

Lariaette dance clinic set

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold their annual Winter Dance Clinic Saturday, Dec. 12. The clinic will be held at Dobie High School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for children in K-12th grade. Pre-registration is \$40; at the door it is \$50, cash or money order only.

Pre-registration ends Dec. 4 and guarantees a shirt. Clinic participants will receive lunch and an invitation to perform at the Spring Show in May.

For more information, contact Lori Perez at 281-797-8370 or lp.loriperez@gmail.com.

Santa pictures at Shiflett

Roy Shiflett Realtors will once again take free photos with Santa Claus Saturday, Dec. 5, from noon to 3 p.m. at 11559 Beamer Road. For more information, call 281-481-3733.

Breakfast with Santa

Children and parents are invited to breakfast with Santa at Cokesbury United Methodist Church, 10030 Sealsdale, on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 to 11 a.m.

There will be a pancake breakfast sponsored by the United Methodist Men and crafts sponsored by the Children's Ministry. Santa will be in attendance. Bring cameras. For information, contact Alison Myers, director of Children's Ministry at children@cumc-houston.org.

Orchestra parents to meet

The Dobie High School Orchestra Booster Club will hold its next meeting Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. in the orchestra room. All orchestra parents are encouraged to attend.

Dobie BPO meeting set

The Dobie Band Parents Organization will meet Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All band parents are urged to attend.

Holiday concerts at Dobie

The South Belt area school bands will present their holiday concerts on two nights. The performances will be held in the Dobie auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. each night.

Thursday, Dec. 10, will include Melillo Middle School, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie Symphonic and Concert Bands.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, will include Morris Middle School, Beverly Hills Intermediate and the Dobie Wind Ensemble.

Lighting contest scheduled

This holiday season, Sageglen, Meadows of Clear Creek, Estates of Green Tee 1 and Green Tee Terrace 6 and 8 communities will award prizes to the best decorated homes in the following categories:

- Most colorful light display
- Most elegant holiday decoration
- Best spirit of Christmas.

This is in addition to the December Yard of the Month award. Each winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate.

This year's contest will be judged by residents. Community members are urged to choose their favorite house and vote by dropping a note at the Sageglen Community Building or at the Web site at www.Sageglen.com before noon Dec. 14. Residents should be sure to turn on their lights the night of Sunday, Dec. 13.

Holiday Spectacular set

The Dobie Lariaettes will host a holiday lasagna dinner, performance and silent auction on Monday, Dec. 14, in the Dobie cafeteria. Tickets are \$12 and include admission to performances by the Lariaettes, Lassos and Thompson dance teams.

Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30, and the performance at 7 p.m. Silent auction items include a Las Vegas timeshare opportunity, TUTS tickets, an autographed Rockets basketball, and many gift baskets.

For tickets or information, contact Lori Perez at 281-797-8370 or lp.loriperez@gmail.com.

Sagemeadow holds election

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will hold its annual election for a seat on the board of directors on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The election will be at the Utility District building at the corner of Hall Road and Blackhawk from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Homeowners in good standing on their maintenance fees are eligible to vote. Proof of home ownership or a driver's license is required.

Paganini at JFD

Dobie High School presents Paganini Dec. 4, 5, 7 and 8 at the school auditorium. This epic traces the bizarre career of virtuoso violinist Nicolo Paganini, a man so possessed during his performances that it was rumored he had sold his soul to the devil.

This inventive play employs theatrical conventions to tell the surreal story of a dark and twisted journey while probing the consequences of art and the nature of salvation for the artist. All shows begin at 7 p.m. Ticket price is \$5. For reservations call Aimee Small, 713-740-0370 ext. 04173.

Sagemont to hold Christmas Festival Dec. 4-6

By James Bolen

Sagemont Church will hold its third annual Christmas Festival Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6.

Titled, *The Most Curious, Unlikely, Extraordinarily Mind-Blowing True Story Ever Told*, this year's event will feature a musical and theatrical performance put on by the church's choir and orchestra.

"We will present a true biblical message," said

Jason Ryan of the church's worship and praise ministry.

Ryan further said the festival would incorporate technological elements.

"It will be highly entertaining to watch," Ryan said. "It will be thrilling."

Unlike previous years, the event will be held in the church's auditorium due to ongoing construction on Sagemont's grounds.

Keeping with the Christmas tradition, church

members recently erected a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree on the church property along Beltway 8.

Ryan views the festival as a way for the church to give back to the South Belt area.

"It's the church's gift to the community," Ryan said.

The festival will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday's performance begins at 3 p.m.

While the event is free to the public, attendees will need to pick up tickets at the church's south foyer.

For more information, call 281-481-8770 or visit www.sagemontchurch.org.

Mayor, councilman to open library

By Matt Griesmyer

When the old Bracewell Library building at 10115 Kleckley near Alameda Mall closed Oct. 4, the torch – which has been lit for more than 39 years – was preparing to be passed to a new building under the Houston Public Library System. The new J. S. Bracewell Library at 9002 Kingspoint near Blackhawk will open at 10 a.m. on Dec. 5 after a ribbon-cutting ceremony with City of Houston Mayor Bill White and District E City Councilmember Mike Sullivan.

Part of the festivities at the ribbon cutting will be a life-sized puppet show.

The new facility is 12,000 square feet – 4,000 square feet larger than the older building and features more resources and more space for the community.

New public resources available include a meeting room, public access computers, free wireless internet, a Nintendo Wii for gaming, kids and teen areas and an adult living room and

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Police combat area crime

The Houston Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in identifying multiple suspects wanted for a string of recent robberies in the Sun Valley/Edgebrook area.

There have been five separate incidents where two to four Hispanic males traveling in a white 1999 to 2005 Chevrolet Impala have robbed individuals or businesses at gunpoint in the same general vicinity. In the latest incident, two Hispanic suspects robbed the Stop-N-Shop Corner Store on Hartsook.

The suspects are said to range in age from 20 to 35. Police say the Impala may have a partial Texas license plate of **F 159.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact Sgt. Greg Gillespie or Officer Randy Derr at 281-218-3800.

Riverstone Ranch raid

A resident was arrested Tuesday, Dec. 1, following a raid on a home in the 9200 block of Arrowhead Trace in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision.

Agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Internal Revenue Service participated in the 9 a.m. raid, along with officers from the Houston Police Department and Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's office.

While authorities confirmed an individual was arrested during the sweep, exact details of the incident remained unclear at press time, as multiple inquiries went unanswered.

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MHSH's Gaston to transfer

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.

Gaston, 38, began his career in the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in June 1996, when he started a two-year administrative fellow pro-

gram there. He quickly rose in the ranks at Memorial Hermann, serving first as an administrative director for Memorial Hermann Northwest, 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.

This past September, Gaston was honored by being named one of 12 nationwide Up & Comers by Modern Healthcare magazine.

Sullivan, Davis endorse Locke



Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan (left) and Rep. John Davis (right) held a joint press conference Saturday, Nov. 28, at Johnson Space Center to formally announce their endorsement of Gene Locke (center) over Annise Parker in the runoff election to become the next Houston mayor. Election Day will take place Saturday, Dec. 12.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

City early voting under way

Early voting for the Dec. 12 City of Houston runoff elections is under way and will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Candidates competing to replace term-limited Mayor Bill White are City Controller Annise Parker and attorney Gene Locke.

Current City Council members M.J. Khan and Ronald Green are competing to replace Parker as controller.

South Belt residents may also cast their vote for Houston City Council At-Large Positions 1, 2 and 5.

Vying for the At-Large Position 1 seat are realtor Karen Derr and civil engineer Stephen Costello.

At-Large Position 2 incumbent Sue Lovell is

being challenged by pastor and businessman Andrew C. Burks Jr.

Competing for the At-Large Position 5 seat are incumbent Jolanda "Jo" Jones and business owner Jack Christie.

Voters may cast their ballots at any of 21 Greater Houston early voting locations. The two nearest locations for South Belt residents are the Freeman Branch Library at 16616 Diana Lane and the Houston Community College Southeast Learning Hub at 6815 Rustic.

Early voting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3 and Dec. 4, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 5, 1 to 6 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 7 and Dec. 8.

For more information, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

Team Gabby, St. Luke's help needy



Team Gabby, in conjunction with St. Luke's the Evangelist Catholic Church social services, recently helped bring holiday cheer to underprivileged area families. Teresa Reynolds (left) and Jesse Romero, father of Gabby Romero, helped fill boxes with groceries and toiletries that were delivered to various people and organizations on Friday. "We (St. Luke's Catholic Church) have been doing this for 30 years," said Maria Palacios, director of social services at St. Luke's. "This is so (the recipients) can have something for Thanksgiving." While packing away boxes in one of the buildings at St. Luke's, the assembled people broke into a spontaneous chorus of the hymn *Amazing Grace*. Team Gabby was originally created as a support group for Gabby Romero, who suffered from renal cancer. Romero died Oct. 2 after a 15-month battle with the debilitating disease.

Photo by Matt Griesmyer

Local schools lock down

By James Bolen

Monday, Nov. 30, was an active day for local Pasadena Independent School District campuses, with two schools being locked down and one student being arrested.

Acting on advice from the Houston Police Department, district officials opted to lock down both Meador Elementary and Morris Middle School after an armed suspect reportedly 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.

"The safety and security of our students and

employees is a top priority at Meador Elementary School. It is not common, but sometimes schools are involved in a potentially threatening situation because of incidents that happen nearby," the message to Meador parents said.

Later that morning, a Dobie High School student was found to be in possession of a loaded 9-mm handgun.

According to district officials, the student, a 17-year-old sophomore, had no intention of using the weapon, but was merely showing it off to friends.

The unnamed student was arrested by police and will likely face disciplinary action.

The pistol was discovered by the school's assistant principal, who said the student was acting suspiciously.

Leader Christmas program to help residents in need

By James Bolen

The holiday season is here, and once again it's time for the annual *South Belt-Ellington Leader* Christmas program.

Now in its 27th year, the program is aimed at helping area families in need.

The yearly drive began in 1982 when an anonymous man, now dubbed "The Good Samaritan," walked into the *Leader* office and delivered the makings of a turkey dinner. The stranger said his family had been given food when he was young and requested the staff forward the meal to a needy family in the community.

This charitable behavior continues through today with several different local organizations taking part.

Past participants include Atkinson, Moore, Stuchbery and Frazier elementary schools, Beverly Hills and Thompson intermediate schools and Dobie High School's Future Farmers of America.

American Legion Post 490 and Action Minis-

tries have also donated food items previously.

Desired items include toys for children of all ages, nonperishable food items, paper products and cash.

There is a particular need for gifts appropriate for older children and teens, such as clothing, sporting goods, makeup kits and gift cards. All gifts should be new and unwrapped.

Past recipients include single-parent families, families suffering from unemployment and Katrina evacuees. Last year, more than 30 families benefited from the program. Many past beneficiaries have reciprocated and later donated items themselves.

All applicants must undergo a screening process to determine need. This is done by various means, including verification from school nurses. To qualify, one must be a South Belt resident and possess a form of identification.

Those wishing to donate items or apply for assistance should visit the *Leader* office, 11555 Beamer.

Missing area child found safe

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.

At press time, no criminal charges had been filed.

Reader's Opinion

What will the GOPs do in mayor's race?

With Democrats breaking largely along racial lines and Latinos showing little interest in the current mayor's race, white-suburban-Republican-leaning (WSRL) voters will likely be the deciding factor in the runoff. A KHOU poll released last week showed Locke and Parker in a statistical dead heat. But significantly it showed Locke, who got very little white vote in the Nov. 3 contest, is now polling at about 25% of the white vote. This is consistent with the poll from the Locke campaign showing a significant block of the WSRL voters immediately moved to Locke after the November 3 election. As I suggested in my previous post, it seems reasonable to speculate that a great many of these voters are social conservatives for which Parker's lifestyle is the deciding factor. But that leaves about 25% of the white vote, mostly WSRL, as undecided. Which side this group comes down on will probably decide the election.

A number of Parker supporters have been making the case that since Parker came in first or second and Locke came in last in many WSRL precincts, she has the upper hand in winning this vote. However, I think that analysis misreads the November 3rd results. It overlooks that even in the most Republican precincts there are still Democratic voters. For example, Precinct 612 is in the heart of Kingwood and is rock-ribbed Republican. However, in the 2008 election, Obama still got 24% of the vote in that precinct.

The November 3rd City election Parker came in second to Roy Morales in Precinct 612, getting 25% of the vote. Morales got 48%, Brown 22% and Locke 7%. Because Parker's vote is virtually identical to Obama's it seems likely that the voters that voted for her on election day were not Republicans, but rather the Democratic voters that live in 612. Therefore, Parker's vote total in Precinct 612 really does not tell us much about how the Republicans in that box will vote in the run-off. In almost no Republican-leaning precincts did Parker's vote exceed Obama's percentage in 2008. So the belief that Parker got a lot of Republican-leaning votes in November is probably inaccurate.

So what will move the undecided WSRL voters? Personally, I do not think it will be the gay/lesbian issue. The polling seems to indicate the voters that feel strongly about

that issue have already made up their minds. Rather, I believe the balance of the WSRL voters are going to be motivated by two issues: crime and property taxes. Crime continues to poll as the issue with which Houstonians are most concerned. It seems likely this issue will favor Locke. Parker cast a problematic vote against continuing the Gang Task Force while on Council which will be hard to explain. Locke has the backing of the Houston Police and his account of his home being burglarized twice as the motivation for him entering the race has a powerful effect on audiences.

I think the property tax issue will also favor Locke. Locke's biggest advantage is that he has no record. Since he has never served in public office, he has never had to vote on the issue. Parker, on the other hand, has a lengthy record of opposing tax decreases, revenue caps and appraisal caps which the Locke campaign is attempting to exploit. Revenue caps and appraisal caps are heavily favored by Republican voters. She also chaired a commission that proposed imposing a garbage fee. While an argument can be made that these were the responsible course of action given the City's deteriorating financial condition that will be a hard case to make to WSRL voters who live in the areas of the City with the highest property taxes.

Probably the best indication that the Republican vote is likely to break Locke's direction is the candidates' comparative Republican endorsements. Locke has stacked up an impressive list, including Robert Eckels, Ned Holmes, Beverly Kaufmann, Mike Sullivan, Jim Murphy, John Davis and Beverly Woolley. I have it on the reasonably reliable information that Locke will receive additional high-profile Republican endorsements before the run-off. In contrast, I am not aware of any Republican elected official that has endorsed Parker. And while the Republican Party is unlikely to get involved officially, Party regulars tell me that Locke is heavily favored among Republican precinct chairs.

But here is the real problem for the Parker campaign: There are more African-American voters than white Democratic voters. If both candidates win their bases by similar percentages (which seems likely) Parker will have to make up the difference by winning the Republican vote by a substantial margin. Based on the issues and how the Republican leadership is lining up that prospect seems increasingly unlikely.

Bill King

Run-off candidates respond to questionnaire

The following questionnaires were submitted by the run-off candidates who were asked to answer each question in 75 words or less. The answers are unedited and run in the order of ballot position.

Mayor Annise Parker



NAME: Annise Parker
AGE: 53
OCCUPATION: City Controller

EDUCATION: Rice University; BA (triple major in Sociology, Anthropology & Psychology)

MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: 3 children

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve as mayor of Houston?

I'm the only candidate with the leadership, experience and vision to get things done in these tough economic times. I'm the only one who launched audits that rooted out fraud and waste, freeing up millions for priorities like police and after-school programs. I'm the only one who will aggressively protect your tax dollars - and I won't sacrifice public safety to pay for expensive new projects we cannot afford.

What is your position on video cameras being placed at traffic-lights?

I am in favor of having video cameras at traffic lights. They help reduce red light running, which contributes to side-impact accidents. They must, however, be properly timed.

Are you in favor of the new Houston Dynamo stadium? If so, how do you think it should be funded?

The city has already purchased the land for the proposed Dynamo Stadium and pledged ten million TIRZ dollars for infrastructure improvements around the stadium. Harris County and the Dynamo must come to the table and secure their funding. I will honor the current mayor's commitments, but I will not commit more tax dollars. In these tough economic times, I will not promise any more city resources to projects we cannot afford.

What would you do to help alleviate flooding in the South Belt area?

Drainage is a public safety issue. We need to more systematically coordinate with other governmental entities. We must change the way we do the CIP process. We currently attempt to distribute infrastructure dollars evenly to each of the nine council

districts. Water does not respect council boundaries so we need to do a watershed-by-watershed analysis of the drainage issues in Houston, prioritize a list of those projects, and then start tackling them.

What is your position on the city's Safe Clear program?

I support the Safe Clear program as the evidence shows that it has helped make our freeways safer. I will continue to look for ways to improve it.

What is your position on METRO's light rail proposal and related proposals?

I support a multi-modal, integrated transit system including everything from light rail, to commuter rail, to park and ride buses, to better streets, and more bike paths. METRO is not transparent or accountable to the communities it serves. I will assemble a team to review METRO's books and plans from top to bottom to ensure we can meet our commitments. I will bring in new leadership at METRO and refocus on upgrading the bus system.

Would you support the efforts of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone in the South Belt area?

While on City Council, I voted for some TIRZ's and voted against others. I am open to considering them on a case-by-case basis. I look forward to hearing more details about this proposed TIRZ.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

The job of local government is to make your daily life better. The only time you notice local government is when we mess something up. It will be my responsibility as mayor to make sure that we provide a high level of service that you can take for granted. I am the only candidate up to that task. Additional priorities will be more effective public safety spending and tackling long-term drainage infrastructure.

Gene Locke



NAME: Gene Locke
AGE: 62
OCCUPATION: Attorney

EDUCATION: BA, University of Houston 1969, JD South Texas College of Law 1979
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married to Aubrey Sampson Locke. Five

children, daughters Tembi & Attica. Sons Nicholas, Douglas and Thomas.

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve as mayor of Houston?

I have the broad experience necessary to be mayor. I have been involved in almost every major decision that has been made in this city over the past 20 years. I have worked on city issues as City Attorney and as a businessman, solving problems and helping to create thousands of jobs. I have a history of articulating a clear, bold vision, bringing people together to find common ground to get things done.

What is your position on video cameras being placed at traffic lights?

I favor any measure that protects the health and safety of our citizens. I believe that red light cameras have been able to reduce some accidents. However, I do not favor using cameras purely to generate revenue. The use of cameras should only be for safety reasons.

Are you in favor of the new Houston Dynamo stadium? If so, how do you think it should be funded?

I favor the deal for a new soccer stadium as negotiated by Mayor Bill White where no further general revenue will be spent on the stadium. The kind of public-private partnerships that bring millions of dollars in private investment to the city will be a hallmark of my tenure as mayor. The deal that is being negotiated by the White administration would bring \$60 million of private investment into the east end.

If elected, what would you do to help alleviate flooding in the South Belt area?

As mayor I will support the collaboration between the Harris County Flood Control District and Galveston County on the building detention pond in the South Belt area. I will work closely with Commissioner El Franco Lee to make sure flooding is controlled.

What is your position on the city's Safe Clear program?

I believe that Safe Clear has been effective in relieving some congestion from our highways. I believe we need to make sure more companies can participate in the program. We need to continue to think of innovative ways to make it easier for people to get to and from work every day. We are a growing city and we need a transportation policy that takes into account the needs of the city and the region.

What is your position on METRO's light rail proposal and related proposals?

Expanding the light rail system is an important part of improving the regions transportation system. We need to expand the light rail system, but we also must have a first class bus system, better park-and-rides to bring people into the various employment centers and more HOV ac-

cess and park and rides to reduce highway congestion. We need a regional program to improve transportation.

Would you support the efforts of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone in the South Belt area?

I believe that TIRZ are an appropriate way spur economic development in our city. There is a great need to revitalize the Southbelt and Alameda mall area and I would be supportive of the use of a TIRZ to accomplish that goal. The area needs to attract new business to replace those that have been lost.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

We cannot be a great city until we are a safe city. I have learned the intricacies of our city government and what it takes to keep our city running in an efficient manner. As a Councilmember, I have consistently worked to streamline city spending, increase transparency and champion for fiscal responsibility. As Controller, I will take this knowledge and experience to improve efficiency through process re-engineering and conduct performance, process and financial audits of City departments and contracts.

City Controller M.J. Khan



NAME: M.J. Khan
AGE: 59

OCCUPATION: City Council Member, Engineer, Business Development

EDUCATION: B.S. Physics, Mathematics and Engineering from the Universities of Sind and Karachi, Pakistan., Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois. Masters of Business Administration from Rice University
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married to Dr. Attiya Khan, Son: Faraz, Daughter in-law Sarah

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve as Houston city controller?

Given my educational background, my private sector experience, and record of strong fiscal management while on City Council, I truly am the most qualified candidate to oversee the city's finances. The Controller is the Chief Financial Officer of the City. I have worked for large corporations, been a business owner and have the knowledge and experience it takes to run the City like a successful business and lead it through these tough eco-

omic times.

What do you see the job of city controller as being?

The City Controller is the watchdog of the City's finances. As Controller, my chief priority will be to secure a sound financial future for the city. I plan to do so by conducting process re-engineering to uncover inefficiencies; conducting performance, process and fiscal audits to uncover wasteful spending; and reviewing city contracts to assure best use of the city's finances.

How do you feel your time spent serving on city council has prepared you for the position of city controller?

While on City Council, I have learned the intricacies of our city government and what it takes to keep our city running in an efficient manner. As a Councilmember, I have consistently worked to streamline city spending, increase transparency and champion for fiscal responsibility. As Controller, I will take this knowledge and experience to improve efficiency through process re-engineering and conduct performance, process and financial audits of City departments and contracts.

Is the City of Houston qualified to receive any federal stimulus money? If so, what should it be used on?

Yes, the City of Houston is qualified to receive stimulus funds. I feel that stimulus funds should go towards improvements for METRO, Housing and Community Development Block Grants programs, and infrastructure projects.

If the City of Houston is not set to receive any federal stimulus money, can anything be done to alter this?

N/A

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

As Houston's next Controller, the main project I will undertake is improving the efficiency of city services and helping our city grow and flourish through these tough economic times. This can be done by increasing transparency of the city's finances; enhancing financial, performance and process audits to uncover wasteful spending; and requiring the verification of departments line item spending compared to the approved budget to keep departments accountable and honest.

Ronald Green



NAME: Ronald Green
AGE: 39

OCCUPATION: Attorney/City Council Member

EDUCATION: B.S. & MBA, University of Houston; J.D. Texas Southern University

MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married to Judge Hillary Harmon Green; one son, Christopher

Why do you feel you are

the best candidate to serve as Houston city controller?

The City faces fiscal challenges, in addressing the current economic downturn and in securing its long-term financial health. I am the candidate best prepared to meet those challenges as City Controller. Nearly six years on City Council, including chairing the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Committee, extensive finance background and training, and years of experience as an attorney and business owner give me a unique perspective and skill set to get the job done for Houstonians.

What do you see the job of city controller as being?

The Controller must serve as the taxpayer's financial watchdog and manage a department of 75 finance professionals. Responsibilities include: Accurate and timely assessment and reporting of the City's current and future financial condition; independently auditing the financial activities of City Departments and certifying that vendors are not delinquent on City taxes; and serving as the financial voice for City government.

How do you feel your time spent serving on city council has prepared you for the position of city controller?

Six years on City Council and two years as Chair of the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Committee have given me the in-depth understanding of the city budget and fiscal management needed to be an effective Controller for the people of Houston. We must renegotiate long-term contracts, refinance long-term debt and delay non-essential purchases to weather the current economic downturn.

Is the City of Houston qualified to receive any federal stimulus money? If so, what should it be used on?

The City of Houston does receive Federal stimulus funding for everything from education to transportation and energy-efficiency initiatives and the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides for nearly \$1 billion of federal economic stimulus dollars that are pre-programmed to the Houston Area in the next couple of years. METRO is currently the biggest Houston-area stimulus recipient, receiving \$87 million federal dollars this year to convert HOV lanes to toll lanes and start (Edited due to being 40 words over the limit.)

If the City of Houston is not set to receive any federal stimulus money, can anything be done to alter this?

Again, we do expect to receive in excess of \$1 billion of stimulus funds in the next two years that will directly benefit the City of Houston. In the past I have traveled to Washington and successfully argued for several million dollars of federal reimbursement to the City of Houston after Hurricane Ike, and am always prepared to advocate on Houston's behalf.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

I would like to continue expansion of department audits, particularly with regard to compliance. I would also like to further public education and understanding of city finances.

For additional candidate questionnaires see Page 3A.

Authorities respond to local crimes

Continued from Page 1A

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office have remained vigilant, battling crimes ranging from criminal trespassing to theft.

Deputy Lance Willis responded to a call Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the CVS Pharmacy in the 10900 block of Scarsdale where a man, described by deputies as being homeless, was reportedly aggressively asking customers for money. Alexander Day, 23, was arrested and charged with criminal trespassing. Day had been arrested just three weeks earlier for committing the same offense at the Blockbuster Video store also in the 10900 block of Scarsdale.

The following week on Wednesday, Nov. 25, Willis was patrolling the 10300 block of Rose Pond at roughly 5 p.m. when he spotted a male and female fighting in the street. Upon approaching the couple, the male, Javon Merchant, fled the scene on foot. Willis was assisted by Deputy Jason Curry, who found the suspect a few blocks away on Citruswood. Merchant, 17, was arrested and charged with evading arrest.

Later that evening at roughly 7:45 p.m., Curry responded to a call at the Food Town grocery store in the 10900 block of Scarsdale, where two men had reportedly stolen a case of beer. The deputy was successful in apprehending the two suspects. Brandon Rodriguez, 25, and Aaron Rodriguez, 17, were both arrested and charged with theft.

Reflections hosts holiday open house

Reflections Medical Spa will hold its fourth annual holiday open house on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 10950 Resource Parkway, Suite B. Door prizes will be given, special purchases will be offered (that day only), and hors d'oeuvres and holiday beverages will be served.

In addition to the specials offered, a full selection of Glominal Makeup, Glotherapeutics, Phytomer, Votivo Candles and other items will be available.

Library events scheduled

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale: Play board games and more on Game Day, Thursday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m.

Investigate ancestries and family histories when the genealogy discussion group meets Monday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.

Movie Madness is Thursday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for feature title.

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.

CCART meeting Dec. 8

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its December meeting of the 2009-2010 season on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

All meetings throughout the year will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May. Meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

Following a short business meeting, there will be a choral program from The Silent Ones, a choir that sings with sign language. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$35.

AARP hosts holiday luncheon

AARP Chapter 199 will not meet at its regular meeting location this month. Instead, the group will hold its Holiday Christmas Luncheon Friday, Dec. 18, at 11:30 a.m. at Chabuca's Restaurant, 316 W. NASA Parkway. Seating is limited and the cost is \$15. For more information, call 281-334-4698.

BAND holds holiday dinner

Bay Area New Democrats will host a holiday dinner at the La Brisa on the Creek Mexican restaurant on Thursday, Dec. 10. The evening will feature a Mexican buffet, music and dancing, a cash bar and some short speeches.

Dinner includes beef and chicken fajitas and all the fixings, plus some vegetarian selections. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., and dinner follows at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each. BAND traditionally gives back to the community in the holiday season, and this year, the club has selected SEARCH Homeless Services and the Interfaith Caring Ministry Food Bank as the recipients of club donations. The club asks participants to bring canned goods and/or individual donations of money to these charities.

Mail checks made payable to BAND, and ticket requests to BAND Treasurer at Bay Area New Democrats, P.O. Box 890381, Houston, TX 77289-0381.

La Brisa on the Creek is just off the northbound Gulf Freeway feeder road between NASA Parkway and FM 518, just past Sudie's Restaurant.

LORIPERE
will host a

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR
Dinner • Performance • Silent Auction
December 14

Tickets are \$12.00 each and include a lasagna dinner, admission to performances by the Lariaettes, Lassos and Thompson Dance Team.

Dinner - 6:30 p.m. • Performance - 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Lori Perez
at 281-797-8370 or lp.loriperez@gmail.com

William G. Brunson

William George Brunson, 75, died Nov. 30, 2009. He was born Aug. 6, 1934, in Atlanta, Texas, to the late George and Iver Brunson.

Brunson, who was a long-time resident of the Sage-meadow subdivision, was employed with Shell Oil Company for more than 30 years.

He loved spending time with his family and enjoyed wood crafting and making stained glass.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Robert E. Brunson, and a great-grandson.

Brunson is survived by his wife of 23 years, Barbara Jean Brunson; children William "Bill" Donald Carr, Belinda René Bock, David Waine Carr, Paul Douglas Carr, Letha Leanne Cobb, Robert "Bob" Quebedaux; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; and a host of other family members and friends.

A visitation will be held Thursday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Grand View Funeral Home, 8501 Spencer Highway, Pasadena.

A celebration of Brunson's life will be held Friday, Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. at Bay Area Christian Church, 14550 Highway 3 in Webster.

Interment will follow in Grand View Memorial Park.

Dr. Baharuddin Sheikh

Dr. Baharuddin Sheikh, 58, died Oct. 22, 2009, in Houston. He was born June

2, 1951.

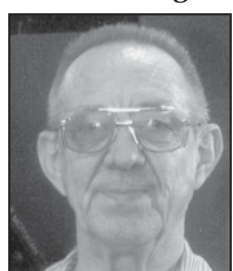
Sheikh is survived by his wife of 35 years, Zarina. He is also survived by his eldest son, Shah, and wife Susan; sons Farrukh and Kashif; and daughter Taj Sheikh. He is also survived by a plethora of students and colleagues from all over the world. Sheikh moved to the United States nearly 30 years ago where he began teaching at the University of Texas at Austin. He later moved to Houston to teach chemistry at San Jacinto College South campus where he taught for seven years. He was a man dedicated foremost to his students.

A memorial service in Sheikh's honor was held at the San Jacinto College South campus.

An oak tree was planted in his honor near the library entrance.

Burial was in the Islamic section of Forest Lawn Cemetery at 8701 Alameda Genoa Road in Houston.

Paul E. Targac



Paul Edward Targac, 71, died Nov. 15, 2009, sur-

rounded by loved ones. He was born March 27, 1938, in Yoakum, Texas, and was a longtime South Belt resident.

Targac is preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Ann; his parents, Adolph Targac and Lillie Migl; and his brother, Jerry Targac.

Survivors include three daughters, Jodi Moody and husband David, Jennifer Johnson and husband Brad, and Jessica Wylie and husband Deven; his grandson, U.S. Army Sgt. Justin Crumrine; granddaughter Kendall Crumrine; brother Raymond Targac; and sister Doris Henneke.

Targac served in the U.S. Navy and was employed at F.W. Gartner for almost 50 years. He was a devoted husband and father, was hard working and loved both hunting and fishing.

A memorial service celebrating Targac's life was held at Niday Funeral Home on Saturday, Nov. 21, with the Rev. Bill Cole officiating.

Thomas E. Callis Hughes

Thomas Edward Callis Hughes, Ph.D., 72, died Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009, after a battle with cancer.

Hughes worked as an engineer for CSC, IBM and United Space Alliance for more than 40 years. He was an avid golfer and backpacker. He enjoyed playing chess



and researching genealogy.

Hughes is survived by his wife, Shirley Stewart Hughes; daughters Deborah (Neil) Martin and Hillary (Marty) Stout; sons Eric (Carol) Hughes and Mark Hughes; brother Howard Hughes; and six grandchildren. A granddaughter and her family are from Sagemont.

A service celebrating Hughes' life was held Saturday, Nov. 28, at Cokesbury United Methodist Church with the Rev. Bill Newcomb officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in memory of Hughes to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79105.

Condolences can be sent to the Hughes family in care of Jeter Memorial Funeral Home at www.jeterfuneralhome.com.

Leader obituary policy

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Homeowner Committee Election

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will hold its annual election for a seat on the subdivision's Board of Directors on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009. The election will be at the Utility District building at the corner of Hall Road and Blackhawk Blvd. from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Homeowners, in good standing on their maintenance fees, are eligible to vote.

Proof of home ownership or a driver's license is required for identification.

Candidates respond to *Leader* questionnaire

City Council At-Large #1

Stephen Costello



NAME: Stephen Costello
AGE: 56
OCCUPATION: Civil Engineer

EDUCATION: BS in Civil Engineering, MBA
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:

Married, with two grown sons and a daughter-in-law, one granddaughter

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve on the Houston City Council?

I am a practicing engineer with an expertise in flood control and drainage. I started an engineering firm, Costello, Inc. 18 years ago, which has been voted best place to work three years in

a row. As a businessman, I provide healthcare and retirement benefits to my employees. Also, I am the past chair and 13 year board member of Memorial Park Conservancy.

What is your position on video cameras being placed at traffic lights?

I would like to see all the current data on how effective the cameras have been.

Are you in favor of the new Houston Dynamo stadium? If so, how do you think it should be funded?

I am in favor of a new stadium; it would spark redevelopment for the city. I believe the current plan proposed by Mayor Bill White which includes county funding is an equitable option.

If elected, what would you do to help alleviate flooding in the South Belt area?

First, identify flood prone areas. Create a dedicated funding source where resources would be provided on a need basis. I believe my background as a state recognized expert in flood control would be an asset to Council. We have never had a practicing engineer to advise the mayor and council on our flood control issues.

What is your position on the city's Safe Clear program?

I support it.

What is your position on METRO's light rail program and related proposals?

I support light rail in addition to an improved bus system.

Would you support the efforts of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone in the South Belt area?

Yes.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

I would work to inform the public of the need to rehabilitate and improve our streets and drainage systems. This would include creating a dedicated funding program similar to our water and sewage, expanding the Neighborhood to Standards program first started under the Lanier Administration, and expanding our parks and green space for all neighborhoods.

City Council At-Large #2

Sue Lovell

NAME: Vice Mayor Pro Tem Sue Lovell

AGE: 59

OCCUPATION: Houston City Council Member

EDUCATION: Attended Fresno City Junior College (1969) and San Jacinto Junior College (1972)

MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:

Married, with two grown sons and a daughter-in-law, one granddaughter

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve on the Houston City Council?

I am a practicing engineer with an expertise in flood control and drainage. I started an engineering firm, Costello, Inc. 18 years ago, which has been voted best place to work three years in



Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve on the Houston City Council?

Houstonians should vote for leaders who get things done – and I'm proud of my record keeping our neighborhoods safe and creating jobs. I was a leader in passing our city budget that added more police officers without raising taxes – and our city's police and firefighter organizations have endorsed me. I've helped secure millions of dollars for jobs, transportation and public safety – and I'm working every day to keep our economy growing.

What is your position on video cameras being placed at traffic lights?

I am for red light cameras if they deter people from running red lights. I think the jury is still out on this, and as a Councilmember I am closely watching the impact of the cameras that are currently installed. I am not in favor of cameras as a source of revenue.

Are you in favor of the new Houston Dynamo stadium? If so, how do you think it should be funded?

I support the Dynamo Stadium as a driver of economic development that will create good jobs in the neighborhood and bring more visitors to Houston to keep our economy growing. I support the funding agreement negotiated by Mayor Bill White, where the city contributes the land, and using TIRZ financing, the city and the county participate in the infrastructure and the Dynamo team builds the stadium.

If elected, what would you do to help alleviate flooding in the South Belt area?

We should prioritize creating more detention ponds that will double as recreation areas and green space for neighborhoods. As new development takes place, we need to be very vigilant to not allow developers to cause flooding in the adjacent neighborhoods. In my last term I will work on creating an enterprise fund for infrastructure maintenance and improvements – a special account where the

money cannot be spent for anything else.

What is your position on the city's Safe Clear program?

I support Safe Clear as a necessary public safety measure to protect citizens stranded on busy freeways and the drivers who are put in danger by obstructions in the road.

What is your position on METRO's light rail program and related proposals?

As Chair of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Aviation Committee, I am proud that I helped navigate the historic agreement between the city and METRO – that allows METRO to move forward with construction on our new light rail lines – building a consensus that led to a 14 to 1 vote. I am a strong supporter of regional and comprehensive solutions to traffic – including light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and park & ride.

Would you support the efforts of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone in the South Belt area?

Yes.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

One of my top priorities in my final term in office is creating an enterprise fund for infrastructure maintenance and improvements – a special account where the money cannot be spent for anything else. One of the biggest barriers to fixing our flooding problems has been finding the money. An enterprise fund will force us to prioritize tax dollars to upgrade and maintain our infrastructure, including flood control projects, and allow for better long-term planning.

Andrew C. Burks, Jr.

NAME: Andrew C. Burks, Jr.

AGE: 59

OCCUPATION: Pastor of "Children Of the Cross C.M.E. Church" / President and CEO of AM-PM Telephone Service, Inc.

EDUCATION: Jack Yates Sr. High School, San Jacinto Jr. College, Houston Community College and Texas southern University.

MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:

Married to Thyra L. Burks, three children and eight grandchildren.

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve on the Houston City Council?

Houstonians deserve to know the truth about the fiscal affairs, why their city government is slow to respond to flooding, street repairs, juvenile and adult crimes including gang activities, and economic short falls as well as what their District and At Large council members are doing about these problems. I'm the best candidate who will keep citizens informed, provide solutions and seek citizen feedback. I can assure you "Together We Can Do Better."

What is your position on video cameras being placed at traffic lights?

I have problems with the reasoning and operation of the Video Cameras being placed at traffic lights. Even though pictures are taken, I feel it doesn't reveal the true violators. Registered owners of the vehicles are given the citation regardless if they ran the red light or not. I'd like to see the cameras used to video accidents, pedestrian activities and provide the actual picture of the red light violators so they can be ticketed.

Are you in favor of the new Houston Dynamo stadium? If so, how do you think it should be funded?

Yes I am in favor of the Houston Dynamo Stadium being built but I don't believe taxpayer dollars should fund it. In my opinion our Business Community and the Houston Dynamo's should build the new stadium.

If elected, what would you do to help alleviate flooding in the South Belt area?

I'll work to have all storm sewer lines cleaned and strained. All street drains should be equipped with drain strainers preventing trash and other debris from entering the system. All monies budgeted for Storm Drainage must not be used for other city projects. I will work to replace existing broken drainage lines. All drainage ditches should be cleaned and monitored. More Retention Ponds need to be built in the area to avoid flooding.

What is your position on the city's Safe Clear program?

The Safe Clear program in my opinion works but it doesn't allow all wreckers to participate in the program. Presently only one company bids on the program and other wreckers are not included. In my opinion it is "A Cash Cow". I will work to make the program more inclusive for all.

What is your position on METRO's light rail program and related proposals?

I believe the Metro Rail program is not being built correctly although the program is sorely needed. Our city floods a lot and by rail being built on the ground it cannot operate when streets flood. It needs to be built high off the ground, then the rail would run constantly and provide greater assistance in evacuating people from flooded areas. The construction of ground rail displaces many homeowners and existing business in its path.

Would you support the efforts of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone in the South Belt area?

Yes, I would support a TIRZ in the South Belt Community. The TIRZ would enable the community to remove blight, provide funds to build more parks, green space, attract new businesses to the area which decreases unemployment, improve the police presence and beautify the community.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

My Incubator Program is my main project. It would be located in four regions of our city. Federal Stimulus Dollars would fund the program. Citizens who want to start their own business would join the program and receive help with Marketing, Business Proposals, Web Design, Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Tax Preparation, etc. U of H, TSU and Rice University School of Business would provide these services. This would stimulate our economy and reduce unemployment.

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UHCL professor receives award

The International School Psychology Association awarded University of Houston-Clear Lake Associate Professor of School Psychology Mary E. Stafford the 2009 Award for Distinguished Service. Stafford joined UHCL's faculty in 2005.

"I found out about the award last June when I got an e-mail from the president of the association," said Stafford. "It just took my breath away; I couldn't believe it."

Asked to take over as editor of ISPA's World Go Round (W*G*R) Newsletter in 2006, she gathered articles that reflected the global diversity of her field. She recently created a new section in that publication that focuses on the nature of school psychological services in developing countries. As former chair of the

ISPA Ethics Committee, she worked to create international plans and guidelines for countries developing school psychology services. Her collaborative efforts helped establish and update the organization's code of ethics. Striving to include diversity in representation on the ethics committee, Stafford sent e-mails to one member from each of the 57 ISPA member nations. She received responses from 30 of them who agreed to become members of the ethics committee.

"Part of the reason I was able to get this response was because of my training on cultural differences and my respect for different cultural groups," said Stafford. "I think that respect comes across in my interactions with people from various cultures."

City Council At-Large #5

Jolanda "Jo" Jones



NAME: Council Member Jolanda "Jo" Jones

AGE: 43

OCCUPATION: City Council Member, Attorney

EDUCATION: University of Houston Law Center: Juris Doctorate 1995; University of Houston: graduated Magna Cum Laude 1989, B.A., Political Science, UH Female Athlete of the Century, 4-time national track champion

MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN:

Married, with two grown sons and a daughter-in-law, one granddaughter

Why do you feel you are the best candidate to serve on the Houston City Council?

I'm a businesswoman, attorney, homeowner and mom. As a council member I've saved millions for taxpayers by fighting waste and mismanagement so we can maintain core services like public safety without raising taxes. That's just one of the reasons why police and firefighter groups support my campaign. I rose from a childhood of poverty to the Academic All American Hall of Fame and I'm working to give every Houston child that same opportunity.

What is your position on video cameras being placed at traffic lights?

We don't have enough evidence yet to determine if they are effective.

Are you in favor of the new Houston Dynamo stadium? If so, how do you

think it should be funded?

I support the current funding agreement using TIRZ financing, in which, roughly speaking, the city contributes the land and some funds toward infrastructure, the county contributes funds toward infrastructure, and the Dynamo organization builds the stadium.

If elected, what would you do to help alleviate flooding in the South Belt area?

We need to build more detention ponds. Developers must shoulder the cost of providing adequate drainage for new development, including the cost of upgrades to existing drainage systems that become necessary as a result of their activities. We must eventually move to not allowing construction in flood plains yet when we do this, we must adequately compensate property owners for infringement on their valuable property rights.

What is your position on the city's Safe Clear program?

The program has shown some promise, but we can do a more effective job. I am concerned about the openness of the process when it comes to awarding contracts to tow-truck drivers.

What is your position on METRO's light rail program and related proposals?

Like many Houstonians, I have continuing concerns about METRO's ability to incorporate meaningful citizen

input into its decision-making. From METRO's failure to include affected communities in its decision to make changes from the plans outlined in the rail referendum, to the way it originally handled the University Line, I think METRO needs to make up lost ground when it comes to citizen involvement.

Would you support the efforts of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone in the South Belt area?

I will work closely with business and residents in the area, study the proposal and make sure a TIRZ is appropriate to meet the need. If a TIRZ were formed, I would work with all stakeholders to make sure that the governance is transparent and accountable to the community.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?

I want to work closely with our next mayor to stop the waste and mismanagement of tax dollars in our housing programs. We have made progress in the last two years, but we need a new department head who understands the issues and a lawyer on staff who will make sure the city complies with Housing & Urban Development regulations to protect our budget and get more affordable housing on the ground for Houstonians.

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Over The Back Fence by Jan

HAPPY 11TH BIRTHDAY PRESTON
A very happy belated birthday is sent to **Preston Kelley** who turned 11 years old Friday, Nov. 27, from **Mema Lanelle, Papa Bobby**, and parents **Darla and Mike Kelley**.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR FRANCES
Carl wishes his beloved wife of 50+ years, **Frances Valigura**, a very happy birthday on Dec. 5, along with her children, **David** and wife **Katha**, **Donna** and husband **Gary**, **Dee Dee**, and **Carl Wayne** and wife **LuAnn**. Also, her 13 grandchildren and great granddaughter, **Riley** wish their beloved **MeMaw** the happiest of all birthdays and many more.

WELCOME BABY KENNEDY
Kennedy Lynn Meade was born Sept. 22, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz. and stretched 19-1/2 inches long. Proud parents are **Shawn and Jennifer Meade** of South Belt. Proud grandparents are **Rick and Cathy Rex** of South Belt, **David and Kathleen Meade** of Pasadena, and great-grandma **Mimi** of Bella Vita. Also welcoming Kennedy are Auntie **Janna**, Uncle **Trent** and Aunt **Kristy**.

HAPPY 16TH BIRTHDAY DAVIN
Davin Velasquez will celebrate his 16th

birthday on Friday, Dec. 4. Special wishes are sent to him from his parents, **David and Sylvia Velasquez**, and brothers **Carlos and Nicklaus**.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 3 through Dec. 9.

Burnett Elementary
Dec. 5 is the day for a birthday party for **Robert Hughes**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Mary Davitt** Dec. 6. On Dec. 7, **Miriam Cordova** has a birthday. **Judy Rohde** and **Cassandra Wilkerson** share a birthday Dec. 9.

Frazier Elementary
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Nicole Green** Dec. 9.

Jessup Elementary
Marking a birthday Dec. 5 is **Maria Lucord**.

Meador Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Janet Armenta** Dec. 7.

South Belt Elementary
The day for a birthday cake for **Kristi Vanzant** is Dec. 7.

On Dec. 9, **Le Nguyen** celebrates a birthday.

Melillo Middle School
Melinda Quiroz-Guerra enjoys a birthday Dec. 5.

Morris Middle School
Blow out the birthday candles for **Josh Lovoi** who celebrates a birthday Dec. 6.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Jorly Thomas is wished a happy birthday Dec. 5. Birthday greetings are sent to **Nicolas Covarrubias** on Dec. 6. Enjoying a birthday Dec. 8 is **Mirta Reyna**.

Thompson Intermediate
Celebrating a birthday Dec. 7 is **Martha Ruiz**. Blow out the birthday candles for **Toni Lopez** Dec. 8.

Dobie High
Sharing a birthday Dec. 4 are **Joseph Horton** and **Jeanne Parlange**. Special birthday greetings are sent to **Donna Branch** on Dec. 6. On Dec. 7, **Patricia Landrum** has a birthday. Blow out the birthday candles for **Christi Christian** Dec. 9.

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.

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15 BAY AREA BRANCH LOCATIONS

City allots 60-day grace period for citizens to pay delinquent red light camera fines

The City of Houston Police Department announced that a 60-day public education and grace period began Nov. 20 for approximately 77,800 Texas vehicle owners with delinquent Notices of Violation.

Letters will be mailed to owners of registered vehicles which have been identified by the City of Houston's Red Light Camera Enforcement

Program as having violated a red light signal and the associated fines, remain un-paid and past due.

To enforce payment of delinquent fines, the City of Houston passed an ordinance on Nov. 19, 2008, which allows the City to request the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to place a hold on renewal of a vehicle's registration until the fine is

paid. If the delinquent fines are not paid by Jan. 30, 2010, a hold will be placed immediately after that date.

This will prevent renewal of the registration at the end of the current registration period, and the vehicle cannot be legally driven. (Operators of unregistered vehicles can be cited.)

Owners of vehicles with registration holds can have

the hold released within two to three business days by paying the fine using convenient payment methods. Once the fine is paid and the hold is released, the owner can register the vehicle with any of the methods allowed by the respective county.

The City of Houston and TxDMV entered a five-year agreement on Dec. 15, 2008, which allows the city to request TxDMV to place a hold on renewal of a vehicle's registration until a past due red light camera fine is paid.

The state Legislature enabled this provision of the Texas Transportation Code to ensure compliance with the red light camera laws.

The city has also reached a preliminary agreement with the Harris County Tax Office to help with enforcement of the registration holds, and the agreement is pending approval of the Harris County Commissioners.

"We urge vehicle owners to avoid the inconvenience and delays that a registration hold will cause. It's a lot easier to take advantage of this grace period before the hold goes into effect and to simply pay the fine by using any of the convenient payment methods listed on the notice," said Joseph Fenninger, chief financial officer and deputy director of the HPD.

Owners of Texas registered vehicles that have previously been sent delinquency notices will be directly affected by registration holds. Delinquency occurs after the owner fails to pay the fine by the deadline specified in two or more notices mailed to the address of record.

In addition to the registration hold, all delinquencies are turned over to a law firm for collection.

CLASP to offer poetry minicourse

Poetry from life is the theme for an open-to-the-public workshop for aspiring and accomplished poets. *The Cycle of One's Life as the Topic of the Poem* will be presented by University of Houston-Clear Lake Professor of Humanities and Fine Arts John Gorman Dec. 4 from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane in Houston.

The workshop is part of the university's Clear Lake Association of Senior Programs minicourses designed for everyday living and for maintaining a healthy mind and body.

"Childhood, adolescence, first adulthood, middle age, seniority - these phases in memory or as the poet encounters them in the actual change over time are reasons to write poems and reasons to read poems others have written," said Gorman.

All minicourses, programs and workshops are free and open to the public and all ages. No reservations are required.

For more information contact the university's Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021 or visit <http://www.uhcl.edu/clasp>.

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FEATURED
INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (R) (11:35 @ \$5), 2:55, 6:35

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
PLANET 51 (PG) (10:40 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50, 12:10
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 8:50, 11:40

ARMORED (PG-13) (10:00, 11:05 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:25, 2:35, 3:45, 4:50, 6:05, 7:15, 8:20, 9:35, 10:45, 11:55, 12:55

BROTHERS (R) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25, 12:55

EVERYBODY'S FINE (PG-13) (10:15 @ \$5), 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:15, 12:45

TRANSYLVANIA (R) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05, 10:20, 12:40

FANTASTIC MR. FOX (PG) (11:05 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:10, 11:15

NINJA ASSASSIN (R) (10:35, 11:35 @ \$5), 1:05, 2:05, 3:30, 4:30, 5:55, 7:10, 8:35, 9:30, 10:50, 11:50

OLD DOGS (PG) (10:30, 11:45 @ \$5), 1:00, 2:20, 3:20, 4:40, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30, 11:55, 12:55

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (10:00, 11:10 @ \$5), 12:50, 2:10, 3:40, 5:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55, 12:50

PLANET 51 (PG) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:10, 6:25

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) (10:20, 11:15, 11:55 @ \$5), 1:20, 2:30, 3:15, 4:35, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9:20, 10:00, 10:40, 12:20, 12:50

2012 (PG-13) (10:25, 11:30 @ \$5), 1:35, 2:50, 4:55, 6:15, 8:45, 9:25, 12:00, 12:35

2012 (PG-13) (10:25, 11:30 @ \$5), 1:35, 2:50, 4:55, 6:15, 8:45, 9:25, 12:00, 12:35

THE BOX (PG-13) 9:55, 12:55 All

THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (10:55 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:30

ASTRO BOY (PG) (10:50 @ \$5), 1:15, 3:55, 6:20

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 2:00, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10, 12:40

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) 8:40, 10:50, 12:55

THE STEPFATHER (PG-13) 8:55, 11:20

COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (11:15 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25, 12:05

BOONDOCK SAINTS II: ALL SAINTS DAY (R) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:40, 5:35, 8:15, 11:10

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL PUSH BY SAPPHIRE (R) (10:05, 11:25 @ \$5), 12:45, 2:10, 3:25, 4:45, 6:00, 7:20, 8:30, 9:50, 10:55, 12:30

IMAX

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) (10:10, 10:45 @ \$9), 12:25, 1:10, 2:45, 3:35, 5:15, 6:10, 7:30, 9:45, 11:55

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GAT Band in rodeo parade



On Sept. 21, band members, left to right, Diego Villegas, Ronald Ricks, Kayla Langley and chaperone Sandra Langley, carried the banner as the Thompson Band joined with the Beverly Hills and J. Frank Dobie High School bands to participate in the Pasadena Rodeo Parade. The combined South Belt area bands were the largest marching contingent in the parade and performed the *Dobie Fight Song* and *Louie, Louie* along the parade route. This parade gave the intermediate school band students a fun marching experience and an introduction to the award-winning J. Frank Dobie Longhorn Marching Band.

Submitted photo

Remember When

30 years ago (1979)
Members of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department received their new Pierce pumper.

The Thompson Intermediate School twirlers took highest honors at the Region XIX University Interscholastic League competition.

25 years ago (1984)
Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the \$43.5 million Memorial Hospital medical complex on Beamer Road.

Four different law enforcement agencies were involved in three separate drug raids in the South Belt area during one week.

20 years ago (1989)
A 24-year-old South Belt resident died from gunshot wounds received in an altercation with a private security guard at a Houston nightclub.

The South Belt Blue Jays compiled a 10-3 record to win the Western division of the Kyle Chapman Winter Baseball League before being declared the overall league champions after a raintout in the post-season tournament final.

15 years ago (1994)
Into its second year of existence, San Jacinto College South's debate team received six recognitions at a forensics tournament in San Antonio.

A panel of Beverly Hills Intermediate School students participated in Star Enterprises Environment Trivia Contest.

10 years ago (1999)
A \$6,000 reward was being offered for information convicting the men who shot and robbed a woman. Police were also seeking one other man who used her credit cards after she was shot.

Homebuilders began construction on hundreds of homes in the Pasadena Independent School District area.

5 years ago (2004)
Dobie graduate Nancy Leal won an Emmy award for her television report

called *Casi Perdi A Mi Hijo* (I almost lost my son). Leal, a news anchor at the Univision affiliate in Denver, was a 1995 grad, and lived in Sagemont Park.

The Clear Brook Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps received a \$3,100 grant from the National Rifle Association. The grant would be used to purchase new equipment and supplies in preparation for national marksmanship competition.

San Jacinto College offered a tuition payment program in which students could mail a check through regular mail.

1 year ago (2008)
South Belt resident Thanh Pham was killed in an apparent robbery attempt at a liquor store in the 900 block of East NASA Parkway where he worked as a clerk. The suspect entered the store and shot Pham, 35, twice with a .45-caliber handgun. The store's cash register was found open with an undisclosed amount of money missing.

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 36th anniversary with a banquet and Christmas party. Originally called the Sagemont Volunteer Fire Department, the group changed its name in 1974 when the City of Houston annexed the Sagemont subdivision. The department is

now responsible for covering the local communities in Harris County that remain unincorporated. This includes the municipal utility districts of Kirkmont, Sagemeadow and Clear Brook City. The area covered is approximately five square miles in size and has roughly 25,000 residents.

On Thanksgiving afternoon, a fire gutted a house in the 11000 block of Olivewood in the Highland Meadow subdivision. No one was home at the time of the fire, and it was only reported when flames and heavy smoke became visible to the neighbors. Arriving units from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department found a single-story home heavily involved with the rear of the house in flames, and heavy, dense black smoke pouring from the front door. The fire was extinguished, but the contents of the house suffered extreme fire, heat and smoke damage. The structure of the dwelling remained intact due to the quick response of the fire department. Units from Forest Bend Volunteer Fire Department, as well as the Pearlard Fire Department assisted in extinguishing the fire and the overhaul. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined by the Harris County Fire Marshal's office.

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Brantly awarded outstanding fundraiser



Stuchbery Elementary recently raised \$2,124 for the March of Dimes Reading Champions Program. Students accepted pledges for each book they read in order to help babies who are born prematurely. Stuchbery first-grader Jackson Brantly, left, was presented the District Outstanding Fundraiser award by Susan Ramirez, right, from the March of Dimes.

Photo submitted

Pacheco, Terry wed in Galveston

Johanna Pacheco and Joe Terry were united in marriage Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, in a double-ring ceremony at St. Joseph Church in Galveston, with a reception following at The Lasker House, also in Galveston.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Carlos Pacheco.

The bride wore an Ulla-Maija Couture gown.

Serving as maid of honor was Olivia Carbajal of Houston.

Richard Warneke of Friendswood, formerly of the South Belt area, served as best man.

Flower girls were Carson Warneke, daughter of the best man, and Lily Veazey, cousin of groom.

The bride is the daughter of Marbella Gambarelli of Houston. She graduated from Spring High School and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Houston. She is an accountant with Texas Petroleum Investment Company in Houston.

The groom is the son of Jack and Eden Terry of Beverly Hills subdivision. He graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School, earned a Bachelor of Science in international business at Trinity University in San Antonio and graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston (JD). He is co-founder and partner in the law firm of Terry & Thweatt, P.C., in Houston.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii (Oahu, Maui, Big Island), the couple reside in the Houston Heights.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Terry

Johnson graduates

Donald Ray Johnson, son of Eligh and Maggie Johnson of Sagemont subdivision, has successfully completed Basic Training for the U.S. Navy. The ceremony was held Friday, Nov. 13, 2009, at the Recruit Training Command Center in Great Lakes, Ill. There, he served as the recruit leading petty officer for Division #389. He is furthering his training as an informational system technician at the Corry Station in Pensacola, Fla. Johnson is a June 2009 graduate of Dobie High School.



UHCL offers free autism lectures

In their efforts to assist more local families, caregivers and teachers of autistic children, University of Houston-Clear Lake's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities will launch a new speaker series in January. The informative lectures will be provided by the center at no cost. Scheduled speakers are graduate students of the university's behavior analysis program. A question and answer session and complimentary lunch will follow each lecture.

The presenters will provide practical information for parents and educators on effective approaches for teaching children with autism and other developmental disabilities," said center Director and UH-Clear Lake Professor of Psychology Dorothea Lerman. "Our goal is for parents and educators to take with them strategies that they can begin using immediately at home and school to improve their children's lives."

The following four lectures are scheduled:

Jan. 16 - *Toilet Training and Life Skills* will be held in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1100.

Feb. 13 - *Increasing Compliance* will be held in the university's Bayou Building, Room 1418.

March 6 - *Understanding and Managing Problem Behavior* will be presented in the university's Bayou Building, Room 1418.

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Save Texas History essay contest set

Fourth- and seventh-grade students with a love of Texas history have the chance to win a fun-filled weekend in San Antonio including round-trip airline tickets on Southwest Airlines for writing an essay. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson is calling for entries in the 2010 Save Texas History Texas Travels Essay Contest. Last year's contest was such a success, Patterson opened the competition to both fourth-grade and seventh-grade students.

"I was overwhelmed with both the quality and the quantity of essays we received last year," Patterson said. "The idea behind this contest was to inspire Texas school kids to take pride in our heritage as Texans, and from what I saw, it worked."

Seventh-graders are asked to write the story of their favorite Texas city, big or small. The length: 500-700 typewritten words. Students are asked to write about the historical significance of the place they choose and give reasons they think the community was important to the development of Texas.

"A good education, like a positive attitude, opens doors to success. Save Texas History contributes to both qualities by making children aware, self confident and

proud of the beautiful spaces around them," said Christine Ortega, manager of corporate community affairs for Southwest Airlines. "Southwest is proud to be the official airline of this great program."

Ariel McFalls, a seventh-grader at Westbrook Intermediate School in Friendswood, won top honors in last year's contest.

Her essay on the Caddoan Mounds detailed the rapid decline of the once prosperous Caddos who built the mounds and flourished in Texas before the arrival of Europeans.

Fourth-graders are asked to write from the perspective of a well-known explorer. Looking through the eyes of Cabeza de Vaca, Francisco Coronado, de la Salle or any other explorer who charted what is now Texas, fourth-graders must explain why they are exploring Texas and what they see as they travel.

The winning entry will explain the explorers' plans to settle the new land and what they have accomplished through their journey.

The Texas Travels Essay Contest is sponsored by the General Land Office Save Texas History program and Southwest Airlines. The contest fulfills the educational mission of the Save Texas

History program to promote the study of Texas history and to serve as a teaching resource.

While all Texas fourth- and seventh-grade students study Texas history, Patterson hopes that asking students to write about the history of places close to their hearts will help make their stories come alive.

All essays must be post-marked by January 30, 2010. All public, private and home-schooled students of appropriate age for the fourth-grade or seventh-grade are eligible to participate.

Essays will be judged on originality of idea, cohesiveness of thought and organization. Proper grammar, spelling and punctuation counts.

One grand prize winner per grade will receive round-trip airline tickets for four to San Antonio from any Southwest Airlines destination in Texas, hotel accommodations for two nights, a tour of the Alamo and tickets for additional attractions. Ten finalists will win Save Texas History backpacks, a certificate of appreciation signed by Commissioner Patterson and a historic map replica from the General Land Office archives collection.

For more details, visit SaveTexasHistory.org.

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When life gives you a lemon tree . . .



John Godbee, resident of Sageglen since 1996, has quite a garden.

Normally Godbee grows Meyer lemons, turnip greens and varieties of cabbage. Recently, however, Godbee has seen a new fruit in his garden.

"When I first noticed it growing, the tree was only this high," Godbee said, indicating a height of about one foot. "I didn't plant the tree - I thought maybe a bird dropped a seed or something. This year, my wife said that if (the tree) didn't produce fruit, it was gone."

This spring, the tree erupted with a plethora of blossoms, and then giant lemons.

A common grocery-store variety of lemon weighs only a few ounces; the lightest fruit from this lemon tree weighs approximately one pound.

"The lemons I have picked are around five inches long and 10 and a half inches around," Godbee said. "I bet you I've given away over 200 pounds of lemons."

Godbee gives away the fruits of his labor to friends, family, postal employees, pharmacists and the average newspaper reporter that comes along to investigate the colossal citrus.

While this is the first year for lemons of this variety to grow in his garden, Godbee is no stranger to large fruit.

Godbee and his wife, Chris, said that it is not uncommon for them to grow Meyer



lemons as large as grapefruit.

"(John) does not just have a green thumb - he has two green hands," Chris Goodbee said. *Photos by Matt Griesmyer*

San Jac presents Christmas Magic

San Jacinto College Central's theater and film department rings in the holiday season with its production of *Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical*.

The "family celebration spectacular" will be performed in the Powell Arena Theatre, located on the Central campus at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

Performances are set for Dec. 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m., and on Dec. 6 and 13 at 2:30 p.m.

A special matinee performance will be performed for area schools and daycares on Dec. 4 at 10 a.m.

Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical is a fanta-

sy about a sinister plot to steal Santa's magic. The cast will include 30 male and female actors, as well as singers and dancers from ages 5 to adult.

Highlights of the show include toys that come alive and dance and sing and singing children elves. Children in the audience will have an opportunity to visit with Santa Claus during intermission.

The cost for general admission is \$10 per person. The cost of senior citizens and children under 10 is \$8.

Central campus students, and San Jac employees can attend the show for \$8 per person.

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Dobie Debate competes at Katy Taylor tourney

With two-and-one-half months left in the debate season, Shekeyla Caldwell qualified for the Texas Forensic Association (TFA) State tournament in original oratory at the Katy Taylor tournament on Nov. 21, 2009. This is the second straight year Caldwell has earned the honor to compete at State as a talented and skilled representative of J. Frank Dobie.

While bringing home a third-place trophy in oratory from the finals round, Caldwell also was presented a third-place trophy in prose interpretation.

Other Dobie students reaching the finals round in competition with 42 other

schools were Laura Jordan in novice poetry interpretation placing second, Zaheer Kamal in humorous interpretation placing second, Alexander LaCamu placing sixth in humorous interpretation, and Jonathan Lo placing third in novice extemporaneous speaking.

Bao Le won three out of his first four rounds in Lincoln-Douglas debate to advance to the double-octo round, which meant he was judged to be one of the best 16 debaters out of the original entry of 81 debaters.

Other Dobie students receiving special recognition by advancing to the semifinals round were Caldwell in

dramatic interpretation and impromptu speaking, Loren Gautney in impromptu speaking, Brianna Herman in original oratory, Jordan in novice prose interpretation, Kamal in prose interpretation, LaCamu in dramatic interpretation, Lo in impromptu speaking, Eddie Nunez in impromptu speaking and congressional debate, Reese Selman in novice prose interpretation, Brian Tran in novice extemporaneous speaking, and Lariza Uribe in original oratory and congressional debate.

The team will finish up 2009 by competing at Cypress Ridge this weekend and Clear Brook on Dec. 11-12.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

JFD's Scott Talton Court dedication a thing of holiday beauty

Family, friends, former players and coaching colleagues were all a part of the night as Dobie High School officially honored the naming of Scott Talton Court at Dobie High School.

Talton, the two-time Houston area coach of the year and winner of 500 career games as Dobie's varsity boys' basketball coach, retired following the 2007-

2008 season. He passed away unexpectedly in February.

He may no longer roam the baseline as a Longhorn fan, but Talton's legacy will now live on forever. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Scott Talton Court.

Dobie High School principal Steve Jamail was one of several guest speakers, including current Long-

horn varsity boys' basketball coach Kevin Cross and Langham Creek High School head coach Charles Ament, both Dobie graduates and former players under Talton.

The night of basketball featured the Longhorns going against Ament's Langham Creek squad. In the end, a 7-0 run by the Lobos lifted Langham Creek to a 71-65 victory (see story below).

During the pregame festivities, a couple of dozen former players and coaches posed for a group picture. Dobie High School teacher and former athletic staff member Joseph Horton once again delivered a rousing performance of the national anthem.

The players came through with a terrific performance on the court, but much of the focus on this night was on Talton and his family.

Many members of Talton's immediate family were on hand for the pregame ceremony. Talton's widow, Vicki, works in the Pasadena Independent School District. The Taltons' youngest child, Scottie, is a sophomore at Texas A&M University.

"Scott Talton taught us much more than just basketball skills and drills," Cross said. "He wanted all of us to grow up to be great people on and off the court. Basketball doesn't last forever. He taught us how to live life and how to treat people the



Vicki Talton (left), widow of Scott Talton, Dobie varsity basketball head coach Kevin Cross (center) and the Taltons' son, Scottie, listen in during pregame ceremonies at the Scott E. Talton Memorial Basketball Game Dec. 1 at Dobie. The evening officially marked the naming of Scott Talton Court at the school.

Photos by John Bechtel

Clear Brook boys host CCISD hoops

With just three games of action prior to his team's Dec. 1 game against Pearland, Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball coach Jason Pillow is still trying to find out where his Wolverines stand.

He's about to find out. The 16-team Bill Krueger /Clear Creek Independent School District Varsity Basketball Classic is set for Dec. 3-5.

Pillow knows the competition will be great. "I

think this is one of the toughest brackets to date," Pillow said.

"You have several teams that can win the whole thing. Cy Woods, La Porte, La Marque, Crenshaw, Deer Park and all of the CCISD schools will all be in contention.

"I am excited about facing some really good teams. The team that wins this tournament will have to be happy how things have gone for them."

Continued on Page 6B

Late breakdown costs Horns' boys; Langham Creek nets 71-65 victory

On a night when his legacy was guaranteed to last forever (see story above), former Dobie High School varsity boys' basketball coach Scott Talton might have left the gym cringing all the way home.

Langham Creek's Chris Aaron had a 3-point play with 37 seconds remaining, keying a 7-0 closing run as the Lobos downed Dobie 71-65 in the Scott E. Talton Memorial Basketball Game Dec. 1 at Dobie.

Lobos' head coach Charles Ament, a 1993 Dobie High School graduate, watched his team come away with a win during a game that featured many runs.

Langham Creek began the game with a 7-0 burst almost before the large crowd had settled into its seats. But Dobie rallied to lead 16-13. By halftime, the Longhorns led 34-27, having outscored the Lobos 34-20 after the early run.

Back and forth the teams went during the second half, with Tyrone Sagers (16 points) and Randy Owens (15 points) leading Dobie. Meanwhile, the Lobos' Mackey McNight (21 points) kept the visitors close.

The Longhorns appeared to have the upper hand after varsity newcomer Jubril Osagie scored a layup with a minute, 26 seconds

to play. At that point, Dobie led 65-64, but they would not score again.

Aaron's 3-point play was followed by a Sagers miss on a 3-point try. McNight was fouled and made a pair of free throws to extend the lead for Langham Creek to 4 points with 17 seconds remaining. Game over.

Dobie, which will take on Kempner and Cinco Ranch during first-day action at the Katy varsity tournament Dec. 3, has now lost two straight games after opening the season at 4-2.

Langham Creek boasting eight seniors, is now 4-5.

Continued on Page 6B

CCISD Classic First Round Games Dec. 3

At Clear Lake
5:30 p.m. - Lake vs. Santa Fe
7 p.m. - Connely vs. La Porte

At Clear Brook
5:30 p.m. - Crenshaw vs. Deer Park
7 p.m. - Brook vs. Memorial

At Clear Creek
5:30 p.m. - Midway vs. La Marque
7 p.m. - Reagan vs. Creek

At Clear Springs
5:30 p.m. - Texas City vs. Cypress Woods
7 p.m. - Springs vs. Waller

Dobie hoops to host Clear Brook twice



Dobie High School varsity girls' basketball head coach Shane Brown (above) at right with player Shaquea Gaston (in photo at right) will host Clear Brook Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Scott Talton Court. Tip-off is 7 p.m. The girls' game is the first of two neighborhood clashes on tap. Dobie's varsity boys will host Clear Brook Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Scott Talton Court. Tip-off is 7 p.m.



Scott Talton Court. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. The girls' game is the first of two neighborhood clashes on tap. Dobie's varsity boys will host Clear Brook Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Scott Talton Court. Tip-off is 7 p.m.

Photos by John Bechtel

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Cranberry Sauce	\$ 7.99/qt.
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Sports news, notes

SBHLL membership to meet

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League will host a general membership meeting Thursday, Dec. 3, for parents whose children competed during the spring 2009 season. Only members of the league are invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to amend the constitution and fill vacancies on the league's board of directors. Anyone interested in joining the board of directors may contact league president Amy Smith at sbhll@hotmail.com. The meeting will be held at the Harris County Annex, 10851 Scarsdale (courthouse), at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit the league Web site at www.eteamz.com/sbhll.

SBHLL sets registration dates

Registration for the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has been set. The dates include Jan. 9 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), Jan. 14 (6 to 8 p.m.) and Jan. 16 (1 to 5 p.m.). All sessions will be held at the SBHLL facility at El Franco Lee Park. Early registration for coaches and managers will be held Jan. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park. For more information, visit the league Web site at www.eteamz.com/sbhll. Additional details will follow in upcoming *Leader* editions.

Dobie FB banquet Dec. 6

The Dobie High School football banquet will be held Sunday, Dec. 6, in the cafeteria. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Interim head coach Carey Sink and members of his staff will recognize each of the programs, and varsity team awards will be announced. There will be a catered meal. Varsity players, senior managers and senior trainers will be admitted free but must pick up their ticket prior to the event. Tickets for subvarsity players, managers, trainers and player families are \$5 per person. Tickets may be purchased during lunch Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 at Dobie. No tickets will be sold at the door.

SBHLL to host movie night

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League will host a Holiday in the Park movie night Saturday, Dec. 12, at the baseball complex at El Franco Lee Park. The featured movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, will start at 7 p.m. Santa will also be visiting, and youths may have their pictures taken with Santa for \$1. Those attending are asked to bring chairs, sleeping bags or blankets. The concession stand will be open, and popcorn, nachos, hot chocolate and much more will be available. No outside food will be allowed.

Pasadena Juniors VB fundraiser

The Pasadena Junior Volleyball Club will host a fundraiser Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Red Stone Reception Hall, 1201 Strawberry Road., in Pasadena. Doors will be open from 1 to 8 p.m. Adult tickets are \$12 and children 12 and under will be admitted for \$6. The price includes a barbecue sandwich plate with chips and a drink. A live band will provide entertainment throughout the event. The Pasadena Juniors currently have teams in the 18-year-old and 16-year-old club divisions. The club is coached by Lynn Perry, who is also the varsity volleyball coach at Pasadena High School. The teams include players from programs within the Pasadena Independent School District.

Dobie swim club to meet

The Dobie High School swimming booster club will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the athletic field house media room. Parents of athletes in the program are invited to attend.

Sports calendar

BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 3

Clear Brook varsity boys host Clear Creek tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity boys at Katy tourn., TBA
Clear Brook freshman A boys at Kingwood tourn., TBA
Brook freshman B boys at South Houston tourn., TBA

Friday, Dec. 4

Clear Brook varsity boys host Clear Creek tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity girls at Dobie, 7:30
Dobie varsity boys at Katy tourn., TBA
Clear Brook JV girls at Dobie, 5:30
Clear Brook freshman A boys at Kingwood tourn., TBA
Brook freshman B boys at South Houston tourn., TBA
Clear Brook freshman A girls at Dobie, 4:30

Saturday, Dec. 5

Clear Brook varsity boys host Clear Creek tourn., TBA
Clear Brook freshman A boys at Kingwood tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity boys at Katy tourn., TBA
Brook freshman B boys at South Houston tourn., TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Clear Brook varsity boys at Dobie, Talton Court, 7:00
Dobie varsity girls at Clear Creek, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity girls host Baytown Sterling, 7:00
Clear Brook JV boys at Dobie, Talton Court, 5:30
Dobie JV girls at Clear Creek, 5:30
Clear Brook JV girls host Baytown Sterling, 5:30
Clear Brook sophomores at Dobie, Talton Court, 4:00
Clear Brook freshman A at Dobie, Talton Court, 5:30
Dobie freshman A girls at Clear Creek, 4:00
Brook freshman A girls host Baytown Sterling, 4:00
Clear Brook freshman B at Dobie, Talton Court, 4:00
Dobie freshman B girls at Clear Creek, 5:30

Wednesday, Dec. 9

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

Thursday, Dec. 10

Clear Brook varsity boys at Alief Outback tourn., TBA
Clear Brook freshman A boys at S. Rayburn tourn., TBA

Friday, Dec. 11

Clear Brook varsity boys at Alief Outback tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity girls at Angleton, 7:00
Clear Brook JV girls at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook freshman A boys at S. Rayburn tourn., TBA

Sagemont-Beverly Hills L.L. champions

Fall ball Aggies win Major/Minor



The Aggies were the champions of the major/minor division during the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League's fall baseball season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Keith Kenney, Tristan Flores, Jacob Izaguirre, Trent Whitehead, Austin Pleasants, (back row) assistant coach Robert Manzanales, Hector Moreno, Julio Vela, Austin Ingalls, Michael Coscarelli, head coach Ignacio Izaguirre and Robbie Manzanales. Not pictured are Aidan Halamai and Alias Arizmendi and assistant coach Chris Pleasants.

Peewee Cougars tops in fall baseball



The Cougars were the champions of the peewee division during the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League's fall baseball season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Vincent Lopez, Ryan Correa, Isaiah Saldivar, Fernando Perez, Aaron Ramirez (middle row) Joseph Castillo, Lucas Rodriguez, Matthew Escalera, Ramiro Moreno, (back row) assistant coaches Robert Castillo and Edgar Ramirez and manager Chris Escalera.

SBHLL machine pitch crown to Coogs



The Cougars were the champions of the machine pitch division during the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League's fall baseball season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Matthew Olivares, Omar Chapa, Hayden Broussard, Colby Thacker, (middle row) Isaac Gil, Nicholas Vega, Jordan Garcia, Coby Riley, Brandon Harris, (back row) assistant coaches Jaime Olivares and Alex Vega, manager Chris Riley and assistant coach Mark Broussard.

Bears capture SBHLL T-Ball fall title



The Bears were the champions of the T-ball division during the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League's fall baseball season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Andrew Salazar, Sergio Trevino, Matthew Mendiola, Jacob Estrada, Nicholas Trevino, Cole Palermo, (middle row) Jordan Coscarelli, Jayla Arenas, Gabriel Padua, Joseph Garcia, Nathan Jass, Matthew Arnesen, (back row) assistant coach Jesse Salazar, manager Roberto Trevino and assistant coach Reynaldo Trevino. Not pictured is Leandro Giles.

Thompson/Beverly Hills hoops after press time

The annual Beverly Hills versus Thompson intermediate basketball series was played Dec. 2 after press time. The four girls' games were played at Beverly Hills, and the four boys' game were played at Thompson. The results will appear in the Dec. 10 issue of the *Leader*. The respective teams will be back in action Dec. 9 as the Thompson girls will play at South Houston, and the Beverly Hills girls will play at Southmore. The Lion boys' teams will host South Houston, and the Beverly Hills boys' teams will host Southmore.

Pasadena ISD Intermediate Schools

Girls Hoops Standings Eighth Grade Light

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

Scores Nov. 18

Beverly Hills 38, Park View 16
San Jacinto 29, Jackson 12
Bondy 42, South Houston 13
Miller 34, Thompson 16
Southmore 33, Queens 17

Boys Hoops Standings Eighth Grade Light

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

Scores Nov. 18

Thompson 48, Miller 45
Park View 33, Beverly Hills 30
San Jacinto 43, Jackson 39
Bondy 42, South Houston 41
Queens 40, Southmore 14

Eighth Grade Dark

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

Scores Nov. 18

San Jacinto 40, Jackson 2
Beverly Hills 48, Park View 25
Queens 25, Southmore 15
Bondy 38, South Houston 16
Miller 33, Thompson 24

Eighth Grade Dark

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

Scores Nov. 18

Thompson 51, Miller 22
Beverly Hills 35, Park View 22
San Jacinto 45, Jackson 14
Bondy 38, South Houston 24
Queens 52, Southmore 30

Seventh Grade Light

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

Scores Nov. 18

Thompson 34, Miller 30
Beverly Hills 29, Park View 24 (OT)
Bondy 40, South Houston 13
Jackson 34, San Jacinto 23
Southmore 29, Queens 27

Seventh Grade Light

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

Scores Nov. 18

Thompson 47, Miller 30
Park View 34, Beverly Hills 30
San Jacinto 38, Jackson 19
South Houston 42, Bondy 35
Southmore 32, Queens 18

Seventh Grade Dark

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

Scores Nov. 18

Miller 26, Thompson 11
Beverly Hills 27, Park View 18
Bondy 36, South Houston 5
San Jacinto 21, Jackson 14
Southmore 28, Queens 22

Seventh Grade Dark

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

Scores Nov. 18

Thompson 42, Miller 29
Beverly Hills 44, Park View 29
San Jacinto 46, Jackson 13
South Houston 34, Bondy 23
Southmore 14, Queens 12

Submitted photos

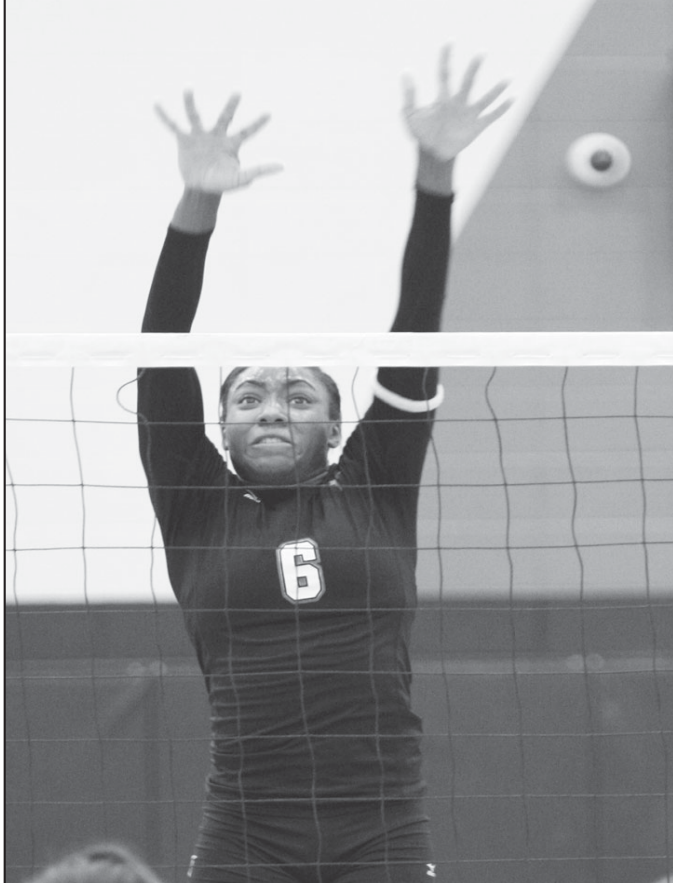
All-district volleyball selections include local heroes

24-5A Honorees
Most Valuable Player
 Logan Borque, Clear Lake Sr.
Newcomer of the Year
 Kiara Wright, Clear Lake Soph.
Coach of the Year
 Chanda Eager, Clear Lake

First Team Picks
 Shelbee Berringer, Dickinson Jr.
 Kelsey Merritt, Dickinson Jr.
 Madeline Gaffney, Clear Creek Sr.
 Ericka Gordon, Clear Creek Sr.
 Jenna Paul, Alvin Soph.
 Amber Abercrombie, Clear Lake Sr.
 Kate Foley, Clear Lake Jr.
 Ashley Power, Clear Lake Sr.
 Alicia Dittrich, Clear Brook Jr.
 Sam Bentley, Clear Brook Sr.
 Caiti O'Connell, Clear Brook Jr.
 Trysta Dionne, Clear Brook Jr.


Other Brook Picks
 Anita Permenter, Soph. – 2nd team
 Crystal Young, Soph. – HM
 Alex Smith, Sr. – HM

Kiara Harris – Dobie



A member of the varsity team for four seasons, Kiara Harris made her way to the 22-5A first team while giving the Lady Longhorns a double threat at the block and on the right side as a hitter. Harris, Dobie's emotional leader, played a huge match as the Lady Longhorns defeated Deer Park in a key first-round matchup in district play.

Andrea Bertrand Dobie



Andrea Bertrand, a senior and second-year varsity team member, battled back from an injury during her junior year to give the Lady Longhorns a big lift from the outside. Dobie got fine contributions from others on the outside, but it was Bertrand who came up with the big shots at the right time.

Playoff squads earn lofty district honors

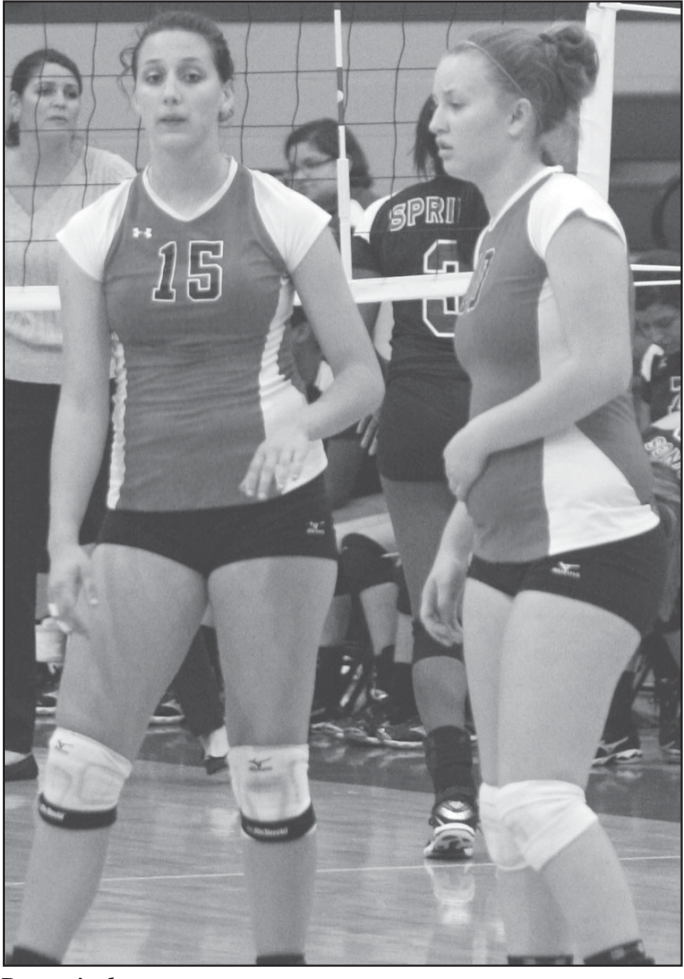
Several players from the Dobie and Clear Brook High School varsity volleyball programs were recognized following the season. Dobie, which finished tied for second place in the District 22-5A standings, had three players – Andrea Bertrand, Kiara Harris and Amanda Nguyen – named to the first team. Second-team honorees from Dobie included seniors Laci Washer and Quynnhu Ngo and junior Katherine Finney. Junior Ashleigh Havid was an honorable mention selection. At Clear Brook, the second place Lady Wolverines had four players on the first team, including senior Sam Bentley and juniors Trysta Dionne, Alicia Dittrich and Caiti O'Connell. The Lady Wolverines' second-team picks included sophomore Anita Permenter.

22-5A Honorees
Most Valuable Player
 Malorie Pardo, Pearland Jr.
 Marissa Collins, Pearland Sr.
Newcomer of the Year
 Haley Mueller, Deer Park Soph.
Coach of the Year
 John Turner, Pearland

First Team Picks
 Malorie Pardo, Pearland Jr.
 Marissa Collins, Pearland Sr.
 Haley Mueller, Deer Park Soph.
 Kalie Young, Pearland Soph.
 Amanda Nguyen, Dobie Sr.
 Kiara Harris, Dobie Sr.
 Andrea Bertrand, Dobie Sr.
 Tyler Jenkins, Deer Park Sr.
 Haley Hoffman, Deer Park Jr.
 Terra Piel, Deer Park Sr.
 Jelisa Evans, La Porte Sr.
 Julian Humphrey, La Porte Jr.
 Amy Fuller, Memorial Soph.


Other Dobie Picks
 Quynnhu Ngo, Sr. – 2nd team
 Laci Washer, Sr – 2nd team
 Katherine Finney, Jr. – 2nd team
 Ashleigh Havid, Jr. – HM

Alicia Dittrich & Sam Bentley – Brook



Dynamic duo – Junior middle blocker Alicia Dittrich (left) and Sam Bentley (setter) formed one of the top 1-2 punches in the District 24-5A ranks over two seasons. The pair were named to the 24-5A first team this season (also in 2008) after leading the Lady Wolverines to their finest seasons ever.

Amanda Nguyen – Dobie



Leader personified Dobie High School's unquestioned leader was senior libero Amanda Nguyen (right), a three-year varsity player who helped guide the Lady Longhorns through plenty of adversity this season en route to a second-place finish. Nguyen, who also stars on the softball field, was also a key defensive presence as Dobie defended its side of the net exceptionally well for much of the season. Off the court, Nguyen is also a first-rate student. While making the first team for the second straight season as a player, she made her way to the 22-5A all-academic team as well.

24-5A All-Academic (Brook)

Samantha Bentley, Sr.
 Trysta Dionne, Jr.
 Alicia Dittrich, Jr.
 Kassi Johnson, Jr.
 Christie Kral, Jr.
 Caiti O'Connell, Jr.
 Gabi Pinto, Sr.
 Alex Smith, Sr.
 Kendra Turley, Jr.

22-5A All-Academic (Dobie)

Kiara Harris, Sr.
 Amanda Nguyen, Sr.

Photos by
John Bechtle

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 3
 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.
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.
 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.
Diabetes Support Group – A support group for young adults with diabetes. All subjects are open for discussion: new technologies, research advances, fears, phobias, dating and other personal matters. Meets the first Thursday of each month at 1315 St. Joseph Parkway #1705, Medical Place One. Contact Dan Steiner, CDE, at 713-756-8536 for more information.
 7 p.m.
The Bay Area Writers League – Meets the first Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble at Bay Area Boulevard and the Gulf Freeway. Newcomers are welcome.
 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, DEC. 4
 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.
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 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.
 8 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre – Opening night for Pasadena Little Theatre's *Sorry, Wrong Chimney* by Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears at 8 p.m. at 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. The show runs through Sunday, Dec. 20. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. Jada August is the director. Make reservations online at pasadenalittletheatre.org or call 713-941-1758.
SATURDAY, DEC. 5
 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.
SUNDAY, DEC. 6
 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.
 7 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre – Auditions for *Exit The Body* by Fred Carmichael are at 7 p.m. at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. Auditions consist of cold readings from the script. Actors needed are five men and five women. Address questions to the director, Janet Sharpley, at actsharp@sbcglobal.net or visit the Web site at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org for more information and character descriptions.
 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 281-286-1431.
MONDAY, DEC. 7
 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 Sagomont 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.
Pasadena Little Theatre – Auditions for *Exit The Body* by Fred Carmichael are at 7 p.m. at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. Auditions consist of cold readings from the script. Actors needed are five men and five women. Address questions to the director, Janet Sharpley, at actsharp@sbcglobal.net or visit the Web site at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org for more information and character descriptions.
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. For information, call Betty Flynn at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.
TUESDAY, DEC. 8
 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.
CCART – The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. They are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 Nasa Parkway in Seabrook near the Landolt Pavilion. All Texas retired school employees from all surrounding school districts are welcome to attend and join this organization. Annual dues are \$35.



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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. \$1,050/Month Plus Equal Deposit. Water, Sewer, Trash Included.
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BEVERLY HILLS: Nice 3 Bedroom Re-built After Fire, New Sheetrock, Cabinets, Granite Counters, with Tile Backsplash, Stairs, Flooring, Air/Heat, Appliances, Double Pane Windows, Hard-Plank On Exterior, New Roof, Fence & More. \$107,500.
BEVERLY HILLS: Remodeled 3-2-2 D Oversized Garage, Fresh Paint In and Out, Ceramic Tile And Laminate Flooring, New Carpet, Nw Appliances, On Large Lot. \$112,500.
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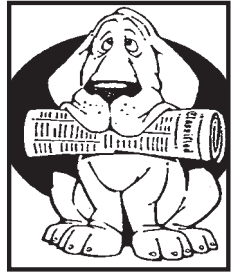
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Garage Sales
 10810 ALDIS: Sat., Dec. 5. 5 Families, clothes, toys, furniture, washer, dryer, knick-knacks, dishes, glassware. 12-3
 10214 SAGEMARK: Fri. & Sat., Dec. 4 & 5, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Furniture - bedrooms, couch/loveeat, entertainment unit. Baseball training videos/books, picture frames, adult clothes, books, videos, lots more. 12-3
 1201 STRAWBERRY: @ Southmore St. in Pasadena. Red Stone Reception Hall, Sat., Dec. 5, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Holiday sale. Toys for Tots sale day, everyone invited. 12-3
 10914 OVERLEA: Fri. & Sat., Dec 4 & 5. Ladies dresses size 8, shoes 7.5, blouses, slacks, coats. Over 250 items on hangers, other misc. & Christmas. 12-3
 9923 SAGEDOWN: Sat., Dec. 5, 7 a.m. till 7 Huger yard sale. Christmas decorations, Avon ornaments & gifts. Household items, clothing, fishing equipment, tools, books, free standing ice-maker, much more. 12-3

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 FOR LEASE: Beverly Hills, clean 4-2-2 w/appliances & fancy art. \$850/month & equal deposit. 1 year lease. Call 210-435-9414. 12-3
 FOR SALE: Sagemont, 3-2-2 w/ pool. New roof, carpet, flooring, master bath, fencing, fresh paint, ceiling fans. Ready for move-in. \$109,995. No owner finance. Owner/Agent 832-754-4820. 12-10

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- BEVERLY HILLS** - Lovely 3-2-2, 2 Story, Ceramic Tile, Formal Living, Covered Patio! #HOFF
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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

10 a.m.
American Begonia Society - Meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Town Square Community Room. For more information, call 713-946-4237 or 713-941-7158.

10:30 a.m.
Tri-County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month except June and July at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland. A luncheon is available. To make reservations, call 281-484-8083.

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.
Green Thumb Series - The Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 offers free evening gardening lectures the second Tuesday of each month at the Bass Pro Shops, Hwy. 288 @ the Sam Houston Tollway. Programs will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Visit the Web site for a list of topics and location at www.hcmgap2.tamu.edu or call 281-991-8437.

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 Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

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.

Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For more information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

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, DEC. 9
 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 mlynnperez2002@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.

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.

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.

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Additional Service Ads on page 4B



In top photo, the Scott Talton Court signature logo is in place for all to see in Dobie High School's main gymnasium, now officially named in honor of Talton, who won 500 career games as the Longhorns' varsity boys' basketball coach before retiring two seasons ago. Above, a display at the gymnasium entrance allowed fans a glimpse into the life of Talton, who died un-

expectedly in February. During his stay at Dobie, Talton mentored current staff members and former Longhorn players including current varsity head coach Kevin Cross, varsity assistant Steven Cross, junior varsity coach Charles Washington and freshman coach Shaun Stanton.

Photos by John Bechtle

Scott E. Talton Memorial Game a winner

Continued from Page 1B

The entire evening was special. Langham Creek, coming off one of its finest seasons in school history in 2008-2009, earned a good pre-district victory.

Ament, the Lobos' head coach, won for the first time on his former coach's floor.

Dobie, even in losing, played well. Cross, who succeeded Talton as the Longhorns' leader, is well on his way to continuing the tradition at Dobie — play hard for 32 minutes and do it the Longhorn way.

So the Talton legacy will live on — as might an annual Ament/Cross duel.

Langham Creek varsity boys basketball coach Charles Ament (left), a 1993 Dobie High School graduate, greeted Dobie head coach Kevin Cross, a 1990 Dobie graduate, prior to tip-off.



Dobie's DeLeon attends soccer showcase



Dobie High School senior girls' soccer player Chelsea DeLeon (left) played for the Southwest Soccer Club during the College Showcase in Richardson, Texas, as players in the class of 2010 displayed their skills for collegiate scouts and coaches. DeLeon excelled as her team won three of its four games in the event. The four-year varsity letterman is now in pre-season workouts along with the rest of the Dobie Lady Longhorns' varsity soccer team. In 2009, the Lady Longhorns advanced to the area round of the playoffs. DeLeon was later named to the all-District 22-5A first team.

Submitted photo

Dobie's Talton Court named

Continued from Page 1B

right way. So many of us have grown from that." Army Sgt. 1st Class Zultan Jackson, a 1986 Dobie graduate, could not attend, but he delivered his thoughts in an e-mail to the *Leader*.

"To me, he was the best coach I ever had the pleasure to play under, and that

was any sport period," Jackson wrote.

"He brought out the best in the ones who valued his teachings. I will never ever forget THE COACH!"

"I loved him like a second dad when I was in school. He pushed the ones that he knew in his heart needed the push, because he saw something in them that they

probably didn't see. On a personal level, he was a family man...a loving husband to a wonderful woman and beautiful kids who I had the pleasure to see on occasion.

"I know it will be a very special occasion (Talton dedication). He will definitely be missed. Love you coach Talton."

Brook boys' basketball to host CCISD Classic

Continued from Page 1B

Clear Brook is one of the four host high schools for the classic.

The 16-team tournament will include Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Lake, Clear Springs, Crenshaw (Calif.), La Porte, Texas City, Santa Fe, Connelly,

Cypress Woods, Waller, La Marque, Tuloso Midway, Deer Park, Pasadena Memorial and Houston Reagan.

The championship game is set for Dec. 5 at Clear Springs beginning at 2 p.m. The consolation game is Dec. 5 at Brook at 2 p.m.

Hoops roundup: CB teams split; JFD girls fall

The Clear Brook varsity basketball team won its second straight game, tripping Pearlland Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, the Dobie Lady Longhorns and the varsity girls from Clear Brook didn't fare as well, with Dobie falling to Klein Collins in a back-and-forth battle and Clear Brook losing at Angleton.

CB boys move to 3-1

Reeling from a triple overtime loss to Dekaney during the Thanksgiving holiday, the Clear Brook varsity boys got a feel-good win, tripping Pearlland 50-43 as Fred Richardson led the way with 14 points.

Darren Smith also had 10 points for Clear Brook (3-1), which will play Pasadena Memorial Dec. 3 in the Clear Creek Independent School District tournament.

Brook girls slide

Angleton battled back from a 12-point deficit, downing Clear Brook 45-40 in varsity girls' action in Angleton. The loss dropped the Lady Wolverines to 8-4

this season.

Lady Horns downed

Klein Collins used a series of runs to down Dobie 73-57 Dec. 1. Tavaceia Davis led the Lady Longhorns with 15 points.

Dobie boys' hoops to Katy tourney

The Dobie High School varsity boys' basketball team will be one of 24 teams in the Katy Independent School District tournament Dec. 3-5.

The Longhorns, currently 5-3 this season, will take on Kempner and Cinco Ranch in round robin action Dec. 3.

Dobie's first game comes against Kempner at Cinco Ranch High School, begin-

ning at 10 a.m. The locals will then take on Cinco Ranch at Cinco Ranch High School, starting at 2 p.m.

The Katy tournament is the second of three for the Longhorns, who will also take part in the Alvin Lions Club tournament Dec. 28-30.

In the team's first tournament, the McDonald's Texas Invitational, the Longhorns won three of five games.



Stephanie Gonzalez (15), a senior guard for the Clear Brook Lady Wolverines, is just one of the many players who have contributed greatly to a solid start to this point in the season. Heading into the team's Dec. 4 game at Dobie, Clear Brook has won eight of its first 12 games this season.

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