

### 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.

### Valentine Love Lines

Valentine Love Lines to be printed in the Feb. 11 edition of the *Leader* are available for \$8 for 25 words. Ads must be received by noon Tuesday, Feb. 9. Messages can be paid for in person, or a check and message may be mailed to the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, 11555 Beamer, Houston, TX 77089. They may also be left in one of the mail slots on either side of the front glass doors of the office. For a decorative ad with artwork, call the *Leader* at 281-481-5656 for rates.

### Kirkwood South to meet

Kirkwood South Committee will hold its quarterly meeting Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's courtroom located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

### Softball registration set

The South Belt Girls Softball Association's spring registration will be at El Franco Lee Park Thursday, Jan. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tryouts are Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call 281-485-7630.

### Cokesbury helps Haiti

Cokesbury United Methodist Church, in partnership with Christian Alliance and the United Methodist Committee on Relief, are currently accepting donations for supplies and funds to be sent to earthquake victims in Haiti. Donations will be accepted through Saturday, Jan. 30, at Cokesbury United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

See story on Page 5A for more information or visit the church's Web site at www.cokesburyunitedmethodistchurch.com.

### 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.

### 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 Jan. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. for prospective students and their parents. LSA is a college preparatory Christian school serving prekindergarten through 12th grade. For information, call 281-617-5626.

### 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.

### Scarsdale Civic meets

Scarsdale Civic Association will hold its annual meeting and election of officers Monday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. at the Scarsdale Club House located at 12127 Teanec Drive.

### BH Civic Club to meet

Beverly Hills Civic Club will meet 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.

### Garage sale at Cokesbury

Cokesbury United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd., will hold a garage sale Friday, Jan. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

### Dobie band parents meet

The Dobie Band Parent Organization will meet Monday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All band parents are urged to attend.

### Thompson helps Haiti

Beginning Monday, Jan. 25, Thompson Intermediate will collect money for the American Red Cross to aid Haitian earthquake victims. A meeting will be held Jan. 22 at 7:30 a.m. in science teacher Carol Waters' classroom to make posters for the event.

## Two state-assisted apartments proposed

By James Bolen

Two separate developers have pre-applied to the state for tax credits to assist in building government-subsidized apartment complexes in the South Belt area.

The move comes fresh on the heels of a successful community effort of stopping one of the two developments, the 148-unit Dixie Gardens on Dixie Farm Road, from being constructed just last September.

The second proposed complex, Tarrington Court Apartments, would be located in the 8800 block of Beltway 8, roughly a half mile northeast of the intersection at Interstate 45.

While both developers have said the complexes would be designed for the elderly, it was unclear at press time if only seniors would be allowed to reside on the premises.

A concern of many in the community is that the developments would cater to low-income residents in general under the guise of strictly helping seniors.

In a required notification letter to the local Super Neighborhood Council, J. Steve Ford, manager of Tarrington Court Development LLC, said 90 percent of the units would be for tenants making less than 50 percent of the area's median income. For a family of one, this is an approximate income level of \$22,350. For a family of two, this equals \$25,500. For a family of three, this income level is \$28,700, and the approximate income level for a family of four is \$31,900.

The remaining units would be for tenants making less than 60 percent of the area's median income. For a family of one, this is an approximate income level of \$26,820. For a family of two,

this equals \$30,600. For a family of three, this income level is \$34,440, and the approximate income level for a family of four is \$38,280.

The 146-unit Tarrington Court Apartments would be composed of 96 one-bedroom units ranging from \$490 to \$609 and 50 two-bedroom units ranging from \$570 to \$714.

Many community members, as well as local elected officials, have fought vigorously the last several years to prevent the construction of low-income apartment complexes in the area, as they traditionally put an extra strain on law-enforcement agencies and school districts. Also of concern is the high concentration of existing low-income apartment complexes already in the area. There are currently eight government-subsidized apartment complexes between Alameda Mall and Dixie Farm Road.

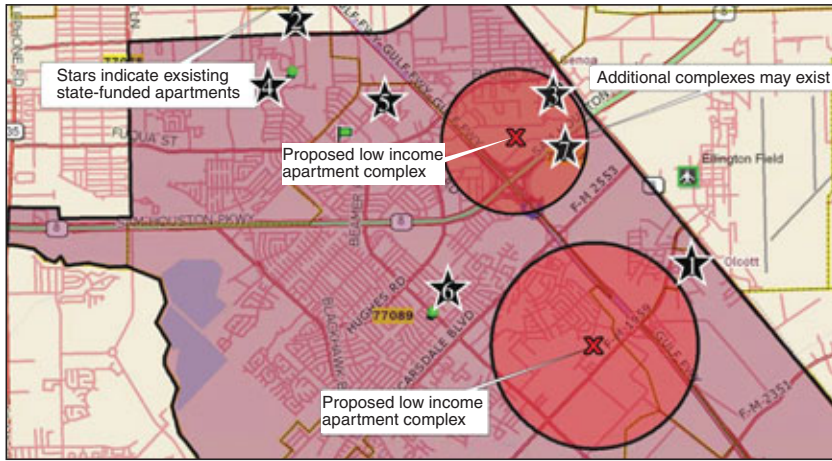
State law mandates that public hearings be held to receive community input on both of the proposed developments. Information regarding

the dates, times and locations of these hearings must be made available at least 30 days in advance.

At a public hearing held last April for the proposed Dixie Gardens apartments, roughly 35 South Belt residents showed to voice their opposition to the development. A group of College Place residents submitted a petition with 435 signatures from people against the project. This is particularly impressive as the subdivision has only 300 homes.

At that time, Sen. Mike Jackson, Rep. John Davis and Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan all wrote letters to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, opposing the development.

If awarded state incentives, the Tarrington Court Apartments would be ready for occupancy by approximately December 2011. No target completion date was immediately available for the Dixie Gardens complex.



The above map shows the high concentration of existing low-income apartment complexes already in the South Belt area. Star No. 1 is the Kensington Place Apartments at 715 FM 1959; Star No. 2 is the Clearwood Villas at 9465 Clearwood; Star No. 3 is the Sweetwater Point Apartments at 7909 S. Sam Houston Parkway E.; Star No. 4 is the Longboat Key Apartments at 10181 Windmill Lakes; Star No. 5 is the Alameda Park Apartments at 10950 Tanner Park; Star No. 6 is Highland Meadow Village at 10910 Highland Meadow; and Star No. 7 is Regency Park Apartments at Beltway 8 and Southdown Trace Trail. An eighth existing complex, Windshire Apartments, is located in the 4500 block of South Shaver, just off the map.

## City of Houston collects yard trimmings starting April 5

The City of Houston has established April 5 as the startup date for the collection of yard trimmings in compostable bags.

City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department crews will pick up bagged yard trimmings placed at the curb only in city-approved compostable bags. Yard trimmings placed in the garbage cart or in any other type of container or bag will not be collected.

On Sept. 2, 2009, City Council approved the revisions to Chapter 39 of the City of Houston's Code of Ordinances pertaining to the collection of yard trimmings.

By diverting this material from area landfills, the city anticipates saving at least \$1.5 million annually while preserving the environment and valuable landfill space.

The Solid Waste Management Department will use avoided landfill costs to add more Hous-

tonians to the Automated Recycling Program.

The City of Houston is reminding residents that they can "let it lay or take it away." Houstonians can choose the free alternative to bagging their leaves and lawn clippings by using a mulching mower for "grasscycling" or making their own personal compost pile. Work done by lawn care professionals can be left on the lawn or should be taken away by the contractor.

Approved compostable bags are available at numerous retailers throughout the city. These bags can be identified by a logo on the box specifying "City Approved," and "City of Houston Biodegradable/Compostable Bag."

Visit the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department Web site at www.houston-solidwaste.org to find a current list of retailers and more information regarding the compostable bag program.

## Fitzhenry named football coach



Derek Fitzhenry (center) gained Pasadena Independent School District board approval Jan. 19 and was formally introduced as Dobie's new head football coach/campus athletic coordinator. Fitzhenry, who most recently led the Giddings High School program, stopped by the *Leader* office for a chat. He is flanked by PISD athletic director Mike Stephens (left) and *Leader* sports editor John Bechtel. To read more about Fitzhenry and his hiring, see Pages 1B and 3B. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Elam benefit a success!



A benefit held Sunday, Jan. 17, to aid John Elam in his fight against cancer was a huge success, raising nearly \$50,000. Roughly 550 people showed up to support the 1985 Dobie graduate and football star in his effort to raise money for further treatment. In a moment of generosity, 1983 Dobie graduate and former student athletic trainer Ken Simmons (left) purchased Elam's autographed Texas A&M football jersey for \$4,000, then returned it to him. Simmons is shown above presenting the jersey to Elam's wife, Jeanine. Sadly, event organizer Hugh Lazenberry was unable to attend the event due to a sudden illness. Submitted photo

## Deputies fight burglary, drugs

The past few weeks have found deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office making arrests for crimes ranging from burglary of a habitation to drug possession.

Deputy Jason Curry was patrolling the 11600 block of Sagedowne at 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, when he stopped a vehicle for running a stop sign.

Upon approaching the vehicle, Curry detected a strong marijuana odor. A subsequent search of the vehicle confirmed the deputy's suspicions as he discovered 3.37 ounces of the contraband.

The driver of the vehicle, Jessica Makuaole, 19, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

On Monday, Jan. 4, Deputy Lance Willis was patrolling the 10800 block of Blackhawk when he spotted a vehicle, driven by Tarvin Spencer, run over a curb.

Willis pulled the vehicle over and smelled a strong odor of marijuana, prompting him to search the vehicle.

While the deputy did not find any marijuana, he did discover a small baggie containing two green tablets that were discovered to be Ecstasy.

Spencer, 18, was arrested and charged with possession of a narcotic.

Deputy Phillip Askew was patrolling the area around Bishop Park at 12:40 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, when he noticed a vehicle at the park after operating hours.

Askew determined the car, driven by Anthony Johnson, had been reported stolen out of Stafford.

Johnson, 27, was arrested and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

In a joint effort Wednesday, Jan. 20, Deputies

Parnelli Jones, Robert Sanchez and James May, along with Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn, were able to apprehend a burglary suspect, following a short pursuit.

A resident in the 10300 block of Chelsea Brook called police at 8:40 a.m. to report that a would-be burglar had kicked in his door, but had fled the scene after noticing the homeowner.

Upon arriving at the scene, Guinn was told by the resident that the suspect had fled northwest on Kirkville in a green Cadillac. Guinn quickly spotted the car and engaged the driver, Ruben Hernandez, in a high-speed chase. Sanchez joined Guinn in the chase, and Hernandez jumped from his vehicle a few blocks away on Camber Brook and began to run on foot.

Guinn and Sanchez continued to pursue Hernandez, as he ran across the Dobie campus. Hernandez ran to the back of the school grounds by the baseball fields, where he was met by Jones, who was able to apprehend him.

Hernandez, 29, was arrested and charged with burglary of a habitation. Records show he has an extensive criminal history, with past arrests for burglary, burglary of a motor vehicle and DWI.

### Tailgate theft

A Beverly Hills resident notified the *Leader* Tuesday, Jan. 19, that someone had taken the tailgate from his truck the previous day from his residence in the 10200 block of Carthage.

The resident said he had seen someone also looking at one of his neighbor's trucks earlier in the evening, but was unsure if the incidents were related.

He said he wanted to take the opportunity to tell neighbors to watch out for one another and keep an eye on each other's property.



# South Belt Elementary spelling bee winners named



On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, South Belt Elementary hosted its campus spelling bee. Ten students from the third and fourth grades participated for the title of South Belt Elementary Spelling Bee Champion. Marvin Villatoro from Estella Montoya-Riley's fourth-grade class won the spelling bee, and Briana Munoz from Kelly Lohse's third-grade class was the runner-up. Villatoro will compete in the Pasadena Independent School District Elementary Spelling Bee on Feb. 8. At right, runner-up Munoz (left) and champion Villatoro display their trophies.



South Belt Elementary spelling bee participants pictured are, left to right, (front row) Joseph Castillo, Briana Munoz, Marvin Villatoro, Sean Dempsey, (middle row) Principal Candy Howard, Jazmine Garcia, Clarissa Arredondo, Melody Perry, Lance Tanner, Peer Facilitator Madelyn Winnek, (back row) Camille Smith and Jason Valdez. Photo submitted

# PLT presents Exit the Body



*Exit the Body*, by Fred Carmichael and directed by Janet Sharpley, opens Friday, Jan. 29, and runs weekends through Feb. 14 at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Thursday, Feb. 11, with matinees at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students. Reservations can be made online at [www.pasadenalittletheatre.org](http://www.pasadenalittletheatre.org) or by calling 713-941-1758. Cast members pictured are, left to right, Renea Runnels, South Belt resident Maria Miller, Joel Rodriguez and Samantha Salazar.

## New laws reform property appraisal process

Gov. Rick Perry recently highlighted several new laws that took effect Jan. 1, 2010, which institute important reforms to the appraisal process to help property taxpayers. In addition to cutting taxes for 40,000 small businesses and leaving billions of dollars in the Rainy Day Fund this last session, the new laws also implemented measures that will provide greater protection for property owners by adding transparency and fairness to the appraisal process, Gov. Perry said. HB 8 and 3612 by Rep. John Otto and SB 771 by Sen. Tommy Williams are among several bills that will improve the appraisal process, and include provisions that impose limits on what is considered a comparable sale for appraisal purposes, create an expedited arbitration process, and require substantial evidence to increase an appraisal after a successful appeal. These changes will improve the fairness and accuracy of the appraisal process and increase the oversight of appraisal districts to ensure they are following uniform appraisal practices and procedures. HB 1038 by Rep. Ken Paxton ensures appraisers continue to consider all comparable properties when appraising a home, including those recently sold at foreclosure or that have decreased in value. Additional measures to strengthen the appraisal process include the passage of Propositions 2 and 3 by Texas voters in November. Proposition 2 will ensure that residential property is appraised only based on its use as a homestead (instead of being appraised based on a hypothetical alternate use). Proposition 3 will allow the Legislature to adopt uniform statewide appraisal standards in the future. Both of these measures will increase transparency and accountability in the appraisal process.

## Auditions set at PLT

Auditions for *The Octette Bridge Club*, a comedy by P. J. Barry, will be held Sunday, Jan. 31, and Monday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. The director is Kathy Woods, and performance dates are weekends, March 19 through April 4, 2010. Eight women, age 30s to 60s, and one man, age 20s to 30s, are needed. Auditions will consist of cold reading from the script. Contact the director at [lamere5@verizon.net](mailto:lamere5@verizon.net) with questions. For character descriptions and more information, visit the Web site at [www.pasadenalittletheatre.org](http://www.pasadenalittletheatre.org).

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## Rep. Pete Olson joins Whip Team

Rep. Pete Olson recently announced that he will join the House Republican Whip Team for the 111th Congress. Republican Whip Eric Cantor, R-Va., appointed Olson to serve as assistant whip. Cantor said, "I am pleased to appoint Congressman Pete Olson to the position of assistant whip on the House Republican Whip Team. In just his first year in Congress, Pete has demonstrated himself to be a valuable voice in our conference. The Whip Team plays an important role in directing the Republican Conference, and as we begin the second session of the 111th Congress, I plan to draw extensively on Pete's bright new leadership." "It is an honor to be part

of a team that is working to empower Americans with a strong economy based on common sense reforms that ensure a limited, yet effective, government," said Olson. "Under the leadership of John Boehner and Eric Cantor, Republicans are bringing the principles of limited government and fiscal discipline back to Washington. I look forward to being a part of this effort." The House Republican Whip Team, led by Cantor, manages the party's legislative program on the House floor. The team works to achieve a unified Republican caucus that advocates for fiscal discipline and limited government.

## San Jacinto College hosts kickoff meetings for innovative educational partnerships

San Jacinto College recently hosted kickoff meetings for two innovative programs in which the college will partner with area colleges and secondary schools to better prepare students for college. The two interrelated programs are Houston Pathways Initiative (HPI), and the K-16 Bridge.

HPI is a partnership in which San Jacinto College will work with the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Houston Community College, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as the Pasadena, Deer Park and Galena Park independent school districts.

The Bridge is a collaboration between SJC and all of the secondary schools in the San Jacinto College district - Channelview, Clear Creek, Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte, Pasadena and Sheldon independent school districts.

"The two programs are tightly connected," remarked Dr. Catherine O'Brien, who serves as San Jacinto College's dean of teaching and learning and is heading up coordination of the HPI program for the college. "Houston Pathways is going to create a 'college-ready culture' by working with faculty to better prepare students for college. The Bridge is going to create a 'college-going culture' to help students to understand that everyone needs to go to college."

The \$1.58 million HPI is funded by Houston Endowment, Inc., and HCC is appointed as the fiscal agent. Through the initiative, educators will develop and share a database that tracks students' academic progress across institutional levels, from pre-kindergarten through elementary, middle and high school, and on through col-

lege. "The grant initiative will use data to make decisions about student success and will create aligned curricula so that students will be prepared for the next level and for postsecondary work once they leave high school," O'Brien said.

Research indicates that most new jobs that will be available to students in the 21st century require some form of postsecondary education. The HPI grant will help coordinate college readiness and success plans with strategies for persistence and timely graduation included in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Closing the Gaps plan. The initiative will also enhance the existing work of Achieving the Dream, an initiative designed to increase academic success for at-risk students. The Houston Pathways Initiative is based on the successful Cal-PASS program currently in use in the state of California. Cal-PASS links primary, secondary and post-secondary institutions on a regional basis in order to track students from one segment to the next. The program engages faculty across segments in instructional conversation to ensure students are prepared to advance to the next level. "We are making progress in the area of improving high school graduation rates and preparing students for college," commented Dr. Laurel Williamson, SJC vice chancellor of instructional programs and services. "However, we know we are missing it in some areas, and there are still some gaps. These partnerships are designed to help close some of those gaps. We've really pushed to get students to college, now we need to put more effort into

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Dr. Miranda is currently performing surgeries along with serving as Medical Director of Bariatrics at Surgery Specialty Hospitals of Americas located in Pasadena, Texas. He is also doing surgeries at Southeast Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Dr. Miranda has created a Multidisciplinary Program including a nutritionist/exercise physiologists, and psychologists to help assist patients through their journey to permanent weight loss. Dr. Miranda believes in patient selection and optimization, individualized choice for the best surgical therapy, and the finest patient care including long term follow up.

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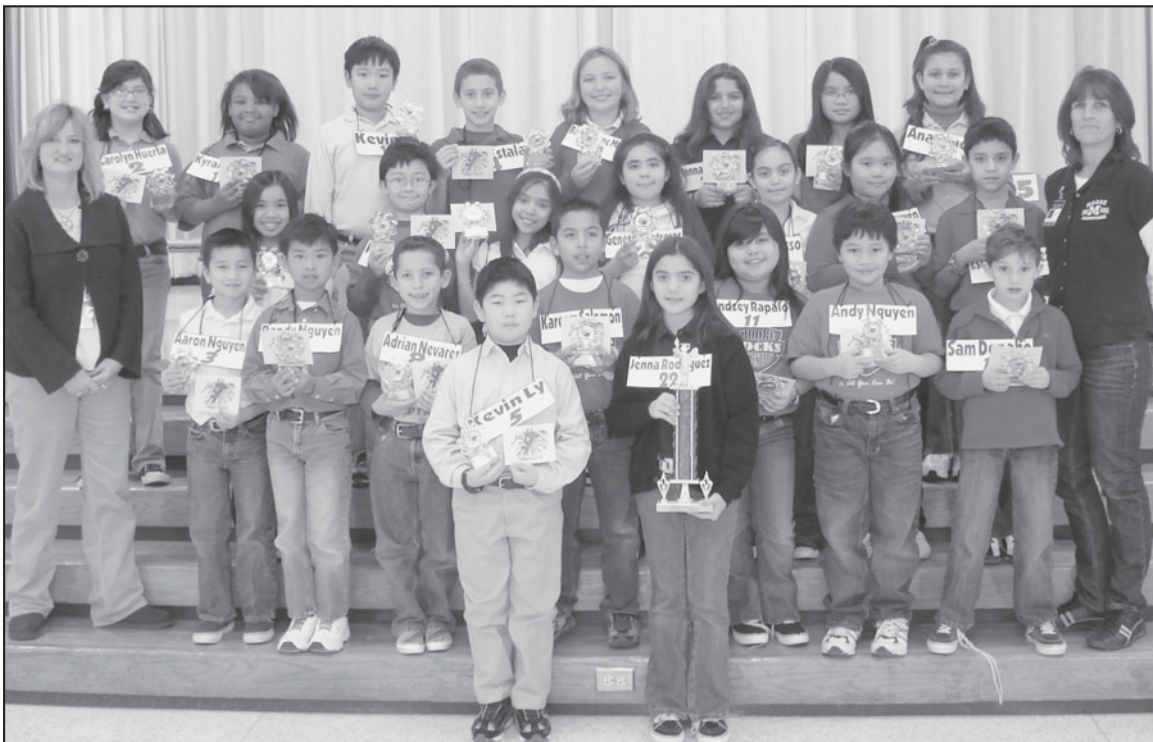
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# Moore Elementary holds annual spelling bee



Moore Elementary School recently held its annual spelling bee. Pictured at right are, left to right, Moore Elementary Spelling Bee winner and fourth-grader Jenna Rodriguez and Principal Jill Lacamu. Pictured below are the spelling bee participants.



Moore Elementary Spelling Bee participants are, left to right, (first row) Kevin Ly, runner-up, spelling bee winner Jenna Rodriguez, (second row) Peer Facilitator Beth Anne Mullen, Aaron Nguyen, Randy Nguyen, Adrian Nevarez, Kareem Salomon, Lindsey Rapalo, Andy Nguyen, Sam Donaho, Principal

Jill Lacamu, (third row) Sydney Tran, Patrick Tran, Krystal Moreno, Genesis Contreras, Elizabeth Jasso, Michelle Nguyen, Esteban Sanchez (fourth row) Carolyn Huerta, Kyras Prince, Kevin Le, Alex Estala, Bailey Anne Mullen, Brianna Rodriguez, Ngoc Nguyen and Ana Gracia. Photo submitted

# Precinct 8, Baileys donate funds to San Jac Foundation

Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Bill Bailey, along with his wife, Janis, and members of the Precinct 8 8-Team, attended the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees December meeting to present a check for proceeds raised from the 25th Anniversary Gumbo Gala.

Members of the 8-Team presented a check for \$33,488 to the foundation's Milton O. Stanley Jr. Endowed Scholarship. The Baileys also made a personal donation of \$16,520, bringing the total donation to more than \$50,000, representing one of the largest individual gifts made to the San Jacinto College Foundation scholarship program.

The Baileys established the Milton O. Stanley Jr. Endowed Scholarship in 2005 as a tribute to their son. To date, the fund is more than \$100,000.

Employees of the Precinct 8 constable's office served approximately 1,500 bowls of gumbo at the fundraising event held in September.

This year's scholarship recipients were Braddrick Price, Julie Wren and Jose

Moreno. The San Jacinto College Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to enhancing the level of student achievement and excellence at San Jacinto College. The purpose is to raise private funds to benefit the people of east Harris County, Texas.

Donations to the foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.sanjacfoundation.org](http://www.sanjacfoundation.org) or call 281-998-6104.



Bill and Janis Bailey, along with members of the Harris County Precinct 8 8-Team, presented a check to the San Jacinto College Foundation from funds raised at the 25th Anniversary Gumbo Gala. Pictured are, left to right, Tom Watson, board member; Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Bill Bailey; Susan Arscott, San Jacinto College Foundation director; Wayne Webb, San Jacinto College Foundation board chair; Phil Sandlin, Harris County Precinct 8 chief deputy; Gary Connella, Harris County Precinct 8 Warrants Division and Janis Bailey. Photo by Amanda L. Booren

## Lions Club meets Jan. 26

The Houston Space City Lions Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway.

For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

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# LLSF's 6th annual college preparatory conference set

The sixth annual Linda Lorelle Scholarship Fund's college preparatory conference will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas.

This free, citywide conference will feature a panel of experts who will address topics including why college is important, how to manage the admissions process from SAT preparation to applications, how to take advantage of financial aid and how to make the most of the college experience.

Houston area high school students, their families and educators are all welcome to attend.

The cornerstones of these topics will be employment, technology and wellness. For the adults in these students' lives, information on digital parenting will be included.

In addition, \$15,000 LLSF scholarships will be offered

and open to all juniors in public, private and charter schools within Harris and Fort Bend counties.

Linda Lorelle scholars Jose Bustos and Ann Ukazu are among the thousands of Houston area students who are already on the road to success thanks in part to the Linda Lorelle Scholarship Fund's yearly college preparatory conference.

When they first entered the George R. Brown Convention Center in 2007 eager to attend the CPC, Bustos and Ukazu could not imagine how far it would take them.

Today, Bustos is majoring in international business at the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business, the sixth-ranked BBA in the country.

Ukazu was offered a full scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the fourth-ranked university, and is majoring in engineering at Yale University, the third-

place position among national universities.

Though the unemployment rate is as high as 10 percent, the highest in 30 years, unemployment rates for high school graduates are soaring even higher.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, as the minimum wage increased to \$7.25, jobless numbers for teens rose 25.9 percent.

Therefore, a college degree is not an option; it is a necessity. Students should know that college is not a dream but an absolute.

With the knowledge and confidence they gain from the sixth annual college preparatory conference, more high school students will find themselves on the road to a college degree and increased success throughout their lives.

"There is always new, fresh information to be gained by attending our CPC," states Executive Director Anna Barba-Poindexter. "This conference is a relevant and crucial tool in your college process from choosing a college to what to do when you get there. This conference is our attempt to reach beyond our immediate circle of students and to share the information we have gathered with as many Houston area families as possible."

All attendees must register by going to the link on the front page of the Web site at [www.lindalorelle.org](http://www.lindalorelle.org).

Applications are due by Feb. 26, 2010.

## Wellness Program breakfast set Jan. 27

The Truth about a Wellness Program - Real Case Studies will be presented by the health care committee of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership during a power breakfast and expo with a panel discussion on Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at the NASA Hilton

Marina Ballroom located on NASA Parkway.

A panel of various local companies will explain the value of a wellness program to employer and employee.

There is no cost for attendance, but advanced RSVP to [barbara@bayareahouston.com](mailto:barbara@bayareahouston.com) is preferred.



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Sunday 1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m. Nursery Available at all Services

# Dobie Debate team honored with reception



Recently, members of the 2008-2009 Dobie Debate Team were honored at a reception in the Rosemary Rayburn Room in the Dobie High School library. A wooden 100 Club plaque representing the National Forensic League (NFL) was presented to the team by Principal Steve Jamail in honor of the team achieving 100 seals and memberships during the year. This accomplishment signifies the Dobie team placement in the top 10 percent of NFL chapters nationwide. Members attending the reception were, left to right, (front row) David Vo, Kiara Harris, Amanda Nguyen, Beverly LeMaire, Yen Le, (second row) Stephanie Vu, Shelly Tran, Jessica Vasquez, (third row) Coach Trish Boudra, Shohreh Abedinzadeh, San Nguyen, Stephanie Nguyen, Brenda Nguyen, Kim Do, Le Ho, Lariza Uribe, Mylinh Tran, Kady Salazar, Tramanh Hoang, Catherine

Greene, Tracy Nguyen, Gina Nguyen, Sarah Taqvi, (back row) Dakota Loftin, Rhiana Anthony, Eddie Nunez, Bao Le, Kalina Tran, Shekeyla Caldwell, Lindsey Eikenburg, Michael Tran, Brian Tran, Alexandra Zayas, Salim Naser, Zaheer Kamal, Edward Garza and Jamail. Other members of the 2009-2010 squad not pictured are: Sholeh Abedinzadeh, Destiny Bellamy, Thomas Buenrostro, Sarah Eapen, Johnny Flemings, Jacqueline Galvan, Rey Gomez, Julio Gonzales, Theresa Greene, Melissa Gutierrez, Rachel Hernandez, Claudia Martinez, Allison McClintock, Nesa Mohebbpour, Jana Nguyen, Khanh Phuong Nguyen, Linh Nguyen, Andy Peng, Robert Pham, Kevin Phan, Dony Phung, Kevin Rodriguez, Jacob Schaafs, Alex Soto, Amber Stone, Long To, Erandi Trevino, Taylor Valley, Harry Vasquez and Coach Luis Garza.

# Demoss wins rodeo art gold



Alden Demoss of Clear Brook High School received a gold medal for her artwork, *Southern Baking*, in the 2010 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Contest. Participants submitted an original project based on Western culture, history or heritage. The contest has more than 300,000 entries each year. Demoss' artwork, along with the artwork of fellow Clear Creek and Friendswood independent school districts will be on display at the Rodeo Art Exhibition at the Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, located at 2000 NASA Parkway in Nassau Bay through Jan. 28. Demoss is a junior at Brook, and Alicia Moore is her art teacher. Submitted photo

# Dobie Region Band students named



Nineteen Dobie High School Band members were recently selected through an audition process to earn a spot in the TMEA Region 19 Region Bands. The bands performed at a clinic and concert at Pasadena High School on Jan. 16. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Cheyenne Peer, Jason Giang, Dylan Guzman, Caitlyn Francis,

(second row) Carlos Gonzalez, Jacob Lozano, Manuel Reyna, April Henderson, Caitie Wright, Vernerson Villanueva, Ashley Wrenn, Jordan Johnson, Edgardo Rodriguez, (back row) Brandon Wright, David Arcemant, Chris Lopez, Gena Brown, Edgar Lemus and Joel Arhelger. Submitted photo

# Cokesbury sends mobile medical unit to aid Haiti

Cokesbury United Methodist Church in partnership with Christian Alliance and United Methodist Committee on Relief plan to send much needed supplies to the earthquake victims of Haiti. The congregation of Cokesbury has funded and built a mobile medical unit that will be dispatched to the area the first week of February. The metal container is completely outfitted with medical exam and dental stations as well as office and storage space. Prior to shipment to Haiti, the medical unit will be filled with medicines and supplies to be dispensed by physicians and aid workers on site. Patti Akkola, Cokesbury's coordinator for this project, says, "Because we are already sending the medical unit, we

have a rare opportunity to send other items along. Our focus is on basic medical and hygiene items which are so desperately needed," said Akkola. "We are asking the community to gather any gently used crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and the like so we can send them along to the injured in Haiti. We are also hoping that our neighbors will help us with large and small prepared health kits." Large health kits should include: a hand towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, six band-aids, Q-Tips, comb, brush, deodorant, fingernail file, disposable razor and shaving cream packed into a clear two-gallon zip-top bag. Small health kits should include: A hand towel, wash

cloth, bar of soap, toothpaste toothbrush, six band-aids, comb and fingernail file packed into a clear one-gallon zip-top bag. Financial assistance is welcome and will go directly to the relief efforts. Checks may be made payable to Cokesbury UMC with "Haiti Relief" on the memo line. Donated items will be accepted through Saturday, Jan. 30, at Cokesbury UMC, located at 10033 Scarsdale Blvd. Cokesbury invites the community to view the mobile medical unit from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 30. Children are welcome, and Cokesbury volunteers will be present to talk to children about helping others. Dedication ceremonies for the mobile medical unit will be held during the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, Jan. 31. For more information, visit [www.cokesburyunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://www.cokesburyunitedmethodistchurch.com).

# Auditions for SJC dinner theater set

San Jacinto College Central will hold auditions for its 12th annual family dinner theater on Jan. 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. in the Powell Arena Theatre on Central campus. Performances will be March 26 through 28. The show, *Roseencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, directed by Brian Hamlin, is a farcical comedy about Hamlet's (of Shakespeare fame) two friends. Dr. Jerry Ivins, artistic producer, said

"Our dinner theater is always one of our best attended productions. Combine a great comedy with delicious food catered by the SJCC Culinary Arts Department, and you have an inexpensive evening of entertainment." Rehearsals run 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 281-542-2039, or email [jerry.ivins@sjcd](mailto:jerry.ivins@sjcd).

# Cat Lift Trucks award scholarships

Cat Lift Trucks, headquartered in Houston, is a leading manufacturer of lift trucks. The company will award two Houston-area high school seniors with a \$5,000 scholarship each for their higher education pursuits. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited college, university or technical school within the state of Texas and be majoring in mechanical engineering or a business-related field. Students from public or private schools within Harris, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties are eligible to apply. Recipients will be chosen based on academic record, leadership, honors, narrative responses and participation in school and community activities. Applications must be post-marked by Friday, April 2, at 5 p.m. This year's scholarship recipients will be honored at the Cat Lift Trucks Scholarship Reception in May 2010. Application forms and scholarship requirements can be downloaded at [www.catlift.com](http://www.catlift.com) or picked up at local

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# Tremont graduates from UHCL



Chad Christopher Tremont graduated Dec. 12, 2009, from the University of Houston-Clear Lake with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He is the son of Beverly Swaim of South Belt and David Tremont of Clear Lake. Tremont is a 2003 Dobie High School graduate. In addition to his bachelor's, he also received his EMT certification and plans to participate in volunteer work. He is also an active member of the Adolescent & Young Adult Workgroup at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Tremont plans to do cancer research while continuing his studies in preparation for medical school.

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# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

## Dobie tabs former 3A Giddings coach to lead football program

Dobie's search for a permanent campus athletic coordinator/head football coach has delivered Derek Fitzhenry, who had held the dual roles for the previous six years at Class 3A Giddings High School.

Just the seventh head coach in Dobie's history that dates back to 1969, Fitzhenry has been given the job of rejuvenating a Longhorns' football program that has fallen on hard times in recent years.

Since reaching the regional quarterfinals in 2004, the Longhorns have been absent from the playoffs. The varsity team has had just one winning record during that span.

But Fitzhenry brings a winning tradition with him. He has ties to the Houston area with two stops as an as-

sistant coach and delivered in a big way during his six-year tenure as head coach/campus AC at Giddings.

The Giddings Buffaloes advanced to the Class 3A playoffs in each of Fitzhenry's six seasons, highlighted by a run to the regional semifinals in 2008.

Fitzhenry's record at Giddings was 67-19, and he was twice named coach of the year in the District 25-3A ranks.

As for his style of play, Fitzhenry's previous teams have leaned heavily on the run.

His eldest son, Brock, currently a redshirt freshman at the University of Texas at receiver, was a three-time all-state pick at quarterback. Over that time, Brock Fitzhenry rushed for 7,158 yards, a top 20 to-

tal all-time in Texas high school football from the quarterback position.

Dobie has three solid running back candidates in the mix for 2010 but also has one of the area's most promising passers.

Quarterback Blake Jackson, the 22-5A newcomer of the year, has two years remaining, so it should be interesting to see how Fitzhenry utilizes the available personnel.

But the biggest task for Fitzhenry and his staff will be reloading a defense that will graduate several standouts in June.

Linebacker Justin Edwards, the team's top tackler, will return. Tackle Ashante Joseph will also be back.

Along the defensive front,

however, the team will lose ends Charles Tisby and Sefta Kefu along with tackle Keon Onwuchuruba. Linebacker losses will include Brandon Broussard and Garrett Leland, while Joe Scott, Shamon Freeman and Maurice Poullard are among the secondary losses.

The program will begin to take shape soon, but it may take a couple of weeks

for the dust that comes with a coaching change to settle.

Fitzhenry accepted the role only late last week and gained Pasadena Independent School District board approval Jan. 19. He met the Dobie coaching staff and some of the players Jan. 20.

So it's too early to determine how Fitzhenry will rework the coaching staff.

There are three coaches on the varsity staff who are Dobie graduates - Steven Cross, Carey Sink and Charles Washington.

Sink was the Longhorns' interim head coach for the final four regular season games in 2009 and during the search. Sink has been the team's defensive coordinator for three seasons.

Washington, who played

a big role on the offensive side of the ball as the receivers coach, is also the boys' junior varsity basketball coach. Cross, the school's assistant varsity basketball coach, has handled video-

**Continued on Page 3B**

## SBHLL seeking late registration increase No late fees charged

Whether it be the recession, poor weather on sign-up days or simply a battle against select leagues, registration numbers are down in the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League.

But league officials are far from panicked. Instead, registration has been extended to include Saturday, Jan. 23, and Sunday, Jan. 24, at the league facility at El Franco Lee Park (see notice, Page 3B).

SBHLL president Amy Smith says there will be no late fees for those who have yet to make a decision. The fee is \$110 per child, and there are available discounts for families register-

ing more than one player.

Many local youth leagues have been forced to go head-to-head with select programs that charge players fees to register for tournaments. The SBHLL is no different, but the public leagues remain popular, especially because of the cost value.

Smith said 398 players have registered league-wide to this point, but just 34 in the 12-year-old division. She is confident the numbers will increase a great deal after the Jan. 23-24 dates.

"It's going to be a great year for our league," Smith said.

## Lady Longhorns seize 22-5A advantage

With the passing of each game, the road map to the varsity basketball playoffs becomes a little more clear.

Thus far, what has become clear is that both the boys' and girls' teams at Clear Brook, in addition to the Dobie boys, may need some help reaching the postseason.

If the playoffs started now, each of the aforementioned programs would need some help to get in. Not so for the Dobie girls, however, as the team is currently on a roll.

Just like that, a game that had been tight at the start of the quarter was essentially over with Dobie holding a 41-23 halftime lead.

Dobie led 55-33 after three quarters and backed off the throttle. The 69-47 final score came with a statement.

"La Porte was so ready for us. They were gunning for us, and we went out there

and got a statement win," Dobie head coach Shane Brown said. "We knew they were going to be up and we had to be ready. La Porte is so aggressive and plays so hard, but we made our runs when we had to and stayed on the backboards for some second chance points."

In short, Dobie likely played its finest game of the season to date, at a time

when it was certainly needed.

Rodriguez, wearing a spare jersey after leaving her familiar No. 14 behind prior to the trip, was lights out.

Rodriguez made four 3-pointers en route to 17 points. Two of those big shots came on back-to-back possessions as Dobie closed out the first half on a roll.



After inadvertently leaving her usual No. 14 jersey behind, Dobie guard Chelsea Rodriguez donned No. 33 for the Lady Longhorns' game against La Porte Jan. 15. After sinking four 3-pointers and scoring 17 points in Dobie's win, perhaps Rodriguez will consider making a permanent change.

**JFD girls now 8-0**

Life is far from lonely at the top, where the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team seems to be enjoying itself just fine.

Thanks to back-to-back road wins over Deer Park and La Porte - both in convincing fashion - Dobie is in control of its own destiny while pursuing the program's first district title since the 2006-2007 school year.

Coming into the season, Deer Park and La Porte were viewed as the likely front-runners in 22-5A. The tweet mentioning such must have never made its way to Dobie.

After dispatching Deer Park Jan. 12, Dobie traveled to La Porte Jan. 15 with a chance to close out the first half of district unbeaten but to also send a message of its own.

Done deal. Chelsea Rodriguez had eight points as the Lady Longhorns used a 17-4 run to close out the first half against La Porte.

## Soccer teams continue tourney success

Atrocious weather has plagued the opening two weeks of the high school soccer season, but that hasn't stopped local coaches from keeping a bright outlook moving forward.

Heading into the final weekend of tournament play Jan. 20-22, the varsity boys' and girls' teams at Clear Brook and Dobie have played exceptionally well. Each of the teams have winning records.

In the final weekend of tournaments, the Dobie boys are headed to the Round Rock invitational, while the Lady Longhorns will play in the Georgetown event.

The Clear Brook girls will stay home for the weekend, and the boys will play a home game against North Shore Jan. 22 before the District 24-5A schedule begins.

The Clear Brook teams open district competition against the Clear Creek Wildcats Jan. 26. The varsity and junior varsity girls will play at Clear Creek, while the varsity and JV teams on the boys' side will



Dobie's Chelsea Williams (2) defends against an Oak Ridge player during the Lady Longhorns' 3-0 win Jan. 15 during the Pearland tournament at The Rig. The Lady Longhorns are playing well with one more tournament appearance remaining prior to the start of district play. The team is at the Georgetown Invitational Jan. 21-23.

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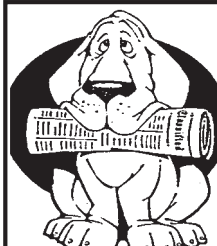
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# Dobie girls control 22-5A race; others fighting for playoff lives

**Continued from Page 1B**  
 ketball to be played. We also know that every team is going to be giving us their best shot because we are in first place."

**Brook girls in trouble**  
 Things certainly could change over the final six games, but right now the Clear Brook varsity girls' team is in danger of missing the playoffs for the second straight year.

Back-to-back losses to Clear Creek (Jan. 15) and Dickinson (Jan. 19) have left the team at 3-5 in the standings with six games left.

A this point, Clear Creek, Clear Lake and Clear Springs are playing well enough to earn the top three playoff seeds. Each of those teams has already defeated Clear Brook in the first half of 24-5A action.

The real bummer? Dickinson's 48-43 victory Jan. 19 at Dickinson gave the Lady Gators a series sweep over Clear Brook.

Thus, if Clear Brook and Dickinson finish in a tie for

a playoff spot, then Dickinson will advance.

Clear Brook's only shot at making the postseason is to pull what would be considered an upset over Lake, Creek or Springs in the final three weeks. It's not a position first-year head coach Blair Redmon had hoped to be in.

**Brook boys gain win**  
 Needing a win to regain some momentum in the District 24-5A boys' race, the Clear Brook boys delivered.

Hosting Dickinson Jan. 19, the Wolverines simply punished Dickinson 81-61, closing out the win early.

While the Wolverines still trail Clear Springs, Clear Lake and Clear Creek in the standings, they have pulled even with Dickinson at 2-3.

Darren Smith led the way against Dickinson as he pumped in 22 points. Fred Richardson added 18 points, and Eric Gibson had 10.

Clear Brook started fast, leading 23-14 after a quar-

ter, then pushed the edge to 36-25 at halftime. Defensively, the Wolverines played very well as Dedrick Archie, Dickinson's leading scorer, had just 12 points.

With the win, the Wolverines have kept themselves in the mix for a playoff berth. But the schedule won't get any easier.

Clear Brook will play at Brazoswood Jan. 22 and then host Clear Lake Jan. 26 to close out the first half of the district schedule. On Jan. 29, Clear Brook will face first-place Galveston Ball.

"There aren't any giveaways in this district," Clear Brook coach Jason Pillow said.

"Every night you have to be ready to play. If you aren't, then you are going to get beat. From top to bottom, this has to be one of the toughest districts around."

**JFD boys rebound**  
 On the heels of a 70-44 defeat against La Porte Jan. 15 that left the team at 1-3 in the District 22-5A stand-



First-year Clear Brook varsity girls' head coach Blair Redmon knows her team, currently 3-5 in the District 24-5A standings, has an uphill climb to get back into playoff contention.

ings, the Dobie varsity boys' team needed a bounce-back win over Pasadena Jan. 19. The locals got it, pounding

the Eagles 74-40 as Jonathan Urrutia had 17 points and Sefita Kefu added 10 more. The Longhorns now

take on Sam Rayburn (Jan. 22) and Pearland (Jan. 26) to finish the first half of District 22-5A action.



Despite a look of concern, Dobie varsity girls' basketball coach Shane Brown (left) and varsity assistant Alex Bowman (seated) had very little to be concerned about after the Lady Longhorns used a 17-4 run over the final four minutes of the second half to build an 18-point lead at La Porte. Dobie, battling to take over first place, went on to win 69-47 to move to 7-0. The Lady Longhorns then defeated Pasadena Jan. 19 to stay unbeaten in the District 22-5A race.



Dobie's easy 69-47 win over La Porte Jan. 15 on the road came as the result of a big offensive night from several players, but it was the Lady Longhorns' defense that stifled La Porte for much of the night. On this play, the Lady Bulldogs Nathasha Glover (32) and Sirrah Harris (24) find little working room as Dobie defenders

Nycole Bernstein (20), Darien Price (10) and Chelsea Rodriguez (33) close in during first-half action. Offensively, Rodriguez led Dobie with 17 points, including four 3-pointers. The win gave Dobie sole possession of first place, and after a win over Pasadena Jan. 19, the team is 8-0.

Photos by John Bechtle

# Rain again affects high school soccer tournament schedule

**Continued from Page 1B**

**PISD Cup trimmed**  
 Hampered by weather during each of the three days, the first-ever Pasadena Independent School District Cup for boys' soccer teams was still a success.

Tournament organizers had planned to utilize the grass fields at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena as well as those at Dobie and Memorial high schools.

But after rain pelted the area Jan. 14, many of the games had to be shifted to the turf field at Newcomb Field in Pasadena. Some games were shortened, and some were not played at all.

Sam Rayburn wound up winning the championship, and Dobie played just two games, downing Klein Forest 3-0 Jan. 14 and then playing Houston Lamar to a scoreless tie in terrible con-

ditions Jan. 15 at Dobie.

"We played well in the opener against Klein Forest," Dobie head coach Jesse Saavedra said.

"It was a good start to the tournament for us. We created numerous chances in the second half and couldn't get another goal, but our defense delivered its third shutout of the season."

Junior Josue Gonzalez scored twice and senior Raul Jimenez added another goal to make it 3-0 at halftime. From there, the defense, including goalkeeper Jose Balvaneda, took care of the rest.

The Dobie/Lamar game was shortened to 30 minutes in order to allow organizers to get back on schedule. Playing in a steady rain and a stiff wind, the two teams simply could not get the ball to go into the net.

The Longhorns out-shot

the Redskins, but the game remained scoreless throughout the 30 minutes.

"We had a goal called back in the first half, due to a questionable foul in the box, and we had several good shots which the Lamar keeper saved in the second half," Saavedra said.

"However, we still had a final chance to win when the final shot of the game by Josue Gonzalez bounced off the right post with seconds left in the game.

"It was just one of those days where the ball just did not want to get into the back of the net for us."

With the 1-0-1 record, Dobie did not advance to the trophy round. Dobie's final game set for Jan. 16 was canceled. The weekend was over for the Longhorns.

"I felt if we could have gotten a full game in the outcome would have been

different against Lamar," Saavedra said.

"Again, the defense limited Lamar in the second half to one shot to our eight. The defense earned its fourth shutout. Irving Garza came back from injury to help the defense.

"Obviously, I knew we would need help to advance in our pool with all games canceled on the last day," Saavedra said.

"It just was not meant to be on this weekend. Clear Creek beat Lamar and Klein Forest to advance and leave us two points short."

**Lady Horns at Pearland**  
 Just miles away in Pearland, the Dobie Lady Longhorns and numerous other teams battled the poor conditions at The Rig and other venues.

The Dobie girls opened the event with a 2-0 loss to Clear Creek Jan. 14 but

then came back to beat Oak Ridge 3-0 Jan. 15. Like the PISD Cup in Pasadena, the Pearland event was closed out after that because of inclement weather.

The Lady Longhorns have lost a game in each of their first two tournaments but have been going against some great teams.

Head coach Kersten Mullan is simply doing her best to get the team ready to compete for a 22-5A title.

"We have made a few changes this season, but it looks like they are going to work out well for us," Mullan said.

"We have eleven seniors who are all a part of my first class here at Dobie, so this season is particularly special to me.

"Chelsea Deleon is being asked to play sweeper this season, and I definitely think it is a switch she can handle, and she will have an amazing season."

Mullan is also counting on many other players. Because of the loss of one player to injury, Yancy Moreno is also playing a different position than in the past.

Yancy Moreno has had to push out wide to take over the left back spot for the time being, Mullan said.

"Melisa Leal is healthy, and she is absolutely clinical around the net and has an amazing soccer mind. We have two players battling in goal, Nidya Macias, a senior, and Jacquelyne Baade, a freshman."

Mullan believes the com-

petition in goal will make them both better players in the long run.

As for four-year starting midfielder Ashlyn Leighton, the Lady Longhorns will rely on her to be at her best once again this season.

"Ashlyn is expected to have another great season, but we need her to be even better at distributing the ball this season," Mullan said.

"Karen Treto is a stand-out junior that will definitely make a huge impact this year after a great sophomore season.



At left, senior midfielder Lariza Uribe fights off a steady rain as she watches a ball in the air during Dobie's Jan. 15 match against Oak Ridge. The Lady Longhorns won the match 3-0. Uribe is one of 11 seniors trying to make this season special at Dobie.



Below, senior Melisa Leal (18) and sophomore Tonya Palomares work together to take possession of the ball during first-half play Jan. 15 against Oak Ridge. Both players are coming off injuries and have played exceptionally well early this season for the Lady Longhorns.

At right, Dobie junior forward Josue Gonzalez (Longhorns' jersey) battles against a Houston Lamar defender Jan. 15 in action at Dobie. The two teams played a 30-minute game in a steady rain and finished in a scoreless tie. Gonzalez had two goals as the Longhorns opened play in the first-ever Pasadena Independent School District Cup with a 3-0 win over Klein Forest Jan. 14.



Photos by John Bechtle