

South Belt Ellington Leader

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

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Feb. 26, 2009

Voice of Community-Minded People

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Chamber celebrates 25th anniversary

By James Bolen

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 25th anniversary with a banquet Friday, Feb. 20.

Guest of honor, Mayor Bill White, had traveled directly from a meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., to attend the event.

South Belt-Ellington Leader publisher and current chamber president Marie Flickinger in-

troduced White as "a great friend to the community," noting he had participated in nearly every annual South Belt Fourth of July parade.

White joked that he would rather be at the banquet than in Washington, adding, "I love the spirit of the Fourth of July parade, and I love the spirit of the chamber of commerce."

Other elected officials attending the event included Reps. John Davis and Ken Legler, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia

Garcia, Houston City Councilwoman Jolanda Jones, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman, Harris County 174th Criminal District Court Judge Ruben Guerrero and Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado.

Delgado officially swore in the 2009 chamber officers.

Several board members from San Jacinto College and the Pasadena Independent School District were also in attendance, as were representatives from several local civic groups.

Chamber Director Sally Mitchell introduced Mike Newkham as the Chamber Member of the Year. Mitchell said Newkham, unit director of the Blackhawk H-E-B, has worked tirelessly to benefit the organization.

Mitchell had also prepared a slide show displaying the chamber's history.

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Bill Lindemann was named Citizen of the Year. Flickinger introduced Lindemann as "a man of great

vision," adding, "Economic development of a community depends greatly on the educational opportunities of that community."

Steve Spencer, who formerly served as president of Texas Commerce Bank, was also in attendance. While never officially a member of the chamber, Spencer is credited by Flickinger for inspiring the creation of the group.

Flickinger noted the chamber is at a disadvantage when compared to other local chambers, as it does not receive city money nor does it have an industrial base.

"We've had to work a lot harder," Flickinger said.

Flickinger is confident the group will continue its hard work for years to come.

"We are not at the end of the road, only at a milestone looking forward to the many challenges we have ahead," she said. "With your help, we will continue to make not only South Belt, but our surrounding communities a great place to work, play and live."

Thompson fun night Feb. 27

Thompson Intermediate will hold Family Fun Night Friday, Feb. 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. The spaghetti dinner includes salad, garlic bread and a drink. Adult tickets are \$5 presale or \$7 at the door. Children, ages 3 to 12, are \$3; under 3 eat free. Activities include art of recycling contest, family photos, games, door prizes and a silent auction. For information, contact Leslie Velasquez at 281-481-8003 or lesliekogmdo@hotmail.com.

Frazier offers scholarships

The Frazier PTO will offer five scholarships to Dobie seniors who attended Frazier in fourth and fifth grades. Applications and requirement information are available through the senior counselor's office at Dobie. Applications must be received no later than Thursday, April 9.

Morning of reflection set

The Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist will host a morning of reflection Saturday, Feb. 28, in preparation for Lent. The Rev. James Burkart will speak on "Prayer and Discernment, Listening to God," beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending by noon. There is no charge. Everyone is welcome.

Softball cancer benefit set

Clear Creek Independent School District's Strike Out Cancer Softball tournament will be held Feb. 26-28 at all four high schools. The proceeds will benefit the families of two local softball players dealing with cancer effects.

Games will be at noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. daily. There will be food, raffles and a silent auction. Some of the money will also go to the Houston Ronald McDonald House.

Donations are greatly appreciated. Contact Debra Moulder at 832-283-1582.

Library events scheduled

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

Game day is Thursday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. Come to the library and play games.

Friends of the library will hold a used book sale Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Movie Madness is Thursday, March 5, at 4 p.m. Call the library for feature title.

Free income tax assistance is available Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 281-484-2036 for more information.

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

Dobie band parents meet

The Dobie Band Parent Organization will meet Monday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All band parents are urged to attend.

K of C blood drive at St. Luke's

The Knights of Columbus will hold their second blood drive of the year on Sunday, March 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the social hall at St. Luke's Catholic Church on Hall Road. Call John Urdiales for reservations at 713-991-1425 or 713-941-1199.

Thompson PTO meeting set

Thompson's PTO will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 3. Meetings begin at 6:45 p.m. and usually last an hour.

Orchestra parents to meet

The Dobie Orchestra Booster Club will meet Thursday, March 5, at 7:15 p.m. in the orchestra room. All orchestra parents may attend.

St. Frances holds fish fry

The Men's Club of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Community will hold a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Cabrini Center, 10727 Hartsook. Meals are \$8 each, eat in or take home. Future fish dinners will be March 13 and 27, and April 17.

K of C fish fry at St. Luke's

The Knights of Columbus will serve catfish dinners at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church on Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3. Dinner includes catfish fillet, french fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn-on-the-cob and iced tea. Soft drinks and desserts will be available starting at \$.50. The \$7 dinners are dine in or take out from 5 until 7 p.m. at the parish hall. Profits will be used for scholarships and local charitable projects. Everyone is invited. For information, call 281-484-2127.

Gardeners hold plant sale

Pct. 2 Master Gardeners will hold a spring fruit tree and tomatoes/peppers sale Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Landolt Pavilion at Clear Lake Park on NASA Parkway. Seminars are at 8 a.m. for plant sale preview; 11 a.m. for caring for tomatoes and peppers; and noon for small space gardening. Free public admission - no registration is required. More information is available on the Texas Master Gardener Web page for Harris County.

Scott Talton dies unexpectedly

By John Bechtel

Scott Talton, life lessons teacher in the classroom and court-side mentor and leader to thousands more athletes during a long career in the Pasadena Independent School District, has died.

The Dobie boys' basketball coaching legend, who retired at the age of 59 after the 2007-2008 school year, died unexpectedly Feb. 19 while working on a renovation project at his family home in Pasadena. A cause of death is pending the completion of an autopsy. See Talton's obituary on Page 2A.

Talton began and ended his teaching and coaching career in PISD. He taught at Park View and Southmore intermediates before joining the Dobie High School faculty and coaching staff prior to the 1979-80 school year.

In 2007-2008, Talton capped his legacy by winning his 500th career varsity game. It was his final on-court win as the Longhorns then suffered final

regular season game and playoff losses to end their season. In all, Talton's teams qualified for the playoffs in 15 of his 27 seasons.

Last spring, Talton used up quite a few vacation days in anticipation of retirement and would often be seen watching his only son, Scotty, compete as a member of Dobie's varsity baseball team. Talton, it seemed, understood the game of baseball better than most.

With a love for rebuilding and repairing vintage automobiles and a Pasadena-area home in need of maybe some fresh paint and added touches in mind, Talton was looking forward to an active retirement.

Still, Talton never truly let the Dobie basketball program drift from his thoughts. He attended many games this past season, including nearly all of the varsity teams' District 22-5A games. His wife, Vicki, was by his side each time.

At retirement, Talton trailed only boys' track and field coach David Chollet in years of coaching tenure at Dobie. Simply put, Talton gave his life to the Longhorns. In return, so many Longhorns past, present and future will certainly remember Scott Talton, their leader, friend and mentor.

For more on Talton's career at Dobie High School, see Pages 1B and 3B.



Pct. 2 deputies battle drugs, violence

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable deputies have remained busy battling drug possession and violence.

Deputy Jason Curry was patrolling the 11200 block of Scarsdale Thursday, Feb. 12, when he stopped a driver at 9:30 p.m. for having a defective license plate. Upon approaching the vehicle, Curry smelled a strong marijuana odor.

A subsequent search of the vehicle confirmed the deputy's suspicions, as he found not only marijuana, but also a bag of powdered cocaine.

The driver, Obaibullah Bidat, 23, was arrested and charged on both counts.

Following several complaints of drug activity at a house near the intersection of Sagewind and Sagegreen, Curry stopped a vehicle Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. for failing to signal after leaving the residence.

As the deputy attempted to stop the car, the driver threw an orange pill bottle out of the vehicle in the 10300 block of Scarsdale. Curry de-

tained the driver, Morgan Barraza, and returned to retrieve the pill bottle, which contained both powdered cocaine and the prescription drug Xanax.

Barraza, 18, was arrested and charged on both counts.

Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn, Curry and Deputy Robert Sanchez responded to a shooting Monday, Feb. 23, at 3 p.m. in the 10900 block of Highland Meadow Village.

The incident began earlier that day at Dobie High School, where two students had gotten into a fight. School staff and Pasadena Independent School District police heard one of the students involved, William Archer, threaten the other student that he would finish it at the bus stop.

As the bus later unloaded, several witnesses saw Archer, 17, drive by and fire multiple rounds. Fortunately, no one was struck.

A warrant has been filed against Archer for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

South Belt community leaders meet with Harris County officials

South Belt community leaders met Monday, Feb. 16, with Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee and officials from the Harris County Flood Control District to discuss concerns and future area improvements.

The meeting focused primarily on flood and drainage improvements and traffic issues.

The concern of flooding around Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital was voiced by the facility's CEO, George Gaston. All egress points leading from the hospital flood during heavy rainfall, prohibiting emergency vehicles and relief workers from reaching the facility, Gaston said.

According to HCFCD Director Mike Talbott, the District is currently reviewing several channel improvements along Turkey Creek that will help reduce flooding in the area. Talbott also said Galveston County may contribute funds to aid in future mitigation projects along Clear Creek.

Talbott additionally acknowledged that roughly 28 acres of land was purchased by the HCFCD in the former South Bend subdivision for future detention mitigation. The land, is also identified as part of the mitigation plan included in the joint study of Clear Creek by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Harris County Flood Control District, Galveston County & Brazoria County

Drainage District # 4 as local sponsors. Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee requested that Talbott work with other entities in the area and conduct a study to assess the overall effectiveness of drainage in the area of Memorial Hermann Hospital, including parts under the City of Houston's authority.

The issue of a concrete slope failure in the Clear Brook Landing subdivision detention basin was brought up by Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District General Manager Chris Clark. Commissioner Lee said the HCFCD could likely work with the Clear Brook City MUD to review measures to correct the problem but the utility district would have to contribute monetarily.

Clark also mentioned the problem of trees collecting in area ditches, particularly in the Highland Meadow subdivision, that are restricting water flow.

HCFCD liaison Curtis Lampley said a con-

tractor will begin repair work to the channel side slopes and erosion repairs in channel from Blackhawk Blvd. to the outfall of the detention pond at the end of the hike and bike trail in June. Lampley assured the group this will completely remove all of the tree debris. The project will take approximately 48 working days to complete, causing a temporary shut down of sections of the Blackhawk hike and bike trail.

The need for two additional constable deputies to patrol the area was also requested by Clark. He contends the recent growth of the community necessitates such an addition to reduce area crime.

Lee agreed there is a need for added deputies but said it would have to be included in Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's budget request for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The need for "no parking zones" on two area streets was brought up by South Belt-Ellington Leader publisher Marie Flickinger. Flickinger said that cars parking on Blackhawk between Dixie Farm Road and Beltway 8 and on the recently extended Hughes Ranch Road were hindering the travel of emergency vehicles.

Precinct 1 Road and Bridge Superintendent Deotis Gay said traffic studies would be conducted to see if the zones were warranted.

Flickinger further requested a traffic study be conducted to determine if a right-turn lane is needed on Blackhawk south of Beltway 8 to alleviate drive-time traffic.

A study has already been conducted that determined a westbound turn lane is needed at the same intersection.

Lee said a second traffic study would be done to determine if there is such a need.

SVFD purchases military vehicles

Alert Leader readers Tom and Janet Turner notified the paper's staff Tuesday, Feb. 17, of military trucks entering the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District's water plant after dark.

The vehicles in question were recently purchased by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department.

According to SVFD Chief Chuck Tylka, the three vehicles are Vietnam-era, U.S. Army supply trucks purchased by the department for high-water operations.

Referred to as, "deuce and a halves" by military personnel, the vehicles are 2-and-a-half ton, diesel, six-wheel-drive trucks. They were purchased from the Texas Surplus Property Agency, which deals only with organizations associated with municipalities.

The three trucks were purchased for \$2,500 altogether.

Tylka said of one of the vehicles was purchased for parts to use on the other two, as replacement parts for the trucks are hard to find.



A meeting was held Monday, Feb. 16, between Harris County officials and South Belt community leaders to discuss area concerns over flood and drainage improvements and traffic issues. Shown above attending the function are, left to right, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital CEO George Gaston, Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee and Harris County Flood Control District Director Mike Talbott. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Mayor speaks at dinner



Mayor Bill White (right) was the guest of honor at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 25th anniversary dinner Friday, Feb. 20. White has been active with the organization since being elected in 2004, participating in nearly every Fourth of July parade. Shown with White are Daniel Puente and his wife, Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado. See more photos Page 6A. Photo by David Flickinger

House catches fire

A house in the 10200 block of Olentangy near Kingspoint Road burned down Tuesday, Feb. 24, at roughly 3 a.m.

The fire, which engulfed the entire house, was so intense it took several units from the Houston Fire Department to extinguish it.

Fortunately, no one was injured, as the home's residents were able to escape through the back door of the house.

At press time, the cause of the blaze had yet to be determined.

Readers' Opinions

Deaths

Bridges appreciates Sagemont cross

This is in response to the negative comments made on television by a Sageriver Dr. resident. He has his own opinion and I respect that, however, I want everyone to know that he does not represent my neighborhood. I also live on Sageriver Dr. We are the closest residential street to Sagemont Church and the Cross. My house is facing the Cross and I LOVE it. When I look out my window I see it. When I walk out my door I see it. What a wonderful thing Sagemont Church has done for our community. The Cross is a symbol of peace and hope for all of us, especially in these uncertain times. What a nice way to start the day before going to work by seeing the beautiful Cross in the dawn light. Sagemont Church, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Linda Rowe Bridges

Owen commends Sagemont Church

I want to commend Sagemont Church for the construction of the beautiful, inspiring cross, such a beautiful contribution to our community.

I heard some criticism via television with complaints, "They should have given the money they paid for its construction to the poor." It reminds me of the complaint of Judas when Mary poured the expensive jar of alabaster ointment on Jesus to anoint Him, Judas said, "Why wasn't this ointment sold and the money given to the poor?" Jesus said, "The poor you have with you always."

For the information of the critics, Sagemont Church has given very well to the poor. I am not a member of this church, but when our house and everything we owned was destroyed in a fire in 2006, me and my family were devastated, but this church "tracked" us down, as we were staying in a motel, and they gave us \$500 for immediate expenses and later when we had trouble rebuilding, they paid two mortgage payments for us.

Criticism should be aimed at the negative and destructive influences in our community, not at a symbol that represents the ultimate love and forgiveness. Thank God we still have freedom of religion, not freedom from

religion, and at least for "this moment" freedom of speech and expression.

A great big "Thank You" to Sagemont Church. You have proven yourself to be an expression of God's love in our community.

Al Owen

Beware of service station fraud

My husband and I frequent a service station on the corner of Beltway 8 and Sabo. This is the primary gas station we use, because it seems to, consistently, have the lowest price, and it's convenient.

After receiving our latest bill, I noticed there were 3 charges that were not ours. I also noticed the address of the said Service station was different from what we regularly use.

I googled the address to find it was a field. There was a gas station "near" that area, but it's been over 25 years ago. The address is 7805 S Sam Houston Pkwy, and there is no such address. When I googled this address, it changes to 7805 "E" Sam Houston Pkwy, so the address given on our bill, is non-existent. I caution you all to look over your statements very carefully.

We called Service station customer service and they noted it, were quick to send us fraud forms to fill out and sign, which we did, but the curious thing upon making them aware of this "non-existent" address was received with no comment whatsoever! No, "You're kidding," or "Oh my gosh..." NOTHING! As if it happens all the time! No comment from Service station, how they could allow a NON-EXISTANT address get by their billing system. I have made several attempts to call the media, and have had no replies. No one has returned my calls or emails. I am incredulous! Have we become so in sensitized with fraud, that we just report it and go about our way? Is ANYONE doing ANYTHING about this ever so common theft?

The more high tech we get, the easier it is for thieves. The more convenient we make banking, the easier it is for thieves to steal our identity. What can be done? I know what I'm going to do, but I'll be darned if I'm going to tell anyone! Sorry Service station, you just lost a loyal customer. Not that it'll hurt Service station.

Sally Hecker

Editor's note: The Leader has replaced the name of the company names with the term service statio.

Watrous replies to Robins

I wasn't here in the 60's when Ayshire Corporation started Sagemont. I heard they managed the esplanades until all lots were sold, but I need someone out there who knows to verify this. How the city of Houston did not ever do our esplanades, I do not know, but Maintenance had by-laws and started billing in 1981.

With no security phone number anymore, (the Alliance pulled the the plug), there is no incentive to sign up for security. Maintenance can ask for security money, because of their by-laws, so we put it at \$6.00 per household per year. When a Sagemont resident goes to sell their house, the realtors must check if all Maintenance fees are paid up and their house can't be sold unless it is or a lien is put on the property. That's why there is a paid book keeper to deal with that end of it.

Since we did not have enough funds in our voluntary Sagemont Civic Club account, to send out newsletters or ask for donations, the maintenance does the little security that we ask for, as they are required to have a once a year mailing and they have the money to do it.

Maintenance is replacing their savings, so when merged with the Civic Club, we can do things we can't do now. Also the bookkeeper had to take \$2,000.00 of his own money to pay Maintenance bills at the beginning of last year because no money was left. That is ridiculous when he gets paid \$4,800.00 right now. I found out after the fact. Does that sound like to you we are swimming in Maintenance money?

If the city doesn't cut a lot they own (the Harris county flood control lots) we can't touch it now, but could do with more funds. If an elderly person has a fence down from Ike and has no means to get it back up, Maintenance could then do it for a one time event, not an entitlement. When the legal paperwork is passed by 51% of home owners, the owner could petition for something to make our neighborhood look better and help them out. It wouldn't be an automatic hand-out. Why wait for FEMA or the government to act? We could help our neighbors if Maintenance was not so specific in what we can and can not do. That is my understanding. Come to a Civic Club meeting sometime. We still need to get block-walkers to merge the 2 organizations. The Civic Club has little money to send out the 14 pages of legal documents. Anyway, we want to talk to our neighbors, a grass root campaign to tell them this is impor-

tant. Lot of people throw away mail that looks like junk. This is not junk, but we are honoring all the hard work that has gone into this by using our time block walking. We do have to mail it to owners who are renting their property, as owners must sign and we are footing that amount of money, which leaves the Civic Club even less to spend. The Civic Club meets the second Monday of each month.

Jeanine Watrous
jeaninewatrous@hotmail.com

Lupe Lopez writes re Valtasaros' opinion

Just to touch on George's opinion concerning President Obama administration members dated February 19th 2009. There are a lot of American's who make mistakes on their taxes. Is it logical to relate a person's political party association with a person's reason why they did not pay their personal taxes? In my opinion, this has no relationship to the daily job function of a government executive. How we forget the critical responsibilities of these positions. Granted these positions are not designed for everyone. It takes a special person with past experiences and knowledge in these fields of administration.

In this time of world economic slow down and job predictability money is very hard to get yours hands on. So people are delaying or not paying their taxes on time. Its not individuals who not paying their taxes. It is privately owned companies and businesses that do not deduct taxes from their employee's salary. Some employees are paid in either personal checks or cash, that way the government won't find out. This type of transaction is what President George Bush knew about it, but closed his eyes when he was the Governor of Texas. It's a new era in America. Republicans and Democrats must put aside the crossing of swords and learn to work with each other.

George, long gone are the days of "Reaganomics" and "Read my lips, No new taxes." Remember George, Democrats control the house and Democrat's have a slim majority in the senate. By the way, you need to keep up with your current events. Mr. Geithner did pay \$34,000 for his self-employment taxes and Tom Daschle ultimately paid \$128,000 in back taxes plus \$11,964 in interest.

The only left is Republican governor - Sarah Palin who owes back taxes for meal money, or whether she intends to continue to receive the per diem allowance. As of December, she was still charging the state of Alaska for meals and incidentals.

Lupe Lopez

Furtwengler named dean of honors



San Jacinto College recently named longtime educator Scott Furtwengler as the district dean of the honors program. In the newly created position, Furtwengler will oversee honors courses offered at all three of the college's campuses.

Most of Furtwengler's preliminary efforts will be to focus on the three priorities: recruiting new students, recruiting outstanding faculty and enhancing the honors program at the three campuses. He says the college's honors program can open doors of opportunities for students.

"It's a different style of learning - more participatory, in-depth, and experiential," Furtwengler commented. "Some have a perception that honors courses are harder, or involve more work. On the contrary, often they are simply more intriguing for students who have mostly been used to lecture-style classes. Honors courses are more discussion-based, often they are interdisciplinary, and it is not unusual for honors courses to include field trips. This is not to suggest that they lack rigor."

There are other benefits for honors students, including opportunities for presenting their work at state, regional, and national conferences, as well as scholarship opportunities. "We are also exploring the possibility of increasing community service, leadership and internship opportunities," Furtwengler remarked. "Also, I believe in experiential learning, so I would like to see more of our courses include travel - for instance, a history course in which a student can spend a week in Spain, a literature course that features a week in England, or a biolo-

gy course that offers a week in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Imagine the difference between studying an iguana in a classroom and actually walking among them on the Galapagos Islands."

Furtwengler grew up in Highland, Ill., a town near St. Louis. He attended Southern Illinois University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in English.

After graduation, Furtwengler was hired as assistant director of the college's honors program and was soon promoted to associate director. He has also served as an administrator for honors programs at Miami-Dade College, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and most recently at the University of North Florida.

"The University of North Florida has an innovative honors program, emphasizing leadership programs for students, faculty and staff," he commented. "I hope to utilize what I learned and apply it here, working collaboratively with the students, faculty, and staff of San Jacinto College."

During his career, Furtwengler has helped in the creation of offices that help students to qualify for academic scholarships, such as the Rhodes, Truman and Goldwater scholarships. He served as a founding board member of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors, an organization that guides faculty and staff through the administration of scholarship programs. Furtwengler learned about leadership, teamwork, self-discipline and effective communication skills by serving as a volleyball and basketball coach.

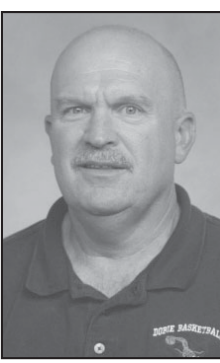
Furtwengler says an important key to getting America's sluggish economy turned around and moving in the right direction is getting more students involved in challenging and innovative educational programs, such as honors programs.

"According to recent research, most employers and recent college graduates list as priorities in this global economy: integrative learning, knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, intellectual and practical skills, and personal and social responsibility," he remarked. "These are,

community college and university settings. We are delighted he has joined the San Jacinto College family as the district dean of honors programs," she commented.

For information, call 281-998-6150 or visit www.sanjac.edu.

Scott Talton



Scott Talton, 59, of Pasadena died unexpectedly Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009.

Talton was a Dobie High School legend. He was a loving husband, father, brother and mentor to thousands of students.

Talton served 34 years with Pasadena Independent School District, where he was head boys' varsity basketball coach. He was the only boys' coach to have 500 wins in any boys' sport in the district. He was a key factor in the development of the Pasadena McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament for the last five years, helping the leaders to recruit top teams in the state to come to the tournament.

Talton is survived by his wife of 24 years, Vicki Talton; son Scotty Talton; daughters Shana Smith and husband James, Sandy Flores, Jennifer Sandel and husband Courtney, and Summer Willette and husband David; brothers Joel Talton and wife Patsy, and Robert Talton and wife Sue; sister Doris Linhart and husband Henry; and grandchildren Jimmy Smith, Shelby Smith, Brandon Vigliotti, Cash Sandel, Brendan Sandel, Brea Talton, Chelsea Willette and Lane Willette.

A celebration of Talton's life will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at Sagemont Church, 11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy E,

in Houston. The Rev. Emory Gadd will officiate.

Visitation will be held immediately preceding the service from 4 to 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Scotty Talton College Fund, c/o Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, 5953 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX 77505.

Words of comfort may be expressed to the family at www.FairmontFH.com.

Fred Miccio



Fred Miccio, 88, of South Belt, died Feb. 24, 2009, at his residence surrounded by his family.

Miccio was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on March 10, 1920, to Antonio and Lousie Miccio. He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He has been a resident of Houston for the past 25 years, formerly of Chicago and New York.

Miccio was a member of F.O.E. Eagles of La Porte, American Legion Post 490 of Houston, and Belleair VFW Post 5619. He was of the Catholic

faith. He had great pride and respect for the community, he loved and had a big heart for everyone. He will be remembered as "Grandpa Bingo."

Miccio is survived by his wife, Ann Miccio; daughter Linda Busch and husband Herb of Newark, N.J.; sons Ricky Miccio of California, Frank Miccio of New York and Anthony Miccio of New York.

Also surviving are Miccio's seven grandchildren, Heather Howard, Sean Howard and Jaime Howard; and 10 great-grandchild, including Anissa "Chihuahua" Howard.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Pam Howard, one sister, and six brothers.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Feb. 27, at 11 a.m., also at Crowder Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Houston National Cemetery.

Leader obituary policy

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

Legler to host Town Hall meeting

Rep. Ken Legler, R-Pasadena, will host two town hall meetings in the Pasadena/South Belt area on Feb. 27 and Feb. 28.

"The opportunity to hear the concerns of the residents of District 144 in person is something I am looking forward to. I know it is sometimes hard to travel to Austin during the Legislative Session, so I am hosting these meetings so I can hear first hand the questions and concerns from the people I am privileged to represent," Legler said.

The first meeting will be on Friday, Feb. 27, from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Building

located at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd.

The second meeting will be held at the Pasadena Public Library Main Branch on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 until 11:30 a.m. The library is located at 1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Drive in Pasadena. Both meetings are open to the public.

Legler's office is located in the Capitol Extension, E2.304, and can be reached toll free at 1-888-874-2701. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. He can also be reached via e-mail at District144.Legler@house.state.tx.us or his Web site at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist144/legler>.

Rios named champion



Atkinson Elementary Assistant Principal Regina Barnes (left) and peer facilitator Debra Lambert (right) were happy to congratulate Kaylee Rios as the fourth-grade spelling bee champion for the school. She will represent Atkinson at the district competition. Photo submitted

South Belt Graphics & Printing

One stop for all your wedding needs:

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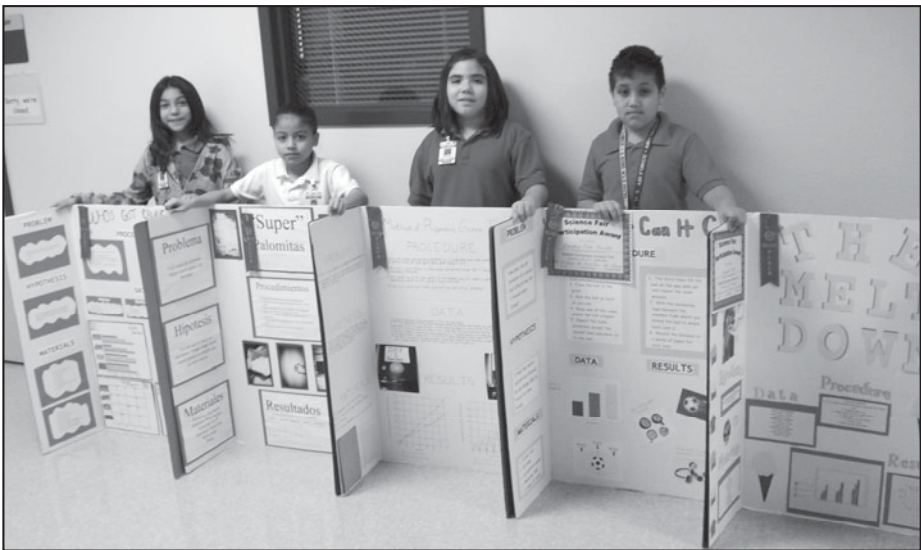
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If you would like to volunteer or donate items, or just have questions, please call Leslie Velasquez @281-481-8003 or email lesliekogmdo@hotmail.com.

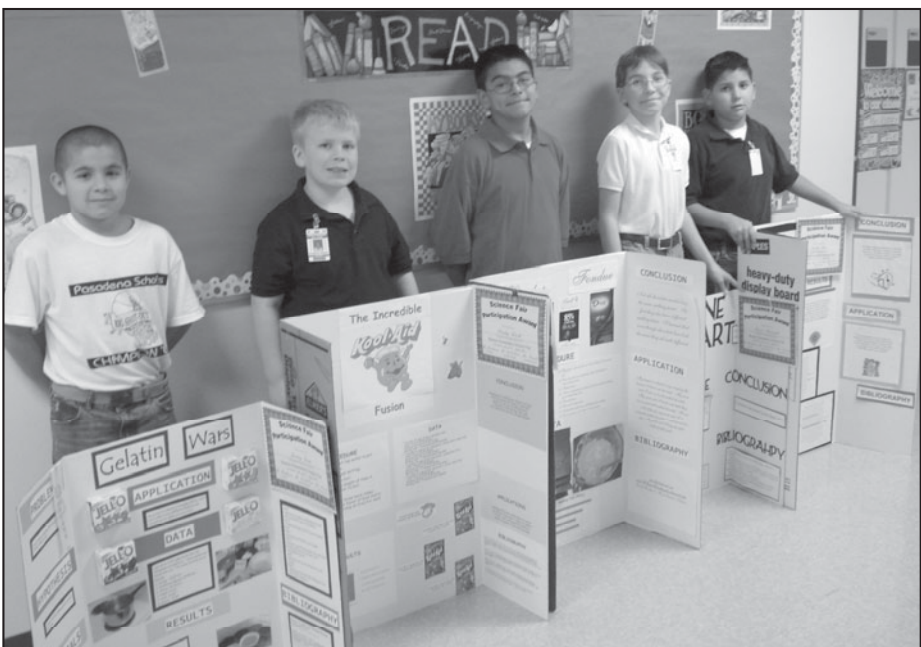
Burnett science fair winners announced



Burnett Elementary recently held its annual science fair where several third- and fourth-grade students were judged on project displays and interviewing skills. Eric Snell was the Burnett Science Fair Coordinator, and the judges were district employees and future engineers from UH-MAES organization, who volunteered their time.



The top winners will advance to the district science fair in March. Congratulations to these future scientists. First-place winners pictured are, left to right, Joshua Gonzalez, fourth grade; Alyssa Chapa, third grade; Jay Do, fourth grade; Brittney Cubos, fourth grade; and Joshua Stokes, fourth grade.



Second-place winners in Burnett Elementary's annual science fair pictured are, left to right, Lani Rico, fourth grade; Katherine Torres, fourth grade; Jackelyn Rendon, third grade; and Jonathan Colon, fourth grade. Not pictured is Jacquelyne Garcia, third grade.



Third-place science fair winners at Burnett Elementary pictured are, left to right, Jeremy Green, fourth grade; Stanley Krivik, fourth grade; Brandon Flores, fourth grade; Bryan Schwausch, third grade; and Rudy Flores, third grade.

San Jac College hosts GED graduation ceremony

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

All San Jacinto College campuses offer GED preparation classes and administer the five required GED tests.

A total of 469 people recently earned GED certificates through the college's GED program, and approximately 50 of those attended the graduation ceremony held recently at the South campus.

"I can only imagine that it was difficult for you to first admit that the regular high school campus may not have been suitable for you," keynote speaker Jo Ann Delgado told the GED graduates at the ceremony. "So enrolling in a GED was the best decision you could have made. Or perhaps you have returned back to school after being out for some time. Remember that education will open doors for you. If you are headed to the workforce, be the best reliable, dependable and trustworthy employee you can be. If you are headed to the noble profession of parenthood, be the best role model you can be."

Delgado, who serves as a Harris County Pct. 2 justice of the peace, read from a

recent report that stated a student drops out of an American high school every 26 seconds and that the number of high school students who fail to graduate is increasing.

"These are alarming statistics, and I can only say that I am so proud that every one of you has proven that you have what it takes to be successful," she commented. "Are you feeling lucky? Luck has nothing to do with it. Your perseverance, your determination and your desire have brought you to this point in your life."

Ron Hopkins, San Jacinto College North's coordinator of assessment services, and GED chief examiner for the San Jacinto College District, concluded the ceremony with a short story about an orphaned eagle that was raised by a group of chickens. "Sometimes, that eagle would look up and notice an eagle soaring in the sky," Hopkins remarked. "The little eagle would feel a stirring and a desire to soar high up in the sky like other eagles. But all the chickens kept telling the eagle that he was a chicken and he just could not soar way up in the sky like an eagle. So, unfortunately that eagle never did fly high like other eagles, even though he

had the ability. In conclusion, I urge you GED graduates to not be chicken, but be like an eagle."

In 2004, San Jacinto College began to host a ceremony for some GED graduates. The recent commencement was the third such ceremony for GED graduates from all three San Jacinto College campuses.

For more information about the GED program 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 the GED program at the South campus, contact Jerry McIntyre at 281-484-1900 ext. 3433, or by e-mail at Jerry.McIntyre@sjcd.edu.

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



Shown are the highest ranking graduates at the recent GED commencement ceremony, from left: Lisa Fowler (South campus), Kurt Brown (South campus), Melanie Garza (Central campus), James Gibbs (Central campus), and Joshua Belmarez (North campus).

Pianists compete March 28

The San Jacinto College Central music department will host the third annual Young Pianists Competition on Saturday, March 28, an event open to any piano student in grades 7 through 12.

Winners in the middle school and high school categories are presented cash prizes and will also be considered for scholarships from San Jacinto College.

The contest entry deadline is March 16.

The competition will be judged by San Jacinto College music faculty members.

Participation in the competition is open to anyone who is studying piano and can perform the required level of literature.

Entrance fee for the contest is \$20 and is limited to the first 40 entrants.

"In the past, we have had participants from as far away as Spring," commented Dr. Martha Braswell, San Jacinto College music instructor who is also director of the competition. "The public cannot attend the competition, which is attended only by the judges and the contestants. However, there is an awards ceremony and concert at the conclusion of the contest where the top performers play their choice of two compositions for the public. This will occur around 2 p.m."

The competition and subsequent ceremony will be held in the Jan Corbin Recital Hall of the Monte Blue Music Building on the Central campus.

There is no admission charge for the awards ceremony or the concert that follows the restricted competition.

The competition will include two categories based on the age of the students.

"We average about 25 students in the competition with a winner and one runner-up in each category," remarked Braswell. "In addition, students who have a high recommendation but do not place in the top two categories in their age group are also recognized and perform in the concert."

San Jacinto College offers a wide range of music degree options and private music lessons at all three campuses.

San Jacinto College Central is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. The South campus is located at 13735 Beamer Road.

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

Thompson 7th-grade Citizens of the Month



Thompson Intermediate seventh-grade Citizens of the Month for January are, left to right, (back row) Taylor Surratt, Jenna Perez, Carlos Sanchez, Angie Arteaga and Alex Rodriguez. (front row) Alyssa Williams, Kyle Gee, Tanya Torres.

Photo submitted

Enrollment deadline Feb. 28 for prepaid Texas state college tuition program

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds parents that the current enrollment period ends Feb. 28 for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's new prepaid college tuition program.

Enrollment opened last September for the program, which allows families to lock in college tuition and required fees at current prices of Texas public colleges and offers many flexible options to prepay those expenses before a child is ready for college.

"The Texas Tuition Promise Fund makes it easy to save for college, even in these challenging economic times," Combs said. "If your child attends a Texas public college, you don't have to worry about the volatile stock market, and you can prepay for as much of your child's college costs as your family budget allows."

During the current enrollment period, more than 4,800 children have been enrolled in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund. The contracts purchased are worth almost \$100 million in future college tuition and required fees.

"You must enroll your child in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund by Feb. 28 to take advantage of current contract prices," Combs said. "When the current enrollment period ends, enrollment will close until September, except for newborns born in March through August. We will survey colleges and universities regarding their future tuition and fees and set new contract prices for the next Texas Tuition Promise Fund enrollment period."

Families enrolled in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund purchase tuition "units" with three levels of pricing to prepay undergraduate resident tuition and required fees at schools ranging from public community colleges to four-year state universities. (A detailed explanation of prepaid tuition units is below.)

During the current enrollment period, parents of a newborn can pay as little as \$15.16 per month until their child's high school graduation to prepay a year of tuition at a community college.

Parents of a 7-year-old who want to prepay the weighted average cost of one year's tuition at a four-year Texas public university could spread the payments over 10 years for \$81.53 a month.

"The Texas Tuition Promise Fund allows families from any economic background to achieve their education goal - whether it is a four-year college degree or a training program at a community college to gain the technical skills that good, well-paying jobs require," Combs said. "The U.S. Department of Education estimates about 80 percent of the fastest-growing job categories in the near future will require some education beyond high school, but not a bachelor's degree. Texas employers report a growing shortage of workers with technical skills needed for the jobs in Texas' future."

Combs' Web site, Every Chance, Every Texan, can help families plan and save for college. The Web site provides information on careers that will be in demand in the

future and the education requirements for various fields. It also includes tools to help families calculate college costs and determine whether they are saving enough money.

To learn more about the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, visit www.EveryChanceEveryTexan.org or go directly to the Texas Tuition Promise Fund Web site at www.TexasTuitionPromiseFund.com.

Summary of Texas Tuition Promise Fund

A family can buy units to prepay a student's undergraduate resident tuition and required fees. There are three types of units (Type I, Type II and Type III).

What units represent
• 100 units = One year of tuition and required fees (based on an academic year of 30 credit hours).

• 1 unit = 1 percent of a year's tuition and required fees; 2 units = 2 percent of a year's tuition and required fees...10 units = 10 percent of a year's tuition and required fees, etc.

• Families can buy any number or type of units, up to the value of 600 Type I units of undergraduate tuition and required fees.

Cost of units
Type I units - Priced at undergraduate resident tuition and required fees at the most expensive Texas public four-year school at time of purchase. Current price = \$98.50 per unit.

Type II units - Priced at weighted average cost of undergraduate resident tuition and required fees across all

Texas public four-year schools at time of purchase. Current price = \$67.65 per unit.

Type III units - Priced at weighted average cost of undergraduate resident tuition and required fees across all Texas public two-year schools at time of purchase. Current price = \$16.99 per unit.
Redemption of units when student enters college

100 Type I units - Will cover one academic year's undergraduate resident tuition and required fees (30 credit hours) at any Texas public four-year school.

100 Type II units - Will cover the weighted average cost at the time of college enrollment of one year's undergraduate resident tuition and required fees at any Texas public four-year school.

100 Type III units - Will cover the weighted average cost at the time of college enrollment of one year's undergraduate resident tuition and required fees at any Texas public two-year school. If a school's tuition and required fees are above the weighted average cost, the family has to either pay the difference or redeem additional units to make up the difference.

Contracts could have unused Type I, II or III units if a student attends lower cost schools. The value of unused units can be refunded or transferred to a 529 college savings plan or another beneficiary.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Defendant's Dave Watkins, Bertha Spikes and Carlos Brown as a group, you all have been sued by Plaintiff Walter Hewell. You have THIRTY CALENDAR DAYS after publication of this legal notice to file a written response to the summons and complaint which have been filed against you all. The name and address of the court is Harris County Court 1115 Congress 7th floor, Houston, Texas 77002. The name, address and telephone number of Plaintiff's Attorney John-Baptist Sekumade at the Sekumade Law Firm at 10909 Sabo Rd Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77089, and telephone number is 281-464-9554.

HCMG schedules March events

Green Thumb Gardening Series

Dr. Carol Brouwer, county extension agent for horticulture, and Karen Breneman, Harris County Master Gardener, will provide expert insight into *Great Plants for the Houston Area*, on Tuesday, March 10, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops, Highway 288 at the Sam Houston Tollway in Pearland.

Master Gardener Lecture Series

The Harris County Master Gardeners lecture *Color Your Garden - Master Gardener Favorites* will be presented by Ginia Keen-Matern, who is both a Harris County and Chambers County Master Gardener. Keen-Matern is also an accredited landscape design consultant for National Gardening Clubs of America.

She has taken pictures of master gardener gardens and will explain how the use of sound design principles creates beautiful gardens.

The lecture will be held March 18, at 10 a.m. in the meeting room at Clear Lake Park (on the lakeside), 5001 NASA Parkway.

Open Garden Day

The public is invited to tour the working and demonstration gardens maintained

by the Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. Visit their wonderful garden which includes an extensive vegetable garden, fruit orchard, perennials, roses, herb and cactus gardens and two working greenhouses.

Master gardeners will be on hand to answer any gardening questions during this free event.

Anyone who has one-gallon or smaller plastic plant

and trays and would like to recycle them should bring them to Open Garden Day and the Master Gardeners will put them to good use.

The event will take place Monday, March 16, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff.

For more information on any of these events, visit the Web site at <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>.

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I-45 South & Beltway 8
IMAX JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
DIGITAL 3D
JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15, 12:30
STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-LI (PG-13) (10:25, 11:35 @ \$5), 12:55, 2:10, 3:20, 4:35, 5:50, 7:20, 8:20, 9:40, 10:45, 11:55, 12:55
FIRED UP (PG-13) (11:30 @ \$5), 1:35, 4:40
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (10:05, 10:35, 11:10, 11:50 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:05, 1:50, 2:40, 3:10, 3:50, 4:25, 5:10, 5:55, 6:25, 7:10, 7:50, 8:30, 9:05, 9:50, 10:30, 11:10, 11:45, 12:25, 12:55
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (10:30, 11:55 @ \$5), 1:00, 2:25, 3:35, 5:05, 6:20, 7:30, 8:50, 11:20
FRIDAY THE 13TH (2009) (R) (10:00, 11:40 @ \$5), 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:15, 5:35, 7:05, 8:10, 9:25, 10:40, 11:50, 12:55
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) (10:45 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:10, 6:50, 9:45, 12:35
CORALINE (PG) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05, 12:40
3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (11:30 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:30, 7:25, 8:40, 10:25, 11:40
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (10:40 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 9:55, 12:10
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (10:40 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 9:55, 12:10
PUSH (PG-13) (11:15 @ \$5), 2:05, 5:00, 7:25, 10:10, 12:45
TAKEN (PG-13) (10:10, 11:20 @ \$5), 12:20, 1:30, 2:35, 3:45, 4:55, 6:05, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:35, 11:50, 12:50
THE UNINVITED (PG-13) 7:30, 9:35, 11:45
UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R) 9:55 PM, 12:15 AM
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (10:55 @ \$5), 1:20, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:25
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) (10:00, 11:00 @ \$5), 12:05, 1:10, 2:15, 3:25, 4:30, 5:40, 7:05, 8:20, 11:35
THE UNBORN (PG-13) 10:15 PM, 12:30 AM
THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (11:25 @ \$5), 6:30, 8:30
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (11:05 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:40
AMC SELECT
ECHELON CONSPIRACY (R) (10:30 @ \$5), 1:00, 3:40, 6:10, 8:35, 11:05
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (10:50 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20, 12:55
THE WRESTLER (R) (10:40 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:40
GRAN TORINO (R) (11:45 @ \$5), 2:45, 5:20, 8:25, 11:00
THE READER (R) (11:55 @ \$5), 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:50
Closed Captioning - Descriptive Video Service
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupon

Over The Back Fence by Jan

MELILLO HONOR STUDENT NAMED
Congratulations are sent to Melillo Middle School fifth-grader **Carlos Rivas** for making the honor roll at the school. His name was left off the list in the Feb. 12 edition of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.
YOLANDA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Birthday wishes are sent to longtime Sagemont resident **Yolanda Dominguez**, who celebrates a birthday March 2, from her friends at the *Leader*.
HAPPY 7TH BIRTHDAY BRAYDEN!
Brayden Espinosa will turn 7 years old Sunday, March 1. Lots of wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent from proud grandparents **Jannie and Robert Scarberry** of South Belt; mom **Jenny**, dad **Ray** and sister **Baylee**; aunt **Stacey**, uncle **Stephen** and cousins **Kennedy** and **Owen Flowers**; uncle **Joey** and aunt **Nyssa Hayes**; uncle **Austin**, aunt **Nicole** and cousin **Jade Scarberry**; and uncle **Tyler Scarberry**. Brayden is a first-grade student in the Gifted & Talented program in the Klein

Independent School District. His mom and dad are 1997 Dobie graduates.
CHELSI TURNS 15!
Darrell and Priscilla Martin send birthday greetings to daughter **Chelsi Martin**. Chelsi celebrated her birthday Saturday, Feb. 21. She is a student at Clear Brook High School.
SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 26 through March 4.
Bush Elementary
A birthday is celebrated Feb. 27 by **Wendy Smith**. A birthday greeting is sent to **Mary Ann Garcia** March 2.
Jessup Elementary
On March 4, **Amanda Stark** has a birthday.
Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday party for **Adriana Ramirez** is Feb. 28. **Priscilla Nguyen-Vu** was born on Feb. 29, but will celebrate her birthday another day this year.
Melillo Middle School

Blow out the birthday candles for **Kerri Clarkson** Feb. 27. On March 1, **Charlotte Buisson** marks a birthday. The day for a birthday cake for **Mary Garcia** is March 2.
Morris Middle School
Regina Richardson and **Anna Willis** are wished a happy birthday Feb. 26.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Rodney Martin** Feb. 26. Birthday greetings are sent to **Shay Woodruff** Feb. 28. Sharing a birthday March 2 are **Mary Garcia** and **Cynthia Lozano**.
Thompson Intermediate
The day for a birthday party for **Katina Kirk** is March 1.
Dobie High
David Chollett and **Zoila Salazar** share a birthday Feb. 28. The day for a birthday cake for **Jason Roth** is March 1. **Erin Thompson** is sent birthday greetings March 3. On March 4, **Jim Bennett**, **Earline Black** and **Andria Senegal** enjoy a birthday.

Dobie debate competes at Memorial, Scarborough

By **Stephanie Nguyen**
Dobie debate team
The Dobie debate team was very busy the weekend of Jan. 23-24. The team split its forces between two tournaments. Twelve students traveled to Pasadena Memorial High School, while another 12 competed at Scarborough High School.
At Pasadena Memorial, eight students broke into final rounds.
In duo interpretation, the team of **Mylinh Tran** and **Yen Le** placed fifth. In novice prose, **Theresa Greene** placed second, **Destiny Bellamy** placed fourth and **Tran**, sixth.
Other members breaking to semifinals were **Yen Le** in domestic extemp and impromptu; **Sholeh Abedinzadeh** in impromptu; and both **Ashley Esquivel** and **Kiara Harris** broke in student congress.
At Scarborough, students advanced to out rounds in 25 events. The team received multiple trophies.
Both of the parliamentary debate teams, **San Nguyen/Michael Baez** and **Kady Salazar/Erandi Trevino** advanced to quarters.



Dobie Debate team members pictured are, left to right, (front row) **Sarah Eapen**, **Tramanh Hoang**, **Erandi Trevino**, **Kady Salazar**, **Stephanie Vu**, **San Nguyen**, (middle row) **Gina Nguyen**, **Long To**, **Jacob Schaafs**, (back row) **Eddie Nunez**, **Ngocbao Le** and **Michel Baez**.

In soapbox speaking, **Trevino** won fifth place. Sixth-place trophies were brought home by **Sarah Eapen** in senior prose interpretation, **Long To** in original oratory, and finally, **Hoang** in storytelling.

San Jacinto signs articulation agreements with WGU, Lamar

San Jacinto College recently entered into articulation agreements with two major universities - Lamar University and Western Governors University. The agreements were approved by the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees at the regularly scheduled board meeting held Thursday, Feb. 5.
In the agreement between SJC and Lamar, the two colleges aim to create a seamless transition for SJC students and graduates seeking a Bachelor of Science in industrial technology. The agreement begins immediately. Under the agreement, SJC students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0, and all courses intended for transfer must have a grade of C or higher. A maximum of 60 semester hours will be accepted toward Lamar's Bachelor of Science in industrial technology for associate of applied science graduates. Up to 39 credits may be transferred from an approved technology major field of study and up to 21 academic credits may be applied which meet the Lamar required academic core sequence. Lamar will work with transfer candidates to determine final credit award.
According to **Dr. Catherine O'Brien**, San Jacinto College's dean of teaching and learning, the agreement with Lamar "will enable technical program graduates to continue toward a bachelor's degree. Those who are interested in moving into managerial positions would have the technical background from their associate degree coupled with leadership and supervisory coursework from the bachelor's degree. They would be perfectly positioned for advancement in the workplace."
Under the terms of the agreement between SJC and Western Governors University, transfer students will have their application fee waived by WGU.
WGU will also offer a 5 percent tuition discount, which will be applied for the entirety of any student's degree program. Under the agreement, SJC graduates can apply for the Community College Excellence Grant, a scholarship valued at up to \$2,000 that can be used with the 5 percent tuition discount.
In addition, WGU will conduct webinars and/or teleconferences to inform stu-

dents and faculty about WGU degree programs and student services. There is no GPA requirement for admission to WGU. Applicants are required to complete a basic skills test to ensure that they can be successful.
San Jac warns of scholarship scam
The financial aid department at San Jacinto College is warning students and the community of a scholarship scam. People claiming to represent the U.S. Education Department are calling students to offer scholarships and grants. The callers ask for a bank or credit card number, saying the information will be used for a \$249 processing fee, but the call is fake.
"The U.S. Education Department and San Jacinto College do not charge students a fee for educational grants," said **Robert Merino**, San Jacinto College financial aid services director. "You should not offer your financial information to anyone making these claims."
If you receive a call, please report it to 1-800-MIS-USED, or send an e-mail to oig.hotline@ed.gov.
The government Web site www.ftc.gov/scholarshipcams shares telltale signs of fraud.
San Jacinto College disburses more than \$22.2 million annually in financial aid to more than 6,100 students who are not required to pay a processing fee.
If you are a student requiring financial aid, follow the proper financial aid procedures set forth by San Jacinto College.
For more information on how to obtain financial aid, visit the San Jacinto College Web site at www.sanjac.edu or call 281-998-6150.

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Remember When

30 years ago (1979)
The South Belt area was cleared through the efforts of deputies from Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's office.
15 years ago (1994)
Thompson Intermediate School's academic games team beat **Beverly Hills Intermediate's** team to win the district championship.
25 years ago (1984)
Trustees of the Pasadena Independent School District approved a plan to purchase 168 computers for instructional use throughout the district. House Bill 26 was expected to mandate the use of instructional computers throughout the state.
30 years ago (1989)
Deciding he had finally put in his "100 percent," **Thompson Intermediate School Principal E.J. Ritchey** changed the direction of his commitment to community service and announced his retirement from public education.
At least 15 burglaries in

the South Belt area were cleared through the efforts of deputies from Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's office.
10 years ago (1999)
Councilman **Rob Todd** announced that the City Council Aviation Committee approved plans to enter into a 30-year agreement with **SkyComm Technologies Inc.** to lease 304,920 square feet of land at **Ellington Field** for expansion of its telecommunications business.
Clear Brook High School senior **Jamal Smith** signed a scholarship agreement to play football for the University of Southwest

Louisiana.
5 years ago (2004)
The body of a male was found outside the gate of the home at 10407 Kirkshire in the Kirkwood subdivision. According to **Houston Police Department** officials, he was thought to be one of four suspects in an attempted home invasion at 10411 Kirklane the previous night. Officials reported that there was an exchange of gunfire between the homeowner and the suspects outside the Kirklane home.
He died from gunshot wounds to his head and chest while he was running from the scene.
An anonymous source alerted the *Leader* to a Drug Enforcement Agency raid on **Colt Canyon** at **Chimney Trail** in the **Riverstone Ranch** subdivision.
1 year ago (2008)
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its 24th annual banquet. The event was attended by area business leaders, along with

several local elected officials. The banquet's theme was, "A Salute to the 147th Fighter Wing" and was also attended by several members of the Texas Air National Guard. Outgoing chamber president **George Valtasaros** presented the Citizen of the Year award to **Dr. Dixie Melillo**, the founder of the nonprofit organization **The Rose**.
Jacqueline Ann Cheramie died. Cheramie was a long-time employee at both the **Clear Creek** and **Pasadena** independent school districts. Her most recent position was secretary to **Dobie** principal **Steve Jamail**.
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce hosted a meet and greet to give residents a chance to familiarize themselves with candidates who would appear on the **March 4** primary ballots.
All contestants running for local congressional and legislative seats, as well as for justice of the peace and constable, were invited to participate.

Ken Legler appointed to two committees

Rep. Ken Legler was appointed by Speaker Joe Strauss to serve on two of the most influential committees in the Texas House, the House Environmental Regulation and the Human Services committees.

"I am very excited about the appointment to both committees. With my 10 years experience on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Advisory Board and a lifelong resident of the largest industrial area in Texas, I am confident that I am able to bring a wealth of experience to the table.

Additionally, as a parent of three children and a proud grandparent, I am honored to be part of the committee that oversees the needs of the state's most vulnerable citizens," said Legler.

The House Committee on Environmental Regulation has

jurisdiction over air, land, and water pollution, regulation of waste disposal, environmental matters regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the impact of electricity generation on air and water quality.

The House Human Services Committee has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the welfare and rehabilitation programs, oversight of the Health and Human Services Commission, the prevention and treatment of mental retardation, and mental retardation facilities.

Additionally, the committee has oversight over various state agencies such as the Department of Aging and Disability Services, Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

Certification meeting offers career alternatives

The University of Houston-Clear Lake's alternative certification program may provide the perfect path for those who have received their bachelor's degree and are thinking of making a move into the education field.

An informational meeting on this program is scheduled

for Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. Representatives of the UHCL School of Education will provide preliminary information on obtaining alternative certification.

For more information, call the School of Education Center for Professional Development at 281-283-3612.

UH-Clear Lake students blog on their experiences

Find out the inside scoop on what it is like to be a University of Houston-Clear Lake student now through student blogs. Seven UHCL students - four undergraduates and three graduate students - offer their perspectives.

"Our goal is for the student bloggers to communicate their personal stories to both prospective and current

students," explained Francisco J. Perez, e-communications recruiter for the university. "We hope that their motivations, struggles and paths can inspire others to seek a better education here at UH-Clear Lake."

The UHCL student blogs can be read by visiting <http://www.uhcl.edu>, selecting the admissions tab and choosing the student blogs symbol.

Beverly Hills Bears of the Month



Each month, students are selected as Bears of the Month at Beverly Hills Intermediate. These students are chosen by their team of teachers for being positive role models, working hard in class, and having a good attitude. Bears of the Month for December pictured are, left to right, (front row)

Gabriela Romero, Ivan Macias, Veronica Barahona, Tessa Costello, Chansé Morris, Phuc Dinh, (back row) Rebecca Guerra, Breshaun Franklin, Gabriel Mendoza, Cody Bennett, Clarence Williams and Ruth Delgado.

Photo submitted

Town Hall meeting set for March at UHCL

Councilmember Mike Sullivan will host a Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, March 11, at University of Houston Clear Lake at 2700 Bay Area Blvd. The meeting will be held in the Bayou Building's Garden Room. Sign in begins at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

In the second year of his term, Mike Sullivan understands that constituent input is vital to being a successful councilmember. He welcomes constituents of District E to come voice their concerns, needs and suggestions for the district at this Town Hall Meeting.

"Constituent services is, and will remain, my No. 1 priority while serving as councilmember. It is important to me to maintain open communications with my constituents," said Sullivan.

Representatives from the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department, Solid Waste Department, General Services Department, Houston Police Department, and Houston Fire Department will also be available to answer questions. The councilmember's staff will also be present.

For more information, contact the councilmember's office at 832-393-3008, or by e-mail at districtc@cityofhouston.net.

will also be present.

Quilt guild hosts auction

The Bay Area Quilt Guild will host its annual auction on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Quilting related items, fabrics, quilt blocks, etc. will be offered in both a silent and a live auction. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 281-339-6827.

Moore hosts literacy night



Bingo for Books Family Literacy Night was a huge success for Moore Elementary. Families ate a hot dog dinner, were invited to enter the reading "zone," played bingo and were able to purchase books at the book fair. Prizes were awarded to all bingo winners. All students received an at-grade-level book, and two grand prize winners won family literacy baskets to encourage reading at home. The grand prize winners were second-grade student Rubin Flores (above right) and fourth-grade student Dustin Warden (below). Both are pictured with Moore Elementary Principal Jill Lacamu.



Playing bingo are (clockwise left to right) Emily Symeonidis, Angelo Symeonidis, Chris Symeonidis, Tatiana Bradley and Rosa Symeonidis.

Photos submitted

Meador's Knight named runner-up



Josiah Knight, a third-grader at Meador Elementary, became a runner-up in the Pasadena Independent School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 9 at the administration building. Knight will go on to compete against fifth- through eighth-graders in the secondary spelling bee on Feb. 23.

Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Joyelle Knight, sister; Josiah Knight, spelling bee runner-up; Natalia Wright, sister; (back row) Jennifer McDuff, third-grade teacher; Beverly Bolton, assistant principal; Darlene Davis, principal; Dawn Knight, mother; and George Knight, father.

Leader wedding, engagement policies

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

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.

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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 & 11 a.m.

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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 6:30 p.m. Saturday 4:15 p.m.		

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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	

Dinner held to honor chamber's 25th anniversary

Citizen of the Year



San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Bill Lindemann was named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. The award honors individuals who have worked to economically benefit the South Belt community. Through his influence and attendance at dozens of public meetings, Lindemann helped the college pass a \$295 million bond issue last May by 71 percent. As a result of the bond passage, a state-of-the-art health and science teaching facility will be constructed on Beamer Road.

Photo by David Flickinger

Master of ceremonies



The Rev. Emory Gadd served as master of ceremonies for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 25th anniversary banquet. Gadd is shown above with his wife, Susan.

Photo by David Flickinger

Member of the Year



Mike Newkham was named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Member of the Year. Newkham serves as unit director for the Blackhawk H-E-B. Shown presenting the award to Newkham is *South Belt-Ellington Leader* publisher and chamber board chair Marie Flickinger.

Photo by David Flickinger



Board members Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox (left) and Sandra Yandell are shown above at the chamber's anniversary dinner.

Photo by David Flickinger

Past presidents attend dinner



Several of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's past presidents attended the banquet honoring the group's 25th anniversary. Shown above are, left to right, Chris Clark, Salomon Lahana, Steve Spencer (while he never served as president, Spencer is credited for inspiring the creation of the group), Bill Jones, Donna Rizzo, Dan Martin, Marie Flickinger, Ralph Aulds Jr. and Johnny Carmona.

Photo by David Flickinger

Past and present meet



Past South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce President Salomon Lahana (left) is shown above at the group's 25th anniversary dinner with current board member Dr. B.J. Garner. The pair are standing in front of a slide show prepared by current chamber Director Sally Mitchell that shows the group's history.

Photo by David Flickinger

Frazier donates to Park Manor



Frazier Elementary recently held a toiletry drive to collect items to put in Valentine goodie bags for the residents at Park Manor Nursing Home. The generous students at Frazier donated 168 pounds of toiletry items. The goodie bags were assembled and distributed to the residents by Frazier's YOUTH group. YOUTH stands for Young Owls Using Their Hearts. Members of the group pictured above are, left to right are,

Photos submitted



Park Manor resident Mary Sue Roberts is shown with Frazier students, left to right, (front row) Abby Armenta, Jaysha Ploucha, Lindsey Cardenas, Roberts, Ashley Balderas, Gabriela Munoz, (back row) Mark Rivera, Justin Taylor, Daisia Morris, Nathan Taylor and Emily Hernandez.

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Enjoying the banquet



Current member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce board of directors and owner of Clear Brook Realtors Eli Tanksley (right) is shown above enjoying the 25th anniversary banquet with his wife, Sheila.

Photo by David Flickinger

SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

JFD, Brook baseball win

The Clear Brook and Dobie varsity baseball teams opened the regular season with extra-inning victories Feb. 24. The Wolverines defeated Cy-Woods 5-1, scoring four runs in the top of the eighth inning. Dobie trailed Friendswood 5-1 entering the bottom of the fifth inning at Maguire Field but rallied for two runs in the fifth and two more in the seventh to tie the game. The Longhorns then scored the winning run in the eighth inning. For more details, see Page 6B.

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Mar. 30 - Apr. 20 6-8 p.m.
Mar. 12 - Apr. 6 4-6 p.m.
Apr. 7 - Apr. 28 4-6 p.m.

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Scott Talton - A Pasadena ISD legend

Scott Talton, the winner of 500 career games as Dobie High School's varsity boys' basketball coach, has died at the age of 59.

Services for Talton, who retired from the Pasadena Independent School District after last school year, are to be held Feb. 26 beginning at 6 p.m. at Sagemont Church. Visitation precedes the funeral services from 4 to 6 p.m. Talton's obituary appears on Page 2A.

In all, Talton dedicated 34 years of his life to PASD. He began his career at Park View Intermediate at the start of the 1974-75 school year. He moved to Southmore Intermediate the following school year and began a four-year stay.

From there, Talton joined the staff at Dobie High School, coaching junior varsity boys' basketball for two seasons before taking over as varsity head coach prior to the 1981-82 year with a record of 500-391.



Scott Talton won his 500th career game as Dobie's varsity boys' basketball coach against South Houston Feb. 12, 2008, and then retired following the school year with a record of 500-391.

Clear Creek softball to 'Strike Out Cancer'

Sixteen teams will combine in the battle to "Strike Out Cancer" at the Clear Creek Independent School District softball tournament Feb. 26-28.

Each of CCISD's four schools, including Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Lake and Clear Springs, will host games during the three days.

The Feb. 26 action is highlighted by the Clear Brook versus Dobie matchup at 6 p.m. at Clear Brook.

This year's event has taken on a special meaning. Organizers have given it the Strike Out Cancer tag in an effort to raise funds to help in the fight against cancer.

Two local athletes, Clear Brook pitcher Jill McGinnis and Dobie outfielder Gabby Romero, will benefit directly.

McGinnis, a senior pitcher at Clear Brook, lost her mother to the disease in late December. Romero, a sophomore at Dobie, is battling

advance kidney cancer.

A portion of the proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the families of both players to assist with medical expenses. Additional funds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Houston.

On Feb. 26-27, games will be played at noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. The final day of the tournament features action at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

There will be a variety of food items available for purchase, and raffles and a silent auction will also take place.

Clear Brook will enter the tournament at 2-5. The Lady Wolverines won two games and lost three at the Bryan/College Station tournament Feb. 19-21 (see Page 6B). The Lady Wolverines took on Deer Park Feb. 24, losing 5-4.

For a look at the full tournament schedule, see Page 6B.

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JFD netters' coach Moreno earns distinguished honor

And the award for coach of the year goes to...Manuel Moreno Jr. for his role at...

OK, so Moreno, the Dobie High School tennis coach for the past 10 years, isn't being bestowed with an Oscar like the greats of the big screen.

But don't steal Moreno's thunder please. These days, he feels like a star. And like those walking the red carpet, Moreno is just as humbled and flattered to be included among the best.

Moreno, whose 25-year coaching career has included stops at Galveston's O'Connell High School,

Clear Lake High School and Dobie, is being honored by the Spring Branch Independent School District.

On March 6, just prior to the start of the SBISD Joe Lightsey Invitational, Moreno will be honored as the 2009 Denene Bammel Coach of the Year Award winner.

The district designed the award in 2004 as a way to honor Bammel, the long-time tennis coach at Spring Branch Memorial. Bammel claimed the award that first year, and the list of winners since reads like a Who's Who of Texas high school

tennis legends. 2005 winner Bob Maples of Corpus Christi Carroll built a dynasty that covered decades at that school.



Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s coaching career has spanned 25 years, including 13 at Galveston O'Connell, two more at Clear Lake High School and 10 as the Longhorns' leader. Photo by John Bechtle

In 2006, John Furlow, who has been the longtime head coach at Sugar Land Clements High School, took the award. The 2007 honoree, Jim Mavity, won 13 consecutive Region III titles before retiring from Katy Taylor. In 2008, SBISD recognized Judy Lancaster, Bellaire's head coach for many years.

Moreno, going over the list of previous winners again and again in his mind, isn't sure why or how he fits among the others.

For over 25 years, Moreno has played a large role in the growth of youth tennis

Continued on Page 3B

Denene Bammel
Coach of the Year honorees
Manuel Moreno Jr. - 2009
Dobie
Judy Lancaster - 2008
Bellaire
Jim Mavity - 2007
Katy Taylor
John Furlow - 2006
Fort Bend Clements
Bob Maples - 2005
Corpus Christi Carroll
Denene Bammel - 2004
Spring Branch Memorial

Dobie soccer teams want second-half push

With six games remaining in the District 22-5A soccer races, the Dobie varsity boys' and girls' teams are in excellent position to claim a playoff spot. Yet, down the stretch, the respective teams face different circumstances. The boys' team, which is now 6-1-1 after a 3-2 win over Memorial Feb. 24, is in first place and looking to hold off other challengers. The Lady Longhorns (5-2), on the other hand, trail first-place Deer Park by two games and are battling with Pearland and La Porte for second place. On Feb. 20, Dobie lost a tough 2-1 contest to Pearland on the road as sophomore forward Karen Treto (right) scored Dobie's lone goal. The Dobie girls will be back in action Feb. 25 after press time against Memorial and Feb. 28 against South Houston at Newcomb Field. Game time for the South Houston game is noon. The Dobie versus South Houston varsity boys' game follows at 2 p.m.



Photo by John Bechtle

oree, Jim Mavity, won 13 consecutive Region III titles before retiring from Katy Taylor. In 2008, SBISD recognized Judy Lancaster, Bellaire's head coach for many years.

Moreno, going over the list of previous winners again and again in his mind, isn't sure why or how he fits among the others.

For over 25 years, Moreno has played a large role in the growth of youth tennis

Continued on Page 3B

Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s coaching career has spanned 25 years, including 13 at Galveston O'Connell, two more at Clear Lake High School and 10 as the Longhorns' leader. Photo by John Bechtle

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Sports Calendar

SOCCKER

Thursday, Feb. 26

Dobie JV (B) girls at Clear Lake, 5:00
Clear Brook sophomore boys host Brazoswood, 5:30

Friday, Feb. 27

Clear Brook varsity boys host Brazoswood, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity girls at Brazoswood, 7:00
Clear Brook JV boys host Brazoswood, 7:00
Clear Brook JV girls host Brazoswood, 5:00

Saturday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity girls vs. South Houston, Newcomb, noon
Dobie varsity boys vs. South Houston, Newcomb, 2:00
Dobie JV boys vs. South Houston, Auxiliary, noon
Dobie JV girls host South Houston, Newcomb, 10 a.m.
Dobie JV (B) girls host Friendswood, Dobie, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 3

Dobie varsity boys host Deer Park, Newcomb, 6:00
Clear Brook varsity girls host Clear Lake, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity boys at Clear Lake, 7:00
Dobie varsity girls at Deer Park, Abshire, 6:00
Clear Brook JV girls host Clear Lake, 5:00
Clear Brook JV boys at Clear Lake, 5:00

Thursday, March 5

Dobie JB (B) girls at Brazosport, 5:00

Friday, March 6

Clear Brook varsity girls at Galveston Ball, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity boys host Galveston Ball, 7:00
Dobie varsity hosts La Porte, Newcomb, 7:00
Dobie varsity girls at La Porte, 7:00
Clear Brook JV girls at Galveston Ball, 5:00
Clear Brook JV boys host Galveston Ball, 5:00
Dobie JV hosts La Porte, Newcomb, 5:00
Dobie JV girls at La Porte, 5:00

TENNIS

Friday, Feb. 27

Dobie varsity at Corpus Christi tourn., TBA

Saturday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity at Corpus Christi tourn., TBA

SOFTBALL

Thursday, Feb. 26

Dobie varsity at Clear Creek ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek ISD tourn., TBA
Dobie JV at Humble tourn., TBA

Friday, Feb. 27

San Jacinto College at Temple tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at Clear Creek ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek ISD tourn., TBA
Dobie JV at Humble tourn., TBA

Saturday, Feb. 28

San Jacinto College at Temple tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at Clear Creek ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek ISD tourn., TBA
Dobie JV at Humble tourn., TBA

Tuesday, March 3

Dobie varsity hosts Clear Lake, PISD complex, 6:30
Clear Brook varsity at Friendswood, 6:00
Clear Brook JV at Friendswood, 4:30
Dobie JV hosts Clear Lake, PISD complex, 5:00

Wednesday, March 4

San Jacinto College at McLennan, Waco, 1:00/3:00

Thursday, March 5

Clear Brook varsity at HSSL tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at HSSL tourn., TBA

Friday, March 6

Clear Brook varsity at HSSL tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at HSSL tourn., TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, Feb. 26

Dobie JV at Baytown Sterling meet, TBA

Friday, Feb. 27

Dobie varsity girls at Gator Relays, Dickinson, 3:30

BASEBALL

Thursday, Feb. 26

Dobie varsity at Angleton tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA
Dobie JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

Friday, Feb. 27

Dobie varsity at Angleton tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA
Dobie JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

Saturday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity at Angleton tourn., TBA
Clear Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA
(See Page 6B)
Dobie JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

Monday, March 2

Dobie varsity hosts Dickinson, Dobie, 4:00

Tuesday, March 3

Clear Brook varsity at Deer Park, 7:00
Clear Brook JV hosts Deer Park, 7:00

Thursday, March 5

Clear Brook varsity at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook JV at Spring Branch tourn., TBA
Clear Brook sophomores at Fort Bend tourn., TBA

Friday, March 6

Clear Brook varsity at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook JV at Spring Branch tourn., TBA
Clear Brook sophomores at Fort Bend tourn., TBA

Saturday, March 7

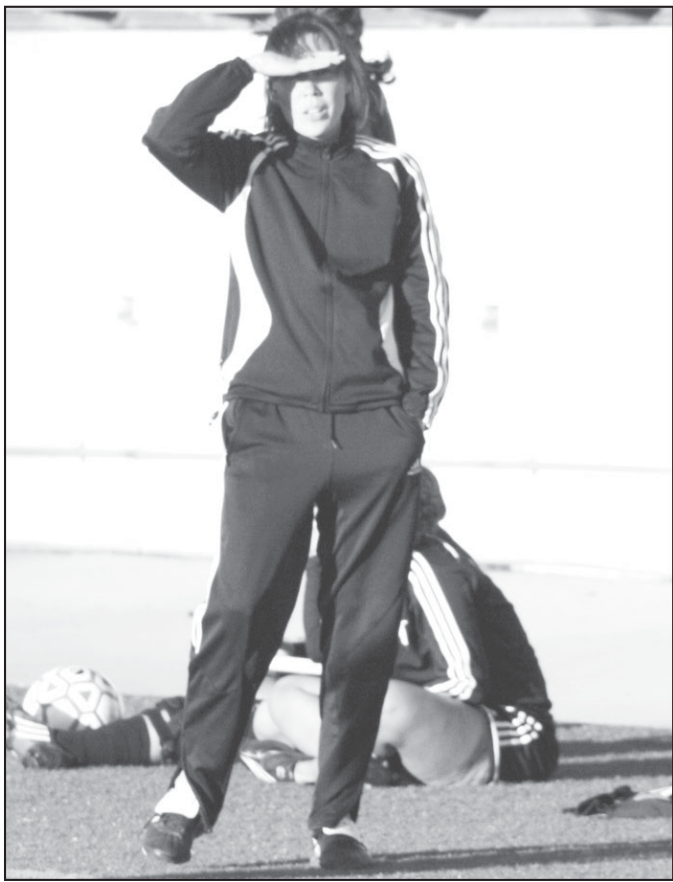
Clear Brook varsity at Clear Creek tourn., TBA
Dobie varsity at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA
Clear Brook JV at Spring Branch tourn., TBA
Clear Brook sophomores at Fort Bend tourn., TBA

CROSS COUNTRY

Wednesday, March 4

Thompson boys/girls at PISD meet, S. Houston, 4:45
Beverly Hills boys/girls at PISD meet, S. Houston, 4:45

Lady Longhorns eye final stretch



Kersten Mullan, Dobie's third-year varsity girls' soccer coach, is looking for a strong start to the second half of 22-5A play as the Lady Longhorns take on Pasadena Memorial and the rest of the district beginning after press time Feb. 25.

Horns' soccer teams move on

A season filled with plenty of optimism at its inception has so far come to fruition for the boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams at Dobie.

With the exception of perhaps a careless loss to Sam Rayburn, the Longhorn boys' team has seemingly improved with the passing of each game.

The team, now 6-1-1 and atop District 22-5A after a 3-2 win over Memorial Feb. 24, is on a roll.

Dobie's 3-2 win over Memorial comes on the heels of its terrific 5-2 victory over Pearland at Newcomb Field Feb. 21.

Now, with six games remaining in the schedule, the Longhorns have their first district title this decade in sight.

However, as pleased as third-year head coach Jesse Saavedra is at this time, he knows there are still six tough games ahead. Unfortunately, there is little time to celebrate.

"We have to keep playing together as a team, which is what has gotten us to this point," Saavedra said.

"The Pearland win was huge for us. We came out in the second half and scored four goals in dominating fashion. Gilberto Tzintzun, who up to that point had a tough time finding the net, came up big with three goals. Leo

Gallegos and Walter Anuro also scored for us. At the time, we were coming off the loss to Sam Rayburn but still had a chance to grab first place. I was proud of the way the players came out and performed."

And after the win over Pearland, Dobie did not let its momentum slide away as the second half of 22-5A action began Feb. 24.

Dobie had won the first game between the two teams 2-0, but as Saavedra pointed out, any game in the 22-5A division is tough.

"Our district is always tough to get through," Saavedra said.

"Every team is capable of getting a win. Memorial has been this season a team sort of like we were last season. That is, they are losing games 1-0 and 2-1 but are still right there. Our latest win is another example of that."

Memorial actually held a 2-1 lead over Dobie after scoring with 20 minutes to play. But the Longhorns came back to tie the game as Gallegos scored with 15 minutes to go.

With three minutes on the clock, the Longhorns punched home the game-winner as Irving Garza assisted on a header by Tzintzun.

"We have scored key goals when we have needed them most of the way, but I also have to say our defense has been spectacu-

lar," Saavedra said. "This group of guys is as unselfish as any I've ever been around."

"With that in mind, we have gotten contributions from all over the field. So far, we're playing well. We had an outstanding offseason, and I really felt good about having a chance to make the playoffs. Right now, we're on course. We just have to keep playing our style."

JFD girls at 5-2
Speaking of the playoffs, Dobie's varsity girls' team is likely to be in the bracket when the regular season ends.

Just where the Lady Longhorns wind up is another issue entirely.

Undefeated Deer Park is on top of the standings, and right now Dobie and Pearland are at 5-2 and La Porte is also fighting for position.

Pearland struck the last blow on Dobie, taking a 2-1 win Feb. 20 at Pearland.

"They capitalized on one of our mistakes for the tying goal and scored on a free kick, which sealed the deal in their favor," said Dobie head coach Kersten Mullan.

"We have now made things tougher than they need to be in this second half of district play. We have to come out against Memorial and make a statement to start it off."

Brook, Dobie hoops ousted

After a long run through their respective district varsity basketball ranks, the Clear Brook and Dobie teams found the playoffs too tough to handle.

Both teams were eliminated during the bidistrict round of competition Feb. 24. The Wolverines, who defeated Clear Lake in its regular season finale and ultimately claimed third place in District 24-5A, was downed by Fort Bend Bush.

Bush, the second-place team from District 23-5A, pounded the Wolverines 88-62 in the nightcap of a playoff doubleheader at Pearland High School.

In the first game of that doubleheader, Clear Lake was taken out by 23-5A champion Fort Bend Marshall.

Dobie, which lost its regular season finale at Pearland 64-47 Feb. 20 to wind up fourth in District 22-5A, advanced to face District 21-5A co-champion Port Arthur Memorial.

The Titans, leading most of the way at the game at Lee College in Baytown, went on to win 64-56.

The Port Arthur win avenged a loss to Dobie two seasons ago in the same round. That season, Dobie beat PA Memorial and played Clear Lake in the area round before losing.

Dobie's playoff appearance was its third straight.

District 24-5A Standings

Varsity Boys' Basketball

(Final results)		
Teams	W	L
Galveston Ball	12	2
Clear Springs	10	4
Clear Brook	10	4
Clear Lake	9	5
Dickinson	6	8
Brazoswood	6	8
Alvin	2	12
Clear Creek	1	13

District 22-5A Standings

Varsity Boys' Basketball

(Final results)		
Teams	W	L
La Porte	12	2
Pearland	11	3
Deer Park	11	3
Dobie	10	4
South Houston	5	9
Sam Rayburn	4	10
Memorial	2	12
Pasadena	1	13

Lady Longhorns fourth at Brown Relays

La Porte's varsity girls stole the show at the Pasadena Independent School District's Brown Relays, but Dobie's girls were the perfect follow-up act.

In an early season show of possible District 22-5A showdowns, the Lady Bulldogs tallied 153 points at Auxiliary Stadium, holding off second-place Clear Lake (147).

Dobie, still not at full strength with key field event competitors not placing, took fourth with 80 points.

Lady Horns running well
Through two meets, the Lady Longhorns have already shown they will be a force in the relays and sprints as the season progresses.

And, the team also expects relay member and field event standout Shadae Shepherd to soon be at 100 percent after joining the team after the basketball season ended.

Ashley Johnson, taking part in her first meet after she finished up her basketball duties, was spectacular at the Brown Relays.

Johnson, a senior, won the shot put title after a throw of 33 feet, 9 inches.

From there, Dobie did the rest of its damage on the track.

In the 100-meter dash, Chili Montgomery clocked in at 12.34 seconds for sec-

ond place. The junior was followed by sophomore Tieres Franks, who was third at 12.63.

Monique Anderson competed in the 200-meter dash for Dobie, gaining a silver medal and second place after posting a time of 26.15. Montgomery ran fourth at 26.75.

The Lady Longhorns tallied big points in the 4x100- and 4x200- relays, winning both events.

Anderson, Kiara Harris, Franks and Montgomery teamed in the 4x100 for the win in a time of 49.11.

In the 4x200, Anderson, Charity Knight, Harris and Montgomery teamed for the win in a time of 1:44.86.

Dobie claimed fifth place in the 4x400-meter relay in a time of 4:22.62.

"I wasn't happy with fourth, especially since Alief Taylor only beat us by one point for third," Dobie coach Tina Knight-Gray said.

"But considering that we did not score any points in long or triple jumps, discus, the 400, the distances or hurdles, I guess that's not too bad."

"Shadae (Shepherd) is back and will compete in Dickinson Feb. 27, and that should give our field event points a boost. Ashley (Johnson) will be ready for the discus."

JFD boys sixth
Demarcus Boyd earned the Dobie boys' lone win, taking the long jump at 17 feet, 8 inches as the Longhorns were sixth overall.

Sammie Davis (42-11) and Andrew Robinson (42-2) went 2-3 in the triple jump, and Edward Garza finished the 800-meter run in a time of 2:05.67 for third

place. Brandon Boyd placed third in the 200-meter dash, clocking in at 22.76.

The team of Robinson, Brandon Boyd, Davis and Anthony Phillips combined to take fourth place in the 4x100-meter relay in a time of 43.55.

Dobie's 4x200- and 4x400-meter relay squads were both sixth.



Dobie senior Brandon Boyd contributed to his team's eventual sixth-place finish as he took third place at 22.76 seconds in the 200-meter dash.

Photo by Anita Porche Garcia

Beverly Hills 7th cross country second

Lions' 7th takes 7th

Beverly Hills' seventh-grade boys' cross country team opened the season on a strong note Feb. 19, taking second place in the first Pasadena Independent School District meet at Sam Rayburn High School.

Thompson's seventh-grade team finished seventh among the 10 teams in the district.

The runners went up against a tough two-mile course, with San Jacinto taking top honors with 45 points. The Bears, led by Jaylon Johnson's fabulous effort, scored 73 points for second place.

The respective teams bid for low-score totals in the meet. Each team was required to qualify its top five runners, according to time, in the point totals.

BHI boys second

Johnson battled Bondy's Ray Tafolla the entire way before Tafolla took the win in a time of 12 minutes, 6 seconds. Johnson was runner-up at 12:07.

The Bears' D.J. Jones also ran well, taking sixth in a time of 12:33. In 16th place, Juan Tolentino posted a time of 13:08 for the Bears.

Beverly Hills' other qualifying times came from Josh Sutton, who was 21st at 13:18, and Vinny Rudolfo, who placed 28th at 13:28.

Others running well for the Bears included Jacoby Lewis, Hector Carrillo, Levi Marshall, Victor Castillo, Jesse Cedeno, Reginal

Cloud, Christian Bertrand, Jovanni Wade and Ramiro Aguilera.

Thompson 7s are 7th
The Lions' seventh-grade boys' team placed seventh as Hunter Hicks led the way at 13:17 for 19th place. The

Cloud, Christian Bertrand, Jovanni Wade and Ramiro Aguilera.

Thompson 7s are 7th
The Lions' seventh-grade boys' team placed seventh as Hunter Hicks led the way at 13:17 for 19th place. The

Cloud, Christian Bertrand, Jovanni Wade and Ramiro Aguilera.

BHI 7th girls cruise
The stars of the entire afternoon were the seventh-grade girls from Beverly Hills Intermediate.

The Lady Bears raced past the competition, taking top honors while five runners placed in the top nine.

Overall champion Mikaela Guevara of Beverly Hills covered the 2-mile course in a time of 14 minutes, one second, beating out teammate Kelsee Manuel, who took second at 14:03.

A time of 14:47 placed Brianna Guevara fourth, and the Lady Bears' Ashley Gallant was fifth at 14:55.

Amber Nguyen rounded out the Lady Bears' top five finishers and gave the team a meet low score of 21 points as she was ninth at 15:08.

Several others ran well for the Lady Bears, including Tessa Costello, who placed 12th in a time of 15:12. Maria Alarcon also made her way into the top 20 as she completed the race at 15:28.

Beverly Hills got solid

Lions' other scorers included Carlos Sanchez (13:38), Gabriel Garza (13:57), Ozzy Castillo (14:17) and Carlos Amaro (14:52).

Wesley Schoppe, Antonio Beltran, Jason Edokpa, Tyler Baumann, Jordan

Julks, Jesse Jackson, Mauricio Rivera, Lozaro Galvan and Anthony Vargas also ran for the Lions.

The next district meet is March 4 at South Houston High School. Events start at 4:45 p.m.

6-under Stingers win DP softball crown



After taking first place with an undefeated record at the Deer Park tournament, the 6-Under South Belt Stingers softball team is off to a fast start this season. The Stingers, representing the South Belt Girls' Softball Association, beat a solid team from the Corpus Christi area to win the Deer Park title.

Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Alaina Cortez, Aliyah Barajas, Lexie Manriquez, (middle row) Sophis Colmenares, Mckenzie Ermis, Camryn Wincher, Samantha Ortiz, Sydney Franco, (back row) coaches David Cortez, Les Wincher and Cheryl Franco.

JFD netters' coach Moreno lauded

Continued from Page 1B
in the Southeast Houston and Galveston areas but at the regional and state levels as well.

Stratford High School tennis coach Rory Frazee notified Moreno of the honor or last fall.

Frazee and other SBISD officials will be in attendance March 6 as Moreno is honored during the pre-tournament coaches' meeting. Dobbie is one of the dozens of teams slated to compete at the two-day event.

Spring Branch ISD boasts of having one of the state's oldest continually running spring tournaments in state history, with the event's inception coming in the 1960s.

Along the way, the event was named after longtime Memorial coach Jo Lightsey.

"The coach of the year award is named after long-time Houston Memorial coach Denene Bammel.

"The award is annually given to a coach who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the sport of tennis in general, and specifically high school tennis," Frazee said in an e-mail to the *Leader*.

"The award has been given in the past to a coach who is recognized by his or her peers as having the best traits of a good coach: encouraging participation, a dedication to growing the student athletes as a whole and service to others."

Frazee noted that Moreno has tirelessly devoted hours of his time while serving as

the volunteer vice president of Region III within the Texas Tennis Coaches Association.

The journey begins
Moreno has worked in the journalism field for many years, and he still writes a weekly column for the metro paper in Galveston.

However, Moreno's love is tennis. A student at O'Connell High School, Moreno joined the tennis team under the direction of Vince Stiglich Jr.

Moreno credits Stiglich for helping him become not only a solid player then but someone who has moved on to teach others.

"Coach Stiglich pulled me aside as a freshman and told me he thought I really had a good future in the sport," Moreno said of Stiglich, who passed away a couple of years ago.

"Stig was the kind of person you didn't want to disappoint. I grew up without a father in my home, and he really became like a father to me. I didn't want to let him down. I wanted his words to become true."

Knowing his mother likely would not be able to pay his way through college, Moreno focused on using tennis as his avenue. He frequently went to Stiglich for guidance, and it paid off.

After graduation, Moreno accepted a scholarship offer to play tennis at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Moreno enjoyed a fine playing career at Lamar, and again played for a coach who made his mark on him

– Ron Westbrooks.
"I played for two fantastic coaches, and I have always tried to model my teaching a little bit like theirs.

A coach is born
A dream came true for Moreno as he returned to his high school alma mater, Galveston O'Connell, to begin his coaching career.

His teams were very successful in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

After 13 years there, Moreno accepted an invitation to join the staff at Clear Lake High School, then and now a Class 5A power.

Moreno was a Clear Lake Falcon for two seasons and then became Dobbie's head coach prior to the 1999-2000 school year.

It hasn't always been easy. Dobbie simply does not possess the Championship and Superchampionship level players that many of the high-achieving Class 5A programs do.

Still, the Longhorns have thrived under Moreno's direction. In the fall of 2006, the Longhorns won their first team tennis district title in Moreno's career at the school.

Dobbie has advanced to the Region III tournament in four of the past five fall seasons.

This past fall, the Longhorns downed Baytown Sterling 10-9 to win a regional match for the first time in two decades.

Tragedy and triumph
In the game of tennis, Moreno has seen triumph

and tragedy.
While at O'Connell, Moreno and his peers endured the deaths of students Peter Sunseri and Chad Nelson.

During Moreno's first year as head coach at Dobbie, student and player Jonathan Barica was shot at his home on April 11, 2000. Barica spent about a month in a coma before dying. His case remains unsolved.

"You learn a lot about life and death in any career I know, but we have had our share in this game," Moreno said. "It's unfortunate, but when you remember the honors and accolades, you also remember some of the sad times."

As for the coach of the year award, Moreno will graciously accept. But he also has so many other people to thank.

"Our principal, Steve Jamail, has been completely supportive of our program and has done everything asked of him to help us be successful," Moreno said.
"Howard Ranft has been my volunteer assistant and substitute instructor for many years.

"Howard and his wife, Linda, have traveled with us to tournaments and just been so supportive.

"And the players. Without them, we have nothing. So many kids have given everything they have for the burnt orange. I thank them for that."

The players can be thankful as well. They've had the privilege of playing for a dedicated man and coach.



Following his 500th career victory, coming Feb. 12, 2008, at home against South Houston, then Dobbie varsity boys' basketball head coach Scott Talton (center with plaque) celebrated with his assistant coaches and other Longhorn staff members. Those with Talton for the special moment included, left to right, Kevin Cross, Keith Pur-

due, Charles Washington, Matt Bounds, Shaun Stanton and Stephen Cross. The Longhorns lost their regular-season finale and then fell in the first round of the playoffs as Talton's career record stood at 500 wins, 391 losses. Washington, Stanton and both Cross brothers were Dobbie students who played on Talton's varsity teams over the years.

Longhorns' legend Talton left his mark at Dobbie

Continued from Page 1B
season. In 27 seasons, Talton posted exactly 500 career wins.

Four times, the Longhorns won the district title. Six times, they won a first-round playoff game. Four times, Dobbie teams were crowned area champions.

Twice during his career, Talton led the Longhorns

to the Region III final four, then played at the University of Houston's Hofheinz Pavilion.

Dobbie experienced some lean times, particularly at the start of this decade. But Dobbie advanced to the playoffs in back-to-back seasons to end his career.

Talton's youngest son, Scotty, played on both of

those teams. He is currently a freshman at Texas A&M University.

Last spring, when he had essentially made up his mind he was to retire, Talton would be seen standing along the first base line at Longhorn Baseball Field, watching Scotty play second base for the Dobbie varsity team.

As knowledgeable as Talton was about basketball, he knew the game of baseball as well as many paid coaches.

Remarkably, Talton could recite play-by-play sequences from games that occurred many years ago.

If only such and such had not been called for a foul on that play in the third quarter when Dobbie trailed by seven points in 1988, Talton believed his team could have won. His mind was sharp.

At the time of his retirement, Talton trailed only boys' track and field coach David Chollett in years of coaching service at Dobbie.

Perhaps Talton's body tired Feb. 19, 2009, but his memory will live on in the Pasadena ISD ranks forever.

Scott Talton's career
27 varsity seasons at Dobbie
Overall record 500-391
4 district titles, 6 bidistrict titles, 4 area titles, 2 Region III tournament appearances
15 playoff appearances

From Kirk Lewis
Pasadena ISD superintendent
"Scott touched so many lives during his career at Dobbie and throughout his life. We may never truly know just how far his reach was, because he had such a positive influence on thousands of young men and women who he taught and coached over the years. He was a tremendously caring person, and he helped so many become better students, better athletes and just better people along the way. There's no doubt so many of us are better for having known Scott Talton. He loved all of his students and loved working with them in an effort to help them reach their goals. So much of that was evident in simply watching him teach and coach over the years. He was a terrific individual and a valued member of our team in the Pasadena Independent School District."

From Kevin Cross

Dobbie boys' basketball coach

Editor's Note: Cross, who succeeded Scott Talton as the Longhorns' varsity boys' basketball head coach last summer, is one of four current staff members who played at Dobbie under Talton's direction.

"Scott always wanted the best out of his players, on and off the court. He required these young men to buy into a team concept where no one individual was greater than the team. You can see his influence in the coaches who have worked with him and against him. Scott influenced so many of his ex-players that he has four coaches on our staff that played for him. Also, Charles Ament (head coach Langham Creek), Richard Flores (varsity assistant at Cypress Creek) and Corey Cephus (varsity assistant baseball coach at Langham Creek) have pursued the career of coaching because of the influence of Scott. You can see the love for him in his ex-players, including many who have kept in touch with him throughout their lives. He was always concerned of what his players were going to do after high school. Were they keeping up with their grades to graduate high school? He would check to see if they have taken their SATs or would be writing letters of recommendation for colleges. These are things Scott did for his players that are not written about. How about making kids accountable for their actions? I remember we had some JV kids not stand for the National Anthem before a game, so he made them say the Pledge of Allegiance on the loud speaker for a week during our homeroom period at the old Dobbie. Another example: He had a player walk out of a game during halftime. The player came up to him the next day at a car wash and asked if he was still on the team. Scott said "I thought you quit?" In the end, Scott made him apologize to the whole school on the loud speaker for his actions. There are many more examples, but it takes me a long time to type. He was a teacher, a leader and a mentor to thousands of students throughout his 30-plus years of service to Dobbie High School and Pasadena ISD."

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Pasadena ISD Quick Start tennis in works

The Pasadena Independent School District will host its sixth annual tennis program for all third-through sixth-grade students in the PISD system.

The Quick Start tennis program, formerly known as the Scoop It Up program, is an exciting play format for young students interested in learning more about tennis.

The program is designed to bring kids into the game by utilizing specialized equipment, shorter court dimensions and modified scoring, all tailored to age and size.

It is the fast, fun way to get kids into tennis – and keep them playing.

Registration is currently ongoing at all elementary and middle schools in Pasadena ISD.

All interested players

should contact their physical education teacher at their respective school for registration forms.

The cost is \$30, which includes a tennis racket, program T-shirt, water bottle and four instructional lessons.

The Quick Start kickoff and packet pick up will be held Saturday, April 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., at Phillips Field House, located at 22906 Dabney.

Lesson dates will be April 5, April 19, April 26 and May 3 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Lessons will be conducted at Dobbie High School, South Houston High School, Memorial High School, Pasadena High School, Rayburn High School and Beverly Hills Intermediate in an effort to accommodate students across the district.

The Quick Start program coordinators are Melillo Middle School instructors Joey Pena and Troy Ralls.

For more information, call Pena at 832-788-4040 or Ralls at 713-740-5260, Ext. 72172.

Sports news, notes

Rising Stars track sign up

The Rising Stars youth track and field organization is accepting registration now through March 7. Head coach Ivory Kimble and other team officials will host registration Feb. 28 and March 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Dobbie High School track. For more information, call Kimble at 832-561-1248 or Fran Herndon at 281-335-1878.

JFD baseball boosters to meet

The Dobbie High School baseball booster club will host a meeting Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in the athletic media room in the field house. All Dobbie baseball parents are welcome to attend. For more information, call Julie Kutra at 281-236-7719 or direct e-mail to jkutra@sbcglobal.net.

Southbelt Dolphins early sign up

The Southbelt Dolphins on the Bay Area Football League will host early registration for returning players March 7, at El Franco Lee Park, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$50 deposit is required at this time for returning players to hold their roster spots. New player inquiry and information will be available March 7 at Blackhawk Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dolphins set BBQ fund-raiser

The Southbelt Dolphins on the Bay Area Football League will host a fund-raiser barbecue March 14 in the parking lot of Liberty Tax Service on Fuqua (next to Cici's Pizza) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Barbecue sandwich/chips plates will be sold for \$5 each. Drinks will be sold for an additional charge. Funds raised during the sale will be used to cover various equipment costs, etc. during the 2009 season.

Free soccer clinic at San Jac South

The San Jacinto College men's soccer team is partnering with Fiesta to host Fútbol Fiesta, a free soccer clinic, Sunday, March 1.

Participants in the clinic are asked to bring a canned food item to be donated to a local food pantry. To register, please call 281-922-3475.

The free clinic will take place March 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the San Jacinto Col-

lege South soccer fields, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston.

Following the clinic, participants will have the chance to stay and watch the San Jacinto College men's soccer team take on Ligas Unidas.

For more information about San Jacinto College men's soccer, visit the college Web site at www.sanjacports.com.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26
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
Al-Anon – Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.
6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church – Free tutoring for all ages is available Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road. For information, call 281-484-1397 or e-mail joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.
7 p.m.
Pasadena Gulf Coast Art Society – Monthly meetings held the last Thursday of each month in the Community Room at Pasadena Town Square Mall.
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, FEBRUARY 27
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 281-482-8441.
Noon
Moving Forward Women's Adult Children Community – 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.
4 p.m.
The Men's Club of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Community – The public is invited to a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Cabrini Center, 10727 Hartsook. Meals are \$8 each, eat in or take home.
6 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society – Meets the last Friday of each month at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive in Clear Lake. For more information, call Neil Miserendino at 281-286-8243, Jeanine Lawrence at 281-334-6100 or visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
6 p.m.
Frontier Squares – Meets to square dance at the NASA Gilruth Center on Space Center. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or George Wieland at 281-286-5682, or visit www.frontiersquares.com.
SUNDAY, MARCH 1
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, MARCH 2
7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
9 a.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free exercise and speech therapy from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
10 a.m.
Free Walking Classes – for plus size women are held Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Let's move together. Registration required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.
Noon
Free Exercise Class – Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Registration is required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 – Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua from 6 to 9 p.m. All who enjoy the game or want to learn to play are invited to join. For more information, call 281-488-2923.
6:30 p.m.
Civil Air Patrol Meeting – Weekly at Ellington Field in the Civil Air Patrol Building. Call 281-484-1352 and leave a message for more information.
7 p.m.
Grief Support Group – "Friends Helping Friends" meets every Monday from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehab Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Those who have lost a spouse or other loved one are invited to participate. For information, call Betty Flynn at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B
TUESDAY, MARCH 3
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

11:30 a.m.
Local NARFE Meeting - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Parkway. A meal will be available for \$6. For more information, call Bob Mitchell at 281-333-2881.

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

1 p.m.
Trailmixers - Meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua. Former and current employees of J. Frank Dobie High School are welcome for lunch and conversation.

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main. For information, call 713-472-0565.

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

5 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water therapy from 5 to 6 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

6:30 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Meets at Sagemont Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes. For information, call Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

7 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - Free tutoring for all ages is available Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Education Building at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road. For information, call 281-484-1397 or e-mail joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.
Free Walking Classes - for plus size women are held Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Let's move together. Registration required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.

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

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

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

6 p.m.
Alzheimer's Support Group - The free group meets the first week of each month in the third floor classrooms 3 and 4 of Bayshore Medical Center, 4000 Spencer, Pasadena. For more information, call 713-944-4782 or 713-266-6400.

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

7 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Confidential domestic violence support group for women meets every week. For information, call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com. BATP is located at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway between Interstate 45 South and Highway 3. The 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
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
Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. For information, call 281-487-8787.

6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - Free tutoring for all ages is available Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road. For information, call 281-484-1397 or e-mail joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

Diabetes Support Group - A support group for young adults with diabetes. All subjects are open for discussion: new technologies, research advances, fears, phobias, dating and other personal matters. Meets the first Thursday of each month at 1315 St. Joseph Parkway #1705, Medical Place One. Contact Dan Steiner, CDE, at 713-756-8536 for more information.

7 p.m.
The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble at Bay Area Boulevard and the Gulf Freeway. Newcomers are welcome.

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

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10218 KIRKVALE DR.: Sat., Feb. 28, 8 a.m. Baby furniture, clothes, small appliances, knick-knacks, housewares, truck tires. 2-26
11203 SAGEWILLOW LN.: Sat., Feb. 28, TV's (2), refrigerator, dishwasher, a/c equipment, 2 ton condenser, furnace & coils, & misc. 2-26

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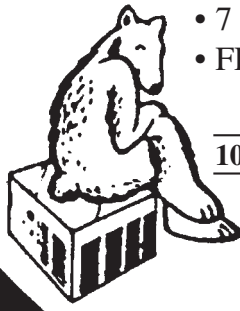
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Let there be light at San Jac College South!



The San Jacinto College South softball team will get its chance to play under the lights this season after contractors installed the light poles and lights beginning Feb. 20 once permits were secured. At press time, the lights were not fully operational, but the time is coming soon. The installation of lights at the South campus soccer (top photo) and softball fields is part of the college district's \$1.7 million sports facilities improvement project. Improvements are also being made at San Jacinto College North.

Coyote softball stays on steady course

So far, so good as the San Jacinto College South softball team nears Region 14 play. Coming off three wins in five games at the Midland tournament Feb. 19-21, San Jacinto is 11-5 overall this season. That record is good enough to keep Coyotes' head coach Kelly Saenz happy about the team's early progress. Beset by a couple of key injuries and battling a little bit of inconsistency, the Coyotes have nonetheless managed to post more than two wins for every defeat. Strangely enough, two of the team's losses have come to Howard Junior College, which has hovered around the .500 mark record-wise thus far. The Howard Hawks downed San Jacinto 3-0 in the season opener and then beat the Coyotes again, 9-1, at the Midland tournament. "I wish I knew," Saenz said when asked just what Howard has going for itself in the mojo department against her team. "I never want to take anything away from any other team, but in the two losses against Howard, we have shown some of the inconsistency that we need to fix." With about nine games to go and just that many days before the March 7 conference-opening doubleheader against Lamar State, the Coyotes plan to address that inconsistency. Playing short-handed hasn't helped. San Jacinto began the season with just 14 healthy players and has now seen that number shrink to 12. However, Saenz said utility player Cecily Gomez is due back soon. "Ideally, you want to go into a season with at least 16 healthy players," Saenz said. "Unfortunately, we haven't been able to do that and won't likely be able to do that all season. "The good thing is that everyone who is playing is getting a great chance to show what they can do. I'm hoping our consistency comes around more with that regular play." Over the past nine games, two sophomores and two freshmen have stepped up their production in a big way. Sophomore transfer Courtney Pettit, who played at Deer Park High School, has been on an offensive tear of late. Pettit, who originally signed a letter of intent to play at the University of Virginia after high school, has hit four doubles and two home runs and driven in 14 runs over the past nine games. Over that same span, Pettit has hit .400. In the circle, standout sophomore pitcher Kelsey McClain has won five of her last six decisions and is 9-1 overall. Among the freshmen, shortstop Rae Cassell hit at a .500 clip over nine games, and Courtney Oliphant, the starter at third base, has two doubles and nine RBIs while hitting .400. All of that has been great, but with a trip coming to the Temple tournament

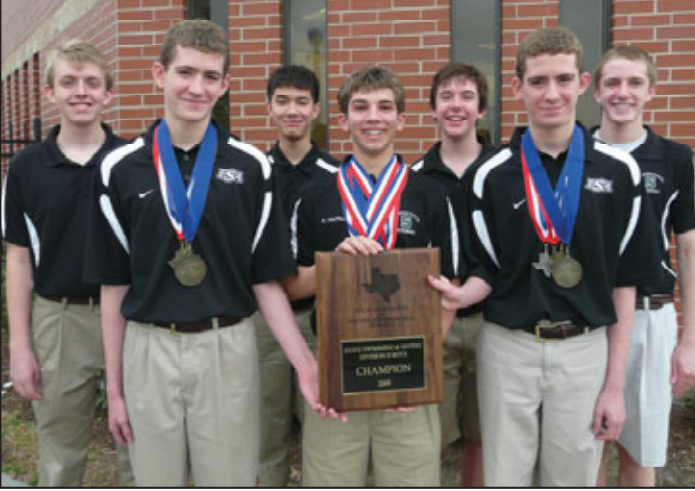


Injuries have wiped away much of San Jacinto College South's depth on the softball field, but the starters, including freshman shortstop Rae Cassell (above) have continued to perform well. With Region 14 action set to get under way March 7 at home against Lamar State, the Coyotes are looking to make any last-minute adjustments during a run of games at the Temple tournament Feb. 27-28.

LSA boys win 5th straight TAPPS state swimming championship

For the fifth consecutive year, the Lutheran South Academy boys won the TAPPS Division II Swimming Championship, held on Feb. 6 and 7 at the Josh Davis Natatorium in San Antonio. The Pioneers scored 89 points. Fort Worth Christian School was second with 86 points, and Awty International School of Houston was third with 82. Junior Karch Petersen led the way with victories in the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyles. He set personal bests in both events, with times of 1:49.88 and a school record of 4:52.16, respectively. Karch's twin brother, Kyle, also had two personal bests. He won the 100-yard backstroke (:54.75) and finished second in the 200-yard individual medley (2:04.16). Sophomore Alex Naumann won the 50-yard freestyle (:22.83), and finished second in the 100-yard freestyle (:49.91). Sophomore Matthew Roth contributed a sixth-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle. The Petersens and Naumann, along with junior Sam Kane, won the 200-yard medley relay in 1:45.95. It marked the fifth straight year that an LSA team has won the event in the state meet. The Petersens, Kane and freshman Cason Reeder combined to finish fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay, and Naumann, Kane, Reeder and sophomore James Downie finished fifth in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Naumann brought LSA from last place with his anchor leg of 50.02 seconds, enabling LSA to score the points that clinched the championship. The Lutheran South girls finished sixth with 33 points. Individually, senior Jori Turner finished third in the 100-yard backstroke and seventh in the 200-yard freestyle. Sophomore Kathleen Bryan finished fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke. All three of LSA's relays scored. Turner, Bryan, junior Kayla Shaffer and sophomore Kierstahn Crofts finished sixth in the 200-yard medley relay. The 200-yard freestyle relay of sophomore Jill Freise, Bryan, Crofts and junior Jackie DeBernardo also finished sixth. The 400-yard

freestyle relay team of Shaffer, Freise, Bryan and Turner took fifth place. Coach Cerise Skinner was thrilled by winning out in the three-way battle. "We lost five senior boys last year, so we knew this would be tough. It was a true team victory; all seven boys gave their best efforts and contributed to the championship." Lutheran South Academy offers education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. It began as Lutheran High School in 1949 and expanded to include elementary grades in 1998. LSA students compete in interscholastic athletics as a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS).



Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Karch Petersen, Alex Naumann, Kyle Petersen, (back row) Matthew Roth, James Downie, Cason Reeder and Sam Kane.

Extra-inning victories open JFD, CB baseball seasons

Schools' softball teams fall

Should the Clear Brook and Dobie varsity baseball teams be able to build on their opening-night successes, the 2009 season may be special for both. Clear Brook scored four runs in the top of the eighth inning at Cypress Woods, taking a 5-1 win Feb. 24 to begin the regular season with a key win. At Maguire Field in Pasadena, Dobie pulled off some late-inning heroics to stun Friendswood 6-5. The Mustangs led 5-1 entering the bottom of the sixth inning, but Dobie came back with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, two more in the bottom of

the seventh inning and the game winner in the bottom of the eighth inning. **10-hit attack lifts Brook** The Wolverines banged out 10 hits and got solid pitching and defense to beat Cy-Woods. Starting pitcher Ryan Vrugink threw five innings, allowing one run on four hits while striking out five. Eventual winning pitcher Colton Cromer faced six batters over the next two innings, retiring all six to earn the win. Vrugink also did plenty of damage at the plate, collecting three hits, including the winner in the eighth inning. Alex Kuhn had two hits, driving in two runs, and D.J. Julks added two hits. Keaton Miller earned the save, shutting down Cy-Woods in the bottom of the eighth inning. **JFD rallies three times** Committing five errors in the game, Dobie's defense seemingly gave away the game as Friendswood led 5-1 heading into the late stages. But Daniel Lopez pulled the Longhorns to within 5-3 with a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning. In the bottom of the seventh inning, Dobie scored a pair of runs to tie things at 5-5. After Sam Grant retired the Mustangs in the top of the eighth inning, Dobie pushed across the game winner. Justin Eckols walked to begin the inning, and Derrick Murray drew an intentional walk. Aaron Kutra came through with the hit that won the game. Grant won the game in relief. Starting pitcher Daniel Sawyer went 4 1/3 innings and struck out six, but the defense was a bit shaky behind him. Aris Adame and Mike Medina also pitched in relief for Dobie. **DP softball downs Brook** Deer Park scored five runs in the fourth inning, leading to a 5-4 victory over Clear Brook. The Lady Wolverines (2-5) came back to score three runs in their half of the sixth inning but came up short. Deer Park's Kristin Curlin, the winning pitcher, also tripled in the game. Brittany Simmons doubled for the Lady Deer (4-2). Senior pitcher Jill McKinnis took the loss for



Clear Brook sophomore Ryan Vrugink was the starting pitcher in the Wolverines' season opener against Cy-Woods, so much of his contribution for the team at the La Porte tournament Feb. 26-28 will be done at the plate and in the field.

Brook varsity baseball at La Porte Invitational

Feb. 26: Brook vs. Baytown Sterling, 11 a.m., at Baytown Sterling
Brook vs. Fort Bend Bush, 2 p.m., at Baytown Sterling
Feb. 27: Brook vs. Texas City, 7 p.m., at La Porte
Feb. 28: Brook vs. La Porte, 7 p.m., at La Porte
Best overall record wins title
Teams included: Baytown Sterling, Clear Brook, Clear Lake, Fort Bend Bush, Galveston Ball, La Porte, Texas City

Dobie varsity softball at Strike Out Cancer event

Feb. 26: Dobie vs. Texas City, 11 a.m., at Brook
Dobie vs. Clear Brook, 6 p.m., at Brook
Feb. 27: Dobie vs. Clear Springs, noon, at Springs
Dobie vs. North Shore, 2 p.m., at Springs
Feb. 28: Dobie vs. Atascocita, 11 a.m., at Creek
Four-game round robin format

Brook varsity softball at Strike Out Cancer event

Feb. 26: Brook vs. Morton Ranch, noon, at Brook
Brook vs. Dobie, 6 p.m., at Brook
Feb. 27: Brook vs. Reagan, noon, at Brook
Brook vs. Texas City, 4 p.m., at Brook
Feb. 28: Brook vs. Baytown Lee, 9 a.m., at Brook
Brook vs. Santa Fe, 1 p.m., at Brook
Best overall record wins title
Teams included: Atascocita, Baytown Lee, Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Lake, Clear Springs, Dobie, La Porte, Magnolia West, Morton Ranch, New Caney, North Shore, Reagan, Santa Fe, South Houston, Texas City

Dobie varsity baseball at Angleton Invitational

Feb. 26: Dobie vs. Pasadena Memorial, 11 a.m.
Feb. 27: Dobie vs. Angleton, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 28: Dobie vs. Terry, 1:30 p.m.
Dobie vs. Austin, 4 p.m.
Four-game round robin format
Teams included: Angleton, Austin, Dobie, Pasadena Memorial, Terry

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