

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Lariaettes hold summer clinic

The Dobie Lariaettes are having their annual Summer Dance Explosion clinic Thursday and Friday, July 27 and 28, including dancing, games, crafts and lunch. The clinic will be held at Dobie from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for children in pre-K through eighth grade. Cost is \$50 at the door, cash or money order only. Show offs will take place Friday, July 28, at 3 p.m. in the Dobie auditorium. Participants will receive a clinic souvenir. For information, email Myrna Alanis at Myrnaalanis@yahoo.com.

Vacation photos sought

The *Leader* is seeking readers' 2017 vacation photos for publication. A first-, second- and third-place prize of Schlitterbahn Galveston tickets will be awarded during June, July and August to the best submissions. First place will be awarded eight tickets; second place will be awarded six; and third place will be awarded four. Submissions should include when and where the photo was taken, identify each person in the picture and describe the trip. All photos must be high resolution. Email photos to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

SVFD offers free screenings

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

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

Seahawks sign-up set

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

HM changes meeting date

Highland Meadow HOA meetings have changed dates from the second Wednesday of the month to the first Tuesday, with the intent of increasing attendance. Residents can join the discussion and keep updated on current and future projects. The next meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. at a new location, the Highland Meadow Pool Building at 11419 Brook Meadow Drive. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. Questions prior to the meeting may be directed to Sherrida Williams with C.I.A. Services at 713-981-9000 or CustomerCare@ciaservices.com.

JFD 20-Year reunion set

Calling all 1997 Longhorns. The 20-year reunion is set for Saturday, Sept. 16, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the St. Arnold Brewery, located at 2000 Lyons Ave. Tickets are \$60 now, \$70 beginning in August. Tickets include food, open taps, a commemorative pint glass, 90s music and entrance to the private Friday night mixer at the Cottonwood, located at 3422 N. Shepherd. Buy tickets at paypal.me/97reuniontickets or email questions to Stephen Landin at stevlandin@hotmail.com.

Kirkwood discusses piping

The Kirkwood Civic Club will host a free seminar on the subdivision's aging galvanized piping system to discuss what options are available to repair leaks, low water pressure and rusty water. Hosted by Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCruteon, the presentation will take place Thursday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sagemont Park Community Center located at 11507 Hughes Road. For more information, contact McCruteon at 281-989-9990 or ErickaMc@sbcglobal.net.

State senate approves teacher bonuses

Acting on one of 20 priorities set by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick for this summer's special legislative session, the state Senate approved a proposal Tuesday, July 26, to provide bonuses for long-

term teachers and to reduce health-care costs for retired educators.

Senate Bill 19 passed 28-3 in a late-night vote, with Sens. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston; José Mo-

driguez, D-El Paso; and Van Taylor, R-Plano voting against the measure. The proposal would provide \$193 million for teacher bonuses starting September 2018 and put \$212 million into state-run health insurance for retired teachers.

Teachers who have six to 10 years of experience in September 2018 would receive a one-time bonus of \$600 under the bill, while teachers with 10 or more years experience would receive a bonus of \$1,000.

The bill's original draft also included a pro-

vision to give long-term teachers a \$1,000 pay raise, but the requirement was scrapped after being met with fierce opposition from Democrats because the legislation did not provide any extra funds to cover the costs. Such a move would force already cash-strapped school districts to re-prioritize spending internally, possibly having to cut staff or student programs.

Senate Bill 19 will now head to the House for a vote. If passed, the bill would then be sent to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk for final authorization.

Hit-and-run shocks neighborhood



A black Dodge truck (right) collided with a parked gray Ford SUV (left) in a hit-and-run incident that totaled both vehicles on the evening of Saturday, July 22, on Sagepark near Hughes Road. According to the owner of the Ford SUV, who was not in the vehicle at the time, the Dodge truck hit the vehicle with enough force to send it more than 50 feet, before coming to a stop. The crash attracted neighbors, as noise of the impact was reportedly similar to that of a bomb. The female driver of the Dodge truck was driving a male passenger, both of whom fled the scene on foot, despite emerging from the wreckage in a bloodied state. While Houston police had not identified the owner of the truck at press time, a private detective traced the vehicle to a residence in the 11300 block of Sagevalley, a fact that was independently confirmed by the *Leader*, which was also able to identify the owner as Amelia Martinez. The investigation was ongoing at press time, and no charges had been filed. Responding police said suspects who flee the scene usually either have open warrants or drugs or alcohol were involved.

Photo by Bob Lapushansky

Woman killed in Gulf Freeway crash

A fatal traffic accident took place early Friday, July 21, in the 13800 block of the Gulf Freeway near Sagedowne between Beltway 8 and Scarsdale.

According to police, the incident occurred around 3:10 a.m. when the driver of a black Volkswagen CC traveling south on the freeway made an unsafe lane change and struck an 18-wheeler hauling a tractor-trailer. Both vehicles then swerved across the freeway and struck the concrete dividing barrier between the southbound lanes and the HOV lane.

The force of the impact caused the 18-wheeler to roll over and ride on top of the dividing barrier

and caused the trailer it was hauling to be pushed on top of the cab of the truck.

The female victim, a passenger in the 18-wheeler, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her identity was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

The driver of the 18-wheeler was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital for treatment.

The male driver of the Volkswagen was not injured.

The investigation was ongoing at press time. No charges had been filed.

Legislature fails on school funding

By Art Del Barrio, Pasadena ISD

The Texas Legislature has sent shockwaves across the state as their attempt to overhaul the school finance system died when the House and Senate could not compromise on a version of House Bill 21. The original bill would have provided an additional \$1.64 billion dollars in funding to Texas schools and more than \$10 billion for the Pasadena Independent School District.

While the Legislature continues to lower the state's portion of education funding, Pasadena ISD along with districts across the state are dealing with the ripple effects and have begun

to streamline their budgets as they deal with increasing cost factors.

"In the last 10 years we have seen a major decrease in the amount of dollars the state allocates to schools, we were once on a 50-50 ratio with the state; that number is now closer to 38 percent from the state and 62 percent provided by the community and other federal sources," said Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell.

Since 2006, the Legislature has utilized the same formula for funding schools.

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Local educators share life lessons

Lewis

A few of the region's educational institutions have seen or are about to experience a change in leadership. This "changing of the guard" offers a unique opportunity to gain insight into the skills that made these leaders so successful.

Members of the Education and Workforce Development Committee of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership recently sat down with Trish Hanks, newly-retired superintendent of Friendswood Independent School District, Kirk Lewis, Ph.D., who retired as superintendent of Pasadena Independent School District in January 2016, and William A. (Bill) Staples, Ph.D., who will retire as president of the University of Houston-Clear Lake at the end of the summer. They offered a few invaluable life lessons that they garnered over decades of service.

Hanks

Hanks retired at the end of the 2017 school year after a 40-year career in education, 32 of which were spent at Friendswood Independent School District. She served as superintendent for 15 years and offered the following sage advice. "Take care of yourself. You have to take care of yourself in order to take care of others. In order to lead, you have to be fit. You have to take care of yourself mentally, emotionally, socially, physically, in every way. No matter what you're doing, if you're really passionate about it, it can be all-consuming. It's really important to put some boundaries up to be able to take care of yourself properly."

Staples

Staples joined UHCL in 1979 and became

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Flight museum prepares to open

By Jay Do

The Lone Star Flight Museum has departed from its Galveston location and will soon be landing in the South Belt community at Ellington Airport.

Led by CEO retired Lt. Gen. Douglas H. Owens, the museum exists with a mission to preserve, educate and inspire the community about the history and future of aviation.

"The focus of this museum is about inspiring young people, and inspiring them toward futures of promise and purpose," said Owens. "We have the opportunity to influencing over a million young people in Houston and in the surrounding regions. We take that fact very seriously, and

we want to set this museum up as a foundation where we can bring people in and make that inspiration possible."

The \$38 million, 130,000 square-foot facility broke ground nearly a year and a half ago at Ellington Airport, and is set to open its doors Friday, Sept. 1.

The museum's grand opening will be marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Sept. 1, and will be open to the public on Sept. 2 with family activities, food trucks and free admission for children 11 and under. Grand Opening weekend festivities will continue through Sept. 4 until 5 p.m.

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Pasadena ISD celebrates successes

The Pasadena Independent School District had a successful 2016-2017 academic year, accomplishing many significant achievements at the district, student and staff levels.

District accomplishments

Pasadena ISD's graduation climbed to 90.9 percent.

Eight Pasadena ISD schools earned all possible Texas Education Agency distinction designations in the 2016 state accountability system; achieving a Met Standard rating and earning upwards of seven distinction designations.

A total of 47 of the 60 Pasadena ISD rated campuses earned at least one TEA distinction designation in various categories, an increase of 11 campuses from the previous year. A total of 132 distinctions were earned by Pasadena ISD schools.

Pasadena ranked No. 9 best city for high performance on the national Education Equality Index's list for academic performance on state standardized tests among low-income students.

Pasadena ISD was named one of the best communities for music education in America for the 11th consecutive year.

The district received the Houston A+ Challenge Strengthen award for the Connect Personalized Learning program.

Pasadena ISD's Business Office earned five awards, including the Texas Comptroller Lead-

ership Circle, two awards on behalf of the Association of School Business Officials International and the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada.

Student achievements

Melillo Middle School was a first-time "Texas School to Watch" honoree.

Beverly Hills Intermediate was re-designated a "Texas School to Watch."

Dobie boys soccer won the Region III championship and was a 6A state semifinalist.

Dobie and Pasadena High School students performed at the Super Bowl LI halftime show at NRG Stadium.

The Pasadena Memorial Lady Mavs softball team was a 2017 regional quarterfinalist.

South Houston High was named Cheer America iNational champions.

Pasadena High's Evelyn Esquivel was a Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo division champion.

Stephani Llerena was Pasadena ISD's first student representative selected for the prestigious Washington Journalism Media Conference.

South Houston High's *Once Upon a Mattress* earned five Tommy Tune nominations.

Rayburn's Martha Galan and Memorial's Alondra Cruz were "Best of Show" winners in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's art contest.

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16-year-old boy shot on Edgebrook

A 16-year-old boy was injured after being shot early Monday in the 8900 block of Edgebrook near Radio Road.

According to police, the teen stepped outside of his family's house around 3:45 a.m. after hearing loud voices and his neighbor's dogs barking.

As the teen exited the home, someone in a white Cadillac fired a gun at him, striking him in the hip. The driver then fled the scene.

The boy went to a nearby family member's house, where his relatives phoned the police.

The teen was transported to an area hospital and was listed as being in stable condition later Monday morning.

The victim said he did not know the shooter.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Former resident found murdered

A former South Belt resident was found murdered in his home in Fayette County outside of Schulenburg on the morning of Tuesday, July 25. Russell Holub, 45, was discovered by police and medics, who were responding to a welfare check on the man around 8:30 a.m. Holub is the son of Carolyn Friend, a longtime member of St. Luke's Church, who serves as regent for the local court of the Catholic Daughters of America.

During the investigation, police determined Gregory Adcock, 34, was involved in the incident and was subsequently charged with the murder. No additional details were available at press time. The Texas Rangers are assisting in the ongoing investigation. The exact cause of Holub's death was still pending at press time. A service is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, at Schwenke-Baumgarten Funeral Home in Schulenburg.



Firefighters save kittens

The job of a firefighter doesn't always involve battling a fiery blaze. Staff from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department recently responded to a call to save two newborn kittens from under the hood of a car on Acacia Forest Trail in the Clear Brook Landing subdivision. The animals were discovered after a resident started his car and heard the cats meowing from inside. Shown to the left with the kittens are SVFD Assistant Chief Jerry Terrell (left) and SVFD Chief Chuck Tylka. Terrell has been with the department since its inception in 1972, and Tylka has served with the area organization since 1976.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

The telling tale of two transit systems

Metro is in the process of re-examining its long-term strategy and mission. It is an examination that is overdue. In considering where Metro goes from here, we should look carefully at the comparison between its experience and that of Dallas' DART.

At around six million people, METRO and DART have roughly the same population in their service areas. However, DART's service area is only about half the size of METRO's (1303 sq. mi. vs. 657 sq. mi.) making its population density considerably higher, which is a significant advantage when developing a transit system.

Shortly after their formations in the late 1970s and early 1980s, METRO and DART took very different routes to build out their transit systems.

DART made an early commitment to rail, snagging federal grants and investing heavily with local funds, eventually building 119 miles of rail transit. Houston, on the other hand, has been slow to commit to rail, only recently completing its 43-mile network.

Conversely, METRO has continued a much more robust bus service, operating a fleet of nearly 1,400 buses while DART's fleet is light less than half that number.

By almost every objective measurement, METRO's strategy of relying more on buses has worked out much better than DART's reliance on rail.

Ridership
In 2016, METRO carried about a third more riders than DART (89,000 vs. 66,000). Both organizations have struggled to attract new riders. Since 2000, DART's ridership has only increased by about 10% notwithstanding its extensive investment in rail. METRO has lost about 12% of its ridership since it began investing in rail in 2000.

In 2012, DART completed a significant expansion of its rail system, yet its ridership has since declined almost 10%. METRO recently opened the expansion of its light rail system and rolled out a new bus schedule. Initially, the new light rail and revised bus schedule had little effect, but the 2017 monthly ridership so far has seen some modest improvement. We will have to see more data to assess whether the improvement continues and whether it is the result of METRO's changes or a firming up of the local economy.

Financial Costs
The most dramatic difference in the agencies' comparative strategies has been the effect on their finances. METRO's revenues and expenses are about 15% higher than DART's. But METRO has a significant advantage in the overall cost per rider at \$9.27 versus DART's \$11.28. Fares pay less than 10% of the cost of the service at both agencies. (Why taxpayers should pay 90% of the cost of transit is another question for another day.)

The differential on the balance sheet is stunning. DART now carries over \$4 billion in debt, more than double METRO's. That works out to a debt per daily rider of about \$62 for DART compared to \$21 for METRO. The debt DART has incurred to build its rail system will be an albatross around the necks of Dallas taxpayers for decades.

Conclusion
For years rail advocates have told us that if we build a robust rail system it will attract riders and reduce congestion. They rarely discuss the costs because rail systems are so hideously expensive.

But the DART experience clearly disproves their argument. DART had every advantage to develop a successful rail system. It began early when federal grants were paying a higher percentage of the costs. Its service area is smaller and considerably denser than METRO's. It had local support to incur billions in

debt to build out the system. And yet, its ridership has only marginally improved since it began its massive investment of taxpayer funds and it has actually begun to decline in the last few years.

Interestingly, transit ridership nationally also stalled out about a decade ago and has also declined for the last three years, very similar to the DART experience.

Notwithstanding the massive investment in rail over the last two decades made throughout the country, only about 4% of the total daily trips made by Americans are on any form of transit, and less than 2% on rail. Bus ridership has been unchanged for the last two decades. It would be interesting, but ultimately impossible to know how bus ridership might have improved if even a fraction of the billions spent on rail had instead been invested in improving the bus service.

With the advent of disruptive transportation technologies like ride sharing, self-driving cars and the electrification of transportation power systems, any further investment in this highly inflexible technology would be folly. We need to be building a transportation system for the next century, not the last one.

But there is something akin to a religious belief in rail that I have never been able to understand. The late, great Bob Lanier best summarized it:

"First, rail's supporters say 'It's cheaper.' When you show it costs more, they say, 'It's faster.' When you show it's slower, they say, 'It serves more riders.' When you show there are fewer riders, they say, 'It brings economic development. When you show no economic development, they say, 'It helps the image.' When you say you don't want to spend that much money on image, they say, 'It will solve the pollution problem. When you show it won't help pollution, they say, finally, 'It will take time. You'll see.'"

Dallas' multi-billion dollar experiment with rail has proved Mayor Bob right. Sorry to all my friends that continue to believe rail is the solution to our mobility problems, but time is up.

Bill King

Jim Muecke agrees with waste contract

I watch the municipal channel often and did so Wednesday July 19, 2017. I like my councilman Dave Martin, he does not speak as much as some talkers do, but he is knowledgeable on the facts. Does not beat around the bush. I totally agree with him on the waste contract. 15 years is a long period, but if someone has to build a top of the art system, it takes pay out time. Also, new methods and ideas come up to better handle waste and this needs to be considered. I spent 29 years in purchasing, you have to know how to handle a quotation and not just read it, but understand it.

One issue is waste. Lets start with city vehicles. Some vehicles are used too much for private use or to travel to distant locations where they live. A limit of 25 miles at the most should be put in place. Employee performance should also be addressed. Lets talk pot holes. Yes, they are fixed quickly now but the quality of repairs is not the top priority. A pot hole has to be assessed as to size, depth and surrounding conditions. Too many are pot holes again in a few days. Too many holding shovels and not working. Case in point, water leak. Repaired on city side of sidewalk and a sorry re cover. Reported, again attended to and it is still a big mess and uneven. Very hard to mow over. Citizens see this all the time. Do it right the first time.

Our biggest problem today is just being wasteful. Back in my days nothing much was ever thrown away. Today trash cans are full each week and then some. A program needs to be put into place to ask people to better control waste.

James E. Muecke

Flight museum takes flight at Ellington Airport



Proudly located at the heart of Ellington Airport, the new 130,000 square foot campus of the Lone Star Flight Museum is set to open on Sept. 1 with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by grand opening festivities that will continue throughout Labor Day weekend.

Photos submitted



Waltrip Hanger (shown above) is one of two 30,000 square foot hangers that will house restored, fully functional aircrafts from different eras in the history of Texas aviation. Flights on board these historical aircrafts are offered to aviation enthusiasts and will depart directly from Ellington Airport.

Lone Star Flight Museum lands at Ellington Airport

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Hurricane Ike, the 2008 Category 4 hurricane that ravaged the Gulf Coast, wreaked havoc on the Lone Star Flight Museum, and forced its take-off from Galveston Island to the mainland.

"Ike was devastating to the museum," said Katie Jackman, vice president of marketing and sales of the Lone Star Flight Museum. "It destroyed the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame and several of our aircrafts. The hangers had six feet of water in them. There were, literally, waves in the museum. After the hurricane, the leadership and the board recognized that it was dangerous for us to have our museum there."

"We then began to look for a new location. Because our aircrafts can still fly, our options are quickly narrowed, in terms of where we can be located, because we need control towers and runways. As they began investigating potential locations, Ellington came up as an ideal spot."

The museum's close proximity to the military joint reserve base contributes greatly to its focus on the history of aviation and cutting-edge technology.

"We are proud to be a part of a community that is so focused on aviation and technology," said Jackman. "A big part of what we do here with the STEM learning facilities revolve around technology, so it is great to be on a campus that has a focus on technology is huge for us. We also love the fact that this is the future site of the Spaceport. We're part of this revival of Ellington and everything that it has to offer."

It is hoped that the museum also will bridge the gap between the public and the military facility on Ellington Field.

"We are the public gathering space of Ellington Airport," said Jackman. "When we talk to people who are familiar with Ellington Field, the first thing they ask is if they need a security clearance in order to attend the museum, and we want them to know that is absolutely not necessary. Everyone is welcome, and we are right at the front. We are the public gateway to Ellington. The only other time people are really on the Ellington Airport grounds is during Wings Over Houston, but now we are always here to give people a reason to be here."

The transition from the Galveston location to the Ellington Airport facility brings with it vast changes and improvements to the museum.

"We like to joke that the only things that are the same between this museum and the Galveston is the fact that both of them have two hangers," said Jackman. "Everything else has changed. The biggest change is the fact that we are now going to become an education facility. The Aviation Learning Center is huge for

us. Our permanent galleries, the Flight Academy and the Aviation Heritage Galleries, are significant improvements and changes from what we had in Galveston."

The largest improvement to the museum is its focus on the education of science, technology engineering and math (STEM) concepts. The museum aims to provide a comprehensive education program with an immersive aviation experience, all while fulfilling the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards.

The \$1 million Aviation Learning Center, the second of its kind in the United States, offers visitors the energy and excitement of flight through a hands-on learning experience. Designed for students, participants learn about aviation training, develop a flight plan, preflight a Mooney aircraft and pilot a simulated flight.

"The Aviation Learning Center is a two-hour course where they learn a ton of stuff," said Kenneth Morris, director of education for the Lone Star Flight Museum. "It's all allowed with state standards for schools, and it's all allowed with TEKS. When they take a field trip to see us, they're not just playing around. They're actually going to learn stuff. One of the biggest takeaways from what we do here is that it is all experimental learning. It's not the traditional, paper-and-pen learning. We're not doing that. It's a new day, with new technology, and we're trying to capitalize on forward thinking technology. We want kids to come in here, have fun, and hate it when we tell them that we're closing and they have to come back another day, all while learning about the history of aviation and the new technology of today. We'll know we're doing our jobs correctly when people don't want to leave."

The museum's unique blend of aviation history and bleeding-edge technology of tomorrow differentiates it from other museums, and provides visitors with an experience unlike any other.

"The biggest thing that we are focused on is our investment in the youth and future generations," said Jackman. "Our motto here is that we want to be able to teach science through history and history through science. That makes us unique, in that we have the ability to look backward and forward at the same time. We have the historic aircrafts that are historically significant, all the fundamentals of what we have in technology today, and then we put in platforms that are all about helping the future generations understand these fundamentals of flight technology and how they have contributed in the past and will continue to do so in the future."

While improvements have been made to the museum's educational programs, the museum still remains to be

an unrivaled destination for aviation enthusiasts, with its two 30,000 square-foot hangers that feature more than 20 restored, fully functional, historic aircrafts.

"For our aviation enthusiasts, the aircrafts is the first thing that they are going to really enjoy," said Jackman. "They can really get up close to these aircrafts, walk around them, stand under the wings. These are things that not everybody gets a chance to do. The fact that they still fly and that people can purchase flights on them is huge for us. Our educational facilities are a great platform for our aviation enthusiasts to introduce aviation to the next generation. They are doing it in such a hands-on experience that focuses on the technology of today, while learning about how Texas has contributed to the history of aviation."

The museum is also home to the Texas Aviation Heritage Gallery, a chronological walk through the history of aviation in Texas, as well as the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, a tribute to the men and women who have shaped the aviation world.

Nominations are now being accepted until July 31 for the 2018 inductees into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame.

The museum aims to be an attraction for all, regardless of age or aviation interest.

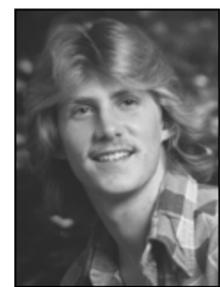
"We say that our audience is the 1.2 million population of Houston," said Jackman. "Historically, we have really been about aviation enthusiasts, specifically people who have worked with aircrafts before. Now, we're really broadening who that is. We really want to engage with families and with youth. We really want to widen it up and bring in all sorts of people."

Although the construction and installment of the museum were no easy feats, the museum's most challenging endeavor will be to carry over the spirit that has earned it its reputation. It's also one that Jackman has no doubt the museum will be able to accomplish.

"The big thing we want to bring with us from Galveston is that sense of loyalty and love of aircrafts," said Jackman. "The enthusiasm and love that people have shown to this institution, especially after we were destroyed by Ike, that's what we really need to bring with us from Galveston. Our heart is there, and now we are looking to take this museum to the next level. The relationships that we still have in Galveston are very important to us. It was absolutely bittersweet to close the Galveston location, because there were so many memories there, but at the same time, people are so excited for this facility to open. Our devotion to our aircrafts, our care of the fields, our care of each other, these are the things that made us successful in Galveston, and they are the things that we are bringing here."

Death

Kenneth Barton Evans Jr.



Kenneth Barton Evans Jr. died unexpectedly on July 13, 2017, at his home in Sweeny, Texas. He was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, to Maj. Kenneth Barton Evans Sr. and Ann Dillard Evans, on Aug. 9, 1960, the oldest of four children. Ken Jr. was a remarkable child, young man and adult.

He graduated with honors in 1978 from J. Frank Dobie High School, where he excelled in science, mathematics and track.

He received a full academic scholarship to Texas A&M University, where he majored in marine biology.

Ken Jr. then proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He began his professional career with Pepsi Corporation and retired from Conoco Phillips/Sweeney.

ny after 26 years of devoted service as an operator/controller.

Ken Jr. is preceded in death by his grandparents Walter Wilson Dillard, Ellen Thomas Dillard, Clyde Barton Evans and Linda Sexton Evans; aunt Billie Faye Dillard; niece Abigail Rene Evans; and his younger brother Scott Thomas Evans.

He is survived by his father and mother; sister Kimberly Evans Johnson; brother John Michael Evans; brother-in-law Ronnie Johnson; daughters Morgan Elizabeth

Evans, Hannah Anise Evans, Mary Ann Evans; son Andrew Charles Evans; and grandsons Chance Logan Evans and Jackson Starr Sullivan.

He is also survived by his many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, second cousins, great nieces and nephews.

Ken Jr. was truly loved by his family and friends and will be greatly missed. A memorial service was held for him on Wednesday, July 19, at Crowder Funeral Home in Dickinson.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

Once Upon A Mattress



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

July 28th - 29th at 7 p.m.

July 30th at 3:00 p.m.

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

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

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

PISD sees success

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Staff recognition

South Houston High choir teacher Brenda Varvoutis was selected as a finalist in the Region 4 Teacher of the Year program.

The Texas Board of education honored Young Elementary math teacher Misty Ruth as one of 10 state finalists in the Presidential Award for Excellence competition.

Dobie Coach Steven Higginbotham was named the state's Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year, after again earning the top spot in the contest.

Park View Principal Dr. Robert Hasson Jr. was named the University of Houston-Clear Lake 2016 Marilyn S. Sims Leadership Service Award recipient.

Memorial's Lloyd Love was recognized by the Dallas Ecological Foundation as Educator of the Year for 2016.

Memorial biology teacher Amber Deschamps-Jones was the University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award winner.

Pasadena High culinary arts teacher Santos Macias was named the third-place award winner in the 2017 Texas Alternative Certification Association's internship program.

For additional information on Pasadena ISD's accomplishments, follow the hashtag #PISDProud on Facebook and Twitter.

4th of July correction



Apologies are given for the error on this photo that ran previously. Shown are Lorraine Swanson (back), Dean Baier's sister; seven-month-old Courtland Clark, son of Megan Clark; and Hector DeGomez, El Franco Lee Park manager.

Master Gardeners set event

On Thursday, Aug. 10, the Harris County Master Gardeners will host Linda Crumb, Montgomery County master gardener, master naturalist and board member of the Texas Bluebird Society as the presenter for the monthly lecture series. Crumb will present *Attracting Bluebirds to our Gardens*, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

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

Thursday, July 27, 3 p.m. Meet in the library community room for the Intro to 3D Printing for teens. 3D printers can create a variety of different things from small name tags to accessories. Check out one of HCPL's new Lulzbot 3D printers.

Friday, July 28, 2 p.m. Level Up Gaming: Super Smash Bros., for ages 10 and older. Enjoy summer gaming time in the library community room on our 60" Plasma TV with a Nintendo Wii and play Super Smash Bros. Winner stays on, losers rotate out. Enjoy some crash, bash and smash.

Monday, July 31, Teens meet at 4 p.m., and adults meet at 6 p.m. for Dr. Jacob's Lab Escape Room. Search his lab for clues to find the antidote to save the world from a deadly airborne virus. Allow 45 minutes to an hour for participation. Register online or at the reference desk. Space is limited to 10 spaces each session.

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m. Movie and markers presents *October Sky* (rated PG, 108 minutes) for ages 10 and older. Meet for a fun film, free air conditioning and coloring during the movie.

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2:30 p.m. The Gum Drop Bridge Construction (for ages 8 and older) has Build a Better World theme for the summer. Meet in the community room to learn about a few different types of bridges that have been used for centuries. Using toothpicks and gumdrops as building materials, the group will learn how to make a bridge and will construct one.

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2:30 p.m. Computer class: Computer Basics - This class introduces a first-time user to the desktop computer. Participants will be familiarized with terms used and with different components and features of the computer. Register in advance as space is limited to 8.

The events occurring every week are:
Wednesdays - Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., for children ages 3 to 5 years, featuring stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

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

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

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

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Thursday, July 27, 3 p.m. Retro games for teens and tweens. This week's program is the *Awkward Moment* video game *What Would You Do*. For ages 9-18.

Saturday, July 29, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class

Saturday, July 29, 3 p.m. Citizenship class

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

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

Bracewell hours are: Sunday, closed; Monday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, noon - 8 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bettencourt files relief legislation, tax reform

Responding to overwhelming support for property tax reform and relief, Sen. Paul Bettencourt filed Senate Bill 1, which was joint-authored by Sens. Brandon Creighton, Kelly Hancock and Van Taylor, for the special session of the 85th Texas Legislature.

SB1 incorporates many of the proposals from SB2, the Texas Property Tax Reform & Relief Act of 2017, that was passed twice by the Senate during the regular session, but was not voted on in the House.

On July 18, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick created the Senate Select Committee on Government Reform and named Bettencourt as the chairman.

The committee will be hearing Senate Bill 1, as well as any other bills referred to the committee by the lieutenant governor. Committee members are Sens. Bettencourt, Creighton, Hancock, Eddie Lucio Jr., Charles Perry, Carlos Uresti, and V. Taylor.

Patrick selected the same members that heard almost 50 hours of public testimony regarding property taxes in 2016 as part of last session's property tax relief efforts.

Citing rising property tax bills as his number one priority for the special session, Gov. Greg Abbott stated, "We are hearing stories about people who are being taxed out of their homes because of rising property taxes. You don't really own your home, it seems like, it's the appraisers. That must stop."

In major metropolitan areas throughout Texas, property tax bills have been growing at a rapid pace. In Harris County for example, over three years, property tax bills for the county portion of the tax bill have increased more than 36 percent and the City of Houston portion has increased almost 25 percent.

A similar trend can be seen in Dallas with average county tax bills up over 25 percent and city tax bills up over 20 percent in just three years.

Notably, Travis County, which saw a 28 percent increase in the average home's taxable value over a three-year period held the county portion of average property tax bills flat by cutting the property tax rate by 12 pennies.

"Taxpayers know the truth: Property tax bills are rising

too quickly," said Bettencourt. "Taxpayers in major metropolitan areas throughout Texas are seeing their property tax bills increase 2 1/3 times faster than their income. This is unsustainable and must be changed. As appraised values go up across the state, Senate Bill 1 will give voters a say in bringing down their property tax bills."

Senate Bill 1 will lower the current rollback provision for cities, counties, and special district taxing entities from eight percent to four percent.

It will also include an automatic election provision, to be held in November, if a taxing entity exceeds that amount, bringing those taxing entities under the same system that school districts currently operate under.

Senate Bill 1 also will create a \$10 million exclusion so that taxing entities that collect less than that amount will be exempt from these requirements.

Based on the most recent comptroller data, that means approximately 116 cities and 120 counties throughout Texas would be subject to the legislation.

"Texans deserve a vote on the property tax reform and relief rollback provisions in Senate Bill 1," continued Bettencourt. "I fully support Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Patrick for making property tax relief a top priority and I look forward to the Legislature passing meaningful property tax reform and relief for all Texas home and business owners during this special session."

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July is Cord Blood, International Group B Strep Awareness Month

The month of July highlights Cord Blood Awareness and International Group B Strep Awareness, two health topics that relate to new mothers and their babies.

Group B Strep, found in 25 percent of all adult women, and cord blood collection and storage are labor and delivery topics often left undiscussed during the excitement of welcoming a new life into the world.

Diana Seekely, nursing professor at San Jacinto College, has worked as a registered nurse since 1996. During that time, she spent 10 years working as a labor and delivery nurse. She holds a master's degree in nursing, specializing in education.

Seekely provided the following information and advice on July's Cord Blood Awareness Month and International Group B Strep Awareness Month.

International Group B Strep Awareness Month
What is Group B strep?
Group B streptococcus is a naturally occurring type of bacterial infection that can be found in pregnant women and is a different type of bacterial infection than Group A streptococcus.

What are the symptoms?
The GBS bacteria can be found in about 25 percent of all healthy, adult women. It is not a sexually transmitted disease. Most women will not have any symptoms of the GBS bacteria, which can be passed to the baby during delivery. GBS affects about one in every 2,000 babies born in the United States.

How is it detected?
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all pregnant women go through routine screening for GBS. This test is done between 35 and 37 weeks of pregnancy and is performed in the physician's or midwife's office.

How is it treated?
If the pregnant woman is positive for GBS, she will receive IV antibiotics during labor. If she is not treated during labor with antibiotics, her newborn may develop signs and symptoms after birth.

Why is cord blood stored?
One of the benefits of storing cord blood is that cord blood is a rich source of blood stem cells. These cells can be used to repair tissues, organs and blood vessels. One instance of possible use for cord blood would be if the newborn develops leukemia later in life, the physicians can use the cord blood that was stored to help treat the current disease.

Sen. Garcia blasts lack of open government

On July 18 Sen. Sylvia Garcia resisted against efforts by Senate leadership to hear legislation without sufficient notice or a public hearing.

"We are here in service of the people of Texas. To vote to do the people's business without the people's input is wrong and un-Texan. By not giving the general public time to study, comment and testify on legislation, we are saying that their opinions don't matter. This is a bad harbinger of what is to come over the next 30 days," Garcia stated.

It appears that despite the efforts of Senator Garcia, legislation that was referred less than two hours ago will be debated and decided on today.

"It is a sad day when the great State of Texas is governed under a shroud of secrecy by legislators who are attempting to fast track dangerous legislation. We aren't exactly doing same-day cleaning here, the people of Texas need to know they are being taken to the cleaners."

Deadline approaches for PISD Distinguished Citizen Award

Pasadena Independent School District is accepting nominations for the 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award. The award is given annually to a local resident or business representative who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the causes of education and youth-related activities in communities served by the district.

Nominees must demonstrate a commitment to the educational, social, spiritual and personal growth of students in the community through volunteer efforts in Pasadena ISD schools or any student-related organizations.

For a complete list of eligibility requirements, view the PDF through the link. The Distinguished Citizen Award will be presented at a special reception in the fall. A bronze plaque will be dedicated at the reception and permanently placed at the front entrance of the Pasadena ISD Administration Building.

- 2014 - Nelly Quijano
- 2013 - Melvin Cowart
- 2012 - Linda Lukaszewski
- 2011 - Dana Philibert
- 2010 - Bill Barmore
- 2009 - Terry Brotherton
- 2008 - Carroll Smith
- 2007 - Herman Williams
- 2006 - Charles Davis
- 2005 - Emory Gadd
- 2004 - Rosafie Kuntz
- 2003 - Dr. Paul Covell
- 2002 - Judy and Russell Lamontagne
- 2001 - Eddie Dansby
- 2000 - Gilbert Aguilar
- 1999 - Denise Converse
- 1998 - John Phelps
- 1997 - Kathleen Morris
- 1996 - Kathryn Whitfill
- 1995 - Faye Schimek

Nweke see potential, believes in Huynh

Thanh Cong Huynh (left), one of the Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Maureen Nweke, a Pre-AP biology teacher.

Huynh has done volunteer work for the Brookdale Retirement Home.

The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 Dobie High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District.

He plans to attend Rice University to pursue bioengineering or biophysics in hope of becoming a general surgeon.

Huynh commented about Nweke, "For a while, I faced anxiety born out of uncertainty for the future. Mrs. Nweke was the first person to see my potential and believed in me when no one else did. I remember the day when Mrs. Nweke pulled me out of the lab and asked, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?'"

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

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



UHCL hosts JSC Small Business Conference

Current and aspiring NASA contractors can catch up on new strategies and best practices from industry experts at the Johnson Space Center Small Business Conference, to be held Aug. 2 in the Bayou Theater at University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

UH-Clear Lake's new president Ira K. Blake will be among the speakers, as well as CEO of Logical Innovations and UHCL alumna Denise Navarro, who is emceeding the conference.

The speakers will share their industry insights with attendees in a morning and afternoon session from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Collection, housed at the Alfred R. Neumann Library at UHCL. The conference will culminate in a networking/social reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Phi Beta Lambda attends competition

Six San Jacinto College students represented the state of Texas at the 2017 National Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California.

Other students that advanced to the national competition include: ZieZie Greenwood, job interview; Bronson Deprat, contemporary sports issues and client service; Jackalin Rodriguez, hospitality management; and Sidney Jenkins, human resources management.

Phi Beta Lambda is a business fraternity that helps students sharpen their business skills and apply their classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios.

In addition to competing in academic competitions, the fraternity offers members a chance to participate in service projects, fundraising activities and run for chapter officer positions.

Hall placed in the top 15 in her client services competition, and Haryani placed 5th in global analysis while also competing in computer applications.

"I'm proud of the hard work and dedication the PBL students have put into their events

and I am looking forward to hosting the PBL State Leadership Conference again at the San Jacinto College Maritime campus in April 2018," said Kristy McAuliffe, San Jacinto College business professor and PBL advisor. "I'm also excited to see even more San Jac students compete at nationals in June 2018."

For more information about Phi Beta Lambda at San Jacinto College, visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/sjc_southphl/.

Grants available for CNA, medical certification courses

Need-based scholarships from the Texas Public Education Grant are available for certification courses in Certified Nurse Aide and medical office professional.

After completion of the class, participants will be eligible to take the state of Texas CNA certification exam.

This course is the prerequisite course for the American Academy of Professional Coders Medical Coding Curriculum for certified professional coder certification.

Some courses may require specific prerequisites such as a high school diploma, GED, negative TB screening and a background check.

The CNA course, valued at \$1,930, starts on Oct. 2 and ends on Dec. 7, meeting Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., on the San Jacinto College Central campus.

The Medical Office Professional course, valued at \$1,399, starts on Sept. 6 and ends on Dec. 13, meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., on the San Jacinto College Central campus.

Basic eligibility for TPEG scholarships includes a demonstrated financial need. In addition, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age and have no student loan defaults or prior balance due to San Jacinto College.

TPEG-funded courses are offered through San Jacinto College's Continuing and Professional Development division.

This course includes some additional Saturday hours with clinicals scheduled in eight-hour intervals.

This course includes two Saturday class meetings. Participants learn about working in a medical office setting, basic office procedures, medical records administration, medical terminology and

Scholarships are limited in number and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The San Jacinto College Central campus is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

The CNA course teaches the skills, knowledge and abilities to care for residents

of long-term care facilities.

Applicants must complete the 2017-2018 Texas Ap-

plication for State Financial Aid.

Tran cites Cherry's compassion

Mindy Thy Tran (left), one of the Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Marlon Cherry, an anatomy instructor.

Tran's volunteer work includes helping with the Vietnamese Martyrs Crawfish Festival, the Rotary Fish Fry, the Strawberry Festival and the Asbury Winter Festival.

Tran plans to attend the University of Houston as a mathematics major. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she wants to apply to the University of Texas in Austin to continue her career to become a trauma surgeon.

Tran said about Cherry, "Numerous teachers throughout my school years have impacted my educational career, but I will always be most grateful for Mr. Cherry. I was a shy student and being in a class full of seniors made it harder for me to socialize, but he, being the compassionate and outgoing teacher he is, helped boost my confidence. Besides his support in building my character, he was also an outstanding teacher who found fun ways to teach me about the human anatomy and physiology. He always had high expectations of me, and I remember one time, I didn't ace my test and

he was shocked. Thank you, Mr. Cherry, for everything you have done for me."

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

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

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

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he was shocked. Thank you, Mr. Cherry, for everything you have done for me."

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 time and efforts by contributing to the quality of life for schools and the growing number of students.

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

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

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

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

Recipients eligible for this award must meet the following requirements:

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.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Pasadena Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 9, 2017 in Administration Building, 1515 Cherrybrook, Pasadena TX 77502. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.2000/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.2800/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

Maintenance and operations	2.39 % increase
Debt Service	3.50 % increase
Total expenditures	2.49 % increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$15,997,481,741	\$16,836,042,858
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$224,521,052	\$194,139,899
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$12,812,238,238	\$13,483,834,241
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$179,816,877	\$155,484,887

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
**"New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
***"Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$686,655,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.0700	\$0.2800*	\$1.3500	\$3,265	\$6,034
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.0958	\$0.2827*	\$1.3785	\$3,087	\$6,225
Proposed Rate	\$1.2000	\$0.2800*	\$1.4800	\$3,248	\$6,225

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$118,171	\$129,980
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$84,455	\$94,695
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.3500	\$1.4800
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,140.14	\$1,401.49
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$261.35

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

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

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$60,500,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$55,500,000

UHCL gives promotions

University of Houston-Clear Lake announced new leadership to the university's College of Business and College of Science and Engineering. The institution also promoted 11 other faculty members, six of whom were elevated from assistant professors to associate professors with tenure, while five ascended from associate professors to full professors.

In the College of Business, professor of finance and Associate Dean Edward R. Waller has been promoted to dean of the college, effective Sept. 1. Dorothy Kirkman, associate professor of management, will take Waller's position as interim associate dean. Waller succeeds William T. Cummings, who is retiring after serving as dean since 1998.

Ju H. Kim, professor of physics and associate dean, will become interim dean of the College of Science and Engineering, effective Sept. 1.

Said Betteyeb, professor of computer science and computer information systems has been appointed interim associate dean in Kim's place.

Kim replaces retiring Dean Zbigniew J. Czajkiewicz, who has held the position since 2009. Waller joined UHCL in 1993 as an assistant professor of finance. He was promoted to associate professor in 1999 and professor in 2006. After serving as elected faculty chair for the department of economics, finance, marketing and decision sciences, he was promoted to associate dean in 2010.

He holds a doctorate in finance from Arizona State University as well as bachelor's and master's degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Kirkman joined UH-Clear Lake in 2008 and was promoted in 2014 to associate professor with tenure. She teaches strategic management, management technology and other courses. Kirkman earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from North Carolina State University, a master's degree in industrial administration from Carnegie Mellon University and her doctorate in organizational management from Rutgers University.

Kim was hired as professor and associate dean of the College of Science and Engineering in August 2015. He has conducted and authored

extensive research into superconductivity, with a focus on the properties and dynamics of magnetic vortices.

Previously, Kim was on the faculty of the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of California-San Diego and his master's degree and doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago.

Betteyeb, who also served as the program chair of computer information systems, joined UH-Clear Lake as an associate professor in 2002, teaching algorithm design and analysis, parallel and distributed computing and programming languages. He was promoted to professor in 2010.

Betteyeb received his undergraduate degree in computer engineering from Université de Constantine, Algeria, and his master's and doctorate degrees in computer science from Northwestern University.

Four members of the College of Business were also promoted: Femi Ayadi, professor of healthcare administration; Constance Lehmann, professor of accounting; Aleksey Martynov, associate professor of management; and Douglas Steel, associate professor of management information systems.

Three faculty members received promotions in the College of Science and Engineering: Magdy Akkladis, professor of industrial hygiene and safety; George Guillen, professor of biology and environmental science; and Pradeep Buddharaju, associate professor of computer science and computer information systems.

The College of Education saw the promotion of Denise McDonald, professor of curriculum and instruction and Elizabeth Beavers, associate professor of special education.

Two were promoted in the College of Human Sciences and Humanities: William Amonette, associate professor in fitness and human performance and Amanda Johnston, associate professor of psychology.

For more information about UHCL's diverse faculty, more than 80 graduate and undergraduate programs and three doctoral programs, visit www.uhcl.edu.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

WISHES FOR ELI'S SPEEDY RECOVERY
Well wishes for a very fast recovery from friends, family and the *Leader* staff are sent to **Eli Tanksley** after his brief stay in the hospital.

EMORY MISSED THE CONCERT
Condolences are sent to **Emory Gadd**, an associate pastor of Sagemont Church and active member in the community, who had a short one-day stay at the hospital and missed the **Neil Diamond** concert that **Marie Flickinger** and **Bobby Griffin** attended recently. Best wishes for continued good health are sent from friends and the *South Belt Leader* staff.

HAPPY 9TH ANNIVERSARY!
Wishes for a happy belated ninth anniversary on July 26 are sent to **Steven and Rebecca (Heeth) Irvine** from Rebecca's father, longtime Kirkwood resident, **Richard Heeth**.

VALIGURAS MARK 59 YEARS
Best wishes are sent to **Carl and Frances Valigura** who celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary Aug. 2 from children **David and wife Katha**, **Donna** and husband **Gary**, **Deborah Lea**, and **Carl Wayne** and wife **LuAnn**; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 27 through Aug. 2.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Stacy Fontenot** Aug. 1.

Burnett Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Maria Romero** Aug. 2.

Bush Elementary
Cheers for a happy birthday on July 27 to **David Blevins** and **Maria Hernandez**.

Frazier Elementary
A birthday greeting is sent to **Norma Sanchez** on Aug. 1.

Moore Elementary
Blow out the candles on a double-layer cake for **Martha Perales** and **Cindy Walker** July 29. The day for a party for **Eduardo Ledezma** is Aug. 1.

South Belt Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to **Lakitha Green** and **Sara Simmons** July 28. July 31 is the day for a birthday cake for **Kristen Denbleyker**. **Elda Harkins** is sent a birthday greeting Aug. 2.

Stuchbery Elementary
Linda Bravo is wished a happy birthday July 28. Blow out the birthday candles July 29 for **Susan Brady**. **Goretti Rerri** is wished a happy birthday July 30.

Melillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 2 is **Norberta Mercado**.

Roberts Middle School
Light the birthday candles July 31 for **Luis Arroyo**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Share a slice of birthday cake Aug. 2 with **Shasta Williams**.

Thompson Intermediate
On July 31, happy birthday greetings are sent to **Wayne Sanders**, **Michael McDonald**, **Patricia Tabarez** and **Bob Boyes** celebrate a birthday on Aug. 1.

Dobie High
Hector Saldivar marks a birthday July 27. **Angela Badon** and **Yvette Castillo** celebrate a birthday July 30.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:
Thursday, July 27: **Lydia Garcia**, **Joanne Mata** and **Sean Kean**; Friday, July 28: **Ariana Mena**, **Trina Akins**, **Al Maldonado**, **Johnny Carmona**, **Alyssa Chambers**, **Tori Mask**, **Dana Milburn** and **Sandy Nelson**; Saturday, July 29: **Codie Salyer**, **Linda Brisbay**, **Oscar Rodriguez**, **Wanda Veltman**, **Tracy Samford**, **Gina Trevino**, **Donielle Taverner**, **Albert Perez** and **Tiffany Barras**; Sunday, July 30: **Donald Rogers**, **Anne Hyma**, **Brenda Molina Correa**, **RP Wocka**, **Danielle Mendoza**, **Melanie Benney**, **Oren Martin**, **Christine Elliott** and **Randy Kelley**; Monday, July 31: **Gloria Wallace**, **Robert Gentry**, **Jennifer Kramer**, **David Freeman**, **Jacob Stahle**, **Felix Garcia**, **Jim Waltz** and **Ashley Glover**; Tuesday, Aug. 1: **Gabriel Diaz**, **Helen Kainer**, **Andrew Burks**, **Denny Wranich Sr.**, **Emilio De Los Santos**, **Ryan Hanzelka**, **Jo Lyday** and **Scott Bishop**; and Wednesday, Aug. 2: **Mayra Elizabeth**, **Patricia Lynn Krivik**, **Ana Acosta**, **Juanita Herrera**, **Sue Hinojosa**, **Dori Honohan**, **Terry Barclay** and **Donna Northrup**.

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

340 PISD students earn AP Scholar awards

More than 340 Pasadena Independent School District students earned Advanced Placement Scholar awards for their exceptional achievement on AP exams for the 2016-2017 school year. This number has grown by 43 students since last year.

The College Board's Advanced Placement program provides high school students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses and potentially earn college credit by scoring 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams.

Each AP scholar receives a certificate and the award designation is acknowledged on an AP score report that is distributed to colleges.

The college board recognizes several levels of achievement based on a student's performance on AP exams. Among the list of AP scholars and the achievement levels are:

International AP Scholar (1 student) – South Houston High School's Omar Dahar is the only Pasadena ISD student to earn the International AP Scholar Diploma, a globally recognized award given to students who have earned a score of 3 or higher on 5 or more AP exams and is interested in studies outside their native country;

National AP Scholar (5 students) – this designation is given to students who earn an average score of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken with scores of four or higher on eight or more AP exams. These students are: **Dobie seniors** **Thanh Huynh**, **Johnathan Nguyen** and **Steven Nguyen**; **Memoorial senior** **Sherwin Philip**; and **South Houston senior** **Marlene Carrillo**;

AP Scholar with Distinction (41 students) – this status is granted to students who earn an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams;

AP Scholar with Honor (40 students) – students are recognized for earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams; and

AP Scholar (259 students) – students who earn a score of 3 on at least three AP exams are acknowledged.

According to a college board report, **Daher** is among 1,241 students in the nation and only 48 in the state of Texas to earn an international

Continued on Page 5A

Gutierrez thankful for Martinez's support

Hugo Allan Gutierrez (left), one of the South Houston High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Nora Martinez, a first-grade teacher at South Houston Elementary.

Gutierrez's volunteer work included organizing the student council's Good Drive and Shoes for Kids. He also volunteered at the South Houston Community Center's seasonal events and activities. In addition, he taught Taekwondo to students of different ages.

Gutierrez plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin. He always dreamed of studying at the McCombs School of Business to pursue a finance degree.

Gutierrez commented about Martinez, "Mrs. Martinez has been not only a teacher, but a role model and mother-figure since the day I met her. Until this day, she still continues to have a positive effect in my life by teaching me that through an education and high moral values I can and will be successful. She has pushed me and guided me to do the best in everything that I put my mind to, as well as to become the man I am today. I am thankful to have a great educator and amazing person like Mrs. Martinez in my life."

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

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

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



Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
The Pasadena Independent School District received \$4.3 million in funds from the state in addition to the \$19.5 million which they received the previous year.

Angela Shiftlett won the title of National Miss Galaxy in the Miss Galaxy Pageant held in Orlando, Florida.

Construction on the Scarsdale pool began. The pool cost approximately \$7,000.

35 years ago (1982)
At its meeting, the Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees heard more requests to adopt UIL soccer.

Harris County Municipal Utility District 13 officially took over billing and contracting responsibilities for trash collection in the areas that it provided water service.

30 years ago (1987)
After 24 years at Ellington Field, the Coast Guard was firmly established with permanent facilities.

Recognizing that the Ellington area was "coming into its own," and that it was in the *Leader's* coverage area, publishers **Marie Flickinger** and **Bobby Griffin** felt it was time to incorporate "Ellington" into its name. The *South Belt Leader* became the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

25 years ago (1992)
Thompson Intermediate School was awarded the Texas Successful School Award and received a \$13,000 grant through the Partnership School Initiative of the Texas Education Agency.

Carol Harman, who served for two and a half years as executive director of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, accepted the position of executive vice-president of the Deer Park Chamber. Her daughter **Julie Harman** replaced her on an interim basis.

20 years ago (1997)
County Commissioner **El Franco Lee** met with local residents at a South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce meeting of the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Christa Williams decided to transfer from UCLA to the University of Texas due to UCLA having been put on NCAA probation.

Dobie graduate **Alisha Broussard** placed fifth in the triple jump at the Pan American Games held in Havana, Cuba.

15 years ago (2002)
Sergio Pulido, 17, was shot outside his home at 12100 Fairbury. He later died at Ben Taub Hospital.

William Davis, 58, who resided in the Sycamore Valley subdivision, was arrested on charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

10 years ago (2007)
The investigation continued into the area group houses with two more residences being raided by police.

While no marijuana was found at the houses, police found growing supplies and confiscated eight vehicles. Five suspects were arrested in connection with the operation.

George Gaston was appointed the new chief executive officer at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. Gaston had worked at the hospital for 11 years. He replaced **David Huffstutler**, who resigned.

Gary Wayne Johnson, 59, died from trauma to his head. His body was found on a loading dock of a vacant business in the 10100 block of Kleckley.

An eight-month pregnant woman was accidentally killed as a result of alleged street racing in the 14100 block of the Gulf Freeway between Sagedowne and Scarsdale. **Cynthia Renovato**, 16, was returning home from a late-night hospital visit when the truck in which she was a passenger was struck by a silver Camaro speeding northbound on the freeway, police said. However, her child, a girl, was delivered by an emergency Cesarean section at Ben Taub General Hospital.

The driver of the Camaro, **Devin McNeil James**, was charged with manslaughter and released on \$20,000 bail.

A benefit was held for **Viki Stahle** at Beamer's Place, a local bar. **Stahle**, a 30-year resident of Sagemont, was diagnosed with both breast and bone cancer.

5 years ago (2012)
The unofficial primary runoff election results were released, with the close race for the Democratic nomination for Harris County Precinct 2 constable causing much controversy. Despite having a significant lead in the polls on election night, local Precinct 2 Sgt. **Zerick Guinn** trailed opponent **Chris Diaz** by a mere three votes when a later vote count was released the following morning. Records released by the Harris County Clerk's office early on election day showed Guinn with a significant lead with 93 percent of precincts reporting. Guinn was shown to have 75.91 percent of election day votes to Diaz's 24.09 percent. Results released at 12:43 a.m., however, show Guinn's election day vote count drop to 58.04 percent while Diaz's vote count increased to 41.96 percent. Diaz had a significant advantage in the number of absentee votes, which put his campaign over the top.

1 year ago (2016)
Construction began on the Harris County project to widen **Beltway 8** from two to four lanes in each direction from **Beamer** to **Highway 288**. The project will be divided into two phases: from **Beamer** to **Wayside** and from **Wayside** to **Highway 288**.

The contract for the first phase of construction was for \$96 million, while the contract for the second phase was \$77 million. The project is in addition to a similar endeavor that will widen the beltway to four lanes east of the Gulf Freeway to **Highway 225**. That project also calls for replacing the existing **Beltway 8 Ship Channel** toll bridge with a new four-lane structure.

UHCL sets calendar

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has announced its calendar and deadlines.

Freshman fall 2017 application deadline
The final application deadline for new college students planning to enter UHCL in the fall 2017 semester is Aug. 1. For more details on deadlines, visit the Office of Admissions at www.uhcl.edu/admissions. To apply, visit ApplyTexas.org. For information, call 281-283-2500 or email admissions@uhcl.edu.

2017 UHCL graduate student exhibition
Immerse yourself in 3-D sculptural artwork by UHCL's graduate students in the latest exhibit in the Art Gallery. The exhibition will be on display through Aug. 10, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Bayou Building, Art Gallery. Curated by **Clay Leonard**, assistant professor of art, the exhibit features work that highlights the research interests of seven graduate students in sculpture and ceramics studio courses. For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery.

Fall 2017 open registration
Register for fall 2017 classes at UHCL by 5 p.m. Aug. 25. Late registration is available Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 for an additional fee. Fall classes begin Aug. 28. To learn more, visit www.uhcl.edu/admission.

Foreign language course registration
Learn a new language with the Foreign Language and English Enhancement program at UHCL. Registration continues through Aug. 28 for classes beginning Aug. 28. Group classes are kept small, with a focus on conversational skill, and can be taken in Spanish, Chinese, German, Japanese, French, Russian and other languages upon request. Courses are taught by instructors fluent and with advanced degrees in the language they teach. The course costs \$156 for new students and \$136 for returning students. All classes are offered noncredit, but Continuing Education Units can be earned for successfully completing the course. For more information or to register, call 281-283-3033 or visit www.uhcl.edu/academics/extended/foreign-language-enrichment.

PSAT preparation course
Leap ahead of the rest on the PSAT with a preparation course from UHCL's Center for Executive Education. Aug. 1 to 24, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, room is to be determined.

This course offers 24 hours of hands-on training with challenges, activities and timed exercises. Students will learn tips and tricks to maximize their potential on the verbal and mathematics portions of the test used for awarding scholarships through the National Merit Scholar Program. Participants will also learn strategies for writing artful essays, both for college applications and beyond. The course costs \$499 before July 28, and \$549 after that date. UHCL faculty, staff, students and alumni receive a 10 percent discount. To learn more or to register, call 281-283-3120 or email cee@uhcl.edu.

Healthcare Management Certification program
Medical residents can gain an edge in their field and position themselves for leadership roles through the program Aug. 1 to 28, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Texas Medical Center, Suite 120, 2151 West Holcombe.

The four-week elective course will provide participants with business training to navigate through health-care management, case studies, interactive and collaborative exercises. Cost is \$2,000 for 20 sessions. To enroll and for information, call the Center for Executive Education at 281-283-3120 or visit www.uhcl.edu/center-executive-education/center-services.

Healthcare Management Certification program - UTHealth fellows, residents and fourth-year medical students can gain a competitive edge in their field and position themselves for leadership roles through the program Aug. 1 to 28, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Texas Medical Center, Suite 120, 2151 West Holcombe.

The four-week elective course will provide participants with business training to navigate through health-care management through case studies, interactive and collaborative exercises led by UHCL faculty and the Memorial Hermann Hospital System. Content modules include Healthcare IT, economics and policy, team building and more.

The cost of the course is \$450 for 20 sessions. To enroll and for more information, call the Center for Executive Education at 281-283-3120 or visit www.uhcl.edu/center-executive-education/center-services.

Prepaid tuition program deadline approaches

The deadline is extended through July 31 for Texas families to enroll newborns in the Texas Tuition Promise FundSM and pay this year's rates for all or some future tuition and school-wide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities. Newborns are children younger than one year at the time of enrollment.

Under the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program, participants can purchase tuition units and lock in costs based on today's prices.

"It is never too early for Texas families to consider enrolling their newborns in this program," Texas Comptroller **Glenn Hegar** said. "Purchasing tuition units today allows families to lay the foundation for their children's future educational opportunities."

Enrollment at 2016-17 prices closed Feb. 28 for children older than one. The next annual enrollment period begins on Sept. 1 and is based on Texas public college and university tuition and school-wide required fees for the 2017-18 school year.

Complete plan information, including plan description and agreement, current prices, enrollment forms and more is available online at TuitionPromise.org, or by calling 1-800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

Purchasers should carefully consider the risks, administrative fees, service and other charges and expenses associated with the contracts, including plan termination and decreased transfer or refund value.

Purchasers should read these documents carefully before purchasing a contract. Participation in the plan does not guarantee admission to or graduation from any college or university.

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Gonzales signs with Gage Talent Agency

By Jay Do
Former South Belt resident Aly Gonzales has recently launched an ambitious endeavor into the acting industry.

A longtime resident of the community, Gonzales attended Frazier Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and J. Frank Dobie High School. Gonzales went on to study performing arts at Houston Community College and Texas State University.

Fueled by a lifelong passion, Gonzales recently took

a leap of faith and signed with Gage Talent Agency, based in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Performing is something that I always did, and I always enjoyed it," said Gonzales. "I was a cheerleader and a dancer forever. It was something that I've always really wanted to do, but I've never had a nerve for it until a few years ago when I was signed by my agency."

Gonzales is also a flight attendant with American Airlines, a job she feels contributes greatly to her acting

career.

"Being a flight attendant works out perfectly for my benefit," said Gonzales. "I'm able to travel to places like Los Angeles and New York City. Wherever there is a job for me as an actress, I am able to hop on an airplane and get there. It's really flexible, and it's really helped me with my acting career, because it's allowed me to go to different places for auditions."

Gonzales has auditioned for a number of talent agencies, including ABC Discov-

ers, as well as with film corporations, such as the Walt Disney Company for the company's upcoming Aladdin production.

"I've been submitting auditions primarily to talent agencies in Los Angeles," said Gonzales. "Obviously, Hollywood is the ultimate goal, but to get noticed mainstream is difficult. I think starting YouTube and putting my content out on different social media networks is really important, because it's helped me grow and get the attention of casting directors or other people in the business."

While being recognized on the national stage is one of Gonzales' most arduous challenges, she has also faced a more internal struggle.

"Having people believe in you is definitely one of the hardest things to do," said Gonzales. "When you say you want to be an actor, it's just like a kid saying they want to be a doctor when they grow up. The most important thing to understand is that you're not always going to have someone who likes you, and you're not always going to be able to win people over. That is one of the challenges that I've run into. The first time that someone disliked one of my videos on YouTube, it hurt my feelings and forced me to tell myself that I'm not always going to have a hundred percent of everyone like me or the work that I put out there. Through that, I've learned to become more patient with myself, and I've learned to remain humble throughout all of this."

Gonzales now aims to star in a television series that would serve to be a positive influence on younger audiences, similar to those that she enjoyed as a child.

"I would really like to be in a television series that people are able to relate to," said Gonzales. "I want to be part of a series that people can relate

to, escape their own world for a little bit and get in tune with the characters that are going through similar things that they are going through. There was a television series that I watched when I went through high school that I gravitated towards, because it was like what I was going through. It's definitely a goal of mine to be able to do a show that connects with a younger audience and let them know that they are not alone in going through their struggles. The biggest thing I want to do is to let younger people know that it doesn't matter what your background is, where you came from or what you look like. You can accomplish your dreams no matter what they are."

Gonzales' advice for others wanting to break into the acting industry, however seemingly simple, has proven vastly effective for her.

"Don't stop," said Gonzales. "Don't stop no matter what you think. Don't stop no matter what others think. Don't give up, and keep going."

"I am only at the very start of my journey, and I know that there is so much more to come. There is literally nothing that you cannot do if you keep at it."

More information on Gonzales can be found on her social media outlets, at @al_ygonzales on Instagram, @AlyGonzales21 on Twitter and Aly Gonzales on YouTube.

For Gonzales, the most rewarding part of being an actress is the opportunity to continue being a child for a living.

"It's natural for me to be in front of a camera and to feel like somebody else," said Gonzales. "I love exploring different avenues of my own personality that I don't get to see very often. As a kid, I loved to play pretend, and it's really cool that that's what I get to do all day long now, as an adult."

Gonzales launches acting career



Longtime South Belt resident Aly Gonzales has signed with Gage Talent Agency based in Nashville, Tennessee. She hopes to gain recognition as well as inspire younger people to reach for their goals. Photo submitted

SJC pharmacy techs, faculty awarded



San Jacinto College pharmacy technician students and faculty received the Community Champion award from the Bay Area Alliance of Youth and Families. Shown, left to right, Amanda McLaughlin, Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families Coalition manager; Dr. Brenda Jones, San Jacinto College provost; Denetria Salyer, student; Regina Ram, pharmacy technology instructor; Eman Saleh, student; and Dr. Alexander Okwonna, San Jacinto College dean of health and natural sciences. Photo by Amanda Fenwick

Pharmacy technical students, faculty receive Community Champion award

Three San Jacinto College pharmacy technician students and two faculty members received the Community Champion award from the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families for their service with Medication Take Back Day.

Students Denetria Salyer, Eman Saleh and Adrian Acosta, along with faculty members Regina Ram and Dr. Alexander Okwonna, natural and health sciences dean, were recognized for their participation in Medication Take Back Day that, in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement, allows the community to clean out their medicine cabinets and properly dispose of old, unused and expired medication.

The San Jac group collected 384 pounds of medication during the event. Since 2010 the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families has hosted 14 events and collected

more than 14,000 pounds of prescription drugs.

"It takes many hands to make a Medication Take Back work. Dr. Okwonna and his students are invaluable to our efforts and our success," said Amanda McLaughlin, Bay Area Alliance Coalition manager. "They are always prompt, courteous, hard-working and thoughtful, and have been a joy to work with."

This award is given annually to a group or organization that invests in the young people of the community with their time and talents. There were three groups honored: San Jacinto College, League City Police Department and Texas Auto.

The Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families is a community coalition dedicated to reducing drug and alcohol abuse in young people. For more information about Bay Area Alliance, visit ccisd.net.

Legislature fails school funding

Continued from Page 1A

While the Texas Legislature has demonstrated an increased awareness in cost factors and the strain they cause on school districts, its recent stalemate and failure to pass a bill for even slight relief will have detrimental effects on fund balances across the state.

Pasadena ISD has weathered years of state cuts and has managed to pass several bonds in the last ten years (without a tax increase) while maintaining a healthy fund balance.

"Our board has gone above and beyond in their role as fiscal stewards," said Powell. "They have a shared vision to keep the district in superior fiscal standing while expanding programs and opportunities for students."

Factors leading to the rise in cost of education are vast. According to a recent publication by Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards titled *State Mandates on School Districts*, the impact of inflation, especially on staff salaries is one of the largest cost factors in school districts. Further, unfunded and underfunded mandates

dramatically impact the bottom line.

The report outlines more than 100 unfunded or underfunded mandates in nine different categories. While it is safe to imply these mandates are necessary, the document was created to identify the strain these mandates place on a school district budget.

Some examples of unfunded mandates are the purchase of automated external defibrillators for every campus along with the required training. Criminal background checks, community and student engagement projects and video cameras in special education settings are other state mandates.

The publication states that other factors impacting the budget include the growing student population, the growing population of economically disadvantaged students and the increased costs of utilities, fuel and insurance.

"When you stop and put a pencil to every one of these factors, it's easy to see that there is going to be a major impact on our bottom line," Powell said.

While the Legislature has called a special session in late July, the current agenda fails

to address school funding. "We would hope that people, not just from Pasadena ISD, but from around the state, would let their representatives and senators know that education matters need to be addressed and not put on the back burner," Powell said.

PISD recognizes AP scholars . . .

Continued from Page 4A

Pasadena Independent School District National AP Scholars are among 31,161 AP Scholar designees in the country and 3,443 in the state to earn the distinction.

The steady growth of AP Scholars reflects efforts at the campus level to increase en-

gagement in AP courses. Some high school campuses, for example, host celebrations where students earn grant awards for successfully earning qualifying scores on their AP exams.

The number of AP Scholars for the 2016 school year may increase as scores are still being tallied.

J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes officers announced



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes are proud to introduce their new officers for 2017-2018 school year. The officers attended Crowd Pleasers Officer camp in Galveston in early June. Their awards included "Most Admired Socials," Military Officer "Gold Elite" and Military Officer "Ready to Rock." Shown are, left to right, (front row) Maj. Zoe Vela, Col. Adela Alanis, Lt. Col. Aleida Gonzalez, (back row) Lt. Gabriela Ramirez, social executive Roxanne Hernandez, social president Gisselle Guerra, social vice president Xochitl Romero, social executive Itzamaria Corral and Capt. Jazmin Guerrero. Photo by Iliana Gonzales

New law requires license for applied behavior analysis

A new law requires a state license to practice applied behavior analysis, which should benefit thousands of Texas families dealing with autism by reinforcing the standard of care and possibly resulting in more affordable services.

Two legislative sessions in the making, the law was sought by the Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, or TxABA, whose leadership has strong ties to University of Houston-Clear Lake faculty.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 589 into law in mid-June.

"This bill received bipartisan support in the 2017 Texas Legislature, which is heartening and remarkable," said Sarah Lechago, current president of the TxABA and associate professor of behavior analysis at UH-Clear Lake.

Applied behavior analysis is widely recognized by health care professionals as one of the most effective approaches to the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, Lechago explained. UH-Clear Lake has offered a master's degree in behavior analysis since 2008.

"It involves careful assessment and environmental modifications to establish and improve important skills like self-help, communication, social, and academic skills. It is also useful for eliminating and preventing challenging behaviors that can hinder progress and learning," she said.

More than 51,300 Texas residents between the ages of 3-21 were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in

2015, the state's Office of Special Education Programs reported.

"There is a high demand for applied behavior analysis services in Texas," Lechago said. "This new licensure bill will regulate the practice, strengthen the credibility of the profession and provide critical protection for children with special needs and their families."

The law calls for the creation of the Texas Board of Behavior Analyst Examiners to be appointed by the state Commission of Licensing and Regulation. The board would administer the licensure program for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts.

Applicants would meet certain educational requirements, undergo a criminal background check and pass a board examination.

The association sought a similar measure from the 2015 state legislature. It passed the House but didn't get out of committee in the Senate.

"We had a wonderful team working diligently on this for two legislative sessions, so we are thrilled that the bill passed this year," said UHCL Associate Professor of Behavior Analysis Jennifer N. Fritz, who was TxABA president in 2015.

"This bill offers much needed protection for families of individuals with special needs, including children with autism. It ensures that qualified individuals are providing services and offers legal recourse for the families

in the event of any wrongdoing," Fritz said.

She said that the law requires that professionals adhere to the ethical and professional guidelines or face a formal investigation. The legislation had wide support from ABA professionals who also worked to pass the bill, Fritz said. Texas is the 28th state to establish licensure for applied behavior analysts. It sets as standards the same regimen required for accreditation from the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

UHCL students who are pursuing a master's degree in behavior analysis are already held to the national standards. Typically, they apply for certification upon graduation. Soon they'll be able to pursue a license that will not only allow them to work in Texas, but any other state that acknowledges reciprocity licensure.

"It will allow Texas to regulate the profession so that people who call themselves behavior analysts and say they are providing behavior analysis have that level of professionalism," said Professor of Psychology Dorothea C. Lerman, director of UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

Lerman added that licensure also might encourage more health insurance carriers to cover treatment or open up funding avenues, notably Medicaid. "It's always good for families to have the ability to pay for these critical services. The expense makes

them beyond the reach of so many families," Lerman said.

"In many states, Medicaid is covering behavior analysis services. I think it's only a matter of time in Texas. It was in the budget for this legislative session, but a lot of things got cut. Professionals need to be licensed in order to be reimbursed by Medicaid. So licensure of behavior an-

alysts in Texas may open up services to low-income families that can't afford them," Lerman said.

UHCL's center doesn't currently handle insurance claims, Lerman said. Services are provided to families who can't afford them through state grants and contracts.

"In the future it might be

possible that the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities could provide services through Medicaid. If Medicaid also covers applied behavior analysis, it might open the doors for us to provide even more services to low-income families."

For more information about UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Dis-

abilities, visit www.uhcl.edu/autism-center. To learn more about the master's program in applied behavior analysis, visit www.uhcl.edu/academics/degrees/behavior-analysis-ma.

"Right now there's a huge demand for behavior analysts," Lerman said. "If anything, licensure is going to increase the demand."

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2017 South Belt Schlitterbahn vacation contest photos shared

Arellanos, Hall enjoy South Padre Island

Shannon Arellano, Francesca Arellano and Griffin Hall enjoyed a trip to South Padre Island. Below, Francesca and Griffin stand at the entrance to South Padre Island.



Below, Francesca and Griffin enjoy the sand and sun on the beach of South Padre. Photos submitted



Above, left to right, Shannon, Francesca and Griffin have fun in the sun around the pool at Padre South Hotel.

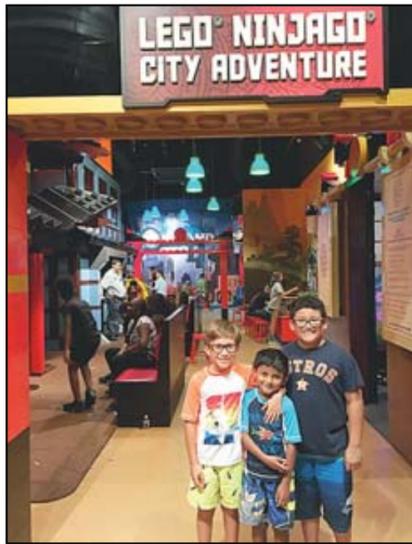


Above, Shannon has fun on the beach at South Padre, building a mermaid with the sand.

Brothers visit Legoland



Shown above, left to right, Noah Sifuentes, Aidan Herrera and James Sifuentes traveled to Dallas for a week-end of fun at Legoland. The brothers had fun building with Legos and learning about the history of Legos.



Above, left to right, Aidan, James and Noah visited the Lego Ninjago City Adventure exhibit.



The boys also saw the Star Wars exhibit. Noah (left) and Aidan pose with R2D2. Photos submitted



After all the Lego fun inside, the boys were able to cool off at the end of the day in the new Lego Splash Pad. Shown above, left to right, Aidan, James and Noah. Photos submitted



Educators share lessons

Continued from Page 1A
the fourth president of the university in 1995. He emphasized the value of teamwork, stating, "I always say to our internal leadership group in our leadership training program, 'If you get the right people with you, you can do a lot of things.'"

"One of the great quotes I like is by Jim Collins who wrote many years ago in *From Good to Great* that everything else changes. Markets change. Products change. Technology changes. The constant is your ability to attract and retain enough of the right people. If you can build that team and keep it together, it just makes a huge difference."

"Also, I had to make a really tough decision about 14-15 years ago. I was at home on a Saturday morning, drinking coffee, sitting on the sofa trying to make a decision. I didn't know what I was going to do. 'Then a thought hit me like a bolt of lightning. The bolt of lightning was that I only had to answer one question. That one question was, 'What is in the best interests of the University of Houston-Clear Lake?' Not whether it was easy or hard, short-term or long-term, not whether it was good for academic affairs or administration or finance, but what's in the best interests of the University of Houston-Clear Lake?"

"The moment that thunderbolt hit me, the decision fell out in two seconds. That is something I've gone back to time and time again. That's the question as CEO of the university that I have to answer."

"Finally, I would offer, manage for today, but lead for tomorrow. A good manager keeps the train on the tracks, but if all you're doing is keeping the train on the tracks, you're probably not really moving that institution, university, company to the next stage."

"You have to have enough of a good team that you can manage the day-to-day operations really well or as well as can be expected. Then you have to have some time to think about how to change the organization to be better than it is right now."

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In what has become an annual tradition at Dobie High School, the 2017-2018 varsity tennis team will compete against a group of former Longhorns in a series of exes matches at the Longhorn courts Saturday, Aug. 5. From left, current junior Luis Neira and senior Austin Luu hope to be able to gain an advantage over former players such as Andy Peng (Class of 2009) and Alex Peng (Class of 2007).

Volleyball workouts to open; season starts Aug. 8

What's in store for the Clear Brook and Dobie varsity volleyball programs this season? It may be a bit too early to provide the answers at the

moment, but things will now begin to come into focus with preseason workouts set to begin Aug. 1.

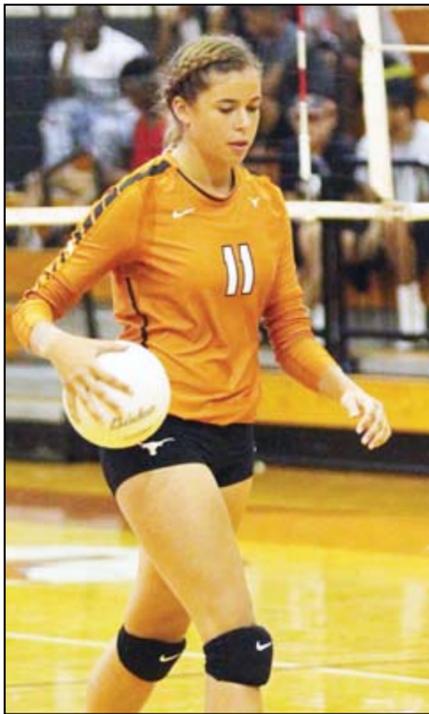
At Clear Brook, the Lady Wolverines are looking to continue what has been a pretty good run of playoff qualifications, albeit with few postseason wins.

In 2016, the Lady Wolverines finished fourth in the District 24-6A race after several five-set losses, then fell to District 23-6A champion Dawson in four games in the bidistrict playoff round.

Replacing Jaden Newsome (now at the University of Colorado) and several other key starters is the focus, especially at setter, but head coach Meredith Phillips has three-year starters Jordan Russell, a Rice University commit,

back to anchor things at the net. Sophomore Kailin Newsome, the younger

sister of Jaden Newsome, is also back after contributing heavily at the varsity



At right, Dobie's Taylor Pleasants is already one of the state's top softball players, and she will try to help guide the Lady Longhorns' volleyball program back to the playoffs this season.

JFD, CB host youth footballers

Yes it's hot outside, but it's time for incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students who plan to play football to get into summer camp mode.

Both Clear Brook varsity football head coach Mike Allison and Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman and their respective staffs are set to host the youth camps just prior to the start of regular

high school workouts. JFD welcomes GAT, BHI

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

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

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

Payment will be accepted via cash, money order
Continued on Page 2B

Pearland Rotary hosts gridiron lunch

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

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

The respective head

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

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

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

Reservation by RSVP

Shiflett Realtors

sells Dobie FB tix

Dobie varsity football fans can now purchase season tickets for the 2017 season locally at Roy Shiflett Realtors, 11559 Beamer.

The J. Frank Dobie High School season ticket packages include eight games for \$48 per set, which represents a \$1 savings per game night on an at-the-gate ticket.

Shiflett Realtors includes business hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. week-

days and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 281-481-3733.

Season ticket packs for all Pasadena ISD varsity football programs are also available at the PISD Ticket Office, 2906 Dabney in Pasadena, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Season tickets will be available through Aug. 25. Individual student tickets will be \$3 throughout the season.

JFD exes tennis coming Aug. 5

In what has become an annual tradition, the Dobie High School tennis program will host its former players for a series of exes matches Saturday, Aug. 5.

Returning varsity players for 2017 will begin preseason practices Aug. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Longhorn courts.

Those workouts will lead up to the exes matches, which serve as Dobie's official regular season opener.

In previous seasons, the former players have enjoyed a great deal of success against the younger netters.

That said, Dobie head

coach Manuel Moreno, the exes matches Aug. 5 beginning his 19th season with the Longhorns, believes he has a strong roster entering the 2017 campaign.

Any former players who wish to compete in

may direct an email to Moreno at mmoreno@pasadenaisd.org or simply show up at Dobie on the morning of the event at 8:30 with racket in hand.

Exes Matches

2017 Dobie vs. former players Saturday, Aug. 5 Dobie courts, 9 a.m.

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Summer Street Olympics includes 3-on-3 basketball

The 3-on-3 Basketball Championship Tournament, part of the Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics Summer Games, tipped off July 19 with about 224 boys and girls vying for first- and second-place trophies at Fonde Recreation Center.

The two-day, single-elimination tournament, which features Houston-area youth ages 7 to 17, is the first of three major events for the Summer Games.

The tournament continued July 20 with 156 other players on 40 teams in the older-age brackets. In addition to the athletics, the tournament competition and the other Street Olympics events teach youth leadership, discipline and the value of teamwork.

"Basketball is a team sport," said Harris County commissioner Rodney Ellis.

"And so is life. We put on this tournament to give the children that competitive edge on the court – and in life."

In the past five weeks of

preliminary rounds, more than 500 boys and girls at 90 Street Olympics' participating agencies' sites competed for the opportunity to play in the championship tournament.

"It feels good," said Sheila Phillips after her Finigan Youth Education Town team won first place in the girls' Division III.

Thomas Young, whose Clinton Park Community Center's team won the boys' Division II, said he worked hard to get to the tournament and to win the championship.

"It feels nice," he said. "I feel like Steph Curry (Golden State Warriors guard)."

Founded in 1986, the free, nonprofit Street Olympics has touched the lives of thousands of Houston-area youth and young adults by providing organized sports.

In addition to basketball, the Summer Games include competition in "street games" such as jacks, Hula Hoop, kickball, jump rope and foot races.

On Aug. 4, about 2,000

boys and girls will compete for "gold, silver and bronze medals" in an Olympic-style final event.

The Harris County Aquatics Program, which is under the Street Olympics' umbrella, offers Learn-to-Swim lessons and competitive swimming.

On July 28, about 150 children will participate in Splashdown, a friendly swim meet.

In addition, the Street Olympics provides educational opportunities through its Environmental Education Program, which includes Discovery Camp during the summer and the year-round traveling naturalists that both teach children about the environment and animal habitats.

"The children's parents, many of whom work during the summer days, do not have the extra money to pay for elaborate summer camps and other activities," commissioner Ellis said. "That's why it's essential for the Street Olympics to provide safe outlets with constructive activities."

Football camps hit Dobie, Brook

Continued from Page 1B or credit card. No checks will be accepted. To register, direct email to Norman at MNorman@pasadenaisd.org.

Families may also make online payments at https://www1.pasadenaisd.org/departments/departments_a_b/business_financial_services/business_office_procedure_manual/cashier_s_office/rev_trak_reporting/.

Participants will receive instruction in all phases of the game, including the fundamentals of blocking and tackling, position drills and techniques, and individual position drills.

Camp Head Start will also provide a great opportunity for students to get

an early understanding of how things will progress, as well as expectations at their intended school.

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

Wolverines to host youth
Clear Creek ISD students will have the opportunity to attend Clear Brook's 2017 Mini Camp, set for July 27-28 at the school. The sessions will run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. each day.

Incoming seventh-through ninth-grade students as of the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to attend the camp. The fee is \$70 per student for those

who register at 7:30 a.m., just before the start of workouts July 27.

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

Clear Creek ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for this type of events, so parents will be responsible for handling their own coverage.

For more information or to register for the camp, direct email to MAllison@ccisd.net.

2017 Clear Creek ISD Varsity Football Schedule

Clear Creek	Clear Springs	Clear Brook	Clear Falls	Clear Lake
at South Houston Thursday, Aug. 31 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Pearland Friday, Sept. 1 The Rig, 7 p.m.	Bellaire Saturday, Sept. 2 Challenger Stadium, 6 p.m.	Spring Friday, Sept. 1 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Baytown Sterling Friday, Sept. 1 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.
Channelview Friday, Sept. 8 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Dobie Friday, Sept. 8 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at La Porte Friday, Sept. 8 Bulldog Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Bellaire Friday, Sept. 8 Butler Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Texas City Friday, Sept. 8 Stingaree Stadium, 7 p.m.
at Houston Heights Friday, Sept. 15 Delmar Stadium, 7 p.m.	La Porte Friday, Sept. 15 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at South Houston Friday, Sept. 15 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Sam Rayburn (HC) Friday, Sept. 15 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	at Clements Thursday, Sept. 14 Mercer Stadium, 6 p.m.
at Clear Springs Friday, Sept. 29 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Creek Friday, Sept. 29 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Falls (HC) Friday, Sept. 29 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Clear Brook Friday, Sept. 29 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	Alvin Saturday, Sept. 30 Challenger Stadium, 1 p.m.
Clear Brook Friday, Oct. 6 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Alvin Friday, Oct. 6 Alvin ISD Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Creek Friday, Oct. 6 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	Friendswood Friday, Oct. 6 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Dickinson Friday, Oct. 6 Vitanza Stadium, 7 p.m.
Alvin (HC) Friday, Oct. 13 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Dickinson (HC) Saturday, Oct. 14 Challenger Stadium, 1 p.m.	at Friendswood Friday, Oct. 13 Winston Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Clear Lake Friday, Oct. 13 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Falls (HC) Friday, Oct. 13 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.
at Friendswood Friday, Oct. 20 Winston Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Clear Falls Friday, Oct. 20 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Lake Friday, Oct. 20 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Springs Friday, Oct. 20 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Brook Friday, Oct. 20 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.
Dickinson Saturday, Oct. 28 Vitanza Stadium, 1 p.m.	Clear Brook Friday, Oct. 27 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Clear Springs Friday, Oct. 27 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Alvin Friday, Oct. 27 Alvin ISD Stadium, 7 p.m.	Friendswood Friday, Oct. 27 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.
at Clear Lake Friday, Nov. 3 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Friendswood Friday, Nov. 3 Winston Stadium, 7 p.m.	Alvin Friday, Nov. 3 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Dickinson Saturday, Nov. 4 Veterans Stadium, 1 p.m.	Clear Creek Friday, Nov. 3 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.
Clear Falls Saturday, Nov. 11 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	Clear Lake Friday, Nov. 10 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	at Dickinson Friday, Nov. 10 Vitanza Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	Clear Creek Friday, Nov. 10 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	Clear Springs Friday, Nov. 10 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming



Dobie High School varsity football head coach Mike Norman and his staff are set to host incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students for Camp Head Start, the Longhorns' youth football camp designed to help integrate 2017-2018 football players into the respective systems at Dobie as well as Beverly Hills and Thompson Intermediate.

Key Upcoming Football Dates
Dobie Camp Head Start – July 31 – Aug. 3, 9 to 11 a.m., incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students at Dobie.
Clear Brook Mini-Camp – July 27-28, 8:30 to 11 a.m., incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students at Clear Brook.
Clear Brook football report details – The Wolverines' preseason football workouts get underway Monday, Aug. 7, times to be announced.
Dobie football report details– The Longhorns' preseason football workouts get underway Monday, Aug. 14, times to be announced.

2017 Pasadena ISD Varsity Football Schedule

Dobie	Pasadena	Sam Rayburn	South Houston	Memorial
at Summer Creek Saturday, Sept. 2 Turner Stadium, 6 p.m.	at Galena Park Friday, Sept. 1 GPISD Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clements Friday, Sept. 1 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	Clear Creek Thursday, Aug. 31 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	College Park Saturday, Sept. 2 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.
Clear Springs Friday, Sept. 8 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Chavez Saturday, Sept. 9 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	Aldine Thursday, Sept. 7 Thorne Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Galena Park Friday, Sept. 8 GPISD Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Vidor Friday, Sept. 8 Pirate Stadium, 7 p.m.
Morton Ranch Thursday, Sept. 14 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	at Bellaire Saturday, Sept. 16 Butler Stadium, 6 p.m.	at Clear Falls Friday, Sept. 15 Challenger Stadium, 7 p.m.	Clear Brook Friday, Sept. 15 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Aldine Saturday, Sept. 16 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.
Dawson Thursday, Sept. 21 Veterans, 7 p.m.	South Houston (HC) Friday, Sept. 29 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Needville (HC) Friday, Sept. 22 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Rosenberg Terry Saturday, Sept. 23 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	at Pearland Friday, Sept. 22 The Rig, 7 p.m.
at Deer Park Friday, Sept. 29 Abshire Stadium, 7 p.m.	at St. Thomas Friday, Oct. 6 Butler Stadium, 7 p.m.	at La Porte Friday, Sept. 29 Bulldog Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Pasadena Friday, Sept. 29 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Dobie Friday, Oct. 6 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.
Memorial Friday, Oct. 6 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at La Porte Friday, Oct. 13 Bulldog Stadium, 7 p.m.	Deer Park Thursday, Oct. 5 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	La Porte (HC) Saturday, Oct. 7 Veterans Stadium, 1 p.m.	Sam Rayburn (HC) Friday, Oct. 13 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.
at Sam Rayburn Saturday, Oct. 21 Veterans, 1 p.m.	at Deer Park Friday, Oct. 14 Abshire Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Memorial Friday, Oct. 13 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Deer Park Friday, Oct. 13 Abshire Stadium, 7 p.m.	at South Houston Friday, Oct. 20 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.
South Houston (HC) Friday, Oct. 27 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at Memorial Thursday, Oct. 26 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	Dobie Saturday, Oct. 21 Veterans Stadium, 1 p.m.	Memorial Friday, Oct. 20 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Pasadena Thursday, Oct. 26 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.
at Pasadena Friday, Nov. 3 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	Dobie Friday, Nov. 3 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at South Houston Thursday, Nov. 2 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m.	at Dobie Friday, Oct. 27 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.	at La Porte Friday, Nov. 3 Bulldog Stadium, 7 p.m.
La Porte Friday, Nov. 10 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	at Sam Rayburn Saturday, Nov. 11 Veterans Stadium, 1 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	Pasadena Saturday, Nov. 11 Veterans Stadium, 1 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	Sam Rayburn Thursday, Nov. 2 Veterans Stadium, 6 p.m. (HC) Homecoming	Deer Park Thursday, Nov. 9 Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m. (HC) Homecoming

Saldivar caps recovery, dream season with St. Thomas soccer signing

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**
A year ago at this time, Dobie varsity boys' soccer player Edwin Saldivar seemingly had everything going his way. A promising junior season at Dobie

coupled with a strong summer of training and still more competitive soccer had St. Thomas University soccer officials very interested in Saldivar's services come the 2017 fall season. Well, that all changed

in an instant. Last July 10, while competing in one of those summer soccer outings, Saldivar collided with another player and suffered devastating internal injuries. Doctors removed a

large portion of Saldivar's intestines that had been damaged beyond repair in the collision that saw another player's knee crash down on Saldivar's stomach. Things, to say the least, were a bit touch and

go for a while. Saldivar, who also handled Dobie's place kicking duties on the football field with fellow soccer teammate Sabino Lozano, was almost certainly out for the season. Also in jeopardy was Saldivar's senior soccer season at Dobie.

The regular-season opener wasn't until January of 2017, but preseason workouts started well before then. As for attending St. Thomas University and playing soccer collegiately, that was on hold as well.

By now, family members and close friends know much of what unfolded. Saldivar indeed spent days in the hospital and recovered enough to start school at Dobie on time later in August, albeit in a wheelchair.

Saldivar's eventual recovery went so well that he made an appearance or two on the football field for the Longhorns that fall. The soccer season at Dobie? He was a full go.

Starring in the midfield for the Longhorns, Saldivar went on to earn first team all-district accolades in the midfield as Dobie first won a third straight District 22-6A crown, then embarked on the journey of a lifetime in the playoffs.



Dobie Class of 2017 graduate and three-year varsity boys' soccer standout Edwin Saldivar (seated center) will continue his education and playing career at St. Thomas University in Houston after signing a letter of intent with the Celts. Those with Saldivar at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Yesenia Saldivar (mother), Hector Saldivar (father), (standing) Ian Clerihew (St. Thomas men's soccer head coach), Alexis Saldivar (brother), Christian Saldivar (brother) and Hector Saldivar (brother).

"After we beat North Shore, we knew we could go all the way. We ended up playing probably our best soccer game in the next round (regional semifinals) against Seven Lakes. Then we beat Channelview to make it to state. It was probably the greatest moment of my life, not just my soccer life."

Making it more special for Saldivar was the fact that his oldest brother, Hector, was on the sidelines that day as the Longhorns defeated Channelview, giving Dobie its first-ever state soccer tournament appearance.

Hector, now an assistant coach with the Lady Longhorns' soccer program, is a 2011 Dobie graduate. That 2011 team, with Hector in tow, made its way to the Region III championship game but lost to Strake Jesuit in a sudden death shootout.

"It was great having my brother there to celebrate, and some of the alumni from that 2011 team were there to see us win and advance," Edwin Saldivar said.

"That's going to be my greatest memory from the season. We knew we were talented but were going to have to play great soccer throughout the playoffs to advance. We were able to get it done."

And now, Saldivar is going to get a chance to continue his playing career collegiately at...wait for it...St. Thomas University.

A coaching change at St. Thomas has delayed recruiting efforts for the Celts, but Saldivar and fellow Dobie teammate Andy Garcia are now ready to go when the season begins this fall.

St. Thomas went 11-7-1 overall last season, including 5-3-1 in conference play. The Celts, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program playing within the Red River Conference, competed largely with a senior-laden team.

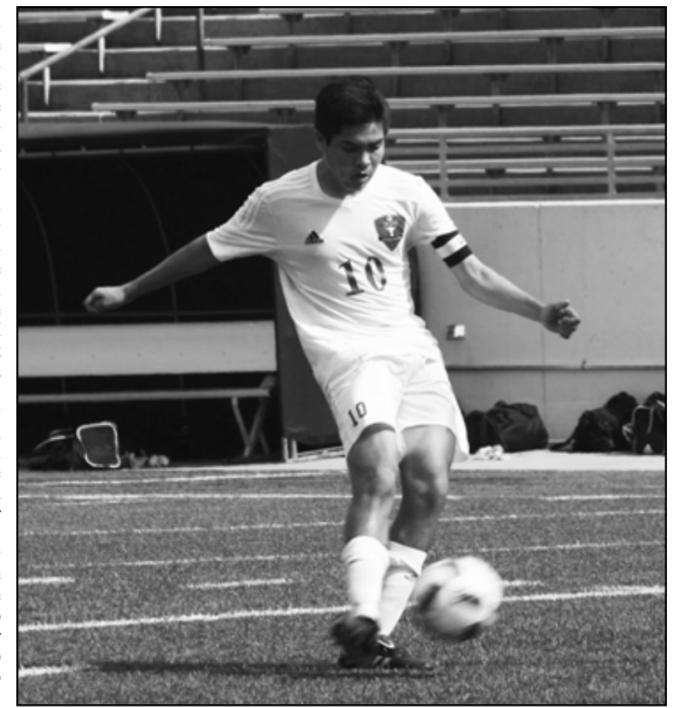
First-year head coach Ian Clerihew, formerly an assistant coach at Yale University, is restocking the roster at St. Thomas with freshmen and other young players.

Saldivar said he is reminded of four years ago at Dobie, when current head coach Justo Manrique was beginning his first off-season with the Longhorns. Saldivar and Garcia, as well as Sabino Lozano (signed with Iowa Western College) were incoming freshmen then.

Manrique built the Dobie program into a Region III power and a state semifinalist with players such

as the aforementioned trio and others. Much like he felt four years ago, Saldivar is eager for a fresh start.

"There's going to be a great opportunity for a lot of us to play early depending on how hard we work and what we are able to do in the games," Saldivar said. "It's a first-year coach just like we had at Dobie. We built something great. I think we can do the same thing here. It's going to be great to be able to play close to home. My family will be able to see me play, too." In the classroom, Saldivar plans to study within the mathematics field.



Edwin Saldivar was a three-year letterwinner at the varsity level for the Dobie soccer program, earning 22-6A all-district accolades on multiple occasions despite suffering a serious abdominal injury last summer. Having healed completely and having guided Dobie to the state soccer tournament last season, Saldivar will play collegiately at St. Thomas University in Houston.

Mayor Turner, councilman Boykins play softball



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (left) and Houston City Council Member Dwight Boykins (right) were in on the fun as Boykins celebrated his birthday with the first-ever Houston city council versus Houston media charity softball game earlier this month at the Emancipation Park baseball field. The open-



to-the-public event helped raise funds for the District B Minor Home Fund Repair. Above, Boykins, the honorary birthday attendee, scored the first run of the game. Submitted photos

Sports news, notes, etc.

BAFL preseason practice ongoing

The Bay Area Football League preseason is underway, what with each of the league's 14 teams practicing in the evenings in preparation for the regular season opening weekend, which is coming Saturday, Aug. 12, at various locations across the area.

Locally, the Sagemont Cowboys will begin the regular season by facing the Alvin Raiders in Alvin. The Southbelt Dolphins will play the East End Eagles at the East End facility, and the Ellington Rams will play the Pearland Patriots at the Pearland Dad's Club.

Rising Stars Track Club to nationals

The time has come for national qualifiers from the Rising Stars Track Club to head off to the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympics, which will play out July 31 through Aug. 5, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Camryn Dickson, 13, is eligible to compete in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter events as well as the triple jump for the team, and numerous others will make the trip to compete in multiple events.

Clear Brook, Dobie set workout start

The Clear Brook and Dobie football programs will be out in full force for the start of preseason football workouts at all grade and team levels. Clear Brook did not participate in spring workouts, so the Wolverines will be able to begin practices Monday, Aug. 7.

At Clear Brook from Aug. 1 through Aug. 3, all incoming sophomores through seniors will report for the first session at 6:20 a.m. with the workout set to go from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Players will then report back at 2:45 p.m., with the second workout to run from 3 to 5 p.m. On Friday, Aug. 4, the returning players will have just the first workout from 7 to 9:30 a.m., and an Aug. 5 workout will run from 8 to 10 a.m.

All incoming freshmen at Clear Brook must report at 8:50 a.m. on Aug. 7, with the workout to run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The freshman workout schedule will take a similar path for the remainder of the first week. There is also a Saturday, Aug. 5, session from 10 a.m. to noon. At Dobie, the Longhorns will begin preseason workouts Monday, Aug. 14, with the returning players (sophomores through seniors) reporting at 2:45 p.m. for 3 p.m. workouts. The Longhorns' incoming freshman players will then report at 5:30 p.m. during the first week of practices.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 27

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
9 a.m. - noon
Vacation Bible School - Join the adventure at Gulf Meadows Church for the Finding Jesus 2017 VBS, July 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Children will experience the adventures of a lifetime as they hear of Bible characters walk on water and cross the Red Sea and can draw closer to God in discovering the power of Jesus. The cost is \$45. Lunch is provided. Call the church at 713-987-9503 for more information and to sign up.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
6 - 8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.
6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. For details, call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.
6:30 p.m.
Well Spouse Support Group - meets the last Thursday at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, with the spouse of a chronically ill/disabled person,

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare is free. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For details, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
FRIDAY, JULY 28
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
9 a.m. - noon
Vacation Bible School - Join the adventure at Gulf Meadows Church for the Finding Jesus 2017 VBS, July 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Children will experience the adventures of a lifetime as they hear of Bible characters walk on water and cross the Red Sea and can draw closer to God in discovering the power of Jesus. The cost is \$45. Lunch is provided. Call the church at 713-987-9503 for more information and to sign up.
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, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets monthly, the last Friday, at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing prior to 7 p.m. meeting. No meeting in November/December. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JULY 29
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
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 details, call 281-484-9243.
SUNDAY, JULY 30
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Almeda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, JULY 31
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 back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.
Continued on Page 4B



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

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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COMPUTER
 COMPUTER REPAIR. South Belt Area. Free Estimates. New Computers For Sale. Deal with a Technician Not a Salesman. Call Harry 713-991-1355. 8-3

ESTATE SALE
 9923 SAGECOURT DR. Fri & Sat, July 28 & 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sun, July 30, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. ESTATE SALE. No children under 16 will be allowed. All items must be picked up by 6 p.m. on Sun. 7-27

GARAGE SALE
 11515 SAGEVALLEY in Sageglen. Sat, July 29, 7

a.m. - ?. Dishwasher, china cabinet, housewares. 7-27
 10506 KIRK HILL & OTHER HOMES ON THE BLOCK HAVING A TWO-DAY GARAGE SALE. Fri & Sat, July 28 & 29, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 7-27

HELP WANTED
 WE ARE LOOKING FOR a secretary. Opening for a full-time position, or 30-40 Hrs. Monday to Friday, with benefits, Gulfgate area, call: 713-828-9433. 8-3

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 FOR SALE: 55 GAL. ACRYLIC AQUARIUM. Comes with stand, pumps, all accessories, fish included. \$350 or better offer. Please call 281-703-3056. 7-27
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WANTED HOUSTON OILERS' PROGRAMS OR TEAM PHOTOS FROM 1974 - 1976. WOULD LIKE TO BUY OR MAKE COPY. PLEASE CALL 281-481-0389

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, JULY 31

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

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

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 3:15 p.m.

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

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. 6:30 p.m.

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

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

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

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 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 details. 9:30 a.m.

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 11:30 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 Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. Noon

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

Trailmixers - Meets the first Tuesday at Luby's, 11595 Fuqua. Former and current employees of Dobie High are welcome. 1:30 p.m.

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318. 6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program begins at 7 p.m. Visit the website www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild. 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 details, call 713-856-1611. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

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

details. 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, noon, Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. 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 Bon Appetit Cafe, 18027 Point Lookout Dr., 77058, monthly, first Wednesday, noon to 1:30 p.m. Professional speaker often present. For details, contact Christie O'Rear at christieorear@gmail.com. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 1 p.m.

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

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 7 p.m.

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243. **THURSDAY, AUGUST 3**

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

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

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

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

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

The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Alcohol problems? Meet Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

To submit items for the

CALENDAR

at the South Belt-Ellington Leader send an email to:

mynews@southbeltleader.com

Dobie High School

Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 4	at Clear Brook scrimm.	noon
Aug. 5	Quad-team scrimm.	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	Fort Bend Elkins	6 p.m.
Aug. 11	at Alvin	6 p.m.
Aug. 15	Baytown Sterling	6 p.m.
Aug. 17	at Dickinson tourn.	TBA
Aug. 18	Clear Brook	6 p.m.
Aug. 19	at Dickinson tourn.	TBA
Aug. 22	at Dickinson	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 25-27	at Rattler Invite (San Marcos)	TBA
Aug. 29	at Spring	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	Goose Creek Memorial (Phillips)	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 6	at Channelview	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	*Beaumont West Brook	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	*at South Houston	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	*Sam Rayburn	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	*at Pasadena	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	*Deer Park	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	*La Porte	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	*at Memorial	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	*at Beaumont West Brook	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	*South Houston	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	*at Sam Rayburn	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	*Pasadena	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	*at Deer Park	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	*at La Porte	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	*Memorial	6:30 p.m.

* District 22-6A matches

Brook High School

Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 4	Clear Brook scrimm.	noon
Aug. 5	at Clear Falls scrimm.	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	at St. Agnes	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 10-12	at Pearland tourn.	TBA
Aug. 15	at Houston Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 17	at Dickinson tourn.	TBA
Aug. 18	at Dobie	6 p.m.
Aug. 22	Dulles	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 25	Cy-Creek	6 p.m.
Aug. 29	at Bellaire	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	at Clear Creek ISD invit.	TBA
Sept. 1	Deer Park	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 2	at Clear Creek ISD invit.	TBA
Sept. 5	Ridge Point	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	*Clear Falls	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	*at Clear Creek	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	*at Friendswood	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	*Clear Lake	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	*at Clear Springs	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	*Alvin	6 p.m.
Sept. 30	*at Dickinson	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	*at Clear Falls	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	*Clear Creek	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	*Friendswood	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	*at Clear Lake	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	*Clear Springs	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	*at Alvin	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	*Dickinson	6:30 p.m.

* District 24-6A matches

Castaneda to jump-start career at Jarvis

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

JoJo Castaneda had all but two-plus varsity football games of his senior season robbed from him due to injury.

But rather than worrying about what might have been, Castaneda, a class of 2017 Dobie High School graduate, is focusing on the here and now.

His football career is in the rearview mirror, but Castaneda is getting a shot to continue his baseball career at Jarvis Christian

College, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics competitor out of Hawkins, Texas.

Cleared to play baseball at the six-month mark of his recovery from surgery, Castaneda also missed Dobie's varsity baseball season. A starter in left field for the majority of his junior season, Castaneda no doubt would have been a starter this spring. It just wasn't to be.

With Dobie playing at Morton Ranch last season, the third game of the var-

sity football season, Castaneda went down with basically the worst of the worst knee injuries.

A complete tear of his anterior and menial cruciate ligaments in addition to a torn meniscus combined to end Castaneda's high school career.

He was chosen as a member of Dobie's homecoming court last season, but attended in a suit and tie rather than his No. 22 Dobie football uniform. As they say, it is what it is.

Having rushed for just over 120 yards as a junior and having shown some pass catching ability, there's little doubt Castaneda could have added another dimension to the Longhorns' offense a season ago.

Instead, Castaneda lost the remainder of his high school senior season from a competitive standpoint, and the Longhorns lost a versatile performer.

"Actually, I feel blessed that I am able to continue my baseball career in college, and I want to take it as far as I can in the game. Jarvis doesn't have a football program, otherwise I might have been tempted to give that sport a shot. But I feel good, and I'm ready to get started."

Though Castaneda did miss Dobie's baseball season that ended in May, he has been on the field for much of the summer with his select team.

He's adjusted well in all phases of the game, and concerns himself with his healed knee only when the requisite brace slips or moves around.

"I've been sliding and diving all around the field," Castaneda said.

"I'm just doing whatever it takes. I've always given it 110 percent out there on the field no matter what the sport is, so I'll just keep working."

At Jarvis Christian College, Castaneda will reunite with class of 2017 South Houston High School graduate Josh Romero, who has also signed with the Bulldogs as a pitcher.

Castaneda and Romero were once teammates when they played with the Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League. Romero briefly attended Dobie before moving over to South Houston, becoming an all-district performer as a senior with the Trojans.

As for Castaneda, he knows it's time to step up his game as his collegiate career dawns in just a few shorts weeks with the start of the fall season at Jarvis.

In the classroom, Castaneda said he will begin taking premed classes with the idea of becoming a nurse one day. It's a career choice he hopes to postpone for as long as possible.

"I do want to let baseball take me as far as I can go," he said. "I'm going to work hard, let my abilities take over and hope for the best."

After the senior competitive season Castaneda endured, he'll have plenty of support along the way. He's getting a second chance to jump-start his baseball career, and that's all he really ever wanted.



A full-time varsity starter in the outfield and a major contributor in Dobie's varsity football offensive backfield as a junior, JoJo Castaneda had much of his senior athletic season taken away by injury, but the Class of 2017 Longhorn graduate has mended from a serious knee injury and is ready to re-start his baseball career at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas.

H.S. volleyball workouts start Aug. 1

Continued from Page 1B
fourth and final playoff seed. Champion Deer Park and second-place Beaumont West Brook were well out in front of the field, while Memorial was third. Dobie stood at 6-8 at season's end, then watched seven seniors walk across the stage at graduation.

But Dobie could be poised for a big jump

this season. Outside hitter Taylor Pleasants, now a junior, has been a varsity starter since her freshman season.

There are also key returnees Jacqueline Garcia, Yvonne Whaley, Jakara Henry, Victoria Onozie and Natasha Walters eligible to return.

Preseason workouts begin Tuesday, Aug. 1, and Dobie will scrimmage at

Clear Brook Aug. 4, beginning at noon.

Both programs will have another scrimmage Aug. 5, before the start of the regular season comes Aug. 8.

On opening night, Clear Brook will continue its long-standing duel with private school power St. Agnes, with St. Agnes hosting this season. Varsity play is at 6 p.m.

Clear Brook will also play in the 88-team John Turner Classic in Pearland Aug. 10-12.

Dobie will play host to Fort Bend Elkins Aug. 6, as varsity play is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., with subvarsity prior.

Volleyball Opening Night Tuesday, Aug. 8 Clear Brook Lady Wolverines at St. Agnes, 6 p.m.

Dobie Lady Longhorns host Elkins Knights, 6 p.m.



The Lady Longhorns have a solid group of returnees from the 2016, who contributed quite a bit and now must take the next step as Dobie looks to return to the postseason. Two of those players include Jacqueline Garcia (left) and Victoria Onozie.

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