

Heavy trash scheduled

Tree waste will be picked up Thursday, Jan. 21, for city of Houston residents living north of Beltway 8. Residents south of the beltway are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 28. For more information, call 3-1-1.

Melillo holds health fair

The physical education department at Melillo Middle School will sponsor a community-wide health/fitness fair at the school on Friday, Jan. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The health fair, open to both adults and children, will provide basic health screenings, fitness information and participation activities.

A variety of informational booths will be available to help the community be aware of many health- and fitness-related services and providers located in the area.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

Library events scheduled

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale: Movie Madness will be Thursday, Jan. 14, at 4 p.m. Call 281-484-2036 for feature title.

Jump start New Year's resolutions at the South Belt Slimdown.

On Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, learn ways to monitor eating patterns. Call for information.

The library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The February computer class schedule becomes available Tuesday, Jan. 19. Space is limited - sign up early.

Looking for a job? Workforce Solutions will host free job search seminars Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

The next session, *Creating References, Cover and Thank You Letters*, will be held Wednesday Jan. 20.

After-school craft time for children is Jan. 21, at 4 p.m. Free tickets are required.

Family storytime is Tuesday at 7 p.m. Preschooler storytime is Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Toddler time is Thursday at 10 and 11:15 a.m.

Softball registration set

The South Belt Girls Softball Association's spring registration will be held at El Franco Lee Park as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tryouts will be Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 281-485-7630.

CCISD event now Jan. 15

Canceled because of snow in December, the Clear Creek Independent School District's *Night at the Theatre* has been rescheduled.

Students from all CCISD intermediate and high schools, as well as Greene Elementary, will perform a mini play Friday, Jan. 15, in the Clear Lake High School auditorium.

The first play begins at 5:30 p.m. with the last curtain call around 8 p.m.

The cost for the event is one canned or non-perishable food item.

Book signing at library

Burton Chapman will do a presentation and book signing for *Telephone Road, Texas: A History and Guide to Southeast Houston* from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Parker Williams Library.

For information, call 281-484-2036. *Telephone Road, Texas* features histories of Hobby Airport, Galveston-Houston, Santa Rosa Theater, Gulfgate Mall, interim NASA buildings, Gold Star Recording Studio, the Jimmie Menutis Club, and other southeast Houston people and places.

K of C free throw contest set

The Knights of Columbus' annual free throw contest will be held in the Dobie gym Saturday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon.

For information, call Chris Sorensen at 832-512-8371.

LSA open house Jan. 24

Lutheran South Academy will hold an informative open house and tour of the school on Jan. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. for prospective students and their parents.

Lutheran South is a college preparatory Christian school serving prekindergarten through 12th grade. For information, call 281-617-5626.

BH Civic Club to meet

Beverly Hills Civic Club meets Monday, Jan. 25, at 6:45 p.m. at Beverly Hills Park. Officers will be elected and concerns can be discussed. Refreshments will be served.

Hobby Lions Club to meet

Hobby Airport Lions Club meets Wednesday, Jan. 20, at noon at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45.

E-mail HobbyAirportLions@gmail.com for more information.

Hard freeze strikes South Belt area

Temperatures dip into lower 20s; few problems reported

By James Bolen

The South Belt area was hit by a hard freeze this past week with temperatures dipping into the lower 20s.

Fortunately, however, the community was spared from heavy precipitation, limiting the amount of resulting damage.

All area schools remained open despite the chilly conditions. Neither the Pasadena Independent School District nor the Clear Creek Independent School District reported any serious problems.

PISD spokeswoman Candace Ahlfinger attributes this, in large part, to preparedness.

"Everyone had time to prepare," Ahlfinger said.

This sentiment is shared by by Clear Brook

City Municipal Utility District Director of Operations Dean Baier, who compared the freeze with a similar one that occurred in late December 1983.

"In 1983, everyone had left for Christmas," Baier said. "No one took precaution. This time, everyone was well-prepared."

Baier noted that in 1983, several homes flooded as a result of the cold temperatures. This time, however, Baier said he knew of no episodes of flooding.

The primary problems incurred within the utility district, according to Baier, involved backflow prevention devices used for irrigation purposes.

"People insulated their pipes," Baier said. "But not the backflow device itself."

Baier added, however, that a few homes with

in the district did suffer from frozen pipes.

Neither the Sagemeadow Municipal Utility

District nor the Kirkmont Municipal Utility District reported any serious problems.

PISD's Morgan educates on dangers of choking game

By James Bolen

Following the recent asphyxiation-related death of a 14-year-old South Belt boy, Pasadena Independent School District board member Vickie Morgan, who lost her daughter Jenny in a similar incident the previous December, is on a mission to warn others about the dangers of the "choking game."

"Parents need to know about it," Morgan said. "I want kids' lives to be saved."

Also known as the "fainting game," "space monkey," "blackout game," "pass out game," "sleeper hold" and "funky chicken," the practice induces a state of euphoria brought on by the intentional deprivation of oxygen to the brain. The "game" can either be played solo using a scarf, bungee cord, belt, necktie or similar device to put pressure on the carotid artery in the neck or with a partner, who applies pressure to a subject's neck until he or she passes out.

While many adults are unaware of the activity, it has become common in recent years with children, being popularized by Web sites such as YouTube.

According to Morgan, many youths who would not otherwise experiment with drugs are drawn to the practice.

"It makes it more acceptable," she said. "You get a feeling of euphoria without any illegal substances."

Morgan said her daughter falls into this category.

"She never got into trouble. She was the perfect kid," she said. "She was always at church, school or with us. If it could happen to her, it can happen to anyone."

The 24-year school board member believes her daughter may have picked up the game in her school's restroom, noting she had a large number of bathroom "admits."

In an effort to educate both students and school faculty about the dangers of the practice, Morgan has spoken at all intermediate and high schools in the district this past year.

After one presentation at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Morgan said she was approached by a student who said she regularly played the game and was planning to play alone that day, but the speech had saved her life.

PISD has also now made teaching the dangers of the choking game part of its health curriculum.

While most experts agree the practice is on the rise, it's difficult to pinpoint an exact number of deaths attributed to the game, as many are mislabeled as suicide. A 2008 report conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control concluded there have been at least 82 deaths related to the choking game since 1995.

In the study, almost 96 percent of the deaths occurred while the youth was alone, and 93 percent of parents said they were not aware of the game until their child died. More than 86 percent of the deaths involved males, with most fatalities occurring in the 11 to 16 age range (the age range overall was 6 to 19 years, with a median age of 13).

Warning signs parents should look for include bloodshot eyes, red marks on the neck, severe headaches and scarves and belts tied to bedroom furniture or doorknobs or found knotted on the floor.

Morgan is hopeful her actions will prevent other parents from having to go through what she has.

"I not only lost my daughter, but my best friend," she said. "Now, my goal is to help other families from having to go through birthdays, Christmases and Thanksgivings without their child. That's what Jenny would want us to do."

Elam fundraiser set for Jan. 17

By James Bolen

A benefit to aid John Elam in his fight against cancer will be held Sunday, Jan. 17, at Hugh and Jeff's Carwash and Grill, 1232 W. FM 646 in Dickinson, from 2 to 10 p.m.

A 1985 Dobie graduate, Elam was diagnosed with a rare, unknown form of cancer in April 2004.

To date, Elam has had three separate tumors successfully removed from his liver, pancreas and colon, respectively.

However, three additional small tumors were discovered in his abdomen in January 2008, and his current doctors consider further surgery too dangerous.

A former stand-out football player, Elam is now seeking second opinions from other physicians.

To help defray medical costs, former Dobie football teammates Hugh Lazenberry and Chris Hererra are hosting a barbecue fundraiser and auction.

Providing entertainment for the event will be the John Evans Band, led by 1986 Dobie graduate and former quarterback John Evans, along

with Ziggy Moonshine and the Midnight River Choir.

Also attending will be NASA astronaut Clay Anderson, who will be signing autographed pictures while in full flight gear.

All proceeds will go directly to the Elam family.

Available barbecue items include burgers, chicken, ribs, brisket and sausage.

Items to be auctioned include unlimited lifetime car washes, an autographed Elam #57 Texas A&M football jersey, a game of golf with former Texas A&M football coach Jackie Sherrill, sports memorabilia autographed by Andy Pettitte, round-trip airfare for two to Las Vegas and a two-night hotel stay at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"We are going to raise enough money to make sure John and his family have the tools and access they need to continue his fight, and that takes money," Lazenberry said. "Those of us who were lucky enough to play football with John know how tough this man is. I am honored to know him and proud he calls me his friend."

Cover charge will be \$15. For more information, contact Lazenberry at hughlazenberry@aol.com or 281-808-9997.

For those wishing to donate but unable to attend the event, an account has been set up at Wachovia Bank.

Donations may be dropped off at any Wachovia branch.

Checks should be made out to: All In For Elam, account number 2000031233051.



John Elam

Genoa US Postal branch to remain open - for now



The U.S. Postal Service has removed the Genoa branch, located at 10935 Alameda Genoa, from its list of offices up for possible closure or consolidation.

The move stems in part from a campaign begun by longtime South Belt resident and former Meador Elementary teacher Linda Boyd, who wrote a letter to the editor, which appeared in the Sept. 17 edition of the *Leader*. In the letter, Boyd encouraged other upset residents to write the Postal Service, as well as their local elected officials to complain.

The venture proved effective, as Boyd received a letter from Houston Postmaster Herman Ellis, dated Jan. 7, notifying her of the decision to remain open for the time being.

"Please note, after the initial study, the Postal Service has determined closing the Genoa Station is not feasible at this time," Ellis wrote in the letter.

Ellis, however, did note the branch may still be considered for closure in the 2011 fiscal year, which takes place between Oct. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2011.

The move to close the Genoa branch would be the result of tough financial times for the USPS, which is battling the Internet, as well as private competitors.

A Station and Branch Optimization and Consolidation initiative conducted by the Postal Regulatory Commission reviewed roughly 3,600 branches nationwide for possible closure or consolidation. Of these, 371 are still being examined.

The Genoa station was just one of four branches in the Greater Houston area to be reviewed for closure. The other three were Barker Springs, the Westchase Finance Post Office on Gessner and an office in Nassau Bay.

The Postal Service has taken other steps in recent years to cut costs.

Across the country, there are currently only 175,000 mail boxes - about half the number found in 1989. Since 2000, the USPS has reduced its staff from 800,000 to 650,000 (almost entirely through attrition). And this past May, it raised the price of stamps by 2 cents. The discontinuation of Saturday deliveries is also being considered.

Centerpoint shores up support poles

By Matt Griesmyer

Power distribution poles throughout the south east Houston area are seeing new additions to their structure.

"CenterPoint Energy inspects and replaces poles on an ongoing basis to ensure the integrity of its electric distribution system, and bracing poles is part of that process," said Leticia Lowe, representative of CenterPoint Energy.

CenterPoint inspected the poles in the southeast Houston area last year and are repairing or replacing around 8,900 poles. The repairs and replacement of poles in the South Belt area are reportedly not in response to Hurricane Ike.

These structures, composed of galvanized steel, are driven five or more feet into the ground and then belted to the pole, extending the already 40 to 65 year life span by another 15 to 20 years.

If a pole is deemed repairable, it is treated for fungi and termites and then fitted with the aforementioned brace. If a pole is not repairable, then it is scheduled for replacement.

Lowe explained that the cost for the repairs to distribution poles is covered by a percentage of residents' monthly electric bill.

"In the long run, we want to get the most out of the poles because the customers are paying for them," Lowe said.



San Jac promotes art, science

San Jacinto College has launched a "Promise for Their Future" scholarship campaign to benefit students from east Harris County who wish to attend the college. To date, 12 donors have committed \$75,000 to the campaign benefiting San Jacinto College students.

"Promise for Their Future" is a new scholarship opportunity for San Jacinto College students majoring in the arts and sciences. This fund will provide scholarships (tuition, fees, and books) to help up to 10 students complete their certificate or associate degree programs beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.

"Our goal is to raise at least \$250,000 to create a scholarship endowment so these funds are available to our students in perpetuity," commented Susan Arscott, foundation director and vice president for resource development. The scholarship kickoff is Friday, Jan. 22, as part of a private screening of the Houston Symphony's performance of *The Planets - An HD Odyssey*.

The Houston Symphony has commissioned celebrated producer/director Duncan Copp to assemble state-of-the-art, high definition images from NASA's exploration of the solar system to accompany Holst's cosmic musical score, along with commentary by the world's leading planetary scientists.

"We are extremely grateful to the Houston

Symphony and NASA for joining with us to provide an incredible symphony experience for our students, employees, guests and several students and employees from the local independent school districts working with the college," added Arscott.

Donors to date include three at the \$10,000 level: Ben and Janice Meador; John and Rose Moon Sr.; and David and Marie Flickinger. Nine have committed to a \$5,000 donation including: Bay Architects; Dell; Rusty and Brenda Hellyer; LeTorneau University; McGriff, Seibels & Williams; Maureen Murphy (San Jac College South campus president) and Joseph McArdle; Shell Oil; Daniel and Margaret Snooks; and, Verizon.

Donations for the "Promise for Their Future" campaign are being accepted through the San Jacinto College Foundation at the \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000 and \$50,000 level. Benefits include prime seat tickets for the Houston Symphony performance of *The Planets - An HD Odyssey* on Friday, Jan. 22, sponsorship of student tickets for the symphony performance, and an ad in the event program. Donors will be invited to attend an invitation-only pre-concert reception hosted by San Jac Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. For information about the campaign and donor opportunities, visit www.sanjac.edu/HoustonSymphony, or call 281-998-6104.

Readers' Opinions

Valtasaros; Avatar a disappointment

Do not read this if you haven't seen the movie Avatar and plan to do so! Or maybe read it and save yourself some time and money.

After hearing great reviews from many of our friends and family, my wife and I went to see the new movie Avatar last night. We don't go to the movies very much because of time restraints so we were looking forward to this treat.

What a disappointment, I am an admirer of James Cameron, the writer and director of Avatar, and was hoping for the reality to match the hype. Instead I got a movie that had great visual effects, outstanding CGI, beautiful and believable cinematography and a crappy, politically based story line that is repeated ad nauseam on the Syfy channel every 2 hours.

We humans have destroyed everything green on our planet.

We humans in the guise of a huge Corporation are now exploiting the resources of another planet.

We humans in the guise of the military (or in this case ex military) wish to kill the indigenous population of the new planet and just take the rare and extremely valuable mineral from under the sacred tree (yes, I said the sacred tree, there's a new and fresh idea.)

Some of we humans, in the guise of the scientists, are loving and benevolent, all they wish to do is take samples of the tree's roots.

Add in some imaginative ideas like the military person that refuses to fire on the "tree huggers," the military person that does not want to "martyr" herself, the loud and mean looking military leader of the "we humans" who says that we will fight the terror created by the indigenous population shooting arrows at our super duper heavily armored flying ships with more terror, mix in the never ending fight between the good human that is now morphing into one of the indigenous people and the evil human military guy

and then bring the movie to a predictable ending where the "we humans" lose and are forced back to our dead planet and the "good guys" get to keep their rare and extremely valuable mineral under the sacred tree.

All that for the great price of \$20.00 not including popcorn and a drink.

Maybe the first clue that failure was inevitable for "we humans" should have been that the rare and extremely valuable mineral under the sacred tree that we were trying to obtain is called "unobtainium." GROAN. **George Valtasaros** P.S.: I kept my recyclable 3D glasses. (\$20?)

District 22 candidates face job interview

There are six candidates in the race for the District 22 House seat; the incumbent Pete Olson and five challengers. The Clear Lake Tea Party and four other co-sponsoring groups within District 22, has invited all six candidates to a Job Interview.

Patterned after the Saddleback interview that Rick Warren conducted with John McCain and Barack Obama in 2008, the candidates who accept the invitation will be asked questions relative to today's issues and what their plan is regarding those issues. Unlike a town-hall meeting or a press conference, candidates will not be in control of the agenda and will not have access to the questions beforehand. Only one candidate is on stage at a time.

The Job Interview is a new concept for politics; this may be the first ever such event in the country. Over 900 constituents of District 22 will be in the audience and will complete a score card on the candidate's performance. The audience will not participate in asking questions.

The interviews take place Jan. 30, 2010, at 6 p.m. in the Richard S. Slocum Auditorium, San Jacinto College, Spencer Highway, Pasadena. District 22 constituents are invited. This is an opportunity for constituents to become informed voters before the March 2, 2010 primary

elections.

Volper's response: "Climate Change"

Global Warming. This issue is a never-ending source of political power. This problem will never be completely fixed so the liberals will get political mileage out of this issue until the end of the world arrives. Politicians all types, not just liberals don't look for the issues that will help people. They look for the issues that will give them political power. Al Gore comes to mind.

It is very profitable for scientists. The government loves to pay scientists for research that proves that we are on an environmental precipice and the only solution is bigger government. If a scientist is given a million dollars a year to find global warming, he is going to find global warming. And speaking of global destruction, remember the hole in the ozone, acid rain, and the coming ice age. The airplane, the Concorde was going to create global cooling. The oceans were full of pollution and that we would die within 20 years. Ted Danson told us that back in the 80s. Whatever happened to all of that hysteria? Yep that scientist Al Gore comes to mind.

It is very profitable for the politicians and celebrities who have invested in alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar. If you force the government to mandate the use of these sources, their stock portfolios will go up. Al Gore comes to mind.

Liberal celebrities live such a vacuous life that they have to attach on to such issues. This gives them a feeling of actually accomplishing something. Al Gore comes to mind.

Have you noticed that liberals are not very consistent about this issue? Half of the political and celebrity crowd that are on this save the planet bandwagon live in huge mansions, own private jets, travel in limousines and only go to the finest hotel suites. Their war on global warming is producing more global warming. Al Gore

comes to mind.

These limousine liberals create a bigger carbon footprint in one week than an average Joe creates in one year, and then preach to Joe to make changes to his lifestyle. Why the inconsistency? There are two reasons. They are elitists and don't need to follow the same rules as the common man. Let them eat cake. And deep down inside many of them really don't believe in this issue and understand that it is merely an attempt to gain political power. Al Gore comes to mind.

Mandating cut backs is not going to work. We have never been a self-limiting type of culture. We tend to trust technology to make life better, not rationing. We already have a technological answer to our energy needs and that is nuclear power. But the environmentalist will flip when he hears that. Nuclear power is even more evil than oil. Al Gore comes to mind.

The good folks who lost their jobs at IP in Franklin lost out because of COST and demand. One thing is a positive, they are saving the trees, the same trees that are directly associated with CO2. Don't ask those folks to hold their breath. Many scientists are counting their Greenbacks at the expense of others. Al Gore comes to mind.

Al is now telling the world that we will be polar cap free in less than 5 years. The sooner someone abducts Al Gore and drops his worthless butt off at the North Pole so he can see in person just how much ice (and polar bears) there is up there, the better. He's the PT Barnum of our day, one hoax after another.

I just want to know what's up with Al's head. When is it going to explode? How much CO2 will it emit when it finally blows? After that, I have a vision of Al Gore meandering aimlessly across an ice floe wearing nothing but a robe and flip flops. He's muttering to himself about the bears, polar bears, bears, as he kicks little snowballs.

One last thing folks. The planet has been here for four and one half billion years and it will still be here long after we are all gone.

A.C. Volper

Champion chosen as MHSE Employee of the Year



Diane Champion (center) was recently chosen as 2009 Employee of the Year at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. She was chosen for her compassion and dedication to her work and those who work with her. Pictured presenting her with the award are, left to right, Kyle Price, Meg Shorrock, Champion, George Gaston and Brian Walton. Champion is a registered nurse at the hospital.

Photo submitted

Thompson creates models



Thompson Intermediate students in Cherrise Lindsley's seventh-grade reading classes have recently been learning about World War II. The unit culminated with a project where several students chose to create models of various aspects of this era. Pictured are, from left to right, Jimmy Nevarez and Xavier Rodriguez with their model of D-Day, Julie Nguyen with her depiction of Hiroshima just before the atomic bomb was dropped, Anna Goodman with her representation of a concentration camp (complete with barracks and a cattle car), and Caxton Petri (kneeling) with his model representing the Battle of Britain.

Photo by Carol Waters

Hernandez graduates from HBU

Chelsey Marie Hernandez received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a minor in sociology from Houston Baptist University during commencement exercises on Dec. 12, 2009. Hernandez graduated magna cum laude with honors in history and a cumulative grade point average of 3.82. Since 2006, her name has appeared on the dean's list. In 2008, Hernandez was initiated into the Iota Pi Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega fraternity where she served on the executive board as vice president risk management. Throughout her collegiate career, she was a member of several honors societies including: Alpha Chi (for juniors and seniors in the top 10 percent of their class), Alpha Kappa Delta (sociology), Omicron Delta Kappa (honors and leadership), Phi Alpha Theta (history), Phi Theta Kappa and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. In spring 2009, HBU's history faculty named Hernandez Outstanding History Major 2008-2009. A native of La Porte, she is the daughter of Sondra Gaubatz and the granddaughter of Cliff and Joyce Gaubatz, also of La Porte. She graduated magna cum laude in 2005 from Lutheran South Academy and plans to pursue a career in teaching.



Harris County Transit expands bus service to non-Metro areas

Harris County Transit Services is greatly expanding its bus service to areas traditionally not serviced by Metro.

The new routes will more than double the current service to more than 60 linear miles and triple the number of stops.

The routes will link residents of Pasadena, Baytown, La Porte, Clear Lake, Seabrook, South Houston, Highlands and Crosby into a single transit system, offering a variety of new travel options.

Harris County Transit Services Director Ken Fickes said people will be able to get to jobs, to school or the doctor.

"It is our hope that more and more residents will see this as an affordable way to get around. We tried to take people's travel needs into account. For instance, you can get on a bus in Crosby and go to the Strawberry Medical Clinic in Pasadena for at most, only a dollar," said Fickes.

Other direct stops include the Harris County Recovers Housing Assistance Center, 16602 Diana Lane, (serving residents who still have homes damaged by Hurricane

Ike), San Jacinto College and Pasadena Town Square Mall. The routes also include stops at various drug stores, grocery stores and libraries.

Harris County Community Services Director David Turkel expressed gratitude for the public and private cooperation that made this new service a possibility.

"We are grateful to the Houston Galveston Area Council for providing the grant for the service and for the support and cooperation from elected officials and the business community along these routes," Turkel said.

While the maximum price is \$1 per ride, seniors and those who are disabled will only pay 50 cents. All students with an ID are free.

Route service times vary by location. Starting times range from 5:30 to 7 a.m. and conclude between 6 and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. For the latest routes and schedules, go to www.harriscountytansit.com, then follow the Services tab to Proposed Services.

Singles dance Jan. 16

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the VFW Lodge in Bacliff, 1401 Grand Avenue on FM 646, one-quarter mile west of Highway 146.

Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers.

For information, call 409-948-1156 or 281-484-4762

Deaths

Terry Markham McKee Jr.

Terry Markham McKee Jr., 46, a longtime South Belt resident, died Jan. 7, 2010.

McKee was born July 29, 1963, in Houston, Texas. His volunteerism with the City of Friendswood Fire Marshal's Office and Office of Emergency Management earned him special recognition during Hurricanes Rita and Ike. He was a passionate HAM radio operator and an expert repair man. During his life, he worked for several residential complexes in the Galveston-Houston area, including the historic Flagship Hotel.

He is survived by his parents, Terry and Johnell McKee Sr. of Friendswood, siblings Tiffany McKee-Garrett and Kevin Garrett of Friendswood; nephews Zachary and Jacob Garrett; and nieces Margaret, Abigail, Olivia and Mary Garrett.

The funeral Mass was held Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, with burial at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Dickinson, Texas.

Memorial contributions in McKee's name may be made to the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church Building Fund.

1920. He was a family man, church organist, deacon and Sunday School superintendent.

Burlingame was a veteran of the U.S. armed forces. He will be remembered for having a green thumb, telling bad jokes, being a punster and putterer. He loved animals and enjoyed opera. He was a civil engineer (NASA) and a starter of various unfinished home improvements. Burlingame was a Redskins fan.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Anna Jacquelyn Baggett Burlingame; mother Margaret Houghland Burlingame; father Owen James Burlingame; and sister Irma Burlingame.

He is survived by his daughters, Shirley Ann Burlingame Aguilan and husband Joe of Houston and Margaret Lynn Burlingame Wright of New Bern, N.C.; grandchildren Apryl Dawn Aguilan Sandoval and husband Alex Sandoval of Houston, Timothy Owen Wright and wife Stacey "Cat" Leigh Largent Burns Wright of Raleigh, N.C., Katie Lyn Aguilan Manning of Houston, Natalie Ann Aguilan of Houston, David Adams Aguilan, Vanessa Marie Aguilan and Elizabeth Ashley Aguilan; four great-grandchildren; sisters Marie Burlingame Heath of Florida, Freada Burlingame Pearson of Pennsylvania, Flora Burlingame Draper of Florida, Peggy Burlingame Clark of Pennsylvania; brother James Owen Burlingame and wife Audrey of North Carolina;

and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Monday, Jan. 11, at Forest Park East Funeral Home followed with interment at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Harriet Lee Davidson



Harriet Lee Davidson, 70, of Brazoria, former longtime South Belt resident, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, surrounded by her family. She was born Jan. 4, 1940, in Eagle Lake, Texas.

Davidson will be remembered for her love of her family.

Survivors include her husband of 37 years, Billy Glenn Davidson; daughters Dianna Northen and husband Darrell; Linda Jalufka and husband Mark; Suzanne Bischof and husband Mike; Mary Heldman and husband John; grandchildren Michael and Jenni Northen; Ray, Charlie and John Jalufka; Jonny, Katie and Sammy Bischof;

Bryce Hogan and Hannah Heldman; sisters Jennie Motheral and husband Bruce and Sarah Smith and husband Richard; brother Bob McLellan and wife Susan; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Davidson was preceded in death by her father, Charles Samuel McLellan; her mother, Martha (Golden) McLellan Matthews; and three grandsons, John Cornelius and Michael and Matthew Bischof.

Visitation will be at Baker Funeral Home in West Columbia on Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, at the First United Methodist Church of Brazoria with the Rev. Greg

Oberg officiating. Burial will follow at Brazoria Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Michael Northen, Bryce Hogan, Jonathon Bischof, Raymond Jalufka, Darrell Northen, John Heldman, Mike Bischof, and Mark Jalufka. Honorary pallbearers will be Charlie and John Jalufka, Sammy Bischof and Sean Cash.

Memorial donations may be made in Davidson's name to the First United Methodist Church of Brazoria, 409 Lazy Lane, Brazoria, Texas 77422.

Services are under the direction of Baker Funeral Home in West Columbia, 634 S. Columbia Drive, West Columbia, Texas 77486.

Online condolences may be left for the family by signing the guestbook at www.bakerfuneralhome.net.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the Leader style.

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A funeral should be as unique and special as the person it represents. We believe every life has a unique story and deserves to be honored. Let us help you tell that story, and truly celebrate a life that was lived.

Niday Funeral Home
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281.464.7200
www.nidayfunerals.com

Leader looks back, reviews highlights of 2009

The year in review is continued from last week's edition. Months January through May can be found in the Jan. 7, 2010, edition of the *Leader*.

June 4
Investigators from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office got a break in the May 7 arson case at Weber Elementary when one of the two suspects returned to the school and again attempted to set fire to the building. A resident walking his dog on the Blackhawk hike and bike trail Friday, May 29, at roughly 3:30 a.m. spotted two men throwing Molotov cocktails at the school, as had been done earlier in the month, and detained the suspects while he phoned authorities. Deputies had been patrolling the area frequently since the initial incident and arrived within minutes. Deputies Vance Britt and Parnell Jones responded to the call and arrested suspects Brian Rodriguez and Joseph Johnson. Upon being apprehended, the two men were questioned by an investigator from the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, who presented them with surveillance footage from the May 7 incident.

Rodriguez, 23, reportedly admitted taking part in the first event, while Johnson, 23, reportedly denied any involvement. Both men were charged with felony arson for their roles in the second incident. Acting on information gained from the arrested suspects, deputies apprehended a third suspect, James "Jimmy" Thomas of northwest Houston, early Wednesday morning, June 3, for his role in the May 7 incident. In addition to receiving help from the fire marshal's office, the constable's office was aided in its investigation by the Galveston County Sheriff's Office, which serves as the police liaison for the Clear Creek Independent School District. Weber officials expressed their gratitude for the deputies' work by thanking them on the school's display sign.

Dobie freshman Brianna Perez was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident in the 8100 block of Alameda Genoa Sunday, May 17.

According to police, Perez, 15, was a passenger in a green Buick Century traveling west near Randolph when the driver of an eastbound white flatbed wrecker, Theophilus Tarlton, turned left into the median and failed to yield to oncoming traffic. The driver of the Buick attempted to drive around the wrecker, but the passenger side of the vehicle struck the rear end of the truck. The Buick then went up on the median and came to a stop near a tree. Tarlton, 53, fled north on Randolph. Perez suffered serious head injuries and was transported to Ben Taub General Hospital. The driver of the Buick was not injured.

Longtime South Belt resident Emory Gadd was named this year's Distinguished Alumnus from South Houston High School at an award ceremony Tuesday, May 26. A 1965 graduate of the area school, Gadd has devoted much of his time to his alma mater, the Pasadena Independent School District and the community as a whole. Gadd has served on the staff of Sagemont Church for nearly 40 years, acting as minister to students and his current position of associate pastor. The former South Houston student attended Houston Baptist University, where he received a bachelor's degree in Christianity and sociology in 1977. Gadd serves on the board of directors of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, and in 1993, he was named the chamber's Citizen of the Year.

The pastor actively volunteers for PISD through mentoring programs and other efforts. He has served on the campus improvement

team and as campus chaplain at Dobie High School. Gadd has additionally served on the PISD Health Advisory Council and the emergency response teams for Stuchbery Elementary and Dobie High School and is the team statistician for the Dobie football coaching staff. He has further served as a board member of the PISD Education Foundation and, in 2005, was named a Distinguished Citizen of the school district. Gadd was instrumental in getting PISD bonds passed in both 2000 and 2004 and also lends his support to many San Jacinto College initiatives.

The distinguished alumnus was introduced at the award ceremony by former South Belt resident Al Carter. A 1970 graduate of South Houston, Carter recently returned to the high school to work as its advanced placement U.S. History teacher. Carter replaced longtime South Houston teacher Janet (Barnett) Reed, who was named Outstanding Former Teacher at the ceremony, after recently retiring from the school after 41 years of teaching. The night Gadd was honored marked the 44th anniversary of his high school graduation and of his first date with his wife, Susan (Wells) Gadd, also a South Houston graduate. The couple have two adult sons, John and Jim Gadd, and one grandchild.

Dobie High School science teacher, Sandra Hall, retired after serving 34 years in the education field. She had been a teacher, department head, curriculum writer, strategist, tutor and an assistant principal. Hall worked in the Bibb County Georgia School District before moving to Houston 28 years ago as a result of her husband's job relocation. Hall graduated from Mercer University with a Bachelor of Science in biology and psychology with a minor in Latin. She continued her education and received a Master of Education in biology with an emphasis on environmental science from Georgia College and a Master of Science degree in education management from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. She is married to Lonnie Hall. The pair have been married for 38 years and are the parents of Londra Brown, Lanita Simmons and Landon Hall. They are also the proud grandparents of Sheridan Victoria Simmons.

June 11
Kenneth Flolo was killed in a traffic accident in the 13100 block of the Gulf Freeway service road near Beltway 8 Saturday, June 6. Flolo was driving a Harley Davidson motorcycle south on the feeder road and was attempting to enter the freeway when he hit the rear end of a white Ford Explorer driven by Ileri Perez. Perez, 33, was attempting to back down the entrance ramp at the time of the collision. Flolo, 47, was pronounced dead at the scene. Perez was not injured in this incident and was charged with criminally negligent homicide. This marked the fifth fatality of the year on the stretch of the Gulf Freeway from Fuqua to Beltway 8 and the second motorcycle fatality to occur in only three weeks. An additional five fatal accidents occurred on the Gulf Freeway between Fuqua and Scarsdale in 2008, and the intersection of Beltway 8 and I-45 has also been the site of two suicides in the past two years.

Brianna Perez died Friday, June 5, at Ben Taub General Hospital from severe brain injuries she suffered in a hit-and-run accident Sunday, May 17. No charges were filed on the driver of the other vehicle, Theophilus Tarlton, as a grand jury handed down a no bill, saying there was a chance he was unaware of the collision.

July 16
Roughly 10 parking tickets issued the previous week by the City of Houston in areas not incorporated by the city were dismissed after it was determined they were issued in error. Several readers notified the *Leader* they had received the suspect tickets, most for parking in the wrong direction or more than 18 inches from the curb. In response, the *Leader* staff contacted Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee, who put the paper in touch with Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan's office. It was discovered all of the citations had been issued Tuesday, June 30, by the same city parking enforcement officer. The officer was told by a Harris County Precinct 2 deputy the disputed areas - mostly in the Kirkwood South and Kirkmont subdivisions - was not in the city limits. The city officer, however, said he had been instructed by his supervisor to issue the tickets. Upon being contacted by Ryan's office, city officials agreed to drop the cases. Originally, those who received the tickets were told they still had to show up in court to have the citations dismissed. However, officials later opted to remove their names from the court dockets.

Channel 13 investigative reporter Wayne Dolcefino was the guest speaker at a luncheon sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, July 8.

Introduced by *Leader* publisher and chamber president Marie Flickinger, Dolcefino spoke on a number of his past news stories - many of which have won prestigious journalism awards. Also in attendance was Rep. Ken Legler. The freshman representative, who represents the South Belt area, honored the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 25th anniversary by awarding chamber Director Sally Mitchell a House resolution. Legler also honored chamber Second Vice President Emory Gadd with a House resolution for being awarded South Houston High School's Distinguished Alumnus.

South Belt resident Matthew Connolly was badly injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan Thursday, July 9. Connolly, a member of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, was the driver of a military vehicle that was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). He suffered a collapsed lung, a dislocated hip, a concussion, an injured neck and multiple cuts, bruises and contusions. He was awarded the Purple Heart. A passenger in the vehicle was killed. Connolly, 21, and his brother Mitchell Connolly, 18, both attended Dobie High School before joining the Army. Both men are based out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

Angela (Widener) Stallings was named the new principal of Memorial High School at a special Pasadena Independent School District board meeting Wednesday, July 15. Stallings replaced Billye Smith, who was promoted to associate superintendent of curriculum and instruction (grades 7-12) the previous month. Most recently, Stallings worked at Thompson Intermediate, where she served as principal for two years. Prior to this, she worked at Dobie High School for 16 years, serving as an English teacher, cheerleader sponsor, counselor and assistant principal at the school.

Not only did Stallings work at Dobie, but she graduated from the high school in 1986. Following high school, Stallings attended Lamar University, where she received her bachelor's degree in English, along with a teaching certificate in 1991. Originally from Lake Charles, La., Stallings student taught sixth-grade English at Lamar Middle School in Beaumont, before moving to Houston. After being hired at Dobie, she continued her education at University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she received two master's degrees - one in educational management and one in counseling.

In 1996, Stallings made the switch from teaching to counseling, a position she would hold until 2000, when then-assistant principal Steve Jamail was promoted to principal, and she was named his replacement. That same year, Stallings received her Ph.D. in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University. The career educator married longtime Dobie football coach Richard Stallings in 1999. The couple have two children: Hannah, 7, and Hayden, 4.

July 23
Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan held a town hall meeting Tuesday, July 21, to discuss area flooding and drainage issues.

In addition to Sullivan, officials from the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department, the Harris County Flood Control District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were on hand to field questions. Also attending the meeting were representatives from the offices of U.S. Rep. Pete Olson, Rep. John Davis, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia. Roughly 150 residents attended the function, with many waiting in line to voice their concerns.

A fatal traffic accident took place Friday, July 17, in the 10000 block of Gil Jr. Lane near Alameda Mall. A 49-year-old driver had just returned home from getting his driver's license when he mistakenly hit the accelerator and crashed into his garage, killing his wife and mother-in-law and seriously injuring his 6-year-old nephew. Hac Thi Nguyen, 66, and Vi Thi Nguyen, 41, were cooking in the home's garage when the unnamed driver, a recent Vietnamese immigrant, struck them. A Houston police officer who lived at the home heard the crash and attempted to administer CPR, but was unsuccessful. The two were pronounced dead at the scene. The boy was taken to Memorial Hermann Hospital with a collapsed lung and damaged spleen. No charges were filed on the driver.

July 30
The Chase Bank in the 11200 block of Beltway 8 near 45 was robbed Saturday, July 25. The FBI named former Dobie student Matheos "Matt" Pitikas as the lone suspect. According to police, Pitikas arrived at the bank around 1:30 p.m. without a vehicle. He approached two tellers, brandished a handgun and demanded money. Pitikas then fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash and reportedly cut through the back yard of a Sageholme home that backs up to the bank. In addition to the FBI, more than 20 vehicles from the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office and the Harris County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident.

HPD Officer S. McGee, the first to arrive at the scene, spotted a suspect, believed to be Pitikas, sitting under the Sageholm bridge less than four blocks away from the bank. McGee told the suspect repeatedly to show his hands. The suspect, however, pulled out what is believed to have been a pistol and pointed it at the officer. Fearing for his life, McGee fired at least once at the suspect, who then fled into the area's storm drainage system. Both a K-9 unit and a helicopter combed the area searching for the suspect, but were unsuccessful. Records show that Pitikas had an extensive criminal record, including convictions for criminal trespassing, DWI, multiple drug possession charges and evading arrest.

Frazier Elementary assistant principal Sandra Jobe was named the new principal of Kruse Elementary. She replaced longtime principal Rosie Prusz, who was named the Pasadena Independent School District's associate superintendent for leadership and instructional support. Jobe has 20 years experience in education - 12 as a teacher and eight as an assistant principal. She began her career in 1989 as a teacher at PISD's Jensen Elementary, before taking an assistant principal position in 2001 in the Pearl and Independent School District. Jobe changed jobs again in 2003 when she became an assistant principal in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. She served as Frazier's assistant principal for two years. The principal is a product of PISD, graduating from Sam Rayburn High School. She also attended Park View Intermediate and Golden Acres Elementary. Jobe continued her education at the University of Houston - Clear Lake, earning a Bachelor of Science in elementary education in 1989 and a Master of Science in educational management in 2001. Jobe was named the 2008-2009 Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA) Assistant Principal of the Year. Jobe has two children and two grandchildren. Both children also attended PISD schools and graduated from Sam Rayburn High School.

San Jacinto College ranked 40th in the nation as an associate degree producer, according to a 2009 Community College Week magazine report of the top 100 degree and certificate producing two-year institutions. The college also ranked 39th in awarding degrees to minority students and 44th on granting two-year certificates.

Beverly Hills Intermediate assistant principal Toni Lopez was named the new principal of Thompson Intermediate. Lopez replaced Angela Stallings, who was named the new principal of Memorial High School.

A group of concerned South Belt residents and community leaders formed a coalition in hopes of persuading county and federal officials to construct a major retention pond in the area to alleviate local flooding. The decision to form such an alliance came just days after a July 21 meeting, where representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the earliest improvements could be made to Clear Creek would be 13 to 15 years. The Corps has been studying the Clear Creek Project since 1962 at the cost of \$35 million. Corps officials at the July meeting further said any future work on Clear Creek would likely require a new Congressional authorization and additional funding, due to its change in scope over the last 47 years.

Aug. 6
Former South Belt resident James Daigle was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army. Daigle, a 1983 Dobie graduate, was honored by having one of his Purple Hearts pinned on by former President George W. Bush at a ceremony in Dallas. He was awarded one Purple Heart for taking a bullet in his leg and the other for injury sustained while the vehicle he was in ran over an improvised explosive device (IED). He received the Bronze Star for his valor as a medic on many dangerous missions.

A fatal traffic accident took place Friday, July 31, in the 2600 block of Genoa Red Bluff. The driver of a black Acura TL was traveling east on Genoa Red Bluff and attempted to pass a slow moving vehicle. The Acura then struck a blue Suzuki motorcycle traveling west on Genoa Red Bluff. The driver of the motorcycle, Joshua Wells, 21, was killed.

Despite opposition from community members and elected officials, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs board approved \$2 million in tax credits to the developer of the low-income Dixie Gardens apartment complex. The TDHCA rates potential complexes on a point system, with the higher number of points being the better. While opposition to a project is figured into the equation, it is not necessarily a deciding factor. The Dixie Gardens received a score of 177 points. To date, no tax credits have ever been granted in Texas to a project with less than 200 points. (The average score is around 300.) It is doubtful the Dixie Gardens would normally have gained approval. However, nine other similar projects with higher scores withdrew their applications for various reasons. Most low-income housing projects receive money from the city in addition to state incentives. At Councilman Mike Sullivan's request, the City of Houston, however, refused to allocate funds to aid in the construction of the complex.

The Texas Legislature passed House HB 55, which amended the state's Transportation Code, Section 545.425, prohibiting the use of a wireless communication device while operating a vehicle within an active school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or the device is used with a hands-free mechanism. An exception allows the use of devices to make emergency calls to specific organizations listed in the law, including police, fire and emergency medical services. The new law, which took effect Sept. 1, also prohibits bus operators from using a wireless communication device while operating a passenger bus with

a minor passenger unless the bus is stopped. Violators are subject to a fine up to \$200.

Aug. 20
Michele Staley was named the new principal of Clear Brook High School. Staley is no stranger to the school, as she worked as a biology teacher and volleyball coach there from 1996 to 1999. She went on to work in the Pearland Independent School District, where she served as an assistant principal and principal. Most recently, Staley served as principal of Pearland High School. The principal herself is a product of the Clear Creek Independent School District, graduating from Clear Creek High School in 1988. Staley then attended Texas A&M University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She went on to attend the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she earned a master's degree in mid-management. Staley and her husband, Greg Staley, reside in Pearland and have three children, Graham, 8, Ethan, 6, and Ian, 3.

Jose Luis Sosa was killed in a traffic accident in the 13900 block of the Gulf Freeway Sunday, Aug. 16. Sosa, 24, was driving a red Ford sport utility vehicle south on the freeway just north of Scarsdale when he left his lane and struck a pole. He was pronounced dead at the scene. No other vehicles were involved in the incident. This marked the sixth fatality this year on the stretch of the Gulf Freeway from Fuqua to Scarsdale.

Aug. 27
In a surprising move Monday, Aug. 24, the developer of the proposed low-income Dixie Gardens apartment complex withdrew its application for state assistance.

Sept. 3
Matheos Pitikas, who was wanted in connection with the July 25 robbery of the Chase Bank in the 11200 block of Beltway 8, died Sunday, Aug. 30, of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, following a three-day manhunt in the Florida panhandle. Pitikas, 24, was stopped by sheriff's deputies Friday, July 28, in Walton County, Fla. When the deputies approached his vehicle, Pitikas fired at them with a 9 mm handgun and fled the scene, striking one of the officers with his truck. Deputies pursued Pitikas, and more gunfire was exchanged, but no one was hit. Speeds exceeded 90 mph during the chase, according to police. Pitikas crashed his truck and ran into the neighboring woods. Despite being hounded by sheriff's deputies from three counties, FBI agents, a helicopter and K-9 units, Pitikas was able to elude capture for roughly 48 hours, before being spotted behind a home's tool shed. Once cornered by deputies, Pitikas used his last remaining bullet on himself, police said.

A grand opening was held Wednesday, August 26, for the new nondenominational chapel at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. The renovation was chosen by hospital staff as their 2008 employee campaign project. The campaign was one of the most successful in the hospital's history with employees, physicians and community members raising roughly \$56,000.

Sept. 10
Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan held a town hall meeting Thursday, Sept. 3, where he discussed a number of issues directly affecting the South Belt community. Issues discussed at the meeting included the new Bagwell Library, the new Sagemont community center, low-income housing, recycling, NASA funding and road construction on South Shaver, Hughes Road and Monroe.

The 147th Reconnaissance Wing of the Texas Air National Guard named U.S.

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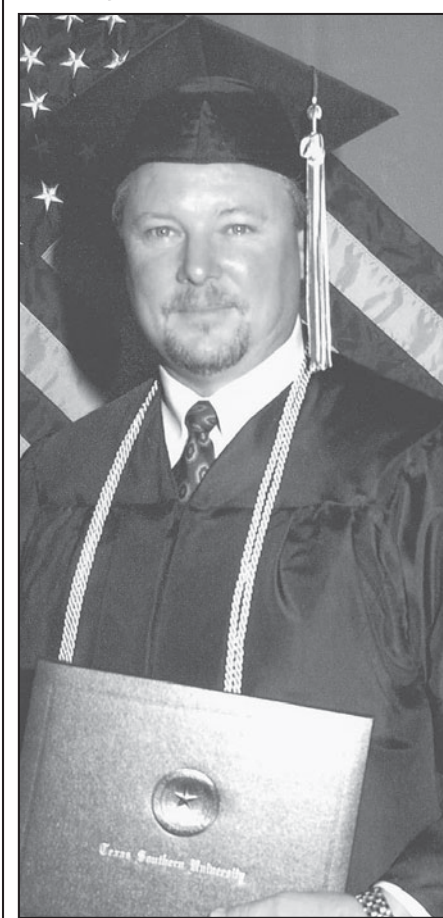
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Sawyer graduates from TSU



Doug Sawyer graduated Dec. 12, 2009, cum laude from Texas State University College of Education with a Bachelor's of Human Science. Sawyer is a 1983 Dobie High School graduate and has continued to live in the South Belt area with his wife, Cathy, and raise his children, Brian, Daniel and Amanda. Sawyer is employed in the Pasadena Independent School District and is a coach at Queens Intermediate. He will coach sophomore baseball this spring at South Houston High School.

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Frazier visits Park Manor



Recently, the Frazier student council representatives visited Park Manor Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols and deliver poinsettias to the residents. The students participating in this special community service project were Jonathan Acosta, Valerie Provence, Sebastian Leal, Andrea Orrego, Melanie Pineda, Azalie Amaro, Daniel Shaffer, Jazmin Tabarez, Jalen Clark and Yvonne Whaley. Pictured are, left to right, Gearl Dene Holt, Valerie Provence and Martha Ferguson
Photo submitted

Dobie schedules 30-year reunion

J. Frank Dobie High School's Class of 1980 will hold its 30-year reunion Saturday, June 26, 2010, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Houston, 1200 Louisiana St. in Houston.

Register through the reunion coordinator on the Web site at www.reunionteam.com/rep.php?page=reunion&cmID=RTS-140143&reunionID=1545.

Register, enter contact information, complete a questionnaire for the alumni directory and purchase tickets to attend also on the Web site.

For more information, contact Brenda Wilson Winfree at brenda.winfree@sbcglobal.net or Kimberly Myers at kimaji2001@yahoo.com. A reunion Facebook page is also available at www.facebook.com/inbox/?ref=mb#/group.php?gid=87914181240&ref=ts.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

MIKE SENT BIRTHDAY WISHES
Mike Williams celebrates his birthday Jan. 20. Best wishes are sent for a special day from his co-workers at Central Ace Hardware, family and friends at the *Leader*.

MARY ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Mary Clark celebrates her birthday Wednesday, Jan. 20. Best wishes are sent to Mary from her husband, Chris, other family members and her friends at the *Leader*.

FLICKINGERS CELEBRATE 48 YEARS
Marie and David Flickinger mark their 48th wedding anniversary Wednesday, Jan. 20. Best wishes for a happy day are sent to the couple from their family, friends and the staff at the *Leader*.

DOBIE TRAILMIXERS MEET
The Dobie Trailmixers recently held their December meeting at Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua. Topics of discussion included:

Joyce Gorkiewicz was thrilled by the arrival of her first grandchild, **Austin Michael Garrison**, on Nov. 4 (Joyce's birthday!) in Shamrock, Texas.

Jane and Richard Golenko are enjoying their granddaughters who live in Greece via Skype this Christmas – what a wonderful invention that is – but wish they could have been here instead. Jane is working too hard as the librarian at Pasadena High this year; their clerk's position was cut, and she is sorely missed.

Cheryl and Matt Park sent Christmas pictures of their two young sons, **Drayton and Dalton**; they will be in school before their parents know it!

Sandy Clecker says she enjoys reading the Dobie "news" even though she left teaching 22 years ago. She has a big-shot job in downtown Houston these days.

John De Vore's family still keeps in touch, even though John died in 2006. **Widow Flora**, 87, daughter **Lee**, 62, and grandson **Daniel**, 37, still live in Sedan, Kan., and care for John's cat. John was Dobie's second Social Studies chairperson, following **Audrey Eversmeyer** in that job. John was retired from the Air Force, and told his students and faculty friends some fascinating stories during his Dobie years.

Donna Chamblin Langdon Smith is recovering nicely from her knee surgery with the help of physical therapy, and has spent the Christmas holidays with her family in Nacogdoches.

Lois Sumner has had a rough year, still recovering from the sudden death of **Erwin**. She is substituting at Dobie, working on her house, and doing some traveling. Her brother, mother, Erwin's sister, and ex-Dobie teacher **Kathy Domesick**, now in Kentucky, have been among Lois' best pals.

Margaret Earley Whitt, former Dobie English teacher, has eased into retirement this year in her home in Gerton, N.C. She taught freshman English at the University of Denver for many years and has published several books on topics ranging from Flannery O'Connor to civil rights to the Negro Baseball League. She led a trip to civil rights sites in March for some of her Denver church friends. Margaret enjoyed a recent visit by **Linda and Phillip Cota**. She taught English at Dobie. Sadly, her young granddaughter, two-year-old **Tuesday Whitt**, died of neuroblastoma on Jan. 30 after a valiant fight of several months. Tuesday's parents are **Charley and Jessica**, and she is survived by two older brothers and her twin sister.

Bob and Nannette Daugherty enjoyed a Caribbean cruise out of Florida earlier this year. Bob is still going strong teaching at JFD!

Monthly Trailmixers luncheons are held the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua.

Memorial High presents musical

The Fine Arts department at Pasadena Memorial High School, 4410 Crenshaw in Pasadena, will present *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on two weekends, Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 5-7, in the school auditorium.

Performances begin at 7 p.m. each night, with matinee performances at 2 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 7.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

For more information, call 713-740-0390, ext. 53196.

Republican forum scheduled for Jan. 19

The Harris County Republican Party Chairman Candidates' Forum, presented by the Clear Lake Area Republicans and moderated by Judge Louie Ditta, will be held Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Clear Lake Courthouse Building, second floor, 16603 Buccaneer Lane in Houston. A social before the forum will be from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m.

The press and public are invited, at no charge.

All four candidates, Ed Hubbard, Don Large, Paul Simpson and Jared Woodfill, have agreed to participate.

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DIGITAL 3D
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) 12:05, 1:05, 3:55, 4:55, 7:50, 8:55, 11:50, 12:30

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
PLANET 51 (PG) (10:25 @ \$5), 12:45, 3:30, 5:30

THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (10:30, 11:30 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:25, 2:25, 3:25, 4:25, 5:25, 6:25, 7:25, 8:25, 9:25, 10:20, 11:25, 12:15, 12:55

THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) (10:00, 11:00 @ \$5), 12:55, 1:55, 4:05, 5:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55, 12:55

THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) (10:00, 10:50 @ \$5), 12:20, 1:10, 2:40, 3:35, 5:00, 6:00, 7:20, 8:20, 9:45, 10:35, 11:55, 12:50

DAYBREAKERS (R) (10:20, 11:50 @ \$5), 12:40, 2:30, 4:50, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

LEAP YEAR (PG) (10:05, 11:25 @ \$5), 1:50, 3:15, 4:30, 7:10, 8:15, 9:30, 11:55

YOUTH IN REVOLT (R) (11:15 @ \$5), 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:35, 10:45, 12:55

IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (10:40 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (10:55, 11:45 @ \$5), 2:10, 3:10, 5:10, 6:20, 8:10, 9:20, 11:15, 12:35

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (10:15, 11:05 @ \$5), 12:35, 1:35, 2:55, 3:45, 5:05, 6:15, 8:40, 10:15

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (10:15, 11:05 @ \$5), 12:35, 1:35, 2:55, 3:45, 5:05, 6:15, 8:40, 10:15

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? (PG-13) 12:30, 5:40, 10:40

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05, 12:20

ARMORED (PG-13) (10:35 @ \$5), 1:20, 4:15, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10

BROTHERS (R) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:35, 7:35, 10:15, 12:45

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (11:00 @ \$5), 2:00, 5:00, 7:55, 10:55

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:40, 6:35, 9:35, 12:40

2012 (PG-13) (11:35 @ \$5), 3:30, 6:55, 10:25

AMC SELECT
THE IMAGINIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS (PG-13) 8:00, 11:05

UP IN THE AIR (R) (10:45 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10, 11:40

IMAX
AVATAR: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) (11:10 @ \$9), 3:05, 7:05, 10:50

Closed Captioning - Descriptive Video Service
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT - No passes or discount coupon

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 14 through Jan. 20.

Atkinson Elementary
Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to **Joy Eddleman** Jan. 17. Sharing a birthday Jan. 20 are **Katy Glass** and **Lauren White**.

Burnett Elementary
On Jan. 19, **Domingo Flores** has a birthday.

Frazier Elementary
Marking a birthday Jan. 14 is **Leticia Espinoza**. **Mary Oakley** is sent birthday greetings Jan. 16.

Jessup Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Colleen Baldwin** Jan. 14. The day for a birthday party for **Elaine Libby** is Jan. 17. On Jan. 18, **Carmen Renteria** enjoys a birthday.

Meador Elementary
Special birthday wishes are sent to **Melisa Falcon** Jan. 16.

Moore Elementary
The day for a double birthday cake for **Maria Juarez** and **Sandra Rodriguez** is Jan. 19.

Melillo Middle School
Blow out the birthday candles for **Brenda Hodges** on Jan. 16. **Jennifer Hoppe** enjoys a birthday Jan. 18.

Morris Middle School
Frankie Fountain celebrates a birthday Jan. 16. Birthday wishes are sent to **Amey Herrin** Jan. 17.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Linda Raley is wished a happy birthday Jan. 16.

Thompson Intermediate
On Jan. 15, **Joyce Koska** enjoys a birthday. Special birthday greetings are sent to **Debbie Scheffer** Jan. 17. **Dolores Bakounes** has a birthday Jan. 19.

Dobie High
Special birthday greetings are sent to **Chrystal Carrizal** Jan. 14. Enjoying a triple birthday Jan. 16 are **Irene Flores**, **Jessy George** and **Dana Tarter**. A double birthday is celebrated Jan. 19 for **Trish Boudra** and **Joseph Sabatell**.

Vicki Talton is working at South Houston High School now, and loves Principal **Steve Fullen** as her boss. She is so proud of the great success of the McDonald's PISD Basketball Tournament, which continues to grow larger every November. Husband **Scott** was one of the major influences in the start of this annual event. On Dec. 1, Vicki and son **Scotty** were present, with other friends, for the dedication of Dobie's basketball court in honor of Scott, our winningest basketball coach ever. Scotty is in his second year at Texas A&M, and making his mom proud.

Al Denson, one of the group's earlier Dobie grads, has earned great success in his young life. He was recently inducted into the 2009 Christian Music Hall of Fame. Al actually taught briefly at Dobie – the ASSP (careers) class – right after his college graduation. He always had that great smile and carried his gradebook around campus, so that he could prove that he was a teacher, not still a student at Dobie. Al still keeps up with his Sagemont neighbors, and hosted a large group of them at his ranch during the Thanksgiving holidays. Friends who attended were quite impressed with their surroundings, which Al bought from H. Ross Perot. Al added a beautiful chapel and large dining hall to the property, which can also serve as a wedding venue. He was a first-class host, having all meals catered by a restaurant and providing recreational vehicles (4-wheelers) for his friends' enjoyment.

Ron and Trish Boudra proudly sent a Christmas card picturing their three grandchildren. Son Regan's daughter, **Sophia**, was pictured; she is "extensively verbal" according to Grandpa Ron, who gets to care for her while her parents teach. The two newest grandchildren are **Sjon and Andrew**, recently adopted by daughter **Rhonda** and her husband, **Michael**, in Duluth, Ga. Ron retired from coaching at South Houston, while Trish continues to work at Dobie teaching and coaching speech, and winning lots of tournaments.

Judy Kemler reports that she is still working hard teaching and coaching Academic Decathlon. Vance's father died at age 91 this

year. They have six grandchildren. **Heather** teaches in the HeadStart program in Plano. **Shelley** is engaged, and a manager for PriceWaterhouseCooper. **Brian** and son **Johnathan** recently purchased a camper, leading to many travel adventures. All three of the Kemler children are Dobie grads.

Donna Chamblin Langdon Smith is recovering nicely from her knee surgery with the help of physical therapy, and has spent the Christmas holidays with her family in Nacogdoches.

Lois Sumner has had a rough year, still recovering from the sudden death of **Erwin**. She is substituting at Dobie, working on her house, and doing some traveling. Her brother, mother, Erwin's sister, and ex-Dobie teacher **Kathy Domesick**, now in Kentucky, have been among Lois' best pals.

Margaret Earley Whitt, former Dobie English teacher, has eased into retirement this year in her home in Gerton, N.C. She taught freshman English at the University of Denver for many years and has published several books on topics ranging from Flannery O'Connor to civil rights to the Negro Baseball League. She led a trip to civil rights sites in March for some of her Denver church friends. Margaret enjoyed a recent visit by **Linda and Phillip Cota**. She taught English at Dobie. Sadly, her young granddaughter, two-year-old **Tuesday Whitt**, died of neuroblastoma on Jan. 30 after a valiant fight of several months. Tuesday's parents are **Charley and Jessica**, and she is survived by two older brothers and her twin sister.

Bob and Nannette Daugherty enjoyed a Caribbean cruise out of Florida earlier this year. Bob is still going strong teaching at JFD!

Monthly Trailmixers luncheons are held the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua.

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

CB debate advances in competition

The Clear Brook Speech and Debate International Public Policy Forum team of Karl Schaefer, Elyssa Klann, Suarabh Limaye, Kelly Hogg, and Skyler Schneider got an unexpected gift during the winter break.

The debate students were notified of their advancement to the Sweet 16 round of competition in the Bickel & Brewer/New York University International Public Policy Forum (IPPF).

The Clear Brook students remain eligible to win the \$10,000 grand prize and an all-expenses-paid trip to the finals competition in New York City in April 2010.

The IPPF is the only international contest that gives high school students the opportunity to participate in written and oral debates on issues of public policy.

More than 230 high schools – representing 40 states and 31 foreign countries – regis-

tered for the 2009-10 IPPF competition, writing on the topic, "Resolved: The United Nations should substantially increase humanitarian assistance for persons living in poverty." The law firm of Bickel & Brewer, in cooperation with New York University, will invite the final eight advancing teams on an all-expense paid trip to the IPPF Finals to be held on the New York University Campus. If Clear Brook advances to the next round, the students will

be in final contention for the \$10,000 grand prize and the Bickel & Brewer Cup. Brook debate students will compete against Suncoast Community High School students from Riviera Beach, Fla., in the next round.



Clear Brook debate students advancing to the Sweet 16 round include, left to right, (front row) Elyssa Klann, Kelly Hogg (back row) Skyler Schneider, Karl Schaefer and Suarabh Limaye.

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Remember When

25 years ago (1985)
A 40-year-old man was knocked unconscious after a board from 20 feet above fell on his hard hat as he worked inside the water storage tank being constructed on Scarsdale. Emergency medical technicians from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department lowered him from an 80-foot platform in a Stokes basket rescue device.

Final plans were being made by the U.S. Post Office for completion of a postal station in the Windmill Lakes area north of Alameda Genoa Road.

Larry and Mary Ellen Morgan of Sagemeadow won \$150,000 in a giveaway from KIKK radio. After answering a trivia question the previous August, he became eligible for the end-of-year giveaway.

for allowing Weber Elementary School students to transfer to another district school.

10 years ago (2000)
Two suspects were arrested and charged in connection with the attempted capital murder of Tracey Lynn Deel.

5 years ago (2005)
A mix-up between the city of Houston and the Clear Brook City MUD resulted in fireworks being sold in that area.

With the arrest of a South Belt resident, Precinct 2 constable's deputies were able to solve more than 40 local burglaries.

Several business owners complained after contractors attempted to collect fees for the city of Houston dumpsters. The owners claimed they did not lease the dumpsters, their landlord did, and, therefore, they should not have to pay fees.

struck by another vehicle fleeing from police in east Houston. Houston police were chasing Frank Anthony Marron, 17, who was driving a stolen black Ford F-350, shortly before noon when he sped through a yield sign at South 79th and Elwood near Harrisburg and smashed into Rosales' blue Ford Expedition, causing it to crash into a tree. Rosales, 41, was pronounced dead at the scene. Rosales' passenger, Maurillo Alvarado, 53, was injured in the collision and taken to Ben Taub General Hospital. Marron was charged with felony murder with bail set at \$100,000. He was already on probation in the juvenile system and had been convicted of several crimes, including car theft.

The Southbelt Dolphins football team's storage container at Blackhawk Park caught fire. The Houston Fire Department was dispatched to the scene, but the fire had already been extinguished by a park employee. According to fire department officials, the fire had spread from a nearby dumpster. Arson is not suspected. Almost all of the team's equipment stored in the container was destroyed, including field, football and drill team equipment.

1 year ago (2009)
Highland Meadow resident Homero Rosales Jr. was killed after his car was

20 years ago (1990)
To prevent the opening of two highly contaminated pits at the Brio Superfund site, attorney Steve Carrigan filed for a temporary restraining order in Judge David Hittner's federal court. Officials for the Brio Task Force had previously scheduled opening the pits for test sampling late in the month but moved it up two weeks.

To kick off the New Year,

15 years ago (1995)
A \$2,475 landscaping project at the front of Dobie High School was slated for a Ground Hog Day planting. The project was organized by the South Belt Civic Coalition, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the South Belt-Ellington Rotary.

The Green Tee Terrace Homeowners Association offered a reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the destruction of the light posts at the Scarsdale entrance to the Green Tee Terrace subdivision in early January.

Thieves broke into the concession stand, stealing much of the equipment at the United Sports Association fields on Dixie Farm Road.

Taking a different angle toward its own policy, Clear Creek ISD administrators accepted medical reasons

Climate change physics lecture set

Community members who wonder how climate change could impact Houston and the resulting 21st century solutions are invited to attend a free lecture called *Can Houston Survive Inaction on Climate Change?* by noted physicist Joseph Romm, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m., in University of Houston-Clear Lake's Bayou Theater. Romm is senior fellow at the Center for American Progress Action Fund and the author of *Hell and High*

Water: Global Warming, The Solution and The Politics. A question and answer segment and open reception will follow the presentation. The event is presented by the UHCL's School of Science and Computer Engineering's physics program and the Office of Alumni and Community Relations. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni and Community Relations at 281-283-2021.

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SeAM appreciates St. Luke's support



Recently, the St. Luke's Social Services Ministry, Knights of Columbus Council 9201, and Catholic Daughters Council 2292 sponsored an Advent Gathering, serving a soup and salad dinner. Members of the KCs and parishioners donated gifts of toys, clothing and food to help make eight families, along with 37 children, have a merry Christmas. During the gathering, Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) presented a framed picture puzzle titled *The Miracles of Jesus to St. Luke's* for

its support of the SeAM ministry and SeAM thrift store. Making the presentation from SeAM were Rob Bradley, member of SeAM's board of trustees, and Brad Muecke, parishioner and SeAM volunteer. Accepting was Father James Burkart, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. The Rev. Daer Platt, director of operations for SeAM, was unable to attend. Pictured are, left to right, Bradley, Muecke and Burkart.

Photo submitted

Leader reviews, remembers 2009

Continued from Page 3A
Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, NATO Medal, Texas Federal Service Medal and the Texas Faithful Service Medal, among others.

A home invasion took place Monday, Sept. 7, in the 11300 block of Sagevale, where the intruders were disguised as police officers. Houston police reported that four male suspects kicked

in the door of a residence and identified themselves as police officers. Dressed in all black tactical gear, the suspects tied up the home's residents as they rummaged the house. One of the victims managed to break free and call 9-1-1. The suspects fled as the police arrived. One of the suspects fired a single gunshot at police, but no one was struck.

A K-9 unit and a helicopter were dispatched to the scene and combed the surrounding area for hours following the incident. The suspects, however, were not immediately apprehended. The suspects left behind an older model Ford Crown Victoria with police lights and a siren mounted on top.

Sept. 17
Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan hosted a hard-hat tour of the new Bracewell Library at 9002 Kingspoint near Blackhawk on Monday.

Sept. 14
Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital CEO George Gaston was recently named one of 12 nationwide Up & Comers by Modern Healthcare magazine. Now in its 23rd year, the Up & Comers recognition program honors individuals 40 years old or younger who have made their mark in health care and are likely to play a key role in shaping the industry's future.

Gaston, 38, began his career in the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in June 1996, when he started a two-year administrative fellow program there. He quickly rose in the ranks at Memorial Hermann, serving first as an administrative director for Memorial Hermann North-west then as a senior administrator in two capacities: assistant vice president of operations from 2000 to 2002 and assistant vice president of campus expansion and specialty projects until 2003. For the next two years, Gaston served as assistant vice president of hospital operations at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital before moving to the southeast facility in June 2005. After serving as the facility's chief operating officer, Gaston was named CEO in May 2007. Gaston attended Baylor University, where he earned a bachelor's

degree in 1993. He went on to receive two master's degrees from Washington University in St. Louis: one in human resource management and a second in health administration.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry spoke Thursday, Sept. 17, at a luncheon jointly sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington, Pasadena and Deer Park chambers of commerce.

Sept. 24
Police responded to a verbal altercation between two parents Wednesday, Sept. 24, at Beverly Hills Intermediate. According to Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis, there was a verbal altercation between two parents. One of the parents had a pocket knife; however, no one was injured. Contrary to televised news reports, no stabbing occurred, and no arrests were made.

South Belt resident Michael Raymond Crowley Jr. was one of two men killed Sunday, Sept. 17, in a head-on collision on Highway 288 between Angleton and Rosharon. Crowley, 19, was returning home from Lake Jackson at roughly 2 a.m. when the vehicle he was driving was struck by a driver traveling south in the northbound lane of Highway 288. The passenger of the second vehicle, Pearland resident James Paul Garcia Jr., 21, also died in the crash. The driver of the second vehicle, South Belt resident Zohab Burges, 23, was taken by helicopter to Memorial Hermann Medical Center in critical condition. No charges were immediately filed. Crowley had recently moved to Sagemont from Fayette, Mo., and was a student at San Jac College South.

In a surprising move Wednesday, Sept. 23, the City of Houston opened the Monroe extension at Beltway 8. The half-mile extension connects the beltway to Fuqua. Construction of the new street cost \$4.64 million. The project was not scheduled to be complete until the end of the year.

Oct. 1
The official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Southeast Volunteer Fire Department station, located at

10510 Scarsdale Blvd., took place Thursday, Sept. 24. SVFD Chief Chuck Tylka is hopeful construction will be complete by July 4, 2010.

Oct. 8
Gabriela "Gabby" Romero died Oct. 2 after a 15-month battle with renal cancer. A lifelong Kirkwood South resident, Romero played volleyball and softball at Dobie. A group of supporters, referred to as "Team Gabby," formed during her illness to help Romero with her struggle.

The Bracewell Library branch at Alameda Mall officially closed its doors Saturday, Oct. 3, after being open for nearly 40 years.

William Sattler died Sunday, Oct. 4, following a bizarre accident that took place at his home the previous day. Sattler, 11, was decorating for Halloween with his family at their house in the 11300 block of Sageland when the child used a bungee cord to swing from a hook in the home's ceiling. According to family members, the cord slid from around his body and caught his neck, strangling him. Sattler was a sixth-grade student at Melillo Middle School.

Oct. 15
Gov. Rick Perry recently announced the appointment of longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, to the Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee. The committee assists in the state's economic development efforts to recruit and retain aerospace and aviation jobs and investments. Mitchell graduated from Dobie in 1973. There, as a senior, he met Brenda, his wife of 30 years. She is a longtime administrative assistant at Beverly Hills Intermediate. Together, the couple have three adult sons, Nathan, Greg and Mark.

Zohab Burges was charged with two counts of intoxication manslaughter for the Sept. 13 traffic accident that killed Sagemont resident Michael Raymond Crowley Jr. Police reports show he had a blood-alcohol content of 0.196 at the time of the accident.

Oct. 22
Jose Sepulveda died Wednesday, Oct. 2, from

Continued on Page 6A

Funds available for automated bookkeeping certification training

The Continuing and Professional Development division of San Jacinto College will offer Automated Bookkeeping Specialist certification training beginning in late January.

Course topics in the training include understanding accounting concepts and procedures, analyzing and recording business transactions (debits and credits), and posting to the ledger and preparing financial statements from the worksheet.

"Students enrolled in this program will develop marketable skills because the training covers the most current bookkeeping concepts and procedures," said David Lewis, director of business and professions at San Jacinto College. "Participants

will learn how to effectively use QuickBooks to prepare worksheets, financial statements and journal entries."

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds are available to those who qualify to cover the cost of the training. To find out how to prequalify, visit the Workforce Solutions office at 14355 Wallisville Road in Houston, or call 281-458-1155.

Classes are scheduled for

Monday through Thursday, Jan. 25 to March 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Training will be held at the San Jacinto College North campus located at 5800 Uvalde Road. Space is limited.

For more information about CPD, call 281-476-1839.

For more information about San Jacinto College, visit www.sanjac.edu or call 281-998-6150.

AMA Dance, Etc. will be holding registration for its 2nd Annual Mr. & Miss All-American Christian Pageant **Jan. 16, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at 8420 Alameda Genoa** for everyone 6 months to 25 years of age. The Pageant will be held Jan. 30 at Ortiz Middle School, 3:00 p.m.
For more information call 281-948-1345.

Wedding, engagement policies

Wedding writeups must be run in the newspaper, not submitted, in the time outlined:
From wedding date to six weeks - photo and full article;
Six weeks to three months - photo and limited information;
After three months from wedding date - will not be run.
Engagement and wedding announcements are published free of charge on a first come, first served basis. Information must be submitted by Friday to be considered for the next issue.

RIT holds contest

High school sophomores and juniors who are deaf or have partial hearing loss can use the power of words to express their feelings and win prizes in the fifth annual Rochester Institute of Technology SpiRIT Writing Contest.

Winners will have their choice of a scholarship and travel expenses to the Explore Your Future program at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, or a \$500 cash prize. Explore Your Future is a six-day summer career exploration program that gives deaf and partial hearing loss students the opportunity to sample different careers as well as college life.

Entries will include creative writing such as a short story or poem, a short writing sample and a personal reflection.

The deadline to enter this year's competition is March 15, 2010. For complete contest guidelines and entry information, visit www.rit.edu/NTID/WritingContestNR.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Thursday 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.		

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Listen to our Minister's messages at www.kscd-disciples.org/pages/sermons

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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday	Wednesday
Early Service • 7:45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	Nursery Available at all Services

Leader reflects on, remembers last year's highlights

Continued from Page 5A
H1N1 influenza. Sepulveda, 16, was a junior at Dobie High School and the first official casualty of the virus in the Pasadena Independent School District. A longtime South Belt resident, Sepulveda also attended Atkinson Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate.

The South Belt Girls Softball Association honored Gabby Romero Oct. 18, by naming a softball field after her. Field # 1 at EFL Park is now officially Gabby Romero Memorial Field. Romero, who began her standout softball career in the SBGSA, died Oct. 2 after a 15-month battle with cancer. A fundraising tournament coincided with the opening ceremony.

Oct. 29
A two-alarm fire occurred at the Sabo Village Apartments in the 10700 block of Sabo early Tuesday, Oct. 27. Contrary to other news reports, only two units caught

fire, according to fire department officials. Other units, however, did receive water and smoke damage. No one was injured. The cause of the blaze was not immediately determined.

The First Convenience Bank inside the Kroger at Sabo and Beltway 8 was robbed Tuesday, Oct. 27, by a suspect the FBI dubbed the "Billy Goat Bandit" because of his scraggly beard. No immediate arrests were made.

Nov. 5
The results from the Nov. 3 City of Houston and state elections were tallied. The mayoral race to replace term-limited Bill White headed to a Dec. 12 runoff between Houston City Controller Anise Parker and former City Attorney Gene Locke. Parker received 30.5 percent of the vote to Locke's 25.9 percent. Incumbent Mike Sullivan maintained his District E city council seat, handily defeating challenger Phillip

"Wayne" Garrison II. Sullivan received 74.1 percent of the vote to Garrison's 25.9 percent.

A joint task force raided a home in the 9200 block of Majave Cove Court in Riverstone Ranch early Monday, Nov. 2, after Colorado authorities alleged the homeowner had attempted to solicit a minor online. Kent Thomas Johnson, 53, was arrested on charges of online child solicitation and possession of child pornography. The investigation started when Johnson, a drama teacher at Episcopal High School in Bellaire, was reportedly having a sexually explicit online conversation with what he thought was a 13-year-old boy. The "boy" was actually an undercover Adams County sheriff's deputy in Colorado acting as a decoy. The deputy contacted the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which contacted the Harris County Precinct

2 Constable's office, which assisted in the raid. A search of Johnson's home yielded a hard drive with several pornographic images of children.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett spoke at a luncheon sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, Nov. 4. The one-time state representative spoke on a number of items, but focused primarily on transportation and infrastructure issues affecting the county's future.

Dobie celebrated its annual homecoming football game Friday, Oct. 30, at Newcomb Field playing against the Sam Rayburn Texans. Yancy Moreno was crowned queen and Irving Garza as king. Dobie won the game 34-14.

Nov. 12
South Belt resident Fernando Medina, a structural test engineer specialist with ERC, was awarded NASA's prestigious Silver Snoopy Award. He received the

award for his outstanding engineering contributions to the STS-120 on-orbit support of the Space Station Solar Array Repair procedure. Medina and his wife, Lorie, have been married 11 years and have three children, Hannah, Dylan and Andrew.

A fatal traffic accident took place Friday, Nov. 6, on the Gulf Freeway near Dixie Farm Road. Friendswood resident Karl Gallagher was traveling by motorcycle west on Dixie Farm Road, as the driver of a silver Toyota Tundra pickup was turning north from Dixie Farm Road onto the Gulf Freeway feeder. While making a left turn, the pickup driver failed to yield the right of way, causing Gallagher's motorcycle to strike the Toyota's passenger-side door. Gallagher, 20, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The 147 Reconnaissance Wing of the Texas Air National Guard officially unveiled its first MQ-1B Preda-

tor Remotely Piloted Vehicle Sunday, Nov. 8, at Ellington Field. While the aircraft had just arrived at Ellington, crew members from the 147th had been flying overseas missions with it for the previous two years.

The Kroger at 11701 South Sam Houston Parkway was robbed at gunpoint Monday, Nov. 9. No immediate arrests were made. The bank inside the store had been robbed just two weeks earlier.

Nov. 19
Representatives from several different local government entities came together Tuesday, Nov. 17, at a meeting sponsored by Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan to discuss possible solutions to flooding in the South Belt area. A follow-up meeting to a similar function held six months ago, the function included representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Harris County Flood Control District, the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department, U.S. Rep. Pete Olson's office, state Rep. Ken Legler's office and state Sen. Mike Jackson's office. The highlight of the meeting occurred when county officials acknowledged talks are in the works to acquire roughly 130 acres of local land to be used as a retention pond. Such a pond could hold up to 1 billion gallons of water, according to South Belt-Ellington Leader publisher Marie Flickinger.

Harris County Flood Control District Precinct 1 Project Coordinator Curtis Lampley said the project would benefit 75 percent to 80 percent of the South Belt area.

Nov. 26
Sagemont Church broke ground on its new sanctuary and adult education center. Part of the church's "living proof" project, the structure will occupy 120,000 square feet and hold 2,500 people. The construction will take anywhere from 18 to 24 months to complete.

Dec. 3
It was announced Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital CEO George Gaston will be leaving his post Monday, Jan. 4, to take on the CEO role for the Memorial Hermann Southwest campus. Gaston's new position will include oversight

of the hospital, the Heart and Vascular Institute, University Place and the Wellness Center. Throughout the recruitment process for a permanent CEO at Southeast, Jim Brown, CEO of Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital, will also serve as interim CEO of Southeast. Brown, however, is not a candidate for the permanent CEO role at Southeast.

Meador Elementary and Morris Middle School were placed on lock down Nov. 30 following a report that an armed suspect took a woman's purse near the two area schools. The schools were locked from roughly 9:30 to 10 a.m. while police searched the campuses for the suspect. Automated phone calls were sent to parents of students from the two schools to inform them of the incident.

A Dobie High School student was found to be in possession of a loaded 9-mm handgun Monday, Nov. 30. According to district officials, the student, a 17-year-old sophomore, apparently had no intention of using the weapon but was merely showing it off to friends. The pistol was discovered by the school's assistant principal, who said the student was acting suspiciously.

An Amber Alert issued the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 1, for a 3-year-old boy who went missing from the Highland Meadows Village Apartments the previous afternoon was canceled later that afternoon when the child was

found unharmed in the Third Ward area. The Harris County Sheriff's Office issued the alert for Andree Jankwitz after the boy disappeared from the area apartment complex. Investigators said Jankwitz was being watched by his next-door neighbor, Vanessa Soria, when her common-law husband, Ricardo Erasmo Hale, took the boy to a friend's house around 3:30 p.m. Monday. Hale, 31, reportedly took his own 2-year-old son, Nathaneal Hale, with him also. After Soria and Jankwitz's mother, Marlene DeLeon, appeared on TV Tuesday asking for the boys' safe return, investigators said one of the women received a phone call notifying her the boys were with Hale at a home on Scott Street. Both of the boys were taken to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital to be examined, but were reportedly in good condition. No criminal charges were immediately filed.

Dec. 10
The South Belt area was hit with a series of snow flurries Friday, Dec. 4, with some areas receiving nearly 3 inches of snowfall. The incident was the second consecutive year Houston received snowfall and was the earliest ever recorded in the city. The previous record for early snow in Houston was Dec. 10 in 1944 and again in 2008. This marked only the fourth snowfall in 15 years.

Dec. 17
Anise Parker defeated Gene Locke in the runoff

election to be Houston's next mayor, making national media headlines for becoming the first openly gay mayor of a major city in the United States. Parker, a former city council member and city controller, received 52.8 percent of the vote to Locke's 47.2 percent. In all, Parker received 81,971 votes to Locke's 73,331 votes.

Ronald Green replaced Parker as city controller. Green defeated M.J. Khan, receiving 51.5 percent of the vote to Khan's 48.5 percent. Green received 74,262 votes to Khan's 69,991 votes.

South Belt resident Etheylene Milhouse died in an auto-pedestrian accident Dec. 9, at Beamer and Hall Road Milhouse, 66, was crossing Beamer on foot at about 9:30 p.m. when she was struck by a silver Nissan pickup traveling through the intersection. The driver, a 21-year-old male whose name was not released, had a green light and was not speeding, investigators said. Neither alcohol nor drugs were believed to have been involved. The driver was not ticketed. Dec. 11 would have been Milhouse's 67th birthday.

Dec. 24
The South Belt-Ellington Leader wrapped up its 27th annual Christmas program to collect food and gifts for needy families in the community. A record number of 60 families applied for assistance in the drive - roughly twice the number of applicants as in previous years.

Horns invade Chicago for Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic



The Dobie High School Orchestra recently traveled to Chicago to perform at the Midwest Conference. Pictured in front of the Chicago skyline are, left to right, (first row) An Nguyen, Ben Husband, (second row) Janelle Argueta, Tyara Hernandez, Demmi Garcia, Alberto Moreno, Kathleen Nguyen, Paige Sanchez, Michelle Cantu, Angela Nguyen, Katy Miille, (third row) Katy Vargas, Alan Diep, Angie Guevara, Rachael Jagdeo, Erik Olmos, Samantha Gomez, Dorothy Tran, Kenny Nguyen, Jisha Jose, Tam Nguyen, Davy Chan, (fourth row) Director Tanner Ledford, Josh Bernal, Robert Martin, Chris Soto, Rolando Medina, Jonathan Lo, Jorge Cortez, Bridgette Jagdeo, Nyla Vasquez, Johnny Martinez, Heather Jung, Evan Weaver, Steeve Bui, Steve Bui, Stefanie Ta, Stephen Salazar, Josh Vo, Tinh Nguyen and Denisse Pacheco.

Dobie High Orchestra invited to play in Chicago

By Matt Griesmyer
From Dec. 14 through Dec. 17, the J. Frank Dobie High School Orchestra, under the direction of Tanner Ledford and Alice McCoy, traveled to Chicago to perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Dobie was one of 32 candidates selected to perform at the annual conference and one of three high school string groups to perform there.

"(The concert) is something that the kids will never forget; they played so well," said Ledford, director of orchestras at Dobie. "They played at the level they needed to for their level of practice."

In March, the organizers of the conference made the final decisions on which of the 149 applicants would play. After word of Dobie's selection reached Ledford's and McCoy's ears, preparations began immediately.

Fundraisers were put on, ranging from candy sales to car washes and everything in

between. "The district provided one-eighth of the cost, but the rest was raised by the kids and paid by parents," Ledford said.

This is not the first time that many of the students had visited the conference.

As students at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Janelle Argueta, Michelle Cantu, Demi Garcia, Angelica Guevara, Tyara Hernandez, Alberto Moreno, Angela Nguyen, Tinh Nguyen, Erik Olmos, Dorothy Tran, Josh Vo, Samantha Gomes, Rachael Jagdeo, Nyla Vasquez, Jorge Coretz, Katy Miille, Kathleen Nguyen, Kenny Nguyen, Stephen Salazar, Ben Husband, Johnny Martinez, Rolando Medina and Chris Soto went to the conference in 2006. The orchestra had to raise much more than money to get to the conference in Chicago.

The total length of the concert was one hour. Dobie's orchestra had to start preparing for the endurance-

testing ordeal on Day 1 of this school year.

Several concerts were held leading up to the December trip so that the students could build the stamina to make it through the concert.

The conference attendees number more than 15,000, coming from all 50 states and from more than 30 countries. As if that were not impressive enough, Dobie did it with 100 percent eligibility.

In order to participate in extracurricular activities and trips, students must have a minimum passing grade. Ledford admitted that even 93 percent is impressive, but that the entire orchestra passing is phenomenal.

After they performed and returned home late Dec. 17, the students wanted to show up the next day for school.

Ledford heard stories from other schoolteachers about their students talking about their trip, and the consensus on the favorite part of the trip was most certainly the performance.

Stuchbery holds spelling bee



Stuchbery Elementary recently held its annual school spelling bee. Twenty-four third- and fourth-grade students participated. Pictured with principal Jackie Salisbury (middle), are winner Brooke Nabi (left) and runner-up Emanuel Romero (right). Photo submitted

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Successor should come soon Dobie football coach interviews take place

A permanent head football coach/athletic coordinator could be named at Doobie within days.

The search committee headed by Doobie High School principal Steve Jamail moved quickly after the deadline to submit applications expired Jan. 8.

Candidate interviews were held at the school Jan. 12-13, and the winner should be announced soon.

Dobie has been without a permanent leader since midway through the varsity football season when Bobby Cotton took medical leave.

Assistant coach Carey Sink, who was among those who applied for the perma-

ment role, operated as the interim head coach for the final four games of the regular season.

The eventual successor to the position will play a pivotal role in the future of the program.

Dobie, once a prominent fixture in the varsity football playoffs, has not advanced to the postseason since 2004. The varsity unit has not posted a winning record since 2005.

This past season, Doobie went 4-6 overall, including 3-4 in District 22-5A play. Jamail, while conducting the interviews Jan. 12-13, was unavailable for comment prior to press time.

Area baseball, softball set to get under way

Preparations for the spring sports scene are about to swing into full speed ahead.

The University Interscholastic League, the official governing body of public school extracurricular activities, has established Friday, Jan. 22, as the first allowable date for high school softball after school practice.

At Doobie and Clear Brook, both programs are looking to extend a long string of success.

The Lady Longhorns, coming off a trip to the regional quarterfinals, will have to reload at several positions heading into 2010.

Brook, meanwhile, has several veteran performers back after making the play-

offs a season ago.

The first day for after school baseball practice is Friday, Jan. 29. The Doobie Longhorns and Clear Brook Wolverines were playoff participants in 2009.

Dobie will go to work in its first season under head coach Miguel Torres, who previously was the varsity assistant coach.

At San Jacinto College, the Coyotes have been working out in preparation for the spring season.

Head coach Kelly Saenz, who is welcoming 14 first-year players, hopes to get her team back to the national tournament for the second time in three years. The team will open the season Feb. 5-6 at the Galveston tournament.

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2010 Schedule

Jan. 18 - Feb. 8 4-6 p.m.	Feb. 3 - Feb. 24 6-8 p.m.
Feb. 9 - Mar. 3 4-6 p.m.	Feb. 25 - Mar. 18 6-8 p.m.

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Deer Park tops JFD in OT outcome; Lady Horns beat DP, stay unbeaten

Brook teams dump Alvin

Dobie's historic rivalry with Deer Park was again on display Jan. 12 as the varsity boys' and girls' teams went head-to-head.

The Lady Longhorns pulled off another big win, downing the Deer 57-44 in Deer Park to move atop the District 22-5A standings at 6-0.



Dobie point guard Mike Selexman (with ball) battles Deer Park's Cody Meek (10) during the Longhorns' eventual 66-56 loss to the Deer in overtime Jan. 12 at Scott Talton Court. The loss drops Doobie to 1-2 in District 22-5A play.

But things didn't go quite as well at Scott Talton Court for the boys as the Deer used a 13-3 overtime run to steal a 66-56 win over the Longhorns.

The loss, Doobie's second straight in District 22-5A play, leaves the team at 1-2 with a key road game coming at La Porte Jan. 15.

Meanwhile, the Clear Brook varsity boys' and girls' teams had little trouble against Alvin.

The Lady Wolverines evened their district record at 3-3, pounding Alvin 45-28.

In boys' action, the Wolverines got their first 24-5A victory, topping the

Youth sports signups, tryouts aplenty this month

No matter the sport, there is something for children of all interests and ages as spring season registration dates dot the calendar.

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League, South Belt Girls Softball Association, South Belt Youth Soccer Club, Rising Stars Track Club and South Belt Dolphins (Bay Area Football League) are among the many youth sports organizations hosting events.

SBHLL sign-ups
SBHLL officials are continuing a string of registration dates that include Jan. 14, Jan. 16 and Jan. 18-19 (late registration dates).

Due to weather concerns, the league has shifted the Jan. 14 (6 to 8 p.m.) and Jan. 16 (1 to 5 p.m.) to US Spring Training, located at 10330 Blackhawk.

The Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 sessions (both 6 to 8 p.m.) will be held at El Franco

school records, federal, state and local records, etc. For more information, visit www.eteamz.com.sbhll.

SBGSA registration
SBGSA is hosting registration for the spring season, including Jan. 14 (6 to 8 p.m.), Jan. 16 (10 to 2 p.m.), Jan. 21 (6 to 8 p.m.) and Jan. 23 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Each of the sessions will be conducted at El Franco

Lee Park as scheduled. Children ages 5 to 14 are eligible to register in the league. The fee, payable by cash, credit card or money order (no checks), is \$110. A \$10 discount (second child forward) will be granted for families with more than one registrant.

Those signing up must bring a birth certificate and three (3) current proofs of residency such as: driver's license, voter's registration,

Dobie exes matches bring back tennis legends

The first-ever post-Christmas holidays Longhorn exes matches are coming to the Doobie High School tennis courts Saturday, Jan. 16.

All former Doobie players, no matter age or skill level, are invited to come out and enjoy the fun.

Longhorns' coach Manuel Moreno Jr., the architect

season, but last fall current and former players instead hosted a celebration of Moreno's 25-years in high school tennis. Now the time has come for some of the familiar faces from Doobie to return.

"We had to do it now because some of these kids will be leaving the area next week to return to college,"



Now in his 11th season, Doobie coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (left) will preside over the annual exes matches at Doobie.

Longhorns come back!

Saturday, Jan. 16
9 a.m. to noon
Dobie High School courts

of the series that has been going on for several years now, is happy the event has become such a hit.

Even though this is the first time for a January event, he expects a big turnout.

"The bottom line with our kids is that they simply love to play tennis," Moreno said.

"Even after they graduate, you'll always see a lot of them still playing. It also speaks to the success our program has had and the family we build here at Doobie. These courts are like a second home for a lot of these kids."

The exes matches usually serve to kick off the fall

Moreno said. "Another of the benefits we have had over the years is that a lot of these kids attend local colleges, so they have the ability to attend the matches. Others have to go back to out-of-town schools."

Any former players wishing to play in the exes matches should simply show up at Doobie with racket in hand, ready to play, according to Moreno, who added that the event should be complete by noon.

"The whole idea is to have some fun and to be able to visit some of the former names," Moreno said.

"We haven't decided on the format, but we'll have a lot of fun."

Area high school soccer off to a hot start in 2010

If first impressions mean anything, it's going to be a great high school soccer season in the South Belt area.

The campaign is just a week old, but the varsity teams at Doobie and Clear Brook are already showing signs of greatness.

The highlights of opening weekend were delivered by the Doobie boys and the Clear Brook girls, two teams coming off tremendous 2009 seasons.

The Longhorns, who came through with the finest season in school history a year ago, quickly returned

to their old ways with a pool championship win at the Friendswood/Pearland tournament Jan. 7-9.

Not to be outclassed, the Lady Wolverines swept three games at the Lady Highlanders/Kilt Classic in The Woodlands over the same three-day span.

Clear Brook's boys, playing at the same Friendswood/Pearland event, and the Doobie girls (Brazoswood invitational) also played well out of the gate.

JFD boys win crown
Heading the preseason warning delivered by their head coach, the Doobie var-

sity boys emerged from the starting gate and hit the finish line in front at the Friendswood/Pearland tournament.

Ranked eighth in Region III by the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches, the Longhorns were brimming with confidence prior to the season.

That's when coach Jesse Saavedra issued a warning. He simply said rankings are indeed nice, but if the proper results do not follow, the rankings are for naught.

So far, the Longhorns are paying attention. A fourth

First-ever Pasadena ISD Cup Jan. 14-16

Class 5A Region III boys' soccer qualifier Doobie heads an impressive 20-team field set to take part in the Pasadena Independent School District's first-ever Pasadena Cup Jan. 14-16.

The inaugural boys' tournament also features the four other PISD varsity teams as well as the likes of Clear Lake, Clear Creek, Clear Brook and Houston Lamar.

Tournament games will be held Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 at Newcomb Field and Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

On the final day of action, Jan. 16, games will be played at the two main stadiums as well as Doobie and Memorial high schools.

The trophy round is slated to begin Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. at Newcomb Field, with games to follow at 6 and 8 p.m. Trophy participants will be decided through pool play.

The tournament is the brainchild of the PISD head coaches, who also worked with their teams and area businesses to secure sponsorships to make the tournament possible.

Weather permitting, each of the 20 teams are guaranteed to play three pool play games.

Each of the pools include four teams, and those teams

will go head-to-head prior to the start of the trophy round.

For more information, including a full schedule of games and the full list of teams involved in the event, see Page 6B.

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Boys' basketball JFD freshman A unit hits district on a roll

If the Longhorns' freshman A team has anything to say about it, the future of Dobie High School boys' basketball looks good.

The team, coached by Shaun Stanton, won 12 of its first 14 games to open the season.

Prior to district, the Longhorns made their way to the championship game of the Sam Rayburn tournament before falling to Clear Brook. In another event, the Longhorns dropped a first round game but came back to win consolation bracket honors.

"This is the first time in my four years here at Dobie that I have enough depth to have two solid players at each position," Stanton said.

"It makes my job much easier, that's for sure. We have three big posts, some great shooters solid point guards and guys who can slash to the basket. It's great."

"The guys are starting to understand the art of defense, and they are seeing that our pressure on the defensive end turns into offensive opportunities."

Thus far, it's been a true team effort for the Longhorns. There are no double-figure scorers, but instead contributions are coming from a variety of players.

The Dobie roster includes Reggie Branch, Josh Santiago, Marco Montelongo, Donte Morris, Andre Timmons, Geffin Watkins, Joseph Cooper, Jordain Harrison, Scott Marsella, Jonathan Jones and Austin Hicks.

There is still a long way to go in the District 22-5A race, but at the moment Dobie is making a strong case for itself.



Clear Brook senior running back Brandon Ellison (33), taking a handoff from junior quarterback Michael Donovan, was a first-team District 24-5A selection as chosen by the district's coaches.

Brook's Ellison, three others on 24-5A football first unit

Coach of the Year – Clint Hartman, Springs
Most Valuable Player – Dartwan Bush, Brazoswood
Co-Offensive MVP – Phillip Miller, Springs
Co-Offensive MVP – Corey Thomas, Dickinson
Defensive MVP – Justin Galavez, Ball

District 24-5A First Team Football Selections

QB – Phillip Miller, Springs	DT – Bennett Ofor, Brook
QB – Clay Honeycutt, Dickinson	DT – Kevin Gatti, Brazoswood
RB – Brandon Ellison, Brook	DT – Dallas McClarty, Springs
RB – Corey Thomas, Dickinson	DT – Deandre Jackson, Ball
RB – Dominique Brown, Ball	DE – Dartwan Bush, Brazoswood
RB – Ricky Lundford, Brazoswood	DE – Scotty Bailey, Brazoswood
TE – Brad Peters, Brazoswood	DE – Damion Britton, Ball
OL – Ivan Quinones, Brook	DE – James Lambert, Alvin
OL – Sam Roberts, Lake	LB – Clarence Green, Brazoswood
OL – Josiah Adams, Springs	LB – Trevon Randle, Springs
OL – Frank Green, Dickinson	LB – Jaybrian Williams, Ball
OL – Quintin Marsh, Dickinson	LB – Justin Galavez, Ball
OL – Geoffrey Lewis, Alvin	CB – Sam Richardson, Springs
OL – Austin Perkins, Brazoswood	CB – Shawn Foster, Dickinson
OL – Devon Karr, Brazoswood	CB – Travis Clinton, Brazoswood
WR – Deche Milburn, Springs	S – Devin Walker, Springs
WR – James Cunningham, Springs	S – Linc Harden, Ball
WR – Joe Ramirez, Alvin	S – Bruce Horton, Alvin
WR – C.J. McElroy, Creek	S – Jelmon Woodard, Brazoswood
K – Jezim Halili, Dickinson	S – Javis Roberts, Brook
	KR – Sam Richardson, Springs
	KR – Corey Thomas, Dickinson
	P – Brent Comardelle, Creek

Second Team – Brook

OL – Michael Candler
 DB – Ikenna Ikpeama
 P – Spencer Bowman

Honorable Mention – Brook

QB/RB – Michael Donovan
 RB – Kendrick Kennard
 WR – Tyler Stowe
 DE – Nathan Dann
 LB – Jonathan Grimes
 DB – Drew Byrd

Brook Team Awards

Off. MVP – Brandon Ellison
 Def. MVP – Javis Roberts
 Special Teams – Duane Steward
 Def. Back – Javis Roberts
 Linebacker – Jonathan Grimes
 Receiver – Tyler Stowe
 Off. Back – Brandon Ellison
 Off. Line – Ivan Quinones
 Heart – Dominique Outten
 Academic – Skyler Schneider

Academic all-state football set

Several senior players from Clear Brook and Dobie were recognized as the Texas High School Coaches Association released its 2009-2010 academic all-state selections.

Dobie's Garrett Leland and Skyler Schneider of Clear Brook were named to the second team in the Class 5A ranks.

Honorable mention picks in Class 5A included Clear Brook's Michael Candler, Ikenna Ikpeama and Brett Roberts along with Michael Collins, Nathan Touchette,

Juan Perez and Aaron Kutra of Dobie.

The Texas High School Coaches Association makes its selections based on a point-earning system that includes grade point average, class rank and ACT or SAT scores.

Lady Lions sweep Jackson

It didn't take long for the Thompson Intermediate girls' basketball program to get on track after the holiday break as the Lady Lions swept their four-game set against the Jackson Wildcats Jan. 6.

Lady Lions' 7 Light 38 Jackson 30

The seventh-grade Light team pounced on the Wildcats early with their stifling defense and had a commanding lead heading into halftime.

However, Jackson was not going to go down without a fight, and with tough defense of their own, forced the Lions into turnovers and closed the gap going into the final quarter.

The Lions made sure the Wildcats' comeback would fall short, as they got some timely baskets and the defensive stops when needed, winning the game by eight points.

Leading scorers for the game were Emily Wolfe

with a season-high 26 points, and Jessica Jones and Carli Blue with four points each.

Monica Ploucha and Paola Reyna had two points apiece. With the win, the Lady Lions stayed in a first-place tie with Bondy at 5-0.

Lady Lions' 7 Dark 39 Jackson 10

After a couple of tough losses to start the season, the Lady Lions' seventh-grade Dark team has started to find its groove.

The break for the holidays gave the team a chance to regroup, and Thompson was seeking its third straight win of the season entering play against Jackson.

The speed and quickness of the Lions was evident from the onset as they jumped out to an early lead.

Valerie Colunga scored a game-high 12 points. Patricia Jackson had six points, and Sasha McCoy and Everest Cox chipped in with four points each.

The Lions had their most balanced scoring game of the season, as 10 players scored at least two points.

The win, the Lady Lions' third in five games, leaves the team in a four-way tie for second place in the standings.

Lady Lions' 8 Light 33 Jackson 15

The Lady Lions' eighth-grade Light team won its second game of the season, downing Jackson 33-15.

The team is hoping to keep its momentum going as the season has reached the midway point.

Lady Lions' 8 Dark 35 Jackson 13

Thompson's eighth-grade Dark team opened the post-holiday portion of the schedule with a big win, beating Jackson 35-13.

Jarvis headed to Oklahoma baseball



C.J. Jarvis, grandson of South Belt resident Judy Britt, will attend the University of Oklahoma to continue his studies and baseball playing career after inking a letter of intent with the Sooners. Jarvis is currently a senior at Houston Christian High School. Those with Jarvis at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Lori Jarvis (mother), (standing) Ron Mathis, (Houston Christian head coach) Ben Vigil, (Houston Christian junior varsity coach), Fred Jarvis (father), John Ruiz (Houston Heat select team coach) and Shawn Ina (Houston Christian varsity assistant).

Pasadena ISD Intermediate Schools

Girls' Hoops Standings (After Jan. 6 games)

Eighth Grade Light

Team	W	L
Miller	5	0
San Jacinto	5	0
Beverly Hills	4	1
Bondy	4	1
Southmore	3	2
Thompson	2	3
South Houston	1	4
Queens	1	4
Jackson	0	5
Park View	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Thompson 33, Jackson 15
 San Jacinto 28, Bondy 20
 Queens 39, South Houston 17
 Southmore 28, Park View 22
 Miller 39, Beverly Hills 18

Eighth Grade Dark

Team	W	L
Southmore	5	0
San Jacinto	5	0
Bondy	4	1
Miller	4	1
Beverly Hills	4	1
Thompson	3	2
Queens	2	3
South Houston	1	4
Jackson	0	5
Park View	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

San Jacinto 31, Bondy 22
 Beverly Hills 29, Miller 24
 Queens 37, South Houston 3
 Southmore 24, Park View 8
 Thompson 35, Jackson 13

Seventh Grade Light

Team	W	L
Thompson	5	0
Bondy	5	0
Beverly Hills	4	1
Miller	3	2
Southmore	2	3
Park View	2	3
Queens	2	3
San Jacinto	1	4
Jackson	0	5
South Houston	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Beverly Hills 33, Miller 14
 Queens 18, South Houston 17
 Thompson 38, Jackson 30
 Park View 30, Southmore 27
 Bondy 44, San Jacinto 4

Seventh Grade Dark

Team	W	L
Bondy	5	0
Beverly Hills	5	0
Miller	3	2
Southmore	3	2
Thompson	3	2
Park View	3	2
San Jacinto	2	3
Queens	1	4
South Houston	0	5
Jackson	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Bondy 40, San Jacinto 9
 Queens 20, South Houston 12
 Park View 16, Southmore 14 (OT)
 Beverly Hills 40, Miller 15
 Thompson 39, Jackson 10

Boys' Hoops Standings (After Jan. 6 games)

Eighth Grade Light

Team	W	L
Queens	5	0
Park View	4	1
Beverly Hills	4	1
Thompson	3	2
San Jacinto	3	2
Southmore	3	2
Bondy	2	3
South Houston	1	4
Jackson	0	5
Miller	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Beverly Hills 44, Miller 26
 Southmore 31, Park View 22
 Thompson 66, Jackson 57
 San Jacinto 35, Bondy 26
 Queens 52, South Houston 21

Eighth Grade Dark

Team	W	L
Bondy	5	0
Beverly Hills	5	0
Queens	4	1
Thompson	3	2
San Jacinto	2	3
South Houston	2	3
Southmore	2	3
Park View	1	4
Jackson	1	4
Miller	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Thompson 48, Jackson 27
 Beverly Hills 40, Miller 23
 Bondy 31, San Jacinto 28
 Southmore 29 Park View 25
 Queens 40, South Houston 17

Seventh Grade Light

Team	W	L
Park View	5	0
Thompson	4	1
San Jacinto	4	1
South Houston	3	2
Beverly Hills	3	2
Miller	2	3
Southmore	2	3
Jackson	1	4
Bondy	1	4
Queens	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Beverly Hills 37, Miller 23
 Park View 48, Southmore 17
 Thompson 44, Jackson 31
 San Jacinto 45, Bondy 29
 South Houston 38, Queens 19

Seventh Grade Dark

Team	W	L
South Houston	5	0
Thompson	4	1
Beverly Hills	4	1
Bondy	3	2
San Jacinto	3	2
Southmore	3	2
Miller	2	3
Queens	1	4
Park View	0	5
Jackson	0	5

Scores Jan. 6

Beverly Hills 31, Miller 27 (OT)
 Southmore 19, Park View 8
 San Jacinto 34, Bondy 15
 South Houston 40, Queens 23
 Thompson 37, Jackson 10

Sports calendar

BASKETBALL Friday, Jan. 15

Dobie varsity boys host La Porte, 7:30
 Dobie varsity girls at La Porte, 7:30
 Clear Brook varsity girls host Clear Creek, 7:00
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys host La Porte, 6:00
 Dobie JV girls at La Porte, 6:00
 Clear Brook JV girls host Clear Creek, 5:30
 Clear Brook JV boys at Clear Creek, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys host La Porte, 4:30
 Clear Brook sophomore boys at Clear Creek, 5:30
 Dobie freshman A boys host La Porte, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman A boys at Clear Creek, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls at La Porte, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman A girls host Clear Creek, 4:30
 Dobie freshman B boys host La Porte, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman B boys at Clear Creek, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B girls at La Porte, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman B girls host Clear Creek, 6:00

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Dobie varsity boys at Pasadena, 7:30
 Dobie varsity girls host Pasadena, 7:30
 Clear Brook varsity girls at Dickinson, 7:00
 Clear Brook varsity boys host Dickinson, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys at Pasadena, 6:00
 Dobie JV girls host Pasadena, 6:00
 Clear Brook JV girls at Dickinson, 5:30
 Clear Brook JV boys host Dickinson, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys at Pasadena, 4:30
 Clear Brook sophomore boys host Dickinson, 5:30
 Dobie freshman A boys at Pasadena, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman A boys host Dickinson, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls host Pasadena, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman A girls at Dickinson, 4:30
 Dobie freshman B boy sat Pasadena, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman B boys host Dickinson, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B girls host Pasadena, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman B girls at Dickinson, 6:00

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Beverly Hills 8th Light girls at South Houston, 4:30
 Beverly Hills 8th Dark girls at South Houston, 5:45
 Beverly Hills 7th Light girls at South Houston, 4:30
 Beverly Hills 7th Dark girls at South Houston, 5:45
 Thompson 8th Light girls at Bondy, 4:30
 Thompson 8th Dark girls at Bondy, 5:45
 Thompson 7th Light girls at Bondy, 4:30
 Thompson 7th Dark girls at Bondy, 5:45
 Beverly Hills 8th Dark boys host South Houston, 5:00
 Beverly Hills 8th Light boys host South Houston, 6:15
 Beverly Hills 7th Dark boys host South Houston, 5:00
 Beverly Hills 7th Light boys host South Houston, 6:15
 Thompson 8th Dark boys host Bondy, 5:00
 Thompson 8th Light boys host Bondy, 6:15
 Thompson 7th Dark boys host Bondy, 5:00
 Thompson 7th Light boys host Bondy, 6:15

Friday, Jan. 22

Dobie varsity boys host Sam Rayburn, 7:30
 Dobie varsity girls at Sam Rayburn, 7:30
 Clear Brook varsity girls host Brazoswood, 7:00
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Brazoswood, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys host Sam Rayburn, 6:00
 Dobie JV girls at Sam Rayburn, 6:00
 Clear Brook JV girls host Brazoswood, 5:30
 Clear Brook JV boys at Brazoswood, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys host Sam Rayburn, 4:30
 Clear Brook sophomore boys at Brazoswood, 5:30
 Dobie freshman A boys host Sam Rayburn, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman A boys at Brazoswood, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls at Sam Rayburn, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman A girls host Brazoswood, 4:30
 Dobie freshman B boys host Sam Rayburn, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman B boys at Brazoswood, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B girls at Sam Rayburn, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman B girls host Brazoswood, 6:00

SOCCER

Thursday, Jan. 14

Clear Brook varsity girls at Katy shootout, TBA
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
 Dobie varsity boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Pearland tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV (A) girls at Atascocita tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook JV boys at Cy-Fair tourn., TBA

Friday, Jan. 15

Clear Brook varsity girls at Katy shootout, TBA
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
 Dobie varsity boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Pearland tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV (A) girls at Atascocita tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook JV boys at Cy-Fair tourn., TBA

Saturday, Jan. 16

Clear Brook varsity girls at Katy shootout, TBA
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
 Dobie varsity boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Pearland tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV (A) girls at Atascocita tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV (B) girls host Brazoswood, Dobie, 10 a.m.
 Clear Brook JV boys at Cy-Fair tourn., TBA

TENNIS

Saturday, Jan. 16

Dobie hosts exes matches, Dobie, 9 a.m.

Dobie girls in driver's seat; other squads lagging in hoops district races

Continued from Page 1B
Yellowjackets 48-38 over Clear Brook.

The Wolverines, who fell to 0-2 with a loss at Clear Springs Jan. 8, needed a win to hang with the leading pack in the district.

Yet it was Alvin that played tough for three quarters before a 13-4 fourth-quarter push allowed Clear Brook to gain the victory.

Things won't get any easier for the Wolverines, who travel to Clear Creek Jan. 15 to take on the Wildcats, who have opened 24-5A action with a 3-0 record.

Lady Wolverines even
The good news? The Clear Brook girls improved to 3-3 in the 24-5A standings with an easy win at Alvin.

The not-so-good news? Clear Brook will close out the first half of district play by facing Clear Creek Jan. 15. So far, the Lady Wildcats have proved to be the class of the district with a 6-0 record.

Against Alvin, Kiara Redmon and Courtney Lindsey each had 13 points as the Lady Wolverines took care of business.

Dobie girls rolling
The Dobie girls made a big statement within the District 22-5A ranks, traveling to Deer Park and handing the Deer their first loss of the league schedule.

The difference came in the third quarter as Vacie Davis (18 points) and Jazmine Guerrero (17 points) led a 21-10 run that gave the Lady Longhorns some breathing room heading into the fourth quarter.

Dobie head coach Roger Brown was obviously pleased with a road win against one of the preseason favorites to win the 22-5A title.

"Any time you go to Deer Park and sneak out with a win, you should feel very fortunate," Brown said.

"That is one of the toughest places to play in district. We did a good job of creating the tempo in the game, and that seemed to play to our advantage in the second half.

"Deer Park is so well coached and execute so well, that felt like we had to speed the game up and do whatever we could to not let them get into a rhythm. In the first half we got good looks but were unable to finish. In the second half, we did a better job of that."

Now, the Lady Longhorns will look to close out the first half of district play with another road test, this time at La Porte Jan. 15.

Brown is confident yet cautious.
"Believe me, we are very happy being 6-0 in district," he said.

"But we can't rely on past accomplishments. We have to focus on the future task, and that's beating La Porte.

"That is going to be an extremely tough test for us. We have not won on their floor since I've been here (two losses), and we have to come out prepared and ready or that streak may be extended."

Dobie has come through with one of the biggest stories of the 22-5A season after losing one of their top players to a knee injury in December.

But instead of sulking, the Lady Longhorns have stepped up big.

It's only going to get tougher for us," Brown said.

"When you get into the second round of district everyone has sized up their opponent, they have film on them, and know what adjustments to make. Plus, everyone brings their A

Area youth leagues set registration

Continued from Page 1B
Lee Park. Girls age 5 and up are eligible to register at \$70 per child. A \$5 discount will be offered to families with more than one child registering.

Girls in the Lady Bug division (must have turned 4 years of age by Jan. 1) may register for \$50.

Select baseball
The Proway Colt 45 select baseball organization will host registration for children ages 7 to 14 on Saturday, Jan. 16, and Saturday, Jan. 23, at Frankie Carter Randolph Park, located at 515 FM 2351 in Friendswood.

Both of the sessions will begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call Colt 45s representative Charlie Prahm at 281-948-0200.

RSTC track and field
The Rising Stars Track Club will host its first registration for the upcoming spring/summer season Saturday, Jan. 16, at Dobie High School from 10 a.m. to noon.

Registration will continue each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at Dobie through mid-March. Practice days are Fridays from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon and Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information about the team, call Coach Ivory Kimble at 832-561-1248 or Fran Herndon at 281-335-1878.

Dobie swim boosters meet

The Dobie High School swimming booster club will host its monthly meeting Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. in the school media room.

In the pool, the Longhorns have just two regular season meets remaining prior to the District 22-5A championships.

Dobie's next meet is Jan. 23 at Manvel High School, where the Longhorns will face Alvin.

Booster club members are making plans for both the rest of the regular season and the postseason.

Parents of all swimmers are encouraged to attend.

game when they play the team in first place. We'll gladly wear that bull's-eye, but we have to understand what got us here and, more importantly, what we need to stay here."

Dobie boys fall late
Needing a win over Deer Park to get back on track after a loss to South Houston Jan. 8, the Dobie varsity boys' team couldn't quite finish the deal against Deer Park.

Instead, the first-place Deer escaped with a 10-point win after Jacob Munoz sent the game to overtime with a 3-pointer and then the visitors controlled the extra session.

Dobie had more turnovers than points in overtime, but the game probably should not have gotten to that point.

Despite not leading in the game until 12 seconds remained in the third quarter, the Longhorns battled and finally overcame the

Deer.
In the fourth quarter, a series of defensive stops provided the Longhorns with several chances to close out the win at the free throw line.

Jubril Osagie fed Randy Owens for a drive to the basket with a minute, 56 seconds to play. After being fouled, Owens made one of two free throws to put Dobie ahead 52-50.

Osagie grabbed a defensive rebound 50 seconds later but slipped and was called for traveling before he could get a timeout.

Munoz was whistled for an offensive charge on the ensuing possession, but Dobie's Mike Selexman missed the front end of a 1-and-1 at the line as the score remained 52-50.

In the final minute, Michael Collins missed two free throws and David Tran was errant on another before making one to push

the lead to 53-50, setting up Munoz's big shot.

So after missing five of seven free throws in the final two minutes, Dobie had allowed Deer Park to hang

close. Munoz's left corner 3-pointer with :02 seconds remaining sent the game to

overtime before the Deer seized control with a 9-0 run to start overtime.

SJC's Gernander gains 600th win

Fifth-ranked San Jacinto College continued its winning ways Jan. 5 with a 103-51 win over Lone Star College-Tomball, giving head coach Scott Gernander his 600th career victory.

Now in his 23rd season at the helm of the San Jacinto (15-1) men's basketball program, Gernander has built the Ravens into a national powerhouse.

Since arriving at the Central campus prior to the 1987-88 season, Gernander has taken his teams to eight conference titles and eight National Junior College Athletic Association tournaments, finishing as the national runner-up twice. He owns an overall record of 600-149.

Gernander's list of former standouts include former National Basketball Association All-Stars Steve Francis and Sam Cassell.

Francis spent more than 10 years in the NBA, while Cassell guided Houston to back-to-back championships, and most recently won a title with the Boston

Celtics.

Since Gernander took over the San Jacinto program, 53 of his players have gone on to continue their education and basketball careers at four-year institutions.

A native of Minnesota, Gernander was inducted into the NJCAA men's

basketball Hall of Fame in March 2007.

Later that same year, his alma mater, the University of Minnesota at Duluth, inducted him into its Hall of Fame.

Gernander currently ranks 11th all-time among NJCAA active coaches in wins.

Spring 2010 "UPWARD SOCCER LEAGUE"



WHO: Boys & girls age 4 - 4th Grade
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WHEN: Evaluations - Feb. 20 & 27
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* Birthdates 6/1/1991 through 12/31/2005

Fee includes complete uniform. No fundraisers. No added fees.
No tryouts. Everyone plays. Season over by end of school.
All games played at Bay Area Dad's Club (off Hwy 3 near Clear Lake City Blvd).
EZ registration paperwork at walk-in registration for returning 2009 players.

4 & 5 Yr Olds	Mini-TeeBall
6 Yr Olds	TeeBall
7 Yr Olds	Coach Pitch
8 Yr Olds	Machine Pitch 1
9 Yr Olds	Machine Pitch 2
10 Yr Olds	Freshman Baseball
11 & 12 Yr Olds	Sophomore Baseball
13 & 14 Yr Olds	Junior Baseball
15 - 18 Yr Olds	Senior Baseball



Register at Star Fire Grill Restaurant

(Corner of Bay Area Blvd and Space Center Blvd)

Saturday/Sunday
January 16 & 17, 2010
Noon to 3 p.m.

Players who register on time have the option to stay on their Spring 2009 team.
Late registration begins January 18 and continues until teams are full.

Mail-In Registration and additional information via our Website
www.BayAreaTexasBaseball.com
For more information e-mail fdonaghe@aol.com Or call 281-486-9331

Dobie High School Varsity tennis spring schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 16	Dobie exes matches	9 a.m.
Jan. 22-23	at Pearland invitational	TBA
Jan. 29-30	at Humble invitational	TBA
Feb. 5-6	at Kramer PISD tourn.	TBA
Feb. 12-13	at Lake Travis invitational	TBA
Feb. 18	at Galveston Ball	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 26-27	at Corpus Christi tourn.	TBA
March 5-6	at La Porte tourn.	TBA
March 12	at Cedar Hill (Dallas)	TBA
March 13	at Putnam City (Dallas)	9 a.m.
March 26-27	at Galveston tourn.	TBA
March 30	St. John's	3 p.m.
April 7-8	22-5A championships (Pas.)	TBA
April 20-21	Region III tourn. (Deer Park)	TBA
May 3-4	Dobie faculty tournament	3 p.m.
May 10-11	State tournament (Austin)	TBA

JV tennis spring schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 27	at Stratford	3:45 p.m.
Feb. 2	at Pasadena ISD invit.	TBA
Feb. 16	at Baytown tourn.	TBA
March 4	St. John's	3 p.m.
March 9	at Katy tourn.	TBA
March 24	at Clear Brook invit.	TBA
March 31	at Cy-Fair tourn.	TBA
April 1	at Galveston tourn.	TBA
April 15-16	22-5A championships	TBA

Freshman tennis spring schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 26	at Pasadena ISD invit.	TBA
Feb. 9	at Deer Park invit.	TBA
Feb. 17	at Baytown tourn.	TBA
Feb. 24	Stratford	3:30 p.m.
March 2	at Alvin tourn.	TBA
March 9	at Katy tourn.	TBA
March 23	at Fort Bend invit.	TBA
March 31	at Cy-Fair tourn.	TBA
April 15-16	22-5A championships	TBA

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South Belt Youth Soccer Club

It's time for SPRING Soccer Registration!

Registration for Boys and Girls ages 4 to 18 years old is being held on: **Saturday, Jan. 16th at the Sagemeadow MUD Bldg. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

New players registering must bring original and copy of birth certificate at time of registration. For additional information and online registration, go to www.southbeltsoccer.org

SBYSC is a non-profit, all volunteer organization run by parents for the kids.

FREE Registration for any player who brings in a team sponsor

Registration fees are as follows:

Ages as of 7/31/2009	Fees	Online
U5-U8 (4,5,6,7)	\$80	\$60
U9 & U10	\$85	\$65
U11 & Older	\$90	\$70

Late fee of \$10 will be assessed after Feb. 1st, 2010.



THE SAGEMEADOW MUD BUILDING IS LOCATED AT: 10755 HALL RD.

Visit us online @ www.southbeltleader.com

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 14
7 a.m.

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

9:30 a.m.

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse Fellowship of Friends, 144 Park Avenue in League City. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others to the interdenominational meeting.

11:30 a.m.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets on the second Thursday of each month at MiMi's Cafe in the Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway Street, #1600. Lunch is from 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 are appreciated. Contact Monica Perez at mlynperez2002@yahoo.com for reservations, or visit the Web site at www.seen-abwa.org.

Noon

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise from noon to 1 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

6:30 p.m.

Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.

8:30 p.m.

St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church Tutoring - St. Luke's offers tutoring classes Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the church located at 11011 Hall Road. For more information, call 281-484-1397 or e-mail joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 15
7 a.m.

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

Continued on Page 4B

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FOR LEASE: League City - Charming 3-2-2 Split Bedroom Plan. Large Den W/ High Ceiling, FP, Large Backyard. \$1,195/mo. Plus Equal Deposit.

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BRIDGEGATE: 3-2-2 Formal Living/ Dining, Fireplace, Vaulted Ceilings In Den, Large Pans, Fresh Paint, Hardwood, Shows Like a Model Home. Built In 2000. \$140,000.

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SCARSDALE: Beautiful Updated 3-2-2, Fresh Paint Inside & Out, Huge Den W/ High Ceiling, Split New Kitchen, Ceramic Tile, Laminate In Bedrooms, Covered Patio. \$122,500.

FOR LEASE: Sabo Townhome, Nice 3-2-5-2D, Formals, Den, All Bedrooms Up, 2 Car Garage and Opener, Decked Patio. 2074 sq. ft. per HCAD. \$995/ Month Plus Equal Deposit. Water, Sewer, Trash Included.

BEVERLY HILLS: Nice 3 Bedroom Re-built After Fire, New Sheetrock, Cabinets, Granite Countertops with Tile Backsplash, Flooring, Air/Heat, Appliances, Double Pane Windows, Hardi-Plank On Exterior, \$107,500.

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OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, January 17, 1-4 p.m. 9007 Clear Meadow Lane, Houston, 77089. 3-2-2 one-story home. Call James Coate for more information: 832-814-4326. 1-14

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, January 17, 1-4 p.m. 11531 Brook Meadow, Houston, 77089. 3-2-2 two-story home. Call James Coate for more information: 832-814-4326. 1-14

SERVICE

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

10 a.m.
Free Line Dance Class - The Friendswood Senior Citizen Program offers free line dancing classes. The class is held at the activity building, located at 416 Morningside. All area senior citizens, 55 or older, are invited. Previous experience not required. For more information, call 281-482-8441.

Noon
Moving Forward Women's Adult Children Anonymous - The ACA group meets Fridays at noon at the Up The Street Club in Webster, 508 NASA Parkway, in room 4. ACA is a 12-step program of hope, healing and recovery for people who grew up in alcoholic or dysfunctional homes. For more information, call 281-286-1431.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16
6 p.m.
Frontier Squares - Meets to square dance at the Westminster Academy at 670 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or visit www.frontiersquares.com.

7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - Produces a bluegrass music show and jam session the third Saturday of each month. May and December are exceptions. The stage show begins at 7 p.m., but pickers are welcome to bring their instruments and come earlier. Admission is free. The show is held at the Johnny Arolfo Civic Center, 300 Walker in League City. For more information, visit www.bayareabluegrass.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 17
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For any adult who has lost a loved one. Meets every Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. For more information, call 281-487-8787. 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

MONDAY, JAN. 18
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

9 a.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

Noon
Free Exercise Class - Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Registration is required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua from 6 to 9 p.m. All who enjoy the game or want to learn to play are invited to join. For more information, call 281-488-2923.

6:30 p.m.
Civil Air Patrol Meeting - Weekly at Ellington Field in the Civil Air Patrol Building. Call 281-484-1352 and leave a message for more information.

7 p.m.
Grief Support Group - "Friends Helping Friends" meets every Monday from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehab Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Those who have lost a spouse or other loved one are invited to participate. Call Betty Flynn at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.

The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. - Meets the third week of each month at the Clear Lake Park Building, 5001 NASA Parkway. Guests welcome. Designed to promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences, hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the science of minerals and fossils.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

11 a.m.
The Bay Area Military Officers' Wives - hold monthly luncheon meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at Bay Oaks Country Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Active duty or retired officers' wives are eligible. For information, call Pat Simon at 832-221-2696 or Wendy Peters at 281-333-3115.

Noon
Free Exercise Class - Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Registration is required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.

1 p.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 from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565.

1:30 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Bayshore Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, 4021 Brookhaven, Pasadena. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

6:30 p.m.
Clear Lake Toastmasters Club - Meets at the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 938 El Dorado Blvd. Call Jerry Tate at 281-481-5417 for information.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Meets at Sagemont Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes. For information, call Erna Coskey at 713-946-6049.

Pearland Area Republican Women's Club - meets the third Tuesday of the month 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.
St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church Tutoring - St. Luke's offers tutoring classes Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the church located at 11011 Hall Road. For more information, call 281-484-1397 or e-mail joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

The Compassionate Friends - TCF meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Friendswood United Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in Room 2351. TCF is a non-denominational, self-help organization offering friendship, support and understanding to bereaved families who have lost a son, daughter or sibling. For information, call 281-332-2887 or 281-992-0145.

Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room 1st floor. Bring a friend or neighbor and work together to make PIP the best in the city. PIP consists of police and citizens working together to help make neighborhoods safer. For more information, call Officer Randy Derr at 281-218-3900.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.

Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 - Free monthly gardening educational programs meet on the third Wednesday of each month. The programs are at 10 a.m. at Clear Lake Park in the meeting room located at 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook (on the south side of the lake). The programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 281-991-8437 or visit the Web site at www.hcmgpa2.tamu.edu.

11:30 a.m.
Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45. E-mail HobbyAirportLions@gmail.com for more information.

Noon
Free Exercise Class - Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Registration is required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.

4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise held from 4 to 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Domestic violence support group for male survivors meets each Wednesday at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway. Call 281-338-7600 for information. Participants may join at any time as this is an open group.

7 p.m.
Survivors of Suicide Support Group - The Southeast Houston group meets the first and third Wednesday of 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 meets every week. For information, call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com. B.A.T.P. is located at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway between Interstate 45 South and Highway 3. The 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

Noon
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise from noon to 1 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

AI-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.
Texas German Society, South Belt (Southeast) Chapter - A social group interested in the culture, music, heritage and language of the immigrants in early German settlements in Texas. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors are welcome. Call 281-481-1238 for more information.

6:30 p.m.
St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church Tutoring - St. Luke's offers tutoring classes Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the church located at 11011 Hall Road. For more information, call 281-484-1397 or e-mail joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

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

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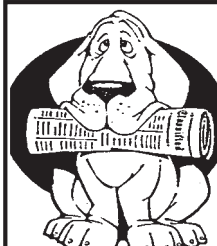
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PISD boys' tourney debuts

Thanks to plenty of hard work from the district's boys' soccer coaches and players, the Pasadena Independent School District is joining the 2010 tournament roundup. The first-ever Pasadena Cup Invitational will be held Jan. 14-16 at Newcomb

Field, Auxiliary Stadium and the Dobie and Memorial high school campuses.

The tournament was made possible due to the fundraising efforts of the boys' soccer programs in the district.

PISD athletics officials were on board with the idea for the tournament when it was presented by the coaches, but there was a catch.

Fundraising would be needed to support the costs of the event, and the respective coaches and teams would have to do it. Mission accomplished.

The PISD Cup is all set to go, and the 20-team field includes each of the PISD schools as well as several area soccer powers.

"Each of the head coaches in the district (Jess White at Pasadena, Scott Macneish at Memorial, Bijan Timjani at Sam Rayburn and Augustin Loreda at South Houston) and their players deserve the credit," said Dobie head coach Jesse Saavedra, who added that the Longhorns certainly did their part.

"The tournament was our idea (as coaches), and we were responsible for raising the funds. We were able to put it together."

The remaining teams include Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Lake, Channelview, Elsik, Alief Taylor, Nimitz, Lamar, Baytown Sterling, Klein Oak, Westfield, Atascocita, Cypress Ridge, Klein Forest and Tomball.

Pool play will involve five 4-team divisions, and the trophy games will be played Jan. 16.

Saavedra, whose Dobie team entered the season as one of the top-ranked in the region, hopes the tournament has a long life.

"This is the first one, but it's certainly something we want to see carried on," Saavedra said.

"We appreciate our district giving us the thumbs up to proceed with the tournament, and we appreciate all of the kind supporters who stepped up to make this possible for all of these young players."

Jan. 14 games – at Newcomb

Noon – Memorial vs. Tomball
2 p.m. – Atascocita vs. Bay. Sterling
4 p.m. – Dobie vs. Klein Forest
6 p.m. – Rayburn vs. Alief Elsik
8 p.m. – Clear Creek vs. Lamar

Jan. 14 games – at Auxiliary

Noon – South Houston vs. Cy-Ridge
2 p.m. – Nimitz vs. Elsik
4 p.m. – Pasadena vs. Westfield
6 p.m. – Clear Lake vs. Channelview
8 p.m. – Clear Brook vs. Klein Oak

Jan. 15 games – at Newcomb

Noon – Dobie vs. Lamar
2 p.m. – Klein Oak vs. Alief Taylor
4 p.m. – Pasadena vs. Clear Lake
6 p.m. – South Houston vs. Nimitz
8 p.m. – Elsik vs. Cy Ridge

Jan. 15 games – at Auxiliary

Noon – Memorial vs. Bay. Sterling
2 p.m. – Tomball vs. Atascocita
4 p.m. – Klein Forest vs. Clear Creek
6 p.m. – Rayburn vs. Clear Brook
8 p.m. – Westfield vs. Channelview

Jan. 16 games – at Dobie

10 a.m. – Cy-Ridge vs. Nimitz
Noon – Dobie vs. Clear Creek

Jan. 16 games – at Memorial

10 a.m. – Memorial vs. Atascocita
Noon – Alief Taylor vs. Clear Brook

Jan. 16 trophy games – at Newcomb



The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team got off to a great start in the Friendswood/Pearland tournament, winning the Pool A championship game with a 3-1 win over Clear Creek. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Jose Armenta, Sergio Martinez, Omar Arreguin, Irving Garza, Adrian Ramirez, Walter Anoruo, Jose Gonzalez, Raul Jimenez, Edwin Padilla, Jose Balvaneda,

(middle row) David Fraga (manager), Patricio Cedillo, Eduardo Feria, Leonardo Gallegos, Janluca Rodriguez, Carlos Rivas, Pedro Mares, Omar Luna, Douglas Leighton, Julian Romero, Aaron Mathews (volunteer coach) and Jesus Montoya (manager), (back row) assistant coach Ryan Peel, head coach Jesse Saavedra and Angel Garciatejada (manager).

Dobie boys, Brook girls' soccer unbeaten in openers

Continued from Page 1B straight trip to the final in the Pearlland/Friendswood combo event finally brought a championship trophy.

Taking on Clear Creek in the pool A title game, the Longhorns struck early with a goal and kept the pressure on. The Wildcats tallied a late goal, Dobie's first allowed of the season, but by then Dobie was in control.

"We played well as a team and created a lot of chances for ourselves," Saavedra said. "We were then able to take advantage of those chances by scoring."

Forward Raul Jimenez got things going for the Longhorns as he took a corner kick from Omar Arreguin and tucked away the goal just five minutes into the action.

Fifteen minutes later, Dobie went back to work in

the Clear Creek end as midfielder Pedro Mares sent a cross to Walter Anoruo, who sent a one-touch shot past the Wildcats' keeper for a 2-0 lead.

Clear Creek narrowed the gap to 2-1 in the 70th minute of play, but the Longhorns were not to be denied.

In the final minute, Arreguin, who opened the season with nine points, including four goals, locked up the victory as he broke free from a Creek defender and beat the keeper for a goal.

Dobie's road to the final was paved with the use of solid tactics and athleticism.

In the opener against Galveston Ball, Dobie dominated the action for most of the game on both ends but had to get a goal from Arreguin on an assist from Jose Gonzalez to take

the 1-0 victory. Sophomore goalkeeper Jose Balvaneda earned the shutout in the nets for the Longhorns. The conditions for the opener were poor.

It was plenty cold, and the stiff winds were a problem, so much so that on Jan. 8, Sharpstown forfeited its game against Dobie after Houston Independent School District officials cancelled all events due to the threat of freezing conditions. Dobie thus took a 1-0 forfeit.

Playing for a chance at the finals against Fort Bend Hightower, the Longhorns were ready to play Jan. 9.

Arreguin had a pair of goals, and Jimenez and Anoruo also scored while Balvaneda gained his second shutout. In the end, Dobie walked off the field with an easy 4-0 victory.

Defensively, Adrian

Ramirez, Julian Romero, Douglas Leighton and Sergio Martinez came up big in limiting the Hurricanes on the Longhorns' end of the field.

Dobie's team championship came with plenty of accolades for others.

Arreguin, Anoruo, Ramirez, Leo Gallegos, Jimenez and Balvaneda all were awarded all-tournament nominations.

"We played solid soccer for the most part," Saavedra said. "It's the way you want the season to start."

Dobie girls now 2-1

The varsity girls' team at Dobie split a pair of games at the Brazoswood invitational and then downed Alvin 4-0 Jan. 12 to start 2-1 for the season.

Dobie beat Brazosport 2-1 Jan. 7 in its first game of the season as Melissa Leal and Karen Tretto scored

goals. The team came back Jan. 8 against area power Katy Taylor, losing 3-0.

"We lost, but I was proud of the way we fought hard and gave it our all," Dobie head coach Kersten Mullan said.

Dobie's third game of the tournament was cancelled. Against Alvin Jan. 12, things simply clicked in a 4-0 victory.

It's early, but Mullan is banking on a few of her preseason adjustments to pan out.

Dobie has 11 seniors, each a part of Mullan's first class of players when she arrived at Dobie four years ago.

"If we are going to have a magical year here at Dobie, this is the year it's going to happen," Mullan said.

Brook girls sweep

First-year head coach Jeff Brewer could not have

asked for anything more from his Lady Wolverines as the team swept three games at the Lady Highlander Kilt Classic in the Woodlands.

Brook won its opener over Cedar Park 2-1 (goals were scored by Beth Stratton and Hannah Briggs) Jan. 7 and then beat Klein 2-1 in a shootout. Makenzie Kahan scored the winner in a shootout.

Going against highly touted Boerne Champion Jan. 9, the Lady Wolverines were victorious, 1-0, on a goal by Briggs.

CB boys play well

The Wolverines' boys have opened the season at 2-0-1. In the opener Jan. 7 against Galena Park, Mark Gendi scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win. Brook then tied Pearland 0-0 on Jan. 8 and beat Channelview 4-0 Jan. 12.

Brook varsity girls at Katy I-10 Shootout

Brook vs. Bryan
Thursday, Jan. 14, 4 p.m.
Visit www.I-10shootout.org

Dobie varsity girls at Pearland tourn.

Dobie vs. Clear Creek
Pearland High School (North)
Thursday, Jan. 14, 4 p.m.

Dobie vs. Oak Ridge
The Rig, Pearland
Friday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m.

Dobie vs. Oak Ridge
Pearland High School (North)
Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 a.m.

Tisby, Tran pace Horns during Chavez opener

Charles Tisby (242 pounds) and Dorothy Tran (165 pounds) won their weight divisions, leading a strong Dobie contingent at the season-opening powerlifting meet at Houston Chavez Jan. 9.

Tisby's teammate, Justin Rice was second in the 242-pound division while Ashante Joseph (220 pounds) and Michael McDonald (198 pounds) both came through with second-place finishes.

Overall, Dobie's varsity team placed fifth among the

16 teams in the competition.

Tran, a 2009 regional qualifier, was in midseason form as she won her weight class.

Other top finishers included Faith Roberts (second at 181 pounds), Brianna Jamison (third at 181 pounds), Megan Snyder (third at 132 pounds), Madelyn Garcia (fourth at 148 pounds) and Christina Dorantes (fifth at 148).

Dobie was fourth as a team with only six athletes competing.

Foster, formerly of Galveston Ball High School and a first-year member of the Dobie football staff, has ensured that the athletes in the program take their work seriously.

The number of athletes in the program has risen drastically – there are enough athletes to support boys' and girls' varsity and junior varsity squads – and the participants are following Foster's lead.

After an intense three-week boot camp, all of the lifters entered the season physically and mentally prepared to be at their best.

"The boot camp is a training program that I implemented some years back at another school," Foster said.

"The work we do in the program trains the muscles to take on the demands of competition training and prepares their minds to overcome pain."

In describing the pre-season camp, Foster said the Longhorns got busy every day, stretching and warming up for 10 to 15 minutes, then doing a routine, that included four sets each of 100 jumping jacks,

50 push ups, 100 crunches, 100 free squats and a set of 100-yard lunges and some other things mixed in.

After the completion of all of that, the series would be repeated.

"I told them if they make it through boot camp they would become better student/athletes," Foster said. "I've seen it happen."

The Dobie program currently has 13 girls and 21 boys involved. The girls' team is led by Tran along with Christina Dorantes, Madelyn Garcia, Brianna Jamison and Meagan Snyder.

"These young ladies have turned it up to another level," Foster said.

"They know my expectations are very high for them. They've worked extremely hard and also spent time helping the new lifters get into the routine."

"The ladies' competition will be pretty exciting this year. I feel our ladies will do a great job."

The boys' group consists of returners such as McDonald, Ashante Joseph, Justin Rice and Charles Tisby, all of whom played on the

varsity football team during the 2009 season.

Each of the four performed exceptionally well at the season-opening meet at Chavez High School.

"These young men are taking it beyond another level," Foster said.

"Coming out of football, going into boot camp and now competition lifting shows they are focused, dedicated and wanting to achieve their goals."

The rest of the other young men are working very hard and putting in the extra time needed to be at their best.

"The team's motto, stenciled to each athlete's competition T-shirt, is that they will 'Believe and Achieve,' Foster's creation.

"That motto is something I've always tried to instill in the athletes I've coached over the years," Foster said.

"Knowing that in an athletic competition, and in the classroom, things can get very hard and tough, you have to believe you can achieve the goal and come out victorious."

"We are expecting big

things from the lifters who competed last season, when they walk out on that platform, I want them to think 'Believe it and Will Achieve it'"

Foster is hopeful of getting some of the area's younger students at Thompson and Beverly Hills involved on some level.

"One thing I would like to do is have an intermediate school powerlifting clinic for our feeder schools," he said.

"The purpose, of course, is to introduce the sport to the younger kids so that when they arrive at Dobie they know about it and perhaps want to get involved."

The powerlifting program is only in its infancy at Dobie, but Foster and many of his athletes are laying the foundation for what could become something very special in a short period of time.

"These young men and women are working hard and giving us everything they have," Foster said.

"They are building great values for themselves while representing Dobie High School."



The Dobie powerlifting team includes important returnees including, left to right, (front row) Michael McDonald, Ashante Joseph, Justin Rice, (back row) Megan Snyder, Dorothy Tran and Madelyn Garcia.



Sophomore Meagan Snyder, who finished third in her weight class in the season-opening meet at Chavez, is one of the many promising female powerlifters in the Dobie program.



Justin Rice (above), a junior at Dobie, is looking to qualify for regionals this season in the 242-pound division. He placed second in the division behind teammate Charles Tisby in the season's first meet. Submitted photos