

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, August 10, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 42, No. 28

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 monthly 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. Photos must be high resolution. Email to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

South Belt registration set

South Belt Elementary will hold registration for grade levels kindergarten through fourth grade on Thursday, Aug. 10, from noon to 7 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 11, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a Meet the Teacher Night the week before school starts. Pre-K and kindergarten students are invited on Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., with grades 1-4 on Thursday, Aug. 17 at the same time. For more information, call 713-740-5276.

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 Sept. 30. At least one alternate lane on the northbound and southbound main lanes of I-45 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 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Dec. 31.

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 begin sign-ups

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

Ellington e-recycling set

The city's monthly electronic recycling event is Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Ellington Recycling Center from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, phones, PDAs, cameras and more. For additional information, visit www.houston-solidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

CrossRoads hosts program

CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, will implement Mercy Hearts to minister to families with incarcerated members Monday, Aug. 14, and meet the second and fourth Mondays monthly from 6 to 8 p.m. The program will provide a complimentary meal, group Bible study and discussion. Child care will be provided. This is a confidential ministry and information will be treated accordingly.

Dobie holds parent night

Dobie will hold an orientation for parents of incoming freshmen and Meet the Longhorns Night on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium. Orientation will offer parents an opportunity to meet administrators and counselors who will be working with students this upcoming year. It will provide important information for parents about how this year will run, as officials await the opening of the new Dobie Ninth Grade Campus. If a student is part of the Connect or Early College program, there will be a brief meeting following the orientation. After that meeting, attendees are urged to join Meet the Longhorns Night, which will begin immediately following orientation. Meet the Longhorns Night is a community-wide spirit night put on by Dobie's Athletic Department. The football booster club will have food for purchase. There will be T-shirts to purchase from organizations and an opportunity to learn more the organizations.

PIP set for Aug. 15

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program meets Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the 1st floor staff meeting room. Guest speaker will be Officer Stephen Forrester from HPD's Bomb Squad. PIP consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods. For more information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1777.

Thompson holds meeting

Thompson Intermediate will hold a meeting for parents of incoming seventh-graders Tuesday, Aug. 15, in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Seventh-graders are also invited to Lion Camp Thursday, Aug. 17, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Drop-off is between 8 and 8:30 a.m. on the side porch.

PISD begins limited open enrollment

The Pasadena Independent School District will begin accepting enrollment applications for students who reside outside the boundaries of the school district on a tuition-free and limited basis through the district's first-ever Limited Open Enrollment (LOE) program.

LOE gives students in neighboring communities a chance to benefit from the various educational programs offered in the district.

"We have many innovative educational oppor-

tunities that assist all students in being successful," Dr. DeeAnn Powell, PISD superintendent said. "We are excited to provide this opportunity for children who reside outside our attendance boundaries and are interested in our outstanding instruction, innovative programs and caring teachers."

Powell said finances were also a contributing factor in the decision.

"Our ADA (average daily attendance) drives

our funding, and some of our schools have a lot of extra room," Powell said, citing Queens Intermediate as being such a campus.

The superintendent said the move will not require additional staff or any new portable buildings.

Powell stressed that the measure will not have a negative effect on existing students.

"First and foremost, we'll take care of our kids," Powell said.

Applications are based on a first-come, first-serve basis for students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12.

The forms are available on the district's website (www1.pasadenaisd.org) and at the PISD Administration Building, located at 1515 Cherrybrook Lane, Pasadena, TX 77502. The Administration Building is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parents must submit the application, along with all required documents for consideration. These include:

- A copy of the student's final report card
- Attendance report
- Conduct and discipline report
- If a student received Special Education services at their previous school, then the most recent ARD document is also required.

Each application will be evaluated by a panel of administrators, followed by a final review by the campus principal to determine acceptance into the LOE program. All applicants will receive a letter of notification regarding their child's acceptance status. Students who have been accepted will be able to attend a PISD school for the 2017-18 school year.

Schools that have reached maximum capacity for the 2017-18 school year, including Dobie High School and Bondy and Thompson intermediates, may not be accepting students through the LOE.

For more details about Limited Open Enrollment, visit the FAQs section of the LOE page of the Pasadena ISD website.

Ellis hosts Street Olympics



Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis (center) recently hosted the 31st annual Precinct 1 Street Olympics. Founded by Ellis' predecessor, the late El Franco Lee, the Street Olympics provide at-risk youth an opportunity to participate in athletic activities over the summer months. Pictured above with Ellis are Billy Burge of Ayrshire Corporation and Kaye Barbour of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and Sagemont Civic Club.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

HFD to provide free immunizations

The Houston Fire Department and the Care Van Program are once again teaming up to provide free immunizations at their annual Back-to-School Immunization Extravaganza, set to take place Thursday, Aug. 24, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the HFD Val Jahnke Training Facility, located at 8030 Braniff near Hobby Airport (near Houston Fire Station No. 61).

The free immunizations are available for uninsured or Medicaid children ages 4 to 18 years.

Children with CHIP or private insurance cannot be serviced.

Parents must accompany their children and provide their most current immunization records.

For additional information, including a map to the location, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/fire/2017-free-immunizations.pdf>.

Questions and concerns may be directed to HFD Public Affairs at 832-394-6636 or paul.box@houstontx.gov.

Area students return to school Aug. 21

While the heat index may suggest otherwise, summer is coming to an end, and South Belt students are set to return to school.

With the exception of incoming freshmen, students in the Pasadena Independent School District will return Monday, Aug. 21.

To familiarize ninth-grade students with high school campuses before halls become crowded, they will begin class the previous school day on Friday, Aug. 18.

This year will mark the opening of Dobie's new Ninth-Grade Center.

While the new campus was originally scheduled to open this August, it has since been pushed back until January, due to construction delays.

Pasadena ISD staff members will return to school Monday, Aug. 14. Staff development will take place from Monday, Aug. 14, through Thursday, Aug. 17, with work officially starting on Friday, Aug. 18.

Students within the Clear Creek Independent School District will also begin classes Monday, Aug. 21.

Debate heats up on city fire pay

By Jay Do

A petition started by a number of local firefighters of the Houston Fire Department has quickly heated up.

Passed by the Texas House in May of this year, Mayor Sylvester Turner's pension reform bill hopes to bring an end to the City of Houston's fiscal crisis, one that has spanned over 16 years. Even as he cheered the bill's passage, Turner warned that more work lay ahead, a clear nod to the series of referendums looming this fall.

Among those challenging the bill are members of the Houston Fire Department, who feel the bill unjustly strips them of their pensions, while not paying them at the same rate as other city agencies, namely, the Houston Police Department.

The disparity in pay between the two agencies has grown considerably over the course of the past several years. The starting pay of a firefighter cadet is \$28,900, while a police officer cadet can expect to start at \$42,000. This trend remains consistent with higher ranks in both departments, as firefighters are paid, on average, 60 percent less than police officers, when compared at a rank-by-rank basis. The firefighters have earned 3 percent pay raises since 2011, whereas the police officers have enjoyed pay raises of 26.4 percent since 2011. Furthermore, the Houston Fire Department operates with a \$458 million annual budget, compared to the \$775 million budget of the Houston Police Department.

Outraged by this staggering disparity, Houston firefighters have taken to the streets to take

matters out of politicians' hands, and into the hands of voters.

Appealing to Section 9.004 of the Texas Local Government Code in which the governing body of a municipality on its own motion may submit a proposed charter amendment to the municipality's qualified voters for their approval at an election, the department now petitions and aims to collect 21,000 signatures from Houston residents that are registered voters. If this quota is met, the proposed amendment will be brought to the ballot in November for voters to decide its fate.

Deemed the Houston Firefighter Charter Amendment, the charter aims to require parity in the compensation provided to Houston firefighters compared to the compensation provided to Houston police officers on a rank-by-rank basis.

In just a little over a week's time, the Houston Professional Firefighters Association collected over 52,000 signatures, 32,000 of which have been validated and submitted to the City of Houston to demand that the equal pay ballot initiative be put on the November 2017 ballot.

Leading the effort is Marty Lancton, president of the Houston Professional Firefighters Association.

Community support for the petition utterly surpassed all of Lancton's expectations.

"It is extremely humbling," said Lancton. "We know that the citizens of Houston have always supported the firefighters and the brave work of men and women who put their lives on the line every day. We were extremely humbled."

Continued on Page 4A

City holds Back 2 School Fest Aug. 12

The City of Houston will hold its seventh annual Mayor's Back 2 School Fest Saturday, Aug. 12, at the George R. Brown Convention Center, located at 1001 Avenida De Las Americas.

This event is designed to help economically disadvantaged Houston-area elementary school students and their families as they prepare to return to school. With the help of many great partners and sponsors, backpacks, school supplies,

health screenings, immunizations and social service resources are provided to thousands of students, free of charge.

The festival will feature free event parking and free rides courtesy of METRO.

Due to limited space and supplies, students must preregister to attend this event by visiting <http://www.houstontx.gov/btsf/registermystudent.html>.

Woman dies in motorcycle accident

Charges have been filed in a fatal motorcycle accident that took place early Friday, Aug. 4, at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Beamer.

According to Chief Deputy Jason Finnen from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office, the incident occurred on the westbound side around 1:30 a.m. Upon their arrival, deputies observed a yellow 2002 Harley Davidson motorcycle on its side lying near damaged crash barrels. Both the male driver and his wife had been ejected from the motorcycle during the accident and were transported to Clear Lake Regional Hospital by ambulance.

The male, identified as Joe Guerrero Jr., 38, of Friendswood, suffered significant injuries as a result of the crash. The female passenger, identified as Kimberly Guerrero, 39, was listed in critical condition upon arrival but died shortly after 7 a.m. as a result of her injuries.

Members of the Precinct 8 crash team conducted a thorough investigation in this case,

which among other things, included performing forensic reconstruction of the accident. In addition, evidence suggested Joe Guerrero was operating the motorcycle while intoxicated at the time of the crash. Charges of intoxication manslaughter were subsequently filed and Guerrero was taken into custody after being released from the hospital on Monday, Aug. 7. He is now being held in the Harris County Jail in lieu of a \$30,000 bond.

The intersection has long been a hot spot for vehicular accidents. Last year, a study conducted by Houston attorney Brian White determined the crossing was the 66th most dangerous intersection in the state and the most dangerous in the South Belt area.

According to data collected from the Texas Department of Transportation between 2012 and 2015, the intersection of Beltway 8 and Beamer was the site of 77 accidents, with a total of 66 injuries.

Sales tax holiday set for Aug. 11-13

Texas shoppers will get a break from state and local sales taxes on Friday, Aug. 11, through Sunday, Aug. 13, — the state's annual tax holiday.

"As the father of three young children, I know back-to-school expenses can really put a strain on family budgets this time of year," said Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar. "This is an opportunity for families to save some money and prepare for the start of the school year."

The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales tax, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.

A backpack is defined as a pack with straps one wears on the back. The exemption during the sales tax holiday includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags.

The exemption does not include items that are reasonably defined as luggage, briefcases, athletic/duffel/gym bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks.

This year, shoppers will save an estimated \$87 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday.

No exemption certificate is required — with one exception. If the purchaser is buying the supplies under a business account, the retailer must obtain an exemption certificate from the purchaser certifying that the items are purchased for use by an elementary or secondary school student.

The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999 and was expanded in 2009 to

include more items.

For a comprehensive list of tax-exempt items, visit www.texasastaxholiday.org.

Car flips at Fuqua, Sabo



A vehicle rolled over following a two-car accident at Fuqua and Sabo Road around 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 4. Despite the seriousness of the crash, witnesses said no one appeared to be seriously injured. Paramedics did, however, respond to the incident. At press time, it was unclear what caused the accident or if anyone was ticketed.

Photo by TLS Photography

CCISD sets 2017-2018 tax rate

Rates to remain unchanged, despite bond passage

The Clear Creek Independent School District's proposed tax rate for 2017-2018 will remain unchanged from the previous year, despite the recent passage of a major bond.

According to district officials, the rate will still include \$1.04 allocated for maintenance and operations and \$0.36 for interest and sinking.

During the 2017 Clear Creek ISD bond program election process, the district anticipated an increase of \$0.035 on the interest and sinking tax rate for the year to support the \$487 million bond

proposal, which voters approved this past May.

However, CCISD will not have to increase the tax rate this year to pay debt associated with the bond program due to rising property values in the school district.

The Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustees has scheduled a public hearing to discuss the 2017-2018 budget and proposed tax rate on Monday, Aug. 28, at 6 p.m. in the Board Room at the Education Support Center, located at 2425 E. Main St. in League City.

In My Opinion

King clarifies concept of sanctuary city

Today's world of 24-hour, partisan-slaved cable networks and an ideologically re-enforcing blogosphere is dominated by catch phrases that frequently create more obfuscation than illumination. The term "sanctuary city" is exactly such a catch phrase.

What does it really mean to be a "sanctuary city?" There are really only two public policy issues that are relevant to this issue.

The first issue relates to the procedures followed when a person is taken into custody. When that happens, most law enforcement agencies attempt to make some determination about the immigration status of the person.

Making that determination is not as straightforward as one may think. About 40% of the individuals in the country illegally came here under a valid visa that has expired. Those visas are frequently extended. Attempting to determine if a visa has been extended or not is not a simple matter. Similarly, under the Citizenship Act of 2000, if a child has one parent that is U.S. citizen, they are automatically eligible for citizenship under certain circumstances even if they were not born in the U.S. And, of course, under President Obama's executive order, persons here illegally, but brought here as children are not subject to deportation under certain circumstances. President Trump recently extended that executive order. The result is that, in many cases, you need an immigration lawyer to figure out if a person is in the country legally or not.

If it is determined that a person in custody is in the country illegally, that information is passed along to ICE. Federal law prohibits cities from banning this type of communication between their police departments and ICE.

In most cases ICE does nothing with this information because it does not have the resources to deport every person here illegally. Normally ICE focuses only on those with a criminal record. In that case, ICE may request that the city hold the person until ICE can pick them up. Interestingly, there is no requirement in federal law for the city to hold a person for ICE, but most do so voluntarily.

However, some cities, like Austin and San Francisco have refused to cooperate with ICE and detain prisoners in their custody. Some have attempted to parse the issue by holding only prisoners who have been arrested for a serious offense. SB4, the immigration law recently enacted by the Texas Legislature, requires cities to honor ICE detainer requests. It is hard for me to see the argument against this requirement. I am surprised federal law does not already require it. It is absurd for a city to release a person in custody that ICE has identified for deportation, requiring ICE to then track them back down.

Some have argued that ICE is targeting individuals that pose no real threat. I have seen any data on the type of crimes committed by those ICE is deporting, but it seems unlikely given their limited resources ICE is wasting its time with minor offenses. But regardless cities should not be in the business of second guessing ICE's determinations about who should be deported.

The second issue is more complicated and deals with the procedures for when a police officer can and should inquire about a person's immigration status. Many police departments, including Houston, have a policy that prohibits police officers from asking a person about their immigration status until that person is taken into custody. Interestingly, until a few years ago, the Texas Department of Public Safety had the same policy. SB4 prohibits cities from keeping its police officers from inquiring about a person's immigration status if that person is lawfully

"detained." "Detention" is different from being arrested. When a police officer pulls you over for a traffic violation, you have been detained. So, this controversy is really about whether police officers are going to inquire about immigration status when a person is stopped for an otherwise legitimate reason, like a taillight being out.

The problem arises in trying to determine which individuals who have been detained, i.e., stopped, will be asked about their immigration status. The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that police cannot discriminate during traffic stops based on race or nationality. And, in fact, SB4 prohibits a police officer from using "race, color, religion, language or national origin" as a basis for asking about a person's immigration status.

So exactly how is a police officer going to decide who to ask about their immigration status without considering the person's nationality or language? Anytime an officer asks about immigration status, he or she is opening themselves up to a civil rights lawsuit.

And there is another problem. Let's assume that an officer stops a person for speeding and during the stop that person admits that they are not in the country legally. What then?

If the officer arrests the person for being in the country illegally, there is literally nothing to do with the person. The County jail will not take them. ICE will not take them. In fact, there is a complicated legal issue as to whether local police officers even have the lawful Constitutional authority to make arrests under federal immigration law in the first place. So, what is the point of asking?

The bottom line is that local police are not going to be asking detainees about their immigration status except in very extraordinary circumstances, SB4 notwithstanding.

Immigrate advocates argue police officers asking about immigration status will chill immigrants from reporting crimes and being willing to be witnesses in criminal cases. SB4 attempts to deal with that issue by prohibiting officers from asking crime victims or witnesses about their immigration status.

There have been several reports that the number of crimes being reported by the immigrant community has declined recently. Opponents of SB4 have attributed this decline to the bill's passage which seems pretty far-fetched, considering it has not even gone into effect. I have no doubt there is a decline, but that is more likely caused by the overall tone of the national immigration debate, not one specific bill.

The bottom line is that SB4 is going to have little effect either way on the immigration challenges we are facing. Texas, like other jurisdictions, has entered the immigration fray out of frustration with Congress' inability to act. There is no question that allowing millions to enter the country illegally over the last three decades has caused many problems: accidents with uninsured motorists, criminal gangs slipping into the country with immigrants coming here to work, overcrowded schools and public hospitals... the list goes on and on. Congress' failure to enact comprehensive reform is an inexcusable dereliction of their duty.

The principal elements for such reform are clear and supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans. Secure the border. Provide a procedure for those here illegally, but are contributing and not criminals, to get legal or get out. Create an enforceable temporary worker program. Set reasonable annual immigration quotas. It is not rocket science.

But until Congress acts expect more SB4s, more litigation, more hardship for US citizens forced to deal with the problems caused by illegal immigration, more uncertainty for immigrants, and more acrimony over a problem that is 100% self-inflicted by our worthless, do-nothing Congress.

Bill King

Publisher's Opinion

Some wise words worth thinking about

Since about two years ago a lot of the news I have received about friends has not been good.

Since that time, I and many of you have lost some very good friends.

Some were sudden deaths, some came quickly and were unexpected.

All make me very sad.

A good friend of mine named Elmo sent me the following and I thought it really was one of the best words of wisdom piece which has come through my email. Hope you enjoy it, and if so, pass it on.

The author of the following account is not known. It was found in the billfold of coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, longtime head coach of the University of Alabama football team.

The Magic Bank Account

Imagine that you had won the following prize in a contest:

Each morning your bank would deposit it \$86,400 in your private account for your use.

However, this prize has a set of rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.

2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.

3. You may only spend it.

4. Each morning, upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.

5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, "Game over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You

would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

Actually, this game is real. Shocked? Yes!

Each of us is already a winner of this prize. We just can't seem to see it.

The prize is time.

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.

2. When we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.

3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.

4. Yesterday is forever gone.

5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time without warning.

So, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending....

"Don't complain about growing old!"

Some people don't get the privilege!

—Marie Flickinger
Publisher

GCEFCU donates 3,000 books

On July 14, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union hosted a free New Teacher Book Fair.

All first year teachers from the Houston area were invited to pick up books to go toward their new classroom libraries. The event was such a success, that GCEFCU decided to host a second book fair, but this time for all teachers.

The second book fair took place on July 21 and sold out within 20 minutes of the credit union opening their doors. Instead of ending the

book fair early, representatives from the credit union drove to Half Price Books in Pearland and purchased additional books for the remainder of the event.

The events were shared more than 300 times on social media with hundreds of comments from appreciative teachers.

"This was a wonderful event! Thank you so much for the opportunity to bring the joy of reading to our students this year! I look forward to your next book fair." — Shannan Rose, Facebook

"Thank you soooooo much for thinking about educators!! I also enjoyed spinning the wheel for a free gift!!!" — Rose Bogard, Facebook

At the end of the day, more than 3,000 books were given out to educators from all over the Houston area, including Pasadena, Clear Creek, Alvin, Pearland, Spring, Aldine, Humble, Crosby and other school districts. Gulf Coast Educators FCU plans to host another event in the future, but does not have a selected date yet.

Cruz applauds Right to Try Act

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz applauded the Senate's passage of the Right to Try Act of 2017 on Aug. 3.

The bill allows for the unrestricted manufacturing, distribution, prescribing, and dispensing of experimental drugs, biological products and medical devices that are intended to treat a patient who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Cruz is an original co-sponsor.

"Many Americans who receive the terrible diagnosis of a terminal illness often hope to pursue innovative medical care and treatments not available in the United States," Cruz said.

"I am proud to support this bipartisan effort to offer those diagnosed with a terminal illness the opportunity to receive experimental and possibly life-saving treatment without the need to travel abroad.

"Approval of innovative medicines is often hampered by federal bureaucracy, and those suffering from terminal illnesses often do not have time to wait. I look forward to working with my colleagues to offer significantly more access to treatment, medicines and potential cures to terminal illnesses and other diseases."

Cruz has long advocated reforms to the Food and Drug Administration:

In July 2015, Cruz chaired a hearing titled, "Unlocking Cures for America's Most Deadly Diseases," in the Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness.

In October 2015, Cruz penned an op-ed for the National Review, advocating the FDA reform its approval process, and champion cures.

In December 2015, Cruz introduced the RE-SULT Act, which would amend the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to allow for reciprocal approval of drugs.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

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

Saturday, Aug. 12, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Nutrition and Flea Prevention for your Dog* is presented by Renee Harbaugh, Petco dog trainer, who will give information on good nutrition for a dog, including the right amount and kinds of food to feed and keeping a dog free of fleas. Advance registration is required.

Monday-Friday, Aug. 14 to Aug. 18, 2-3:30 p.m. STEAM Camp — STEAM Adventurers. Teens, ages 12 to 15, who are excited about science, meet in the library community room to work on three separate projects involving science, technology, math, and some artistic talent. Preregistration is required. Registration forms are available at the reference desk.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2:30 p.m. Computer class: Files & Folders. This class focuses on providing tips to organize your computer's hard drive. Learn to name, move, delete and rename files and folders in Windows 7. Tips learned may also be useful in Windows Vista or Windows 8. Register in advance as space is limited to eight.

Wednesday Aug. 16, 5 p.m. Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) time: Introduction to 3D Printing is presented for ages 8 and older. Meet in the library community room to learn the basics of design and the applications of 3D printing.

Wednesday Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m. *Social Security 101*. Andy Hardwick, public affairs specialist for the Social Security Administration, presents information about retirement eligibility dates; factors affecting retirement benefits; qualifications for disability, survivors and spousal benefits; how to get the most from benefits; the future of Social Security and more. Preregistration is required.

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:

Saturday, Aug. 12, 10:15 a.m. Spanish computer class

Saturday, Aug. 12, 3 p.m. Citizenship class

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 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.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Deaths

Sherry Kay Munn



Sherry Kay Munn, 69, died on Aug. 1, 2017, at Southeast Memorial Hospital, surrounded by those who loved her. She was a longtime South Belt resident. Friends and family knew her as a selfless person, always putting the needs of others ahead of her own. Family meant the world to her. Munn was born Oct. 18, 1947, in Vinton, Iowa, to the late Charles and Mary (Higden) Lint. She was married June 22, 1968, to Carl (Butch) Munn in Vinton, Iowa, who survives her in Houston.

Sherry is also survived by her son Scott Munn and wife Lesley of Lexington, Massachusetts; grandsons Tyler and Spencer Munn; and sisters Bobbi Williams and Alec Fitzhenry; and great-grandchildren Aaron Travis Mata and Lyric Dewayne Altenbaugh.

She enjoyed solitude and took pleasure in working in her garden.

Munn was a member of the South Belt Church and was a constant caregiver. Her greatest pride was seeing her husband, son, daughter-in-law and grandsons prosper. The loss of her love and af-

fection leaves much sorrow behind.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m. at Niday Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer, with Chaplin Ron Burton officiating. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

Carmen Ramos Quintero



Carmen Ramos Quintero, a South Belt resident, died on July 20, 2017, in Houston. Quintero was born March 20, 1935, in El Campo, Texas.

Quintero is survived by sister Felipa Garcia; children Arthur Mata and wife Dora, Demas Mata Jr., Robert R. Mata and Joyce Mata; grandchildren Arthur Mata Jr., Jacob Mata and wife Martha, Isaiah Mata, Rodney Altenbaugh and wife Haley, Britany Altenbaugh and Alec Fitzhenry; and great-grandchildren Aaron Travis Mata and Lyric Dewayne Altenbaugh.

She enjoyed solitude and took pleasure in working in her garden.

Quintero will be laid to rest next to her grandson Travis Mata in Yorktown, Texas.

Ernest "Ernie" Pytka



Ernest "Ernie" Pytka, 79, a South Belt resident, died at his home with loving family around him on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017.

He was born on Nov. 9, 1937, to Ignace and Josephine Pytka in Central Falls, Rhode Island. He was the eldest of 10 children.

He joined the U.S. Air Force at a young age and after many travels he was stationed at Ellington Air Force Base where he met the love of his life Judy.

They were married for 51 years and have two sons, Michael and Bobby Pytka, and one grandson Morgan Pytka. Ernie spent 20 years in the Air Force and 19 years working for Powell Electric before retiring in 1999.

Ernie loved life, family, and good friends of which he had many.

He also loved to travel and visit the casinos.

There will be a celebration of life service held for Ernie on Aug. 12 at Niday Funeral Home at 12440 Beamer at 11 a.m.

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.

Black belts teach self-defense in free courses

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, located at 11507 Hughes, on Fridays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The courses are taught by experienced martial arts instructors who have earned a black belt degree. For more information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Master Gardener events set

On Thursday, Aug. 17, *Fall Vegetables* will be presented at 6:30 p.m. at Freeman Branch Library, located at 16616 Diana Lane. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. For more information, visit <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf> or call 713-274-0950.

On Monday Aug. 21, Harris County Master Gardener Precinct 2 will hold Open Garden day from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Master Gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Israeli Folk Dancing dates set

The dancing continues. What was meant to last only for four to five months is now in its eighth year, as the participants do not want to stop dancing. The sessions are not built on one another, so those missing a few sessions or just beginning will catch up quickly.

The dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Session dates this month are Aug. 14, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28. Upcoming sessions in September are Sept. 11, Sept. 18 and Sept. 25. There will be no session on Labor Day, Sept. 4.

The cost for CSH members is \$4 per session or \$35 for 10 sessions. The cost for nonmembers is \$5 per session or \$45 for 10 sessions. Dancing is an excellent cardiovascular exercise while having fun, and everyone is welcome to join the group.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at cs@shaarhashalom.org.

Olson encourages student participation in challenge

Rep. Pete Olson invites students to enter the Congressional App Challenge. Participants will create and exhibit a software application for mobile, tablet or computer devices. This competition is designed to challenge students' creativity and encourage their participation in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields.

"In the growing field of technology, innovative computer applications are at the core of our future," Olson said. "This competition is a great opportunity to encourage the

next generation of students to get involved in critical STEM fields, while allowing them to learn, create and present an app that is entirely theirs. I'm excited to join my colleagues this year in hosting this notable competition and look forward to seeing the talent and creativity of TX-22's youth at work."

High school students who live in TX-22 are eligible to apply.

Students may submit an app individually or as part of a team.

The winning app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building and on two websites. First place winner or team will be invited to Washington, for a #HouseOfCode event and meet Olson. The winner or winning team from each district will also split \$50,000 in Amazon Web Services credits.

The competition will run through Nov. 1. Winners will be chosen and announced in December.

Information on the challenge and important dates can be found at www.congressionalappchallenge.us.

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

Kids' Backporch Productions Pearland Youth Theatre presents
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7 p.m. showing August 17th - 19th
2:30 p.m. showing August 19th & 20th

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San Jacinto College South, 13735 Beamer Rd, Houston 77089.

Tickets: \$15 adults; \$12 seniors 65+; \$9 youth (children and students).
Reserved seating. Tickets can be purchased at kidsbackporch.ticketleap.com
or at the door (limited seating).

For information, visit www.kidsbackporchproductions.org.

This is KBP's 64th production! Giving Kids a
"little taste of Broadway" since 2005!

Tran appreciates Berreth going above, beyond

Kelly Tran (right), one of the Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Dianne Berreth, a chemistry instructor.

Tran has done volunteer work for blood drives, marathons and festivals. She has volunteered for the Houston Food Bank, the local elementary and middle schools, Pasadena and Pearland events, the Athletic Performance Lab Clinic, a Mar-



tyr church, Key Club, HOSA and NHS events.

Tran plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin and medical school, majoring in biochemistry. She hopes to one day become an optometrist.

Tran commented about Berreth, "I am blessed to have met so many exceptional teachers throughout my life. However, this one teacher has impacted me to such significant degree; I will always remember her forever once I graduate. I value all the times she has stayed after school for hours beyond her paycheck to ensure my success. Nonetheless, she is one of the utmost outstanding teachers, but to me she is more than just a teacher."

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 Dobie 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 Pasadena Memorial and South Houston high schools.

CCISD playground replacement program, phase one underway

By Aug. 13, the first phase of new playground installations will be complete in Clear Creek Independent School District. That means 11 campuses across the district will have new playground equipment for students by the start of the new school year.

Those campuses include: Armand Bayou Elementary, Clear Lake City Elementary, Falcon Pass Elementary, Hyde Elementary, Landolt Elementary, North Pointe Elementary, Parr Elementary, Ross Elementary, Ward Elementary, Wedgewood Elementary and Whitcomb Elementary.

Growing playground safety concerns led the district to hire a certified playground safety inspector to review each campus' playground. The need for both repairs and new replacement playgrounds throughout CCISD was discovered.

Through a playground replacement and repair program which will extend over the next several years, all the district's playgrounds will be raised to the same standards, which have been set by a district playground committee. Those standards include making all playgrounds compliant with the Americans Disabilities Act,

adding swings, slides and other engaging, interactive play equipment. Work will continue during the school year, so precautions are in place to minimize impact on campus activities and maintain a safe environment for students.

Replacing and improving CCISD's playgrounds are just a small portion of the \$20.8 million in safety improvements district officials are planning to make since voters approved the \$487 million bond in May 2017.

SJC offers TPEG funded computer training

Scholarship-funded computer training is available through the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development division, thanks to the Texas Public Education Grant.

The Microsoft Office 2016/Digital Literacy course, valued at \$1,230, offers two schedule options, day and evening. The day class will be held on the San Jacinto College Central cam-

Houston honors UHCL's retiring president

Commending him for more than 38 years of service to the university, community and state, City of Houston officials declared July 12 as "Dr. William A. Staples Day."

In August, Staples steps down as the university's fourth president, a position he held for more than 22 years. Under his

leadership, UHCL launched its health care administration programs in the Texas Medical Center in 2004, launched the university's first doctoral program in 2007, opened the Pearland campus in 2010 and expanded to a four-year university in 2014. The proclamation lauded Staples' public

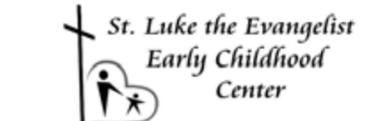
service awards from NASA, YMCA, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, the Clear Creek Education Foundation and others. His contributions to higher education were noted, including service on the board of trustees for the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Col-

leges and Schools and a number of executive committees of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities.

Staples steps down, honored



District E Council Member Dave Martin (right) presented Dr. William Staples with a framed copy of the proclamation, signed by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.



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Dobie Lariaettes tie Most Original



The Dobie Lariaettes and the FFA tied for first place for Most Original noncommercial float in the annual Fourth of July parade. Shown above, left to right are, (first row) Roxanne Hernandez, Itzamarie Corral, Gabriela Ramirez, Zoe Vela, Adela Alanis, Aleida Gonzalez, Jazmin Guerrero, Gisselle Guerra, Xochitl Romero, (second row) Catherine Fuentes, Maria Pedroza, Alexis Chiccas, Andy Del Villar, Maritza Hernandez, Marissa Rodgers, (third row) Corina Banda, Olivia Garza, Gabri-

ella Gonzalez, Toria Gonzalez, Faith Renteria, Marissa Enriquez, Sara Cortez, Alessandra Bellini, Ashley Sorto, Bianca Perez, (fourth row) Angela Vu, Jocelyn Garcia, Kayla Wilson, Hallie Nelms, Yanelly Garza, Thy Huynh, Tamecia Anderson, Kiareliz Ramos, Charliz Tamayo, Osayi Edigin, Tammy Dang, Brooke Morales, Evamaria Perla, Granyeli Feliciano, Lauren De Ramus, Aliyah Salas, Darianna Glenn, Sidney Torres, Brianna Gomez, Lian Vii and Jasmine Olivares. Photo by Maria Ramirez

Varvoutis named Region 4 Secondary Teacher of Year

South Houston High School choir teacher Brenda Varvoutis was named the Region 4 Secondary Teacher of the Year during an awards ceremony. She will now advance as a finalist for the 2017 Texas Teacher of the Year honor.

Varvoutis, a music educator for 31 years, described the honor as music to her ears.

"I was extremely surprised," Varvoutis said. "I'm thrilled that it puts our name out there for South Houston High School and for Pasadena ISD. It's rare for this to happen to fine arts teachers, so this is for all the fine arts teachers who work hard each day."

Varvoutis began her career in Pasadena Independent School District in 1989 as a music instructor at Freeman Elementary. She continued to teach choir at South Houston Intermediate from 1990 to 1993, Bondy Intermediate from 1993 to 2003, Memorial High School from 2003 to 2006, and Queens Intermediate from 2006 to 2007.

Since 2007, Varvoutis has served the SHHS Mighty Trojans as the choral director. Under her instruction, the choir and its members have earned multiple award designations. The awards for 2016-2017 include:

- UIL Sweepstakes for the varsity mixed choir;
- UIL Sweepstakes for the varsity women's choir; and
- Five Tony award-style Tommy Tune nominations, including Best Chorus and

Best Costume Design for the school's production of "Once Upon a Mattress."

Two students were also named to the Texas All-State Choir.

In May, Varvoutis was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year for Pasadena ISD during the district's first Teacher of the Year celebration.

Varvoutis is well known in the Houston area for her talent as a music instructor. Since 2010, she has served students as an artistic director for the Bay Area Youth Singers. She is the music director for Lake-side Lutheran Church and serves as an adjudicator for UIL contests and choral festivals.

She holds a bachelor of music degree from the University of Houston and a performance certificate in flute from the International Academy in Nice, France.

She is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Choral Director Association and the American Choral Directors Association.

Varvoutis was accompanied to the event by some of her most staunch supporters, including Dr. DeeAnn Powell, PISD superintendent; Andrea Wenke, South Houston High School principal; Linda Fletcher, PISD fine arts director; and SHHS assistant principal Paula Ballew.

She credits this group among many others for helping her earn this recognition.

"I want to thank my students for this honor because

without this would not have been possible."

Varvoutis said she has placed the award on her piano.

Varvoutis honored



Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena Independent School District superintendent (left), is shown with Brenda Varvoutis, South Houston High School choir teacher, who was named Region 4 Secondary Teacher of the Year.



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Retired teachers meet

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its first meeting of the 2017-2018 season on Tuesday, Sept. 12. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The speaker will be Ronnie Yung, TSTA legislative consultant. He will provide an update on Teacher Retirement System Healthcare. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. Coffee will be served. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. The meeting will conclude with a potluck salad and sandwich luncheon. Members should bring a dish of choice to share at the gathering.

All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$45.

Bay Singles dance set

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance is Aug. 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, Post # 6378, 5204 State Highway 3, Dickinson.

Guests are encouraged to bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers.

For more information, call 832-483-3257 or 281-484-4762.

UHCL sets calendar

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has announced its upcoming calendar of events.

Registration ongoing for foreign language classes
Registration for classes in the Foreign Language and English Enhancement Program at University of Houston-Clear Lake is still open.

Learn practical, conversational French, German, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Italian or English enhancement in a small group in an informal, friendly setting.

Classes meet for 90 minutes once a week for six weeks, beginning Aug. 28. The cost is \$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/english-enhancement.

CEE - Strategic Utilization of Leadership Skills

Participants in this course as part of the Management and Leadership Certificate Program will learn characteristics of good leadership and apply new strategies to better lead teams and organizations.

The course will be Aug. 11 to 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aspiring or newly promoted supervisors are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$850. For more information, call 281-283-3120 or visit www.uhcl.edu/center-executive-education/center-services.

Help preserve the natural beauty of UH-Clear Lake

It only takes a few hours a week to help maintain the natural beauty of the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus, nestled in a 524-acre wildlife and nature preserve. Volunteers for Habitat Work Days meet each Tuesday morning in August with the Environmental Institute of Houston.

The meetings will be at 9 a.m. on Aug. 15, 22 and 29 at the North Office Annex, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Volunteers will assist in weeding, mulching, planting native plants, clearing paths, trimming trees, cleaning Potter's Pond and other conservation tasks.

No experience is necessary. It's a perfect activity for students and groups seeking community-service hours. Master Naturalists can earn volunteer time.

For information, call 281-283-3950, email eih@uhcl.edu or visit www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/education/school-habitats/work-days.

Cyber Security Institute - Cybersecurity for Everyday Users
Gain relevant and practical tips for raising the security of digital assets in this seminar from UH-Clear Lake's Cyber Security Institute.

The course will be on Aug. 16, at 11 a.m. at the Delta Building, room 201.

Participants will learn how to secure a web browser, protect passwords and more. The cost of the seminar is \$29.

For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/cyber-security-institute or call 281-283-3808.

Fall 2017 Open Registration
Register for fall 2017 classes at UH-Clear Lake by 5 p.m. on Aug. 25, with late registration available Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 for an additional fee. Fall classes begin Aug. 28. To learn more, visit www.uhcl.edu/admissions.

Larriette Car Wash set
The J. Frank Dobie Larriettes will hold a car wash Saturday, Aug. 19 in the Snowie's parking lot at 10902 Scarsdale Blvd., in Houston.

Tickets are \$5 presale and can be purchased from any current Larriette. Driveups are welcome and donations accepted.

New Directions sets meetings
New Directions is a singles group for those age 50 or older. Meetings are on the first and third Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway.

There will be a potluck dinner and may include guest speakers and/or group activities. For more information, call Margarita 832-715-9658.

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Over The Back Fence by Alexis

JANNIE ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Jannie Scarberry** who celebrates a birthday Aug. 13, from her family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REBECCA
Birthday wishes are sent to **Rebecca Lilley**, director of physician resources at Memorial Hermann Southeast, South Belt Chamber board member and active community member, who celebrates a birthday Aug. 11, from friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 10 through Aug. 16.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a chorus of a happy birthday song to **Martha Mercado** Aug. 12. Aug. 15 is the day to celebrate a birthday for **Rebecca Garcia**.

Burnett Elementary
Send birthday greetings Aug. 10 to **David Paige** and **Kevin Schulba**. Enjoy a slice of double-layer birthday cake with **Marisol Ramirez** and **Griselda Robles** Aug. 12.

Bush Elementary
Light the candles on a birthday cake for **Ruben Caro** on Aug. 11.

Frazier Elementary
Enjoy a slice of a birthday cake with **Jennifer Umana** and **Kristi Vela** Aug. 14.

Meador Elementary
Marking a birthday Aug. 11 is **Rebecca Rosette**. Birthday greetings are in order for **Beatriz Cienega** on Aug. 16.

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the candles for **Salma Mezou** Aug. 10. The day for a party for **Maria Calvillo** is Aug. 12.

Melillo Middle School
Kayren Mingus marks a birthday Aug. 12. Aug. 13 is the day for a double-layer cake for **Patricia Concha** and **Debra Yocum**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 10 to **Kayla Joos**.

Thompson Intermediate
On Aug. 11, enjoy a slice of birthday cake with **Travis Teichelman**. On Aug. 13, blow out the birthday candles for **Cliff Neel**. Happy birthday wishes are sent Aug. 15 to **Daniel Sawyer**.

Dobie High
Sing two choruses of a birthday song Aug. 10 to **Yvette Giron**, **Kim Rinehart** and **Charles Thomas**. The day for a party for **Steve Cassidy** is Aug. 12. **Bernardina Meza** enjoys a birthday Aug. 13. **Bryan Due** marks a birthday Aug. 14.

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

Thursday, Aug. 10: **Alex Limon, Zerick Guinn** and **Keith Black**; Friday, Aug. 11: **Ann Yenee Ly-Penn, Martin Zuber, Felicia Minjares, Jill Hansen, Daryl Shaulis, Hugo Gomez, Shannon Burke** and **Sonja Terry**; Saturday, Aug. 12: **Leslie Rojas, Angela Brock, Ronald Philpott, Linda Wilson, Denise Renee Gomez, Maricela Lopez** and **Mike Millikin**; Sunday, Aug. 13: **Nicole Foster, Carlos Gomez, Shawna Merchant, Lisa Iguess, Anthony Dittrich, Erica Sadler, Erica Garcia-SanMiguel, Jannie Scarberry, Rita Garcia-Olivares, Dinah Palmer** and **Bill Weatherford**; Monday, Aug. 14: **Roger Woest, Richard Schreier, Montoya Wiltner, Connie Alberti, Richard Golenko** and **Pete Ortiz**; Tuesday, Aug. 15: **Janna Hippius, Hector Pombo** and **Peggy Cox Hughes**; and Wednesday, Aug. 16: **Nicole Love, Brandon Gray, Larry Bozka, Cynthia Weaver, Brandon Gray, Yvonne Molina** and **Irl Ellis**.

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

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Fight with City Hall heats up for Houston Fire Department

Continued from Page 1A
The outpour of support and the response was something that took my breath away. We are truly grateful for all the citizens and all the support that we have gotten."

Although the signature collection process of the petition proved to be a resounding success, the department may now face a more difficult fight against the bureaucratic process, as the signatures must now be validated by the city secretary.

"We were told by some high level officials in the city government that our petition was being slow-footed," said Lancon. "They're intentionally stalling the process in counting the signatures and verifying them so that it can be on the November ballot. That's very disheartening to hear, seeing as though we've played by the rules. The firefighters got out and got the support of the community. We've done everything the right way. It's very disheartening to hear that politics is getting played with democracy. The ability to petition one's government should be something in which games are never played with. We're simply looking forward to the ability for this to be counted in a manner that is within the means of the law."

In an effort to aid with the validation of the signatures collected and expedite the process, the department has offered to pay for any financial burden that the city might face in covering the cost of overtime for more individuals to assist the city secretary.

The fight with City Hall has already started, with Turner releasing a statement in response to the initiative and appearing on the radio station 104.1 KRBE's Roula and Ryan Show, emphasizing his staunch opposition to the petition and highlighting the argument that the demands of the firefighters are simply not feasible without significant tax increases.

"Firefighters deserve a pay raise," said Turner. "They initially demanded 21 percent, then 17 percent. The city, hoping to end the impasse with the firefighters, offered 9.5 percent, which will stretch the city's financial capability. The association turned down that offer and continues to demand what the city cannot pay. Now the association is asking voters to sign a petition calling for parity between police and fire, but their structures and benefits are very different. The number of days they work per month, command staff, overtime pay and benefits are not the same and have differed over the last 15 years. What they are asking voters to sign is ill-defined and making the most simplistic assumptions could cost the city more than \$40 million. That would force the city to schedule layoffs in all department areas or further delay maintenance on buildings and purchase schedules for much needed equipment. The city appreciates and respects every fire fighter, but the demands of their union leadership will financially cripple the

city, absent removing the revenue cap and a further tax increase."

The mayor's remarks, Lancon believes, are an insult to the department.

"I take issue with the word 'demands'. The mayor is very calculated in the words that he uses, and I find it very offensive. The ability to negotiate and collectively bargain our pay is something that the citizens of this city has voted on. We love our brothers and sisters in the other city municipalities and the Police Department, but the Fire Department went out and got the citizens to vote on that ability. I take very strict issue with the mayor's continued

use of the word 'demand,' because it is a negotiation."

At its own expense, the Houston Fire Department has hired experts from three independent agencies to form a budgetary analysis and review, gathering data over the course of the last eight months to present to the city in its negotiations.

Turner was absent at all of these negotiations. "The mayor did not show up to one of the negotiations," said Lancon. "Had he shown up to one of the negotiations, he would have known that the firefighters and the team of experts that they paid for did a budgetary analysis and review."

"The Houston Fire Department took in \$112 million in revenue, all of which went into the general fund. The Police Department brought in \$61 million in revenue, \$28 million was put into their own piggy bank to be utilized by the department's director. The Fire Department does not get a dime, while going up in revenue every year. I do not agree with the mayor's narrative, because we have given him empirical, objective data. If he had shown up to the negotiations, maybe he might have learned something."

An 18-year veteran firefighter, Lancon knows firsthand the detrimental effects that the disparity between the Houston Fire and the Houston Police Departments have had on firefighters.

"We have had firefighters who have worked over 30 and 40 years, far beyond the time that these politicians are in and out of office," said Lancon. "Morale is worse than it has ever been in the history of the Fire Department. The mayor has been very cute in his comments, but I don't find this to be a laughing matter. It is absolutely crit-

ical, and our firefighters are at a breaking point. This is not about anything other than the firefighters taking care of themselves and their families."

The Houston Fire Department fully endorsed and advocated for Mayor Turner's election in the 2016 mayoral election.

In light of recent events, Lancon cannot help but feel betrayed by the mayor.

"The mayor talks publicly about the fact that he's been a friend of the department for 26 years," said Lancon. "I've told the mayor that we've also been a friend of his for 26 years. It's sad to see that he has gone against his word and ruined a 26 year relationship with the firefighters. All we have asked for is a pass the address the issues that have not been focused on in years. We have offered to work with the city, but the city continues to do whatever it wants, regardless of the men and women who continually put their lives on the line. We don't go anywhere unless the citizens call us. When our call volumes continue to go up, and three independent agencies have reported to the city that our department is understaffed, lacking resources and underpaid, the fact that the city continues to ignore it shows that there is a fundamental issue with reality and truth."

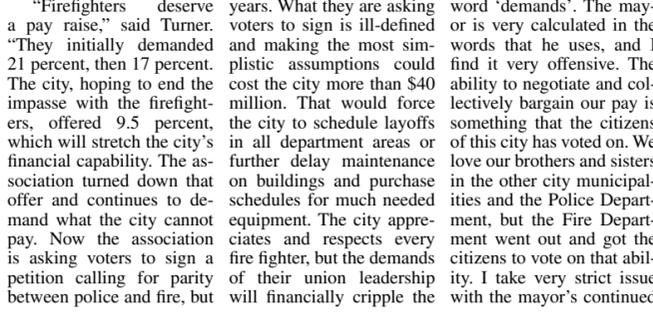
Whatever the result from City Hall, Lancon is confident that the Houston firefighters will continue fighting for what they believe is right.

"The Houston firefighters put 1,200 boots on the ground when the mayoral race was happening, because we believed in Mayor Turner," said Lancon. "We know what it takes to get out and put a grassroots effort to the community. We have been fully transparent, and we are at such a breaking point that their families and themselves will all get out in order to educate the voters and get the vote out. What is being told by City Hall is disingenuous at best and lies at worst. We have done nothing but try to work with the city, we've provided the data and the analysis to show what we're doing and what's fair."

For the outpouring support of the community in their fight, thus far, Lancon is grateful, and remains hopeful for the fate of the charter in the November election.

"The response we have gotten from our business community and our citizens from all areas of the city has been incredible," said Lancon. "We are still getting petitions in the mail everyday. We know that times are difficult. Even if the politicians fail to keep their word, the citizens of Houston have always been there for us. We love and appreciate it, and we don't take that for granted. We are confident that if the politicians fail to serve us, the citizens will continue to do so."

Houston voters have shown strong support for the firefighter pay parity ballot initiative. **Marty Lancon**, president of the Houston Professional Firefighters Association, is shown above reviewing some of the many signed petitions and notes of support mailed to the L-341 Hall by voters.



Houston voters have shown strong support for the firefighter pay parity ballot initiative. Marty Lancon, president of the Houston Professional Firefighters Association, is shown above reviewing some of the many signed petitions and notes of support mailed to the L-341 Hall by voters.

Photo submitted

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
Joe Paulson, of Pupil Personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District estimated an approximate 700 student increase for local schools.

The Dobie baseball team, sponsored by South Houston American Legion Post 490, represented Division II in the State finals of American Legion ball.

35 years ago (1982)
Law enforcement officials had their hands full in the South Belt area with Houston Police investigating a fight at the Jack in the Box, Harris County Deputies investigating the circumstances of a kidnapping and a 19-year-old burglar caught selling stolen goods.

The South Belt area had a new softball field which when completed, could rival any park in the city. John Niday of Niday Funeral Home hoped to build what he described as a "softball country club" on Hall Road if the response was positive for it.

A faulty hot water heater was believed to have caused a fire in the second story of a residence on Sagecrest.

30 years ago (1987)
The first two non-governmental entities to lease Ellington Field made their presence known. Houston City Council approved a 40-year lease agreement with Grumman Corporation. United Parcel Service signed a letter of agreement with the city's Aviation Department to move into the hangar at the U.S. Coast Guard vacated.

15 years ago (2002)
The dropout rate of students in Pasadena Independent School District and at J. Frank Dobie High School reached an all-time low. State records showed a dropout rate of 0.9 percent among PISD students in grades seven through 12. Only 0.8 percent of Dobie students dropped out of school, compared to 2.2 percent the year before.

Retired Dobie teacher Jon C. Rascoe was awarded the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas

30-year Tenure Award at the VATAT conference held in Corpus Christi.

10 years ago (2007)
National Night Out was celebrated. The annual event is aimed at preventing crime by encouraging neighbors to communicate with each other and local law enforcement groups.

Frazier Elementary was one of only two Pasadena Independent School District schools to earn an exemplary status by the Texas Education Agency. To earn exemplary status, all student groups in a school must have 90 percent or more of its students pass each portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test.

Two arrests were made in connection with the killing of Gary Wayne Johnson. The suspects, Israel Antonio Torres and Servando Romero Morales, were charged with capital murder.

More than \$20,000 was raised for the Ray Joseph Hutchison scholarship to benefit Clear Creek Independent School District students. Hutchison, a 2001 Clear Creek graduate, was killed in action on Dec. 7, 2003.

5 years ago (2012)
Local Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn filed for a recount in the controversial primary runoff that saw his opponent, Chris Diaz, winning the Democratic constable nomination by 16 votes, despite earlier reports that

showed Guinn to have a substantial lead.

1 year ago (2016)
The Pasadena Independent School District officially broke ground on the new Dobie Ninth Grade campus Tuesday, Aug. 9. To be located at the corner of Fuqua and Monroe, the campus will alleviate overcrowding at the area high school. The campus was scheduled to open in August 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year.

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SJC concludes summer camps

Hundreds of young minds were introduced to college life through 20 camps hosted this summer at San Jacinto College. From maritime and energy to robotics, science, music and athletics, campers were kept busy every week of the summer months.

It was a time of career exploration for Jennifer Del Angel, a Channelview High School senior, who has spent the last three summers participating in the college's maritime summer camp. She's become so proficient in the maritime activities that she's often called upon to demonstrate techniques for other campers.

"Three years ago, my mom found out about this camp and asked if I wanted to try it," said Del Angel, who also recruited her sister to follow in her footsteps in attending the camp.

"I loved it, the water and nature, everything. I learned a lot about the transporta-

tion and cargo jobs, different types of vessels and their functions," said Del Angel.

Although she's still on the fence about her future career choice, Del Angel said the camp has helped her make one important decision.

"Even though I have not decided on maritime, I have decided to attend college after graduating from high school," Del Angel said.

For Yolanda Tijerina of North Shore, the STEM Survivor summer camp at San Jacinto College provided her two sons with supplemental education for the summer.

"This was a great opportunity for my sons," said Tijerina. "This was their first summer camp, and they came home excited to share what they learned each day."

For a glimpse of the many summer camps hosted at San Jacinto College during summer 2017, visit the college's summer camp Flickr album online.

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Williams starts Blessing Bag Ministry for Girl Scouts Gold Award

By Jay Do
Macy Kate Williams' has recently launched an ambitious youth ministry that aims to serve the less fortunate and give back to the homeless community. A lifelong resident of the South Belt community, Williams recently graduated with the 2017 class from J. Frank Dobie High School, and will be attending Texas A&M University in the fall to earn a degree in allied health with which she hopes to one day serve others as a nurse. Inspired by her faith and encouraged by a childhood memory, Williams felt a calling to give back to those in her community who need it the most. "I really like helping other people," said Williams. "I've always enjoyed giving back to the less fortunate others who are going through a difficult time, even if I may be struggling.

Once when I was younger, I was on a trip with my troop, and I saw a homeless man asking for money. I asked my troop leader if it was okay to give him some money, and I was told no to, because we didn't know where that money would be going towards. That was a really big wake up call for me. I started to buy food to give to them every chance that I got. I feel like it's my calling as a child of God to give to others, people who may not even ask for help but still need it. I really want to be an impact to others. I think it's a really good characteristic to be altruistic, so I try my best to give back." A member of Girl Scouts Troop 8015, Williams founded the ministry, aptly named the Blessing Bag Ministry, as part of her Gold Award Project. Based out of the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church, the

Blessing Bag Ministry serves the less fortunate by allowing community members to donate directly to the cause, rather than simply handing out money to panhandlers. "I wanted to create a nonprofit organization that would be sustainable, something that would last even after I complete the project," said Williams. "I did the Blessing Bag Ministry at St. Luke's. It's a ministry designed to help the less fortunate and the homeless community in our area. I've seen it done at other churches, so I thought it was a really good idea, especially because we have a lot of panhandlers here. I know people struggle with the concept of giving money to these individuals, because they aren't sure what it's going to be used for. The Blessing Bag Ministry is designed to let people make more of a difference and an

impact by directly donating necessities to the less fortunate." Williams looked to other parishioners of her congregation to aid in her endeavor. "At my church, I have a collection box in the narthex and people would donate nonperishable items like water, canned goods, granola bars and other individually packaged snacks," said Williams. "At the end of each month, the youth ministry gets together and distributes all those items into individual bags and places a note card with a blessing on it, hence the Blessing Bag Ministry." While the Blessing Bag Ministry was marked by an overwhelming amount of support from the community, a series of ordinances passed by the Houston City Council last April quickly stunted its initial success. Marked with the promise of achieving meaningful

change over spare change, the two ordinances placed restrictions on panhandling within city limits and prohibited the distribution of food to panhandlers. "Originally, my plan was that once the bags were assembled, they would go back into the narthex (back of the church) and people would be able to pick them up from there," said Williams. "Due to the ordinances that were passed, we were not able to do that." The effects of the ordinances proved to be detrimental to the Blessing Bag Ministry's efforts, and was utterly discouraging to Williams. With the help of her fellow parishioners, however, Williams managed to salvage the project. "The community that has really supported me through this has been my church," said Williams. "It's been pretty tough, because the ordinances that were passed were really devastating to me. We were finishing up the project and I was writing up my final report when I got the letter that said we could not continue what we were doing, and that really freaked me out. It was really discouraging, and I stopped working on it for a while, but my troop leader encouraged me to get back on it and finish it, even if I needed to change the project. I ended up going a different route to complete it. That was the most discouraging part of the whole project, but my church community and my youth minister was very helpful and very understanding."

Goods collected by the Blessing Bag Ministry is now given to another youth ministry in order to be delivered to individuals in other parts of Houston, areas that are permitted under the ordinances. "I linked up with another ministry, and they are distributing the food that we

Williams blesses homeless



Macy Kate Williams (right), a recent graduate of Dobie High School and Texas A&M freshman, has launched the Blessing Bag Ministry in an effort to combat homelessness. Shown with Williams is ministry leader CJ McCarren.

Sherman helped Nguyen expand imagination

Theresa Nguyen (right), one of the Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Carroll Sherman, an art instructor. Nguyen plans to attend the University of Houston and work on becoming a veterinarian. Nguyen commented about Sherman, "Carroll Sherman has helped me expand my imagination by allowing me to work with mediums of art that I may have never experienced otherwise. This gave me the opportunities to step out of my comfort zone to try new things. She has also provided me a place to stay where I could think, relax, or work on schoolwork, which allows me to be less stressful and focus better on my academics. Overall, she has improved my social skills and ability to take a step forward and try." 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.



PISD, CCISD free, reduced meal application available

Pasadena Independent School District and Clear Creek Independent School District families can apply for free and reduced-price meals. Applications are made online at www.schoolunichapp.com or in person at Child Nutrition Services, 1515 Cherrybrook Lane. All applications are available in English and Spanish. PISD/CCISD income Families may apply whose household income is at or below income eligibility levels. PISD/CCISD categorical or automatic eligibility A household receiving aid through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations is eligible. PISD/CCISD participant A child who is a foster child, homeless, a runaway, migrant, displaced by a declared disaster or enrolled in Head Start or Even Start may participate. PISD/CCISD requirements For households that meet the income requirements for free or reduced-price meals, an adult must submit: Names of all members of the household; Amount, frequency and source of current income for each member of the household;

Last four digits of the Social Security number of the signing household member, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"; and Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct. An adult in the household must mail the application to Mary Harryman, director of Child Nutrition, 1515 Cherrybrook, Pasadena, TX 77502. PISD/CCISD certified Child Nutrition Services is working with local agencies to identify all children who are eligible. Child Nutrition Services will notify the households of these children to inform them that they do not need to complete an application. PISD contact information Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should contact Blanca Banda, secretary for Child Nutrition, at 713-740-0146. Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Blanca Banda, secretary of child nutrition at 713-740-0146. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school of-

officials at any time during the school year. Eligibility for PISD Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Blanca Banda, secretary of Child Nutrition, will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the reviewing official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Households who wish to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either in person or in writing to John Piscacek, associate superintendent of finance at 713-740-0146. CCISD Applications are available online at www.schoolcafe.com. To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the online application. For more information about the program, call 281-284-0712. Rebecca Coronado, Free & Reduced Clerk, will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling may discuss the decision on an informal basis at 281-284-0712. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally by calling 281-284-0700 or in writing to Child Nutrition Hearing Official, 2145 West NASA Blvd, Webster, TX 77598. Eligibility for CCISD According to Fred Walker, director of Child Nutrition Service, the district will use guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine eligibility for participation. Reduced price meals will cost \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. Unexpected circumstances PISD/CCISD If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the income eligibility guidelines. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior or civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information should contact the Agency

where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax: 202-690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Tran states Olivares a positive teacher

Hogan Tran (left), one of the South Houston High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Jorge Olivares, an AP chemistry instructor. Tran volunteered with H.O.S.T.S. and also participated in the math club as well as the National Honor Society. Tran plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin and wants to major in computer programming.

Tran commented about Olivares, "Mr. Olivares is like a proton; he is always positive. When he teaches chemistry, Mr. Olivares is not boron. He creates a lot of reactions, in and out of the lab. All jokes aside, I did not know how I felt about chemistry. It was going to be just another science class, another bump up in my GPA. However, with such a spontaneous and cheerful teacher like Mr. Olivares, I grew to love chemistry inside out. In conclusion, I rate Mr. Olivares as a 10...on the pH scale because he is basically the best teacher ever." 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.



SJC sets calendar

Fall registration Registration is open for the fall term. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 28. The payment deadline is Thursday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. Registration remains open after the payment deadline; however, all financial obligations must be paid on the day of registration. For more information visit www.sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration. **Volleyball Schedule** The 2017 San Jacinto College volleyball schedule is online at sanjacsports.com. Upcoming matches include: Scrimmage vs. St. Thomas University, Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 3 p.m., located at Central campus, Anders Gymnasium, C.18. **University of Houston Downtown Recruiter Visit** The University of Houston Downtown will have a transfer recruiter at the San Jacinto College North campus on Monday, Aug. 14 and Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the lobby of building N.6. **UHCL Transfer Recruiter Visit** The University of Houston-Clear Lake will have a transfer recruiter at the San Jacinto College Central campus

on Wednesday, Aug.16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the new University Center, building C-1.129. **Community Education Center** The San Jacinto College Community Education Center, located on the College's Central campus in room C-1.108, will host the following August workshops that are free and open to the public. To register, email communityeducation@sjcd.edu. Friday, Aug. 11, Stretching and Relaxation, 11 a.m. to noon. Monday, Aug. 14, ESL Information Session, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, Glimpse of China: Tour China in one hour featuring places and festivals, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, CPD Career Coaching, 3 to 5 p.m. **San Jac Foundation Golf Tournament** The 22nd Annual San Jacinto College Foundation Golf Tournament will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the Golf Club of Houston. Sponsorship opportunities are available and team registration is open. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/foundation or call 281-998-6104.

Free, reduced meal guidelines set

Family Size	Annually		Monthly		Twice per Month		Every Two Weeks		Weekly	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$15,678	\$22,311	\$1,307	\$1,860	\$654	\$930	\$603	\$859	\$302	\$430
2	\$21,112	\$30,044	\$1,760	\$2,504	\$880	\$1,252	\$812	\$1,156	\$406	\$578
3	\$26,546	\$37,777	\$2,213	\$3,149	\$1,107	\$1,575	\$1,021	\$1,453	\$511	\$727
4	\$31,980	\$45,510	\$2,665	\$3,793	\$1,333	\$1,897	\$1,230	\$1,751	\$615	\$876
5	\$37,414	\$53,243	\$3,118	\$4,437	\$1,559	\$2,219	\$1,439	\$2,048	\$720	\$1,024
6	\$42,848	\$60,976	\$3,571	\$5,082	\$1,786	\$2,541	\$1,648	\$2,346	\$824	\$1,173
7	\$48,282	\$68,709	\$4,024	\$5,726	\$2,012	\$2,863	\$1,857	\$2,643	\$929	\$1,322
8	\$53,716	\$76,442	\$4,477	\$6,371	\$2,239	\$3,186	\$2,066	\$2,941	\$1,033	\$1,471
9	\$59,150	\$84,175	\$4,930	\$7,016	\$2,466	\$3,509	\$2,275	\$3,239	\$1,138	\$1,620
10	\$64,584	\$91,908	\$5,383	\$7,661	\$2,693	\$3,832	\$2,484	\$3,537	\$1,243	\$1,769
11	\$70,018	\$99,641	\$5,836	\$8,306	\$2,920	\$4,155	\$2,693	\$3,835	\$1,348	\$1,918
12	\$75,452	\$107,374	\$6,289	\$8,951	\$3,147	\$4,478	\$2,902	\$4,133	\$1,453	\$2,067
For each additional family member add:										
	+\$5,434	+\$7,733	+\$453	+\$645	+\$227	+\$323	+\$209	+\$298	+\$105	+\$149

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BHI Parent Night Aug. 10

Parents of students expecting to compete in football at Beverly Hills Intermediate are encouraged to attend a mandatory Parent Meeting Thursday, Aug. 10, at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

BHI coaching staff members will be on hand to discuss program expectations and rules, paperwork requirements, practice and game scheduling and more.

The staff will also be looking for volunteers to

Continued on Page 2B

FALL BASEBALL - League Play
Register online NOW, **AGES 7 through 18**
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For openers, Elkins nips Dobie

Dobie extended its opening night varsity volleyball match to four games before falling to visiting Elkins, while Clear Brook began what it hopes is a memorable 2017 campaign with a straight-sets sweep over St. Agnes.

At Dobie, the Lady Longhorns went back and forth with Elkins throughout the night, but the Lady Knights were able to close out the tight games to win the match in four.

In the end, Elkins claimed a 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-21 victory, but Dobie, which played a strong third game to get

back into the match, also had its chances in the fourth and final game.

The first game was close early on until Elkins used a 6-1 run to open a 22-15 edge.

Down 24-19, Dobie got a monster kill from junior hitter Taylor Pleasants, but Elkins' Marissa Bjournjeld ended the game with a kill of her own.

Dobie then trailed the second game 23-19 but rallied to tie things at 23-23 before Elkins again finished out the game.

Down 2-0 in the match, the Lady Longhorns were easily at their best in the third game, although they

had to hold on tight to avoid the shutout. With Pleasants again bombing away from the outside and middle, Dobie built a 21-11 lead and looked to be in control.

But Elkins responded with five straight points, including a block of a Pleasants kill try to extend the game.

Dobie went up 24-18 but then saw Elkins score four more straight points. At 24-22, the Lady Longhorns used a service return error to win the game.

In the final game, Elkins again closed out the key points late in the action to win.

Pleasants led the way for Dobie with 21 kills, and Madison Taylor had three service aces in her

Continued on Page 3B



At right, Dobie varsity volleyball libero Yvonne Whaley passes the ball during a rally against Elkins on opening night Aug. 8 at Dobie. The Lady Longhorns avoided a sweep with a third-game win, but Elkins claimed the match 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-21. Photo by John Bechtle

JFD swim starts

Dobie head swimming/aquatics coach Bradley Nguyen is set to welcome both the school's returning and newcomer swimmers to the pool for the start of the season on Monday, Aug. 14, at the Beverly Hills Intermediate pool. For more details, call Nguyen at 281-773-1712.

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Meet the Horns vendors sought

Dobie High School athletics boosters are seeking vendors to take part in the school's third annual Meet the Longhorns Night that will highlight the school's athletes and their coaching staffs.

Meet the Longhorn Night is set for Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 6 to 8

p.m. in the school cafeteria. Vendors may reserve spots at \$75 each for the event, which gives the holder the opportunity to vend food items, crafts, etc. For more details or to reserve a spot for the big event, direct email to info@dfboosterclub@gmail.com.

Longhorns to hit practice field Aug. 14

The clock is about to begin ticking as Dobie joins the vast majority of the state's other high school football programs in preparing for the season.

The Longhorns will debut in shorts, T-shirts and

helmets beginning Monday, Aug. 14, with returning players reporting at 2:30 p.m., with the freshmen to follow at 6 p.m.

The first allowable day for workouts in pads is Thursday, Aug. 17. Dobie will go head-to-head

with one another on the practice field before a Friday, Aug. 25 scrimmage against Clear Brook at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium. The Longhorns will begin the subvarsity regular season Thursday, Aug. 31 against Summer

Creek, and the varsity team will play Saturday, Sept. 2, against Summer Creek at Turner Stadium in Humble. This season, like any, is big for the Dobie program. With just over two weeks to prepare, every day will be key.

Rising Stars tracksters medal at JOs

The chase for gold came up a bit short, but there was plenty of success to celebrate as the South-Belt based Rising Stars Track Club returned from a trip to the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympic Games in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Held on the Eastern Michigan University campus over six days, the JOs featured regional qualifiers from across the coun-

ty. Once again, the Rising Stars Track Club established itself as one of the finest in the mix.

The Rising Stars excelled in a number of events, in particular the racewalk category.

Christian Ross, a 14-year-old competitor who won a national title in 2016, was second this time around in the 3,000-meter racewalk, posting a time of 17 minutes, 54.73 sec-

onds. Kevin Schweikert of Columbia, Missouri, was the national champion in a time of 17:19.66.

Fellow Rising Star Luis Figueroa, competing in the boys' 17-18-year-old division, also pushed for a national title, winding up third in the 3,000-meter racewalk. Figueroa, a longtime member of the Rising Stars, finished at 18:45.51.

Izard Evans of the

SBTC also scored a medal in the boys' 7-year-old division, coming in at a time

Continued on Page 2B

Lady Wolverines to be tested

Its opening night victory against St. Agnes in the rearview mirror with a win, the Clear Brook varsity girls' volleyball now faces several big tests at the Adidas John Turner Invitational in Pearland.

On Aug. 10, the opening day of the event, the Lady Wolverines will face No. 3 overall tournament seed Southlake Carroll at 11:30 a.m. and then go up against Smithson Valley at 3:15 p.m. and Pasadena Memorial at 4:30 p.m., all in Pearland High School's

No. 3 gymnasium in a best-of-three sets format. Trophy round play gets underway Aug. 11, and the various bracket championships will be decided Aug. 12.

Clear Brook, which will challenge Class 6A state semifinalist Southlake Carroll, will also battle Region III champion Clear Creek in District 24-6A play, setting up the Lady Wolverines to play one of the region's toughest schedules this season.

Of note, the John Turn-

er Invitational will again be one of the nation's most competitive tournaments.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association has revealed its preseason state poll in the 6A ranks. Of those teams, just two - Oak Ridge and El Paso Coronado - will not be in attendance.

Those state-ranked programs en route to Pearland include two-time defending 6A state champion Hebron, Clear Creek, San Antonio Reagan, Austin Westlake, Southlake Carroll, The Woodlands, San Antonio Churchill, San Antonio Brandeis, George Ranch and Keller. For more tournament details, see www.johnturnerclas.sic.

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★NEW! **SAGEMEADOW** - Great 3-3-5-1 Formal dining, ceramic tile and wood floors, extended driveway and additional 2 car detached garage and/or workshop! #PIK
★NEW! **SAGEMEADOW** - 4-2-2, both formals, den with fireplace, beautiful floors, fresh paint! #SKG

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Area registration, notes

Shiflett sells season tickets

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. weekdays 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.

SBGSA slates registration

The South Belt Girls Softball Association has announced registration dates for the fall season, including Saturdays, August 12, Aug. 19 and Aug. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursday, August 24 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the softball fields at El Franco Lee Park. The registration fee is \$60 per player.

Dolphins seek players

The Dolphins still need a few sophomore and peewee division players to fill out the respective rosters. The sophomore division is for 9-year-old players, and the peewee division is for 5-to-6-year-old players. For more information or to register, call Dolphins' athletic director Raoul Garza at 281-818-7880.

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100 Club of Pearland sets golf tournament

The 100 Club of Pearland is busy making plans for its 2017 fundraising golf tournament, coming to Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland Monday, Sept. 11.

Individuals may register for play at \$140 per player, and foursome teams are encouraged to register at \$525 per foursome.

The registration fee includes the cost of golf, green fee, a cart, range balls, dinner, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

There is a variety of sponsorship opportunities available, including platinum at \$800, gold at \$300, silver at \$200 and tent sponsor at \$300, which includes a table and a bring-your-own tent space.

For more information or to register for the tournament, visit www.100ClubofPearland.org.

Parent meeting at BHI highlights FB players

Continued from Page 1B were on hand at the Dobie High School Head Start Camp, and Arroyo was pleased with the turnout of more than 80 current and future Bear players. Now, the time is also here to hit the football field.

"I couldn't be more excited," said Arroyo, who is back for his second stint at Beverly Hills. "If you give the kids expectations, they'll meet them and then exceed them."

"It's been a very good summer, but now we are just two weeks away from getting started. It's a great time of the year. We will hit the field and figure out who fits where. We are all excited."

Sports Calendar

FOOTBALL

Friday, Aug. 18
Brook hosts Texas City scrimmage, Challenger, 4:00

Friday, Aug. 25
Brook at Dobie scrimmage, PISD Veterans, 5:00

Thursday, Aug. 31
Brook JV Red at Bellaire, Brook, 5:30
Brook JV Black at Bellaire, Brook, 4:00
Dobie JV Orange hosts Summer Creek, Aux., 6:30
Dobie JV White hosts Summer Creek, Aux., 4:30
Brook freshman Black hosts Bellaire, Brook, 4:00
Brook freshman Red hosts Bellaire, Brook, 5:30
Dobie freshman White at Summer Creek, 4:30

Saturday, Sept. 2
Dobie varsity at Summer Creek, Turner, 6:00
Brook varsity hosts Bellaire, Challenger, 6:00

TENNIS

Thursday, Aug. 10
Dobie varsity at S.A. Clark, 9:30 a.m.
Dobie varsity at S.A. Harlan, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 11
Dobie varsity at S.A. Reagan, 8:30 a.m.
Dobie varsity at Converse Judson, 5:00

Tuesday, Aug. 15
Dobie varsity hosts Katy, Dobie, 3:00

Wednesday, Aug. 16
Dobie varsity at George Ranch, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 17
Dobie varsity hosts Clear Falls, 9 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 18
Dobie varsity hosts Clear Creek, 2:30

VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Aug. 10
Brook varsity at Pearland invite, TBA
Dobie JV at Pasadena ISD tourn., Rayburn, TBA

Friday, Aug. 11
Brook varsity at Pearland invite, TBA
Dobie varsity at Alvin, 6:00
Dobie JV at Alvin, 5:00
Dobie freshman Orange at Alvin, 4:00
Dobie freshman White at Alvin, 4:00

Saturday, Aug. 12
Brook varsity at Pearland invite, TBA
Dobie freshman White hosts tourn., Dobie, 8 a.m.
Brook freshman B at Dobie tourn., 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 15
Dobie varsity hosts Baytown Sterling, 6:00
Brook varsity hosts Houston Memorial, 5:30
Brook JV hosts Houston Memorial, 4:30
Dobie JV hosts Baytown Sterling, 5:00
Brook freshman A hosts Houston Memorial, 4:30
Brook freshman B hosts Houston Memorial, 5:30
Dobie freshman Orange hosts Baytown Sterling, 4:00

Thursday, Aug. 17
Dobie varsity at Dickinson tourn., TBA
Dobie freshman Orange at Pasadena (HS) tourn., TBA

Friday, Aug. 18
Dobie freshman Orange hosts Clear Brook, 4:00
Dobie freshman White hosts Clear Brook, 4:00
Dobie JV hosts Clear Brook, 5:00
Dobie varsity hosts Clear Brook, 6:00

Saturday, Aug. 19
Dobie varsity at Dickinson tourn., TBA

Rising Stars Track Club scores medals at AAU nationals



The Rising Stars' Christian Ross once again proved to be one of the nation's top competitors in the 3,000-meter racewalk event. The 14-year-old athlete was second in the event this season with a time of 17 minutes, 54.73 seconds. In 2016, Ross won a national championship in the 3,000-meter event.



Izard Evans of the Rising Stars Track Club was all smiles after he placed third for a bronze medal in the boys' 1,500-meter run in the 7-year-old age division. Izard posted a time of 5 minutes, 28.57 seconds to claim his top-three finish in the event.



San Jacinto College freshman forward Heiko Leinweber (7) had 10 goals and nine assists in 2016, finishing as the team's second-leading scorer. The Coyotes played in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I National Championships, reaching the semifinal round.

Continued from Page 1B of 5:28.57 for fifth place overall in the 1,500-meter run.

The duo of Sydney and Shelby Devereaux raced in the 17-18-year-old girls' 1,500-meter run. Sydney Devereaux finished at 4:56.91 for third place in the event, and Shelby Devereaux's time of 5:13.81 was 11th overall.

And there was the very busy Camryn Dickson, who qualified for four different events at nationals. Dickson, competing in the girls' 13-year-old division, ran a personal best of 58.04 seconds in the semifinals of the 400-meter dash, then took seventh nationally in the final with a clocking of 58.66.

Dickson scored another medal in the triple jump, clearing 34 feet, 2 inches

for eighth place. Dickson was also 10th nationally in the 200-meter dash at 25.83, and her time of 12.78 in the 100-meter dash was 16th in the nation.

Elsewhere at the national meet, Sydney Devereaux was consistent in other events. At 2:18.31, she placed 11th in the 800-meter run.

Shelby Devereaux was 21st in the same age group with a time of 2:25.40 in that 800-meter run.

Chardel Terrell, competing in the girls' 11-year-old division, completed the 1,500-meter run in a time of 5:26.75 for 16th place, and her clocking of 2:38.40 at the 800-meter distance placed her 36th overall.

Rising Stars' triple jumper Briana Haywood

placed 33rd in the triple jump with a top effort of 29' 1/2" in the girls' 14 age group.

Shelby Devereaux, taking part in another field event, placed 18th in the javelin with a throw of 80'3."

Cameron Devereaux of the boys' 15-16 age group was 28th in the 800-meter run after clocking in at 2:03.21. Devereaux also competed in the 400-meter event, clocking in at 54.14 for 64th place.

Devereaux was also involved in the fun in the javelin as his throw of 128'1" was 14th-best in his age division.

The Rising Stars' Devin Caballero was 17th in the 3,200-meter run within the boys' 14 age group with a time of 10:16.94.

Jason Doswell of the

boys' 12-year-old age division was involved in a pair of field events, including the shot put (16th at 33'3") and the discus (23rd at 70'5").

The Rising Stars' Deon Brown placed 14th with a throw of 126'8" in the boys' 17-18-year-old division, and his best throw of 41'1" gave him 22nd in the shot put event.

Michael Ramirez Hidalgo, competing in the boys' 15-16 age division, placed 17th with a throw of 124'4" in the javelin.

At 19'8 3/4," Evans came away with 24th place in the 7-year-old shot put event.

In the turbo javelin category, the Stars' Trevor Doswell was 28th with a throw of 50'7" in the boys' 9-year-old age group to round things out.



Sydney Devereaux was one of the top performers for the Rising Stars at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games. In the girls' 15-to-16-year-old age division, Devereaux posted a time of 4 minutes, 56.91 seconds to claim third place and a bronze medal in the 1,500-meter run. Devereaux also excelled in other events at nationals.



Qualifying for four different events at nationals, Camryn Dickson of the Rising Stars once again turned in a terrific effort at the 2017 finale. She was seventh nationally in the 400-meter dash at 58.66 seconds, and her leap of 34 feet, 2 inches was good enough for eighth place in the girls' 13-year-old triple jump event.

Submitted photos

San Jac soccer reveals 2017 schedule

San Jacinto College men's soccer head coach Ian Spooner has announced the team's 2017 schedule.

San Jac will play 10 games at home, seven of which will be Region XIV matches, and two matchups against in-state rival and 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I national champion Tyler Junior College.

"As it is every year, our schedule will once again be tough" said Spooner, who is entering his sixth season as the San Jac head coach and his 10th overall with the program.

"Last year, we made it to the national semifinals, and this year we want to get a step further and win a national title. I know we have the talent to once again take us far this season."

San Jac will open the 2017 season ranked 15th in the United States Coaches Association Division I men's soccer rankings.

The initial NJCAA national rankings will debut the first week of Septem-

ber. SJC will open its season on the road against University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio on Sunday, Aug. 13.

The team's first home game will be against the University of St. Thomas on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

San Jac will then face Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College on Friday, Aug. 25 in Tyler, before facing Richland College on Saturday, Sept. 2, and Western Texas College on Tuesday, Sept. 5, to round out the non-conference portion of the season.

The Region XIV season begins on the road Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8 and 9, at Northeast Texas Community College and Paris Junior College; and the following weekend, Sept. 15 and 16 at Coastal Bend College and Laredo College.

San Jac then comes home for five of its next six games, beginning with Tyler Junior College on Friday, Sept. 22.

Other home games during that period include Jacksonville Col-

Coyotes have high hopes

Season Opener
San Jacinto College
at Incarnate Word
Sunday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.
Home Opener
SJC hosts St. Thomas
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m.

lege (Sept. 23), an alumni game on Sept. 30, Paris Junior College (Oct. 5), and Northeast Texas Community College (Oct. 6).

San Jac rounds out the month of October on the road at Richland College and Jacksonville College on Oct. 9 and 10, respectively. Laredo College and Coastal Bend College visit San Jac on Oct. 13 and 15, respectively; and San Jac faces Tyler Junior College in Tyler on Oct. 17.

The final home game of the season will be against Angelina College on Friday, Oct. 20.

The Region XIV Tournament will take place

Oct. 25 and 28, and the district championship will be Nov. 4-6.

The National Junior College Athletic Association national championship is scheduled for Nov. 13-18 in Phoenix, Arizona.

San Jac completed the 2016 season with a third-place finish at the NJCAA national championship.

The return trip to nationals was the seventh for the San Jacinto College men's soccer program and second for Spooner.

For more about the various San Jacinto College athletic programs, visit www.sanjacsports.com.

Team tennis up first

Dobie netters open 2017 season

Perhaps this is the year the Dobie varsity team tennis squad gives defending District 22-6A champion Deer Park a big push for first place. Maybe this is the season the Longhorns break through as a group and advance to the Region III tournament for the first time in several seasons. Regardless, the Dobie bunch has hit the court and started its season. Many things will play out, and head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. likes his core group. Things just got under way Aug. 8 as the Longhorns went against Dawson in a morning session of matches and then came back to face Willis in the afternoon.

It's only the beginning of what will be a busy fall team tennis season for the team but it's the Longhorn way of doing things. And with some adjustments made to the singles lineup on both sides and the need for some of those doubles teams to take shape, the tough schedule won't hurt at all. "In most seasons, we have been in a position where only match experience is going to help us the most," Moreno said. "We know Leilani (Vargas) is our No. 1 girls' singles player and has been in the program for four years. "We have experience in some of the other spots as well, but we still have to make a final determination

on some of those doubles combinations. We also need to decide who plays together in mixed doubles." Moreno figured to open the regular season with the majority of the boys' ladder in place from 2016-2017. That changed when No. 1 singles' player Ricky Perez elected not to play during his upcoming senior year. But Dobie has dealt with both boys' and girls' players suddenly deciding not to compete, and will do so again this season. Players such as "Big" Tommy Nguyen, Alex Cuaping and "Little" Tommy Nguyen will be asked to step up a notch.

The transition may take some adjusting, especially give the strength of Dobie's schedule, but life goes on. The focus entering the current season revolves around finding the proper doubles combinations. Dobie has almost always relied on wins in doubles for overall team tennis success, and 2017 will be no different. With apologies to players like the Nguyens and Cuaping, Dobie is likely to run up against several of the area's top super-championship level players, particularly in nondistrict play. The focus is on getting better each time out on the court."



Dobie senior middle blockers Jakara Henry (9) and Natasha Walters (14) go up high to defend against Elkins' Rayven McKenzie (4) during the first game of the match Aug. 8 at Dobie in the season opener for both programs. Elkins won the first two

games before the Lady Longhorns lengthened the match with a win in the third game. A subsequent close game ensued in the fourth before Elkins held on for the victory.

Photo by John Bechtle

Dobie Boys' Draw

1. "Big" Tommy Nguyen
2. Alex Cuaping
3. "Little" Tommy Nguyen
4. Adrian Tamez
5. Luis Neira
6. Thompson Le
7. Austin Luu
8. Dao Botello
9. Longy Nguyenvo
10. Duy Ho
11. Edwin Ayala
12. Son Truong
13. Gerardo Montoya
14. Jesse Mendoza
15. Kevin Dinh
16. Ronaldo Nguyen

Dobie Girls' Draw

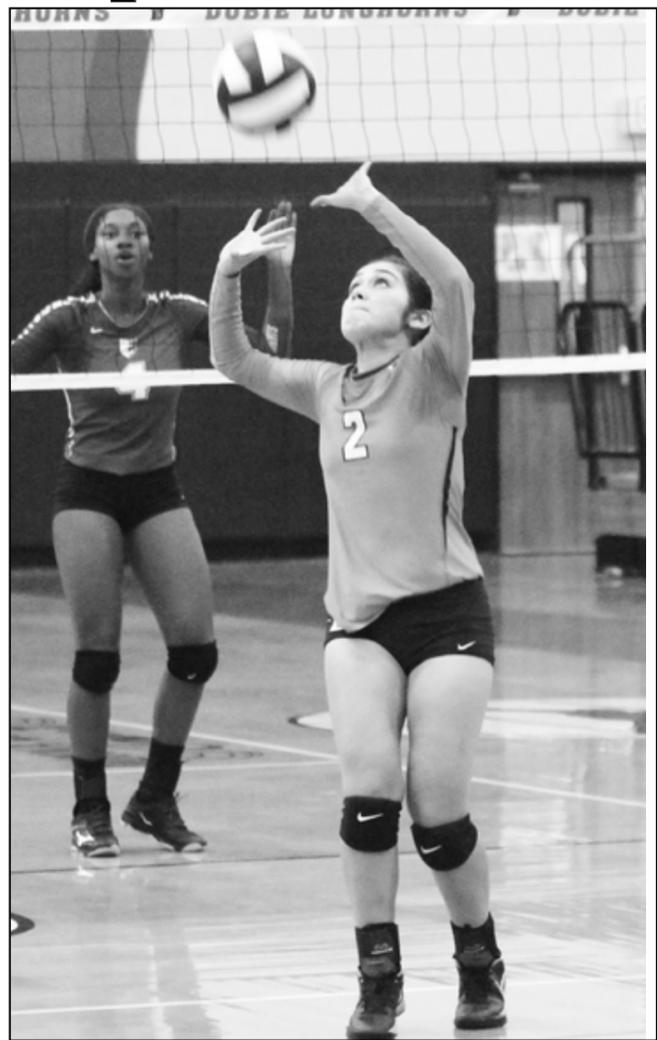
1. Leilani Vargas
2. Tina Ha
3. Emily Nguyen
4. Ann Truong
5. Mylan Phan
6. Bao Nguyen
7. Courtney Chung
8. Gisell Morales
9. Kristy Morales
10. Jordan Tran
11. Jessica Vu
12. Stephanie Gonzalez
13. Jenny Ngo
14. Dominique Peralta
15. Jenny Lu
16. Kimberly Padilla
17. Camille Smith



At left, "Big" Tommy Nguyen entered the Dobie varsity team tennis season as the No. 1 boys' singles player and also played No. 1 boys' doubles along with his partner, "Little" Tommy Nguyen. Dobie got a win over Willis Aug. 8 by an 11-7 count as Nguyen scored a 6-4, 6-4 victory in boys' singles. Dobie swung the match against Willis in their favor as the boys' singles group earned five wins in six matches, with victories also coming from "Little" Tommy Nguyen, Luis Neira, Adrian Tamez and Austin Luu.

Continued from Page 1B Now it's on to the Ad- varsity volleyball debut, as John Turner Invitational at Pearland High School, Aug. 10-12 for Clear Brook. Issues? Not many, said Dobie head coach Dawn Sexton. While it would have been nice to begin the season with a win over a talented foe, there is a place to start. "I feel like we are in better shape as a team from a chemistry and togetherness standpoint than at this point last year," Sexton said. "We had only four days and two scrimmages to prepare for the season. We don't have many players who are playing volleyball year-round. "It's going to take longer to get going at full strength and flow. We have a new setter, and several other first-year players. But I think we have a chance to be really talented as a group. We just need more time on the court together. It was a good first step, and we will improve every day." Clear Brook sweeps Another team looking to close out games late and therefore winning more big matches is Clear Brook, and the Lady Wolverines stuck to the theory on opening night. Playing at private school power St. Agnes, Clear Brook took the first two games - 25-23, 25-17, and then finished things off with a marathon 33-31 victory in the third game.

Now it's on to the Ad- varsity volleyball debut, as John Turner Invitational at Pearland High School, Aug. 10-12 for Clear Brook. The Lady Wolverines will face state-ranked Southlake Carroll as well as Smithson Valley and Pasadena Memorial in pool play. With one victory in the books, the Lady Wolverines will enter the tournament with confidence. Finishing matches will be the key, just as was successfully done against St. Agnes. At right, Dobie senior Jacqueline Garcia (2) sets a ball during the second game against Elkins on Aug. 8, the opening night of the high school volleyball season in Texas. Garcia and her teammates battled the Lady Knights for more than two hours and nearly forced a decisive fifth game before losing the match in four games. Dobie will return to action Aug. 11 with a 6 p.m. varsity match at Alvin. The Lady Longhorns then return to Donna Branch Court at Dobie Tuesday, Aug. 15, for another non-district match against Baytown Sterling, also at 6 p.m. Dobie then hosts Clear Brook on Friday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m.



At right, Dobie senior Jacqueline Garcia (2) sets a ball during the second game against Elkins on Aug. 8, the opening night of the high school volleyball season in Texas. Garcia and her teammates battled the Lady Knights for more than two hours and nearly forced a decisive fifth game before losing the match in four games. Dobie will return to action Aug. 11 with a 6 p.m. varsity match at Alvin. The Lady Longhorns then return to Donna Branch Court at Dobie Tuesday, Aug. 15, for another non-district match against Baytown Sterling, also at 6 p.m. Dobie then hosts Clear Brook on Friday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m. Photo by John Bechtle

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - meets on Thursday, 9:30 a.m. at Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The Rev. Mary Bostrom will be speaking on *The Great American Eclipse* off the coast of Oregon to off the coast of South Carolina on Aug. 21, 2017. Bostrom will speak on the significance of this event to our nation. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971. 10 a.m.
Fun Bunch - for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call Ronn Canon at 281-610-8999 or the chamber at 281-481-5516.
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.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org. 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.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.
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 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166. **FRIDAY, AUGUST 11** 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each 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 just drop in. 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611. 8 p.m.
Serenity Now 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, AUGUST 12** 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, AUGUST 13** 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. **Scleroderma Support Group** - Do you know someone with scleroderma? Join a support group on the second Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital in Humble. Bring a friend. Call Jacob Davila at 281-706-6232, or email jdavila@scleroderma.org. 5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 7 p.m.
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, AUGUST 14** 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. 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in. 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 crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.



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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

6 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - first meeting of Mercy Hearts is on Monday, Aug. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., at CrossRoads UMC located at 10030 Scarsdale. The focus of the Mercy Heart program is support for families of inmates and ex-offenders. The program will provide a complimentary meal, group Bible study and discussion. Child care is provided. This is a confidential ministry and information will be treated accordingly. For more details, contact C. Talbot at 281-245-7072 or Chucklat@msn.com.

6 p.m.
Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group - A national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families meets the second Monday at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. For information, call 281-538-4648.

6 p.m.
Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-973-6633 or visit www.oahouston.org.

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.

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 information, call 713-856-1611.

7 p.m.
Sagemont Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday, 7 p.m., Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

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.

9:30 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 more information.

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

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

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

6:30 p.m.
Breast Cancer Support Group - Meets monthly on the third Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the lobby of the Clear Lake Regional Breast Diagnostic Center, 200 Medical Center Blvd., Suite 106, Webster. For details call 281-526-6840.

6:30 p.m.
Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets monthly on the third Tuesday (except December, June and July) at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd. in Pearland. For details, call Gary at 281-993-8335.

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

7 p.m.
Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, first floor staff meeting room. PIP is police and citizens working together making neighborhoods safer. Bring a friend. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-

3900.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

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 more information, or drop in.

9:30 a.m.
The Community Club - meets the third Wednesday, monthly, at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. Social time is 9:30 a.m.; meeting is at 10 a.m. The club is a charitable organization of women helping the Salvation Army feed and care for homebound elderly/disabled people, children and the homeless, providing scholarships for Bridge Over Troubled Water clients. Day trips may be scheduled, followed by a guest speaker/program with fellowship and lunch. New members and guests are invited. For information, email jmo pry@yahoo.com.

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 Wednesdays, noon, Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. December may be an exception. For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

1 p.m.
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.

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.

8 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support 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 details, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

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 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.

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

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

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

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Sisters visit Italy

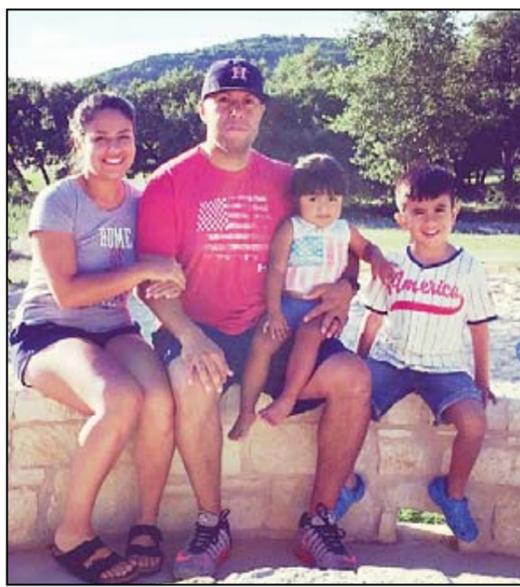


Above, left to right, sisters Miranda Calderon and Mayte Chapa enjoyed a vacation in San Gimignano, Italy. Below left, Miranda enjoyed a taste of the Best Ice Cream in the World, which won a

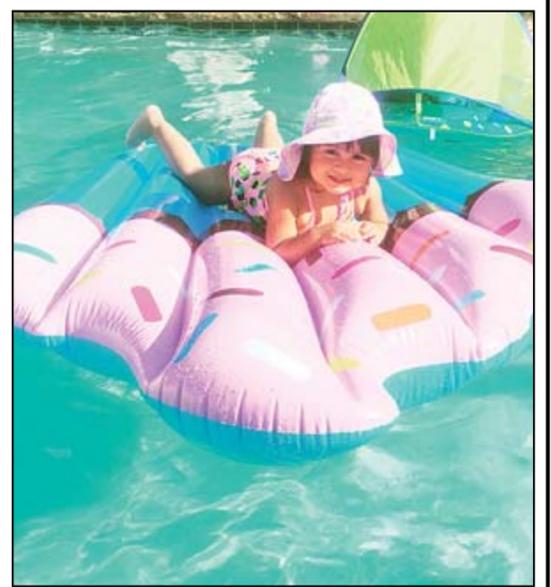
championship a few years back. Below right, Miranda is seen in Positano, Italy. The sisters were also able to visit Rome, Florence and the Amalfi Coast. Photos submitted



Cabrera family enjoys fun in the sun



The Cabrera family took a break from the city life by visiting the Concan, Texas over the Fourth of July weekend. Above left, shown left to right, are Melissa, Erick, Lorelei and Jacob. Above



right, Lorelei enjoys some fun in the sun while cooling off in the pool. The family are residents of Sycamore Valley. Photos submitted

The July winners of the Leader's 2017 vacation photo contest have been announced, with the Kelley family taking home the top prize of eight tickets to Schlitterbahn Galveston.

The second-place prize of six Schlitterbahn tickets went to the Greg Brewer.

The third-place prize of four Schlitterbahn tickets was presented to the Si-fuentes and Herrera brothers.

There is still time to enter the Leader's August photo contest.

For more information, see sidebar on Page 1A.

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Charles, Montano families travel to the windy city



The Charles and Montano families took their 2017 family vacation on the road and drove 16 hours to Chicago. Shown above, Elena Charles and Aaron Charles enjoy splashing around the Crown Fountain. The Charles family are six-year residents of Sagemont. Photos submitted

Flaten visits Florida



Calien Flaten, granddaughter of South Belt residents Steve and Veronica Vogel, is shown jumping for joy in Destin, Florida. The family stopped in Destin on their way to Disney World. Photo by Veronica Vogel



Above, Veronica Charles, Aaron Charles, Elena Charles, Sarah Charles and Victoria Charles enjoy The Bean. Victoria is an incoming Dobie senior, Aaron is an incoming Thompson seventh-grader, Elena is an incoming Stuchbery fourth-grader and Sarah is an incoming Dobie freshman. Below, Victoria, Aaron, Veronica, Elena (front), Sergio Charles, Sarah and Victor Montano of South Houston are shown on The Ledge. The Ledge is a glass box that extends from the Skydeck inside Willis Tower.



BACK TO SCHOOL TAX FREE WEEKEND
AUG 11-13 FRI, SAT, SUN

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 FRI 10-9P | SAT 9-9P | SUN 11-7P

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