Supreme Court sided with abortion extremists who care more about providing abortion-on-demand than they do protecting women's health.

"This decision will not silence our fight to protect the most helpless and innocent among us, nor will we cease our efforts to protect women from an abortion industry that prioritizes profit margins over improving the safety and health of Texas women.

"We will continue to stand resolutely to defend unborn life because we know that every life is a gift from God, and without life there is no liberty."

In February, Cruz led a broad coalition in filing an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in support of Texas HB 2.

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Rising Stars excel; head to regionals

It's been another fulfilling summer for select athletes competing within the Rising Stars Track Club program.

Those from seemingly every available age group competed at the Amateur Athletic Union/Junior Olympic Gulf District Qualifier, moving one step closer to national competition.

Those athletes began competing at the Region 17 National Qualifier and are focused on reaching the AAU/JO National Meet beginning July 30 in Norfolk, Va.

After a successful regular season for the entire team, athletes took the first step toward advancing to national by competing at the Gulf District Qualifier at Hall Stadium in Missouri City.

Perhaps the team's top-performing overall athlete was Camryn Dickson from the girls' 12-year-old division.

At the Gulf District meet, Dickson championed both the 400-meter run (1 minute, 01.96 seconds) and the 100-meter dash (13.59). She was also second in the 200-meter dash, posting a time of 27.17.

Men 17-18
Jacobus Davis and his

twin brother Jeremy Davis, who will begin their senior year at Dobie High School in August, led the way in the men's 17-18-year-old division for the Rising Stars.

Triple jumper Jalon Jamerson also advanced, as did several others in the age division.

A high school regional qualifier in the high jump in April, Jacoby Davis continued his solid performance in the event, clearing 6 feet even for fourth place at the Gulf District meet.

He then also advanced in the triple jump, placing 10th overall with an effort of 38 feet, 4 inches.

As for Jeremy Davis, also a regional qualifier in the high school shot put and discus, he placed fourth at the Gulf District Qualifier in the discus with a throw of 142'4".

His top throw of 45'4" placed him seventh in the event, also good enough to advance.

Jamerson was second overall in the triple jump, clearing 43'9" en route to regionals.

Elsewhere, Cody Turner moved forward in two events for the Rising Stars. He was 13th in the long jump – the top 16 finishers

Continued on Page 3B

OKC's Hedrick making it; controlling adversity a key



Former Clear Brook High School star Cyprian Hedrick looks to have found solid footing with the OKC Energy FC of the United Soccer League, but he knows that only continued hard work and perseverance will keep his dream alive going forward.

Steven Christy/Energy FC

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

It's all about controlling adversity.

To most, it sounds simple enough, but it's an important few words that might best be used to describe the soccer career of former Clear Brook High School star Cyprian Hedrick.

Now in his fifth professional season, including three straight with the Oklahoma City Energy of the United Soccer League, Hedrick seems to be standing on solid ground.

He's starting and

playing regular minutes as a defender with the Energy, but it hasn't always been that way for the now 27-year-old pro.

The Doula, Cameroon native played at Clear Brook High School, where he was one of the Wolverines' leading goal scorers ever before graduating in 2007.

Admittedly, his grades weren't good enough for Hedrick to be eligible to play at a four-year institution.

So he headed just blocks from home to San Jacinto College South, and what an awakening he re-

ceived. One of the area's top scorers in 2007 while at Brook, Hedrick figured he could simply do the same at SJC.

But David Santesteban, then the San Jacinto College men's soccer head coach, had other ideas.

Santesteban's 2006 team had gone 18-2-1 and finished the regular season as the No. 9 ranked program in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Heading into the 2007 campaign, which began just three months after Hedrick's graduation from Clear Brook, SJC was

loaded at the striker (forward) position.

At the suggestion of Santesteban, Hedrick red-shirted during the 2007 season and focused on his academics while practicing and training off the field with the team.

It's not a trendy pick for all young players, but Hedrick accepted it.

"Because the position I wanted to play (striker) was full that year, coach suggested I basically take that year off from playing, handle my grades and train with the

Continued on Page 6B

SBHLL all-star pair still in hunt

Two teams are still carrying the torch for the Sagement-Beverly Hills Little League in the Texas District 15 tournament circuit.

Sagement's 10-year-old and major division (12-year-old) teams were set to play elimination games Wednesday, June 29, after the press time.

In the 10-year-old division, the locals lost their first game of the tournament, by a 22-1 count to Pearland East.

But Sagement then kept its hopes alive in the double elimination event, downing East End 12-2 and then edging Southeast 1-0.

SBHLL's scheduled game against Friendswood June 28, was washed out by rain, leading to a reschedule date of June 29, after press time.

In the 12-year-old di-

vision, SBHLL also lost a tough 3-2 game to Pearland West but then bounced back with wins over Friendswood, OFA and East End.

After press time, Sagement was set to take

on Pearland West a second time, with the winner moving on to the title round.

SBHLL's age group teams in all of the other age divisions were eliminated early on.

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PISD decides homecoming games

Families may start their preparations now as the Pasadena ISD has announced dates for each of the district's five homecoming football games.

The Dobie Longhorns are set to face the Pasadena Eagles in their annual

homecoming outing, which comes Friday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m.

As for Pasadena, homecoming arrives Friday, Sept. 30, as the Eagle faithful hope for a big win against nondistrict foe St. Thomas.

The Sam Rayburn Texans host their homecoming spectacle Friday, Oct. 7, against rival Pasadena Memorial, and the South Houston Trojans will kick it off against Deer Park Saturday, Oct. 8, in a 1 p.m. start.

Padadena Memorial's homecoming game is Friday, Oct. 14, against South Houston.

Brook faces Creek

Clear Brook's homecoming game is Friday, Sept. 30, against Clear Creek at Challenger Stadium.

Some SJC players make pro choice

At least four San Jacinto College baseball players who were drafted earlier this month by Major League baseball teams have signed professional contracts.

Pitchers Devin Smeltzer and Cody Nesbit in addition to catcher Ryan January and second baseman Brandon Montgomery have been assigned to minor league affiliates as of June 28.

Smeltzer, a left-handed pitcher who struck out 20 batters to help SJC reach the JUCO World Series championship round, is now a Los Angeles Dodger.

A fifth-round choice

of the Dodgers, the 161st overall selection, has reportedly signed a contract for \$500,000, well over the slot value for the pick of \$331,000.



At right, San Jacinto left-handed pitcher Devin Smeltzer was the first of seven players drafted from the college earlier this month, going in the fifth round to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Smeltzer has reportedly agreed to a \$500,000 signing bonus with the Dodgers, passing up a scholarship opportunity to attend Texas Tech University.

Rob Vanya/SJC sports

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Simpson college signing could shift Dobie's fortunes

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

The dream is still alive for class of 2016 Dobie graduate Dedrick Simpson as he prepares to take his game to the collegiate level.

The son of a former La Porte High School and University of Houston standout turned brief National Football League player Antoine Simpson, perhaps the writing was on the wall for the Dobie Longhorn.

Then again, nothing is given or passed down freely.

Having earned the first major Division I football scholarship out of Dobie since Xavier Bowman in 2006 (Utah State University), the younger Simpson is headed to the University of Texas at El Paso next January.

He will spend the fall semester here in Houston while what he termed as "gray-shirting" with the Miners.

An option used most prominently in collegiate football, "grey shirting" allows incoming freshmen the option of delaying the

start of their academic campaigns until the spring semester of the following school year.

Under this provision, Simpson will have five academic years to complete his four-year degree plan. Simpson said he intends to study mechanical engineering at UTEP.

So Simpson will take part in spring workouts with the rest of the UTEP program roughly 10 months from now, and be ready for the 2017 regular season.

Current Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman only coached Simpson for one season, yet knew what a special talent the linebacker/defensive end was.

In fact, at the time of Simpson's signing last spring, Norman said the occasion will lead to greater things for the Dobie football program and its players.

"I do think my signing is a stepping stone for the success of some of the other Dobie players," Simpson said.

"You can see the greatness and the special abil-

ities of some of the other players who are still there. Dobie is getting ready to do some special things out on the football field."

If Dobie does indeed see a surge in player signings over the next several years – as is predicted by many – Simpson will be viewed as a pioneer of sorts. And why not? He earned it.

Simpson moved from the Dallas/Fort Worth area to Houston with his mother and father, Kameshia Simmons and Antoine Simpson, during the spring of his eighth-grade year.

He played at the freshman level during the 2013 season for the Longhorns but quickly jumped to the varsity level in the spring of the 2013-2014 school year.

A subsequent three-year starter at linebacker, Simpson got better and better with each passing season.

As a junior in 2015 under head coach Jim Phillips and defensive coordinator Lance Dale, Simpson had tallied 64 tackles, 14 tackles for loss,

10 sacks, 11 quarterback hurries, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and a pass breakup.

Norman's arrival prior to the 2016 season also meant a change at defensive coordinator.

Playing in first-year coordinator Donald Randle's defensive system in 2015, Simpson made the necessary scheme adjustments smoothly and registered District 22-6A first team all-district accolades for the second straight season.

For the season, Simpson had 69 total tackles and three sacks.

He also played on the offensive side of the football in selective goal line situations.

This spring, Simpson also threw the discus and shot put on the varsity track and field team for the first time ever, reaching regionals in the discus.

"I was surprised at how well I performed in track and field," he said. "That was my first time ever to compete in the weight

events, and I thought I did pretty well to make it to areas and then regionals in the discus."

He may be roughly six months away from joining the rest of his UTEP teammates and coaching staff full time, but Simpson is hard at work, sticking to a workout plan prescribed to him by Miners' personnel. "I'm just so excited to get started," said Simpson.

"UTEP was able to see the talent I have and offered me a scholarship to come play for them. It really is a dream come true. I can't wait. I've been thinking about this opportunity every single day."

Antonie Simpson was a defensive end/defensive tackle during his playing days. He played in a combined 11 games with the San Diego Chargers and Miami Dolphins during the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

Dedrick Simpson views himself best as a run-stopping defensive end or out-

side linebacker, the player who sets the edge defensively in run situations. He also plans to continue to develop his skills as a pass rusher.

So the new bar has been set at Dobie from a recruiting standpoint, beginning with Simpson.

Dobie senior-to-be Jeremy Davis, slated to start at quarterback for the Longhorns come August, is drawing considerable recruitment interest.

Running back Kris Morris, who played roughly half of his freshman season as a varsity player and is heading into his sophomore season, is also likely to be recruited heavily when his time comes.

And there are other players on both sides of the ball who figure to lure the eyes of collegiate recruiters.

This spike in interest at Dobie was started by Simpson, and he plans to make his high school proud moving forward.



In his first and only season of competing in the shot put and discus events for Dobie, Dedrick Simpson made his way to the regional meet in the discus. He also advanced to the 21/22-6A Area Championships in the shot put.

Photos by John Bechtle



Dedrick Simpson (right) worked on his coverage skills during the 2015 7 on 7 summer season at The Rig in Pearland, and his ability to drop into coverage is a skill set that will make him a more versatile performer when he arrives at UTEP.



Dobie's Dedrick Simpson (seated center) shared his national signing day moment with his mother, Kameshia Simmons (seated left) as well as instructors and Dobie football assistant coaches. Those included, left to right, (seated at right) Todd Gerles (Dobie English IV instructor and former longtime assis-

tant football coach), (standing) coaches Bobby Beynaerts, Javier Castillo, Chris Swinnen, Irvin Theodile, Donald Randle, Kenneth Foster and Stephen Sutton. A three-year defensive starter at Dobie, Simpson will play collegiately at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Sharks excel at Clear Creek Swim League finale

The South Belt Sharks youth swimming team finished strong this summer, placing seventh among 21 teams at the Clear Creek Swim League's Division 2 Championship Meet at Texas City.

The Sharks won the Division 2 bracket as 36 local athletes helped contribute to the win.

During the regular season, the Sharks lost their opening meet to the League City Barracudas but then followed up with

consecutive victories over the Nassau Bay Nauticats, the Brooks Blue Marlins, the Harbour Tide and the Timber Cove Dolphins.

Those representing the Sharks at the championship meet included Francesca Arellano, Sophie Austin, Madison Caballero, Allie Chu, Karissa Dorville, David Garcia, Fiona Garcia, Vanessa Gonzalez, Benjamin Guzman, Gabriella Guzman, Ruben Herrera, Nyssa Jagan, Leo Martinez, Allura

Monroe, Tin Nguyen, Victor Nguyen, Allie Parker, Samuel Parker, Sonya Salinas, Daniel Shaffer, Rebecca Shaffer, Noah Sharpless, Dennis Tran, Evelyn Tran, Samuel Tran and Evan Ybarra.

Ten more Sharks' swimmers qualified for relay events, including Ava Rivera, Zoey Vuong, Abdullah Borji, Carlos Herrera, Jacque Giron, Lola Rivera, Bruce Nguyen, Kelvin Nguyen, Sophia Martinez and Adrienne

Rivera.

Among top-6 finishers, Dennis Tran was a big contributor out of the boys' 8-under division.

He was second in the 25-yard fly event at 20.49 seconds, third in the 25-yard backstroke (25.50) and fourth in the 25-yard freestyle event with a time of 16.77.

Gabriella Guzman captured third place in the girls' 8-under 25-yard freestyle at 16.95, and David Garcia was sixth with

a time of 1 minute, 10.03 seconds in the 11-12 boys' 100-yard individual medley.

The locals produced a slew of top-six finishes in various relay events.

The 9-10 girls' 200-yard freestyle relay team of Fiona Garcia, Nyssa Jagan, Lola Rivera and Jacque Giron placed fourth with a time of 2:26.29 to score the Sharks' best relay outing.

Rebecca Shaffer and Arellano were joined by

Gonzalez and Caballero for fifth place and a time of 2:05.59 in the girls' 15-18 200-yard medley relay.

In the boys' 13-14 200-yard medley relay, South Belt was fifth at 2:07.75 as David Garcia, Victor Nguyen, Samuel Tran and Bruce Nguyen made up the foursome.

Caballero, Shaffer, Arellano and Gonzalez also teamed in the girls' 15-18 freestyle relay, taking the fifth spot with a

South Belt sports news, notes

Clear Brook volleyball camp

Clear Brook High School varsity volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will host the 2016 Lady Wolverines' Youth Clinic July 25-28, at the high school.

Students entering the third through ninth grades as of the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to attend. Third- through fifth-grade students will attend from 8 to 9:30 a.m., at a cost of \$80 per student. Sixth- through eighth-grade first-year players will attend from 8 to 10:30 a.m., at \$100 per student. Advanced eighth-grade and ninth-grade players will attend from 10:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., at \$100 per student. After July 15, a \$20 late fee will apply to all registration costs.

The Clear Creek Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage. For more information or to register, direct email to Thompson at mthomps1@ccisd.net.

Dobie head start football camp July 25-28

Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman and his staff will host the 2016 Head Start Football Camp July 25-28, at Dobie High School. Incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students as of the 2016-2017 school year are invited to attend the four-day camp (M-TH). Entry fee for the event, which will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. each day, is \$50 cash/money order or credit card per student. No checks will be accepted.

Norman and his staff will provide instruction in all phases of the game, and participants will receive specialized training at all positions on the football field. A \$10 late fee will be assessed for all registrants after July 21st. Participants should wear a T-shirt, shorts, socks and tennis shoes and bring cleats (optional), water bottle and sunscreen. The Pasadena Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage. For more information, direct email to Norman at MNorman@pasadenaisd.org.

Lutheran South Academy summer camps

Registration is now open for summer camps at Lutheran South Academy. Camps are available for art, baseball, basketball, cheer, football, camp invention, martial arts, sewing, shooting, soccer, softball and volleyball.

For students interested in weights, strength and agility, Pride camps are available for students entering the sixth through 12th grades as of the 2016-2017 school year.

The Pioneer Power Camp is for students entering grades nine through 12 beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and is great for students taking part in football, boys' soccer, basketball, baseball and volleyball.

Camp lengths vary depending on the camp. Go to www.lutheransouth.org for more details and camp registration.

Dobie High School youth volleyball camps

Dobie High School varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Gutierrez Sexton and her staff will host the first of several age group-aimed youth camps July 12-14, at Donna Branch Court at the school.

Students entering the third through the sixth grades as of the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to take part in the camp. Each daily session runs from 9 a.m. to noon, and the cost is \$50 per participant. Instruction in all phases of the game and game action will all be included.

There will also be separate incoming ninth grade and incoming 10th through 12th grade camps held July 26-28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$50 per participant. The camps are voluntary, but also serve as a great opportunity for incoming Dobie players to prepare for the 2016 season.

The Pasadena Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage. For more information, direct email to Gutierrez Sexton at DGutierrez2@pasadenaisd.org.

Dobie High School volleyball tryouts will be held Monday, Aug. 1. The *Leader* will provide additional information as the tryout date nears.

Thompson Intermediate soccer camp

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff will host the 2016 soccer camp for boys and girls July 5-8 at the school. Students entering the sixth- through eighth grades as of the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to attend.

Entry fee is \$25 cash only. No checks or credit/debit cards will be accepted. The camp will run from 9 to 11 a.m. each day. Participants will receive instruction in all phases of soccer, including dribbling, passing, kicking, shooting, rules and regulations and more.

The Pasadena Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage. For more information or to register, direct email to DSawyer@pasadenaisd.org.

Thompson Intermediate basketball camp

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff will host the 2016 basketball camp for boys and girls July 5-8 at the school. Students entering the sixth- through eighth grades as of the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to attend.

Entry fee is \$25 cash only. No checks or credit/debit cards will be accepted. The camp will run from 9 to 11 a.m. each day. Participants will receive instruction in all phases of basketball, including dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting, team defense and team offense and more.

The Pasadena Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage. For more information or to register, direct email to DSawyer@pasadenaisd.org.

Thompson strength/conditioning camp

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff will host the 2016 strength and conditioning camp July 18-21 at the school. Students entering the sixth- through eighth grades as of the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to attend.

Participants will engage in a variety of weight training and running/conditioning activities aimed at preparing student-athletes for the new school year. Cost of the camp is \$25 cash only. No checks or credit cards will be accepted.

The Pasadena Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage. For more information or to register, direct email to DSawyer@pasadenaisd.org.

South Belt Youth Soccer Club sign-up

The South Belt Soccer Club is now accepting on-line registration for the fall 2016 season as youth boys and girls age 4 to 18 are welcomed to join the league. Children eligible for the under 5 to under 8 (4, 5, 6 and 7-year-olds) will pay \$115 to register, while children in the under 9 and under 10 groups (8 and 9-year-olds) will pay \$130. Those in the under 11 and older (10 to 18-year-olds) will pay \$170 to register.

Families may register their children by visiting www.southbeltsoccer.org, and simply follow the prompts. After registering on-line, families will be required to present a copy of their child's birth certificate to the SBYSC team coach. Only credit card/debit card payments will be accepted at the time of on-line registration. A late fee will be assessed after Sept. 1, 2016.

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

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

Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor

Clear Creek ISD officials are still accepting nominations through July 8 for the inaugural Athletic Hall of Honor class.

Due to the sheer volume of alumni worthy of such an honor, nominations will be sought annually and, in turn, encompass a specific era, folding in CCISD high schools as they were created.

For the current 2016 nomination season, only candidates active or enrolled in Clear Creek High School or the former Webster High School from 1948 through the 1972 school year may be considered. The CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor operates as a 501(c)3 and is under the guidance of an independent board of directors.

Prospective nomination packages should include a nomination form, a letter of recommendation and any relevant supporting materials such as newspaper clippings and photographs, for example.

To access the nomination form and more information on requirements for induction and other guidelines regarding the CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor, visit www.ccisd.net, find athletics under the departments tab and then select the CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor tab on the left side of the page.

Nominations are due to the following address by July 8, 2016: CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium, Attn: CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor, 1955 W. NASA Blvd. Webster, TX, 77598.

Continued on Page 3B

Houston Defenders Eighth-Grade hoopsters defend crown

At right, the Houston Defenders' eighth-grade Amateur Athletic Union basketball squad successfully defended their 2015 championship, taking first place in the Fourth Annual Texas Gulf Coast Tournament in League City. Sinking 27 three-point field goals over four games, the Defenders went on to down the South Shore Warriors Elite 51-40 in the championship finale. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Trevon Washington (San Jacinto Intermediate), Shannon Hayes (Thompson Intermediate), Tomas Garcia (Beverly Hills), Marquice Scott (Beverly Hills), (back row) Darion Ramos (Bondy Intermediate), Coach Mike Rogers, K.J. Ellis (Bonnette Intermediate), DeMarcus Carathers (Beverly Hills), Jeff First (Clear Lake Intermediate) and Keyveon Thompson (Beverly Hills).



Rising Stars move a step closer to nationals

Continued from Page 1B
 In each individual event qualify for regionals – including the triple jump, where his top effort of 41'7" was fifth-best.
 Turner's other regional qualification came in the long jump, where a distance of 19'5 3/4" placed him 13th.
 The Rising Star athlete also competed in the 100-meter (11.61 for 27th) and the 200-meter (23.38 for 34th) sprints.
 Caleb Devereaux put together a great run in the 400-meter run, finishing fourth in a time of 1:59.80, and teammates Zion Walker (11:24.15) and Adan Lopez (12:22.57) placed 10th and 11th, respectively, in the 3,000-meter run to advance to regionals.
Women 17-18
 Athletes in the Rising Stars' women's 17-18-year-old division also delivered the goods en route to regionals.
 Camille Singleton, who will be a senior at Dobie beginning in August, qualified in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.
 Singleton was fifth in the 200-meter event with a strong time of 25.33, and her 100-meter time of 12.81 placed her 10th. In the 400-meter run, Singleton missed regional qualification by a single spot, taking 17th at 1:00.62.
 Blake Thomason and Marissa Lozano also starred for the Rising Stars among the 17-18-year-old women. Thomason posted a time of 2:25.62 in the 800-meter run for fifth place, and her time of 1:10.07 in the 400-meter hurdles placed her 12th.
 Lozano, meanwhile, was second in the 3,000-meter run, coming across the finish line at 12:11.22. She was fourth at the 1,500-meter distance (5:28.10) and

11th in the 800-meter run (2:34.56).
 Justice Henderson, a class of 2016 Dobie High School graduate and University of Houston women's track and field signee, won the long jump at 17'9 1/4" and was seventh (12.59) in the 100-meter dash while running unattached to a team.
Boys' 15-16
 Deon Brown and Cameron Devereaux stood out for the Rising Stars in the boys' 15-16-year-old division.
 In the shot put, Brown's top throw of 39'2 1/2" placed him fourth, and he was also seventh (107'8") in the discus.
 In the 1,500-meter run, Devereaux came up with a clocking of 4:30.50 for fifth place, and he was also ninth to make regionals in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:09.34.
 Devereaux also competed in the 400-meter dash, placing 36th at 56.25.
Girls' 15-16
 Several girls' 15-16-year-old competitors also advanced to the regional meet on behalf of the Rising Stars.
 Sydney Devereaux paced the age group for the locals, taking second place in the 1,500-meter run with a terrific time of 5:00.05.
 And Devereaux wasn't done there, also punching her ticket for regionals in two other events, including the 800-meter (fifth at 2:24.22) and the 400-meter (11th at 1:00.7) runs.
 Shelby Devereaux made her way to regionals in the 800-meter run, taking 12th in a time of 2:29.14. She also competed in the 400-meter run (32nd at 1:03.19).
 Abbygail Balli also excelled at the distance events. She was ninth in the 800-meter run at 2:26.84 and 13th in the 1,500-meter

run at 5:31.56, advancing to regionals in both events.
 The Rising Stars' Jasmine Carrera, 12th in the triple jump with a leap of 26'7 1/2", and Atziri Galarza, 16th in the 3,000-meter run at 14:45.77, also moved on.
Boys' 14s
 As he did in 2015, the Rising Stars' Matthew Kovacevich is in the midst of another great season for the locals. At the district qualifier, Kovacevich advanced in three different events.
 His time of 4:43.32 was fourth in the 1,500-meter run, and he placed fifth in the 3,000-meter run at 10:54.28.
 In the triple jump, Kovacevich's best effort of 32'11" placed him eighth.
 Dominic Caballero also extended his season, taking eighth in the shot put at 36'0".
Girls' 14s
 Amari Singleton will represent the Rising Stars in the girls' 14-year-old bracket, advancing in three different events.
 Her top finish came in the triple jump, as her time of 5:45.03 in the 1,500-meter run was seventh overall.
 Singleton's time in the 800-meter run of 2:35.63 was ninth, and she was 10th in the triple jump at 26'7 1/2".
Boys' 13s
 Christian Ross and Devin Caballero were the competitors in the boys' 13-year-old division for the Rising Stars.
 Caballero, coming up big in a pair of events, is on his way to regionals.
 His throw of 28'0" was sixth in the shot put, and he was also 14th in the 1,500-meter run after a fine time of 5:07.13.
 Caballero also took part in the 800-meter run, where his time of 2:36.19 was 24th-best in the division.
 Ross did not move on, but

did well in his two events, including the 800-meter run (2:47.43) and the 1,500-meter run (24th at 5:47.43).
Girls' 13s
 Christianne Ross was the Rising Stars' pace-setter in the girls' 13-year-old division, entering in three events at the district qualifier.
 Ross was 24th in the 800-meter run (3:03.10), 38th in the 400-meter run (1:20.2) and 49th in the 200-meter dash (30.00).
Boys' 12s
 The Rising Stars saw a pair of 12-year-old boys' division athletes make their way to the regional level.
 In the turbo javelin event, Joshua Ross came away with a top throw of 62'0" for seventh place, and Torik Algedion's time of 5:29.72 was ninth in the 1,500-meter run.
Boys' 11s
 There were also two regional qualifiers coming out of the boys' 11-year-old division for the Rising Stars.
 Braylan Shelby wound up second overall in the long jump after clearing 14'7", and he was also fourth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:32.78.
 Elijah Jackson advanced in the turbo javelin, tossing the implement 67'6" for fifth place. Jackson also took part in the 200-meter dash, where he was 24th in a time of 31.04.
Boys' 10s
 The Rising Stars received a tremendous effort from Ayden Saucedo in the boys' 10-year-old category as he kept his season going in three events.
 At 62'0", Saucedo was fourth in the javelin event. He was also 13th in two different distance runs, qualifying for regionals along the way.
 In the 800-meter run, Saucedo's time was 2:48.46,

and he came up with a time of 6:13.24 at the 1,500-meter distance.
Boys' 9s
 Noah Caballero and Menelik Gurnell were the pace-setters in the Rising Stars' 9-year-old boys' division.
 At 21'9 1/2", Gurnell placed second in the shot put, and his throw of 21'9 1/2" was third in the shot put. Meanwhile, Caballero was third in the shot put, having made his way to the 21'6" mark with his best throw.
 Caballero also reached regionals in two other events. He was eighth in the

1,500-meter run (6:02.85) and 13th in the 800-meter run (2:57.41).
Girls' 9s
 Nadiya Shelby was the star for the locals in the girls' 9-year-old division, winning the long jump at the district level with an effort of 12'1 1/4". She also ran the 800-meter event, taking third in a time of 2:54.04.
Boys' 8-under
 Gianni Germani advanced to regionals in the boys' 8-under division, taking 13th in the javelin with a top effort of 32'7" as he was yet another Rising Star athlete to advance.

South Belt Sharks get CCSL honors

Continued from Page 2B
 clocking of 1:52.86.
 South Belt was also fifth in the boys' 13-14 200-yard freestyle relay (1:53.55) as Victor Nguyen, Samuel Tran, Bruce Nguyen and David Garcia joined forces.
 The 11-12 girls' 200-yard freestyle relay team of Evelyn Tran, Sophie

Austin, Karissa Dorville and Allura Monroe came together for a sixth-place finish of 2:07.58.
 South Belt's 13-14 girls' 200-yard freestyle relay team from South Belt was also sixth as Allie Parker, Ava Rivera, Sonya Salinas and Sophia Martinez delivered a time of 2:07.47.

JFD swim coaches slate youth clinic

Dobie High School swimming coaches Bradley Nguyen and Kyle Ediger will host the Longhorns' End of Summer Swim Clinic Monday through Thursday, Aug. 1-4, at the Beverly Hills Intermediate pool.
 Students age 6 through 14 are eligible to attend the clinic, which will run from 5 to 6 p.m. each day. Cost of the clinic is \$50,

cash only.
 The Pasadena Independent School District does not provide medical insurance coverage for these types of summer or extracurricular activities, so parents are responsible for such coverage.
 For more information about the clinic or to learn registration details, direct email to Nguyen at ktn.guyen@pasadenaisd.org.

Beverly Hills Intermediate Football Camp

July 25-28 (M-TH) at Dobie High School

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Grade entering 2016-2017: _____

Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Positions: Offense: _____ Defense: _____

I wish to enroll my child in the 2016 football camp. I understand that neither the coaches nor anyone connected with the football camp will assume any responsibility for accidents, medical, dental or other expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained during the camp. I further acknowledge that my child is physically fit to participate.

Parent / Guardian signature: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Emergency contact/phone: _____

Physician/phone: _____

Camp to be held at Dobie High School

Cost is \$30 per student. Please no checks or money orders. Cash only.

Camp hours are 9 to 11 a.m. each day for both incoming seventh-grade and eighth-grade students.

Report 15 minutes early July 25. Bring tennis shoes. Cleats optional.

For more information, call coach Ben Portis at 713-299-0251.

Camp information: The camp is designed for those student-athletes who will be entering either the seventh or eighth-grade at Beverly Hills Intermediate as of the 2016-2017 school year. Participants will take part in technique drills and also perform strength and conditioning activities in addition to pass catching, receiving, blocking, tackling and more. The camp staff will also cover the rules and regulations involving intermediate level games.

Thompson Intermediate Football Camp

July 25 to July 28 (M-TH) at Dobie High School

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Grade entering 2016-2017: _____

Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Positions: Offense: _____ Defense: _____

I wish to enroll my child in the 2016 football camp. I understand that neither the coaches nor anyone connected with the football camp will assume any responsibility for accidents, medical, dental or other expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained during the camp. I further acknowledge that my child is physically fit to participate.

Parent / Guardian signature: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Emergency contact/phone: _____

Physician/phone: _____

Camp to be held at Dobie High School

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

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

Report 15 minutes early July 25. Bring tennis shoes. Cleats optional.

For more information, direct email to coach Doug Sawyer at DSawyer@pasadenaisd.org. Camp information: The camp is designed for those student-athletes who will be entering either the seventh or eighth-grade at Thompson Intermediate as of the 2016-2017 school year. Participants will take part in technique drills and also perform strength and conditioning activities in addition to pass catching, receiving, blocking, tackling and more. The camp staff will also cover the rules and regulations involving intermediate level games.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 30
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group of AA, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Park and Recreation Center on Hughes Road. For more information call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.
 6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC – ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.
Well Spouse Support Group – meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, the last Thursday of each month with those who are the husband, wife or partner of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free child-care provided. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For information, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit http://www.wellspouse.org.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Women's Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.
Al-Anon (English) – Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
Alateen – Support for teenagers, friends and family mem-

bers of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – AA meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For information, call 713-204-2481.
FRIDAY, JULY 1
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – West End Group of AA, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Road 39, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) – Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., room 215, First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
Al-Anon – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Friday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group – meeting at CrossRoads

UMC on Friday, 8 to 9 p.m. Family members and friends of problem drinkers or addicts learn they are not alone, share, learn principles of Al-Anon and learn about choices available to them. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JULY 2
 7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) – For women whose lives are affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 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, JULY 3
 1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
 2 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class – Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.
Grief Support Group – For adults who have lost a loved

one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. For details, call 281-487-8787.
 5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery – A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.
 6:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – Candlelight Meeting, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? Meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-204-2481.
INDEPENDENCE DAY
MONDAY, JULY 4
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park – Mondays 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for information, or just drop in.
 11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for information, or just drop in.

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GARAGE SALE
10990 HIGHLAND MEADOW VILLAGE Wed, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon. Most things a dollar, shoes, clothes, books, DVD's, coach, TV.

HELP WANTED
HOME HEALTHCARE workers needed for week-end shifts call Sandra 713-459-8473 6-30
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Southeast VFD needs you!

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, JULY 4
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of AA meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
6:30 p.m.
Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - meets Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Enter door next to recycling bins. For information, call 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org. 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.
Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365. 7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - New AA meeting, Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery Program, open meeting meets every Monday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building, 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For more information, call Russell Garcia at 832-483-6715.

TUESDAY, JULY 5
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
9:30 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits with dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office, Tuesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
11:30 a.m.
Local NARFE Meeting - National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets the first Tuesday at Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Pkwy. Lunch is \$6. For information, call Bob Mitchell at 281-333-2881.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners of AA meets at noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nalix@texascitizensbank.com.
1 p.m.
Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets the first Tuesday of each month at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. July is Service Projects month and the activities start at 1 p.m. with preparing and making charity quilts for various organizations. Bring a sewing machine, rotary cutters, etc., for a fun day that allows members to get acquainted. Business meeting begins at 7 p.m. (No program following.) Guests welcome. For details, call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 or visit bayareaquiltguild.org.
1 p.m.
Trailmixers - Meets the first Tuesday at Luby's, 11595 Fuqua. Former and current employees of J. Frank Dobie High School are welcome.
Ballroom Dance Practice - Tuesdays, Hometown Heroes Park. Enjoy free dancing, 1 to 3 p.m., on a beautiful floor. Instructor available to assist. Everyone is welcome! For details, call 281-554-1180. 1001 East League City Pkwy.

1:30 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.
2 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Giandorf at drgiandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.
6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.
Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
Alateen - Support for teenagers, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, Bay Area Blvd. and Gulf Fwy., 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome.
8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - AA meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For information, call 713-204-2481.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or drop in.
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.
Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets monthly, first and third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Bravos Mexican Restaurant, 10906 Fuqua. December may be an exception. For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.
Noon
American Business Women's Association Bay Area Vision Chapter - Meets at The Egg and I, 557 Bay Area Blvd., first Wednesday of the month, noon to 1:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of AA meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
1 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must buy activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204.
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Wednesday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 5:30 p.m., followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 6:30 p.m., then a Bible study led by both pastors (English and Spanish). Everyone is welcome!
6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alzheimer's Support Group - meets the first Wednesday, classrooms 3 and 4 (third floor), Bayshore Medical Center, 4000 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. For information, call 713-944-4782 or 713-266-6400. Free.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, JULY 7
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of AA, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.
Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
Alateen - Support for teenagers, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, Bay Area Blvd. and Gulf Fwy., 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome.
8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - AA meetings are Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For information, call 713-204-2481.

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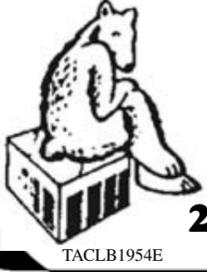
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Hedrick making his way just fine in professional soccer

Continued from Page 1B team." Hedrick said. "It certainly humbles you.

"Here I was a young player who had scored 20-something goals at Clear Brook, and I had somebody telling me I wasn't good enough to play.

"It challenges you. You can either accept it and keep working hard, or you can crumble and quit.

"I knew that if I was eventually given a chance, I could persevere. I knew I

could bounce back and be a productive player." Hedrick did just that. Shifting to defender in 2008, Hedrick helped San Jacinto College reach the NJCAA title game and was a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Region Honorable Mention pick.

The team finished 18-2-2 overall that season, and Hedrick, like several SJC players before him, headed to NCAA Division I Coastal Carolina University.

Continuing to impress at defender, Hedrick excelled both on and off the field at Coastal Carolina. In 2011 as a senior, Hedrick reeled in the accolades as the Chanticleers reached the second round of the NCAA postseason tournament before losing to national power North Carolina.

A first team All-Big South Conference pick, Hedrick was also named the Big South Defensive Player of the Year.

Later in the offseason,

Hedrick made his way onto the NSCAA Men's Collegiate Scholar All-America First Team. His grade-point-average came

in at 3.40.

With a bachelor's degree in marketing in hand, Hedrick was the 30th overall pick of the 2012

MLS SuperDraft by Sporting KS of the MLS.

Two months later, he broke his leg and missed a year. He rehabbed, recov-

ered and then played with Phoenix in 2013 before that team folded.

Perhaps at another crossroads, Hedrick caught a break. In 2012, he was a teammate at Sporting KC of goalkeeper Jimmy Nielsen, who retired in 2013 after winning the MLS Cup with Sporting KC.

Nielsen then quickly became head coach at OKC. Hedrick placed a call.

"I just asked Jimmy if I could come play for him in OKC," said Hedrick, who by this time had fathered a newborn with his current fiancé Kelsey Mueller.

Together, the two are now parents to 2-year-old Charlotte. Hedrick and his fiancé plan to wed this December.

"So far, I've done well," Hedrick said. "It's all about consistency, and I know that what I put in is what I'm going to get out of it. I'm here to help my teammates and to ul-

timately help the team. I have a lot to improve on, and I have the hunger to do that.

"I wouldn't be able to do this without Kelsey's support. We are a traveling family because of soccer. I met her in Kansas City, and she has been here for the whole ride.

"Without her doing what she does for our family, it would be much harder for me to get my job done. She has made a big sacrifice to help us get where we are, and I just want to keep doing my part."

Like most professional athletes, Hedrick has suffered both injuries and setbacks during his career. He's smart enough to know that his career could end in 2016 or could very well extend another several seasons. Regardless, his mindset allows Hedrick to

be prepared for anything that comes his way.

"The biggest part of being a pro is to keep fighting through things," he said.

"Every day is a battle to stay out there and earn minutes. It's about controlling adversity. I'm really confident in my abilities and what I bring to the field.

"It's a dog eat dog world out there. You just have to go out there and get it done.

"I realize that I am very fortunate to have a job in professional sports. I'm not working a desk job right now and working 8 to 5, five days a week.

"I understand how fortunate that is, but I also know that it's never good enough. Everybody has a job to do, and at the end of the day you just have to do it, no matter what it takes."



Clear Brook High School graduate, former San Jacinto College standout and current OKC Energy defender Cyprian Hedrick and his fiancée Kelsey Mueller are parents to their 2-year-old daughter, Charlotte. The pair plan to wed in December. Photo courtesy Cyprian Hedrick



After leaving the San Jacinto College men's soccer program following the 2008 season, Cyprian Hedrick won All-American and Academic All-American honors at Coastal Carolina University. A 2012 MLS SuperDraft selection, Hedrick has now found a home for the past three seasons with the OKC Energy of the USL. Steven Christy/Energy FC

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San Jacinto College Baseball Draftees

Player	Round	Team
Devin Smeltzer	5th	Dodgers
Ryan January	8th	D'Backs
Cody Nesbit	22nd	Royals
Brandon Montgomery	26th	Dodgers
Nick Shumpert	28th	Braves
Montana Parsons	30th	Cubs
Aaron Bond	39th	Cardinals

Four San Jacinto players ink big signing bonuses

Continued from Page 1B gue affiliate in Arizona. Smeltzer had signed a letter of intent to attend Texas Tech University, a NCAA College World Series qualifier.

Instead, Smeltzer will begin his quest of one day pitching at Dodger Stadium.

Former San Jacinto College catcher Ryan January has already begun his playing career with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

An eighth-round pick of the Diamondbacks as a catcher, January was the 239th overall selection. He landed a signing bonus of \$350,000, well over the pick's slot value of \$179,800.

January began his minor league career June 25 with Arizona's rookie league squad in Arizona.

Competing in the Pioneer League, January got off to a bit of a sluggish start, going 3 for 22 at the plate through June 28.

Cody Nesbit, a La Porte High School graduate, has signed with the world champion Kansas City Royals for an undisclosed bonus amount. The pick's slot value was \$100,000.

After a terrific season as a reliever with the Gators, Nesbit had reportedly signed a letter of intent with the University of Houston but has chosen to go the professional route instead after the Royals picked him in the 22nd round.

As is the case with Smeltzer with the Dodgers, the Royals aren't likely to be in a hurry to put Nesbit to work on the mound. During 2016 with San Jacinto College, Nesbit registered 78 strikeouts

over just 45 innings. However, Nesbit has been assigned to the Royals' rookie league affiliate in Arizona and could very well soon make his debut in pro baseball.

Montgomery, the starting second baseman for San Jacinto College this season, has also collected a signing bonus to join the Dodgers' organization.

The sophomore had signed a letter of intent with the University of Miami but elected to make a go of it in the pro ranks.

A 26th round pick of the Dodgers, Montgomery is and is already playing for the Dodgers' rookie league team in Arizona. Time will tell, but he may soon be joined by Smeltzer there.

Through a handful of pro games, Montgomery had four hits in 18 at bats with six runs scored.

There is no word on any of San Jacinto College's other three signees, including outfielders Nick Shumpert and Aaron Bond and pitcher Montana Parsons.

As a high schooler, Shumpert was deemed a second- to third-round talent in 2015 but slid to the seventh round, where he was chosen by the Detroit Tigers.

Shumpert did not sign, instead opting to join San Jacinto College. He went in the 28th round in 2016 to the Atlanta Braves.

At press time, there was no word on whether Shumpert has signed with the Braves. He is said to have a standing offer to attend the University of Kentucky.

Parsons, who went 5-5 this season as a starting

pitcher at SJC, was picked in the 30th round by the Chicago Cubs.

The right-hander has also signed a letter of intent with the Baylor University baseball program.

San Jacinto College freshman outfielder Aaron Bond was a 39th round selection by the St. Louis Cardinals. There has been no word on his decision at present.

There are a couple of other tidbits involving the San Jacinto College baseball program.

Catcher Baine Schoenvogel announced on his Twitter page that he will play at Texas A&M University beginning this fall.

And JoJo Romero, the Yavapai starting pitcher who went the distance to defeat SJC in the JUCO World Series championship game, has also signed.

Romero, a fourth round pick of the Philadelphia Phillies, reportedly received a signing bonus of \$800,000, well more than the slot value of \$557,600.

Major League Baseball organizations have until July 15, 2016, at midnight to sign their 2016 picks or will lose their draft rights to those players.

Nationwide, there weren't many colleges who had more players drafted in 2016 than San Jacinto, which had seven.

Texas A&M University, which spent a great portion of the season as the nation's No. 1 ranked team, had nine players chosen.

Louisville, another team that spent a great deal of time at the top of the national rankings, also had seven players selected in 2016.

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