

Heavy trash scheduled

Junk waste will be picked up Thursday, Feb. 18, for city of Houston residents living north of Beltway 8. Residents south of the beltway are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25. For more information, call 3-1-1.

Lion band parents meet

There will be a meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria for all band parents. Band parents are asked to attend to discuss the May 2010 San Antonio trip. Buy-outs, as well as fundraising information will be discussed at this meeting for band students attending the May trip. Don't miss this very important meeting. For more information, please contact Liz Beltran at 832-577-1732 or email to beltran075@hotmail.com

Library events scheduled

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale:

Movie Madness is Thursday, Feb. 18, at 4 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for feature title.

The Friends of the Parker Williams Library will meet to discuss ways to support the Parker Williams Library on Monday, Feb. 22, at 9 a.m.

AARP volunteers will provide free income tax assistance every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the library for more information.

After school craft time for ages 5 and up is Thursday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m. Free tickets are required.

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

Dobie yearbooks on sale

The deadline to order a 2010 Dobie yearbook is Feb. 26. There are a limited number of books still available that will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. To purchase a yearbook, go to www.smart-pay.com or order directly through the school by e-mailing jswenson@pasadenaisd.org. The books are \$65 and will be delivered on campus in May.

K of C hosts fish fry

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is serving fried catfish dinners during Lent at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church Fridays, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 5, March 12, March 19 and March 26. Each dinner consists of a catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea. Soft drinks and desserts will be available.

One- and two-piece dinners can be purchased, dine in or take out. Dinners will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. in the parish hall at 11011 Hall Road.

All money raised will be used for scholarships and other local community charitable projects. The public is invited. For more information, call 832-444-4958.

Thompson holds garage sale

The Thompson eighth-grade dance committee will hold a garage sale Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon at the school. From 11 a.m. to noon, everything will be \$1 a bag. The sale will benefit the eighth-grade dance.

Donations are currently being accepted. To make a donation, call Wendy Childs at 281-685-6135, Grace Garcia at 832-526-5465, or Dorlene Salas at 713-823-7750.

2nd Fridays at Cokesbury

The children's ministry at Cokesbury United Methodist Church will roll out a great new program for South Belt area families. Every second Friday, a free, kid-centered activity will be offered. At 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 26, children and parents will cook up easy treats in the Cokesbury kitchen.

All children ages 4 through 11 are welcome to participate. Complimentary childcare will be provided for ages 3 and under in Cokesbury's Early Childhood Development Center.

For more information, contact Alison Myers, director of children's ministry, at 281-484-9243 or children@cumchouston.org.

Wood Meadow II meets

The Wood Meadow II homeowners board will be meeting Feb. 23, in the Parker Williams Library meeting room at 6:30 p.m.

The annual meeting is also approaching, and there is a vacancy on the board that needs to be filled. Homeowners wishing to run for the position must have a zero balance and no open deed restrictions. Gift cards will be raffled to attending homeowners.

Area youth concert at BHI

The first invitational choral festival sponsored by the Bay Area Youth Singers will be held Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate School, 11111 Beamer Road. The elementary choirs of Wedgewood in Friendswood and South Belt in Pasadena will join the Bay Area Youth Singers in performing songs ranging from folk to classical to show tunes. The performance is free, and the public is invited. Longtime Dobie choral director, Deborah Tidwell, is the artistic director of the Bay Area Youth Singers. For information, visit www.bayareayouthsingers.org or call 832-425-2329.

Mays wins district spelling bee



Eighth-grade Thompson student Alexander Mays won the Pasadena Independent School District's annual spelling bee Monday, Feb. 15, allowing him to advance to the citywide Houston PBS Spelling Bee March 27. The winner of that competition will then advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., to be held June 2 through June 4. Mays won the competition by successfully spelling the word, *toucan*. Submitted photo

Two area cell phone towers proposed

The corporation TowerCo has applied to the City of Houston Planning and Development Department to construct two separate cellular phone towers in the South Belt community.

Referred to as monopole communications towers, the proposed structures would be located at 11341 Hughes Road, adjacent to Sage-mount Church, and 10005 Fuqua at Mango if approved.

City ordinance requires that homeowners living within what is referred to as, "residential test areas" near the proposed towers be given written notice of the construction of the structures.

A residential test area is defined as the 375-foot radius surrounding a tower the height of 100 feet or less and the 600-foot radius surrounding a tower height of more than 100 feet but not more than 150 feet.

The Hughes Road tower is proposed to stand at 120 feet, while the Fuqua tower is proposed to stand at 100 feet.

Residents living within the test areas who believe the towers will violate any applicable restrictions, rules, regulations or ordinances may request a hearing before the City of Houston Tower Commission. The request is to be made in writing to the Planning and Development Department before 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19. Copies of all supporting documents, instruments or other materials that are to be presented at the hearing must accompany this request. If a tower com-

plies with the city's Tower Ordinance, however, it must be approved.

For more information, contact Eric Pietsch at 713-837-7938 at the city's Planning and Development Department.

Special Leader set for March 4

In a time of economic hardship, many *Leader* readers will be happy to know that the March 4 issue of the paper will be a coupon edition with several advertisers promoting special money-saving opportunities.

Construction halts Fuqua, Beamer through July

Drivers traveling on Fuqua at Beamer have encountered traffic delays recently, as construction is under way at the intersection to replace water lines.

The 72-inch water line that runs under the eastbound lanes of Fuqua between Beamer and Stover is in the process of being replaced as part of the Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Houston.

According to Alvin Wright, representative of

South Belt cookoff back at EFL Park

The South Belt Spectacular Cookoff will be returning to the South Belt community this year, set to take place Thursday, April 15, through Saturday, April 17, at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road.

Now in its 14th year, the annual event has been held at Tom Bass Park at Beltway 8 and Cullen the past three years due to ongoing construction at its original El Franco Lee location.

The event is the sole fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display at El Franco Lee Park. Last year, organizers were forced to hold

a second cookoff in June to finance the show, as heavy rains diminished sales. Last year's event drew 86 cooking teams.

At press time, however, it was uncertain how many spots will be available for this year's cookoff, as cooking teams which have participated before have first dibs on available spaces.

A silent auction will also take place on Saturday. Past auction items included a ride on a fire engine and the chance to name an area street.

For more information or to donate auction items, contact Linda Arnone at 281-484-4325.

Chamber banquet set for Feb. 25

The 26th annual South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce banquet will take place on Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland.

Titled, *An Evening of Amore*, this year's event will feature candlelit Italian cuisine.

The Citizen of the Year and Chamber Member of the Year awards will be presented at the ban-

quet.

The event will also include the introduction of all 2010 chamber officers and directors.

The reception begins at 6:15 p.m. with dinner being served at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the chamber at 281-481-5516.

Sullivan to host CIP meeting

City of Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan will host a Capital Improvement Project meeting Thursday, Feb. 25, at J. Frank Dobie High School, 10220 Blackhawk. Sign in begins at 6 p.m., with the CIP presentation beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m.

The community is invited to attend and visit with representatives from various City of Houston departments as they present upcoming projects for District E.

A question-and-answer session will then follow, allowing constituents an opportunity for input in the process.

Sullivan encourages residents to attend and show their support for upcoming projects scheduled in their respective communities.

"These annual CIP meetings give residents the forum to voice their thoughts and ideas on current and future CIP projects," Sullivan said. "It is also a great time for citizens to see their local government hard at work and see how their tax dollars are being spent."

CIP requests are being accepted through the City of Houston's 3-1-1 Service Help Line or via the Internet at https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller.

For more information on the current FY 2010-2014 budget and projects visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/cip/index.html>.

Contact Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008 or by e-mail at districte@cityofhouston.net with any questions.

County to install turn lanes

Harris County is currently accepting bids to construct a left-turn lane at Blackhawk and Beltway 8, heading west toward Highway 288.

The county originally studied the intersection at the request of the *Leader* and members of the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office, both of which were seeking that a right-hand turn lane that headed toward the Gulf Freeway be constructed instead.

However, after studying the intersection, county officials deemed that a left-hand turn lane would be more beneficial at reducing traffic at

the congested intersection.

Original plans called for the county to construct the left-turn lane, then do additional studies to see if a right-turn lane might still be needed.

Following months of complications, however, Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee has agreed to construct the right-turn lane once the left-turn lane has been completed.

County officials are hopeful work will begin by the end of this month. Once started, construction should take roughly three months to complete.

Deputies battle drugs, burglary

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office have kept busy as of late dealing with crimes ranging from drug possession to disorderly conduct.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Deputies Lance Willis and Dwayne Pacifico were dispatched at 1:20 a.m. to a fast food restaurant in the 10900 block of Scarsdale, where a driver had reportedly fallen asleep while in the drive-through lane.

Upon contacting the driver, Eric Michaud, the deputies discovered him to be intoxicated. A subsequent search of Michaud's vehicle also yielded a small amount of marijuana.

Michaud, 27, was arrested and charged with DWI and possession of marijuana. Two days later on Monday, Feb. 15, Willis was dispatched at 3:15 p.m. to Kirkville near Blackhawk, where two juvenile females were engaged in a fight.

One of the girls, an unnamed 15-year-old, was cited for disorderly conduct.

This marked the third week in a row that Dobie students have reportedly been fighting after school.

Pacifico, along with Deputies Jason Curry and Phillip Askew, was dispatched Sunday, Feb. 7, to a residence in the 10100 block of Sageyork, where a burglary was in progress.

Upon their arrival, the deputies found Jerry Roque inside the home's garage. Roque, 35, was arrested and charged with burglary of a habitation.

Burglary suspects sought

The constable's office is seeking the public's help in identifying multiple suspects wanted in connection to recent burglaries in the South Belt area.

According to Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn, a witness reported seeing two white Chevrolet pickup trucks loaded with pallets of building supplies Thursday, Feb. 4, at roughly the same time similar items were taken from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department's new station that is currently under construction.

The vehicles, described as mid-2000 models, were last seen traveling east on Scarsdale near the new station before heading north on Beamer. One of the two drivers is described as being a Hispanic male in his mid-40s.

Witnesses have also reported seeing a white Chevrolet Tahoe that may have been used in home burglaries in both the Clear Brook Meadows and College Place subdivisions.

The driver of the vehicle is described as being a thin black male in his mid-20s. The vehicle is described as being between a 2000 and 2005 model.

The constable's office is also seeking three suspects involved in a home burglary in the Highland Meadow subdivision. The three suspects are merely described as being Hispanic and traveling in a black sport utility vehicle.

Another home burglary involving three Hispanic suspects occurred in the Clear Brook Meadows subdivision. In this instance, the suspects were seen traveling in a Silver Dodge Caravan.

Guinn said all of the robberies happened during the day. It is believed the suspects knock on the victim's door before entering to see if anyone is home.

Anyone with information on any of these cases is urged to call the constable's office at 713-477-2766.

Ambulance crashes



An ambulance from the Houston Fire Department's Station 29 was involved in a major accident Wednesday, Feb. 17, at roughly 4 p.m. at the intersection of Sabo and Fuqua. According to Houston police, a paramedic riding in the ambulance was injured in the collision and was taken to an area hospital. At press time, his condition was unknown. The *Leader* appreciates the multiple phone calls from residents alerting it of the accident.

Photo by David Flickinger

Readers' Opinions

Melillo releases 2nd 9-weeks honor, merit rolls

Community rallies for love

I was recently reminded what a wonderful and generous area South Belt is. This past Sunday, Feb. 14, our small church, Faith Baptist Church located on Mango Street, was asked to renew wedding vows for a couple who are members of our church. They have been married for ten years, and he is waiting for deployment to Iraq.

Because they had limited funds for a wedding and reception, church members asked for donations from local merchants. I am pleased to say that a local florist loaned us wedding columns and silk flowers for decorations, and a local hardware store donated decorations for the reception. We want to thank these merchants for making the couple's celebration so beautiful and memorable. God bless!

**Gail Bryant
Meb Weaver**

Commercializing NASA not good

As a strong fiscal conservative, I was interested in the president's proposal to turn over much of the work that NASA does to "commercial" interest. We all know that in almost every case, private industry can do things better, faster and cheaper than our federal government. But with NASA receiving about half of 1% of the federal budget, I really don't see any big savings to the country. Given the fact that these commercial interests have never actually launched a rocket, I can't imagine why we would even consider letting them launch our astronauts into space.

But there is something to be said for cost savings. Under the president's watch, the federal budget has gone out of control. So let's take his plan for NASA and implement it where it can really save

us some money. I propose that with all of the "commercial" airlines flying around the world every day that we eliminate the U.S. Air Force and turn the job over to these commercial interests. We could equip all U.S. airlines with fighter artillery and bombs and if a situation breaks out somewhere, we can just call on the nearest airliner to take care of the problem. With rising fuel costs, the airlines would welcome a little additional revenue.

The same can be done for the U.S. Navy which we can turn over to "commercial" cruise lines. I'm sure Carnival cruise ships could be reconfigured with whatever arms would be necessary to squelch any illegal activity on the high seas. If they got even a little of the Navy's money, they could probably lower the cost of their cruises so that all Americans could afford to go on a cruise.

Let's completely eliminate the Department of Homeland Security. That department never really has worked out too well. We'll turn that work over to the U.S. Post Office. Postal employees go to every home, every office and every building in the country six days a week. Postal carriers could be retrained to look out for suspicious things and we could even give them a few extra canisters of mace, should they encounter a dangerous situation.

These cost savings could also be realized by all 50 states by eliminating their National Guard Divisions. We'll turn that activity over to UPS. The folks in those brown trucks are everywhere and we could easily equip the trucks with proper weaponry for any situation. Neat thing about this idea is that the UPS folks are already in uniform.

By now I think we can all agree that the above ideas are a bit foolish, but really no more foolish than trying to commercialize NASA's human space program. Let NASA do what it does best and give them the funds they need to accomplish that job!

David Braun

Melillo Middle School recently released its honor and merit rolls for the second nine-weeks grading period. Students earning honor and merit status are:

Fifth grade Honor roll

Enrique Acevedo, Nathaly Alvarado, Alyssa Alvarez, Jennifer Amaya, Cirah Amerson, Raven Andrews, Saul Arenas, Andre Barajas, Valencia Barrientos, Jesse Bernal, Allison Bravo, Austin Brown, Joseph Butamante, Alayna Cano, Raul Carranza and Michael Castillo.

Sydney Chollett, Tonessha Clarke, Naya Cooper, Alyssa Corpus, Renee Coy, Belen Cruz, Miguel Cruz, Britney Cubos, Trinity Curry, Amanda Davila, Ajah Davis, Parker Deem, Alvin Deveza, Jay Do, Nathanael Doss, Jordan Edokpa, Jordan Efrid and Jackson Elings.

Janneth Flores, Karen Flores, Lesly Garcia, Pedro Garcia, Kevin Gartner, Jazalyne Garza, Fariha Ghazi, Triston Gibson, Jade Giron, David Gonzalez, Shelby Gonzalez, Emily Granados Carranza, Emily Hausler, Beatriz Hernandez, Emily Hernandez and Eric Hoang.

Emani Hollins, Jazmine Howard, Joe Huerta, Nicole Huynh, Thanh Huynh, Preston Kelley, Esther Kim, Stanley Krivik, Marissa Krustchinsky, Robert Lazo, Michelle Le, Steven Le, Mauro Lerma, Brandi Lindsey and Valeria Lomas.

Nikolas Maffei, Ruby Martin, Marissa Martinez, Brooke McGrath, Adriana Melendez, Viviana Montemayor, Gabriela Munoz, Antony Nguyen, Catherine Nguyen, Derek Nguyen, Johnathan Nguyen, Quyen Nguyen and Taylor Nguyen. Tin Nguyen, Erin O'Brien,

Adam Padilla, Jami Perez, Steven Phan, Erika Ragasa, Tyran Rainy, Lani Rico, Mario Rodriguez, Cassandra Rojas, Tori Roy, Edwin Saldivar, Kaylan Salinas, Devin Sanchez, Vianney Sanchez, Brian Schoppe, Gustavo Serrato and Rebecca Shaffer.

Alyssa Smallwood, Lillian Spigner, David Strout, Sara Sultan, Leanna Ta, Debora Tabarez, Hailey Tapia, Nathanael Taylor, Andrew Tran, Elizabeth Tran, Joseph Tran, Kaleigh Van Houten, Jorge Vazquez, Kiara Wells and Samaria Wilson.

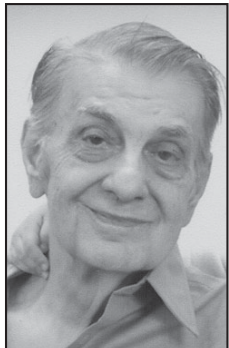
Fifth grade Merit roll

Adeana Aguilar, Isabella Bellini, Tamara Boero, Nick Carcamo, Lindsey Cardenas, Kristy Castellon, Esai Castro, Andrea Cavazos, Ricardo Cavazos, Diana Chapa, Colton Chu, Caleb Conerly, Jessica Contreras, Jacob Dehoyos, Lauren Delgado and Brynn Dempsey.

Ivan Diaz, Mary Doan, Jacob Emiliano, Tiffany Flippen, Desiree Flores, Romeo Garay, Cassandra Garcia, Hunter C. Garcia, Julissa Gomez, Jonothon Gonzales, Joshua Gonzalez, Austin Goodwin, John Guerra, Michael Guzman, Mireya Hernandez and Lindsey Hurt.

Isaiah Juarez, Jarret Long, Jakeline Lopez, Amaya Martin, Julian Martinez, Kate Maslonka, Deja Mason Gaines, Eduardo Mendez, Oren Moreno, Giselle Moreno, Dorothy Nguyen, Jaclyn Nguyen, Donatus Oguamanam and Ashley Patterson.

Russel Frank Ferraro



Russel Frank Ferraro, 78, died Feb. 6, 2010. He was born Sept. 24, 1931, to Sicilian parents, Angelo Ferraro and Anna Didio, in Falconer, N.Y. He was a longtime South Belt resident.

He had memories of playing with all the children in the neighborhood, working as a child of the Depression picking cherries and apples at the local farmers orchards, and in the winter sliding down his favorite "apple pie hill."

As a young adult he and his "gumbadis" enlisted in the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Germany and served in Korea.

There he was known as "The Entertainer," whose stage name was "Johnny Rockabye Darro." He sang, told jokes and loved to entertain his fellow soldiers.

After the service, Ferraro traveled all over the United States, settling in Houston in 1968. There, he married the love of his life and raised their daughter. He was an avid bowler. He enjoyed singing, entertaining and playing the trumpet.

Ferraro is survived by his wife of 40 years, Lotus Ferraro; daughter Carla Ferraro Covarrubias and son-in-law Mario Covarrubias; and his "Little Cookie" Iliana Covarrubias.

A memorial Mass was held Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Mary Queen Catholic Church, with the Rev. Benny Thadathilkunel officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 841125, Dallas, Texas 75284-1125, in his memory.

Condolences can be sent to the Russel Frank Ferraro family in care of the Jeter Memorial Funeral Home in Friendswood at www.jeterfuneralhome.com.

Anna Evelyn Peak



Anna Evelyn Peak, 87, died Feb. 11, 2010, surrounded by her family and friends. She was a South Belt resident.

Peak was known as Mama Peak by her four natural grandchildren, Nikolas and Dennis Tatsch and Carlin and Blake Peak, and the many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Peak had a special affinity for children, having taught 18-month-olds at Sagemont Church for decades, before finally retiring due to declining health at age 85.

Peak was born in Tyler, Texas, on June 8, 1922. She worked her way through what is now the Lily Jolly School of Nursing, obtaining her R.N. in 1946, establishing a lifelong friendship with her classmates and especially her roommates, Norma and Lorene. She and Sam were married Sept. 2, 1948, in Brownwood, Texas.

Nursing was her true calling, and she devoted her life to the care of others. Newly graduated, she served during the aftermath of the great Texas City Explosion. As a young mother, she moved to Iraq and nursed people there and established an ex-pat Bible school.

In 1958, Peak escaped the Iraqi revolution with two young children and a newborn following an extremely difficult pregnancy, all while her husband was held hostage for a year.

She and Sam promptly returned overseas with their children and raised them in Ponce, Puerto Rico. While there, she and Sam served as leadership in Ponce Baptist Church for 14 years.

Peak worked as a school nurse at Fort Allan Naval Base and helped to nurse her neighbors in the rural barrio of Quebrada del Agua, despite never learning Spanish.

Returning to Houston in

Sixth grade Honor roll

Daniel Alvarez, Cristian Ascencio, Jacqueline Bui, Jessica Bustamante, Kara Campos, Mandy Cao, Katie Carnish, Brandon Chung, Kevin Cortez, Zoe Cortez, David Cruz, Melissa Cruz, Nicole Cypert, Ashley Deveza, Mark Eldridge, Alejandro Flores and Andrew Fry.

Aileen Garcia, Leslie Garcia, Vanessa Gonzalez, Myles Harris, Kallie Hart, Shelby Henderer, Jacklyn

Hernandez, Michelle Hoang, Sarathany In, Jacob Izaguirre, Brady Jacobs, Bobby Le, Sarah Loftin, Orlando Logan and Julia Lohse.

Christopher Lopez, Rafael Martinez, Marisa Mendietta, Jade Mottu, Elton Nguyen, Thuanh Nguyen, Tin Nguyen, Johnny Ordez, Onyx Palomino, Jesus Paredes, Marcela Pena, Juan Perez, Faridhe Puente, Anfernee Jay Reyna, Carlos Rivas and Lesly Rivera.

Megan Schuetz, Saman-

tha Schwartz, McKenna Simceek, Alaina Sitka, Alyssa Solis, Michael Spiller, Laura Stephens, Kimmigan Tran, Vinh Tran, Mariana Triana, Kellie Tyer, Jolissa Villalobos, Rachel Vu, Charish Williams, Skylar Williams and Raven Wilson.

Sixth grade Merit roll
Ahmad Abusaif, Charnell Anderson, Jaylon Bolden, Jose Miguel Coronado, DeAnn Dimas, Jalyn Duke, Ryan Ehlinger, Adrian Gar-

Thompson employees recognized for service

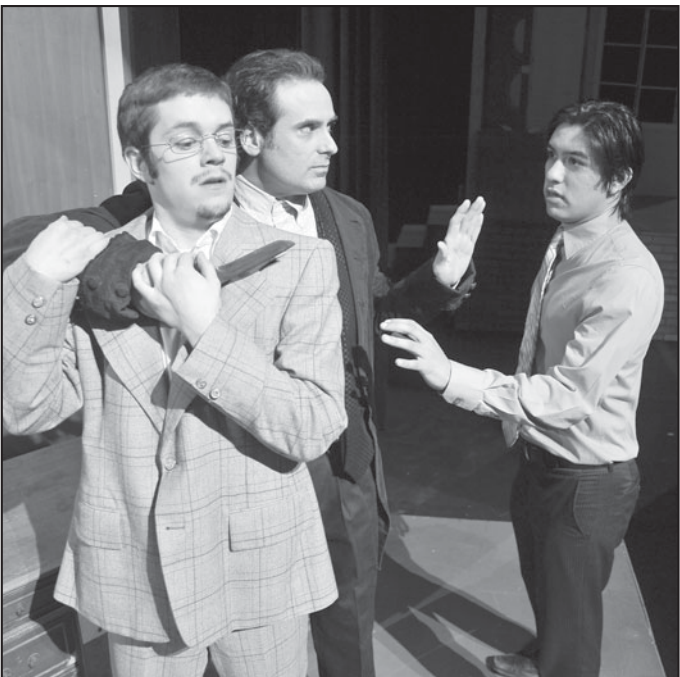


Thompson Intermediate recognizes employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service in the Pasadena Independent School District. Employees with at least 20 years will be invited to the Service Rewards Reception on May 20, at 5 p.m. at Pasadena Memorial High School. The reception will highlight all employees' contributions to education and the district. Service awards given by the

district to Thompson Intermediate employees include: (5 years) Dalia Castillo, Toshila Darjean, Renee Gobe, Deanne Davis; (10 years) Gregg Baumgartner, Sue Evans; (15 years) Gary Hickman, Todd Taylor, (20 years) Cathy Broussard, Cherrise Lindsey, and (30 years) Joyce Koska. Pictured are, left to right, Hickman, Broussard, Taylor, Evans and Baumgartner.

Photo by Carol Waters

SJC presents Time after Time



San Jacinto College Central's department of theater and film will present an action-packed dramatic thriller *Time After Time*. The play, adapted from the 1979 movie of the same name that features Malcolm McDowell, is a story about H. G. Wells and a time machine. *Time After Time* will be staged in Slocumb Auditorium, located on the Central campus, 8060 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. Production dates will be Feb. 19, 20, 26, and 27 at 7:30 p.m. There will be two matinee performances on Feb. 21, and Feb. 28 at 2:30 p.m. For price information or to make reservations, call 281-476-1828. Pictured are, left to right, H.G. Wells (Matt Rickard of Friendswood) struggles with Jack the Ripper (guest artist Nick Weiss of Deer Park) while a policeman (Julio Otero of the South Belt area) looks on in horror.

Harris County offers H.O.M.E.

The Harris County Community Services Department has officially launched the much anticipated Home Ownership Made Easy program. Through the program, Harris County has recently purchased more than 40 foreclosed homes, offering them to qualified first-time buyers at greatly discounted prices. While many of those homes have either sold or have pending offers, Harris County Community Services continues to purchase homes, replenishing the inventory weekly.

The new H.O.M.E. program, funded by a HUD Neighborhood Stabilization grant, offers foreclosed homes for resale to qualified families at 20 percent below Harris County's purchase price. The program also pays

a 3 percent real estate commission and 6 percent toward the buyer's closing costs. The homes are located primarily in newer Harris County subdivisions beyond Houston city limits.

"I think the real estate agents and buyers out there will be pleased with the quality of these recently built homes," said David Turkel, director of Harris County Community Services. "In many cases buyers are paying 40 to 50 percent below what the same house sold for when it was new."

The goal of the program is to help employed low to middle income people purchase vacant foreclosed homes they can afford, thereby stabilizing local housing markets that are being impacted by high foreclosure rates. A family of

four earning as much as \$76 thousand a year may qualify for this program.

"Putting hard-working, credit-worthy families into vacant homes that might otherwise be vandalized will help stabilize property values and prevent neighborhood deterioration," Turkel said.

The county continues to purchase homes as those in the H.O.M.E. inventory are sold in a program that is expected to last at least two years. To find more information and to view the latest homes for sale, go to www.harriscountyhome.hctx.net. Homebuyers may have access to the program through a licensed real estate agent or an attorney. The H.O.M.E. program welcomes the participation of all licensed real estate agents.

Deaths

1976, Peak served 20 more years as a city of Houston family planning nurse, and a 34-year member of Sagemont Church.

Peak is survived by her husband of 61 years, Samuel H. Peak Jr.; children Daniel Peak and wife Jan, Sallye Swedberg and husband Jim, Samuel H. (Bodie) Peak III and wife Tamara; her brother, David Whately and wife Delores; sister Hettie Mae Whitehead and husband Leland; grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and cousins and her extended family, the Culpeppers, Ryans, Sagemont Church, and the residents of Sagemeadow Lane.

A funeral service was held at 3 p.m. on Feb. 14, 2010, at Niday Funeral Home. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Friends and family are encouraged to visit www.nidayfunerals.com for more information about Peak.

In lieu of usual remembrances, contributions in Peak's name may be made to The Helping Hands Ministry of Sagemont Church, 11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy. East, Houston Texas 77089, or at www.sagemontchurch.org.

Dorothy Helen Lowe

Dorothy Helen Lowe, 89, died on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, in Houston. She was born March 23, 1920, in Big Sandy, Texas, to Timothy C. Sullivan and Kate Willoughby Sullivan.

She was retired from Texas Instruments, was a member of Sagemont Church, and attended Grace Sunday School classes. She was a longtime South Belt resident who lived with her son and his wife.

Lowe is survived by her son, Jimmy C. Parks and wife Glenda in Houston; grand-



son Kenneth Ferrell and wife Christy; four great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, C.L. Parks, and her second husband, Jack Lowe.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 18, at Rice, Texas, Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Sagemont Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Sagemont Church Living Proof Project, 11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy. East, Houston, Texas 77089.

Larry O'Connor



Larry O'Connor, 72, of Pearland died Feb. 14, 2010. He was born in Iowa Feb. 5,

1938 to Edward and Mildred O'Connor. O'Connor and his wife resided in the South Belt area for almost 40 years.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Terry.

O'Connor is survived by his wife of 52 years, Shirley, son Von, daughter-in-law Diana, two grandsons, Colin and Cameron. Also surviving is his brother Richard, sister Sharon Van De Walle, brother and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends.

O'Connor served in the Air Force and worked many years at the Port of Houston. He loved all sports, especially the Houston Astros and the Iowa Hawkeyes.

He was very active in the Sagemont Little League. He loved coaching baseball.

O'Connor was a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Funeral services will be held at St. Luke's, located at 11011 Hall Road in Houston, on Saturday Feb. 20, 2010, at 2 p.m. A reception in the social hall with food and fellowship will follow the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Stewards Building the Future Fund.

Lowry "Burt" Bunch

Lowry "Burt" Bunch, 73, a longtime South Belt area resident, died on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010, in Houston.

Bunch is preceded in death by his parents, Lowry and Vivian Bunch.

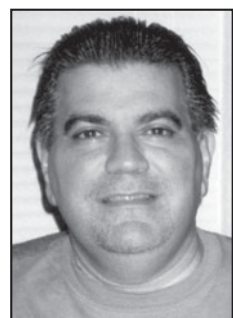
He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sonja Bunch; daughter Gloria Orsak and husband D'Wayne; Ron Bunch and wife Erica; sisters Mary Kathryn Russell and husband Melvin and Dianne Raska; grandchildren Madison, Kendyl and Cidney.

Chapel services will be

held Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, at 10 a.m. at Forest Park East Funeral Home Chapel.

Interment will follow at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

David Greco



David Greco, 48, died Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010. He was born in Houston on July 29, 1961.

Greco is survived by his mother, Vinci Greco, a long-time South Belt resident.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Interment will follow at Forest Park Cemetery on Lawndale.

Leader obituary policy

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

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Pack 692 Scouts collect food donations

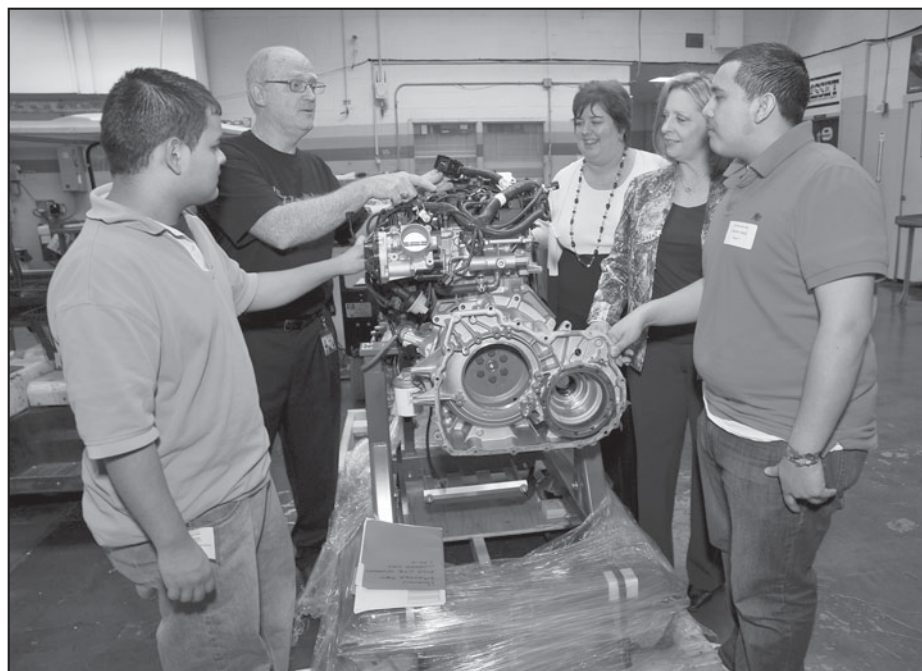


The Boy Scouts of Troop and Pack 692, as part of their annual Scouting for Food program, recently collected food donations from the South Belt area for the Houston Food Bank's Souper Bowl of Caring and St. Luke's Catholic Church Food Pantry. On Sunday, Feb. 7, the Scouts attended morning Mass at St. Luke's to observe Scout Sunday and recognize the contributions of youth and adults to scouting. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Sean Larivee, Nicholas Geruin, Tannor Willis, Jake

Wohleb, Blas Anoruo, Oscar Anoruo, Matthew Malone, (second row) Robert Mendoza, Toni Izzarelli, Caden Carter, Diego Abarran, Santiago Abarran, Nathan Bennett, Joe Bennett, (third row) Michael Clark, Ben Salazar, Lisa Morris, Derek Bui, Adrien Guerin, (fourth row) Swordsman Morris, Austin Perez, Rev. James M. Burkart, Abner Baerga and Darryl Malone.

Photo by Carol Waters

PISD students tour San Jac facilities



Career and Technical Education students attending Pasadena Independent School District high schools recently visited San Jacinto College Central to tour the campus' technical education facilities. A group touring the automotive technology lab included, from left to right, Jose Carbajal, a ninth-

grade student; Dr. Steven Horton, Central campus dean of technical education; Sarah Wroblewski, PISD CTE director; Stephanie Wright, PISD's High School Success Program lead coordinator; and Carlos Curiel, a ninth-grader.

Photo submitted.

Dobie HS receives grant

Dobie High School recently received a \$750 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program to support the school's math and science programs.

Bhaskar Chinlet of CORS Exxon Station in the South Belt area worked with school officials to secure the grant, which is one of 2,400 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or

Mobil stations.

The grants were made possible by funding from the ExxonMobil Corporation.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this grant. I would like to thank ExxonMobil, but especially Mr. Chinlet, for showing such a strong interest in the students of the South Belt community," said Steve Jamail, Dobie High School principal.

The ExxonMobil Education Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

ExxonMobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Chinlet met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant, including having a commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers.

BHI spelling bee winners



Beverly Hills Intermediate recently held its annual spelling bee. Winners are, left to right, Jennifer Trinh, BHI Spelling Bee champ, and Mai Thao Nguyen, first runner-up. The winning word was 'fallacy.' Both girls are in the eighth grade. Trinh competed in the recent Pasadena Independent School District Bee.

Photo Submitted

Lariaettes host showoff Feb. 24

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes will host a showoff of their contest routines for the 2010 competition season.

The showoff will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dobie gym. Admission is \$5, children 5 and under are free.

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Singles dance Feb. 20

The Bay Area Singles Club Monthly Dance will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the VFW Lodge in Baclif, 1401 Grand Avenue on FM 646, one-quarter mile west of Highway 146.

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

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

CALLING ALL SOUTH BELT ARTISANS

The Gardens is looking for local artists to sell their work at a community craft fair.

Saturday March 6, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday March 7, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Earn money making the art you enjoy, like knitting, embroidery, painting, sculpture, pastry design, baking, & any other unique artistic talents by selling them to the community.

Rain or shine, the Gardens can be your first public venue or just one close to home. Action Ministries will also hold their garage sale during the fair.

For more information contact Wendy at the Gardens at 281-481-0181

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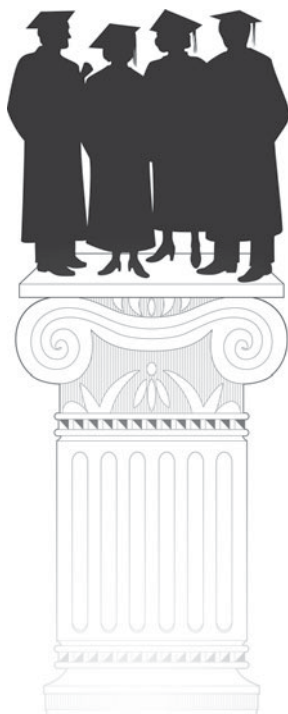


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AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (10:00 @ \$8), 12:35, 1:45, 4:15, 5:30, 7:55, 9:15, 11:45, 12:35

BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME (PG-13) (10:30 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:55, 7:50, 11:05

SHUTTER ISLAND (R) (10:15 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15, 11:20, 12:55

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG) (10:20, 11:40 @ \$5), 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:20, 7:05, 8:10, 9:55, 10:55, 12:50

VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13) (10:00, 11:30 @ \$5), 12:05, 1:00, 2:00, 3:05, 4:05, 5:30, 6:00, 7:10, 8:15, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 11:55, 12:55

THE WOLFMAN (R) (10:45, 11:30 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:20, 2:05, 3:00, 3:55, 4:40, 5:35, 6:30, 7:20, 8:20, 9:05, 9:50, 10:45, 11:40, 12:35

DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30, 12:55

DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (11:50 @ \$5), 1:25, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55, 10:05, 11:15, 11:35

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (10:35 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:35, 6:05, 8:30, 9:30, 10:40, 11:50, 12:55

EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (11:35 @ \$5), 2:45, 5:25, 8:25, 11:10

WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:25, 6:35

LEGION (R) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:25, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55, 10:05, 11:15, 12:25

TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10, 12:30

THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (11:05 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20, 12:55

THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) 12:45, 6:25, 12:10

THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) (11:25 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:30, 6:40, 9:25, 11:30

IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (10:25 @ \$5), 1:15, 3:50, 6:50

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (10:50 @ \$5), 3:15, 6:10, 9:10, 11:55

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (11:45 @ \$5), 2:10, 4:35, 6:55

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) (10:20 @ \$5), 12:40, 3:20, 5:45

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (11:20 @ \$5), 2:40, 5:20, 8:35, 11:35

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) (10:00 @ \$5), 3:40, 9:20

AMC SELECT

CRAZY HEART (R) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:25

IMAX

AVATAR: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) (11:15 @ \$9), 2:55, 6:45, 10:35

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Over The Back Fence by Jan

WELCOME TO THE WORLD AUSTIN
John and Sharon Boeger, longtime Sage- glen residents, are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild. Austin Michael Smith was born Jan. 26, 2010, at 7:54 p.m. at the Woman's Hospital of Texas. He weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz. and stretched 19-1/4 inches. Proud mom and dad are Gretchen (Boeger) and Mike Smith. His arrival was welcomed by uncle Reed and aunt Catherine of Anchorage, Alaska, paternal grandmother Claudia Smith of Katy, great-grandmother Tex Reed of Burkburnett, Texas, great-grandmother Arlene Eaton of Arizona, and aunt Marne, uncle Kyle Shafer and cousin Hudson Shafer of Katy.

BIRTHDAY WISHES, JERICKA
Happy 11th birthday to Jericka Jewel Evans. Mom Sunday and dad Jimbo are very proud and send much love.

HAPPY 22nd BIRTHDAY TO JENNIFER
Happy 22nd birthday wishes are sent on Feb. 20, to Jennifer Caudill from dad David, mom Judi and brother Benjamin. They hope her day is as special as she is.

MARIAH SENT BIRTHDAY WISHES
Mariah Escalante (sophomore at Dobie) celebrates her 'Sweet 16' on Saturday, Feb. 20. Happy birthday, much love and best wishes are sent from dad Chris, mom Cheyenne, brother C.J., grandma Anita Gonzalez and Esteban Gonzalez, grandma Peggy Jones, great-grandma Nannie Dorothy Kelly and all

her uncles, aunts and cousins.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 18 through Feb. 24.

Atkinson Elementary
Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to Anastacio Rosas Feb. 19. Feb. 21 is the day for a birthday cake for Wanda Soto.

Burnett Elementary
On Feb. 24, Frances Rivera enjoys a birthday.

Jessup Elementary
Special birthday wishes are sent to Goya Mamud Feb. 19. A double birthday celebration is set for Lisa Catalan and Anahid Tapia on Feb. 20. Marking a birthday Feb. 21 is William S. Pape. Rugero Taboada has a birthday Feb. 23.

Meador Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Escobar Icela Feb. 18.

Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday cake for Ashley Evans is Feb. 18.

Melillo Middle School
Stacy Paxton celebrates a birthday Feb. 20. On Feb. 21, Norma De La Rosa marks a birthday.

Morris Middle School
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Shuntel Gray Feb. 22.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

The day for a triple birthday party for Joseph Fee, Angelika Mishra and Quan Nguyen is Feb. 23.

Thompson Intermediate
The Lions would like to wish Mark Varian, Erin Richardson, Bill Kirchman, Toby Lavergne, Yolanda Grant, Carol Thacker and Coach John Fowler a happy birthday and thank them for their dedication to their community.

Challenger
Blow out the birthday candles for Hilary Weaver Feb. 18.

Dobie High
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 18 is James Stevens. Birthday wishes are sent to Deborah James Feb. 19. Blow out the birthday candles on a triple-layer cake for Eric Brown, Dendy Farrar and Eleuteria Reyes on Feb. 20. On Feb. 21, a triple birthday is celebrated by Paul Kelly, Eva Vasquez and Robert Waloven. Special birthday wishes are sent on Feb. 22 to Craig Sanders. Triple birthday greetings are sent to Donna Hawkins, Wendy Sharpless and Tamalar Whiting Feb. 24.

College faculty art exhibition set

Lone Star College Faculty Art Exhibition will be held through March 25 at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

This new exhibition includes artwork created by faculty from Lone Star College-Tomball and Lone Star College-Kingwood.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Admission to the exhibition is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the gallery at 281-283-3446, or e-mail artgallery@uhcl.edu.

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San Jac hosts GED graduation

San Jac College recently hosted a graduation ceremony for students who earned their General Education Development certificates.

All three San Jacinto College campuses administer the five required GED tests.

A total of 442 people recently earned GED certificates after taking GED tests at San Jacinto College, and approximately 50 of the GED graduates, along with friends and relatives, attended the graduation ceremony held recently at the North campus.

subject matter of current high school curricula. Since then, many area students have passed, but there was no local ceremony to honor them.

In 2004, San Jacinto College began to host a ceremony for GED graduates and has continued to host such events ever since.

For more information about GED testing at San Jacinto College North, contact Hopkins at 281-458-4050 ext. 2347, or by e-mail at Ronald.Hopkins@sjcd.edu.

3433, or by e-mail at Ana Flores@sjcd.edu.

For more information about GED testing at the Central campus, contact Carita Hayes at 281-476-1501 ext. 2025, or by e-mail at Carita.Hayes@sjcd.edu.

For more information about GED testing at the South campus, contact Ana Flores at 281-484-1900 ext.



The top graduates who recently earned GED certificates from San Jacinto College include, left to right, Monicia Thomas (South campus), Cedric Brooks (North campus), William Scheeler (Central campus), Jessica Mares (North campus) and Justin Weikel (South campus).

Burnett announces Spelling Bee winners

Marco Velazquez, a third-grader from Marissa Gutierrez's class, recently won the Burnett Elementary Spelling Bee. Third-grader Alan Contreras from Noel Becerra's class, is the runner up. Twenty-four third- and fourth-grade students

participated in the annual spelling bee. Pictured are, left to right, Gutierrez, Velazquez, Yolanda Velazquez (Marco's mother), Norma Contreras (Alan's mother), Contreras and Becerra.

Photo submitted

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Remember When

30 years ago (1980)
South Belter living in Houston city limits were surprised to learn that they live in Zone C, the cheapest National Flood Insurance zone.

Pasadena Independent School District board voted to assess property at 100 percent of its value, instead of the previous 80 percent.

25 years ago (1985)
Houston Fire Department Station 70 opened on Beamer, and firefighters moved into the new station.

20 years ago (1990)
The jury in the Slaughter vs. Monsanto case absolved Monsanto of any liability regarding the Brio waste dump. Close to \$350 million in damages was being sought by 222 plaintiffs.

The Committee For Good Schools, made up of community watchdogs, encouraged a "no" vote on the upcoming Pasadena Independent School bond issue.

Thompson Intermediate principal Vicki Thomas promoted a sense of school spirit and self-achievement by starting the "BUG" (Bring Up Grades) Club for her 950 students.

Meador Elementary was chosen to conduct a pilot program which would allow each student to use a computer on a daily basis.

15 years ago (1995)
Leader publisher Marie Flickinger received 90.5 percent of the votes cast at Dobie High School for San Jacinto College District's board of regents Position 3.

Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon Team would be among 40 large schools competing at Clear Creek High.

The Pasadena Independent School District board unveiled a facilities plan that could lead to a \$44.86 million bond election in the fall.

Merchants along Scarsdale Boulevard were alerted

that a contractor had been telling some that they had been annexed by the city, when in fact they had not.

10 years ago (2000)
The Pasadena Independent School District \$200 million bond issue was approved by 88 percent of the voters.

Minh Pham, three-year Dobie varsity football letter winner on the line, was selected to the 5A academic all-state team.

5 years ago (2005)
The city council for the city of League City did not approve an interlocal agreement which would have provided infrastructure to build CCISD's fourth high school.

A previous article in the Leader resulted in the newspaper office being deluged with telephone calls informing the staff of illegal gambling operations in the South Belt area. One location in a shopping center on Hughes

at Beamer removed gambling machines and closed its doors for business.

1 year ago (2009)
Clear Brook Meadows resident and 1997 Dobie graduate Troy Augst was killed in a head-on collision in the 2600 block of Genoa Red Bluff. Police said Augst was traveling west as east-bound driver Rodney Price of La Porte attempted to pass two vehicles and crashed into him, causing his vehicle to spin around into a ditch and strike a telephone pole.

Two separate houses caught fire the same day. Firefighters from several local units extinguished a blaze at a home in the 11400 block of Camphorwood. The home was unoccupied at the time of the fire. A home in the 10500 block of Sagewick also caught fire. It, too, was unoccupied. Reportedly the occupants had recently moved.

Staudes celebrate 20 years together



Breck and Royanne Staudes marked their 20th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010. They were married in 1990 at First United Methodist Church in Pearland. Breck has been a Harris County Sheriff's deputy for 20 years.



Royanne has worked at Gynecologic Oncology of Houston for 10 years. They have one daughter, Brittney, who is a senior at Dobie High School. The Staudes will celebrate their anniversary with family and friends at a later date.

Padilla, Moreno win PISD district 2010 science fair

Melillo Middle School fifth-grade students Oren Moreno and Adam Padilla won the recent Pasadena Independent School District Secondary Science Fair 2010 for the Team Project category. Competing against science students in fifth and sixth grade throughout the entire Pasadena district, Moreno and Padilla teamed up their skills to show the effects on bacteria from various mouth-wash products. Their project consisted of taking mouth swab samples after a 30 second rinse of mouthwash. The swab samples were then introduced to Petri dishes to cultivate colonies of bacteria. The colonies of bacteria were counted using a grid and calculation method to determine the most effective mouth-wash.

Moreno's and Padilla's interest in science and mathematics was inspired through the Gifted and Talented Program at Melillo Middle School.

Both students are very interested in the NASA Space Program and plan to have science related careers.

"I would like to attend M.I.T. someday, and study a science or engineering related field," said Moreno. "I feel there is much left to be discovered through science. Hopefully, Washington won't cut the space program too much, because I would like to be a mission specialist someday."

Moreno and Padilla share other interests to keep them well rounded including Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League Baseball, South Belt Youth Soccer Club, Melillo Band, and Melillo Orchestra.

Both students attend St. Luke's Catholic Church. Moreno is the son of Roger and Linda Moreno. Padilla is the son of David and Maria Padilla.

Taylor, Boeger engaged



Don and Mary Taylor, formerly of Clear Lake City, announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Catherine Michelle, to John Reed Boeger, son of longtime Sagehen residents John and Sharon Boeger. The bride-to-be completed the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 2006 from Texas State University. She is currently an elementary reading specialist at a Native American elementary school in Anchorage, Alaska. The prospective groom received a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently employed by B.P. Alaska in Anchorage. Both graduated in 2002 from Clear Brook High School. An early March wedding is planned in the Fort Worth area.

Like seeing your child's name in the South Belt Leader? Thank our advertisers!

Sale, seminars at HCMG

The Harris County Master Gardeners spring sale and seminars will feature tropical fruit trees and fruit trees for home orchards, tomatoes, peppers, citrus, berries and grapes. The sale includes the largest selection of tomatoes and peppers in the area.

Plant varieties are developed specifically for this region and most are not available at local nurseries and garden centers.

The seminars will include a plant sale preview at 8

a.m. with Heidi Sheesley of Treesearch Farms; Backyard Citrus Care by Herman Auer at 10 a.m.; and Growing Tomatoes and Peppers by Dr. Carol Brouwer, county extension agent for Horticulture, at 11 a.m.

The sale and seminars will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, with sales hours from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., and seminars beginning at 8 a.m. at Campbell Hall, located at the Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Road in Pasadena.

Display and information booths will be on hand. A limited number of wagons will be available, so shoppers are encouraged to bring their own. No pets, please.

For more information, visit <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>.



Melillo Middle School fifth-grade students Oren Moreno (left) and Adam Padilla display their first-place medal and ribbons from the Pasadena Independent School District Secondary Science Fair 2010, held at San Jacinto College Central campus.

Wedding, engagement policies

Wedding writeups must be run in the newspaper, not submitted, in the time outlined:

From wedding date to six weeks – photo and full article; Six weeks to three months – photo and limited information; After three months from wedding date – will not be run.

Engagement and wedding announcements are published free of charge on a first come, first served basis. Information must be submitted by Friday to be considered for the next issue.

Bapat receives award

Dr. Avinash Bapat, cardiologist at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, is the 2010 recipient of the Hind Rattan Award presented by the Non Resident Indian Welfare Society of India.

Bapat accepted the award at the 29th International Congress in New Delhi. The prestigious award is for his prominent role in cardiology and his exceptional and ethical patient care.

Over the past two decades with various Memorial Hermann hospitals, Bapat has earned much recognition for his contributions.

In 2007, he was named physician of the year at Memorial Hermann Southeast. In 2008, he received the Master of the American Academy of Cardiology, an award that specially recognizes cardiologists for their ethics and principles.

He has spent many years serving on the board of trustees for Memorial Hermann and several committees, including cardiology and ethics.

Bapat is also making educational footprints. He is a faculty member at the University of Texas and Baylor University and a member of several cardiology and medical societies.



Dr. Bapat displays the plaque he received for being the 2010 recipient of the Hind Rattan Award.

UHCL open house set

Potential University of Houston-Clear Lake students are invited to attend its open house Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Services Building, UHCL, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

This free event is for prospective students to meet faculty and advisers, learn more about financial aid and scholarships, and tour the university. Reservations are encouraged.

For more information, call 281-283-2515 or visit <http://www.uhcl.edu/U4U>.

Lions Club meets Feb. 23

The Houston Space City Lions Club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

LSA open house Feb. 21

Lutheran South Academy will hold an open house and tour for prospective students and their parents Sunday, Feb. 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.

To register for the open house and tour, call Director of Admissions Erin Senney at 281-617-5626. Lutheran South Academy is at 12555 Ryewater Drive.

LCA open house Feb. 23

Life Christian Academy will host an informative open house and tour of the school on Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. for current and prospective students and their parents.

LCA is a Christian school serving kindergarten through 12th grade. For information, call 713-910-0808.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Thursday 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

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

Nursery Available at all Services

Lions donate funds to Haiti quake victims



Thompson students and staff helped the Haitian earthquake victims by donating money. Students made posters to promote donations for the American Red Cross from students and staff the week of Jan. 25-29. The Lions collected a total of \$897.94. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Daniella Manzanales, Jenna Truong, Cindy Vo, Clarissa Ramon, Poala Zavala, Alicia Juarez, Madelyn Maxwell. (middle row) Melissa Joseph, Jerreca

Hubley, Adriana Jaso, Cristian Gonzalez, Gabriel Sarduy, Zachary Blue, Tori Gagneux, Ayeshum Rasool, Kathryn Rosas, Jackie Vasquez, (back row) Ariel Spikes, Maria Flores, Amy Jackson, Daevon Williams, Douchane Sells, Deja Richards, Taylor Talley, Amari Lavergne, Abby Pedroza, Selena Ortiz, Andrea Balderas, Davion Lewis and Kelly Holmes. Not pictured are Alex Rivera and Tanya Torres. *Photo by Carol Waters*

Legler supports Perry's legal fight against U.S. EPA

State Rep. Ken Legler announced his support of the decision by Gov. Rick Perry, Attorney General Greg Abbot and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples to take legal action challenging the Environmental Protection Agency endangerment finding for greenhouse gases in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

"I have said it time and time again, Texas is reducing the amounts of harmful chemicals put into the air without federal governmental interference," stated Legler. "People at the local level are in the best position to know how to handle certain situations, not those who work 1500 miles away. I applaud this lawsuit, which has been filed on behalf of all Texans, not only to protect jobs in Texas but also to defend the ability of Texas to continue the self-regulation and successful environmental policies, free from the overbearing hand of the federal government."

According to information received from the governor's office, "the state has filed a Petition for Review with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and will also file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Environmental Protection Agency, asking the administrator to review the decision. The state's legal action indicates EPA's Endangerment Finding is legally unsupported because the agency outsourced its scientific assessment to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has been discredited by evidence of key scientists' lack of objectivity, coordinated efforts to hide flaws in their research, attempts to keep contravening evidence out of IPCC reports and violation of freedom of information laws."

Additionally, in comments to the EPA filed by the governor in 2009, the agency's decision to regu-

late greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act will impose a tremendous regulatory and financial burden on most Texans, including an energy sector that hundreds of thousands of Texans depend upon for their jobs — not to mention Texas families who face an estimated \$1,200 in increased annual living costs during a down economy.

More information on the suit can be found at www.governor.state.tx.us

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REWARD

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Lariaette Royal Ball Court named

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes held their annual Royal Ball at The Admiral in Seabrook on Jan. 17, 2010. Pictured below are the 2009-2010 Royal Ball Court, nominated by their fellow teammates. They are, left to right, junior Aimee Cessna, junior Aracely Perez, senior Nicolette Baade, senior Shanay LaCour, senior Ivette Armenta, sophomore Victoria Gomez, junior Jontay Warner, senior Senia Rubio and sophomore Alaina Burns. The winners, announced that evening, pictured at right are Princess Aracely Perez, Queen Shanay LaCour and Duchess Alaina Burns. *Submitted photo*



PTO scholarships available

Atkinson Elementary
The Atkinson Elementary PTO will offer two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Atkinson at least two years, one being fifth grade.

Applications and requirement information are available through the senior counselor's office at Dobie High School. Applications must be received by noon on Feb. 26.

Frazier Elementary
The Frazier Elementary PTO will offer six scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Frazier in the fourth and fifth grades.

Applications are available through the senior counselor's office at Dobie and must be received by noon Friday, March 12, to be considered. The scholarships will be awarded at the May PTO meeting.

Castoreno graduates



Audrey Aurora Castoreno graduated Dec. 19, 2009, from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Communications Degree in broadcast journalism. Castoreno is a 2006 Dobie High School graduate and the daughter of Carl and Sandy Castoreno of South Belt. In addition to her bachelor's degree, she completed an internship with Fox 26 in Houston. Castoreno resides in Victoria, Texas, and is a reporter for KAVU-ABC News 25.

The Dobie Longhorn Band would like to thank the following for generously donating to our annual BBQ Dinner and Silent Auction.

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and the many others who helped to make our fundraiser a success. We sincerely appreciate your support of the Dobie Band and our community.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Lady Longhorns top P.A.M., advance to face Lake

Playing their role perfectly, the Dobie Lady Longhorns responded once more as the second half team they have been this season.

Following nothing short of a shaky first half against Port Arthur Memorial, Dobie stormed back in the second half to win its girls' basketball bidistrict playoff game 49-41 over the Titans, earning an area playoff round date against Clear Lake Feb. 19.

During the win, District 22-5A champion Dobie delivered plenty of heroic efforts. Shanequa Gaston led Dobie with 13 points and Jasmine Guerrero and Vacie Davis added 12 each to pace the scoring column.

Senior post player Ashley Johnson scored just five points, but came through

**Dobie vs.
Clear Lake**
Friday, Feb. 19
Pearland Dawson, 6 p.m.

with two big buckets in the fourth quarter to help Dobie hold off Memorial.

A tale of two halves
The game was simply a tale of two halves. A look at the halftime stat sheet showed Dobie was fortunate to trail by just six points, 26-20.

Offensively, the Lady Longhorns couldn't get much going. The team missed its first five 3-point

tries and sank just one of eight throws. On the other end, Memorial post player Wendi Mitchell was having her way, scoring 12 first-half points.

But Memorial might have seen a Dobie comeback coming. Leading by as many as 11 points early in the second quarter, the Titans watched the Lady Longhorns climb back at the end of both quarters.

Guerrero hit a big 3-pointer with 1 minute, 14 seconds to play in the second quarter as Dobie cut Memorial's lead to six. From there, Memorial was on the ropes.

The third quarter belonged to Guerrero, who drained two more 3-pointers and also raced in for a breakaway layup that gave Dobie its first lead of the game at 32-30 with 2:59 to play in the third quarter.

Chelsea Rodriguez made another three, and Gaston battled Mitchell and others under the basket for a basket and a free throw after a foul.



By the time the third quarter ended, Dobie led 37-32.

Johnson's two baskets helped Dobie stay in front from there, but Memorial made one last push.

Trailing 43-37, Memorial got a runner from Jasmine Taylor to get within 43-39, and Dobie was then

whistled for a 5-second call on the ensuing inbound.

Memorial's chance to cut the Dobie lead further was halted by Darien Price, who blocked Mitchell's shot attempt.

With less than two minutes to play, Mitchell's frustration ended her team's hopes of a win. Called for a foul on the defensive end Mitchell slammed the ball to the court and drew a technical foul.

Gaston made one of her two free throws for the foul on the play, and Guerrero sank one of the two technical free throws, giving Dobie a 45-39 lead with 1:39 to play.

Memorial missed on their end and fouled Dobie immediately. Davis made a pair of free throws, and Gaston delivered two as Dobie mushroomed the lead to 10 with

In photo at left, Dobie's Ashley Johnson rises over Port Arthur Memorial's Wendi Mitchell (21) for a jump hook during the fourth quarter of the Lady Longhorns' 49-41 bidistrict playoff victory Feb. 15 at San Jacinto College North. Watching the play at left in photo are Memorial's Ariel Hutchinson and Dobie's Vacie Davis. Johnson had five points in the fourth quarter to help her team advance.
Photo by John Bechtle

Continued on Page 6B

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Brook, Dobie softball lose openers

The high school softball season did not include a bright beginning for the Clear Brook and Dobie varsity teams.

Clear Brook took on the state's top-ranked team, Pearland, in its opener, falling 6-0 Feb. 16 at Pearland.

The Lady Wolverines fell behind 2-0 in the second inning and could not recover. A couple of huge errors in the later innings allowed Pearland to grab an easy win.

Dobie fell down 2-0 to Kingwood after one inning but rallied twice before slipping 4-3.

Now, Clear Brook and Dobie will be part of the 32-team field at the Bryan-College Station tournament Feb. 18-20 (See Page 6B).

Pearland drops Brook
Hit with the injury bug before the season began, Clear Brook went into its opener against Pearland short-handed, and things may have gotten even worse.

Already playing without two projected starters, the Lady Wolverines essentially had 10 healthy players against Pearland, and that included catcher Molly Fichtner, who was nursing a very sore hand.

With Pearland's ace pitcher Jessica Bowden not in uniform, the Lady Oilers went with No. 2 pitcher Brooke DuBois, and she went the distance in the game.

Clear Brook had a runner in scoring position with two outs in each of the first two innings and couldn't get the big hit it needed. Pearland plated two runs on three hits in the second inning and never looked back.

Clear Brook pitcher Emma Napoli struck out the side in the first inning

but then ran into trouble in the second inning. Overall, she pitched well, but Clear Brook's defense made a handful of errors behind her.

Kingwood beats JFD
A new era in Dobie softball began Feb. 15 as the Lady Longhorns dropped their season opener 4-3 at Kingwood.

Losing five players to the college game after the 2009 season, the Lady Longhorns are reloading at several positions, including in the circle.

Along the way, the team is working to embrace a new offensive philosophy which focuses on the team's outstanding speed and ability to put the ball in play.

Against Kingwood, the results were mixed. Sophomore pitcher Shannon O'Connor gave up a two-run homer in the first inning and an RBI triple in the fourth inning, but otherwise kept her team close while pitching all six innings.

Amanda Nguyen had two singles and stole three

balls in the game. Against Kingwood, the results were mixed. Sophomore pitcher Shannon O'Connor gave up a two-run homer in the first inning and an RBI triple in the fourth inning, but otherwise kept her team close while pitching all six innings.

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32-Team Bryan-College Station tourney
Brook vs. Round Rock Westwood, 2 p.m.
Dobie vs. Plano, 2 p.m.
Both games Thursday, Feb. 18



Clear Brook varsity softball coach Ashley Pillow (second from left) hosts a defensive meeting near the circle during Brook's 6-0 opening-night loss to Pearland Feb. 16 at Pearland. Also in on the meeting included, Bridgette Begle (17), Meghan Reyes, Katie Bischof (22) and Molly Fichtner.
Photo by John Bechtle

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Lakers' hoops wins pair

The South Belt Lakers' 7-8-year-old Pasadena Recreation Department basketball team won two games to stay on a roll.

In their first game, the Lakers took on the Pasadena Spurs and won a tough game 18-11 by playing well in all phases.

Devin Childs led the scoring with 12 points, and Tyler Guzman added four points. Guillermo Gil had two points.

Childs had numerous steals, and Guzman, Robert Ernest and Keyveon Thompson also paced the defense.

The Lakers' rebounding was led by Kobe Ruiz, Gil and Andre Cruz.

In their second game of the day, the Lakers took on the Pasadena Punishers and won by a score of 22-8 to complete a sweep.

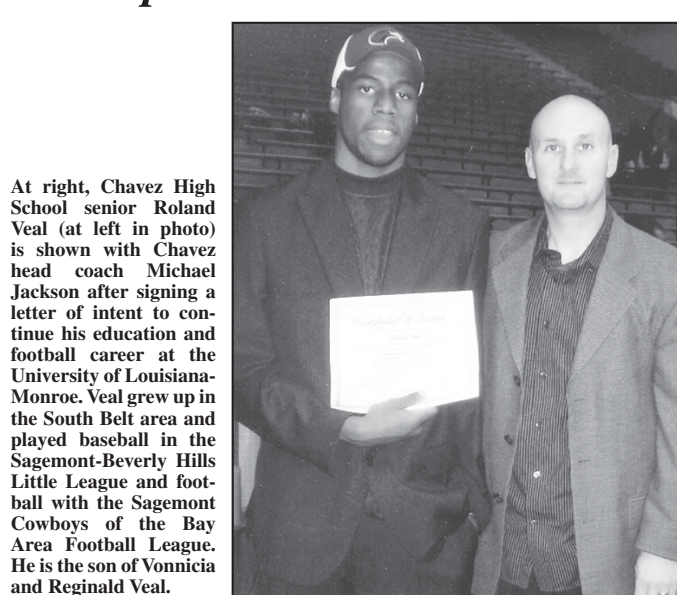
The Lakers started fast as they took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter and led 14-2 at halftime.

Childs again led the scoring with 12 points.

Thompson had 6 points, and Keon Thompson and Robert Ernest had two points apiece.

Defensively doing an excellent job in both games for the Lakers was Childs, Ruiz, Thompson, Ernest, Stacy Lagrone, Fernando Sifuentes and Ivan Salas.

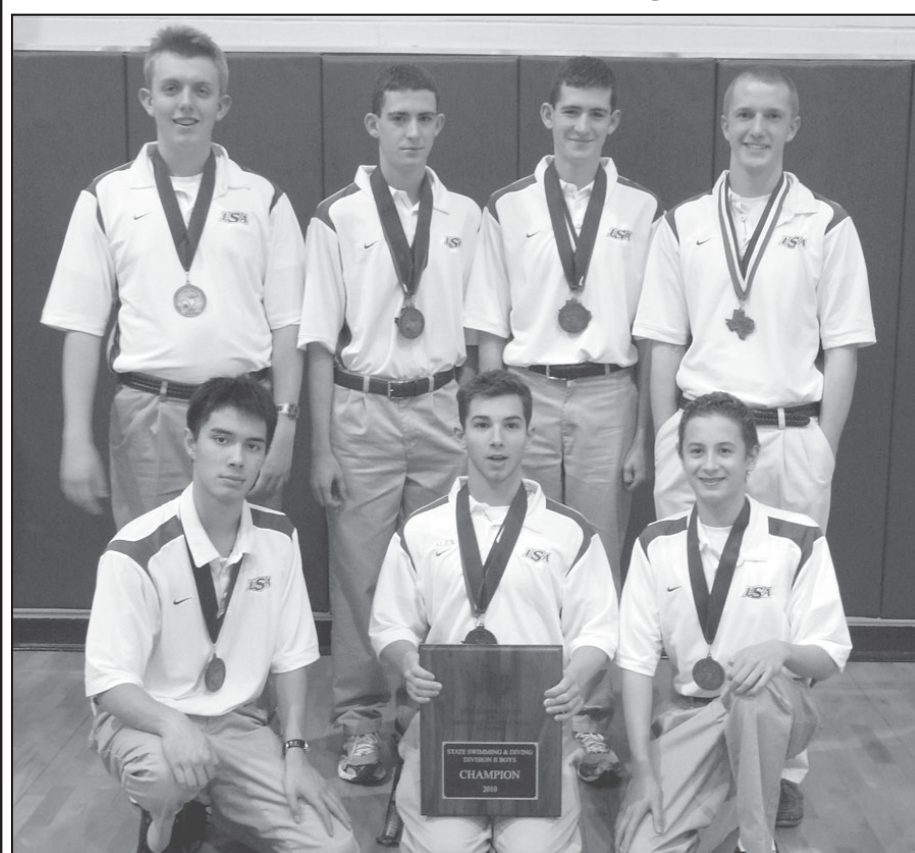
Veal picks Louisiana-Monroe



Submitted photo

At right, Chavez High School senior Roland Veal (at left in photo) is shown with Chavez head coach Michael Jackson after signing a letter of intent to continue his education and football career at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Veal grew up in the South Belt area and played baseball in the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League and football with the Sagemont Cowboys of the Bay Area Football League. He is the son of Vonnica and Reginald Veal.

LSA swimmers nab sixth straight at state



The Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' swimming team won the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state title for the sixth season in a row. Members of the team who won medals at the event included, left to right, (front row) James Downie, Alex Naumann, Christopher Mowrey, (back row) Matthew Roth, Kyle Petersen, Karch Petersen and Sam Kane. Along the way, the Pioneers broke six school records and three state marks.

Photo courtesy of LSA

Sports calendar

- BASKETBALL**
Friday, Feb. 19
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Clear Lake, 7:00
 Dobie varsity boys host Pearland, 7:30
 Clear Brook JV boys at Clear Lake, 5:30
 Dobie JV boys host Pearland, 6:00
 Clear Brook sophomore boys at Clear Lake, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys host Pearland, 4:30
 Clear Brook freshman A boys at Clear Lake, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A boys host Pearland, 6:00
 Clear Brook freshman B boys at Clear Lake, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B boys host Pearland, 4:30
- SOCCER**
Thursday, Feb. 18
 Dobie JV (B) girls host Deer Park, Dobie, 3:30
- Friday, Feb. 19**
 Clear Brook varsity girls host Clear Creek, 7:00
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek, 7:00
 Dobie varsity boys at Pearland, The Rig, 7:00
 Dobie varsity girls host Pearland, Newcomb, 7:00
 Clear Brook JV girls host Clear Creek, 5:00
 Clear Brook JV boys at Clear Creek, 5:00
 Dobie JV boys at Pearland, The Rig, 5:00
 Dobie JV girls host Pearland, Auxiliary, 5:00
- Saturday, Feb. 20**
 Clear Brook sophomore boys at Clear Springs, 10 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 22**
 Dobie varsity boys vs. Memorial, Newcomb, 5:00
 Dobie varsity girls vs. Memorial, Newcomb, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys vs. Memorial, Auxiliary, 7:00
 Dobie JV girls vs. Memorial, Auxiliary, 5:00
- Tuesday, Feb. 23**
 Clear Brook varsity boys host Dickinson, 7:00
 Clear Brook varsity girls at Dickinson, 7:00
 Clear Brook JV boys host Dickinson, 5:00
 Clear Brook JB girls at Dickinson, 5:00
- Thursday, Feb. 25**
 Dobie JV (B) girls at Sam Rayburn, campus, 3:30
- Friday, Feb. 26**
 Clear Brook varsity girls host Brazoswood, 7:00
 Clear Brook varsity boys at Brazoswood, 7:00
 Dobie varsity boys vs. South Houston, Newcomb, 7:00
 Dobie varsity girls vs. South Houston, Newcomb, 5:00
 Clear Brook JV girls host Brazoswood, 5:00
 Clear Brook JV boys at Brazoswood, 5:00
 Dobie JV boys vs. South Houston, Auxiliary, 5:00
 Dobie JV girls vs. South Houston, Newcomb, 3:00
- SOFTBALL**
Thursday, Feb. 18
 Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV at Pasadena tourn., PISD complex, TBA
- Friday, Feb. 19**
 Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV at Pasadena tourn., PISD complex, TBA
- Saturday, Feb. 20**
 Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV at Pasadena tourn., PISD complex, TBA
- Tuesday, Feb. 23**
 Dobie varsity hosts Brazoswood, PISD complex, 6:30
 Clear Brook varsity at Deer Park, 6:30
 Dobie JV hosts Brazoswood, PISD complex, 5:00
 Clear Brook varsity at Deer Park, 5:00
- BASEBALL**
Friday, Feb. 19
 Dobie varsity hosts Barber's Hill scrimmage, 3:30
 Clear Brook varsity at Baytown Sterling scrimm., 3:00
 Dobie JV at Barber's Hill scrimmage, 7:00
 Clear Brook JV hosts tri-scrimmage, 3:00
 Dobie sophomores at Barber's Hill scrimmage, 4:00
- Monday, Feb. 22 (season openers)**
 Clear Brook varsity hosts Morton Ranch, 6:00
 Clear Brook JV at Morton Ranch, 6:00
 Clear Brook sophomores at Morton Ranch, 4:00
- Tuesday, Feb. 23 (regular season openers)**
 Dobie varsity at Friendswood, 6:30
 Dobie JV hosts Friendswood, PISD complex, 7:00
 Dobie sophomores host Friendswood, PISD comp., 4:30
- Thursday, Feb. 25**
 Dobie varsity at Angleton tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook sophomores at Spring tourn., TBA
 Dobie sophomores at Pasadena tourn., TBA
- Friday, Feb. 26**
 Dobie varsity at Angleton tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook sophomores at Spring tourn., TBA
 Dobie sophomores at Pasadena tourn., TBA
- Saturday, Feb. 27**
 Dobie varsity at Angleton tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA
 Dobie JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
 Clear Brook sophomores at Spring tourn., TBA
 Dobie sophomores at Pasadena tourn., TBA

Local sports news, notes

San Jac soccer sets clinic/charity event

The San Jacinto College men's soccer team will host the Houston Intercollegiate Futbol Fiesta and Kicks for Hunger Clinic on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the South campus. Players ages 6-18, may participate in the clinic by donating two canned food items or nonperishable goods, which will be donated to a local food pantry. The clinic will be held from 4 to 5:45 p.m. The St. Thomas University soccer team will play against the Houston Leones PDL at 6 p.m., followed by Houston Baptist University vs. San Jacinto College at 8 p.m. Free player autographs, programs and other promotional prizes will be given out during the games. For more information, contact San Jacinto head coach David Santesteban at 281-922-3475 or direct e-mail to David.Santesteban@sjcd.edu.

Rams host barbecue fundraiser

The Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League will host a fundraising barbecue Saturday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Almeda Discount Tire, located at 10250 Almeda Genoa Road. The Rams will sell food plates with all of the trimmings to help raise needed funds for thw 2010 season.

Rising Stars track registration

The Rising Stars Track Club will host registration for the upcoming spring/summer season Saturday, Feb. 20, at Dobie High School from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration will continue each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at Dobie through mid-March. Practice days are Fridays from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon and Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information about the team and its program, call Coach Ivory Kimble at 832-561-1248 or Fran Herndon at 281-335-1878.

SBGSA opening ceremonies

The South Belt Girls Softball Association will host opening ceremonies Saturday, March 6, in the community. The festivities will begin with a parade at 9 a.m. Opening ceremonies will begin around 10:45 a.m., with a carnival and scrimmage games set to begin at noon. Available concessions will include barbecued turkey legs, sandwiches, sausage on a stick, funnel cakes, kettle corn and more. There will be games, a rock wall and inflatables for all ages. League officials invite the community to join in for a day of fun. SBGSA will also accept vendors for the event, to be held at El Franco Lee Park. Call Yvette Rodriguez at 832-528-6391 for more details about setting up a vendor booth.

San Jac soccer tryout

The San Jacinto College men's soccer team will hold tryouts for the 2010-2011 season at the South campus soccer field, located at 13735 Beamer Road. The tryout is open to high school seniors or recent graduates and college students. Participants are required to bring their own shin guards and are encouraged to bring water. The tryout date for this month is Feb. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call head coach David Santesteban at 281-922-3475 or send e-mail requests to David.Santesteban@sjcd.edu.

SB Dolphins to host fundraiser

The South Belt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will host a barbecue fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or while quantities last) in front of Liberty Tax Service on Fuqua (next to Cici's Pizza). Team officials will sell sandwich plates, including chips and a drink, for \$5.

BHCC offers free baseball league

The Beverly Hills Community Center is accepting registration for a free baseball league for youths age 4 to 18. The sign up deadline is Feb. 19, and the season will begin Saturday, March 27, at the Denver Harbor Multiservice Center, 6402 Market St. Volunteer coaches are also needed. For more information, call 713-675-2151.

Beverly Hills C.C. activities

The Beverly Hills Community Center is offering a series of classes that will soon get under way. A senior fitness class will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., and a ceramics class will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center will also host a beginners' yoga class on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 713-948-9065.

Dobie 1981 T&F reunion Feb. 26

Thirty years after the school's track and field state championship, members of the 1981 Dobie High School team are planning a reunion. The event is set for Friday, Feb. 26, at Cullen's restaurant on Space Center Boulevard. Sammy Shimmfessell, one of the former Dobie stars who is helping organize the event along with Todd Whistler, is looking forward to an evening of fun and the sharing of memories.

Head coach John Bryan is expected to attend, and he will be honored by his former athletes with a plaque and plenty of stories. The committee, headed by Whistler and Shimmfessell in Houston, has received commitments from quite a few of their teammates from 1981.

There are others the group is still seeking contact information for, including Armando Canales, Curtis McWoodson and Pete Ramos. Anyone with details on any of those is asked to call Shimmfessell at 281-924-9804.

Rams select signup date

The Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League will host registration for returning players, drill team members and cheerleaders Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League facility at El Franco Lee Park. All youths registering for any of the programs must also bring a birth certificate copy.

Atkinson to host health/fitness fair

The Atkinson Elementary Physical Education department will host its second annual health and fitness fair at the school March 30, 2010, from 5 to 7 p.m. All students of the school are invited to come and bring their families to participate in the festivities.

Some of the activities will include; jump ropes, cup stacking, jogging, dance, dance revolution and many more. Inside the school, various vendor booths will include products and services from a variety of health and fitness areas.

Pioneers re-set three state records

Powered by three state records and six school records, the Lutheran South Academy boys won their unprecedented sixth consecutive Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II (5A/4A classes) Swimming Championship Feb. 6 in Conroe.

The Pioneers finished first with 102 points, with Second Baptist School of Houston in second place with 101 points and Awty International School of Houston in third place with 85 points.

"The boys' team exceeded my expectations in breaking so many school and state records," head

coach Cerise Skinner said. "Having such a worthy opponent in Second Baptist ignited the swimmers."

Two LSA relays set both state and school records.

The foursome of seniors Karch Petersen, Kyle Petersen and Sam Kane along with junior Alex Naumann won the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 1:32.87.

The Pioneers' relay team swimmers also finished high in individual events.

Karch Petersen finished first in the 500-yard freestyle at 4:44.51, setting

both TAPPS Division II and school records.

He finished second in the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 1:47.40, a school record.

Kyle Petersen finished first in the 100-yard backstroke and third in the 200-yard individual medley, establishing a school record in the individual medley.

Naumann finished first in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle, setting a school record of 21.84 in the 50-freestyle.

Kane took third in the 100-yard butterfly, and freshman Christopher Mowrey finished sixth in the 200-yard individual medley and seventh in the 100-yard backstroke.

The team of Kane, Mowrey, juniors Matthew Roth and James Downie finished sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay to clinch the title for LSA.

Photo courtesy of LSA

Girls take 12th
 The Lutheran South girls finished 12th in the team standings with 14 points.

Junior Kathleen Bryan claimed fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke. The team of Bryan, seniors Kayla Shaffer and Kirstie Merchant, and junior Jill Friese claimed sixth place in the 200-yard medley relay and went on to capture seventh place in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Atkinson students hit Big Shootout



Four Atkinson Elementary students represented their school at the Pasadena Independent School District's Big Shoot-Out contest at Phillips Field House. Those students included, left to right, third-grade student Joseph Ortega, third grade student DeYona Gaston and fourth-grade students Alexis Osos and Gavin Machado. At district, Gaston was fifth and Osos placed seventh.

Photo by Wanda Soto/Atkinson

Dobie academic all-state football honored



Five Dobie High School football players, all seniors, were named to the academic all-state team by the Texas High School Coaches Association. Those honorees included, left to right, Aaron Kutra, Garrett Leland, Juan Perez and Nathan Touchette. Not pictured is Michael Collins. Leland was a member of the second team, and the others were honorable mention selections.

Weather hampered preseason baseball plans; season coming Feb. 22

The high school baseball season begins Feb. 22-23 as Dobie plays at Friendswood Feb. 22, and Clear Brook hosts Morton Ranch Feb. 23.

With the clock ticking, Longhorns' first-year head coach Miguel Torres and his counterpart at Clear Brook, Russell Ferrell, are concerned about much more than opposing teams.

The wet and cold weather has affected all of the teams in the Houston area trying to get ready for the upcoming season since after-school workouts began in late January.

Teams trying to cultivate younger, less experienced varsity players, such as Dobie, have been particularly at risk.

Meanwhile, Ferrell is hoping that his varsity-tested roster will be able to get off the mark quickly no matter the circumstances.

Torres leads Dobie

Despite the early season disruptions, Torres is eager to manage his first varsity game after being the varsity assistant for the previous four seasons.

The Longhorns aren't totally rebuilding after last year's bidistrict playoff appearance, but the program doesn't have a great deal of experience.

Just three players — catcher Justin Eckols, infielder Aris Adame and outfielder Joseph Gutierrez — were full-time starters. Three other players — Aaron Kutra, Al Gonzalez and Andrew Williams — had part-time roles.

So Torres isn't starting over, but it isn't very comforting to peer out of the athletics field house and see more rain or gusty wind conditions in play.

The Longhorns had their first two scrimmages canceled or postponed. With the regular season now days away, this team will open against Friendswood as a work in progress, especially on the mound.

Inning-eaters Daniel Sawyer and Cody Priest graduated after last season and are playing collegiately.

Of the returnees, Adame has the most experience but is viewed as the team's closer.

Pitching is youthful

Seniors such as Adame, Mike Medina, Blake Beynaerts and Austin Abbott pitched in that playoff series against Channelview last spring, but only Adame saw significant action at the varsity level during the regular season.

The plan remains for Adame to be a full-time starter at either shortstop or second base. He will close out games for the Longhorns as a reliever.

As starters, the Longhorns will get a look at many players not limited to a group that includes Abbott, Beynaerts, Medina and several others who pitched at the junior varsity or sophomore levels in 2009.

Infield in the works

Things are still a bit unsettled in the infield. Eckols was a standout in his first season behind the plate, but the Longhorns also have other options.

Edward Peabody is a capable performer behind the plate, but he is still playing basketball and won't join the team until Dobie's hoops season is finished.

In a perfect world, Torres would leave Eckols behind the plate, but Torres is also trying to shore up other positions in the infield and outfield. Of special concern, Dobie has to find the right player to handle third base.

"The thing that helps us is that a lot of these guys are versatile enough to be able to play more than one position," Torres said.

"Eckols can play anywhere, and with Peabody back behind the plate, we have some flexibility. Some of our other guys like Aris and Al can play in the middle infield. Several guys can play first base. What we have to do is let them play and decide who fits best where."

Gutierrez paces outfield

Dobie has a proven all-district outfielder in Gutierrez. Other than him, however, the Longhorns are seeking a pair of full-time starters. In 2009, Kutra shared time in left field and in the role of designated hitter.

Seniors Andrew Williams and Brandon Broussard could see increased time in the outfield. B.J. Burton did not play much at the varsity level last season as a designated hitter but is another candidate for more playing time.

When will things get sorted out for the Longhorns? Perhaps not until the varsity team completes its three tournaments, the last one coming at Round Rock March 11-13.

In fact, Torres concedes that since the weather has particularly slowed the pitchers' ability to get their arms up to speed, things are going to take time to develop.

And, the varsity and junior varsity roster aren't likely set. At the tournaments, it won't be uncommon for the Longhorns to dress extra players.

"We have to evaluate a lot of guys," Torres said. "Of course we have a good idea of what we would like to see happen, but I think we're going to have to play 10 games or so to get a good look."

"Our pitchers haven't had the weather cooperate enough to be able to properly build arm strength. With that in mind, our pitch counts aren't going to be 90 in the beginning.

"Instead, we are going to have to have guys giving us four innings here, three there and so on. We might be pitching by committee for a while."

How will things go this season for the Longhorns?

Time will tell, but it's a given that a few players are going to have to step up and deliver big years.

Defending state finalist Pearland will likely be a contender despite losing several key players to the college game.

La Porte possesses the district's top power threat in Kendrick Perkins, a Texas A&M signee. Deer Park and Memorial both have the veteran pitching that Dobie doesn't.

"It's always a tough district," Torres said. "Our players have gone against these same teams for several years and know what to expect."

"We have to be able to go out and get the job done. That's the bottom line. Our pitching is going to be the key, but it is for any team."

Brook welcomes talent

Entering his 12th sea-

son, Ferrell is excited about what the possibilities are for Clear Brook after a run to the area playoff round in 2009.

The Wolverines lost to Pearland in that round, but later billed the season as a huge success after starting as many as six underclassmen.

If nothing else, the Wolverines may be able to simply pick up where they left off last season.

Clear Brook will enter the season with a trio of junior pitchers who all excelled in 2009.

Ryan Vrugink, the opening day starter on the mound, went on to have a solid season. He also hit .309 with a pair of homers at the plate en route to all-district utility player honors.

Andrew Phu posted a 4-1 mark with a 2.72 earned run average, fanning 34 in 28 innings of work.

Keaton Miller also stood out, going 4-2 with a 3.86 ERA.

In the field, the Wolverines also have plenty of experience. Catcher Kris Templin is back behind the plate, and Matt Heidt is one of the area's top defensive shortstops.

Clear Brook should also get a big lift from senior infielder Michael Donovan, who was on the varsity team as a sophomore but missed last season with a wrist injury.

In fact, Ferrell considers Donovan the team's leader as a senior and thinks Donovan can start at first base, second base or third base depending on who is pitching.

The outfield will be anchored by Derek Montag. Ferrell will need to find two new starters in the outfield, but there are solid candidates on the roster.

Because the Houston area is the hotbed for talent statewide, the Wolverines may fly under the radar.

As usual, the District 24-5A ranks will be tough with Brazoswood, Clear Creek, Alvin and Clear Lake possessing solid programs. Brazoswood, in fact, will enter the season as the favorite to win the 24-5A title.

But Ferrell believes the Wolverines can put together a good season once again. The team went 17-12 overall last season and at 8-6 had to settle for fourth place, but the Wolverines made waves in the playoffs.

"We started five sophomores and a freshman last year quite often, and all of those guys are back (Miller, Vrugink, Phu, Heidt, Templin, Montag).

"Some of them have improved quite a bit, others not as much as I had hoped."

Pitching is deep

Clear Brook may not have the dominant staff ace that strikes fear into opponents, but there are plenty of players ready to toe the rubber.

"On the mound, we have Vrugink, Miller and Phu back, and those guys started every district ball game for us last year and threw something like 85 percent of all of our innings in district. I think that is a good thing."

"Vrugink and Miller have been throwing well, and Phu is still in basketball, so as soon as we get Phu out here we should be at full strength."

Others who may fit into the pitching mix at some

point include Nolan Trabaino, Templin, Justin Clemons and Craig Boone.

Heidt leads infield

The Wolverines have a full-time starter at shortstop with the defensive-minded Heidt.

Elsewhere, the Wolverines will use a variety of players based on which player is on the mound.

Vrugink will also play first base when he isn't pitching. Phu will be at second base when he isn't on the mound, and Miller will handle the majority of the third base duties unless he is pitching. The regular fill-in at those three positions will be Donovan.

When Templin pitches, Matt Fox, a sophomore, can handle the catching duties.

Outfield needs answers

How will the Wolver-

ines handle the loss of two starting outfielders, including all-district performer D.J. Julks? In left field, three players are in the mix to start, including seniors Evan Webb and Michael Holtzclaw and junior Connor Eck.

Montag or Eck will be in center field, and the right field spot will likely be open to either Webb or Clemons. Montag and Webb are also candidates to be the team's designated hitter.

"We are planning on building on our success and having an even bigger year," Ferrell said. "Among our senior losses from 2009, we had several offensive producers move on. So, moving forward we are looking for some of these other guys to step up and help us be even better offensively."

Dobie Longhorns

Head coach: Miguel Torres, 1st season

2009 finish: Fourth in District 22-5A, lost to Channelview in bidistrict round

Key losses: Daniel Sawyer (P), Cody Priest (P), Derrick Murray (3B), Sam Grant (1B/P)

Key returnees: Justin Eckols (C), Aris Adame (SS/2B/P), Al Gonzalez (SS), Joseph Gutierrez (OF), Aaron Kutra (OF/DH)

Key to 2010 success: The Longhorns will go with several first-time varsity pitchers, and these players will have to develop quickly at the higher level.

Brook Wolverines

Head coach: Russell Ferrell, 12th season

2009 finish: Fourth in District 24-5A, beat Dulles in bidistrict, lost to Pearland in area round.

Key losses: Colton Cromer (P), Alex Kuhn (DH/1B), Derrick Murray (OF), D.J. Julks

Key returnees: Ryan Vrugink (P), Keaton Miller (P), Matt Heidt (SS), Andrew Phu (P), Kris Templin (C)

Key to 2010 success: The Wolverines started a handful of sophomores and a freshman last season yet excelled. This season, Clear Brook simply wants to continue to grow as a varsity unit.

Clear Brook ready for baseball opener Feb. 22



Seven returning starters, including a pair of pitchers, will lead the way as the Clear Brook Wolverines go to battle this season after an appearance in the area playoffs last season. Those returnees include, left to right, (front row) Matt Heidt, Keaton Miller, Andrew Phu, Derek Montag, (back row) Kris Templin, Ryan Vrugink and Michael Donovan. Vrugink, Miller and Phu will highlight a veteran pitching staff. Donovan is also expected to provide a lift after missing the 2009 season with a wrist injury.

Cards' 11-12 hoops to playoffs unbeaten

With winning in their hearts and playoffs on their minds, the Cardinals' 11-12-year-old team in the Pasadena Recreation Department basketball league claimed another victory to close out the regular season.

This time, the Cardinals' victory came over the Longhorns as each team member did his part to help the team stay unbeaten in the regular season.

The excitement started when Anthony Owens stole the ball away from the Longhorns and completed an astonishing layup, giving the Cardinals a quick lead.

A few minutes later, the Cardinals showed the true definition of teamwork when Christian Perez rebounded a Longhorns' miss and fired a pass to Tyson Thompson.

Taking the ball, Thompson sent an assist to Kaelon Woods for two points.

DeAndre Childs, Isaiah Brooks and Christian Perez added an additional 15 points, which gave the Cardinals a 17-point lead at halftime, but the game was not over yet.

Joshua Shields brought the Cardinals' fans to their feet when he started the third quarter by handling his duties at the free throw line.

Evan Hausler followed Shields' work with a jump shot that completely silenced the Longhorns.

The Cardinals' outstanding defensive effort was led by Mark Eldridge, Jaylon Bolden and Nick Alvarez as they controlled the Longhorns' end of the court and helped bring the final score to 35-12, keeping the team unbeaten.

Now set to enter the playoffs, the Cardinals are undefeated and ready to take on any team in their way. To this point, the Cardinals have succeeded due to teamwork, which they will continue to use in the playoffs.

Youth hoops Cardinals still unbeaten



The Cardinals, an 11-year-old youth basketball team in the Pasadena Recreation Department league, will enter the playoffs with an undefeated record. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Kaelon Woods, Evan Hausler, Joshua Shields, Mark Eldridge, Isaiah Brooks, Jalen Williams, (back row) assistant coach Tanesha Mercer, Nick Alvarez, Tyson Thompson, Christian Perez, Anthony Owens, DeAndre Childs and head coach Ray Owens. Not pictured is Jaylon Bolden.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 18
7 a.m.

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

Noon

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

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

5:30 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

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

8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 19
7 a.m.

AA Meeting — "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday,

from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.

Free Line Dance Class — The Friendswood Senior Citizen Program offers free line dancing classes. The class is held at the activity building, located at 416 Morningside. All area senior citizens, 55 or older, are invited. Previous experience not required. For more information, call 281-482-8411.

Noon

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 20
6 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

Bay Area Chorus — The Bay Area Chorus is a combination of two choirs, the Bay Area Mixed Chorus and Bay Area Women's Chorus, that serve the Houston-Galveston Bay area with choral music. There are more than 100 volunteer singers participating this season. A performance will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beachcamp (Woodland Heights) in Houston. Guests will be Houston Boychoir, Carole Nelson, director, and Prairie View A&M Concert Chorale, A. Jan Taylor, director. Tickets are \$10 in advance. At-the-door prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students or seniors ages 65 and over. Group rates are available. Tickets can be ordered by phone at 281-326-1286, by e-mail at info@bayareachorus.org or purchased online at www.bayareachorus.org. Tickets will also be sold at the door beginning

30 minutes prior to the performance.

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 21
2 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, FEB. 22
7 a.m.

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

9 a.m.

Friends of Parker Williams Library — Meetings are held at the Parker Williams Branch Library on the fourth Monday of each month at 9 a.m. except for January, April, July and October, when they are held at 7 p.m. to accommodate members who work during the day. There will be no meeting in December.

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

Continued on Page 4B

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

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

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

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

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

Bay Area Chorus - The Bay Area Chorus is a combination of two choirs, the Bay Area Mixed Chorus and Bay Area Women's Chorus, that serve the Houston-Galveston Bay area with choral music. There are more than 100 volunteer singers participating this season. A performance will be held Monday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 18220 Upper Bay Road in Nassau Bay. Guests will be the Clear Lake High School Symphonic Men, LaRinda Horan, director; Lonnie W. Tanner, assistant director; Barbara Johnson Tucker, gospel recording artist; and Phillip Hall, pianist. Tickets are \$10 in advance. At-the-door prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students or seniors ages 65 and over. Group rates are available. Tickets can be ordered by phone at 281-326-1286, by e-mail at info@bayareachorus.org or purchased on line at www.bayareachorus.org. Tickets will also be sold at the door beginning 30 minutes prior to the performance.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

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

American Begonia Society - Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at Maxum Bank in League City. For more information, call 281-946-4237 or 281-471-5048.

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

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 11 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main. For information, call 713-472-0565.

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

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

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

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



AUCTION
 CT CHURCH AUCTION: 9701 Alameda-Genoa, Houston, TX 77075. Sat., Feb. 27, @ 11 a.m. A variety of items will be auctioned including commercial building materials. All major credit cards will be accepted. For more information visit www.ctchurch.tv or call 713-944-4815. 2-25

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Varsity boys' basketball

Clear Brook boys qualify; Dobie almost there

Clear Brook's varsity basketball team has punched its ticket for the playoffs with a late-season run of terrific play.

The Wolverines have now won six of their last seven games in District play and have a chance to grab the third seed in the standings.

Against Brazoswood Feb. 16, the Wolverines needed a last-second score to beat the Bucs, but came away with the win nonetheless.

Eric Gibson led the way with 19 points, while Al Russ had 16 points, and Fred Richardson had 14 points.

The bottom line is the Wolverines are playing their best basketball of the season, at least in terms of wins, with the playoffs on the way.

Clear Brook closes the regular season Feb. 19 at Clear Lake, which has been eliminated from playoff contention.

Clear Creek, which at 8-5 is tied with Clear Brook for

third place, closes the regular season at Clear Springs, which has locked up the 24-5A second playoff seed at 9-4. Galveston Ball has won the district title.

In District 22-5A, things are just about all set as far as the playoffs are concerned. La Porte and Deer Park are tied for first place at 12-1, and La Porte holds the advantage in positive-point differential.

Third place belongs to Pearland, which at 9-4 will try to end the regular season with a win at Dobie Feb. 18.

Dobie, standing at 7-6, holds a one-game lead over South Houston (6-7) after outlasting Sam Rayburn Feb. 18 by a 62-59 count.

While Dobie finishes against a tough Pearland team, South Houston will host La Porte in its final game.

No matter the outcome of the Dobie/Pearland game, if South Houston loses, the Longhorns will advance to take on Port Arthur Memorial in the first round of the

boys' playoffs.

Clear Brook's first-round playoff opponent has yet to be determined, but the

Wolverines will likely face either Dulles or Fort Bend Bush in the first round. Clear Brook fell to Dulles

during the 2007-2008 season. The bidistrict boys' playoff round is set to get started Feb. 25-26.



The varsity boys' and girls' soccer teams at Dobie and Clear Brook high schools appear to be, just like last season, headed for the playoffs. In top photo, Dobie boys' player Irving Garza fires a shot during the Longhorns' 1-0 win over Pasadena. The Dobie boys are now 4-1-1 and in second place. The Dobie girls, including Chanel Reyes (above), are also in second place in 22-5A at 5-1. Clear Brook's boys are 4-2-1 in District 24-5A, and the girls are 6-1.

GaryWPhotos.com

Girls' softball

Brook, Dobie drop opening games

Continued from Page 1B
bases, and Ariel Morgan drove in two runs in the game.

Trailing 4-2 in the top of the fifth inning, the Lady Longhorns got within a run as Morgan drove in Nguyen with a single, but Kingwood hung on for the win.

O'Connor allowed eight hits and four earned runs while striking out six. Nguyen and Morgan led the offense with two hits apiece, but Dobie did not have an extra-base hit.

Now the team will travel to Bryan-College Station Feb. 18-20 for a 32-team event. Dobie will open the tournament Feb. 18 against Plano.

Dobie head coach Robin Rackley said junior pitcher Alyssa Zarate will return from a one-game absence due to injury and will join O'Connor to give the team a 1-2 pitching combination.

From here forward, the Lady Longhorns will continue to work on blending as a group and perfect their offensive attack.

"We're going to be a totally different offensive team," Rackley said. "We won't hit the gaps with extra-base hits a lot, but we are very fast on the bases, and we have to use that to our advantage."

"Defensively, I also think we are going to be even tougher than in years past. We are going to have to manufacture runs and use our speed to hopefully create problems for other defenses."

Rackley said O'Connor and Zarate will continue to share time in the circle. Their role as first-time starters on a full-season basis will be to keep Dobie close in games. O'Connor did that in the opener.

"We got behind early but fought back to tie it up later in the game," Rackley said.

"Obviously it was cold, but both teams had to deal with that. I liked what we did overall."

It's just one game
Since both Clear Brook and Dobie were in the playoffs a season ago, expectations are high.

For Dobie, it's a matter of some of the younger and first-time players being able to blend with the veterans.

Dobie's Rackley said

she expects her team to be able to come together as a group, and it all starts with the Bryan-College Station event.

The first goal is to win

games, and Rackley would also like to see Zarate in the circle. Beyond that, it's all about using the tournament to gain some momentum.

Clear Brook's goal is a

little different. Head coach Ashley Pillow may have to continue to juggle her lineup until the health of the team improves, she hopes sooner than later.



Clear Brook senior pitcher Emma Napoli, adjusting her face guard between innings, pitched well in the season opener against state-ranked No. 1 Pearland but got no runs support. The Lady Wolverines' defense also struggled during a 6-0 loss.

Photo by John Bechtle

District 24-5A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball

(As of Feb. 17)

Teams	W	L
Galveston Ball	11	2
Clear Springs	9	4
Clear Brook	8	8
Clear Creek	8	5
Clear Lake	6	7
Dickinson	5	8
Brazoswood	5	8
Alvin	0	13

District 22-5A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball

(As of Feb. 17)

Teams	W	L
Deer Park	12	1
La Porte	12	1
Pearland	9	4
Dobie	7	6
South Houston	6	7
Sam Rayburn	4	9
Memorial	2	11
Pasadena	0	13

One playoff win aside, Lady Longhorns' basketball ready as Lake up next

Continued from Page 1B
51 seconds left.

Making four free throws in a row at the end, Dobie wound up 11 for 22 from the line. Not great, but it got the job done.

"A tale of two halves? asked Brown after seeing his team reverse its fortune against Port Arthur Memorial. "That is an understatement."

Yet Brown promised there was no screaming or pointing fingers at halftime as the Lady Longhorns found themselves trailing in a game that had to be won.

Instead, the Lady Longhorns focused on playing their game.

"There was really none of that," Brown said of a halftime trial by fire.

"We all realized we hadn't played a good half and were only down six points. There was no sense of panic. We addressed the adjustments we needed to make, and the players went out and did a fantastic job of executing those adjustments."

Despite a season that has seen the Lady Longhorns win 14 of their previous 15 games, Brown has frequently seen his team get out of the gate slowly and be forced to recover late.

That's exactly what happened against Port Arthur

Memorial, which had to win its final game of the season just to qualify for the playoffs.

"In the first half, I thought we settled for a lot of the shots we were taking (instead of moving the ball for better shots)," Brown said.

"Offensively, we were preaching playing with patience before the game, which I believe turned into playing passively once the game started."

In the second half we did a much better job of being aggressive in terms of ball movement, giving our post players touches and attacking gaps in their zone. That

gave us some great looks down low and opened it up for our shooters."

That's when Guerrero and others took over. The Lady Longhorns opened the

second half on a quick 5-0 run to get to within a point and eventually took the lead. From there, the back-and-forth battle was on. Memorial played well

but couldn't climb all the way back against Dobie's adjustments. The fact that Mitchell scored one second-half point after having 12 in the first half was a telling statistic

"Port Arthur Memorial did a great job of breaking us down off the dribble in the first half, and when our posts would step out to help, they would dump to Mitchell for an easy basket," Brown said.

"In the second half we decided to move our defense inside the 3-point line to take away their ability to drive and dump the ball inside, and it worked for us."

"Our press generated some offense for us, especially at the start of the third quarter, which is what we needed. In the end, our half-court defense was really the difference in the game."

Brown's words ring true, but it was also evident that in the second half of this game, the Lady Longhorns simply wanted the win badly. Their play on both ends of the floor showed as much.

"We take a lot of pride in playing hard, getting up and down the floor, diving on the floor for loose balls and playing defense," Brown said.

"It's a fun style of basketball. Our kids enjoy it, and it has won some games for us... like this one."

Lake test coming
In the round of 16, Dobie will now take on Clear Lake, which placed third in District 24-5A and then easily defeated 23-5A runner-up Dulles, 52-35, in the first round.

The Lady Falcons are 22-11 overall and feature a couple of taller players like Memorial's Mitchell inside. It's a task Dobie does not prefer with its smaller,

quicker lineup. Then again, teams win in the playoffs by going strength against strength and coming out in front.

Against Clear Lake, Dobie will again fight for every loose ball and dive on the floor.

"Clear Lake will be an interesting match up for us," Brown said. "They start two, solid post players (one signing with Texas Chris-

tian University, the other with Tulane).

"They utilize these taller players very well. They get them the ball in the places where they can be successful. And they are extremely well-coached."

Dobie is bidding to make its first regional quarterfinal appearance under Brown, and the chance is there.

It's doubtful Dobie can afford a loose half against

Clear Lake and still win, so it's important to have a good start.

"I've said before that this is the time of the year when you have to win or go home for the rest of the season."

So it's Clear Lake for Dobie in a game that is as big as they come for both teams. Dobie has played like a champion since the new year began and wants to keep doing so.



A Port Arthur Memorial turnover in the second half led to an easy basket for the Lady Longhorns, who used a big run to close out the Titans in the bidistrict playoff game. On this play, Shanequa Gaston (22) heads toward the basket with the ball as teammate Drika Thomas (11) follows.



Jazmine Guerrero (12) helped Dobie pull within six points at halftime against Port Arthur Memorial and then scored nine points in the second half to allow the Lady Longhorns to close out the win.



Dobie head coach Shane Brown (middle) discusses a play with Dobie players Darien Price (10) and Ashley Johnson (35) during the team's bidistrict win Feb. 15 over Port Arthur Memorial. Brown's instructions paid dividends as both players played large roles in the win.

Photos by John Bechtle