

Vacation photo deadline set

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* is seeking readers' 2015 vacation photos for possible publication. The deadline for entry is Tuesday, Aug. 18.

All submissions should include where and when the photo was taken, as well as identify each person in the picture and tell the story about the trip. Email high resolution photos to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Donate school supplies

St. Luke the Evangelist is collecting donations for Operation Back Pack. Bring backpacks and school supplies to the church or church office during August to help local children in grades K-12 begin the school year.

Stuchbery sets registration

Stuchbery Elementary will hold Pre-K registration early registration for kindergarten through fourth grade Thursday, Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For any additional information, call Stuchbery's office at 713-740-0752 or visit the PISD website at www.pasadenaisd.org.

Atkinson registration set

Atkinson Elementary will hold early registration for the 2015-2016 school year on Aug. 13. Registration will be in the cafeteria from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2:30 p.m. To enroll a child, bring the following: birth certificate, record of immunizations, Social Security card, proof of residence (mortgage and current utility bill), and parent's driver's license. For information, call 713-740-0520.

Helton benefit set for Aug. 15

A benefit will be held for Ruth Helton to help pay for expenses as she fights cancer. The benefit is Aug. 15, from noon until 6 p.m. at Beamers Place, 12057 Beamer. Fajita plates, which include beans, rice, tortillas, a soft drink and sides are \$10. There will be a live auction and raffle for which donations such as gift cards or merchandise will be accepted. Call Silvia Luna at 832-512-8367 for information. Donations can be dropped off at Beamers Place any time after 4 p.m. daily.

Genealogy group meets

The Parker Williams Genealogy Group will meet Monday, Aug. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the computer room for help with online genealogy research at the library at Scarsdale and Beamer. The genealogy group will not meet Monday, Sept. 7, Labor Day. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Sept. 21. Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in family history research.

PIP meeting Aug. 18

The Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the first floor staff meeting room. Guest speaker will be Harris County Attorney Julie Countiss, who will speak on getting rid of businesses that attract crime. PIP consists of police and citizens working for safer neighborhoods. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900.

Ashley Pointe HOA meets

The Ashley Pointe Homeowners Association will meet Tuesday, Aug. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sageglen Community Building located at 11610 Sageyork.

Knights host barbecue

The Knights of Columbus of St. Luke's Church will host a chopped barbecue brisket sandwich weekend on Saturday, Aug. 22, and Sunday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church parking lot. Each meal includes a sandwich, chips and a drink for \$7. Proceeds benefit the Knights Charities.

SBHLL fall ball sign up

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has one more registration date for the fall league on Sunday, Aug. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park. For more information, see Page 1B.

PISD online preregistration

The Pasadena Independent School District has developed an online preregistration system. Instructions are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The system allows parents to verify or update the student's information. Once the form has been completed online, all information will be saved in the system for future use.

The deadline to submit completed forms is Aug. 18. To use the online form, a valid email address is required. Information submitted through the service will be reflected on student enrollment and emergency forms to be reviewed, signed and returned. Letters containing an access code along with information about preregistration were issued to each student. Parents must use the code to preregister students online system. If the code has been misplaced, contact the student's campus.

Parents may complete the preregistration form from any computer by visiting www1.pasadenaisd.org/parents_students/enrollment/online_preregistration.

Dobie enrollment expected to reach 4K

By James Bolen

With the 2015-2016 school year quickly approaching, the issue of overcrowding at Dobie has again become a hot topic, as enrollment is expected to climb to around 4,000.

While that figure is significantly higher than the district's other high schools, PISD officials stressed that not all students would be on campus at any given time. Of the estimated 4,000 stu-

dents, between 200 and 250 are expected to attend the district's new career and technical center during part of the day, said PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis. An additional 150 students (75 a.m. and 75 p.m.) are expected to take part in Dobie's dual-credit College Now program at San Jacinto College, Lewis said.

Dobie briefly topped the 4,000-student mark at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year,

but that number quickly dropped once dropouts and transfers were accounted for.

By comparison, Memorial had 2,855 students enrolled last year; Rayburn had 2,735; South Houston had 2,328; Pasadena had 2,315; and the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School had 1,015.

In July 2013, the PISD board of trustees approved capping enrollment at the campus, but the move affects only new transfer requests not students who live within the school's set boundaries.

Dobie has been at its maximum capacity for several years. When the new Blackhawk campus was constructed as part of a 2000 bond issue, it was designed to accommodate 3,000 students. A subsequent bond issue in 2004 increased student capacity by 525, bringing the total to 3,525.

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

In the fall of 2014, Dobie was named one of

the 100 largest high schools in America. With a reported 3,452 students, Dobie ranked No. 88 on the list.

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

Last November, voters approved a bond that will fund the construction of a ninth-grade center at Dobie to alleviate overcrowding at the area campus.

Officials expect the proposed campus to reduce enrollment at the primary campus by roughly 1,000.

A sixth comprehensive high school was considered, but the Future Facilities Committee, composed of parents and community members, opted in favor of the ninth-grade campus instead. To be constructed on a site yet to be determined, the new center is expected to open in 2017.

Franco hosts Street Olympics



Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee (center) hosted the 28th annual Precinct 1 Street Olympics Friday, Aug. 7. Shown above with Lee are, left to right, Kippy Caraway, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz, Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Court Jo Ann Delgado and *Leader* staff member Alexis Lochner.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Hughes Road project meeting set

The City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department will host a public meeting Thursday, Aug. 20, at Sagemont Church to keep the community abreast of the ongoing project to replace Hughes Road.

Officials hope to have the stretch of road in front of Frazier Elementary complete by the time school starts Aug. 25 but have a contingency plan in place if not. Alternate plans call for using the bus entrance on Sagemeadow as the main entrance. The most western entrance on Hughes Road will also be operational.

Under the contingency plan, the intersection

of Sagemeadow and Hughes would be closed. "The beauty of it is that access to Hughes will be blocked from Sagemeadow," said city liaison Darius Davis.

Frazier Principal Wendy Wiseburn is planning two additional meetings in the next week on the issue and plans to contact parents regarding the project's progress.

Officials plan to replace the stretch of Hughes in front of Stuchbery next summer to avoid any extra traffic congestion.

For questions and comments, email pwecip@houstontx.gov.

Allen begins as Thompson principal

By Jay Do

Former J. Frank Dobie High School assistant principal and Advanced Placement coordinator Melissa Allen will take on a new role as principal of George A. Thompson Intermediate School at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Allen grew up in Broken Arrow, Okla., attending Broken Arrow High School for the larger part of her high school career. Her father's job transfer brought Allen to the South Belt area where she completed her senior year at Clear Brook High School. Allen began working for the Pasadena Independent School District in 2002 as a teacher. Since then, she has quickly

moved up the ranks, serving as a peer facilitator then as an administrator. Allen earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and also holds a master's degree in educational management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. In 2013, Allen earned her Ed.D. from the University of Houston.

After a decade of serving with J. Frank Dobie High School, Allen now prepares to begin a new chapter in her education administration career.

"I felt like it was time to leave Dobie, because I wanted to be able to serve the South Belt community."

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HERO heads to November vote

City Council voted Wednesday, Aug. 5, to hold a special November election to allow the public to vote on the controversial Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO).

Council had previously approved the measure in May 2014, but the Texas Supreme Court recently ruled the ordinance must be repealed or put to a popular vote. The measure to hold the special election passed with a 12-5 vote, with one South Belt council member voting in favor of it and the other opposing it.

District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins voted in favor of the ordinance, while District E City Council Member Dave Martin voted against it.

"The residents of District D have reached out to me and my office and expressed their desire to

be a part of this process and be able to vote up or down on HERO," said Boykins. "I am in favor of this item being placed on the November ballot in order to provide the public with the opportunity to have their say. Their vote, their voice."

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Library seeks ESL tutors

Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale, will host a training session for volunteer English as a second language tutors Thursday, Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tutors will lead a group of adults on a schedule convenient for the tutor and the group. Second language ability is not required for tutors. Materials including lessons are provided. For information or to register for the training workshop, call 281-484-2036.

City cracks down on trash violations

By Jay Do

Inspectors from the City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods are cracking down on garbage cans left out in plain view from public streets.

It is a violation of City Ordinance 39-62 to store automated collection containers within public view. Residents leaving a city-issued solid waste container in a manner and position so that it is visible from a public street adjacent to the private property may soon find themselves with a green door tag attached to their front doors notifying them of the violation, for which they will have 48 hours to correct the violation. Failure to correct the violation within 48 hours may result

in citations and fines starting at \$200.

Community activists and Sagemont Civic Club members recently decided to take a drive through their neighborhood to see how many residents were in violation of the ordinance and could be ticketed.

The results of their search would stun them, with well over one-third of the homes they surveyed being in violation of the garbage can ordinance. Within the Sagemont subdivision, 652 out of 1,765 houses had their city-issued garbage cans visible within a public street.

Another city ordinance violation that has plagued the community is the placement of

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Deputies foil possible suicide attempt

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's office were able to prevent a possible suicide attempt Monday, Aug. 10, on Beltway 8 at the Hughes/Sabo overpass, where a 22-year-old man was threatening to jump.

Deputies, along with several Houston police officers, responded to the call around 7:35 p.m.

After talking to the man for roughly 40 minutes, a county negotiator convinced him to surrender to police. The man was taken into protective custody to undergo a mental evaluation.

All but one lane on the beltway was closed for approximately two hours, causing extensive traffic delays.

Motorcyclist killed in Beamer crash

A motorcyclist was killed in an accident on Beamer in front of San Jacinto College South around 8 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The unidentified man reportedly clipped the

tail end of a vehicle at a blinking red light in front of the campus. He was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where he later died.

City activates heat emergency plan

Since Saturday, Aug. 8, the City of Houston has been operating under its Public Health Heat Emergency Plan, which calls for providing transportation to designated cooling centers.

The city has designated 49 public city facilities to act as cooling centers during periods of extreme heat. South Belt locations include the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint; Bracewell Neighborhood Library, 9002 Kingspoint; and the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road.

In addition, the public is welcome to visit any public city facility (including Parks and Recreation facilities) during their normal operating

hours to use the air conditioning.

Some facilities are closed or have limited hours on weekends, so it is necessary for residents to use the map at houstontx.gov/emergency to find an open facility.

Residents needing assistance in accessing cooling centers can request a ride from Houston METRO by calling the Houston 311 Help and Information Line (311 or 713-837-0311).

The National Weather Service declares a Heat Emergency when the heat index, a computation of the air temperature and humidity, reaches 108 degrees on two or more consecutive days. A heat

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Thomas to launch new PISD campus

By Jay Do

The start of the 2015-2016 school year will see the debut of the Fred Roberts Middle School. Taking the lead as principal of the new school as it opens its doors is Jorly Thomas.

A longtime member of the South Belt community, Thomas graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in history before earning his master's degree in counseling.

Formerly serving as an assistant principal for both Beverly Hills Intermediate and Dobie High School, there is probably no candidate more fit to launch the new middle school than Thomas. Thomas left his post as one of Dobie's assistant principals in January of 2015 to begin his new roles at the Roberts Middle School.

"I wanted to take the opportunity to start a new fifth- and sixth-grade center," said Thomas. "I also wanted to continue serving the South Belt community."

Arriving at the Roberts Middle School with previous experience with middle school stu-

dents, Thomas is braced for the challenges that may lie ahead.

"Beverly Hills used to be a sixth-grade campus, so I'm familiar with that age group already. I already have some experience with them," said Thomas. "The biggest difference between working with high school students and middle school students is the maturity level. High school kids are so much more mature, but kids will be kids, so it's still really fun to be able to work with these students."

Thomas plans to launch the Roberts Middle School with a focus on education and academic success.

"My number one goal is to unleash the learning passion in every student," said Thomas. "I want to make sure that they have a true love for learning. You've got to make learning fun for them to want to learn. I want to help them unleash their potential and help them see that opportunity for them to grow. At that age, there's so much going on. This is the first time they're going from an

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City officials visit community



City officials met with local civic club leaders Thursday, Aug. 6, to discuss various issues and ordinances. Shown above at the meeting are, left to right, Sagemont Civic Club Vice President Sandy Robb, Mayra Hypolite from the Department of Neighborhoods, City Council Member Dwight Boykins, Department of Neighborhoods Director Katye Tipton and Kirkwood Civic Association President Ericka McCrutchon.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Bill King on HPD 2014 crime data

For about a decade, I have been filing Open Records requests with HPD to get a copy of the report that they send to the FBI for its uniform crime reports. I have then entered that data in a spreadsheet to give an historical perspective on crime and HPD's clearance rates. [1] When I requested this data for 2014 earlier this year, I was told that HPD changed computer systems midway through 2014 and they could only give me six months of data in the new format. Obviously the data must exist inside HPD somewhere, but I could never get them to produce anything that would allow me to update my spreadsheet. However, HPD must also report this data to the Texas Department of Public Safety and it maintains a website with some of the information contained in the report.

Here are some of the highlights from this partial dataset:

After three years of exceptionally low statistics, the number of murders in Houston jumped in 2014 by 13% (212 to 242). From 2008 to 2011, HPD's clearance rate for murder had greatly improved. The department was solving about 80-90% of the murders - well exceeding the national average, something that is difficult for a large urban police department to do. However since 2011, the trend line has been down. This year saw another dip sliding from 76% to 71%.

Rape also took a very troubling turn upwards in 2014, increasing by over 30% (618 to 812) - the highest total in the City since 2009. Even more alarming is that the clearance rate for rapes dropped from 44% in 2013 to 24% in 2014. This is a dramatic drop and significantly lower than the clearance rate for any of the years for which I have records (2000-2014). The only major law enforcement agency in the state I could find with a lower rape clearance rate was the Harris County Sheriff's Office which only solved 43 of the 433 rapes reported to it for a dismal 10% clearance rate.

Robberies were only up by 3% in 2014, but like rape cases, the clearance nosedived in 2014 from 21% to 15%. This is also the lowest clearance rate dating back to, at least, 2000.

The only really good news in the partial data was that burglaries were actually down in 2014 by about 9%. For a number of years, HPD clearance rate on burglary cases has been around 8%. I assumed that was some kind of a baseline that statistically it was impossible to fall below. I was wrong. HPD's clearance rate for burglaries in 2014 dropped to 6%. I looked around some to see if any other agency had a lower rate, and guess which one did? The Harris County Sheriff's Office at 3%!

It is hard to draw any conclusions from these limited data, but it seems to suggest that HPD's ability to solve crimes is deteriorating at an alarming rate. And it seems the Harris County Sheriff's Department is even more challenged. I cannot help but wonder if all the negative publicity police are getting nationally is not hurting morale.

on abandoned house" on August 6, 2015.

We would like to thank the dedicated people for the cleanup of the vacant house on the 11000 block of Sagevale Lane, very close to Frazier Elementary. This timely help prior to the start of the 2015 school year helps keep our neighborhood clean, safe and free from possible vagrancy, drug trafficking, and crime. Much thanks to: the Sagemont Civic Club; Marie Flickinger, Publisher of the *Southbelt-Elington Leader*; Officer Jason Curtis, HPD Differential Response Team; City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods; and Houston Council Member Dwight Boykins.

Sincerely, Joe & Kim Schott

Additional USPS delivery problems

A follow up to the last weeks Leaders article on mail service. Starting June 15 I received a piece of mail at my home address for a location in the Heights, Zip code 77007. Delivery address very clearly written so that was not the problem. I put it back into the U. S. mail box with a note - date and a note delivered to incorrect address, belongs to an address in the Heights, 3 days later here it came back. I blacked out all identification and it still came back 5 more times. Each time I put on a date and misdelivered. I saw the mail man read the notes and he still put it back into my box.

I went to see the Post Master at Wind Mill Lakes 5 times and she "out right refused to see/meet me." The clerks would not help, they told me it was my fault as I did not write - Does not live here or deceased. What I wrote was very clear it was not my mail. After 6 tries, I finally mailed it back to the sender with a note. The envelope looked official. It then did not come back. But since I have probably gotten 20+ more misdirected mail, all to 77007. Must be a condo or apartments. All different addresses at that Zip code location, coming from all directions/states. My daughter took some up to Humble and the post master did something and they did not come back. We would always note each envelope for followup. Wind Mill should have taken care of this. I would continue to black out everything on the envelope, drop into a U. S. mail box and here it comes to my address unless we again took it to Humble.

I contacted Congressman Gene Greens office twice and was told a Postal inspector would contact me. So far I have not heard from anyone. Pardon my German, I have seen some pretty interesting situations in my life time, but this one just boils down to stupidity. Why could not the Post Man or the window worker take this to the boss for handling. Lazy???

James E. Muecke

Congratulations sent to South Belt Allstars

Congratulations South Belt Allstars, played extremely good for being outside for 13 hrs in 103 degree weather! Last 1st game 5 to 4 in extra innings against Thunder. Bounced back for 8 to 0 win over Tx Reign. Tx pride scored 5 runs in 1st but we scored 9 runs in 3rd and won 13 to 7. Beat our nemesis Freeport Outlaws next 10 to 2. But lost our last game against Texarkana Vipers 5 to 0! One game away from top 4, wish that game was played today! Thanks Charlie Salazar and Art Guajardo for your hard work and dedication!

Charles and Terri Salazar

Local library events set

Parker Williams Branch

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

On Thursday, Aug. 13, at 3 p.m., the Teen DIY and Movie will present *Captain America: The First Avenger*, rated PG-13. Captain America's origins are revealed in his first movie. Sit down and enjoy while making super soldier serum rock candy.

Manga Club will meet Friday, Aug. 14, at 4 p.m.

Wednesdays - Preschool storytime is at 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays - Toddler storytime is at 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays - Vietnamese Storytime: Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m., and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on these programs, call the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for August at the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint Road.

Every Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. - Toddler storytime, followed by Toddler Playtime at 11 a.m.; 2 p.m. - Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. - Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. - Intro to MS PowerPoint.

Thursday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. - Not Your Mama's Book Club will hold a discussion on *Orphan Train* by Christine Baker Kline.

Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday noon to 8 p.m., Friday 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Bracewell Branch at 832-393-2580.

Pfeiffer thanks South Belt

By Jay Do

Tragedy struck deep in the heart of the South Belt community last week, as the life of 2-year-old Mason Craft was taken in a tragic accident, drowning in a swimming pool.

In light of the tragedy, South Belt residents have risen to let the grieving family know that while the coming weeks and months will be difficult, they will not be taking the road to recovery alone.

"On behalf of my family and extended family, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the South Belt community for all the support that they have provided us as we begin the road to a long recovery process over the loss of my great-grandson," said Donna Pfeiffer. "I have never seen anything quite like it

in all the years that I've been here. Our friends and neighbors of the South Belt area have been so wonderful to us. Strangers have donated monetarily to us as well, but that's all immaterial to all the loving support they've given us."

Two years with Craft has provided Pfeiffer with enough memories to last a lifetime.

"I'd also like to thank God for giving us two wonderful years with my one and only great-grandson and now providing him with a home in Heaven," said Pfeiffer. "Mason loved the being in the water, and I'll never forget taking him into the pool for the first time."

The South Belt community understands that tragedy strikes the neighborhood as a whole each time it chooses

to strike one of their own. As such, members of the South Belt community have proved time and time again that they will do whatever it takes and provide whatever is necessary to aid those in their hour of need and see to it that they get back on their feet.

"A tragic incident like this really puts things into perspective," said Pfeiffer. "I'd like to tell all the parents out there to hang onto your kids and give them a kiss every day, because no one really knows what's going to happen."

"I am forever grateful to the South Belt community for helping us through this difficult time. It is at times like these that the South Belt community truly distinguishes itself and sets itself apart from other communities."

Sheriff's office sets Citizens Police Academy

Harris County Sheriff's Office invites citizens of Harris County to participate in the Citizens Police Academy that begins Thursday, Aug. 20, at Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 16335 El Camino Real, and continues every Thursday night from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Citizens Police Academy is a once-a-week, 13-week program. It is designed to give residents a knowledge of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, including police procedures and protocol.

Through the academy's courses, participants learn as-

pects of law enforcement, such as the Texas Penal Code, patrol procedures, gang awareness, Homicide Division and many other topics. Residents will gain a better understanding of how police services are conducted in their communities and see how and why deputies make their decisions.

Graduates of the class play a vital role in their community by improving communication between citizens and law enforcement and by providing input and support throughout the county. The HCSO hopes the graduates will become

partners with the agency in identifying problems and solutions to the crime issues affecting the community.

The class is free and enrollment is open to qualified individuals, but space is limited. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and reside in Harris County. A background check will be conducted on each applicant. Those interested in participating may pick up an application at any HCSO storefront, online or by contacting the HCSO's Community Services Division at 713-759-9454.

Thomas prepares to launch Roberts Middle School



Alyta Harrell, Jorly Thomas, Vickie Roberts and Fred Roberts in front of the under-construction Fred Roberts Middle School.

Continued from Page 1A elementary environment to have six periods a day. Up to this point, they've always had their teacher with them at every moment during the day, and now all of a sudden, they're on their own. I want to make them feel safe and comfortable, so that they know that they have ownership in their ability to learn."

With Dobie's 2015 graduating class recently breaking the record for the largest graduating class in the Pasadena Independent School District's history, Thomas definitely has his work cut out for him, tasked with cultivating that level of academic success from an earlier age.

"Our goal is to keep our students to the same academic standards that any school would provide, and we intend to do so by providing classes and courses that are challenging," said Thomas. "We want to make sure that our students are stretched, so that they don't get bored of learning. Just like a high school

student might take Advanced Placement courses to challenge themselves, we want to provide a similar experience to our middle school students so that they are challenged. The goal should always be to challenge yourself." Thomas firmly believes that high expectations and standards are a necessity in order to maintain discipline in a school.

"A school needs to be all about structure," said Thomas. "I truly believe that kids thrive in structure and consistency. We have to make our students aware of their expectations, so that they work with the mindset of 'If I do this, then I will get this.' That way, they'll learn that every choice they make yields a consequence. If they make a good choice, they'll be rewarded."

Working with Principal Franklin Moses of Dobie has provided Thomas with the firsthand experience to see how school spirit is successfully cultivated and promoted. Thomas intends to carry that success to the Fred Roberts Middle School.

"Our motto is 'Be the pilot of your own learning,'" said Thomas. "The inspiration for that is that Ellington Field is right next to us. Our mascot is the aviator. Our whole theme is airplanes. If you go into the building, you'll see propellers all over the place. You have propeller fans in the cafeteria, propellers hanging off the walls in the library and little things like that. The whole building is designed after the theme of a plane. We're trying to implement that element to encourage students to take the ownership of their learning and to cultivate that sense of school spirit and pride. The area superintendent, DecAnn Powell, was the one who saw our close proximity to Ellington Field and came up with the idea of us being the Roberts Aviators, and that just sounds so cool. Who wouldn't like that? I went to different elementary and middle schools and took a vote with the students and they all liked the aviator theme."

As with any administrator taking over the lead position of an organization, Thomas has the difficult task of establishing the proper relationship between himself and the faculty and staff of his school that is imperative to any working and educational environment.

"My biggest focus right now is creating culture," said

Thomas. "My main goal for the first year is to develop a family. This is a school where everybody's starting off from scratch, but the thing with that is that everybody has an equal opportunity. The biggest thing for me right now is developing that culture and that sense of family to make sure everybody feels at home. I really want to build off that Fred Roberts family mentality. He always has this 'We're all in this together' attitude and that's what this school needs to be successful."

Named after a PISD board member, Thomas believes that the Fred Roberts Middle School is a school that should represent and carry on the legacy of an individual who has dedicated his life to the service of his community.

"Fred Roberts is a man that's all about family," said Thomas. "He is a genuinely good guy. He's served this community for many years, and he's done a lot of good things over the years. It's an absolute honor for me to work in a building that's named after him, because he has a true heart for kids. To work in a building named after a guy who's served the South Belt community and worked with the Pasadena Independent School District for so many years of his life is just my humblest honor. Pasadena is everything for him, and that's huge, because we're all Pasadena kids and we've all graduated through Pasadena."

While thoroughly excited to begin his role as principal of the new middle school, Thomas knows that there will be aspects of high school that he is sure to miss.

"The students are going to be the aspect that I miss most from Dobie," said Thomas. "They were the big kids on campus and they had already been through all the stages of horseplay and the childishness. Throughout my career, I've been through Beverly Hills and Dobie, so I've been able to watch some of these kids go from the sixth grade to their graduation, and to be able to see your students graduate as an educator, it's awesome. It's absolutely phenomenal. That's something that a lot of middle school teachers don't get to see. They have to send their students off to high school teachers, and they have to trust us to take care of them. To be able to see the students in their

Deaths

Mason Joseph Craft



Mason Joseph Craft, 2, of South Belt, died Monday, Aug. 3, 2015. He was born on Dec. 7, 2012.

He is survived by his mother, Amanda Craft, and his "D.D.", Danny Behnke; grandparents Lori and Joe Craft and Paula and Mark Swanberg; great-grandparents Joe D. Craft Sr. and wife Lou, Shirley T. Craft, Edna and Vernon Swanberg, Angie and Donnie Campbell and Donna Pfeiffer; aunts Kristin and Courtney Craft; and many other family and friends.

There were so many people's lives Craft changed for the better. He brought joy and love to his family every day. He was an Aggie, a Gamecock, and a Texan. There

wasn't anything electronic that he didn't know how to work. He lived on his tablet doing puzzles and mimicked the sound of every farm animal he knew.

He loved Mickey Mouse and his two favorite teddy bears that he carried around with him everywhere.

Craft loved making a mess, and half of the time he would pick up after himself. He would always have a smile on his face because he was always so happy. He adored his two aunts and his uncle because they let him get away with almost anything. He loved being outside, playing with his dogs, and swimming with his family.

The funeral service for Craft was held Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015, at noon at Clayton Funeral Home in Pearland with The Rev. John Mark Benson officiating.

Interment was held Monday, Aug. 10, 2015, at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.claytonfuneralhomes.com.

Lawrence "Tex" Kaiser

Lawrence "Tex" Kaiser, 85, of South Belt, died on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015, due to deteriorating health.



He was born in Texarkana, Texas, on Dec. 26, 1929, to Rosalia Lummus and Pete Kaiser.

Lawrence is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rosalie Kaiser, his five children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The service celebrating Kaiser's life was held Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015, at Niday Funeral Home. Interment followed at Brookside Memorial Park.

Donald Alan Bennett



Donald Alan Bennett, 58, died suddenly on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015.

Bennett grew up in the South Houston community of Sun Valley, graduated from South Houston High School, and joined the Houston Fire Department to follow in his late father's footsteps. Beginning in 1975, he served for more than 30 years and retired in 2005.

Bennett also spent several years as a certified Texas peace officer in Clear Lake Shores Police Department. He loved to be near the coast where he could fish, his favorite pastime. He enjoyed hosting his friends and family where he would cook his catch. Like his father before him, he was always available to help anyone in need. From rebuilding vehicle transmissions (even if it was on the kitchen table), to renovating houses, he was a "jack-of-all-trades." Although he did not attend Texas A&M University, Bennett loved the Aggies. He loved to watch them play football in the fall and embodied what it meant to be a "Fightin' Texas Aggie."

Bennett is survived by his three children: Jake, wife Amber, and their children, Madison and Luke; Tanya, fiancé Chuy Avalos, and their son, Bryce; and Wes and fiancée Danielle Smotherman. He is also survived by his mother, Mary Bennett; sister Kathy; and brothers Robert, Mark, David and John and their families.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015. The service honoring Bennett's life will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, all held at Niday-Fairmont Funeral Home in Pasadena.

Interment will follow at SouthPark Cemetery in Pearland.

County gets tough on delinquent taxpayers

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan is getting tough on delinquent property taxpayers. He's offering a local furniture store one last chance to pay up. Lee Blum Furniture Co. is among Harris County's top outstanding delinquent property tax violators. The owners owe in excess of \$11,000 to Harris County and the jurisdictions for which it collects.

"I shouldn't have to show up at your doorstep, with a tax bill in hand, to collect your debt obligations," said Sullivan. "If I have to make a personal visit, you will have the choice to pay in full, or we will seize your property to satisfy the obligation."

Sullivan and the county's delinquent tax attorneys, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, are serving notices to businesses in Harris County who are in violation. "We have exhausted all resources to obtain payment from these delinquent taxpayers. I've offered support, reminders and relief to those who may need payment plans. Now's when we get tough. I'm going to recover every dollar possible, to

protect the integrity of the tax rolls," said Sullivan.

Sullivan is releasing a list of the Top 10 Delinquent Property Taxpayers in Harris County. He is also posting a searchable list of public records, highlighting delinquent properties on the county office's website.

"Posting these violators online, sheds light, leads to public scrutiny and puts pressure on those in violation," said Sullivan. "My duty is to collect the money these guys owe the county."

Among those on the list include the owner of a single family residence in Pasadena who has failed to pay taxes since 1954 and owes \$67,600 in back taxes. See the entire Top 10 List on the website at hctax.net.

The Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office Property Tax Division maintains approximately 1.5 million tax accounts and collects property taxes for 71 taxing entities including Harris County. For the 2014 tax year, the tax assessor-collector's office collected more than \$5 billion in property taxes.

Harris County finds voters on the move

Harris County will be sending notices to voters who are believed to have moved recently, reminding them to update their voter registration information.

"The integrity of the voter roll is one of my greatest concerns, and I want every registered voter to be able to vote in the upcoming election," said Mike Sullivan, Harris County tax assessor-collector and voter registrar. "My office will be mailing notices prescribed by the Texas Secretary of State to voters who we have reason to believe that they have moved, asking them to update or verify their voter registration information."

After comparing voter registration records with the U.S. Postal Service National Change of Address, Harris County will be sending approximately 170,000 notices to individuals whose current residential address is different from their voter registration record. The notice will include a form to update their information and a postage-paid envelope. Once received, the voter's file will be updated.

If the individual does not respond within 30 days, they will be placed on the suspense list. A voter on the suspense list may still vote,

as long as they fill out a statement of residence to update their information.

"I want to remind every registered voter to verify their voter registration information and update it if it has changed," said Sullivan. "Voters may check their voter registration information and status at www.hctax.net."

Sullivan also serves as the Harris County voter registrar, who conducts voter registration activities and maintains a certified list of registered voters.

Learn more about voter registration and the requirements by visiting www.hctax.net.

PROHIBITED YARD PARKING ORDINANCE NOTICE OF PROHIBITED PARKING REQUIREMENT AREA APPLICATION:

Sagemont Civic Club, Inc has submitted an application for the establishment of a Prohibited Yard Parking Requirement Area (Section 28-303 of the Code or Ordinances) for Sections 1 - 10 of the Sagemont Subdivision with the Houston Planning and Development Department.

Once established, violating the Prohibited Yard Parking Requirement Area will be a misdemeanor and violators will receive a fine not to exceed \$150 a day. Protest to the establishment of the Prohibited Yard Parking Requirement Area can be filed with the City of Houston. A written protest must be received by the City of Houston, Planning and Development Department, Neighborhood Services Division within twenty (20) days of (date of the City of Houston Notification Letter).

For information, contact the applicant at 281-940-4053 or the Houston Planning and Development Department at 713-837-7880.

Tran admires Puckett: fun implemented in learning

Theresa Tran, one of J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Stars, is shown with distinguished educator Linda Puckett, an AP Statistics instructor.

Both were honored at the annual Pasadena Independent School District Shining Stars Gala, which recognizes the top students from each high school and their favorite teachers.

Tran volunteered in Key Club, National Honor Society, Children's Museum of Houston and Discovery Squad. She has also tutored students in both math and reading at Melillo Middle School.

Tran's extracurricular activities included Math Club, Key Club, varsity tennis, and National Honor Society.

Tran's leadership positions included team captain of

varsity tennis and parliamentarian of National Honor Society. She plans to pursue a master's degree in business administration and management.

Regarding her teacher, Tran said, "By far, Mrs. Puckett is and forever will be my favorite teacher. She is someone who encourages me to speak my mind, telling me that I have a voice."

"As a trusted and savvy adult, I can always ask her for advice; whether it be academics or life in general. Having all the qualities of an amazing educator, she has this secret ability to teach a class while implementing fun without the students realization that they were actually learning."

"She is like a superhero in disguise that also spoils me with food. Her dedication to her career is impeccable and can be seen through her devoted hours after school and patience with students. She is the perfect role model that has had a great impact throughout my high school career."

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

This is the ninth in the series of 10. The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 Dobie High School students.

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

The Leader is also running the Top 10 Shining Stars from Memorial and South Houston high schools. (See Pages 3A and 5A.)



Cold Case: 1998 Death of Inyangumia

By Lori Rodriguez
It has been 17 years since the death of 1997 J. Frank Dobie High School graduate Uduak (Judy) Inyangumia and yet her case remains unsolved with no trial or conviction in her murder.
Inyangumia's death gained community and media attention in the summer of 1998 when Houston Police Department (HPD) officers first discovered her body alone in her family home on Kirkglan on July 9.
Her body was found face-down on the bed in the master bedroom surrounded by various fruits and vegetables.
She was covered with a sheet, and her hair was shaved to one-eighth inch in length. Police reported her body was very decomposed and she had a stab wound to the heart.
Coroner officials would later report that she had been killed sometime in the end of May, just a couple of weeks before what would have been her 19th birthday.
Inyangumia's family, including her mother, Comfort, father Ekerete, sister Nnete, and brother Edward, were located in Virginia by police. Ekerete Inyangumia stated

that he and the family had been there at the time of Judy's death but stated that she had died of an illness.
Ekerete Inyangumia was charged with her murder on July 11, and he was extradited from Virginia. He made bond on Aug. 6, but on Aug. 17 his bond was revoked, and he was re-arrested.
In the months prior to Inyangumia's death, her father had multiple interactions with local police. Per obtained police reports from HPD's Public Affairs Division/Open Records Unit, HPD officers responded to a call from neighbors on May 10 that he had started a fire in his backyard. Police described him as being "very uncooperative," and he was ultimately arrested.
On May 26, police were called to the Inyangumia house again due to reports of another fire at the home. The police report does not mention if there was an arrest on that visit.
Per the League City Police Department's Records Management Unit, Ekerete Inyangumia was also arrested on April 22 by League City police; however, the details of the police report are

unavailable.
In the weeks following Inyangumia's death, officials at the coroner's office reported that the Inyangumia family had not claimed her body despite being notified that it was ready for pickup.
Officials at Sagemont Church, of which the entire family were members, offered to claim her body so that she could be buried. Sagemont Church officials had previously organized a community memorial service with J. Frank Dobie High School personnel at Inyangumia's alma mater.
Officials at the coroner's office reported that Comfort Inyangumia contacted the office on Aug. 18, and Judy's body was transferred to a local funeral home.
On Sept. 30, 1998, the murder charge against Ekerete Inyangumia was dismissed due to insufficient evidence.
Judy's sister, Nnete, wrote a letter to the *Leader* that was published on the front page of the Oct. 15, 1998, issue in which she maintained her father's innocence in Judy's death.
"First and foremost," Nnete Inyangumia wrote,

"My father is not a murderer. He did not kill my sister."
Nnete did not offer any insight into what happened to her sister but expressed appreciation for the nation's judiciary system.
"I am glad our founding fathers knew a judicial system based on the opinions of the ignorant, narrow-minded and biased would destroy the nation," Nnete Inyangumia wrote. "I would not dare to think of how society would have turned out without the Bill of Rights. For all of who have forgotten that, innocent until proven guilty applies to all citizens, including black Nigerian immigrants." She expressed anger that she had not been notified of the community memorial service and voiced her feelings about what was being said about her family to the media.
"I am angry people chose to make up stories that my family was dysfunctional," Nnete wrote. "I am angry the community chose to believe the false statements because we did not speak to the media to defend them." She stated that the family's silence was a result of depression.
"Too many times I heard, 'Well you guys just cut off

from everyone.'" Nnete wrote. "What did you expect? Sad to say, that is what happens to people who are depressed. They want to be left alone."
Nnete went on to serve as a disc jockey for Houston radio station 97.9 The Box from 2001 to 2012.
In the years since Judy Inyangumia's murder, the Harris County morgue and the assistant medical examiner who handled her autopsy have both dealt with controversy.
As reported in the April 18, 2013, *Leader*, photographs of body stacking at the Harris County morgue, that were allegedly taken at the time of Inyangumia's murder, emerged in late 1998. The bodies depicted in the images were never identified.
Paul Shrode, the assistant medical examiner who completed Inyangumia's autopsy, was fired by El Paso County in 2010. While on the witness stand as part of another unrelated trial Shrode admitted that he had lied about having a law degree.
Per a public information officer at the Houston Police Department, Inyangumia's case is no longer open and is now considered a cold case.

Lariaettes excel at Crowdpleaser's competition

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes recently held their annual line camp with Crowdpleaser's Dance. They did an outstanding job and spent the days learning choreography, teambuilding and leadership. At the end of the camp, awards were presented. Fourteen All-Stars were selected, as well as three Camp Champs.



At right, Camp Champs were, left to right, Outstanding New Member Alexis Lopez, 360 Leader Ikea Taylor, and Outstanding Old Member Naya Cooper.



Lariaettes pictured with their certificates are All-Stars, left to right, (front row) Executive Megan Schuetz, President Naseem Shafaei, Col. Jade Mottu, Lt. Col. Ikea Taylor, Capt. Macalyn Castro-Cardenas, Maj. Diana Castillo, (middle row) Raegan Saxton, Aliana Aleman, Cherish Williams, Naya Cooper, Julia Dasilva, (back row) Adela Alanis, Alexis Lopez and Maria Pedroza. Photo submitted

Allen begins principal role at Thompson



Dr. Melissa Allen

Continued from Page 1A
do their jobs. My philosophy on discipline is that we have expectations, and we expect kids to be able to rise to those expectations. When those expectations are not met, then it's our job to see to it that they are."
With Principal Franklin Moses' demonstration of cultivating school spirit at Dobie still fresh in mind, Allen hopes to do the same with the faculty, staff and students of Thompson.
"The key to cultivating the school spirit here is to build on what we have that's already working," said Allen. "We need to build on the concept of Thompson Pride that we already have, because it already works. As a leader who's stepping into a campus that's already very successful, it's about building on the things that were being successful. It's about kids understanding what it means to be a Thompson Lion and understanding that when they're out and about in the community, it's important that they continue to live up to those values of respect and being model citizens. We cultivate the importance of giving back to the community, as well as being an example to students who come after them by learning from those who have gone before them."
While she is excited for what the near future holds, Allen believes that it would be ill-advised to implement any changes to Thompson's already successful operation procedures without first taking time to gain a more thorough understanding of the school.
"I think that it would be inappropriate to promise or implement any drastic improvements or changes only two weeks into the job," said Allen. "My philosophy has always been about building on what already works, so coming in and making sweeping changes wouldn't be my style. Making radical changes to a successful operation just for the sake of change and making my presence felt wouldn't be appropriate for the students

foundation for the rest of my career," said Allen. "Being at Dobie for 10 years has taught me what kind of students are produced from Thompson, as well as the expectations that are instilled in them by the faculty and staff here. I've been able to see how all of that equates to them being a student at Dobie. Being able to have all that experience, I see it as a big advantage, because I know what Thompson is capable of."
Allen arrives at Thompson with a clear agenda of what her primary objective is as the campus head administrator.
"I think the primary mission of any principal is to make sure that they are doing everything they can to see to it that their students are successful," said Allen. "It's our job to get them ready for success, not just in our campus, but also through high school, college and life. Parents need to know that they have the support necessary to support their students, that they're always welcome to come into the campus. The faculty and staff need to know that they have the support and materials that are necessary for them to

that go here or for the community."
Getting to know the faculty, staff and students and establishing the necessary relationship between a principal and her school has been at the top of Allen's priority list since she arrived at Thompson.
"One of the things that I've been doing is just having an open door to invite the faculty and staff to come in so that we get to know each other," said Allen. "I got a chance to see the strengthening and conditioning camp last week, so I got to meet some of our students. It's really all about being readily available to the community. Making these connections to the community is critical to being successful as principal. I need to show through my behaviors, because that's really what matters in the end, that I really do care about these kids and that means that I'm going to care about what's important to them."
While she hopes to be able to serve Thompson and her community, Allen also hopes that her time spent at Thompson will help to better her as an individual.
"Any time that you go into a new position, you're looking to learn," said Allen. "When you choose to pursue a career in education, your hope is to be working in a learning culture; that's the whole point of it. The hope for me in this position is one of the most important offerings of the public education system, Allen believes there is much more that needs to be provided.
"The public education system needs to make sure that students are prepared for life outside of education," said Allen. "They have to understand the citizenship component of life. It's very important to know your math facts, it's very important to understand

your science laws, it's very important to build that content knowledge, but it's also really, really important for students leaving the Pasadena Independent School District that they have the skills and the habits of things like organization and goal setting. We try to instill not just a state-mandated, curriculum-based education, but also skills that are going to be just as important as our students go throughout their lives."
While continuing Thompson's fine tradition of success will be no simple feat, Allen firmly believes that she will be able to uphold the school's image of a banner and exemplary intermediate school that will continue to serve as an example for others to follow.
"I am very excited about continuing to support the South Belt community in my new role at Thompson as principal and to support our students to be the best they can be," Allen said. "There are big shoes to fill, and I'm looking forward to being able to build on the culture of family, pride and success amongst the students and faculty."

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Post 490 holds membership drive, sells barbecue

American Legion Post 490, 11702 Galveston Road, will hold its 2015-2016 membership drive on Saturday, Aug. 15, from noon to 6 p.m.
Brisket, chicken and sides will be served for \$8 a plate. 2016 paid Post 490 Auxiliary, Sons or Legion Membership will receive a free plate. Drink specials will also be available for members with 2016 paid membership.
Annual dues are \$31. Bring family and friends to support the post.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Pasadena ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, August 25, 2015 in the Pasadena ISD Administration Bldg at 1515 Cherrybrook Lane, Pasadena, Texas 77502. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.0700/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.2800/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

Maintenance and operations	4.80 % increase
Debt Service	9.82 % increase
Total expenditures	5.26 % increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$14,216,083,637	\$15,055,558,386
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$185,911,148	\$134,432,557
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$11,074,929,112	\$11,728,915,370
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$144,832,630	\$104,728,635

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$729,730,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.0700	\$0.2800*	\$1.3500	\$2,804	\$6,001
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.0702	\$0.3085*	\$1.3787	\$2,857	\$6,133
Proposed Rate	\$1.0700	\$0.2800*	\$1.3500	\$2,887	\$6,187

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

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$97,569	\$108,819
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$74,762	\$71,622
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.3500	\$1.3500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,009.29	\$966.90
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-42.39

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

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

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$58,000,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$49,000,000

Ouk acknowledges Al-Asmar as amazing, talented

Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Star Maniroth Ouk is shown with Theresa Al-Asmar, who teaches AP U.S. History. Ouk and Al-Asmar were honored at the annual Pasadena Independent School District Shining Stars Gala, which recognizes the top students from each high school and their favorite teachers.
Ouk's activities include volunteering with UIL Solo and Ensemble and helping with Vex Robotics summer camp and robotics camp at Miller Intermediate.
Ouk served as committee head of the Energy and Environment Committee of the student council.

Concerning the future, Ouk plans to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue a doctorate in mathematics and a master's in computer sciences.
Regarding his teacher, Ouk said, "I had Mrs. Al-Asmar as a teacher for only a year, but I have come to be much closer to her in my junior and senior years.
"Mrs. Al-Asmar is such an amazing teacher and very talented in her field, and her firm attitude in maintaining integrity and her unwillingness to accept halfhearted work has helped to push me to labor even harder in chemistry and other subjects. Because of Mrs. Al-Asmar, I feel that I am more prepared for my upcoming college life. As such, I believe that Mrs. Al-Asmar is most worthy of this honor."



The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the ninth in the series of 10. The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 Pasadena Memorial High School's students.
The information and photos were supplied by the Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Top 10 Shining Stars from Dobie and South Houston high schools. (See Pages 2A and 5A.)

Shulbas take road trip to San Antonio



Aaron and his mother, Cathy Schulba, acting silly in the phone booths at the Menger Hotel.

2008 San Jacinto College graduate Kelli Jones-Schulba and former Sagemont resident Aaron Schulba visited Gruene, Texas, for a vacation this summer, touring the small Texas town with current Sagemont residents David and Cathy Schulba. It was the end of a four-day San Antonio vacation where they stayed at the historic Menger Hotel and enjoyed their first-ever float on the Comal River. They also spent time on the Riverwalk and toured the Towers of America.



The family ate at Magic Time Machine one night and Dorothy and Toto (*Wizard of Oz*) were their hosts. Pictured are, left to right, Kelli, Cathy, Aaron and David Schulba during their dining experience with the Cat in the Hat as their waiter. There were many other exciting waiters including, Katniss Everdeen, Ace Ventura, Catwoman, Nacho Libre and Will Ferrell's *Elf* character.



Left: Aaron walks in the cool waters at a waterfall.

Right: The water tower at Gruene, Texas.

Below: More waterfalls on the at the Towers of America.



Gonzales family enjoys Florida, Disney World



Maverick Carlton sits with two statues on a bench in front of Magic Kingdom.

The Gonzales family, Sagemont residents for almost 20 year, enjoyed a vacation in Florida June 26 through July 4. During their trip, the family went to Clearwater, Disney World's Magic Kingdom, and also dined with *Jake and the Neverland Pirates*, *Doc McStuffins*, *Sophia the First* and *Handy Manny* at the Hollywood Vines at Disney's Hollywood Studios. While in Tampa, the family had dinner at Danny's All American Diner which was featured on *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* on Food Network. The diner had just closed but the owner was kind enough to ask his staff to stay and prepare the family's dinner. (See additional photos on Page 6A.)



AJ Gonzales, Leo Bonilla and Maverick Carlton with "Sophia."



Skylyn Suttles, Leo Bonilla and Maverick Carlton visit "Jake."



Catrena Hodge points the way to the Clearwater Marine Hospital.

Mechanical drafting certificate courses offered to unemployed individuals

San Jacinto College will offer courses for an Engineering Design Graphics Certificate of Technology - Mechanical Specialty award to unemployed or underemployed individuals via the U.S. Department of Labor

H-1B Gulf Coast Ready to Work Grant. The grant, awarded to the college in 2014, focuses on individuals who have been unemployed or underemployed for longer than 27 weeks, and provides tuition money to students pursuing associate degrees, college certificates, and industry-recognized certifications for high-demand careers.

Classes are held at different times during the day, night, and weekend in the engineering design graphics program on the San Jacinto College South campus. In this program, students learn about mechanical drafting and the popular software used to help create machine parts.

The Engineering Design Graphics Certificate of Technology - Mechanical Specialty starts with the very basic technical drafting skills taught using manual drafting tools such as triangles and scales. The courses proceed through 3D computer aided software such as Solidworks, Creo and AutoCAD. The fall 2015 semester deadline to apply is Aug. 17. Classes begin Aug. 24.

The grant also will allow the college to work with industry partners to offer students paid internships. The grant will be ongoing for the next four years and allows funding for in-district fees and books.

The Engineering Design Graphics Certificate of Technology - Mechanical Specialty award was chosen to provide students with the most versatile drafting entry-level job skills. The certificate can be completed in just eight

facilities during the heat of the day: malls, movie theaters, libraries, multi-service centers, etc.

Take frequent cool baths or showers if your house is not air-conditioned.

Water slabs During these dry times, South Belt residents are reminded that watering their home's concrete slab may help save the house's foundation from cracking.

Expansive soils like clay act like a sponge. They swell the more they absorb water and shrink as they lose it, causing a home's foundation to move up and down.

The purpose of watering a home's foundation is to maintain a constant level of moisture in the soil under the house and slab. While opinions vary on the best approach to foundation watering, many experts suggest installing a buried irrigation system using soaker hoses that can be easily purchased and installed. The soaker hoses, however, should not be placed directly against the home's foundation, but rather approximately 6 inches away from it, as to spread into the soil more evenly.

Watering should concentrate on the lowest side of the house, with the goal of keeping the soil consistently moist, but not muddy.

Experts also warn of planting trees and large shrubs too close to a home's slab, as they grow toward moist soil and can cause further foundation damage.

Signs of foundation damage include cracks that are 1/8 inch wide or wider, uneven floors and doors that won't open. Residents who have reason to believe they have structural damage are encouraged to consult a licensed engineer for further evaluation and recommendations.

To avoid heat-related illness:

- Increase water consumption. Drink lots of liquids even before getting thirsty, but avoid those with caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar because these can actually result in the loss of body fluid.
- Conduct outdoor work or exercise in the early morning or evening when it is cooler. Outdoor workers should drink plenty of water or electrolyte-replacement beverages and take frequent breaks in the shade or in an air-conditioned facility. Those unaccustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment need to start slowly and gradually increase heat exposure over several weeks.
- Wear light-colored, loose fitting clothing that permits the evaporation of perspiration.
- Do not leave children, senior citizens or pets unattended in a vehicle.
- A wide-brimmed hat helps prevent sunburn as well as heat-related illness. Sunscreen also protects from the sun's harmful rays and reduces the risk of sunburn.
- If the house is not air-conditioned, seek accommodations in air-conditioned

City of Houston activates heat emergency plan

Continued from Page 1A

residents check on elderly relatives, friends and neighbors for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke during the hot summer months. Seniors are a population especially vulnerable to high temperatures. It takes them nearly twice the time of younger people to return to core body temperature after exposure to extreme temperatures.

Others who are particularly vulnerable include infants and children up to 4 years

of age, those who are overweight and people with heart and respiratory problems. Heat exhaustion, usually associated with heavy activity, is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt contained in sweat. Signs include profuse sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, a weak-but-rapid pulse and fainting. The skin may be cool and moist. If heat exhaustion is untreated, it may

progress to heat stroke.

Heat stroke occurs when the body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating system fails and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106°F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.

Heat stroke symptoms include an extremely high body temperature (above 103°F, orally), red, hot and dry skin (no sweating), rapid and

strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion and unconsciousness.

Staying indoors, preferably in an air-conditioned home or building such as a library, shopping mall or multi-service center, is the best protection against the heat. Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans without refrigerated air only spur the movement of hot humid air, which will accelerate body heating and raise internal body temperature. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

To avoid heat-related illness:

- Increase water consumption. Drink lots of liquids even before getting thirsty, but avoid those with caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar because these can actually result in the loss of body fluid.
- Conduct outdoor work or exercise in the early morning or evening when it is cooler. Outdoor workers should drink plenty of water or electrolyte-replacement beverages and take frequent breaks in the shade or in an air-conditioned facility. Those unaccustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment need to start slowly and gradually increase heat exposure over several weeks.
- Wear light-colored, loose fitting clothing that permits the evaporation of perspiration.
- Do not leave children, senior citizens or pets unattended in a vehicle.
- A wide-brimmed hat helps prevent sunburn as well as heat-related illness. Sunscreen also protects from the sun's harmful rays and reduces the risk of sunburn.
- If the house is not air-conditioned, seek accommodations in air-conditioned

facilities during the heat of the day: malls, movie theaters, libraries, multi-service centers, etc.

Take frequent cool baths or showers if your house is not air-conditioned.

Water slabs During these dry times, South Belt residents are reminded that watering their home's concrete slab may help save the house's foundation from cracking.

Expansive soils like clay act like a sponge. They swell the more they absorb water and shrink as they lose it, causing a home's foundation to move up and down.

The purpose of watering a home's foundation is to maintain a constant level of moisture in the soil under the house and slab. While opinions vary on the best approach to foundation watering, many experts suggest installing a buried irrigation system using soaker hoses that can be easily purchased and installed. The soaker hoses, however, should not be placed directly against the home's foundation, but rather approximately 6 inches away from it, as to spread into the soil more evenly.

Watering should concentrate on the lowest side of the house, with the goal of keeping the soil consistently moist, but not muddy.

Experts also warn of planting trees and large shrubs too close to a home's slab, as they grow toward moist soil and can cause further foundation damage.

Signs of foundation damage include cracks that are 1/8 inch wide or wider, uneven floors and doors that won't open. Residents who have reason to believe they have structural damage are encouraged to consult a licensed engineer for further evaluation and recommendations.

Suarez appreciates Varvoutis' motivation

South Houston High School's Shining Star Arlen Suarez is shown with distinguished educator Brenda Varvoutis, who teaches choir. Suarez and Varvoutis were honored at the annual Pasadena Independent School District Shining Stars Gala which recognizes the top students from each high school and their favorite teachers.

Suarez said, "I volunteer at a clinic over the summer and at the public library. I also volunteer in various other activities throughout the year, such as the beach cleanup and the Parade of Lights." Her extracurricular activities included choir, National Hispanic Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), NASA group, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and academic decathlon.

Leadership for Suarez included positions in choir as

president, vice president, and librarian; in the National Hispanic Honor Society as president and secretary; and in HOSA as vice president.

Suarez plans to study pre-med and go to medical school to become a physician or a biomedical engineer. Remembering her teacher, Suarez said, "Mrs. V first was my sixth-grade choir director and, by sheer luck, also became my director in high school. She has been a very special person in my life because she has pushed me to try new things, and she is very caring and considerate."

"As a student, I look up to her for always being positive and working hard. It is very rare to meet a teacher as special as Mrs. V. I hope one day I can touch people's lives through my work like Mrs. V has touched my life and countless others."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of 10 students being honored along with their favorite mentor. This is the ninth in the series of 10. The 10 Shining Stars represent the Top 10 South Houston High School students. The information and photos were supplied by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running the Top 10 Shining Stars from Dobie and Pasadena Memorial high schools. (See Pages 2A and 3A.)



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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

HERO to be on November ballot

Continued from Page 1A
 Martin said he voted to repeal the ordinance because of its confusing language.

City Charter, and he believes it is a deliberate attempt to confuse and mislead voters. The City Charter explicitly states in Article VII-b, Section 5 that the language must be in the affirmative, where a

“yes” vote implements the ordinance and a “no” vote opposes it. As it stands now, the ballot language will read: “Shall the City of Houston repeal the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, Ord. No. 2014-530, which prohibits discrimination in city employment and city services, city contracts, public accommodations, private employment, and housing based on an individual’s sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or pregnancy?”

Martin believes discrimination should not be accepted on any level, he steadfastly believes that the decision to implement the ordinance should be left up to the voters to decide and is disappointed with the counter intuitive language that will be used.”

The ordinance made national headlines last year when a group of area pastors collected more than 50,000 signatures to force a repeal referendum. City officials, however, deemed more than half of the petition names invalid due to legal issues, effectively postponing the vote. Opponents subsequently filed a suit with the city challenging the removal of the signatures, prompting the city to request the related sermons from some of the involved pastors, before later backing off the demand.

A press release from Martin’s office stated “While Council Member

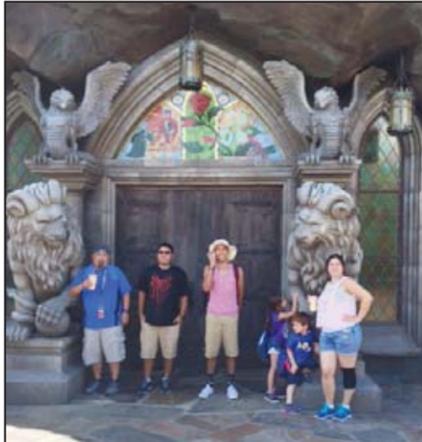
2015 vacation photos

Gonzales family has fun in Florida, Disney World



Left to right are Catrena Hodge, Alicia Gonzales, Maverick Carlton, nephew Leo Bonilla, Adam “AJ” Gonzales, Skylyn Suttles and Adam Gonzales.

The Gonzales family, longtime South Belt residents, left for Florida on June 26 and returned home July 4. During their trip, they went to Clearwater to visit Hope and Winter, the Dolphins from *A Dolphin’s Tale*; to Busch Gardens, Disney World’s Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Disney’s Hollywood Studios, and Universal Studios. Unfortunately, Disney doesn’t do dining with Buzz and Woody, so they found something else Maverick would enjoy. Since he liked to watch *Jake and the Neverland Pirates*, *Doc McStuffins*, *Sophia the First* and *Handy Manny*, they dined at the Hollywood Vines at Disney’s Hollywood studios. They also dined in the new Beauty and the Beast Castle, which the children really enjoyed. (See additional photos on Page 5A.)



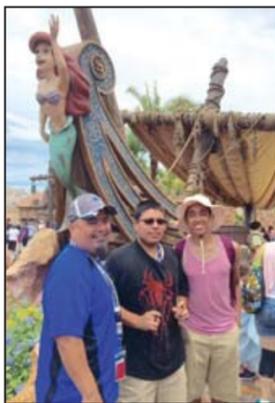
Adam, AJ, Leo, Skylyn, Maverick and Alicia



Maverick and Skylyn have fun posing at the dolphin statue.



Maverick, AJ and Leo at the aquarium.



Adam, AJ and Leo stand in front of *The Little Mermaid* ship.



Buzz Lightyear visits with Maverick.



Adam, Maverick and Skylyn are watched by a dinosaur at the Jurassic Park ride.

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Civic club . . .

Continued from Page 1A heavy trash along public curbs before the scheduled date.

While it is a violation of a city ordinance to place heavy trash on public curbs before 6 p.m. on the Thursday before the scheduled pickup date, early summer storms and floods led city officials to direct the city’s resources toward more pressing issues and postpone the enforcement of the ordinance.

Enforcement of the city ordinance 39-65 is set to resume beginning Sept. 1.

A meeting between officials from the city’s Department of Neighborhoods and representatives from multiple civic club associations including Sagemont, Kirkwood and Scarsdale took place Thursday, Aug. 6, to discuss confusion between the two fronts.

Diverse topics such as the definition of a junk motor vehicle and when heavy trash should be left out were covered during the course of the meeting.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins.

Boykins promised to look into implementing more inspectors on local streets to enforce city ordinances and reduce the frustrations of community activists.

The implementation of additional city inspectors will be a valuable asset to Boykins’ vision of committing to the enforcement of city ordinances.

The meeting also recognized the quick actions of city officials to clean an abandoned house on Sagevale.

Boykins praised the work of local civic club leaders for working with Director Katye Tipton of the Department of Neighborhoods to maintain property values and safety in their community.

“Director Tipton is one of the finest directors I’ve met,” said Boykins. “Together with the help and patience of community civic clubs, we can work to keep these neighborhoods clean and safe. I’d like to thank all the community activists and leaders for putting in so much time and effort to work with us to improve our community.”

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED



Dobie netters take to the court for 2015

Dobie varsity tennis boys' doubles partners Albert Luu (left) and Luis Cabreja celebrate winning a big point during the school's annual exes matches Aug. 8 at the Longhorn tennis courts. The current squad is now preparing for the start of the team tennis season, which gets underway Friday, Aug. 14, with Dobie traveling to Willis. For more on the exes matches, see Page 3B.

Photo by John Bechtle



High school VB season opens

Dobie sweeps NS

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Gutierrez's debut – albeit bitter-sweet – was a big hit at the Lady Longhorns swept past North Shore 25-20, 25-20, 25-13 Aug. 11 at Donna Branch Court.

In the second match, Elkins defeated North Shore, too. The Dobie/Elkins matchup was cancelled after unexpected torrential downpours in the area called for a stoppage.

So Gutierrez's first win as Dobie's head coach is in the books. Yes, it came

At left, Dobie's Camille Singleton (8) and Natasha Walters (14) defend North Shore's Kayla Alexander (7) at the net during the Lady Longhorns' 25-20, 25-20, 25-13 season-opening win Aug. 11 at Donna Branch Courts.

Photo by John Bechtle

against a North Shore program that she guided for more than a decade. But it's time to move on.

"I could see that as I was calling out to some of my players, some of the North Shore players were looking at me, too," she said.

"North Shore has a young group, and I absolutely want them to be successful. Their time will come. For us, it was a great way to open the season."

The first and second games against North Shore were both tightly contested before the Lady Longhorns were able to close out the big points at

the end of both to claim wins.

The third set went almost entirely Dobie's way for the sweep.

"I saw really good discipline out there," Gutierrez said.

"We had some unforced errors early on, but I kind of expected that in the season opener with so many players teaming with one another for the first time. As the third game wore on, you could see our chemistry building on the court. We did some things much better in that final game."

Libero Ashley Perez was great throughout the

Continued on Page 2B

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Beverly Hills football meet/greet

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff would like to meet with parents and prospective football players at some point prior to the start of school as there are several key issues to cover, including the mandatory completion of an athletic physical for the 2015-2016 school years. Parents may call coach Ben Portis to set up a meet and greet time at 713-291-0251. For more information, see Page 2B.

Dobie season tickets

The Pasadena ISD athletic department is offering discounted season ticket packages and single game student tickets now through Aug. 21 at the ticket office, 2906 Dabney in Pasadena. The contact number is 713-740-0841.

South Belt area residents may also purchase the packages at Roy Shiflett Realtors, located at 11559 Beamer, next to the South Belt-Ellington Leader office.

Those packages will sell Mondays through Saturdays, but prospective purchasers are asked to call ahead at 281-481-3733.

The packages, featuring seven Pasadena ISD Veterans Stadium appearances for Dobie, South Houston, Pasadena, Sam Rayburn and Memorial, are \$42 per package, a savings of \$1 per game.

A big discount comes in the form of preseason student ticket sales. Those single game tickets are \$3 each. All tickets, both adult and student above first grade, will be \$7 at the gate.

SBHLL fall baseball sign up

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has one more registration date for its upcoming fall league. The remaining session is Sunday, Aug. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park.

Players must have turned 4 years old or more by Jan. 1, 2015, to be eligible to compete. The fee is \$75 per player, which includes a team shirt and cap. There is a sibling discount for those families who register more than one player. Additionally, players who register for the fall baseball season will receive a \$15 discount toward 2016 regular season registration within the SBHLL.

Payments are accepted via cash and credit or debit cards only. There are no exceptions.

The first games of the season will be contested Sept. 20, and each team will compete in at least six games on alternating Sundays after 1 p.m.

JFD football discount cards

Members of the Dobie High School football program are selling discount cards good at a variety of local restaurants as a fundraiser for the program.

Cost of the cards is \$20 each, and players currently have the cards available.

Those who purchase the discount cards will be able to use them for discounts and, in some cases, free appetizers, in the South Belt, Pearland and Webster areas.

In most cases, the offers extend for a calendar year beginning this month.

Those who wish to purchase a card or two may contact any Longhorn football player, regardless of grade level or playing team status. Cards will be on sale throughout August.

Longhorn football car wash

The Dobie football program and its booster club will host a car wash Saturday, Aug. 15, at Snowies Snow Cones, located in the Food Town parking lot at Beamer/Scarsdale. The car washing will begin at 8 a.m. Their is a \$5 minimum per wash, but larger donations will be accepted.



Dobie offensive coordinator Anthony Evans (far right) fires up his players prior to the start of the Longhorns' intrasquad workout Aug. 8, which wrapped up the first week of preseason workouts. The Longhorns are now set to take on Strake Jesuit in scrimmage action Friday, Aug. 14, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Junior varsity action is at 4:30 p.m., followed by the freshmen at 5:30 p.m. and the upperclassmen at 6:45 p.m. The football booster club will host a hamburger/plate fundraiser during the event. Hamburger/chips/soft drink combos will be sold for \$5 each beginning at 4:30 p.m. For more on Dobie football, see Page 2B.

Photo by John Bechtle

At last, BAFL openers due to kick off Aug. 15

Players and coaches in the Bay Area Football League are about to see their hard preseason work pay off with the opportunity to compete against others in different colored uniforms.

After a few weeks of individual team practices and, in most cases, two scrimmages, the 2015 regular season kickoff has arrived.

Each of the league's 16 teams will be in action as the race to the playoffs gets underway.

The Southbelt area's three programs – the Ellington Rams, the Sagemont Cowboys and the Southbelt Dolphins – will all begin the regular season on the road. The Rams will be on the road for the first two weeks of the season.

Opening day will find the Rams at the Magnolia Park Sharks, whereas the Sagemont Cowboys will take on the Bayou City Gators.

The Dolphins and their faithful will head to La Marque to go against the Cougars.

Needless to say, all involved are ready to get the show on the road.

"The Dolphins are excited and ready for the upcoming 2015 football season," Dolphin president Cheryl Arnesen said.

"The boys have practiced very hard and are looking forward to opening day on the 15th versus the Cougars."

The same goes for the Cowboys, who are celebrating their 50th year of existence. The Cowboys were one of the charter members of the Bay Area Football League all those

years ago.

"The kids have been hitting and tackling each other, so they're ready to go up against another team," Cowboys' president Denny Wranich Sr. said.

"We have a proud organization, and some of these kids' parents played for us. It's special to be a part of that."

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South Belt sports news, notes

U14 girls' soccer seeks players

The South Belt Chargers, a girls' U14 Division 2 soccer team, is looking for competitive players for the upcoming season. Candidates must have been born between Aug. 1, 2001 and July 31, 2002. Practices are ongoing every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at El Franco Lee Park, Field #11 (closest to the Beltway). Call coach Sammy Abrego at 281-244-9790 or 281-948-7095, or direct email to sammy.abrego-1@nasa.gov.

SBHLL BTS baseball

SBHLL will host its annual Back to School Tournament for 16-under teams Aug. 21-23 at the league facility at El Franco Lee Park. The team fee is \$300, and each team is guaranteed at least three games.

Each team must also provide two game balls during the tournament. For more information, call Chris Escalera at 832-630-4007 or direct email to chubrock30@yahoo.com.

For more information about any league activities, visit the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League page on Facebook.

Lions set football dates

The Thompson Intermediate football coaching staff has released more key dates as the start of the school year nears. Those returning to the eighth-grade football program may pick up their practice equipment Friday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon. Students planning to play seventh-grade football may pick up their gear from 1 to 3 p.m.

There will also be a second equipment pickup date, Monday, Aug. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. Football practice will begin on the first day of school, which is Tuesday, Aug. 25. Those wishing to participate in any practice or workout must have a completed athletics physical for the 2015-2016 school year on file at the school prior to participation. There are no exceptions.

The Thompson football program will practice in pads for the first time on Saturday, Aug. 29, with seventh-grade students involved from 9 to 10 a.m. and eighth-grade students involved from 10:30 to noon. Other information will be available in the *Leader* when merited.

Beverly Hills football info

The Beverly Hills Intermediate football coaching staff has released several important dates as the start of the school year nears.

The coaching staff will have an equipment handout session Friday, Aug. 14, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the school. Any incoming seventh- or returning eighth-grade player who has not been issued equipment as of yet must do so at this time.

Those wishing to participate in any practice or workout beginning Aug. 25 must have a completed athletics physical for the 2015-2016 school year on file at the school prior to participation. There are no exceptions.

The staff is also seeking to meet with all players and parents individually prior to the start of school. A meet and greet can be scheduled with head coach Ben Portis at 713-291-0251. Those who have already met with the Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching this summer do not need to handle this.

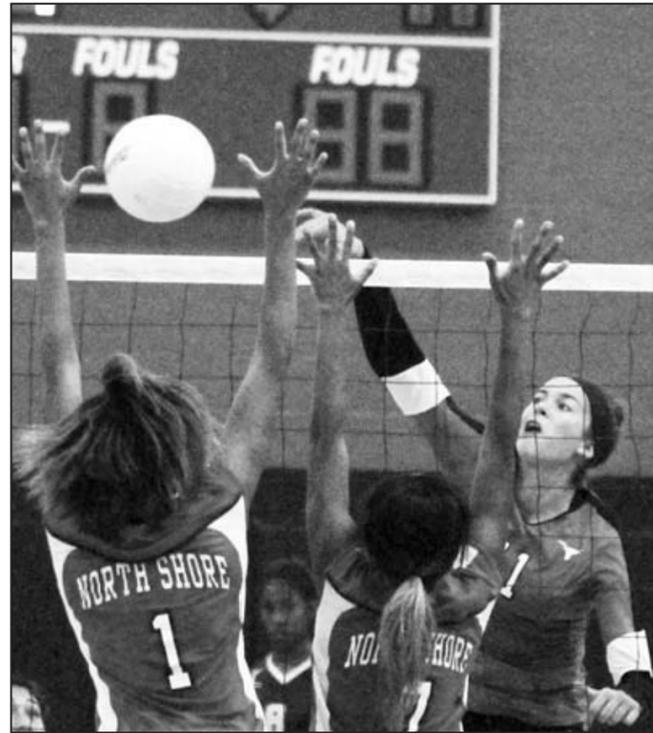
The Bears' annual Food, Fun and Football event will be held at the school Saturday, Sept. 5, from 8 a.m. to noon. On that day, each of the school's football teams will be in scrimmage action, and there will be a variety of food items available for purchase.

SBGSA 12U all-stars place fifth at southern nationals in Dallas



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 12-under all-star team captured fifth place among 16 teams at the American Softball Association's class B southern nationals in Dallas, finishing off a summer filled with terrific accomplishments. The team previously won the American Softball Association Metro class C tournament in late June, qualifying them for the southern nationals.

Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) coach Charlie Salazar, Erika Tafolla, Celeste Salazar, Marisa Soto, Lexanie Rodriguez, Alexandra Perez, Karisa Hernandez, Chloe Flores, Kayla Guajardo, Leslie Longoria, Ashley Garcia and Felicity Soto, (back row) coach Art Guajardo.



Dobie VB topples Mustangs

Continued from Page 1B match, and Camille Singleton and Natasha Walters led the way at the net. Freshman hitter Taylor Pleasants showed plenty of potential in her first match, and just about everyone else Gutierrez turned to excel.

Now it's on to San Antonio for the Northside ISD Invitational Aug. 14-15.

Clearly, the Lady Longhorns are still focused on chemistry on and off the court, and finding the best combinations is a work in progress, but so far, so

good for the locals. "We have (San Antonio) and then we'll play in the Dickinson tournament, and really, those are for getting plenty of match play in and finding our best lineup moving forward," Gutierrez said.

"I want to get everybody in, see what they can do in coordination with one another and then deciding the rotation in time for district play. Being ready once that first district match gets here is always the goal."

It was just one win, but it was a good one for

Dobie and Gutierrez. And there was plenty of promise shown. Now it's on to San Antonio.

Above, Dobie's Taylor Pleasants (11), playing in her first match as a freshman on the varsity team, scores over North Shore's Jayla Broadnax (1) and Kayla Alexander (7) Aug. 11 at Dobie. The Lady Longhorns swept the match to get the 2015 season off to a fast start.

Above left, Dobie's Kat Villanueva (19) passes to the front row in the second game against North Shore. Villanueva, a first-year varsity player, excelled as the Lady Longhorns earned a win in the debut match for new head coach Dawn Gutierrez.



Senior defensive tackle Chandler Tisby (left) engages a teammate during drills prior to the Longhorns' intrasquad scrimmage Aug. 8. Dobie now turns its attention to Strake Jesuit, the first of two upcoming scrimmages.

Day by day, Dobie football learning, improving skills

As much as Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman would love to see the Longhorns manhandle Deer Park on opening weekend when the time comes — and he would — he understands it's a long season.

First, the Longhorns have a chance to participate in a pair of scrimmages, and Norman will accept all of the extra workout time he can get.

"This (season) is not a sprint, it's a marathon," he said. "Of course we want to get to games 11 and 12, but we have to be focused on now."

That now includes going against Strake Jesuit in the first of a pair of scrimmages. Dobie will also go up against state-ranked Dickinson Friday, Aug. 21.

"We're just trying to get as many reps as we can each day, and polishing some things up," Norman said. "As for the scrimmage, it's a simulated game. It's about execution and being where we need to be in certain situations. Defensively, I've been more and more impressed, so it'll be fun to see how that group performs. We haven't exactly been able to go all out yet, so that'll be good to see, too."

Dobie football scrimmage vs. Strake Jesuit Crusaders
Friday, Aug. 14,
Veterans Stadium, Pasadena
4:30 p.m. — Junior varsity
5:30 p.m. — Freshmen
6:45 p.m. — Varsity

VB tournaments await Dobie, CB

There is no rest for the weary when it comes to high school volleyball.

A whirlwind seven-day preseason followed by opening night Aug. 11 is to be continued with tournament play for the Dobie and Clear Brook varsity programs.

Fifteen teams, including Dobie, are set to be in the mix for the championship at the Northside ISD Varsity Volleyball Invitational in San Antonio.

The short, two-day event will feature pool play Aug. 14, followed by trophy round action Aug. 15.

The Lady Longhorns will go against San Antonio Warren in an opening-day match Aug. 14 at 9 a.m. Dobie goes right back to action against Clemens at 10:15.

All pool play round games will be of the best-of-three variety.

Clear Brook, meanwhile, is entered in one of the most competitive tournaments in the nation.

Host Pearland, one of the top-ranked programs in the Houston area, will play host to the Adidas Texas Volleyball Invitational, Aug. 13-15 at a variety of locations in Pearland.

The event annually included many of the state's top-ranked programs in the Class 6A, 5A and 4A ranks, including several programs which have gone on to win state championships after beginning the season at the Pearland event.

Clear Brook will play each of its three pool play matches Aug. 13 at Pearland Junior High West.

Head coach Meredith Thompson's team will lead off against Fort Bend Austin at 11:30 a.m., then take on Pearce at 2:30 p.m.

Clear Brook's final pool play match comes at 3:30 p.m. against Magnolia West.

All pool play matches will be contested as best-of-three.

Madrid takes over SJC women's hoops

First-year women's basketball head coach Mike Madrid takes the helm at San Jacinto College hoping to maintain momentum from last year's remarkable turnaround season.

The veteran coach comes to San Jacinto College after serving for two

years as head coach of the Paris Junior College women's basketball program. San Jacinto College and Paris are in the same conference, so Madrid is familiar with San Jacinto College's program and the possibilities.

"The team and coaching staff from last year at

San Jac proved that it's a program that can be competitive regardless of history or circumstances," Madrid commented.

"I just hope to step in and continue winning and to maintain that momentum."

The 2014-2015 season was arguably the most dramatic turnaround season in the history of San Jacinto College's women's basketball program.

After a 3-27 record in 2013-2014, the team finished last season with a 23-9 record, earned a national ranking for the first time in the program's history and advanced to the semifinal round of the regional tournament.

Madrid has an impressive resumé, having coached at either the high school or college level for 13 years.

Before his two years at PJC, he served three years as assistant women's basketball coach at Texas Woman's University, where he helped the Pioneers win their first Lone Star Conference tournament championship in any sport.

The team then advanced to the National Collegiate Athletic Association South Central Region tournament.

He began his coaching career at New Mexico's Portales High School, helping the team win the 2001 Class 3A championship.

After a year at Lubbock Estacado High School as a boys' football, track and field and basketball coach, he coached boys' basket-

ball for two years at Lubbock Christian University under women's head coach Steve Gomez, one as a graduate assistant and four as an assistant coach.

While he was at Lubbock Christian, the team was the 2005-2006 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national runner-up and won the 2006-2007 Sooner Athletic Conference championship.

Like all coaches, Madrid emphasizes winning. But his personal coaching philosophy is to stress winning in all areas of life, not just in sports.

"I strive to help students to succeed not just in athletics, but also in academics and really in every area," he said.

"To do that, it requires being competitive, but also being consistent. We will stress the importance of graduating and becoming well-rounded, being responsible and positive after graduation."

Madrid holds a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's in sports administration from Eastern New Mexico University.

He holds a master's in education administration from Lubbock Christian University.

The San Jacinto College women's basketball season gets under way in late October.

For information about San Jacinto College athletic programs, visit sanjacsports.com.



Mike Madrid takes over the San Jacinto College women's basketball program after having built an extensive background in the sport at the high school and collegiate level. He spent the previous two seasons coaching at Region XIV opponent Paris Junior College.
 Photo by Rob Vanya

Former Dobie netters return as 2015 team tennis season begins

Perhaps seeing some of Dobie's past tennis champions in action will be just the thing the current squad needs as the regular season opener approaches Aug. 14.

At least it's a concept that has worked in the past for head coach Manuel Moreno Jr., and he's willing to give it another try this go-round.

The intense heat and obligations on the part of

many former players limited this season's turnout to 14, but the Aug. 8 exes matches still served as a reminder to today's players as to what has been and what can be achieved.

Dobie will enter the 2015 team tennis season aiming to win its first team tennis title since 2012. Pearland won top honors in 2013, with Dawson taking over in 2014.

As for 2015, it's hard to

determine how things will eventually play out. Five of the team's top performing girls' players are back, but the boys' squad will need some players to step up their games in a hurry.

It all starts Friday, Aug. 14, as the Longhorns travel to Willis. Then comes another road trip to take on Sherman and Burleson in the Dallas area.

Dobie's first home match comes Aug. 19

against Friendswood.

Exes can still play
Moreno has always said the Dobie tennis program provides for a bit of a second family for many players during their careers. That's why it's so nice to see some of those players return for the annual exes matches.

"It's always fun seeing all the old names that helped build this program into what it is today,"

Moreno said. "Being around the old-timers gives the current players a chance to see and hear how important Dobie tennis was and still is to these players."

Interestingly enough, players from the 2014-2015 squad must've misplaced the invitation.

"I was disappointed more of last year's team wasn't present, but it didn't surprise me," More-

no said. Those former players who came out to compete against the 2015 team included: Ivette Alba ('13), Mylie Phan ('10), Betram Nguyen ('15), Lam Mai ('05), John Le ('14), Brian Williams ('14), Dylan Nguyen ('13), Travis Dao ('13), Huy Nguyen ('09), Si Pham ('03), Mark Bocado ('04), Kyle Gee ('14), Mike Nguyen ('01) and Duy Nguyen ('09).



Dylan Nguyen, a class of 2013 Dobie High School graduate, rips a forehand return during the exes matches at Dobie. He was a member of Dobie's last district championship team in the spring of 2013.



John Le (left) and Ivette Alba congratulate one another after scoring a point in their doubles match during the exes matches. Alba was a senior on Dobie's 2013 team, while Le finished his career at Dobie as part of the 2014 team.

Photos by
John Bechtle
Sports Editor



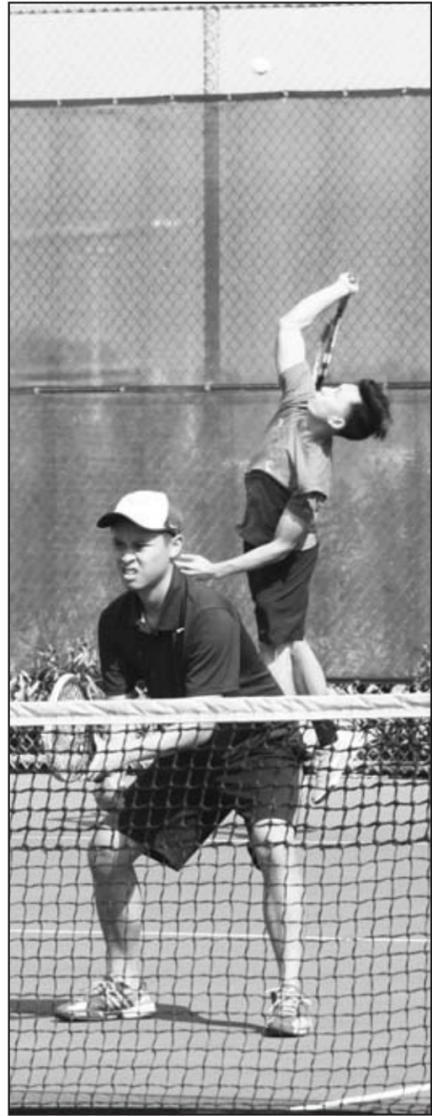
The action was at times intense during the exes matches, but with courtside temperatures well into the 90s during play, there were also plenty of breaks being taken. From left, Steven Phan, Alex Cuaping, Brian Williams ('14) and Lam Mai ('05) get some water before returning to doubles play.



It was all fun and games as Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (center) chatted it up with his current No. 1 girls' doubles team of Hai Ho (left) and Lada Heng during the exes matches Aug. 8, but things will get a bit more serious when the Longhorns open the regular season Aug. 14 at Willis.

At right, Huy Nguyen (serving) Duy Nguyen (both class of 2009 Dobie High School graduates) were two of the more than a dozen former Longhorn varsity tennis players who turned out for the school's annual exes matches Aug. 8 at Dobie. The extreme heat and other obligations on the part of some former players might have limited the turnout somewhat, but it did nothing to dampen the fun had by all involved. The exes matches annually serve to start the current varsity unit's team tennis season, which officially begins Friday, Aug. 14, at Willis. Dobie will then take to the road to play Sherman and Duncanville Aug. 15. The program's first home match is Aug. 19 against the Friendswood Mustangs.

At left, class of 2001 graduate Mike Nguyen tosses the ball in preparation for a serve. As it turns out, Nguyen was the eldest former Dobie player in the exes series, but he quickly knocked the rust off his game during what was a highly competitive match.



CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

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

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Highway 3 in Webster. Public welcome and encouraged to bring others. For information, call 281-910-1971.

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

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday of each month, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes networking with professional business women, lunch and guest speaker. Women of all ages and occupations are invited. Bring plenty of business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

Noon

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

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

7 p.m.

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

Al-Anon (English Speaking) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United

Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

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

8:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

7 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

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

Noon

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

6 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

7:30 a.m.

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

drop in.

10 a.m.

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

11 a.m.

Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For persons whose lives are affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

1 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

Bay Area Bluegrass Association - Produces a bluegrass music show and jam session the third Saturday of each month. December, 2015, is an exception. Stage show begins at 7 p.m., but pickers may bring instruments and come earlier. Free. Johnny Arolo Civic Center, 400 Walker, League City. For more information, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

1 p.m.

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

2 p.m.

Grief Support Group - For any adult who has lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. For information, call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Candlelight Meeting, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway,

Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

7 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

10 a.m.

Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.

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

10:30 a.m.

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together - SALT holds monthly meetings, 10:30 a.m., Madison Jobe Senior Citizens Center, 1700 East Thomas St. in Pasadena, third Monday of each month. No meeting in December. January meeting is on the second Monday. Meetings teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may be in attendance. Free. Refreshments served. Meetings start timely and are one hour or less. For information, call 713-477-0175.

11:30 a.m.

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

Noon

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

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Continued on Page 4B

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GARAGE SALE
 11214 SANDWOOD CT. Sat, Aug 15 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Baby items, clothes, small electrical appliances, furniture, 2 bikes / Mongoose, toys. 8-13

7933 BROADWAY in Pearland behind Shear Design Salon. Sat, Aug 15, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. ESTATE SALE. 8-13

2127 TOWER BRIDGE RD. Pearland. Fri - Sun, Aug 14 - 16, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Multi-family. Crafting supplies, household and decorative items great for setting up college apartments. 8-13

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 HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED on the job or in an automobile accident? The company doctor or insurance company doctor is not your doctor. He works for the company. In Texas you get to choose your doctor. Call me, Dr. Michael Stokes for your free consultation - 281-481-1623. I WILL WORK for you. I have been relieving back and neck

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★★★★★

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

Genealogy Group - The Parker Williams Genealogy Group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. The public is invited to attend. For information, email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net. 3:30 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. For adults with Parkinson's disease only. 6 p.m.

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Mondays at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua, 6 p.m. Come and improve crossword game playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for more information. 6:30 p.m.

New Directions Singles - Group for ages 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner, 6:30 p.m., at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway, Webster. The dinner may include guest speakers and/or group activities. For more information, call Bambi at 281-482-7143 or 281-795-4514. 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - Group meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the staff meeting room. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Betty Biel at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033. 7:30 p.m.

The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society - Meets the third week of the month at Clear Lake Park Bldg., 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Guests welcome. Presenters explore a variety of subjects such as fossils, planetary geology, mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry making, rock, fossil and mineral collecting. Field trips to various collecting sites throughout Texas and surrounding states. All interested persons welcome to attend. Door prizes. Free parking. For more information, visit www.clgms.org. 7 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in. 6:30 p.m.

Breast Cancer Support Group - Meets the third Tuesday of every month 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 more information call 281-526-6840.

Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets the third Tuesday of the month (except December, June and July) at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd. in Pearland. For more information, call 281-485-4140 or 281-485-1431. 7 p.m.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Weekly sexual assault support group offers a confidential self-help support group for victim/survivors of rape and sexual abuse. To attend or for more information, call 281-286-2525. 7 p.m.

Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room, first floor. Bring a friend and work together to make PIP the best in the city. PIP consists of police and citizens working together to make neighborhoods safer. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in. 6:30 p.m.

Breast Cancer Support Group - Meets the third Tuesday of every month 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 more information call 281-526-6840.

Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets the third Tuesday of the month (except December, June and July) at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd. in Pearland. For more information, call 281-485-4140 or 281-485-1431. 7 p.m.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Weekly sexual assault support group offers a confidential self-help support group for victim/survivors of rape and sexual abuse. To attend or for more information, call 281-286-2525. 7 p.m.

Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room, first floor. Bring a friend and work together to make PIP the best in the city. PIP consists of police and citizens working together to make neighborhoods safer. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

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

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For more information, call the club at 281-486-1911. 11:30 a.m.

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month, 11:30 a.m., Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway (Fuqua and I-45). December may be an exception. For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531. Noon

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

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

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

Survivors of Suicide Support Group - The Southeast Houston group meets twice each month. The group offers support and coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adult individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. For information on registration or to obtain a physical address for a location, call 713-533-4500 or visit www.crisishotline.org.

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.



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South Belters share 2015 vacation photos

Tran-Le family enjoys sand, water and sun in Florida



Above and below: While in Panama Beach, the family stayed in a condo with a scenic view from the balcony of the blue waters at the beach.



The Tran-Le family, Hai Tran and Phung Le, daughter Vina Tran and son Vnam Tran, 20-year South Belt residents, were able to take a family trip to Florida in early July. One of the attractions recommended was Shell Island in Panama. A stop at Destin Beach also proved to be well worth it, as they discovered the sand there was even whiter and more pristine than Panama's.



Above: At Destin Beach, Vnam gets buried in the white sand.

Photos above and at right: One attraction recommended to the family was Shell Island in Panama. They rode on a catamaran to get there where they scuba dived into the clear-blue waters and explored shellfish and other aquatic life.



The family visited the wacky attraction called Wonders Works, an upside-down building.

Beating the heat at Schlitterbahn



Schlitterbahn Galveston is one of the best places to beat the heat. Pictured are, left to right, Greyson Crawford, Jady Hendrix, and Kiana McCombs and her little brother Jordan McCombs, peeping around the stairway. The McCombs family has lived in Clearbrook Meadow subdivision for 13 years. Kiana will be a third-grader this fall at Moore Elementary. Jordan attends St. Luke's Early Childhood Center and is very excited about the school's new location. Their cousin, Jady, is from Kansas and in a few weeks Greyson will be moving to Kansas as well. They're trying to squeeze in as much cousin-time as possible.

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Lewis family shares selfie from Disney World



Left to right Isaiah Nava, 9, Jaidon Lewis, 5, and mom Jaime Lewis visited Disney in Orlando, Fla., and enjoyed spending time on the beaches. Isaiah and Jaidon attend Beta Academy in Pasadena. Jaime grew up in Highland Meadow subdivision and graduated from Dobie, but currently resides in Houston.

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