

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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JFD has percussion concert

The J. Frank Dobie Band will have an all-percussion concert Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. It is free to the public; however, donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit Dobie percussion.

Church blood drives Feb. 19

St. Luke the Evangelist

There will be a blood drive at St. Luke the Evangelist Social Hall, 11011 Hall Road, Sunday, Feb. 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is hosting the drive.

St. Frances Cabrini

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsok, will host a blood drive, Sunday, Feb. 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Francesca Hall. For information, call Richard Perales, 713-946-1223 or Jose Pena 832-638-8391.

Community members are asked to donate and help save lives in the community.

Sagemont Park to meet

Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association will hold a homeowner meeting Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Items on the agenda include deed restrictions and violations and community improvement issues and actions. This meeting is open for all Sagemont Park homeowners and residents.

Beltway 8 CPC fundraiser

Whitney & Shannon will take center stage at the annual Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center fundraiser. The duo were participants on the 11th season of "The Voice," where they earned chair turns from all four coaches. The video of this performance has been seen more than 3 million times at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnkFPB9stlM. Their parents were traveling missionaries.

The event is Friday, Feb. 17, at Grace Community Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway. The evening includes a silent auction beginning at 5:30 p.m. and a banquet from 7 to 9:15 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center serving South Belt, Pearland, Ellington, Friendswood and Clear Lake women in unplanned pregnancies. The banquet is a way to celebrate a choice for life, since the pregnancy center offers its clients a safe haven, respect, kindness and unconditional love. Visit www.LifelineCPC.org (click "Love for Life Banquet" at the bottom of any page) to make reservations or get information. On the banquet page, click program: information, for details.

School start time meeting

StartSchoolLater.net will hold an informational meeting about teen chronic sleep deprivation and how it affects the community Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Parker Williams Public Library, Meeting Room E, at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. For information, email yenrabe@yahoo.com or call 281-229-1409.

Scouts offer Venturing

The Boy Scouts of America are searching for young males and females interested in joining its Venturing program. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults, with an emphasis in adventure, leadership, personal growth and service. Participants must be between 14 years of age (or 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade) and 21 years of age. To learn more about Venturing, visit St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Room 5, on Friday, Feb. 24, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, call Robert Mendoza at 281-481-4246.

Library seeks donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale, is currently seeking donations of gently used fiction and nonfiction books. There is a particular need for adult softbacks (pocketbooks) and all children books. CDs and DVDs are also being sought.

Free self-defense offered

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes, on Fridays through May 26, beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

PIP meets Feb. 21

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the staff meeting room on the first floor. Guest speaker will be Houston Police Department Officer Javier Leon, who will speak on crime scene investigations. PIP consists of police and citizens working for safer neighborhoods. For information, call HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1777.

Proposed apartment complex put on hold

By James Bolen

Following community outcry, a Council vote on whether or not to move forward with a proposed subsidized apartment complex in the South Belt community has been placed on hold for a week while city officials review the development.

The delay in the vote was a result of input from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, along with City Council members Dwight Boykins and Dave Martin, who all seemed receptive to resident concerns expressed at a private meeting held at City Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

If approved The Kirkway would be located on

the north side of Beltway 8 between Beamer and Sabo. The facility would cater to seniors only.

The complex is one of two such developments out of six that were initially proposed for the South Belt area that are still in consideration by city officials, whose recommendations carry significant weight. The second complex, Stonebrook Manor, would be located at the southeast corner of the Gulf Freeway and Kurland Drive near Fuqua.

The Kirkway development was originally scheduled to go before City Council for approval Wednesday, Feb. 15, but was red-tagged for the following week after being met with fierce oppo-

sition from multiple community groups.

Opposing the development are the Kirkwood Civic Club (the closest subdivision to the proposed complex), the Sagemont Civic Club, the Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the *Leader*.

While the same groups have been opposed to similar family projects in the past, citing the high concentration of existing subsidized complexes already in the community, they have generally been supportive of senior-only facilities. In fact, the same groups have thrown their support behind the Stonebrook Manor (located roughly one

mile away), which would also cater specifically to senior citizens. The organizations also supported the senior-only Heritage Pointe complex on Almeda Genoa near Gulf Palms (located 1.7 miles away from proposed Kirkway complex), but that development has been withdrawn from city consideration, as have three others, including one near Almeda Mall and two across from the future Dobie ninth-grade campus near Fuqua and Monroe.

Critics of the Kirkway development contend its proposed location and proximity to Beltway 8 pose a potential safety threat to its senior inhabitants.

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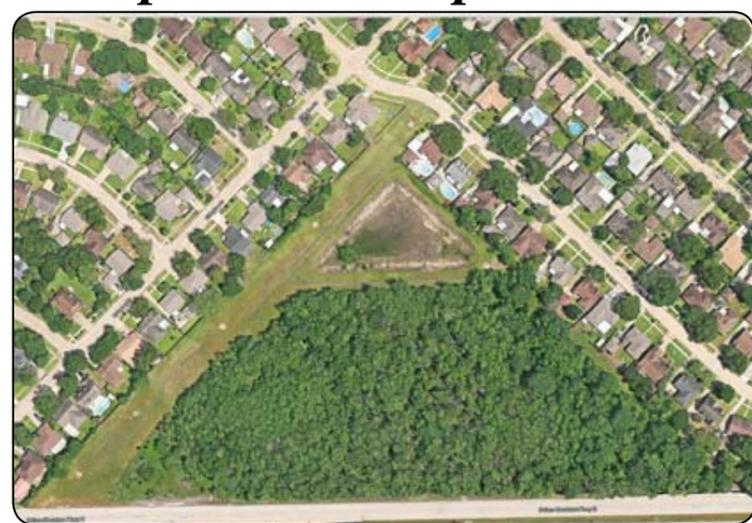
Martin, Boykins greet residents



Houston City Council members Dave Martin and Dwight Boykins (third and fifth from the left, respectively) met with South Belt community leaders Tuesday, Feb. 14, at City Hall to discuss the proposed development of The Kirkway apartment complex. Shown above with the pair are, left to right, Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association President Wayne Hanks, Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon, *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger, Richard Berlitz (Sagemont Park), Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour and John McCrutchon.

Photo by Jordan McGinty

Proposed development site



The above triangular patch of land on the north side of Beltway 8 between Beamer and Sabo is being considered as a potential site for a government-subsidized apartment complex. The property is bordered by Kirkglan Drive to the west and Kirkway Drive to the east. The proposed development, which would cater to senior citizens only, has been met with opposition from many in the South Belt community, who see the project's location as a possible hazard to its elderly inhabitants. City officials are scheduled to visit the site Friday, Feb. 17, before voting on the proposal next week.

Photo courtesy of Apple Maps

CCISD approves \$487 million bond election

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees has called for a \$487 million bond election to take place Saturday, May 6.

If approved by voters, the bond program would allow the district to build new schools or permanently increase the capacity of existing schools due to overcrowding; rebuild or renovate schools between 40 and 50 years old; repair or replace elementary playgrounds; purchase new school buses; and expand the district's science magnet program for intermediate students to a second location.

"Thank you to everyone who served on the committee and gave much of their time and effort to bring this proposal forward to the community," said Dr. Laura DuPont, CCISD board president. "The committee incorporated public input and presented a plan to accommodate enrollment growth and maintain schools for the next five years as we asked them to."

The unanimous vote on Monday, Feb. 13, capped a community-driven effort to analyze and prioritize the school district's \$1.2 billion in facility and capital needs. Prior to taking action, the school board further reduced the CCISD Facility Advisory Committee's \$494 million recommendation to \$487 million. If approved, the bond would result in a \$0.035 tax rate increase. This would equate to a \$5.47 per month increase for a homeowner of a median home valued at \$223,635.

"Clear Creek ISD is a destination for families in search of a quality education," said Dr. Greg Smith, CCISD superintendent of schools. "I thank those who have been actively involved in this process."

Dobie to honor alumni, faculty

Dobie High School will hold its fifth annual Hall of Honor induction ceremony Friday, Feb. 24, in the school auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.

Inductees include four alumni and one faculty member.

Distinguished alumni include pediatrician, Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox (Class of 1977), U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Commander Jonathan Carter (Class of 1995), Houston Rockets executive, Gersson Rosas (Class of 1996) and coffee shop entrepreneur, David Buehrer (Class of 2002).

Former Dobie tennis coach Bobby Kramer is the lone faculty member to be recognized.

The new group of inductees will bring the total number of alumni, former faculty members and community volunteers who have been selected for the Hall of Honor to 40. A reception will follow the ceremony in the school food court. The event is free and open to the public.

Contents of the school bond package were prioritized by a 30-member facility committee consisting of parents, local citizens, business leaders and educators. Over the course of several months, the Citizens Facility Advisory Committee studied a district-wide facility assessment, enrollment projections, and district financial information as well as toured schools. The committee used this information and input from the public to finalize its recommendation.

The proposed bond will touch the majority of CCISD facilities in some capacity. The proposed bond will address:

Schools for growth: \$72.9 Million

Clear Creek ISD's student enrollment was at nearly 42,000 students in 2016. Third-party projections have the district growing an additional 2,100 students by 2021. Currently, ten elementary schools and four intermediate schools are at, or over, instructional capacity.

- Build the district's 27th elementary school along Highway 96 in League City
- Remove portables and replace them with permanent additions at Stewart Elementary, Creekside Intermediate and Clear Lake Intermediate

Aging schools and repairs: \$333.4 Million

Six schools in the district are more than 50 years old and two are more than 40 years old. This bond proposal would allow for two school rebuilds and significant renovations and technology upgrades to six. Forty schools and CCISD facilities would receive priority repairs.

- Rebuild of League City Elementary ('60) and Clear View High School ('39)
- Major renovations and site improvements to Clear Lake City Elementary ('65), Ed White Elementary ('65), Ross Elementary ('65), Whitcomb Elementary ('67), Hall Elementary ('79), and Landolt Elementary ('79)

- Major renovations and site improvements at Main Bus Transportation Center ('69)
- Thirty-nine CCISD schools and facilities would receive priority repairs

Safety improvements: \$20.8 Million

The bond proposal would address playground safety, upgrade security cameras, and replace school buses that are between 15-25 years old.

- Replace 75 school buses with more than 200,000 miles
- Fund an elementary playground replacement and repair program
- Replace analog with digital surveillance cameras and intrusion detection equipment
- Reconfigure areas of Armand Bayou Elementary

Student programs: \$23.1 Million

Every year, 200 intermediate school students are turned away from the district's science magnet program at Seabrook Intermediate due to space limitations. This bond would allow the district to open a second site. The bond proposal

would also include additions and equipment replacements for certain programs.

- Science labs and classrooms at Brookside Intermediate for a second science magnet
- Fine Arts expansions and renovations at Clear Creek High School, Clear Creek Intermediate, League City Intermediate and Space Center Intermediate
- Music instrument replacement and equipment for fine arts and athletics

Technology: \$31.8 Million

The following improvements are proposed to

maintain the district's technology systems:

- Upgrade network and server equipment
- Replace teacher computers and student computer labs
- Purchase and install ceiling mounted projectors for classrooms
- Replace district telephone system

*Note: The \$487 million referendum includes 1 percent for project management and bond issuance costs.

Visit www.ccisd.net/bond2017 for more information.

Chamber banquet set for Feb. 23

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet Thursday, Feb. 23, at Golfcrest Country Club, located at 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland, from 6 - 10 p.m.

Now in its 33rd year, the function will feature a Mardis Gras theme.

All incoming board members, as well as the 2017 chamber president, will officially be sworn in at the event.

The chamber member of the year and volunteer of the year will also be honored.

Newly elected Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis will serve as guest speaker at the event.

Individual tickets are \$50 each. Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$600 to \$1,000.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact chamber President Kay Barbour at 281-481-5516 or info@southbeltchamber.com.

County to install Frazier sidewalks

Harris County Commissioners Court recently awarded nearly \$162,000 to a contractor to install sidewalks and pedestrian ramps near seven schools selected in Precinct One's Safe Routes to School Program.

The program will affect campuses in four school districts - Houston, Spring, Aldine and Pasadena. In all, 23 schools are scheduled for sidewalk construction, including Frazier Elementary.

While the meeting will focus on various capital improvement projects, presentations will also be given by representatives from the city's Public Works and Engineering and Parks and Recreation departments, and a representative from the Houston Police Department will also give a presentation on the panhandling issue in the South Belt area.

The city's Chief Resilience Officer Stephen Costello will also provide a storm surge update. For more information, contact Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or districtc@houstontx.gov.

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Martin to hold town hall meeting

Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin will hold a town hall meeting Thursday, Feb. 16, at Space Center Houston, 1601 NASA Road 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

While the meeting will focus on various capital improvement projects, presentations will also be given by representatives from the city's Public Works and Engineering and Parks and Recreation departments, and a representative from the Houston Police Department will also give a presentation on the panhandling issue in the South Belt area.

Gulf Freeway closures scheduled

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Tuesday, Feb. 28.

At least two northbound and two southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to

FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Alternate exit/entrance ramps will be closed.

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

In My Opinion

Muecke explains requirements to vote

Ms. Abernathy, I cannot agree with you more, right now is the time to register if you are not registered. Remember to do so you have to be a legal American citizen with a birth certificate, a picture ID and 18 years or older. Also, if you became a legal American citizen, you have to provide that documentation. A photo ID is needed to cash a check, fly on an aircraft, enter certain buildings and many other legal transactions. You can get another form of photo ID other than a driver's license but you have to also provide all this identification.

You mention a number of issues why it is important to vote. You have to remember that President Trump now has been in office only 3 weeks, no way do we know exactly where he will lead us. Yes he has a different type of leadership, but that is what the people voted for. They clearly see how the Washington establishment is looking out for their own good, not those of the people. Maybe this is the change we need. You mention a number of items you have issues with. Most of the information you quote is conjecture, gotten from the news media, your friends or some other sources. It may not be correct. Lets not even get to Obamacare.

You call yourself one of the majority that did not vote for him. That is fine, our founding fathers understood the ramifications of large cities electing the representatives over those that lived in smaller communities. So these wise men instead voted for the electoral college to select the President. That is the - We The People clause that elects the President. Also, remember in every election there is a winner and a loser. You will have a chance to change this in 4 years if your still unhappy.

I want to add about illegal voting and fraud. Many young people do not know this and were never taught this. Illegal voting happened in 1948 when- Lyndon B. Johnson, a future President, was running for a Federal Representative seat. How did he win. It was box 13, Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas. Box 13 was the local cemetery and they put him over the top. So that is why the photo ID is so important. I do want to thank you for expressing your opinion, more people should do so.

Jim Muecke

Jackson advocates: no fear, do all we can

It would be inaccurate to say there were no terrorist attacks within the U.S. prior to 9/11, but we didn't panic and become suspicious of our neighbors regardless of who they were. Following 9/11 we did become more aware and cautious.

Senior apartments . . .

Continued from Page 1A
tants, who would be forced to walk along the busy beltway frontage road, which is currently lacking portions of sidewalk.

Conversely, the proposed Stonebrook Manor complex would be located immediately adjacent to the METRO South Point Park & Ride on Kurland, making transportation easier and safer for senior residents.

Added traffic is a second concern, as the beltway feeder road routinely backs up throughout the day. An entrance to the Kirkwood subdivision at Beltway 8 and Kirkglenn was permanently sealed off a few years back following multiple automobile accidents at the intersection, including one in which a car drove through a residence.

"We love our seniors, and we just want what's best for them," said *Leader* publisher South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce

Dobie Lady Longhorn boosters plan bingo night

The Dobie Lady Longhorns Booster Club, the official booster organization of the school-based soccer program is scheduling its bingo fundraiser in order to raise funds for costs associated with the soccer program.

An old-fashioned bingo will be held Saturday, March 4 at Dobie High School. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and bingo games will run from 6 - 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through a Dobie soccer player or a booster club member. The event serves as one of the primary fundraisers to help cover costs associated with the Dobie soccer program throughout the school year. For more information, direct email to jfdgirlessoccer@gmail.com.

The booster club is now accepting applications for vendors to show their goods at the third annual bingo night. Vendor booth fee is \$50 each. For more information send an email to jfdgirlessoccer@gmail.com.

Care Partners meet Feb. 17

Interfaith Care Partners Ministry group at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsok St. (near Alameda Mall), a gathering for persons with Alzheimer's, dementia or memory loss, meets the third Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Gatherings consist of a continental breakfast, arts and crafts, exercises, entertainment, a singalong, a devotional break, lunch, and ends with a game. Those who have a family member or know of someone with these challenges, are welcome to attend. All services are provided free of charge. An initial interview must be conducted by Interfaith Care Partners staff to welcome new participants into this program.

The next gathering will be held in the Mother Cabrini Center at the church on Friday, Feb. 17.

For more information or to register a loved one, call Interfaith Care Partners at 713-682-5995 or visit the website at www.interfaithcarepartners.org.

Harris County Master Gardeners host events

Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 will host the following activities in February which are open to the public:

Saturday, Feb. 18 - Harris County Master Gardeners will hold its fruit tree and tomato sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Campbell Hall at the Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Road in Pasadena.

Plant preview is at 8 a.m. For more information on these or other HCGMA events, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Monday, Feb. 20 - Open Garden Day with Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 from 8:30 - 11 a.m. at the Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road in Houston. Master Gardeners will also be available to answer any gardening questions. Plants will be for sale in the greenhouse.

Elected officials share their words

Congressman Ted Cruz

on revoking citizenship of those trying to join terrorists

Sen. Ted Cruz is renewing a push for Congress to pass legislation that would revoke the citizenship of any American who tries to join the Islamic State or other terrorist groups. Cruz thinks banning people from terrorist-stricken countries from entering the U.S. only deals with half of the problem, and that the federal government also needs to worry about U.S. citizens who may try the same thing.

"If an American citizen travels abroad and joins a terrorist group waging jihad on America, attempting to murder innocent Americans, this legislation would strip that individual of their U.S. citizenship, so that we would not have terrorists returning to America using U.S. passports," Cruz told the Washington Examiner.

Hundreds of Americans have tried to join the Islamic State in recent years, according to Cruz. He said another 124 U.S. citizens or green card holders have traveled overseas to join other jihadist groups in the years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "This

should be an idea that even Senate Democrats can support given that Hillary Clinton, when she was in the Senate, supported very similar legislation," he said.

Previous iterations of the bill have drawn opposition from some civil libertarians, who worry it would give the federal government expanded powers to revoke citizenship without due process. Under Cruz's bill, anyone who lost their citizenship over alleged terrorist ties would have 60 days to request a due process hearing to challenge the decision.

"The awesome and horrible power of being able to take away the citizenship of an American citizen would be turned over to an unnamed bureaucrat," Christopher Anders, senior legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington legislative office, told USA Today last year. "It's a highly un-constitutional bill. If it were to become law, I'm sure the Supreme Court would not let it stand."

Cruz's team maintains

that's unfair, because his bill — which is being introduced in the House by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa — uses the same process to revoke citizenship from terrorists that the government has used since 1926 to revoke citizenship from Americans who join foreign armies at war with the United States.

"This legislation is a common sense step to recognize that people can [wage] war against America in more ways than one," he said. "You don't need to be a member of a nation-state military to be a terrorist at war with America."

Trump's presence in the Oval Office could increase the odds that the legislation passes this Congress. Additionally, a former Cruz staffer, Victoria Coates, now works for the White House National Security Council.

"Our office is conferring on a daily basis with the White House and new administration on this matter and a host of other matters as we work together to deliver on the promises made to the American people," Cruz said.

Congressman Gene Green proposes amendment

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Congressman Gene Green introduced a joint resolution, H.J.Res.65, the Every Vote Counts Amendment, in the U.S. House of Representatives to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and require the President and Vice President be directly elected by the people.

"Every important elected office in America today is chosen directly by the people, except the President. The 2000 and 2016 elections have shown us that the Electoral College system is failing, undermining our nation's basic principles of democracy and equality," said Green.

"One of the hallmarks of American democracy is its ability to adapt and respond to the people," remarked Green.

"Over 100 years ago, the Constitution was amended to require U.S. senators be directly elected by the voting public in response to concerns similar to the Electoral College today. It is time for Congress and the states to get to work and give the power back to the American people."

The Electoral College was created in the 18th century when communications were poor, literacy was low, and voters lacked information about out-of-state candidates. Section 3

of the Every Vote Counts Amendment reads: "The persons having the greatest number of votes for President and Vice President shall be elected."

The Every Vote Counts Amendment was introduced with 21 original cosponsors:

Democrats Brendan Boyle, Julia Brownley, David Cicilline, Yvette Clarke, Steve Cohen, Joe Courtney, Peter DeFazio, Keith Ellison, Adriano Espaillat, John Garamendi, Al Green, Jared Huffman, Ted Lieu, James McGovern, Mark Pocan, Jan Schakowsky, Jose Serrano, Brad Sherman, Eric Swalwell, Juan Vargas and Filemon Vela.

Perez serves on Special Purpose districts, House Appropriations

Committee assignments for 85th Legislative Session were finalized, with Rep. Mary Ann Perez being selected for the House Committee on Appropriations as well as being selected as vice-chair of the House Committee on Special Purpose Districts. Perez is well accustomed to the rigors of the demanding committee schedule and looks forward to getting work done.

With a reduced budget and the numerous challenges that accompany living in a constantly growing state, lawmakers will have to prioritize sound policies that avoid waste, but at the same time, meet the needs of Texas citizens. With respect to the budget, this means ensuring that public education and other important services are properly funded. Perez is optimistic that she can work across the aisle

to help craft an appropriations bill that works for all Texans.

"I am proud to serve on the House Committee on Appropriations, especially with funding being one of the most important issues this session," Perez added. "I am also looking forward to working with Chairman Zerwas, as well as the other committee members."

Similarly, she looks forward to serving as vice-chair of the House Committee on Special Purpose Districts.

Special purpose districts are indispensable tools at lawmakers' disposal to help manage the diversity of local needs across the state.

Perez hopes to make strides this year by supporting legislation that has a positive impact on the day-to-day lives of hardworking Texans.

The Sandra Bland Act presented by State Rep. Garnett Coleman

The Sandra Bland Act
I am introducing the Sandra Bland Act in memory of Sandra Bland, and to address the harmful policies that ultimately led to her tragic death. The Sandra Bland Act aims to improve our criminal justice system and prevent future tragedies. The Act's goal is to decrease racial disparities in traffic stops and searches, strengthen Texas' Racial Discrimination law, and increase the use of personal recognizance bonds—just to name a few of the important policies in the Act. Issues regarding pretrial diversion for individuals suffering from a mental health crisis who do not need to be in jail, the constitutionality of equal protection claims, de-escalation tactics, and diversion before booking for those pulled over for nonviolent offenses will all be addressed in The Sandra Bland Act. The goal is that The Sandra Bland Act combined with a focus on building relationships between law enforcement and citizens will be able to make Texas safer for everyone.

Pre-Booking Diversion
Pre-booking diversion needs to be increased. Often law enforcement is dealing with individuals whose mental health or addiction is causing them to run afoul of the law. Diverting people suffering from mental illness to places that can help connect them to resources for treatment is better than taking them to jail where they will either deteriorate further or bail out just to end up back in jail the next time they have a crisis. Additionally, diverting individuals by not arresting them for fine-only offenses is another effective way to prevent strain on our law enforcement and jails.

Personal Recognizance (PR) Bonds
Sandra Bland, like many in Texas, was unnecessarily jailed. Over-jailing not only hurts the individual incarcerated, but is a financial burden on taxpayers. To help alleviate this, the Act aims to increase the use of personal recognizance bonds by making PR bonds the presumption when setting bail for all non-violent misdemeanor arrests. This is not only the right thing to do but it is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Law Enforcement Training
The Sandra Bland Act aims to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to provide additional training for law enforcement who

need it and punish officers who repeatedly racially profile. Part of that will also include making the complaint system more robust and transparent. To avoid some of these problems altogether the Act will attempt to prevent the use of consent searches. Policies aimed at stopping pre-textual and investigatory stops will also be included in the Sandra Bland Act.

De-escalation Tactics
The Sandra Bland Act aims to increase and improve the use of de-escalation tactics in Texas by ensuring that law enforcement officers receive more evidence-based de-escalation training—not only during their initial training, but also as part of their continuing education. In addition to training, the approach of law enforcement should also shift to a guardian focused approach, where de-escalation is the primary approach in all public interactions.

Funding of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards
The County Affairs Committee that I chair, exercised its oversight capacity during the interim over the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to improve the suicide screening form that is used during booking. But more still needs to be done. Texas needs to evaluate the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to determine if it has the resources and structure to provide sufficient oversight, regulation, and enforcement over Texas county jails. The Sandra Bland Act if passed will create a grant program that will provide funding to county jails to improve safety. The measures county jails can use to improve safety under this program can include, but are not limited to increasing telemedicine services, onsite medical professionals, and automated electronic sensors to ensure accurate and timely cell checks are occurring. Additional funding is also needed for the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to ensure the over 200 County jails in Texas are safe and up to standard.

Ultimately, the Sandra Bland Act will aim to enhance our pre-trial criminal justice system and prevent tragedies like what happened to Sandra Bland. These policies are truly the effort of the work of many who have come to share their ideas with the County Affairs committee.

Death

Mozelle Bray



Former South Belt resident Mozelle Bray, 90, of Houston, died on Friday, Feb.

10, 2017, following a brief illness and complications from Alzheimer's.

She and her twin sister Vernell were born on Nov. 13, 1926, in Cleburne, Texas, to Mary Inez Raines. Mozelle graduated from Milby High School in Houston in 1946. Mozelle and Vernell were always known as "the twins" and they shared an amazingly close bond to one another their entire lives and they have lived together the past twelve years.

Mozelle married Gerald Bray on Dec. 24, 1946. Her greatest mission in life was providing comfort and care to her loved ones and she showed them the value of faith and family. Mozelle vol-

unteered through "Ladies of Yellow" at Ben Taub Hospital in the pediatric unit during the 1960s.

Mozelle is preceded in death by her husband; grandson Darren Bray; mother; and sister Marguerite White.

She is survived by her son Ronnie Bray and wife Linda; daughters Beverly Cook and Shirley LeBlanc; grandchildren Todd Bray and Traci Bray, all of Houston; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mozelle believed strongly in the Lord and was always happiest when worshipping on Sundays and Wednesdays at Sagemont Church.

Visitation was Feb. 14, 2017, at South Park Funeral Home. Funeral Services were held Wednesday, Feb. 15, at South Park Funeral Home. Burial was at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

50+ singles will meet

New Directions is a singles group for those 50 years of age and older.

Meetings are on the first and third Mondays at the Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway, at 6 p.m.

The meetings will include a potluck dinner and may include guest speakers and/or group activities.

For more information, call Margarita 832-715-9658.

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.

Triad meets at Jobe

There is a Triad meeting scheduled Monday, Feb. 20, at 10:30 a.m. at Madison Jobe Senior Center in Pasadena.

At the meeting information will be given on how to avoid identity theft, scams,

fraud and elder abuse with the program "Investigate before you Invest."

Free refreshments will be provided.

Contact 713-477-0175 for more information.

Congratulations to Scarberry family

Congratulations are sent to South Belt residents and proud grandparents Janie and Robert Scarberry on the birth of their newest granddaughter, Lilian Margaret Scarberry. Lily was born on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 8:52 p.m. at Fort Belvoir Army Base in Virginia. Lily weighed 5 pounds, 14 ounces. Welcoming her are proud parents Austin and Tiffany Scarberry and big sister, Jade. Austin, a 2007 Dobie High School graduate, is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. Jannie is a long-time employee of *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

Member of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page, Tracie Sjogren offers to pick up and deliver donations to the Pasadena Animal Shelter for those who can't. The shelter is in need of dog food, cat food, cat litter and newspaper. In addition to donating goods to the shelter, Sjogren also asks for pet supply coupon donations to help save money, when donating the supplies to the shelter.

For more information on donating, contact Tracie Sjogren at tsjogren68@sbcglobal.net or visit the *Southbelt This & That* Facebook page.

The Kirkwood Civic Club will be holding a community meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sagemont Park Community Center,

11507 Hughes Road.

Harris County's Precinct 2 has introduced an app, "Crime Stoppers Houston Mobile," to report any crimes in the area to keep Houston safe. This app is available to download in the app store. Tips may also be reported by texting TIPI10 in addition to the tip being reported to CRIMES (274637).

For additional information, visit the *South belt & Sagemont area crime alert* Facebook page.

A member of the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page attended a meeting with local community leaders, Kroger officials, local law enforcement representatives and the tenants of the Kroger property.

During the meeting, Kroger officials discussed

having more security in the area such as establishing a designated parking space for police officers, a police surveillance tower in the Kroger parking lot and speed bumps to help mitigate the crimes that have been committed at their store.

Kroger officials have also mentioned the addition of more signs in the parking lot to help customers be more aware of the need to be safe and act diligently.

Kroger has already begun with the addition of speed bumps in the parking lot.

For additional information on the meeting in regards to ways to enhance the security and safety at Kroger near Beltway 8 at Sabo, visit the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page.

Houston City council approves contract for permitting website

Houston City Council approved a contract for website development services that will transform the way residents, businesses and the building community navigate the City of Houston's permitting process.

The new Houston Permitting Center's website estimated to launch in one year, will feature a wizard that automatically customizes permitting requirements based on answers to a series of questions provided by the customer. The dynamic decision engine powering the wizard will quickly exclude irrelevant permit categories, ensuring a personalized user experience. The new website will also consolidate each department's permitting pages and repackage the information in

a way that is functional to the customer based on needs — i.e. opening a business and remodeling a house. Other functions of the enhanced online experience will include comprehensive customer support, keyword search, simple online application forms and electronic signatures. Following the implementation of improvements such as electronic plan review, online appointment scheduling and mobile queuing, the website redesign is the latest step in a continuous effort to streamline the City's permitting process and improve customer service.

The \$4.1 million contract with Woolpert, Inc. includes initial research, website design, content management system devel-

opment, wizard configuration and system maintenance over a three-year period, with two optional one-year renewals.

"Providing the best customer service we can to help the community is part of our Mission, Vision and Values. This new tool will be a great resource to help our building partners better navigate the multi-departmental permitting process," said Dale Rudick, director of the Department of Public Works and Engineering, which manages the Houston Permitting Center.

Individuals with residential, business or construction permit questions are encouraged to email houston.permittingcenter@houstontx.gov or call 832-394-9000.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

SJC to host climate change debate

Col. Walter Cunningham, Apollo 7 pilot and Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Houston Museum of Natural Science anthropology curator will be featured guest debaters in the San Jacinto College Lyceum Committee's debate event, "Climate Change: Are We in Danger?" Thursday, Feb. 23.

Cunningham began his career as a U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot and was selected as an astronaut in 1963. In 1968 he served as the pilot for NASA's Apollo 7 spaceflight mission, the longest and most successful first test flight of any new flying machine.

Since then he has seen success with his own venture capital firm and as a writer, authoring the book "The All-American Boys" about the American space program. He has also been involved with energy and environmental issues since 1970 as one of the founders of The Earth Awareness Foundation, served on the advisory board

of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and is a known, outspoken critic of the human caused global warming argument.

Cunningham has graduate degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles in physics and the Harvard Business School.

A native of Belgium, Van Tuerenhout attended the Catholic University of Louvain, receiving degrees in ancient history and archaeology and was later accepted to Tulane University in New Orleans. Tulane's anthropology department provided a strong four-field education with courses in archaeology, linguistics, and physical and cultural anthropology.

Through the Middle American Research Institute, he participated in excavations in Belize and Guatemala. He graduated from Tulane with a Master of Arts and doctorate in anthropology and began teaching at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. In 1999, he accepted the

position of anthropology curator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and since then has maintained and expanded the anthropology holdings and organized temporary exhibits. He has also written a book on Aztec culture and has curated various exhibits.

Among those exhibits are one on Ethiopia, featuring the original Lucy fossil, the Maya; and most recently the Virgen de Guadalupe: Empress of the Americas exhibit.

For the last 13 summers he has also taught an introductory anthropology course at the University of Houston - Clear Lake.

Van Tuerenhout and Cunningham will serve as guest debate team leaders, each presenting their stance on the issue prior to the debate. Several San Jacinto College students will join each guest as members of their debate team.

Joining Van Tuerenhout will be Alfredo Ramirez and

Daniel Perdomo Castillo; joining Cunningham will be Phi Tran and Emily Fleck.

Debate questions were crowd sourced from San Jacinto College South Campus students, faculty and staff. The Lyceum Committee selected a series of questions that were approved by the moderator and team leaders prior to the debate.

Debate questions were provided to both teams to facilitate research and preparation. Final decisions regarding the debate's content will be at the discretion of the moderator.

The debate event "Climate Change: Are We in Danger?" will be on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. in the Proscenium Theatre inside the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center (building S15) at the San Jacinto College South campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. Doors open at 10 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

Paul named to committees



South Belt's State Rep. Dennis Paul (R-Houston) announced his House committee assignments for the 85th legislative session. Paul will serve as the vice chair of the Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure Select Committee, as well as serve on the House Rules and Resolutions committee. Rep. Paul will be returning to the insurance and pensions committees. Paul said, "Being named the vice chairman of the Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure Select Committee gives me an opportunity to work with my legislative colleagues to identify the near- and long-term challenges facing our Texas ports and border points to entry and future infrastructure needs." Paul went on to say, "Insurance is a major concern for residents in HD 129, as well across the state. I look forward to working with residents and industry leaders to resolve challenges." Regarding his pension committee assignment, Representative Paul said, "Pensions are one of the major issues facing Houston, and other major cities, today. I'm honored to be named to the committee which will work to ensure a fair and equitable resolution." Paul is serving his second term in the Texas House of Representatives and represents the 129th District, which encompasses South Belt, the cities of Pearland, Houston, Friendswood, Pasadena, La Porte, Shore Acres, El Lago, Seabrook, Kemah, Taylor Lake Village, Nassau Bay and Webster.

Clear Creek ISD schools earn state recognition

Three elementary schools have earned state-wide recognition for their character education programs. Clear Lake City Elementary, Mossman Elementary and Ward Elementary were each named a Texas School of Character by Character.org, a national advocate and leader in character education and the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). The organizations recognized these schools for improving academics, student behavior, and the culture on campus through purposeful character education.

Under the leadership of Jepsy Kimble (Clear Lake City Elementary principal), Debbie Johnson (Mossman Elementary principal) and Sara Konesheck (Ward Elementary principal), each campus is committed to being pioneers in character education through their focus on developing core value traits into the everyday lives of each student and staff member.

"Mossman Elementary began our character journey in 2009 when the doors

opened for the first time," said Johnson. "Being a part of the state's only K-12 Education Village, our leaders wanted character education to be our foundation. Mossman has always had an intense focus on the District's core values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Following the foundation of the 11 Principles of Effective Character

Education, we work with our students and parents to make our school, home and community a great place to be."

Since its inception, Character.org has awarded more than 500 schools with the distinction of State School of Character. Criteria for the designation are based on Character.org's 11 Principles of Effective Character Education, which includes providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in character-building efforts. "Utilizing components of character education is a large part of our student and staff's daily routines," said

Konesheck at Ward Elementary. "We are grateful for Character.org and TEPSA for its efforts to create a state and national discussion on the importance of character in education. We are eager to carry this distinction for years to come and are hopeful our example will lead other schools to participate in this program in order to enhance student's lives state-wide."

Strong character is just as important as a strong report card in Clear Creek ISD. To this extent, the school district has created curriculum, service-learning projects, and clubs and activities to ensure students have every opportunity to positively impact their world.

These three schools will now be considered for the national designation. North Pointe Elementary and Robinson Elementary are two CCISD schools that have already earned that highest distinction for character education. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum and the Schools of Character program.

County building sidewalks to Frazier

Continued from Page 1A
ney Ellis said, "I am proud to assist these four districts in adding another layer of protection for these precious youth."

For South Belt residents, the primary areas to be addressed are along Hughes Road from Sageorchard to Frazier Elementary and Hall Road between Blackhawk and Sagepark. The current lack of sidewalks on these roads has contributed to at least two serious auto-pedestrian accidents involving students - one of which was fatal.

Frazier fourth-grader Ruth

Young was killed in August 2005 when she was struck by a school bus while crossing Hughes Road at Sageorchard to go to class. While that stretch of Hughes has sidewalks, it is believed she was on that side of the street only because the other side has none.

A similar incident took place on Hall Road and Sagebluff in October 2013 when a 14-year-old Dobie freshman was struck by a vehicle as she was walking to her bus stop. The student suffered lacerations to her kidney and liver and a concussion.

Investigators said the lack

of sidewalks played a role in the accident, as the girl was forced to walk in the street due to puddling on the sides of the road.

"Sidewalks are essential not only for mobility, but also for safety, especially for our children," said Ellis' predecessor Gene Locke, who spearheaded the effort. "It's tragic that a student had to lose her life in a horrific accident that could have been prevented with sidewalks. That's why I am committed to building sidewalks and making other infrastructure improvements to enhance the lives of Precinct One residents."

While officials saw a need for the sidewalks, their actual construction was met with several barriers.

One of the main roadblocks was that the areas in question cross jurisdictions, as they are on the city/county line.

Under the leadership of Locke and Ellis, Harris County officials have actively pushed joint projects with the City of Houston, including street and sidewalk improvements near NRG Stadium in advance of the 2017 Super Bowl.

Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell is pleased with the development.

"Student safety is our top priority," Powell said. "We're absolutely thrilled."

Work on the Frazier sidewalks has already begun and is expected to be complete shortly.

Sidewalk construction is generally the responsibility of the developer, rather than a municipality.

Following Young's death, however, several in the community, led by the Sagemont Civic Club, petitioned city and county officials to take action.

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11590 Hughes Rd. @ BWB 3007 Invincible Dr. League City

Dynamic Women luncheon Feb. 23

Maintaining good relationships takes work, be it in a marriage, with your children, your extended family or friends.

This month's Dynamic Women Luncheon and Networking Event will feature guest speaker Ute Salford, who will share her story of relationships touched by Grace.

Salford, a native of Germany, is a national speaker, author, mentor and teacher.

The Dynamic Women Luncheon will be held Thursday, Feb. 23, at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Doors will open at 10 a.m. when guests may do some shopping and networking with exciting area vendors who feature home décor, fashion accessories, jewelry,

health and beauty, and business and professional services.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the event ends at 1 p.m. Guests may register for free door prizes when they sign in.

The cost of the luncheon is \$16 which includes the networking/shopping event and lunch.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the guest speaker, the shopping and the luncheon.

The Dynamic Women group seeks to connect women through networking and friendship, help women grow their businesses and provide a service to the community.

For reservations, email Sandee Ellis at sandeeellis@comcast.net, or call Dot at 713-477-6496.

South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce

33rd Annual Banquet

Thur., Feb. 23, 2017

Guest Speaker - Rodney Ellis
Precinct One Harris County Commissioner

For more information or tickets please contact the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce at 281-481-5516 or email at info@southbeltchamber.com

Bush Elementary hosts Bingo for Books

Laura Bush Elementary hosted Bingo for Books on Jan. 20. Students and parents played bingo and won books as their prizes. Every person who attended left with plenty of books to take home and start their own library at home. The books were donated by families from the school and community. At least 500 books were given away.



Shown above, left to right, (front row) Madison Lee and Henry Lee (baby) show off one of their books with their dad Jae Lee and mom Jin Lee.



Shown above, left to right, Dee Ingram (grandmother), Andre Ingram, Romina Ingram and Rose Ingram (mom) play bingo together.



Shown above, left to right, Veronica De La Garza and her two children, Ghalilea De La Garza and Giovanni De La Garza enjoy a night full of family fun. Photos by Principal Stephanie Miller

Roberts honor roll announced

The following honor roll for Fred Roberts Intermediate has been released for the second nine weeks. Students on the honor roll are:

Fifth Grade
Nicole Bond
 Imaad Ali, Rebecca Cabello, Katya Flores, Ayesha Hasan, Emily Hernandez, Jennifer Ly, Edward Medina, Jazzlyn Moya, Victoria Ngo, John Nguyen, Terry Nguyen, Alex Olivares, Mariana Perales, Maddisyn Sockwell, Mai Anh Truong and Laisha Villarreal.

Joshuah Baker
 Leobardo Aviles, Datorion Fairfax, Ariel Martinez and Peter Nguyen.

Aaron Donias
 Frida Mejia and Dominick Sanchez.

Lashondra Evans
 Julysa Sanchez and Anna Serpas.

Virginia Fernandez
 Austin Buchner, Hugo Flores, Shaina Miles and Michael Tran.

Teresa Klein
 Desanae Cisneros and Arath Dodin.

Julie Lanham
 Ximena Lopez, Christopher Silva, Allisyn Sockwell, and Zuriyah Zavala.

Steffanie Purucker
 Carlos Amaya Vargas, Kailynn Andino, Hamza Arif, Angelo Baluyut, Daniel-Alexander Bonilla, Alan Bui, Carolina Cantarero, Aiden Carranza, Kaitlyn Corona, Amyiah Cotton, Yalat De Luna, Mauricio Gloria, Alana Goree, Abdallah Helal, Xally Hernandez, Afam Iyegbu, Vincent Mac, Yair Rivera, Alyson Schwausch and Oscar Sosa.

Kelli Redd
 Jared Romero.

Sarah Robertson
 Princess Edogawerrie and Anna Le.

Lonnie Tanner
 Leticia Garcia, Anastasia Odum, Gustavo Salinas and Layla Torres.

Marie Juarez
 Izmael Guzman, Earl Haymond, Sameer Lodhi, Gisette Martinez and Alex Soloya.

Sixth Grade
Jessica Arroyo
 Zoe Aguilar and Sherbano Vajlani.

Carmen Castelan
 Kentrayl Coleman and Janice Padilla.

Daniella Goodrum
 Madison Arcizo, Emely Contreras, Derrick Doss, Destiny Rodriguez and Oscar Romero.

Denise Gourley
 Mario Aguilar, Andrew Do, Omni Parris and Adrian Sanchez.

Melissa Hargrave
 David Alvarado, Sophia Garay, Bao Nguyen, Emilio Nolasco, Mariana Pantoja, Damian Solis and Jaime Torres.

Marie Juarez
 Eduardo Cruz, Javoris Myles, Raymond Olsen and Aaron Woodard.

Alexandra Lavelle
 Brianna Arredondo, Joel Cazares, Evan Garcia, Angelisa Hernandez, Mahir Hoque, Yair Martinez, Naveah Mata, Paula Mendoza, Luis Nieves and Sadie Roessler.

Candra Maly
 Destini Brown.

Deborah Mckelvey
 Belen Abeja, Angel Arroyo, Kaylee Frank, Angel Garcia, Ariana Gonzales, Victoria Gonzalez, Thalia Le, Grecia Lopez Serna, Hector Lopez, Madeline Lopez, Lluvia Martinez, Reanna McSween, Marissa Rojas, Guillermo Velasquez, Kate-Alexandra Wang and Ainsley Willis.

Jose Mendoza
 Kyra Cervantes, Juliana Gonzales, Ryan Humphrey and Luis Talamantes.

Crystal Polo
 Keauno Andrade, Bianca Bermudez Sarabia, Jonathan Contreras, Phoenix Fielden, Kimberly Mai, Tashjae McCann, Aldo Morales, Diana Reyes, Hao Tran, and Rye Williamson.

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Over The Back Fence by Alexis

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, LILIAN!
 Congratulations are sent to South Belt residents and proud grandparents **Jannie and Robert Scarberry** on the birth of their newest granddaughter **Lilian Margaret Scarberry**. Lily was born on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 8:52 p.m. at Fort Belvoir Army base in Virginia. She weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. Welcoming her are proud parents **Austin and Tiffany Scarberry** and big sister **Jade**. Austin is a 2007 Dobie High School graduate who is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. See related photo, Page 2A.

DEAN CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Dean Baier, longtime South Belt resident and director of operations at Clear Brook City MUD, is wished a happy birthday Feb. 16 from son **Ryan Baier**, granddaughter **Payten Worden**, friends and the *Leader* staff. He is active in the community, serving as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter for Harris County Southeast Fire Department and chairing the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY, JADE!
 Special happy birthday wishes are sent to **Jade Elizabeth Scarberry** who turns 9 years old Saturday, Feb. 18. Hugs and kisses are sent to her from dad **Austin**, wife **Tiffany** and little sister **Lily Scarberry**; mom **Nicole Scarberry**; grandparents **Jannie and Robert Scarberry** of South Belt; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Stacey Flowers**; uncles **Stephen Flowers**, **Joey Hayes** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno**, and **Kennedy**, **Owen** and **Evie Flowers**. Jade's parents are both Dobie

High School graduates.
WELL WISHES TO DR. B.J. GARNER
 Friends and the staff at the *South Belt Leader* send wishes for a speedy recovery to **Dr. B.J. Garner** as he recuperates at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 16 through Feb. 22.

Atkinson Elementary
 Blow out the birthday candles for **Ludivina Perez** Feb. 17. Sing a happy birthday song to **Norma DeLaRosa** Feb. 21.

Burnett Elementary
Norma Valdez enjoys a birthday Feb. 18.

Bush Elementary
 The day for a birthday gift for **Aide Buenostro** is Feb. 18.

Frazier Elementary
Maria Rodriguez celebrates a birthday Feb. 16.

Moore Elementary
 The day for a party for **Ashley Evans** is Feb. 18.

South Belt Elementary
 Celebrating a birthday Feb. 19 is **Amber Morris**.

Melillo Middle School
 Blow out the birthday candles for **Maria Montenegro** on Feb. 17. Feb. 21 is the day for **Wanda Soto** to celebrate a birthday.

Thompson Intermediate
Yolanda Robinson and **Virginia Fortson** share a birthday Feb. 19.

Dobie High
 The day for a birthday celebration for **Elizabeth Puentes** is Feb. 16. Sing a happy birthday song to **Jeri Joslin** Feb. 17. **Dendy Farrar** and **Veronica Gonzalez** share a double-layer cake Feb. 20. On Feb. 22, birthday wishes are sent to **Lori Sims**.

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

Thursday, Feb. 16: **Yvonne Rojas, Linda Soria, Danielle Cunningham, Mary Nell Dees, Rhonda Stallbaumer, Sharla Fuels and Lisa Fernandez**; Friday, Feb. 17: **CaShaune Murphy, Jeannie Nelson, Monica Gonzales, Dawn Armstrong, Jeri Joslin, Donn Reichelt, Russell Janacek and Susan Slater**, Saturday, Feb. 18: **Sonja Britt, Jason Jaeger, Leslie Barr, Sterling Washington, Rose Pena, Tianne Bernal, LeRoy Peters, Shana Kiser, Daer Platt, Valerie Chavez and Troy Taormina**; Sunday, Feb. 19: **Jason Minck, Dalaina Rounsavall-Harris, Patricia Doran and Ryan Mint**; Monday, Feb. 20: **Paul Brantly, Heidi Samford, Judy Lucadou-Dooly and Jamie Baggett**; Tuesday, Feb. 21: **Michael Gabbard, Vonda Byars, Kellie Nelson and Richard Salinas**; and Wednesday, Feb. 22: **Gerald Maduzia**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 Email 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.

Melillo announces spelling winners



Melillo Middle School has announced its annual spelling bee winner and runner-up. Shown, left to right, **Andres Sorto**, runner-up (sixth grade); **Diane Wheeler**, principal; and **Jasmine Tran**, winner (sixth grade). Tran will go on to compete in the Pasadena ISD District Spelling Bee - Secondary Level on Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. at South Houston High School. She will be competing against fifth through eighth grade school winners. The winner of the elementary level spelling bee was **Tran's own brother**.

Photo by Debra Yocum

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
 County Commissioner Tom Bass appeared before a joint meeting of the Sagemon and Kirkwood South civic clubs.

35 years ago (1982)
 J. Frank Dobie High

School's Hustlin' Horns captured their first district basketball championship.

Pasadena school trustees accepted the low bid of \$452,184 for athletic facilities construction at Pasadena and South Houston high schools and Jackson Intermediate, and they raised the tuition and teacher salaries for the district's evening school.

Work began on a 328-unit apartment complex on Beamer between Kingspoint Baptist Church and Kirkshire Street. The complex became Beamer Place Apartments.

20 years ago (1997)
 Houston City Councilman Joe Roach addressed the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce at its monthly luncheon.

Former Dobie Lariaette Col. Amy Wilson became the youngest member of the 17-person Houston Rockets power dance team.

A national recruiting agency was selected to locate presidents for San Jacinto College's north and south campuses. Both were replaced due to retirement.

15 years ago (2002)
 A benefit was held for South Belt resident Okie Griffin who was hospitalized following an incident at KC's Bar and Grill that left her paralyzed.

Workers began clearing land for the 240-unit Trammel Crow apartment complex located on Sabo Road.

Constable Gary L. Freeman's office announced that Timothy B. Dixon had been arrested and sentenced to 10 years confinement. Dixon had opened a checking account in Louisiana and then had gone on a spending spree from the South Belt area to the Galleria and 1960 area writing checks

and services totaling more than \$2,000. Smith allegedly sold copper wiring and diverted the funds to his personal bank account and used district employees to paint his personal residence.

Houston police and customs agents seized approximately \$35 million in cocaine from a residence on Tiltree. Seized were 21 boxes of cocaine weighing a total of 741 pounds and 15 additional boxes which contained 15 pounds of marijuana.

each other. The most serious crime occurred early Sunday, Feb. 14, in the 11500 block of Gullwood near Olivewood, where a drive-by shooting took place at a house party, striking four victims - one fatally. While police believe the two shootings were related, no immediate arrests were made.

Longtime Pasadena Independent School District staff members Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary, and Dr. Steven Fullen, South Houston High School, have been selected as the district's elementary and secondary Principals of the Year for 2016. PISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell and several district administrators delivered the news Friday, Feb. 12, by surprising the honorees at their respective campuses.

Howard has dedicated 32 years of service to PISD, first serving alongside Fullen as a fifth-grade music teacher at Kruse Elementary from 1984 to 1997. Howard rose to a leadership position at Jensen Elementary, first as assistant principal and then principal from 1997 to 2009. In 2009, Howard was named principal of the new South Belt Elementary.

Fullen has impacted the lives of Pasadena ISD students for more than 20 years, as a fifth grade bilingual teacher at Kruse in 1995, a peer facilitator at Pomeroy and, later, as a bilingual and ESL facilitator for the Alternative Certification Program. In 2002, Fullen served as assistant principal at Dobie before joining the South Houston as the school's principal in 2007.

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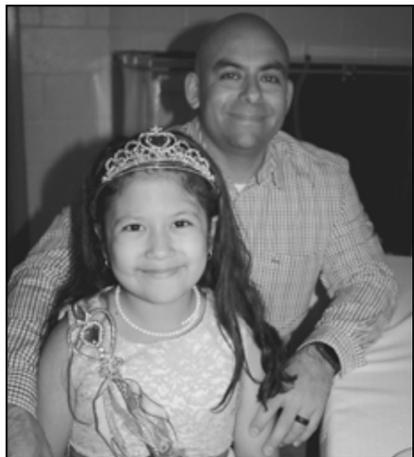
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Frazier Father / Daughter Winter Ball held



Shown above, Celeste Arriaga and her father Angel Arriaga enjoy dinner together.



Zi'ya Smith is shown having her make-up done by Fabiola Quezada, Dobie PAL. All the girls were treated to a beauty makeover.

Frazier Elementary held its Second Annual Father/Daughter Winter Ball on Jan. 27. The girls and their dads, grandfathers, stepfathers and uncles enjoyed a magical night of dinner and dancing. The Career and Technical High School Cosmetology Department set up a beauty salon for the girls to have their hair and make-up done. A big thanks to all of the local businesses who contributed to the event.



Shown left, Kassidy Patti and her grandfather Carl Clark enjoy some dessert at the dance.

Photos by Susan Blue



Shown above, Angelina Pizano and her stepfather Oscar Camara dance the night away.

Father / Daughter braid workshop set



Shown above, Miguel Pecina styles his daughter Isabella Pecina's hair.



Shown left, Andrea Lopez gets her hair braided by her stepfather Robert Smith.

Frazier Elementary held its Father / Daughter Braid Workshop on Feb. 7. Frazier worked with the CTHS Cosmetology Department to offer a fun activity for dads to spend some special time with their girls as they learned how to braid hair. The next workshop will be on Feb. 28 and will be for all moms. A big thank you to the freshman cosmetology students and their teacher, Ms. Ramirez.

Photos by Susan Blue

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Houston, 77089.

TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through April 18. There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, April 14, since the library will be closed. Volunteers from AARP TaxAide will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns. The service is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo-ID, social security card and any other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements and other necessary forms.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be at the library on Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Feb. 4 - April 8. VITA offers free tax for those earning \$54,000 or less annually, persons with disabilities and taxpayers with limited English vocabulary. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Thursday, Feb. 16, 1:30 p.m. Money Basics, presented by United Way THRIVE.

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m. Movie Time for Adults. Feature presentation will be *Barbarosa*, rated PG-13.

Friday, Feb. 17, 1:30 p.m. Interviewing Skills, Résumé and Applications, presented by United Way THRIVE.

Friday, Feb. 17, 5 p.m. Anime Club. Presentation of episodes of *Yuri!!! On Ice* (TV-14).

Monday, Feb. 20, 3 p.m. Teen DIY and a movie. In honor of African American History month the movie *Red Tails* (PG-13) will be shown. The film depicts the brave African American WWII pilots from the Tuskegee training program that escorted Allied bombers over Europe. The Red Tails flew P-51 Mustangs, so mini P 51 Mustangs powered by rubber bands will be made.

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Preregistration required. For information on this program, speak with Loc Bui.

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

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:

Thursday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m., Book Club

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m. Spanish Computer Class

Saturday, Feb. 18, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. English Learning

Saturday, Feb. 18, 12:30 p.m. Lego Playtime

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m. Baby storytime; 10:30 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, Feb. 22: Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics - Course covers the main parts of a computer. Common computer terminology is defined and features of different computers and types of productivity, communications, educational, and entertainment programs are explained.

3:15 p.m. Internet Basics - Course explains the purpose of the Internet, what is needed to connect to it and important terms. Learn how to use web browsers and search engines.

4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint - Students learn basic functions of this program to create presentations, including adding graphics and multimedia. Students learn to identify the printing options for presentations.

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday - noon to 8 p.m., Friday - 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 773 Scouting for Food



Cub Scout Pack 773 participated in a two day Scouting for Food event. The pack collected more than 200 pounds of canned goods that were donated to the Houston Food Bank.

Shown left, left to right, Brodey Murray, Elijah Vasquez, Dennis Tran and Michael Hernandez gather cans together.



Shown right, left to right, (front row) Caleb Johnson, (second row) Michael Hernandez, Nicholas Harris, Bao Ngo, Elijah Vasquez, (third row) Malcolm Sherwood and Ethan Ramos.

Photos by Patty Hernandez and Anh Ton.



At left, Cub Scouts Pack 773, left to right, (front row) Caleb Johnson, Brodey Murray, Nicholas Harris, Tripp Harris, Nicholi Soto, Andrew Mogannam, (second row) Jeremy Jackson, Michael Hernandez, Dennis Tran, Elijah Vasquez, Michael Mogannam, (back row) Avery Jones, Travis Webb, Malcolm Sherwood and Ryley Malveaux.

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Marleen 77034	0842480000033
Farley Rd 77034	0460330000158
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Whelton Dr 77503	1048390000004
1308 Fresa Rd	0840900000021
Conklin 77034	0440540000042
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Kingsflower Crk 77075	1150740010031
South Green Dr 77034	1152480010005
Trichelle 77506	0752150010001
Witter St 77506	0410340030155
Old Galveston Rd 77034	0151110660015

Contact:

Pasadena Independent School District Tax Office 713-740-0259
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Wednesday
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Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

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Meador Elementary participates in The Great Kindness Challenge

Meador Elementary recently participated in The Great Kindness Challenge from Jan. 22 - 27 along with more than 15,000 schools and more than 10 million students in 91 countries

to empower students to create a culture of kindness. Meador had a Kindness Checklist and a week full of random acts of kindness with students, staff, parents and the community. The

final act of kindness was an aerial school wide photo of the Meador school family with the help of Houston Fire Department and the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department.



Students look upward as Houston Fire Department Ladder 61 gets into position to take the aerial school-wide photo. Photo by Beverly Bolton



Above, shown standing in front of a Southeast Volunteer Fire Department truck are, left to right, Robert Scholes (fireman), Johanna James (school secretary), Tre Ramirez (fourth-grade student), Robert Ramirez (SVFD captain and Tre's dad), Beverly Bolton (school principal) and Tara Merida (school counselor). Photo by Lanalisa Sinclair



Above, fourth graders and staff work to make kindness bags. Shown, left to right, Beverly Bolton (principal), Tara Merida (counselor), Michelle Zarate, Alex Rostro, Emir Espinoza, Anyscia Hagler, Cindy Su and Isabella Hernandez. Photo by Nora Gonzalez



Above, the Meador school family of 700 students and staff gathered together to take an aerial photo with the help of Houston Fire Department Ladder 61. Photo Capt. Joshua Vogel



Shown above are, left to right, Johanna James (school secretary), Joshua Vogel (HFD captain), Jeff Ensign (fireman), Beverly Bolton (principal), Tracy Taylor (engineer operator), Tara Merida (counselor) and Jermaine Smith (fireman). Photo by Lanalisa Sinclair



Brothers Fabian Rodriguez (kindergarten) and Fidencio Rodriguez (second grade) show off their "Kind is Cool" shirts. Photo by Tara Merida



Dobie students chosen as Region 19 Symphony members

Dobie High School announced the Orchestra students that were chosen as Region 19 Symphony Orchestra members for this school year. The Region 19 Orchestra Concert was held at Deer Park High School on Jan. 21. Pictured, from left to right, (front row) Uyen Phan, Catherine Le, (second row) Cassandra Guevara, Sarah Lewis, Alyssa Bernal, Julysa Herrera, (third row) Victoria Solis, Natalie Orta, Katherine Orta, Jennifer Nguyen, (fourth row) Madisyn Munoz, Taylor Tran, Kiareliz Ramos, Tiffany Duong, (fifth row) Oren Moreno, Steve Hernandez, Jayla Carmouche, Lynn Ho, Elizabeth Early, (sixth row) Patrick Tran, Steven Phan, Oscar Velasquez, Nathan Nguyen, (seventh row) Nick Carcamo, Alejandro Duenez, Sean Le, Alfredo Santocoy, Luis Perez, Pedro Alba, (top row) Hector Rojas, Tyrann Rainey and Jordan Eflord.

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Attention J.F. Dobie seniors

If you attended Frazier Elementary in grades 3 and 4 and are a good citizen, you are eligible to apply for one of Frazier's eight college scholarships. Applications may be picked up in the Dobie counselor's office. All applications are due back to the counselor's office on or before Friday, Mar. 10.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

“D” keys Dobie’s win over Kingwood; Creek next

Holding a team to single-digit field goal makes in any basketball game is hard to do, much less in the varsity girls’ Region III playoffs. But that’s exactly what Dobie was able to do while cruising past Kingwood 51-34 Feb. 13 at Nichols Gym on the campus of San Jacinto College North.

Four players scored in double-figures for the Lady Longhorns, including Jade Giron with 15 and Alexis Osos with 13. Shanyce Cabrales drained four 3-pointers on her way to 12 points, and Victoria Onozie wound up with 10. Dobie had plenty of offense on this night, but it was the on-the-ball and rebounding efforts that led to the program’s first playoff win since a 62-61 decision over La Porte in the bidistrict round back on Feb. 11, 2011.

With Giron weaving her way through the Kingwood defense and Cabrales making a pair of 3s, Dobie took an early lead and never looked back. The Lady Mustangs scored the final basket of the first half at the buzzer to cut Dobie’s lead to 27-18. From there, Kingwood made just two more field goals.

Dobie to open season PISD’s Brown Relays hit Auxiliary Feb. 17

The Dobie boys’ and girls’ track and field programs will get the 2017 season started with an appearance at the annual Brown Relays, hosted by Pasadena ISD Feb. 17 at Auxiliary Stadium. A season ago, there were 17 boys’ and 16 girls’ teams in the mix at the Brown Relays, including each of the five PISD schools as well as Clear Brook. This season, the field events and running preliminaries will begin at 2:30 p.m., with the running event finals set to take place at 6 p.m. Auxiliary Stadium will also be the host site for the District 22-6A Championships in mid-April.

Dobie girls’ basketball vs. Clear Creek
Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
Pearland High School



Dobie’s Jade Giron (11), who led her team to a 51-34 win over Kingwood in the varsity girls’ basketball bidistrict playoffs Feb. 13 at Nichols Gym on the campus of San Jacinto College North, works her way past Lady Mustangs’ guard Karli Olivares in the third quarter. Photo by John Bechtle

Giron, Onozie and Osos handled the bulk of the work on the backboards as the Lady Longhorns outbounded Kingwood 42-30 for the game. Up by 16 points in the third quarter, the Lady Longhorns essentially coasted to the win over Kingwood, setting up an area-round battle against Clear Creek of District 24-6A.

The Lady Wildcats trailed Alief Hastings 15-3 after the first quarter of that bidistrict matchup but came up big in the fourth quarter to advance with a 45-34 victory. Dobie will be trying to

Continued on Page 6B

JFD boys second; draw NS yet again

It was great to finish the regular season with a momentum-building win over Memorial, but the Dobie varsity boys’ basketball team now has bigger plans to tend to. Finishing at 10-4 in District 22-6A, the Longhorns captured the No. 2 playoff seed and will face a familiar opponent. While the Dobie football team

Continued on Page 2B

Brook beats DHS; scores third seed

The Clear Brook varsity boys’ basketball team should enter the playoffs with plenty of confidence, having defeated one of the area’s top teams on the road in the regular-season finale. But Clear Lake’s win over Clear Springs on the same night secured the No. 2 seed in District 24-6A for Clear Lake, with

Continued on Page 2B

San Jac softball bats get offensive

It’s still early in the 2017 season, but things are beginning to look much like 2016 for the San Jacinto College softball program. Things got out of hand quickly in San Jac’s tournament opener, with the locals plating nine runs in the third inning on the way to an 11-0 win.

Just like last year, when the team’s offense is stringing the hits together and Niki Gonzalez is controlling opposing offenses in the circle, the wins are coming in bunches. San Jacinto got over the .500 mark with ease during the third weekend of the season, winning four of five games at the San Jacinto College Invitational Feb. 10-11 at the Pasadena Girls’ Softball Association complex.

San Jacinto 11 Hill 0

Things got out of hand quickly in San Jac’s tournament opener, with the locals plating nine runs in the third inning on the way to an 11-0 win.

Gonzalez, handed terrific run support, went the five-innings of the run-rule win, allowing just one hit.

Tori Ramirez and Taylor Office blasted homers. Continued on Page 3B

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Dobie varsity soccer player Andy Garcia (7) battles Deer Park’s Anthony Cantu (20) during the first half of the two teams’ District 22-6A battle Feb. 11, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Longhorns scored a late goal to force a tie, but the Deer picked up an extra point in the standings after beating the Longhorns in a shootout. Photo by John Bechtle

Pleasants slams Dawson, Dobie wins

How good can Dobie be if Taylor Pleasants emerges as one of the Houston area’s big stars this season? That’s yet to be seen, but she and her Lady Longhorn varsity softball teammates are out of the gate quickly, courtesy of the regular season opener for both teams Feb. 13 at the Pasadena ISD Sports Complex.

Roy a record holder!



Lutheran South Academy senior Justin Roy once again was dominant at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II State Championships. The Notre Dame University commit won both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard fly, winning Swimmer of the Meet honors for his point total for the second straight season. Roy set a new state record in the 100-fly at 50.50 seconds and won the 200-IM at 1 minute, 53.14 seconds. His 200-IM time of 1:52.42, established in 2016, is also a state record.

Playoff scene
Dobie boys vs. North Shore Tuesday, Feb. 21 Summer Creek, 7 p.m.
Brook boys vs. Pearland Tuesday, Feb. 21 Manvel, 7:30 p.m.

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Wolverine tracksters host annual opener

The high school track and field season is officially underway, with a few opening meets having been held Feb. 10.

Clear Brook High School was one of those sites, with the annual Wolverine Relays taking over the scene.

Brook boys seventh
A limited group competed for the Wolverine boys' team at the Wolverine Winter Relays Feb. 10, at Clear Brook.

Kenneth Pree was the star of the day for the boys, who placed seventh as a team with 26 points.

The Clear Lake Falcons claimed the team title with 92 points, edging second-place Pearland (87 points). Third place went to Angleton with 85 points.

As for Pree, he was second in the long jump after clearing 21 feet, 5 inches, and his triple jump effort of 42'3" was good for fifth place.

The Wolverines also placed fourth in the sprint medley relay, with Pree running the opening leg.

The sprint medley relay includes two 200-meter legs, a 400-meter leg and an

800-meter leg.

Braelon Hill, Jarrett Smith and Mark Milton Jr. followed Pree as the Wolverines delivered a time of 1 minute, 35.636 seconds in the event.

Jake Allison medaled for the Wolverines in the discus, throwing the weight 133 feet, 7 inches for third place.

Lady Wolverines get going
A deep Seven Lakes squad ran away with the team title in the girls' division, racking up 129 points.

Cinco Ranch's 105 points were good enough for second place, and Ridge Point was third with 68.

Clear Brook scored 14 points, eventually winding up 10th as a team in the season's first meet.

Clear Brook's best finish came in the sprint medley relay as the team was third in a time of 1:54.290 with Katy Pyle, Ayanna Mason, Keiara Connor and Kennedy Crutchfield representing the Lady Wolverines.

The Clear Brook boys' team will be in the mix at the Pasadena ISD Brown Relays Feb. 17, at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

Lady Longhorn Corpus picks Cloud County softball



Dobie High School varsity softball player Alyssa Corpus (seated third from right) will continue her education and playing career at Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kan., beginning this fall after signing a letter of intent with the Thunderbirds. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Raene Oliveira (friend), Zina Corpus (mother), Albert Corpus (father), Yasmine Saenz-Myers (friend), (standing) Chris Swinnen (Dobie varsity softball assistant coach) Kirk Hall (personal pitching and batting coach), Richard Gonzales (grandfather), Maria Gonzales (grandmother), A.J. Corpus (brother), Alexis Corpus (sister), Aliyah Corpus (sister), Brandy Gonzales (aunt), Hayley Garcia (friend), Carlos Morgan (youth softball coach), Danielle Colunga (friend) and Robin Rackley (Dobie varsity softball head coach). Cloud County competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II ranks within Region VI.

Fast Attack 12U softball wins at Deer Park



The South Belt Girls' Softball Association's 12U Fast Attack squad went undefeated at the Deer Park Sweetheart tournament Feb. 10-12, grabbing the championship trophy along the way. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Claire Ramirez, Miriam Castillo, Aubrey Zambrano, Kaitlyn Olivas, Kyanna Hernandez, (back row) coach Robert Ramirez, Christina Mejia, Melody Guerrero, Maricela Aguilar, Brianna Garcia, coach Jorge Garcia, Alisa Vargas and coach Cruz Castillo. Not pictured is Aliyah Caballero.

Wolverines grab third seed, to face Pearland

Continued from Page 1B
The Wolverines taking third place. Clear Springs and Friendswood will go head-to-head in a play-in game for the fourth seed, with that game coming Friday, Feb. 17, at Dickinson High School.

It'll be tough sledding for any of the boys' teams in the Region III mix from this point forward.

Pearland and Dawson both went 11-1 in District 23-6A to dominate

that league. Pearland head coach Steve Buckalew, who won his 700th career game late in the season, has watched his Oilers win nine straight games entering the playoffs.

In head-to-head play in District 23-6A action, Pearland and Dawson split wins.

But Clear Brook can draw some confidence from handing Dickinson its lone loss of its 24-6A season in the 70-69 thriller

at Gator Gymnasium. Dickinson star freshman, having burned Clear Brook for 30 points in the team's first matchup, this time had 23 points.

But the Wolverines kept the game tight throughout and found a way to finish with a win, therefore closing out its 24-6A run at 11-3.

The Wolverines rely heavily on three-year starters David Azore and Spencer Schneider, but the

team has plenty of other weapons to draw upon.

If Clear Brook can advance past Pearland, the area-round opponent will come from a trio that includes District 22-6A champion South Houston, Channelview or Summer Creek.

South Houston varsity boys' head coach Patrick McCoy was the varsity boys' basketball assistant coach at Clear Brook before taking the South Houston job seven seasons ago.

South Houston varsity boys' head coach Patrick McCoy was the varsity boys' basketball assistant coach at Clear Brook before taking the South Houston job seven seasons ago.

Dobie softball gets win

Continued from Page 1B
College Station tournament Feb. 16-18, taking on some of the region's top programs. Dobie will also face former 22-6A nemesis Alvin, April 21, at Alvin High School.

Longhorn hoops/Mustangs to begin playoff journey

Continued from Page 1B
ball program faced North Shore five straight times in the bidistrict playoffs from 2011 to 2015, the Longhorn hoopsters will now take on the Mustangs in a bidistrict game for the third straight season.

North Shore won rather handily in 2015, with the Longhorns returning the favor last season — the first step in a run to the Region III semifinals.

Now it's time for the tiebreaker, with the winner advancing to the area playoffs.

The two teams will meet Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Summer Creek High School in Humble. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Dobie should be ready to go against the Mustangs, having bounced Pasadena Memorial 81-67 Feb. 14 at Memorial in the regular season finale for both teams.

Dobie, locked into the second playoff seed for a while now, finished at 10-4, with the South Houston Trojans winning the league title at 13-1.

La Porte was 7-7 to take the third playoff seed out of 22-6A, and Sam Rayburn defeated Deer Park twice in league play to win

a tiebreaker and the fourth playoff seed over the Deer after both teams went 6-8.

Against Memorial, Dobie played the type of game it will need to have in the playoffs moving forward.

Leading scorer Royce Hunter had a game-high 27 points, making 5 of his 6 3-point tries along the way.

Joshua Cooper had 17 points, and Jeremy Davis ripped down 16 rebounds to go with 10 points. The Longhorns, who like to shoot the ball from deep, went a combined 14 of 21 from the three-point line.

Dobie led by seven points after a quarter of play and put it away with a big second-quarter run to lead 43-24 at halftime.

At right, Dobie's top scorer Royce Hunter (4) had 27 points in the regular-season finale against Memorial, leading the Longhorns to an 81-67 victory and a 10-4 finish for second place in District 22-6A. Now, the Longhorns will face North Shore in the bidistrict playoff round for the third straight year.

Photo by Nick Tamayo



Area sports, news

SBHLL seeks vendors

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League is seeking crafts, food and merchandise vendors to participate in the league's opening day carnival on Saturday, March 4, at El Franco Lee Park.

The cost per vendor spot is \$100. Those interested in participating or learning more information about the day-long event may direct email to league officials at sbhll@hotmail.com.

Rising Stars track registering

The Rising Stars Track Club, led by head coach Ivory Kimble, is now hosting registration in conjunction with practice sessions at the Dobie High School track. Staff members will be on hand to register new and returning athletes each Friday beginning at 4:30 p.m., each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and each Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. Practice sessions are held each Tuesday and Friday, from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Those ages 5 to 18 are eligible to compete in the Rising Stars Track program, which has qualified dozens of athletes for national competition over the last few summers. For more information, call Kimble at 281-561-1248.

Youth Soccer Club online sign up

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is now accepting online registration for the spring 2017 season. Practices will begin soon, with the season set to begin later this month. The registration fees are as follows: U-5 through U-8 (4, 5, 6, 7) is \$85, which includes uniform; U-9 and U-10 (8, 9) is \$95, and uniform fee is an additional cost; and U-11 and older (10 to 18) is \$105, and uniform fee is an additional cost. Only credit cards and debit cards will be accepted as forms of payment. To register, visit the league's website at www.southbelt.soccer.org.

Lajaunie tennis coming

The 2017 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will now be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena formerly known as Strawberry Park, April 28-30. The DLTSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are finalizing plans for its 6th annual memorial tennis tournament, set to make its first appearance at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

Darren Lajaunie began his tennis career playing tennis at Dobie High School and graduated co-valedictorian in 1984. Members of the Dobie tennis team will be awarded entry fees to play in the tournament in his honor.

Lajaunie lost his battle with melanoma May 3, 2011. This scholarship fund and tournament is a way to honor his memory by helping junior tennis players enjoy tennis and assist with their education in college.

He was an electrical engineer graduate from the University of Texas in Austin, and a pillar of the community while working at the Johnson Space Center. Lajaunie was also dedicated and passionate for his favorite past time of playing tennis.

All players will receive a tournament t-shirt, a luggage tag and enjoy a complimentary opening morning breakfast snack.

A free lunch will also be available for players and spectators, donated by the Lajaunie family. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are busy seeking donors and silent auction items.

Opening ceremonies, including a scholarship awards dinner and silent auction, will be held Friday, April 28. There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets will go on sale in March and all tickets are \$15.

Silent auction items this year include an autographed tournament T-shirt from the band Los Lobos, an autographed polo shirt from retired race car driver Mario Andretti and current Indy race car driver Marco Andretti (grandson) an autographed picture from the Houston Rockets, dance lessons from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Clear Lake and much more.

Opening night special activities this year include HTTC hosting a complimentary cardio tennis clinic for adults, and a children's clinic full of fun tennis games for ages 12 and under. There will also be plenty of giveaway prizes.

Tickets may be purchased at the HTTC or on the DLTSF website at the end of March. In May, the Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships at the school. Entry fee for the tournament is: \$35 for singles; \$22.50 per player for doubles.

Players may also register at www.setteo.com. Registration deadline is April 14.

The tournament will begin Saturday, April 29, at 8 a.m. and finish the next afternoon, with trophy presentations at the conclusion of each division of play.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund website at www.DLTennisScholarships.com includes pictures from last year's tournament and information on this year's tournament, sponsorship opportunities, scholarships details and more.

Those who would like to donate may also do so on the website. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit corporation, and all donations are tax deductible.

Donations may now be made via the website with a credit card or one may mail a check or money order to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, Texas, 77059, or contact Camille Lajaunie, committee chairperson at cjlajaunie@gmail.com with any questions.

Ima's 5K, K runs Feb. 25

The fourth annual Ima's Home for Children 5K Run/Walk & Kids' 1K, will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, beginning at 8 a.m. on the Campus of Life Church at 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd.

This series of events represents the primary fundraiser for Ima's Home for Children in Angeles City, Philippines.

Ima's Home became the vision of lead Pastor Jim Kilgore after he traveled through Manila, seeing just a portion of the 400,000 street children hungry and homeless. His passion and burden led to the creation of this incredible facility.

Ima's Home is in its fourth year of operation and currently houses more than 75 children who are clothed, educated and medically cared for by a professional staff.

Officials are currently in Phase Two of their building program, which will provide room for another 50 to 75 children.

To register for the 5K run, go to www.life.cc. Registration is \$35, and the Kids' 1K is \$20.

For those who cannot participate but are willing to make a donation, go to www.life.cc.

Sports Calendar

BASKETBALL

Thursday, Feb. 16

Dobie varsity girls vs. Clear Creek, Pearland, 7:00

SOCCER

Thursday, Feb. 16

Dobie JV (B) girls at South Houston, 4:00

Friday, Feb. 17

Dobie varsity boys vs. Memorial, Veterans, 8:00

Dobie JV boys vs. Memorial, Auxiliary, 6:00

Saturday, Feb. 18

Dobie varsity girls vs. Memorial, Veterans, 10 a.m.

Dobie JV girls vs. Memorial, Auxiliary, noon

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Dobie varsity girls host West Brook, Veterans, 7:00

Dobie JV girls host West Brook, Auxiliary, 5:00

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dobie varsity girls vs. South Houston, Veterans, 10 a.m.

Dobie JV boys vs. South Houston, Auxiliary, noon

TENNIS

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17-18

Dobie varsity at Spring Fling tourn., Corpus Christi

SOFTBALL

Thursday, Feb. 16

Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA

Brook varsity at North Shore tourn., TBA

Friday, Feb. 17

Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA

Brook varsity at North Shore tourn., TBA

Saturday, Feb. 18

Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA

Brook varsity at North Shore tourn., TBA

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Dobie varsity at Alvin, 6:30

Dobie JV at Alvin, PISD, 5:00

Thursday, Feb. 23

Dobie varsity at Pearland Invitational, Dobie, TBA

Friday, Feb. 24

Dobie varsity at Pearland Invitational, Dobie, TBA

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dobie varsity at Pearland Invitational, Dobie, TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

Friday, Feb. 17

Dobie all teams at Brown Relays, Auxiliary, 2:30

Wednesday, Feb. 22

PISD intermediate girls' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

Thursday, Feb. 23

Dobie JV girls at Deer Park Invit., Abshire, TBA

PISD intermediate boys' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

Friday, Feb. 24

Dobie varsity at Clear Falls Invitational, 3:00

BASEBALL

Friday, Feb. 17

Dobie varsity at North Shore scrimm., 3:30

Brook varsity at Manvel scrimmage, 4:30

Brook JV hosts Manvel scrimm., 6:00

Brook sophomores host Manvel scrimm., 4:00

Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 23-25

Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA

Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

San Jacinto College softball offense gets rolling; Gonzalez wins three

Continued from Page 1B and Alexis Deleon, Taylor McHenry and Melissa Hernandez all drove in a pair of runs each. Hernandez doubled twice, and Deleon also doubled.

Temple 12 San Jacinto 3
Temple got out of the gate quickly, knocking SJC starting pitcher Katlin Rivera out of the game in

the first inning and eventually winning 12-3. Temple hammered out 18 hits in the game.
Dani Damian socked a home run for San Jacinto, and Shelbi Doherty doubled and drove in a pair of runs.

San Jacinto 6 Murray State 2
Gonzalez went the distance in the circle, allow-

ing just two earned runs. The Coyote offense handled the rest.
Damian had three hits in five at-bats, and Hernandez, McHenry, Riley Bullen and Doherty all had a pair of hits.
San Jacinto 25 Murray State 11
A slugfest ensued in the second meeting between San Jacinto and Murray

State. Mackenzie Kotrla had four hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs. Damian had four hits and four RBIs, and Bullen had four hits, scored twice and drove in a pair.
Madison Neal, getting her first start in the tournament, had a pair of doubles and knocked in five runs.
Kaylee Ousman was

the winning pitcher for San Jac, allowing just two earned runs.
San Jacinto 8 Temple 6
Gonzalez went the distance for her third win of the tournament, and Kotrla hit a home run as the locals closed out the event with a fourth win.
Office, Hernandez and Kotrla all drove in two

runs each in the win, allowing San Jacinto to get to 9-5 this season.
Now it's back to the road for the Coyotes over the next two weekends.
On Feb. 17-18, San Jacinto is part of the talented field at the Temple College Invitational.
On Feb. 17, the Coyotes will take on Northeast Texas before facing

Angelina. On the final day of the tournament, San Jacinto will go against host Temple and then play pre-season No. 5 nationally-ranked McLennan.
San Jacinto just finished playing Temple twice at the San Jacinto College Invitational, so the rematch should be fun.
As for San Jacinto and McLennan, the two teams

will also play a double-header Wednesday, Feb. 22, at San Jacinto College South. The first game is set to be played at 2 p.m.
On Feb. 24-25, San Jacinto will compete in the Region XIV Cross-over Tournament, where teams will play a total of six games. San Jac's opponents include Angelina, Northeast Texas, Bossier

Parish, Paris, Navarro and Tyler.
After that, San Jacinto will compete primarily in Region XIV play, which is the key part of the season.
The locals reached nationals in 2016 and would like to make a return trip to St. George, Utah, for 2017. Maybe things are coming together just in time.

For Dobie's Lowe-Ali, it's Tarleton State football

At right, Dobie varsity football three-year starter Ke'Montre Lowe-Ali (center) will continue his education and playing career at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, after signing a letter of intent with the Cowboys. Lowe-Ali shared the special signing day festivities with his parents, Kalim Lowe-Ali and Brandy Jacobs. Lowe-Ali should be able to find playing time quickly in the defensive secondary and the return game for the Cowboys, who are coming off a 5-6 finish in 2017. Tarleton State competes in the NCAA Division II ranks. Lowe-Ali was one of 26 newcomers to ink letters of intent with the Cowboys on national signing day Feb. 1.



Local resident picks Texas State football



Deer Park High School offensive lineman Tanner King (seated center), a South Belt resident, will continue his education and playing career at Texas State University in San Marcos after signing a letter of intent with the Bobcats. Those with King at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Terry King (grandfather), Dixie King (grandmother), (standing) James Freeman (Deer Park assistant coach), John Arnette (Deer Park assistant coach) and Chris Massey (Deer Park varsity football head coach). As a senior, King was a unanimous first team all-22-6A selection. Dixie and Terry King have been South Belt residents for more than 40 years, and Tanner, their grandson, resides with them.

JFD's Davis twins choose Missouri Southern football

At right, Dobie High School multi-sport standouts and twin brothers Jeremy (seated left) and Jacoby Davis (seated right) will continue their education and playing career at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Mo., after signing letters of intent with the Lions. Their parents Erica Davis (standing left) and Terence Davis (standing right) were with them at the signing. Jeremy Davis is a quarterback on the football field, while Jacoby Davis is a receiver. Both are also members of Dobie's varsity boys' basketball and track and field squads. Both began their youth football careers with the Southbelt Dolphins.



Dobie's Simmons likes Hardin-Simmons football



Dobie High School varsity football receiver Breon Simmons (seated) is the fourth Simmons' son to make a name for himself with the Longhorns in recent years. Simmons, a class of 2017 senior, will now continue his education and playing career at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene after inking a national letter of intent Feb. 1. Those with Simmons includ-

ed, left to right, Anthony Simmons Jr. (brother, 2012 Dobie graduate and standout linebacker), Christel Simmons (mother), Chad Johnson (brother and 2011 Dobie graduate) and Anthony Simmons Sr. (father). Another one of Breon's brothers, Darius Simmons, was a 2015 Dobie graduate and standout receiver for the Longhorns.

CALENDAR

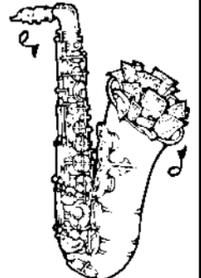
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. Public welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299' or games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
6 - 8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.
7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy. This is the Conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meet-

ing, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alateen - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Aglow International - is sponsoring a conference on spiritual challenges for the next generation, March 3 - 4, in College Station. Aglow deadline is Feb. 17 for Baymont Inn and Suites in College station. Email chrissiege@gmail.com for conference information and details.
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Interfaith Care Partners - ministry at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St., for those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, strokes, etc. and caretakers, meets on the third Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for continental breakfast, arts/crafts, exercises, entertainment, devotional break, lunch, and game. Family members or acquaintances are invited. For details, call the church at 713-946-5768; Claudia Rojas at 713-682-5995; or visit www.interfaith-carepartners.org.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast With Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - bluegrass music show and jam session on the third Saturday. Stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. Free. Johnny Arolo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For

details, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
11:15 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Presents *Line by Line with the Prophets*, sessions by Rabbi Stuart Federow, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at 16020 El Camino Real, 77062, the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. Everyone is welcome. Previous classes are not required. Visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call 281-480-1911 for details.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program. Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 to RSVP for child care.
6:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Candlelight Meeting, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
AA - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.



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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT



The Southeast VFD needs you!

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: www.southeastvfd.com to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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FOUND: MALE PUPPY with Rhinestone collar, 10-12 lbs, black w/ white paws. Kennel trained. Found near Kirkville and Sageyork on Fri, Feb. 10. Please call to claim 281-809-3154
FOUND: BIKE at Clear Brook City Park. Please call 281-484-1562 to identify and claim.

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together - SALT meetings are 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Madison Jobe Senior Center, 1700 East Thomas St., Pasadena on the third Monday. No December meeting. January meeting is on the second Monday. Meetings start timely and teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may be in attendance. Free. Refreshments served. For details, call 713-477-0175.

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

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

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

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's, 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org.

New Directions Singles - Age 60 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call 832-715-9658.

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

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

Survivors of Suicide Support Group - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisishotline.org.

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

Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365.

The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society - Meets the third Monday at Clear Lake Park Bldg., 5001 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook. Presenters explore topics such as fossils, planetary geology, mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry making, fossil and mineral collecting. Field trips to Texas collecting sites and surrounding states. Interested persons welcome. Door prizes. Free parking. For details, visit www.clgms.org.

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

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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

Rotary Club of Pearland - meets at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of speakers. Email nalix@texasciti.zensbank.com or call 281-900-7257.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

941 meets the third Tuesday, 2 p.m., El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Visitors welcome. For details, call 713-734-1461.

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.

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

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

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

Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, first floor staff meeting room. PIP is police and citizens working together making neighborhoods safer. Bring a friend. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call 713-944-4474 for details.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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

Hometown Heroes Park - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy, League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call 417-838-2204.

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

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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

CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.

Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. For details, call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

Well Spouse Support Group - meets the last Thursday at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, with the spouse of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare is free. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For details, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellsupport@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellsupport.org>.

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

Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Alateen - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

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Dobie girls' hoops reach area round; first time since 2011

Defense leads to easy first-round win

Continued from Page 1B reach the quarterfinal round for the first time since the 2003-2004 season. Then, the Lady Longhorns won the Region III title and played in the state semifinals.

Brown took over the Dobie program following the 2004-2005 season after a lengthy stay at Houston Baptist Univer-

sity. Now, he has the Lady Longhorns in a position to play bigger and bigger games.

"There's no doubt that with every round, the competition gets tougher," said Brown, mindful that the Dobie/Clear Creek winner will likely go up against North Shore and star player Chasity Patterson (University of Texas signee) in

the regional quarterfinals.

"You just can't lose that edge right now. We went out and executed well on the defensive end against Kingwood, and if anything, we have to be able to take that to another level against Clear Creek."

Brown is particularly concerned about defending Lady Wildcat post player Caitlyn Burroway, a rugged presence inside who could present a matchup problem in 1-on-1 scenarios down low.

Instead, just as they did against Kingwood, the Lady Longhorns will call on Oses, Breanna Smith and others to play hard against Burrows.

If Dobie can duplicate its defensive effort against Kingwood, obviously get-

ting an area round win is within reach.

"Defense is what butters our bread," Brown said. "We have recognized that and embraced that for a good portion of the season now."

"We have capable scorers on the offensive end, but a lot of that comes from being successful on the defensive end and getting out on the run."

"Kingwood shot it poorly, but I think we made it tough for them to get good looks. And even when they had second and third shot attempts, we got key rebounds without the ball going in the bucket."

But the Lady Mustangs also lacked the type of inside player who could possibly cause Dobie big con-

cerns. That won't be the case Feb. 16 against Clear Creek.

"Burrows is physical and tough inside, and she'll rip your arm off down there to get a rebound," Brown said. "We have to do a good job as a team of rebounding and limiting the damage down low."

So the journey continues, just a season after the Lady Longhorns missed the playoffs entirely while taking on a much tougher field than this season.

Regardless, these Lady Longhorns have bought in to the system, have won more than 20 games and, most importantly, are still playing.

Brown reiterated how disappointed the Lady Longhorns were to lose that first-round district game to Deer Park, 57-47.

In that one, the Lady Deer made 20 of 25 free throws, while Dobie was just 8 of 17.

Eleven days later, Dobie made the long road trip to Beaumont and hammered West Brook 63-46 in a tough environment.

From there, Dobie went on to defeat Deer Park in the regular-season finale and now has not lost since Jan. 13.

"First and foremost, these young ladies are true competitors, and they honestly like, root for and support one another. It was a bitter pill to swallow after that loss to Deer Park, but to their credit, they bounced back and went to work."

"I always felt like we had a good foundation (early in the season), and we have just kept going to work and doing the things

defensively to help us win games. We're not going to dash up and down the floor with everybody and have a lot of success, but if we rebound and limit second chances, we can do very well."

So it's on to Clear Creek, and only the winner will advance.

Dobie did everything it had to do and then some to defeat Kingwood. It will take more of that type of effort now that the field has narrowed.



At left, Dobie shooting guard Shanyce Cabrales (24) made two 3-pointers in the first quarter to stake the Lady Longhorns to a lead early against Kingwood in the varsity girls' basketball playoffs Feb. 13 at Nichols Gym on the San Jacinto College North campus. She then made two more in the third quarter as Dobie pulled away for a 51-34 victory.

At right, Alexis Oses had 13 points for Dobie but also defended and rebounded well in the post as Kingwood's Abbie Brabham (21) and her teammates made just two field goals in the second half. Dobie now moves on to face Clear Creek Feb. 16 at Pearland High School.

Photos by John Bechtle



Dobie boys' soccer again paces 22-6A race as midway nears

Perilously-close to the midway portion of the varsity boys' and girls' soccer seasons, the leaders are beginning to separate themselves from those who will eventually play out the string.

Once again, the Dobie varsity boys' team finds itself in great shape in the District 22-6A race with one remaining game coming against Memorial.

The Longhorns scored a late goal against Deer Park to force a tie Feb. 11, then crushed La Porte 6-0 to get to 5-0-1, including a league-leading 16 points in the standings.

Thanks to Memorial's 3-1 win over Deer Park Feb. 14, the Longhorns have a four-point lead with eight matches to play.

"We really need to take care of this Memorial game (Feb. 17, 8 p.m., at Veterans Stadium)," Dobie head coach Justo Manrique said.

"We really had a couple of mistakes against Deer Park that cost us a shot at the win, but we scored the late goal to get the tie."

"Then against La Porte on senior night, we came out with great energy and put the game away with

five goals in the first half. It's also the first time that we have scored in the first 10 minutes of a game. I told the guys that we need to really try to come out with that type of energy every game."

All things considered, Dobie is sitting pretty. Manrique would like a bigger lead but admits that having a chance to tally 19 of an available 21 points in the first half of league play is really good.

"The rest of the teams are kind of beating each other, so if we can just keep winning then we can distance ourselves from the rest of the pack."

"But if Memorial beats us, then it could be a four-team race or even more the rest of the way. We really want to close out this first half with a win over Memorial, and they have probably the most explosive offense in the district."

"But Memorial has also struggled some on the defensive end, and hopefully they will struggle against us. We will see."

Dobie still has not been defeated in district play since the 2014 season. But the important aspect now is to keep the wins coming

this year so that the best possible playoff seeding can be accomplished. So far, so good for the Longhorns.

There have been a few bends but no breaks.

Elsewhere in other district races, the Clear Brook boys and Dobie girls are looking to get on a run real soon.

Brook boys trail leaders

To this point in the District 24-6A boys' race, the Clear Brook varsity squad has found itself in little but tough luck.

Heading into a rescheduled game at Alvin Feb. 15, after press time, the Wolverines had tallied just four points in the standings.

When one considers the locals scored three points for a 24-6A opening win over Clear Falls, the Wolverines have simply hit some hard times.

The culprit? Close losses. At 1-3-1, the Wolverines have lost three games by just a goal each, including a pair of 1-0 setbacks.

Clear Brook head coach Chris Stromeier pegged Dickinson as the 24-6A frontrunner prior to the season. Thus far, Stromeier has been right on target.

At 4-0-2, the Gators lead the way with 14 points, and Friendswood and Clear Springs are tied for second place with nine points. Clear Lake is fourth with seven points.

The great thing if you are Clear Brook? There is time to catch up in the standings, but the wins have to start coming soon.

There have been a total of seven tied games to this point, so the Wolverines could really benefit from some wins along the way.

Dobie girls lose pair

The Lady Longhorns are in better shape in the standings than are the Clear Brook boys, but the locals aren't feeling any better about their luck right now.

Back-to-back 1-0 losses to Deer Park (Feb. 10) and La Porte (Feb. 14) have left the Lady Longhorns standing still in the 22-6A race.

Thankfully, the Lady Longhorns began district play with four straight wins for 12 points, so things are still looking good where the playoffs are concerned.

But Deer Park has stretched out its league lead, and La Porte has

proven to be very solid.

The Lady Longhorns will close out the first half of league play Saturday, Feb. 18, with a 10 a.m. game against Memorial, at

Veterans Stadium.

After that, Beaumont West Brook will visit to begin what is going to be an interesting second half of the season.

At right, Dobie's Edwin Saldivar (10) readies to pass ahead to teammate Bryan Nava (16) in the second half of the Longhorns' 3-3 tie against Deer Park Feb. 11, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Dobie surrendered an extra point to Deer Park in the standings, missing its third try and losing the shootout, but the locals still sit atop the 22-6A standings with one game remaining against Memorial in the first half of league play. Dobie will go against Memorial Friday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m.

Photo by John Bechtle



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