

Daylight saving time begins

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 14, at 2 a.m. South Belt residents are reminded to move their clocks forward one hour. Daylight saving time is four weeks longer since 2007 due to the passage of the Energy Policy Act in 2005. It was hoped to save 10,000 barrels of oil each day through reduced use of power by businesses during daylight hours.

Spring break to start

The Clear Creek and Pasadena independent school districts will hold their spring break next week, Monday, March 15 through Friday, March 19.

PTO scholarships available

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

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

Stuchbery Elementary

Stuchbery is accepting scholarship applications from Dobie graduating seniors who attended Stuchbery in fifth grade. Applications are available through the Dobie scholarship coordinator and are due by March 22.

PIP meeting March 16

Positive Interaction Program meets Tuesday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital in the staff meeting room on the first floor.

Guest speaker is Sergio Saldivar from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. For more information, call Officer Randy Derr at 281-218-3900.

CB homeowners meet

The homeowners association for Clear Brook Meadows will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at the El Franco Lee Park Community Center.

The purpose of this meeting is to fill three positions on the board of directors.

Library events scheduled

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

Movie Madness is Thursday, March 18, at 2:30 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for feature title.

Game day is Thursday, March 11, at 4 p.m. Vietnamese storytime is Saturday, March 13. Reading Club is at 9 a.m., followed by intermediate storytime at 11 a.m. and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.

The genealogy discussion group meets Monday, March 15, at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

Three days of fun are scheduled for the week of spring break. Teens can play Super Smash Brothers Brawl on the Wii on Tuesday, March 16, at 2 p.m. Younger children (ages 5 and up) get a chance to play Wii on Wednesday, March 17, at 3 p.m. when the library sets up Boom Box.

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

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

K of C hosts fish fry

The Knights of Columbus Council is serving Lenten catfish dinners at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church Fridays, March 12, 19 and 26.

Dinners for dine in or take out consist of a catfish, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea. Soft drinks and desserts will be available for purchase. Dinners will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. in the parish hall. The public is invited. For information, call 832-444-4958.

St. Frances serves fish

The St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church men's club, 10727 Hartsook, will sell fish dinners Fridays, March 12 and 26, from 4 to 7 p.m., dine in or take out.

Dinners are \$8 each and include grilled or fried fish, french fries, grilled vegetables, cole slaw, hush puppies and a beverage. Desserts will be available for \$1. Money raised will be used for scholarships and local community charitable projects. For information, call 713-946-5768.

SB AARP meets March 12

The South Belt AARP will meet Friday, March 12, at 10 a.m. at El Franco Lee Community Center, 9400 Hall Road. Entertainment will be provided by the Over the Hill Gang. All seniors are invited to attend.

Thompson holds car wash

The Thompson eighth grade dance committee will hold a car wash on Saturday, March 13, at the Kroger gas station located at 11701 S. Sam Houston Parkway from 8 a.m. to noon to raise money for their dance.

Two South Belt PISD principals honored

Frazier Elementary School's Rhonda Parmer and Beverly Hills Intermediate School's Alyta Harrell have been named the Pasadena Independent School District's Region 4 Principals of the Year.

Region 4 began the Principal of the Year program in 2001, allowing each district in the area to select an elementary and secondary principal of the year.

Parmer and Harrell were nominated because of their focusing on high expectations for all students and establishing a culture of support for students and staff on their campuses.

"Rhonda and Alyta have created a culture of high expectations for every student on their campuses and they make sure that each student knows they are valued," said Kirk Lewis, PISD superintendent. "Both of them have continually demonstrated their innovative leadership qualities and make outstanding contributions not only within their campus but throughout the community they serve."

Parmer has served as Frazier's principal since 2004. Under her leadership, the campus has been rated "Exemplary" by the Texas Education Agency.



Rhonda Parmer



Alyta Harrell

Mitchell fights for NASA

By James Bolen
Longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell will join Houston Mayor Annise Parker this week on a trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with NASA Administrator Charles Bolden to discuss President Barack Obama's proposed 2011 budget.

Mitchell, who currently serves as president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, has a long history of dealing with the aerospace industry.

He joined BAHEP in 2000 to oversee the statewide implementation of the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, and last year was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee. The committee assists in the state's economic development efforts to recruit and retain aerospace and aviation jobs and investments.

Obama's proposed budget calls for the phasing out of NASA's space shuttle program, as well as its Constellation project, which was to return man to the moon by 2020.

According to Mitchell, this would entail a loss of a minimum of 4,000 direct local jobs and perhaps as many as 7,000 direct local jobs. Mitchell further said that a loss of 4,000 direct jobs would contribute to the loss of an additional 2,500 secondary jobs, while the loss of 7,000 direct jobs could lead to the loss of an additional 4,500 secondary jobs, totaling as many as 11,500 potential lost jobs in the area.

"Locally, it would create a vacuum," Mitchell said, noting that many businesses surrounding

the Johnson Space Center depend on it for their own survival.

BAHEP estimates lost business volume could total between \$560 million and \$1 billion annually.

Also joining Parker and Mitchell will be Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, among others.

A second trip, set to take place later this month, will target congressional members of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice and Science.

Another staunch opponent of the proposed budget is U.S. Rep. Pete Olson, whose district includes much of the South Belt.

Olson, the ranking member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, met with John Holdren, assistant to the president for science and technology, last month in Washington, D.C., to discuss the issue.

"The administration has some explaining to do with respect to its commitment to human space flight," Olson said. "America has been the global leader on space exploration for 50 years and must remain the leader going forward. This isn't a partisan issue."

It has been proposed that commercial firms such as SpaceX or Orbital could be subsidized to continue further human space exploration.

Olson sees this as problematic. "Commercial entities have an important role,"

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May 8 election candidates set

Monday, March 8, was the deadline to file to run in the May 8 elections to fill vacancies on local school district and municipal utility district boards.

Current Pasadena Independent School District Board Secretary and former Dobie Principal Jerry Speer has filed to maintain his seat. He is running unopposed.

After serving nine years on the PISD board, current Vice President Frank Braden, who also once served as Dobie principal, did not file to keep his seat. Jack Bailey has filed to replace

Braden. Bailey is also running unopposed.

In the Clear Creek Independent School District elections, Robert Davee filed to maintain his District 1 seat. He is unchallenged.

Current CCISD board member Ann Hammond is being challenged by Star Faith Lazarow and Robert Colton Schultz for her At-Large Position B seat.

In the race to fill vacancies on the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District board, incumbent Jim Bishop is being challenged by Jerry Brannen

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South Belters win wedding, honeymoon



South Belters Chad Tremont and Jaclyn Ramirez were married Friday, Feb. 26, after winning a contest from a local radio station, which paid for their ceremony. The couple began dating when they were juniors at Dobie High School, where they both graduated in 2003. Prior to attending Dobie, both newlyweds attended Moore Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate. Photo by Deb Turner

Area newlyweds win contest

By James Bolen
Longtime South Belt residents Jaclyn Ramirez and Chad Tremont were married Friday, Feb. 26, after winning an all-expenses-paid wedding and honeymoon from a local radio station.

Both 2003 graduates of Dobie, the couple originally met while attending Moore Elementary. The two both then attended Beverly Hills Intermediate and actually began dating their junior year of high school. Following high school, both went on to graduate from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Sponsored by Mix 96.5 FM, the contest was called *My Wedding in a Week* and required the couple to get married with very little notice. The two had already planned on getting married sometime this year, just not quite as early.

While the wedding was organized very quickly, the newlyweds don't necessarily view this as a negative.

"We're so happy it happened in one week," Tremont said.

"It was a lot less stress," his wife added. "I can't imagine going through all that for any longer."

The pair was one of five couples originally selected. Online voters then chose the winning couple.

All the specific details of the wedding were also determined by online voters. This included the type of wedding dress, cake, flowers and even where the honeymoon would take place. (The two are going on a seven-day Royal Caribbean Cruise.)

The couple said they were happy with all of the voters' choices.

"We got everything we wanted," the bride said. "We got pretty lucky."

The pair's only complaint was that the contest

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HPD's Sgt. Gillespie retiring

By Matt Griesmyer
Come March 20, a beloved protector of the South Belt community will be leaving his post.

Sgt. Gregory Gillespie of the Houston Police Department is retiring.

Gillespie began his term protecting the city, and eventually the community, on Nov. 10, 1975, when he joined Houston Police Academy Class No. 72.

Graduating in February of 1976, Gillespie took his first post in the traffic and accident division. After that, he moved around the patrol, helicopter, tactical and community service divisions.

In 1985, Gillespie was transferred to work out of the Clear Lake office as sergeant during the evening shift, while working on community service and crime analysis.

"The most fun that I had was working on the helicopter division, but the most rewarding position was with community service," Gillespie said. "Officers don't realize the impact we have on civilians. In my career, people have come back and thanked me for something I did years ago that I hardly remember."

Gillespie recalled one particular story he was fond of.

"There was this resident who called and com-

plained about some barking dogs next door to him," Gillespie said. "I went over to the house; the resident explained that he had heart trouble and could not go over there and ask them to control the animal himself. I got the neighbors to control their dog, and I swear, that man sent me Christmas cards for the next three or four years."

Gillespie has served the City of Houston for 34 and a half years on the police force and has spent the past 25 serving in the South Belt area.

"He has been my supervisor for the last 16 years, and I have known him for the last 25 (years)," said HPD senior police officer Randy Derr, assigned to the Clear Lake division. "He is really a great guy; I don't know anyone who does not like him. It has been great working with him. He has definitely been an asset to the HPD and Clear Lake division. He is a super guy."

Over the years, Gillespie has been a very visible part of the Houston Police Department within the community.

"I have been really lucky out here," Gillespie said. "I have definitely hung closer to South Belt; it has kind of been my baby. There are some really great workers and officers out here, really high quality people."

Why is he retiring now? What is next for the South Belt sergeant?

"I wanted to retire young enough to enjoy what I have," Gillespie said. "For the first year or so I want to travel, but I want to settle down after that and get involved again in the community. My wife and I are retiring around the same time, so we are doing this together."

SJCS presents musical

The San Jacinto College South theater department will present *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* March 11 through March 28. Based on the book by Betsy Kelson, with music by David Nehls, the musical comedy is about a group of tenants at Armadillo Acres trailer park. Directed by SJCS artistic director Sheleigh Carmichael, the musical will take place in the Proscenium Theater of the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center on the San Jacinto South campus. Show times are 8 p.m. March 11, 12 and 13 and March 26 and 27 with a matinee at 2 p.m. on March 28. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. For information, call 281-922-3497. Shown to the right rehearsing are Zach Cagle (left) and Daniel Bourque.

Photo submitted



Readers' Opinions

Hernandez: Spread the proposal bill

We have grassroots movement in southeast Texas and we have created a proposal for bill for congress. We need your help on letting voters know about it, so they can help us revise it to make it a win, win, solution for our nation.

This proposal is bipartisan, and we believe it will help boost the economy, create jobs, provide better health-care, lower taxes, pay increase for teachers and provide more funding for college scholarships and help solve the illegal immigration problem and many other things.

We feel that it's time for Americans to stand up and join us and have their voice heard. We are giving you permission to show our website to the public which is <http://citizensforsavingamerica.org/>. Thank you,
Roland Hernandez
President of Citizens for Saving America

Caps mean economic decline for Texas

Federal proposals to cap carbon emissions are tantamount to dumping sand in the gas tank of America's economic engine. A new report published by the Texas Public Policy Foundation shows significant damage to the most productive sectors of our state economy, resulting in a \$30-40 billion decline in Texas' gross state product by the year 2030.

Dr. Margo Thorning, senior economist with the American Council for Capital Formation, analyzed how cap and trade, renewable energy mandates, and energy "savings" dictates would specifically affect Texas. Utilizing a version of the same model used by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the study quantifies the dynamic impact of higher energy prices across all sectors of the economy.

Over the last decade, the Texas economy grew almost 40 percent while the U.S. as a whole grew only 28 percent. Similarly, Texas employment grew 25 percent compared to the U.S. rate of 14 percent.

However, Texas' leading role in energy production and energy-intensive manufacturing makes our state particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts from carbon mandates. Energy production and energy-intensive businesses now generate about 14 percent of Texas' gross state product.

According to the study, higher energy prices caused by carbon limits would lead to sharp decreases in industrial output, particularly in manufacturing. Texas manufacturing output could decrease 5.4 percent overall by 2030, but far more in certain energy-intensive sectors. Chemical, primary metals, and cement manufacturing could decline as much as 26 percent. Coal production could fall by a staggering 87 percent.

Loss of this economic activity translates to a nearly \$3 billion reduction in state revenues. The greatest hardship would fall on low-income families. Projected increases in energy prices (gasoline: 26 percent, natural gas: 73 percent, and residential electricity: 54 percent) could swallow one-fifth of their incomes.

The study found that Texas could lose almost 200,000 jobs by 2030. Worse, high energy prices, high compliance costs, and heightened competition from overseas manufacturers could force industries to close operations in Texas and relocate to countries without expensive carbon caps. Texas already has faced this impasse when natural gas prices soared in the 1990s.

In the last 10 years, a resurgent oil and gas industry contributed to Texas' robust economic performance. Enhanced oil recovery and shale gas development have driven a 52 percent increase in mining employment over the last decade.

The oil and gas sector, however, is highly exposed to federal carbon policies. The Waxman-Markey bill makes the refining sector responsible for 44 percent of all carbon reductions, although refinery emissions comprise only around 4 percent of man-made carbon emissions.

Diverse businesses connected to energy production drive the Houston regional economy. With energy intensive processes, carbon intense materials, and market demand tied to the petrochemical industry, these businesses are most at risk to carbon mandates.

For example, fabricated metals manufacturing in Texas grew almost 40 percent during the last decade. But by 2030, this economic sector could see a 6.9 percent reduction in activity and among the deepest job losses. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, economic growth has entailed increased use of energy. The study notes that each one percent increase in economic growth correlates with a 0.2 percent increase in energy use. Federal dictates on carbon, renewables, and energy "savings" force displacement of affordable, reliable, and efficient energy resources for more expensive, inefficient, and unproven energy sources and technologies.

Massive subsidy of alternative energy cannot permanently mask real costs. Nor will taxpayer subsidized "green jobs" restore economic vigor. Jobs created by private investment enlarge the economic pie, while those created by subsidy burden the economy. The needed economic driver in Houston and all of Texas is private enterprise - without the shackles of federal

energy policies resembling centrally planned and controlled Soviet Five-Year Plans.

Houston's winter will never be as cold as Detroit's, but the economic climate could become just as dreary.

Kathleen Hartnett White
Kathleen Hartnett White is Distinguished Senior Fellow in Residence and director of the Armstrong Center for Energy & the Environment at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a nonprofit, free-market research institute based in Austin. She is the former chair of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Raj writes on Claire and the billboard

With the arrival of Swine Flu people are anxious and worried. The third wave of the dangerous flu virus H1N1 is expected any time now. This is a story of a healthy child from Pearland getting the swine Flu virus and the events that followed in 2009.

David, a family friend of mine, was driving to the airport from a New Orleans Hotel and as he got into highway 10 he saw a large Bill Board carrying the name "CLAIRE" in big letters. At that time he was thinking of Claire, the name of my granddaughter, who was in critical condition with Swine Flu in Texas Children's Hospital at Houston. He was planning to visit her and was hooked to see her name on the bill board. He took a picture of the bill board with his cell phone camera. As he was coming back to Houston he thought about the coincidence of the bill board name and the name of my granddaughter. The more he thought about it the more he was puzzled.

On his visit to the Texas Children's hospital next day to see Claire, David mentioned to her parents his surprise finding of Claire's name in the bill board in New Orleans. They didn't believe him and thought he was joking till he showed the picture of CLAIRE in the bill board in his cell phone. Other friends in the hospital were also mystified when he told the story and showed them the picture. During their discussion people started wondering about the coincidence and tried different explanations. Many theories were proposed to explain.

Can the Bill Board picture be a practical joke? David is not known to play practical jokes on his friends. David might have written the name in a card board and taken a picture with a zoom lens in the cell phone to be used as a prank. He swears he didn't do it. It can be a cruel joke but he was not capable of doing it.

Is it Divine intervention? We have all heard stories of people seeing mirages of Christ in clouds, trees, bread, potatoes etc. Is it one of those occurrences? During Claire's sickness the teachers, students and parents in her private school had a prayer vigil one night. The parents' neighborhood friends in Pearland also had candle light prayer vigils. There were prayer vigils in other neighborhoods also. The students and the faculty also sent hundreds of computer generated get well cards to Claire in the hospital. Claire got hundreds of messages of prayers in the care pages web site from friends because she was seriously sick and was in the ICU. Are the prayers being answered through the Bill Board? Is somebody answering their prayers?

Another possibility that the bill board carried many advertisements pasted on top of each other because it is a very old one. It is possible many of the older advertisements might have peeled off due to weathering and an old advertisement with the name Claire was visible at this particular time. Claire may be a movie or an advertisement for cosmetic products. Using Google under the assumption that it can be a movie had no success.

Maybe the bill board sign had no special meaning but just a coincidence. My friend David, on any other occasions, might have ignored the sign and went his merry way but this time the similarity of the name in the bill board and his friend's grand-daughter's name made him wonder. We all have vivid imaginations and sometime they can run wild. The mystery has not yet been solved but I still wonder about it.

The above story was written in the beginning of October 2009 when my granddaughter, Claire Lane, was diagnosed with H1N1. She later suffered a heart attack and a stroke and was in critical condition in the ICU of the Texas Children's Hospital. We almost lost her but with the successful efforts of the great doctors and the remarkable new machines like ECMO, Claire recovered. She was in the ventilator for almost 4 weeks. She is still undergoing many treatments to rectify the damages due to her illness. She was transferred to a Dallas hospital for intensive inpatient hospital therapy for 4 weeks in the middle of November.

Finally the Lane family came home to Pearland on Dec.13 with a healthy Claire after an ordeal of 3 months in the hospital environments. The Lane family went through the ordeal with the help of lots of friends. They made hundreds of new friends during their stay in the hospital. They also developed friendship with a whole new set of nice people through the writings of Care pages of the hospital. A local fast food chicken establishment was generous and ran two fund raisers for the family. The people of Pearland went out of the way in welcoming back the Lane family and they are grateful to them.

Raj Natarajan

Meador celebrates Year of the Tiger



According to the Chinese lunar calendar, the new year - the year of the tiger - started on Feb. 14. Traditionally, Chinese New Year is celebrated with parades, meals and gift exchanges. Meador Elementary celebrated the Chinese New Year by holding a Pre-K parade. Shown are, left to right, Jasmine Cardona, Jessica Tan, Tiffany Tran, Nhi Dinh, Pre-K Teacher Kathie Mayberry and Ashley Tran.

Olson questions Coast Guard nominee

Rep. Pete Olson recently questioned Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano about the nominee for Coast Guard commandant and his stated goals for the department.

Vice Adm. Robert J. Papp has been nominated to head up the Coast Guard. An internal memo he drafted outlines his vision for the department and drew questions from members of Congress including Olson.

"Vice Adm. Papp's memo raises key questions about his vision for the Coast Guard's future and strikes me as terribly misguided. It lays out a clear vision for the Coast Guard that is both flawed and dangerous. I am concerned that the secretary would recommend and the president would nominate a would-be commandant who believes

the Coast Guard should seriously scale back its functions and would completely eliminate some of its counterterrorism capabilities. The commandant of the Coast Guard should be fighting for the resources needed to protect Americans. Fiscal discipline is important but not at the risk of the safety of Americans."

Specifically, Vice Adm. Papp's vision includes:

A plan to eliminate the Coast Guard's Maritime Security Response Team (MSRT) - the only unit of its kind in the government that can board a hostile vessel, take control, and steer it to safety. The U.S. has spent \$80 million to build this elite counterterrorism team within the Coast Guard. We should not eliminate it at a time when their knowledge and skills are so valuable, according to Olson.

A plan to loosen the Coast Guard's on-scene response standards - the current standard requires the Coast Guard to respond to a vessel in distress within two hours. Two hours is a lifetime for someone in dire need of the Coast Guard's assistance. Further graying of that line is a treacherous step in the wrong direction, according to Olson.

A plan to cut counterdrug support in the Caribbean by 25 percent - the Coast Guard told the committee in budget briefings that moving one ship from the eastern Pacific to the coast of Haiti has created a gap in the eastern Pacific that could result in the illegal movement of as much as 10 tons of drugs every month. The American people cannot afford further reductions in our counterdrug efforts, according to Olson.

SJC signs LETU articulation

San Jacinto College and LeTourneau University have entered into an articulation agreement to allow students to pursue bachelor's degrees that stem from SJC programs. LETU is a part of the University Connection at the SJC North campus and offers bachelor's degrees from the college's business management, child development/early childhood, and mental health services programs.

Providing opportunities for students to complete their SJC education while enrolled in LETU at the same time will ensure a smooth transfer without loss of credit.

"It's the 'best of both worlds' for our students," said Dr. Catherine O'Brien, SJC dean of teaching and learning. "This articulation agreement allows students to transfer seamlessly to LeTourneau to complete their bachelor's degree in management, psychology and education."

The university has also expanded its schedule this spring by two courses. Many SJC students are already enrolled in online courses with LETU and will now have the option to take the courses at the North campus.

"Many community college students don't realize how

transfer-friendly private universities can be," said Carol Green, who serves as the university's vice president for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. "LeTourneau's programs provide community college graduates with flexible and convenient programs that provide applied and hands-on learning that is current and relevant, all housed within a well-respected Christian university. LeTourneau is working hard to put our programs within reach."

For more information about San Jacinto College visit www.sanjac.edu.



Pictured are, left to right, (seated) Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor; Dr. Carol Green, vice president for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, LeTourneau University; (standing) Kathy Perkins, Educational Partnership coordinator, LeTourneau University; Wayne Slovacek, member, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Lisa Stewart, quality control manager, LeTourneau University; Dr. Murlene Watwood, director, Houston and Austin Educational Centers, LeTourneau University; John Moon Jr., member, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Marie Flickinger, chair, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Ben Meador, secretary, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Dan Mims, vice chair, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Dr. Ruede Wheeler, member, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Larry Wilson, assistant secretary, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees.

Hobby Lions Club to meet

Hobby Airport Lions Club meets Wednesday, March 17, at noon at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45.

E-mail HobbyAirportLions@gmail.com for more information.

Deaths

Sandra Davidson

Sandra Davidson, 68, died Friday, March 5, 2010, in Houston.

She was born Aug. 10, 1941, in Boissevain, Va., to Ira and Dorothy Phillips Smith. Davidson is survived by her husband of 51 years, Oakley Davidson; her children, Kenneth Davidson and wife Lee Ann, Rebecca Gonzalez and husband Esequiel, Michael Davidson and wife Tish; her grandchildren, Joseph and Elizabeth Gonzalez, Shane Sykes and wife Amber, Annlee and Kaylee Davidson, John O'Brian, Ian Clute and wife Brenda, Isabela Gonzalez, Raymond E. Gonzalez, Christina Ann Gonzalez; great-grandchildren John Adam O'Brian and Deanna Sykes.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, March 11, at 10 a.m. at SouthPark Funeral Home in Pearland. Interment will follow at SouthPark Cemetery. To sign the guestbook, visit www.southparkfunerals.com.

James "Jim" Steckler

James Lawrence Steckler died Sunday, March 7, 2010, from the complications of pulmonary fibrosis. He was born Feb.

10, 1934, in Yankton, S.D., and was a longtime Houston resident.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Edna Johnson-Steckler, and his parents.

Steckler is survived by his wife of 11 years, Sandy; his children, Dr. Theresa Steckler, Robert J. Steckler, Bill Steckler and their spouses; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Other survivors include Steckler's stepchildren, Laura Lee Crosby, Randy Redd, Dannon Redd and their spouses; six grandchildren; his brother, Jerome; and his sister, Leora.

Steckler retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after more than 35 years, and was a founding member of St. Frances Cabrini.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday, March 9, at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. Interment followed at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of usual remembrances, contributions in Steckler's name may be made to the building fund of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic

Mildred Evelyn Brown Clark

Mildred Evelyn Brown Clark, 85, died Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010, in Ada, Okla.

She was born to John Richard and Jermusia Arminda White Brown on April 24, 1924, in Stratford, Okla. She moved away after she married at the age of 16, and returned to Oklahoma in 1971, where she resided until the time of her death.

Clark is preceded in death by her parents; brothers J.H. Brown and Richard Brown; sister Noma Morago; and granddaughters Lori Maulsby and Sonya Hyden.

Survivors include sons Dennis Hyden and wife Kelli of Stratford, Okla., Harold Hyden of Jackson, Mo., Ron Hyden and wife Sandi of Arlington, Texas, and Tim Clark and wife Michelle of Santa Cruz, Calif.; daughters Barbara West and husband Ed of Stratford, Okla., Gene Redenius and husband Harvey of Ada, Okla., Carol Fowler and husband Richard of Ada, Okla., Marsha Maulsby and husband Pat of Joplin, Mo., Debra Russell of Las Cruces, N.M., Diana Wiley and husband Jim of Maud, Okla., and Jannie Scarberry and husband Robert of South Belt; 38 grandchildren; and numerous great- and great-grandchildren.

Clark was a nurse's aide at several nursing homes before obtaining her Licensed Practical Nurse's license. She retired from Valley View Regional Hospital in Ada in 1977.

A funeral service was held Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Southwest Church of Christ in Ada, Okla.

Burial followed at McGee Cemetery in Stratford, Okla.

Support our advertisers!

William Bruce Edgerton

William "Bruce" Edgerton, 51, died in his home March 6, 2010. He was born Oct. 6, 1958, and raised in the South Belt area.

After graduation, Edgerton moved to Putney, Vt., where he lived until 2006, when illness brought him back to Houston.

Survivors include his mother, Frances Gamble; brothers Steve Edgerton and David Edgerton; sisters Terri Seastream and Carol deClercq; and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Edgerton's name.

Evone Maurice "Buddy" Carter

Evone Maurice "Buddy" Carter, 85, died March 6, 2010, in Shepherd, San Jacinto County, Texas.

He was born July 6, 1924, in Clarks, Caldwell Parish, La., to Elmore Carter and Esse Mae Harris.

He was raised and lived in Clarks until he joined the service. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, enlisting Sept. 27, 1943, in Shreveport, La.

After returning from the military, Carter married Grace Helen Erwin, the daughter of Roy Erwin and Annie Seay of Ellis County, Texas. Their union was blessed with two daughters and six sons.

Carter is preceded in death by his parents; sister Elsie Marie Carter Young; brother-in-law Joe Otto Young and wife Helen; daughter Roye Sue Carter Holden; sons Stanley Ray, Richard Dwayne and John Robert "Johnny Bob"; daughter-in-law Deana Ruth Harris Carter; granddaughter Heather Rashea Harris (daughter of Stanley Ray Carter and Deana Ruth Harris); great-grandson Michael Eugene Brown (son of grandson Joseph Brown Jr. and Michelle Henry).

Carter is survived by his brother, Murelyn "Mert"

Carter, and wife Juanita; daughter Cindy Marie Carter Brown and husband Joseph; son James David; son Roger Maurice and wife Cynthia; son Steve Allen and wife Sherri; 14 grandchildren: Shane Allen Carter; Jeremy Mitchell Carter, Stanley Ray Carter, Jennifer Michael Carter; Nicole Marie Brown, Joseph Allen Brown Jr., Nathan Ray Brown; Anissa Louise Holden, Laura Helene Holden, Chester Monty Holden Jr., David Maurice Holden; Justin Ray Harris; Michael Hand and Nicole McDonald; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Carter's ashes will be buried beside his wife at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Houston. His life will be remembered by his family in a private memorial.

Ross Hubbard

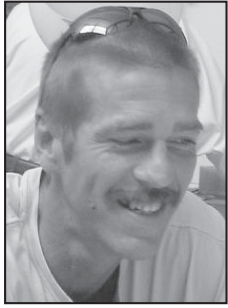


Gerald Ross "Bubba" Hubbard died on Feb. 21, 2010, surrounded by loved ones. Hubbard played tackle for Milby High School, graduating in 1959 and then attended Sam Houston State. Though most of his family roots sprang from Lufkin, he lived as a resident of the Greater Houston area. He was vice president of South Houston Lumber Company, a board of directors member of Northwest National Bank, served on the Sycamore Valley Municipal Utility District board, was a member of South Houston Chamber of Commerce and owned South Houston Pawn Shop successfully for 20 years. At the time of his death, he was employed as a pawnbroker for Easy Cash Pawn.

He was preceded in death by his mother Matilda, and father Roger Q. Hubbard. He is survived by his wife Marianne, daughters Adrienne and Allison, "son" Nathan, grandson Clayton the Tornado, and little loyal Delilah.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at Forest Park East Funeral Home and Cemetery located at 21620 Gulf Freeway in Webster.

William E. Carmical



William E. Carmical (Billy E. Lawrence, Jr.), 46, of Sageglen, died at home on March 2, 2010. He was born on April 17, 1963, in Houston. He was a resident of Houston for 46 years with more than 40 of those spent in the South Belt area.

Carmical had many talents and abilities that kept him busy in construction, auto-

motives and electronics, but he would always find time for fishing and the outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Lorine Barnes.

Carmical is survived by his parents, William and Doris Carmical of Houston and Bill and Maria Lawrence of Alvin; his sisters, Kathy Bost and husband Jay of Pearland, Gale Cambron and husband Danny of Alvin, and Pam Shimek and husband Arnold of Alvin; his brothers, David Lawrence of Mt. Judea, Ark., Michael Lawrence and wife Angie of Alvin, and Dale Fischer and wife Nancy of Rosharon; his nieces and nephew, Stephanie and Brittany Burns of College Station, and Kelly and Blake Burns of Pearland; numerous other nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Scott Funeral Home in Alvin with Pastor Bruce Peterson officiating.

Local elections . . .

Continued from Page 1A for his Position 5 seat.

Incumbent Bill Morgan is being challenged by John Hoover for the Position 4 seat.

Unlike in the Clear Brook City MUD election, a challenger in the Sagameadow and Kirkmont district races must run against all open-seat incumbents rather than choose a specific opponent.

municipal Utility District board members Michael Grizzaffi, Debra Carroll and Gordon Beville are all being challenged by Bonnie Dimicelli.

Current Kirkmont Municipal Utility District board incumbents Tim Beyer, Ted Heinrich and John Elam are run-ning unopposed.

Nasa budget . . .

Continued from Page 1A

but they cannot replace the institutional knowledge, experience and safety record of NASA," Olson said. "I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure America retains a strong human space flight program."

Mitchell suggests that concerned residents contact their congressional representatives. For more information and links to elected officials, visit www.GoBoldlyNASA.org.

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Discover San Jac set for March 30

San Jacinto College Central will host an open house and recruitment event for prospective students and families featuring parent workshops in English and Spanish, a workshop for non-traditional students, as well as financial aid information and campus tours.

Discover San Jac, will be held Tuesday, March 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Interactive Learning Center on the Central campus located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

"Anyone who is considering college should stop in and take a look at San Jacinto College," said Kathy Knapp, dean of student development at the Central campus. "This is an excellent opportunity for prospective students and their families to have their questions answered and to discover the tremendous opportunities that exist at San Jacinto College."

Representatives from academic and technical programs will be on hand with important program information. Parents and students will also be introduced to campus administration so that students know whom to contact.

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

Dobie DECA students win at Fort Worth Conference

The Dobie High School DECA chapter competed at the State DECA Conference in Fort Worth recently along with 3,000 students from across the state.

Students competed in certain occupational areas related to their job training. Students are judged on their knowledge of marketing, economics, and management skills as well as their social and selling skills. Business owners, managers, and other community leaders were involved with the judging at the conference.

Dobie DECA had six winners at the conference. Alisha Chavez won first place in the Food Marketing Competitive Event. She will advance to the International Career Development Conference to be held in Louisville, Ky., in April where she will be competing against the top students in the nation and several other countries.

"I am very proud of these students for representing Dobie High School at this state conference. Being a winner in their

events is a fantastic accomplishment," said Karen Daigle, DECA advisor.

DECA is a youth organization for students currently enrolled in a marketing class. These students work for local employers within the community and are receiving high school and college credit for their work experience.

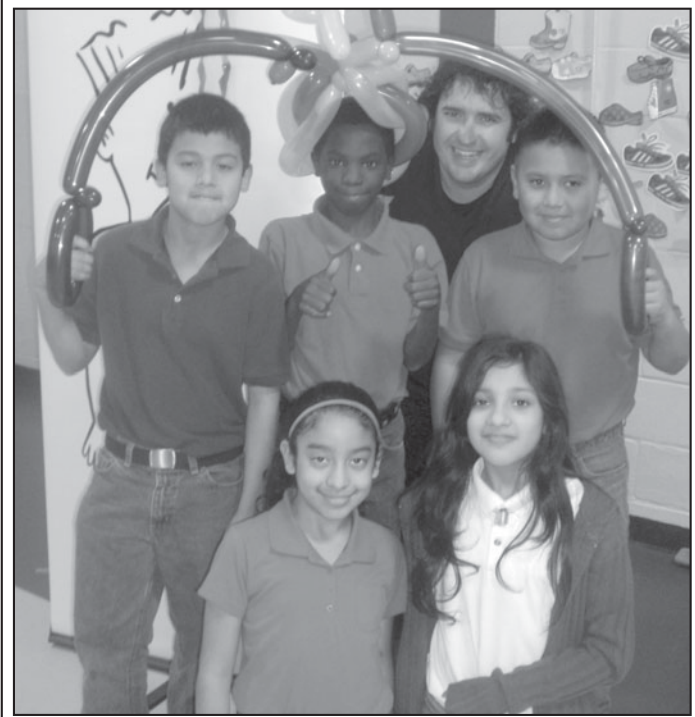
zation for students currently enrolled in a marketing class. These students work for local employers within the community and are receiving high school and college credit for their work experience.

community and are receiving high school and college credit for their work experience.



Pictured are, left to right, Nathan Ratliff, second place – Principles of Hospitality and Tourism; Ashley Spigner, second place – Retail Merchandising; Kayla Brown, second place – Quick Serve Restaurant Management; Alisha Chavez, first place – Food Marketing; Johnny Moreno, second place – Hotel and Lodging Management; and Josefina Maldonado, second place – Technical Sales.

Meador enjoys NED Show



The NED Show performed for Meador Elementary students recently. The NED Show performs around the world and has even performed at the White House. The show promotes academic achievement and character development by teaching three critical skills that will benefit kids for a lifetime: Never Give Up, Encourage Others and Do Your Best. Pictured are, from left to right, first row Karen Rodriguez, Jasslyn Gomez, (back row) Carlos Anaya, Byron Mack, Jeff Nelson (NED Show performer), and Fernando Vega.

Photo submitted

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SJC offers time management course

The Continuing and Professional Development division of San Jacinto College will offer a one-time course that will provide tips and guidelines for productive time management.

Spread Too Thin! How to Manage Your Time Effectively, will be held at the Pearland Commerce Center, located at 6117 Broadway in Pearland, on Thursday, March 25, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The price of the course is \$60, and preregistration is required. To register, call 281-922-3440 and request CRN#

90920. The instructor will be Sheila Wall, who works as a consultant for San Jacinto College's Small Business Development Center.

Wall holds a master's degree in management and human resources, and a bachelor's degree in business studies. She has extensive experience in time management training.

Wall will incorporate material from Stephen Covey's highly acclaimed book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, as well as information from Hyrum Smith's book, *Ten Natural Laws of Successful Time and Life Management*.

"A business owner does not necessarily need more time, but rather, better time organization skills," Wall

said. "Understanding how to better prioritize and manage time is essential for any small business owner and will ultimately show up in your business, bottom line."

People attending will learn how to focus on specific techniques for planning a job and how to overcome barriers that are always present.

Course highlights will include understanding the goals of time management and priority management,

identifying priorities based on importance and urgency, and identifying attitudes and techniques to help stay on track.

Participants will receive a six-page syllabus that outlines primary points taught in the course and will earn three Continuing Education Units credit through the CPD division.

For additional information regarding San Jac, call 281-998-6150 or visit www.sanjac.edu.

SJRW meets March 15

The San Jacinto Republican Women will hold its monthly meeting as a Republican primary runoff election candidate forum March 15 at Incredible Pizza, located at 5950 Fairmont Parkway in Pasadena.

Registration takes place at 6 p.m., and the program begins at 6:30. The cost is \$10 cash or check to SJRW.

RSVP to Anne Nielsen at 281-639-4952 or Debra Risinger at sjrwpresident@gmail.com.

PLT presents The Octette Bridge Club



Pictured, left to right, (standing) Colton Wright, Mary Margaret Lobb, Robyn Lyn, South Belt resident Katie Reed, Barbara Hartman (sitting) Kay Jones, Jada August, Julie Owen and Carolyn McLeod all appear in *The Octette Bridge Club* by P. J. Barry, opening March 19 at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. This comedy

runs weekends through April 4. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and Thursday, April 1, and 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. Reservations can be made online at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org or by calling 713-941-1758. Credit cards are accepted.

Squyres, IHS brings dentistry to needy in Herat, Afghanistan

By Matt Griesmyer
Jerry Squyres, longtime resident of the South Belt area, has been a member of Sagemont Church since 1995.

Squyres is now working on bringing healthier teeth to people who truly need assistance in Herat, Afghanistan.

His organization, Innovative Humanitarian Solutions, organizes and helps run projects throughout Africa, the Middle East and beyond.

"(IHS) works on humani-

tarian projects to meet certain needs in parts of the world that need assistance. One of the main opportunities at the time is the dental project," Squyres said.

IHS has been working on this dental project for a year, but when he first started he had all of the tools needed to provide dental care except a dentist.

"I arrived in Afghanistan, and I had essentially everything needed by a dentist, I just didn't have the dentist," Squyres said. "When I was over there, I met Dr. Azar Aeyni, who essentially had the opposite problem - medical dentistry skills but no tools to help in the area. We became partners and helped her go from working on a dirt floor to a clean and well-supplied facility."

Squyres is currently working on a dental project in the western part of Afghanistan, near the third-largest city, Herat.

His focus is in the city and the countryside, but there is danger when venturing outside of the city.

"The danger when you get out of the city limits is the terrorism," Squyres said. "There was one time when we were exploring new areas to help; we were about to cross a bridge when the taxi driver stopped. He told us to go back to the city; that territory was controlled by the terrorists and it was not safe."

Squyres has been over on humanitarian projects seven times, bringing more than 25 volunteers from local churches with him.

"The heart of our ministry is the South Belt area," Squyres said. "It is where many of our people come from and where most of our support comes from."

In order to assist in funding the humanitarian efforts,

IHS will host a golf classic on April 19 at Braeburn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet. The day of golf starts with registration and driving range opening at 11:30 a.m. and ending with a dinner, silent and live auction, awards and hole-in-one prizes at 6 p.m.

Squyres and IHS are always looking for new volunteers and assistance for their humanitarian efforts.

For more information, visit www.innovativehs.net or contact info@tamh.net.

AARP to meet March 19

AARP Chapter 199 will meet Friday, March 19, at 10 a.m. In addition to the regular meeting, musical entertainment will be provided.

The public is welcome to attend this free program at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway in Seabrook. Cookies and coffee will be served.

For information about the Bay Area Community Center or to find out what AARP Chapter 199 has to offer, call 281-326-2955 or e-mail President Carol Ledergerber at clleder@hotmail.com.

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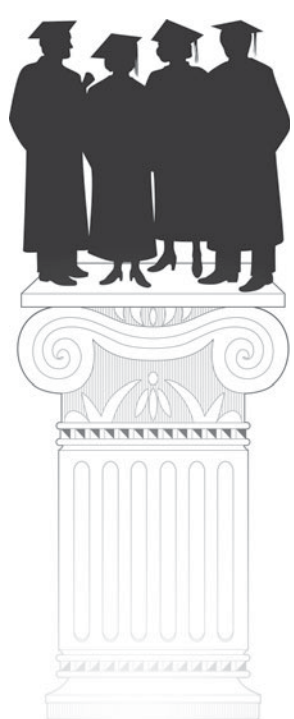
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GCLFEDS sets March meeting

The Greater Clear Lake Families Exploring Down Syndrome general meeting will be held Friday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the United Way Building, 1300-A Bay Area Blvd. Room A. Child care will be provided.

Free pizza and dessert will be at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting at 7 p.m.

The topic of the meeting is keeping your child safe, a presentation by the Texas Center for the Missing.

It will begin with a puppet show geared to children under 10 years and features

Detective Buddy who teaches Billy and his friend, Barb, how to stay safe with real-life examples.

The puppet show will be followed by a presentation designed to teach parents how to keep children safe from abduction and internet lures.

The Texas Center for the Missing is a nonprofit organization which administers the Houston Amber Alert System, provides education and training to the community, and offers help and hope to the missing and their families.

CCISD student art on display at ACC

Youth Art Month is a nationwide, annual observance focusing upon the importance of youth art and the value of quality art education for all young people. This celebration provides an opportunity to showcase the artistic talents and skills of young people and acquaint the public with school art programs.

Clear Creek ISD is showing the artistic achievements of CCISD students. The exhibit contains approximately

500 works of art produced by students in kindergarten through 12th grade representing the Clear Creek Independent School District Visual Arts Program.

The exhibit will be on display from March 25 to April 7 at the Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

HAPPY SWEET 16 TO RENE!
Rene De La Fuente Jr. will celebrate his 16th birthday on Thursday, March 11. Rene is a sophomore at Dobie High School. Lots of love and many hugs and kisses are sent from mom **Yvonne**, dad **Rene**, and brothers **Jacob**, **Ryan**, **Ricky** and **Raiden**.
LORDY, LORDY, LOOK WHO'S 40!
Rene De La Fuente celebrated his 40th birthday on Tuesday, March 9. His children wish to say, "Happy birthday Dad. We love you and hope all of your wishes come true." Lots of hugs and kisses are sent from wife **Yvonne** and sons **Jacob**, **Rene Jr.**, **Ryan**, **Ricky** and **Raiden**.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 11 through March 17.

Atkinson Elementary
 Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to **Cheryl Meyer** March 11.

Burnett Elementary
 On March 11, **Mayra Mendoza** enjoys a birthday. Celebrating a birthday March 15 is **Maria Ruiz**. The day for a party for **Judy Bleck** is March 16. On March 17, **Laura Olivas** has a birthday.

Frazier Elementary
Erica Pecina is sent birthday greetings March 11. Marking a birthday March 12 is **Debbie Clark**. **Shannon Poché** is wished a happy birthday on March 17.

Jessup Elementary
 Special birthday wishes are sent to **Gwendolyn Thomas** March 11. A birthday celebration is set for **Jill Childres** March 13.

Moore Elementary
 The day for a birthday cake for **Lily Hernandez** is March 11.

South Belt Elementary
 Blow out the birthday candles for **Beverly Goodman** on March 13. Birthday greetings are sent to **Laura Villarreal** March 15.

Stuchbery Elementary
 Celebrating a birthday March 15 is **Sandra Walters**.

Melillo Middle School
 On March 11, **Sue Haase** enjoys a birthday. **Rosa Pinon-Ramirez** celebrates a birthday March 12. On March 14, **Troy Ralls** marks a birthday.

Morris Middle School
 Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Aimee Reeves** March 14. A birthday is enjoyed by **Ella Blackburn** March 16.

The day for a birthday party for **Maria Noyola** is March 13.

Thompson Intermediate
Martha Vega has a birthday March 12.

Dobie High
 Enjoying a double birthday March 12 are **Elsa Gonzalez** and **Sandra Rodriguez**. March 14 is the day for a cake for **Kathleen Murrell**. Birthday wishes are sent to **Clara Ullman** March 16. Blow out the birthday candles for **Karrie Valerio** March 17.

LAUREATE PSI CHAPTER MEETS
 Laureate Psi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its March meeting in the home of **Judy Switzer** with **Jan Henrickson** as co-hostess. Eleven members were present and two were absent. Final plans were made for the March social, a road trip to Fredericksburg for the weekend. New officers for the year were elected, and **Carroll McCullough** was presented as the new president for 2010-2011. Following the meeting, Switzer presented the program, *Sharing Travel Adventures to Africa*.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 E-mail birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

San Jac College team takes research to the sky through NASA program

Five San Jacinto College students will conduct research using NASA as their laboratory to test the effects of microgravity on blood coagulation.

The students are the first SJC research team ever selected for NASA's Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program, a program that began in 1995 to provide an academic experience for undergraduate students and educators to propose, design, fabricate, fly, and evaluate an experiment aboard a reduced gravity aircraft.

"There's so much to look forward to," said Abrar Alkandari, the SJC research team leader. "We are honored and flattered to be accepted for this project with NASA and experience reduced gravity with teams from top universities." Serving alongside Alkandari, who is from Channelview, are teammates Pablo Lopez of College Station; Joey Elaine Templeton of Dayton; Maria Juarez of Highlands; and Christopher Scott Burns, also from Channelview. Lopez recently transferred from San Jacinto College to Texas A&M University.

Through this program, the students receive a crash course in researching, writing proposals and testing hypotheses, academic activities that are often reserved for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students.

Taking flight
 The SJC team will spend the next five months building hardware proven safe enough for a reduced gravity environment, under the direction of their biology professor Dr. Yuli Kainer.

Since the students are testing plasma, which is considered a biohazard substance, their testing will be performed in a contained space

called a glove box to comply with all required safety measures and avoid any type of exposure.

The experiment is similar to another project tested by a University of Michigan-Dearborn team in 2005, according to Kainer.

"Flying research on board the government aircraft is a very serious business, and the students' full focus is needed," said Sara Malloy, lead program coordinator of the

Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program at NASA-Johnson Space Center.

In June, the SJC team will participate in flight week, which involves a Test Readiness Review (TRR), the final step to certify safety for their equipment to fly on the microgravity aircraft. NASA's reduced gravity aircraft flies approximately 30 parabolic maneuvers over the Gulf of Mexico, which gives participants almost half a minute of

weightlessness per parabola.

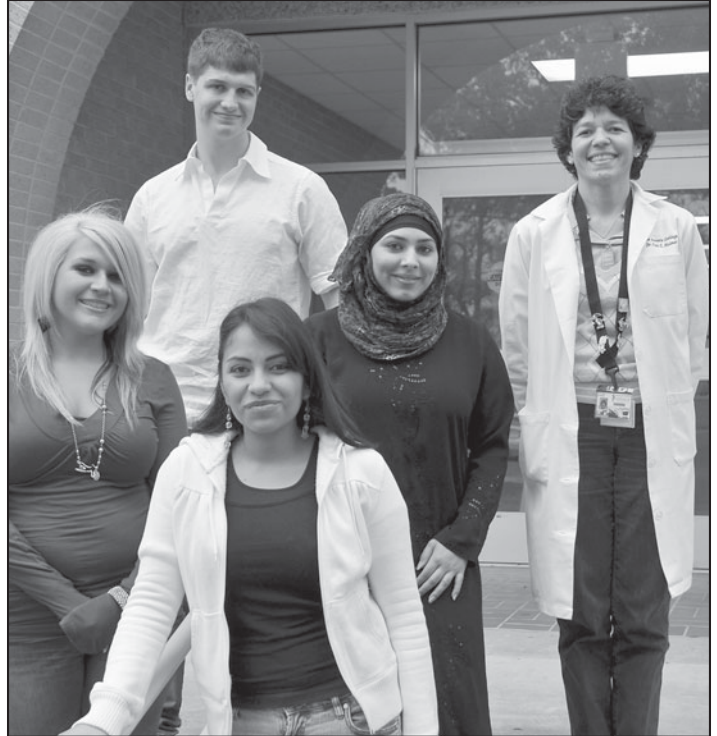
Sharing the experience
 Once the experiment is completed at NASA and the results are recorded, the team will carry out their public outreach plans, sharing their experience with more than 12,000 individuals over the 2010-2011 school year through PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and activities related to the topics of blood clotting, gravity, and the scientific method for vari-

ous age groups.

"This is a chance for students to apply theories they have learned in college and apply it to research," Malloy said. "I hope that it brings them a greater awareness of their space program, how important it is in daily life, and how it can open worlds of possibility for students that may or may not have thought a career at NASA was an option for them."

To learn more about the SJC research team's project, visit www.sanjac.edu/teamsoar.

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



Five San Jacinto College students will conduct research using NASA as their laboratory to test the effects of microgravity on blood coagulation. Those students are, left to right, Joey Elaine Templeton of Dayton, Christopher Scott Burns of Channelview, Maria Juarez of Highlands, Abrar Alkandari of Channelview, and SJC North biology professor Dr. Yuli Kainer. Not pictured is Pablo Lopez of College Station. Photo submitted

Remember When

30 years ago (1980)
 Residents in Gulf Palms were united against allowing a radioactive waste site in their neighborhood.

The second article in a series by the *Leader* revealed that 50 percent of all teenagers have had sexual intercourse and that 30 percent of sexually active girls give birth.

Nine local teens, all employees of Ron's Krispy Fried Chicken on Hughes, raised \$156 for two area victims of spina bifida, making it possible for them to attend the spina bifida camp.

Richard Moore Elementary School on Blackhawk was under construction and was expected to be completed in time for students to attend during the upcoming school year.

20 years ago (1990)
 Pasadena Independent School District administration was awaiting the upcoming election to see if its proposed \$100 million bond election would pass.

An expert familiar with the Brio Superfund site said toxins found in the 50- and 100-foot aquifer were a source of contamination for Southend drinking water, contrary to Brio Task Force claims.

Beamer as construction continued on the new waterline. All were relocated.

25 years ago (1995)
 Harris County purchased a large portion of the Scarsdale Plaza center on Scarsdale at Beamer for \$1.4 million.

The Clear Creek Independent School District board supported the rebuilding of Weber Elementary School in Sageglen.

The occupants of the remaining 15 homes in the Southend subdivision would have to bear the costs of funding the utility district which would quickly be out of money. Southend Municipal Utility District officials explained that expenses do not decrease as homeowners move out.

10 years ago (2000)
 Dobie's academic decaathlon team won a second-place state title, 20 individual medals and the highest score in Dobie's history.

Blackhawk opened to Fuqua, providing a shortcut to Hobby Airport. Melissa Alcalá, 19, died in a motor-vehicle accident.

Wiseman met with District E constituents in the South Belt to discuss capital improvement projects. Among the projects discussed was the paving of Hughes Road from Beltway 8 to the city limits, replacement of the Sagemont pool, improvements to Blackhawk Park and the eventual relocation of the Bracewell Library at Almeda Mall.

Snow was brought to Atkinson Elementary to reward students who met their accelerated reader goals.

KSEV radio talk show host Edd Hendee spoke to a large crowd at Sagemont Church about his recent visit to Iraq and the servicemen he had talked with. He also shared a slide presentation of his visit.

Former South Belt resident Sarah O'Banion, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, met Good Morning America co-host Diane Sawyer aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Houston police were following up on several leads in the shooting death of Luan Cong Pham, but no arrests had been made yet.

1 year ago (2009)
 The body of former South Belt resident Susana De Jesus was found in the early morning in a tractor trailer near Reliant Sta-

dium. Police were led to the body after questioning Nicholas-Michael Edwin Jean, who was arrested by authorities following a day-long manhunt after an attempted carjacking in Pearland that forced the closure of Magnolia Elementary and the lockdown of two other schools in the area.

State Sen. Mike Jackson introduced a bill that, if approved, would make Pearland part of San Jacinto College's service area. The action took place just hours after the Pearland Independent School District board unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the proposal.

City of Houston officials cut off all utilities at the Almeda Chateau apartments, located at 10802 Kingspoint, due to unsafe living conditions at the complex. The Public Works Department had recently disconnected the water at the complex because the owner, David Wise of San Diego, owed more than \$80,000 in back water bills. Wise later paid the majority of the delinquent bills, but other conditions, such as faulty electrical wiring, mold and structural problems made the complex uninhabitable.

HOME RUN CORNER
 The *Leader* staff reminds parents to submit congratulations for their slugger's achievements for publication in *Over The Back Fence*. E-mail mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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DIGITAL 3D
ALICE IN WONDERLAND IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) / (11:30 @ \$8), 2:25, 5:20, 8:15, 11:10
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (10:10 @ \$9), 1:40, 5:10, 8:40, 12:10
GREEN ZONE (R) (10:50, 11:45 @ \$5), 1:35, 2:30, 4:20, 5:15, 7:05, 8:05, 9:55, 10:50, 12:25
OUR FAMILY WEDDING (PG-13) / (10:00, 11:00 @ \$5), 12:20, 1:20, 2:40, 3:40, 5:00, 6:00, 7:20, 8:20, 9:35, 10:40, 11:50, 12:55
REMEMBER ME (PG-13) / (11:25 @ \$5), 2:05, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15, 12:50
SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE (R) / (10:00, 11:20 @ \$5), 12:40, 2:00, 3:40, 4:40, 5:55, 7:15, 8:30, 9:50, 10:55, 12:25
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG) / (10:45 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:45, 3:10, 4:35, 6:10, 7:30, 9:00, 10:25, 11:55, 12:55, 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES
BROOKLYN'S FINEST (R) / (10:05, 10:40 @ \$5), 12:55, 1:50, 3:55, 4:55, 7:10, 8:00, 10:05, 11:20, 12:55
BROOKLYN'S FINEST (R) / (10:45 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:55, 8:00, 11:20
POP OUT (R) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:30, 7:25, 8:25, 9:55, 11:05, 12:30
THE CRAZIES (R) (10:30, 11:55 @ \$5), 1:05, 2:35, 3:30, 5:05, 6:05, 7:35, 8:35, 9:55, 11:05, 12:35
SHUTTER ISLAND (R) (10:15 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:30, 3:45, 4:50, 7:00, 8:05, 10:00, 11:15, 12:55
PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG) (10:35 @ \$5), 11:05 @ \$5, 12:50, 3:25, 6:15, 8:50, 11:30
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13) (11:35 @ \$5), 2:50, 6:25, 9:20, 12:05
THE WOLFMAN (R) (10:55 @ \$5), 1:10, 4:10, 6:35, 9:05, 11:40
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:25, 6:15, 8:50, 11:30
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (6:40, 9:10, 11:45)
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (10:25 @ \$5), 12:45, 3:15, 5:50
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (11:15 @ \$5), 2:20, 5:40, 8:55, 11:35
THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:10, 4:15
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (6:30, 9:25, 12:30)
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (11:05 @ \$5), 1:25, 3:40
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (11:50 @ \$5), 3:00, 6:20, 9:15, 12:15
THE HURT LOCKER (R) (10:20 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:25, 7:45, 10:45
IMAX
ALICE IN WONDERLAND: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) / (10:00 @ \$9), 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40, 12:20
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Couple wins wedding, with honeymoon cruise

Continued from Page 1A
 it at 8 a.m., but everything required the wedding to else was perfect," the new bride said.
 Contest entrants were required to write a letter

detailing why they thought they should win. In her letter, Ramirez, a *Leader* staff member, described her husband's battle with cancer. At 18, Tremont was diagnosed with lymphoma. His cancer has since gone into remission, and he recently celebrated his sixth anniversary of being cancer-free.
 "At the age of 18, we were forced to grow up very quickly, but we learned the importance of life, relationships and family, which was a true blessing," Ramirez wrote in her letter. "I think Chad and I should win the perfect wedding because we have had many struggles financially and medically and after eight and a half years, we are still 100 percent committed to each other, our goals and our career dreams."
 The newlyweds are very appreciative of everyone who contributed to their special day.
 "We wanted to thank everyone for the love and support during the voting process. It's because of them we had our dream wedding," the now-Mrs. Tremont said. "We also wanted to thank all of the vendors for making our wedding day so special. We are so appreciative of everything."
 The wedding ceremony will be aired on Houston's Channel 55 four times Thursday, March 11, between 6 and 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. Friday, March 19, and at 9 p.m. Sunday, March 21.

Holt, Dewhirst to marry



Ron and Barbara Holt of Pearland announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Christine Michelle Holt, to Eric Watts Dewhirst, son of Harold Dewhirst and the late Susan Dewhirst of Feasterville, Pa. The bride-to-be grew up in the South Belt area and was active in the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Girls Softball League for many years. She graduated from Bay Area Christian School in 1999, and received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance, economics and management from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 2003. She earned her MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2007 and is currently employed as a financial analyst for the General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. The prospective groom received his Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering from Virginia Tech in 2001. He is currently employed as an Information Technology (IT) Specialist for CACI in Arlington, Va. Dewhirst proposed to Holt in Cinderella's Castle at Disney World. An early May fairy tale wedding is planned in the Houston area.

DeHarts celebrate 44 years



Majol and Tom DeHart will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary Thursday, March 18, 2010. They were married March 18, 1966, at Glenbrook Methodist Church. They have been South Belt residents for more than 40 years. The couple have two sons, Tommy DeHart and Michael DeHart, both of Clear Lake. They both attended Atkinson Elementary, Beverly Hills Intermediate and Dobie High School. The couple will be celebrating with family members.

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Run for Your Wife auditions set

Auditions for *Run for Your Wife*, a farce by Ray Cooney, will be held Sunday, March 21, and Monday, March 22, at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road at 7 p.m.
 The director is Carolyn McLeod, and performance dates are weekends, May 7 through May 23.
 Six men, age 30 to 60s, and two women, age 25 to 50s are needed. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. The play is set in London and an English accent is required.
 Contact the director at cmcleod3@comcast.net or visit the Web site at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org for character descriptions and more information.

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Food donated after 30-hour fast



Kirkwood South Christian Church sponsored a 30-hour fast, to experience real hunger and better understand what life is like in poorer countries of the world. During the fast members canvassed the neighborhood for donations of food for the Southeast Area Ministries, SeAM, Food Pantry at 2102 Houston Blvd. in South Houston. They also raised over \$400, enough to feed a child in Africa for more than a year. Pictured are Marhsall Smiley, KSCC Youth Director (right) delivering some of the donations to Gilbert De Leone at SeAM.
 Photo submitted

Wedding, engagement policies

Wedding writeups must be run in the newspaper, not submitted, in the time outlined:
 From wedding date to six weeks – photo and full article; Six weeks to three months – photo and limited information; After three months from wedding date – will not be run.
 Engagement and wedding announcements are published free of charge on a first come, first served basis. Information must be submitted by Friday to be considered for the next issue.

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Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Thursday 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.		

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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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Dobie Lariaettes win numerous awards at showcase

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes recently attended the Crowd Pleaser's South Houston Showcase at Clear Springs High School in League City and returned with numerous awards.

The team was named second runner-up to Grand Champion for the day.

The military officers, Col. Ivette Armenta, Lt. Col. Elizabeth Garza, Capt. Aimee Cessna and Lt. Tristana Guyote, were awarded a Super Sweepstakes for scoring 90 or above on all routines and were named second runner-up overall grand champion officers as well. They were

also named second runner-up Best in Class officer in hip hop.

The Lariaettes Jazz Troupe tied for first place medium ensemble, and the lyrical ensemble received a Division 1 rating.

In a first for Dobie, the social officers put together a

football themed novelty routine and won first runner-up Social Dance.

The JV Lassos competed as well and received a Division 1 rating, as well as Best in Class JV Hip Hop.

The following soloists also received a Division 1 Rating for their performances: Ivette

Armenta, Elizabeth Garza, Aimee Cessna, Tiana Wilson, Alyssa Loreda, Senia Rubio and Vyanka Reyna.

As a team, the Lariaettes brought home the Super Sweepstakes award for 90 or above on all routines, second runner-up Best in Class Team Pom, second runner-up

Best in Class Team Jazz, first runner-up Best in Class Team Hip Hop, first runner-up Best in Class Team Modern, Outstanding Choreography Team Hip Hop, Crowdpleaser's Award for performance/showmanship-Team Hip Hop and second runner-up Grand Champion Team.



Pictured with their awards are the 2009-2010 J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes, left to right, (first row) Ashley Cipolla, Crystal Cabriales, (second row) Nicolette Baade, Elise Harper, Capt. Aimee Cessna, Lt. Tristana Guyote, Col. Ivette Armenta, Donna Hernandez, Chaplain Senia Rubio, Lt. Col. Libby Garza, President Cassie Murray, Party Girl Ashley Cantu, Vyanka Reyna, Sandy Nemons, (third row) Deseray Figueroa, Jeannette Cruz, Briana Harper, Jontay Warner, Shanay LaCour, Kayla Smith, Lisa Scott, Inventory Megan Barker,

Karena Duran, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Moore, (fourth row) Spirit Leader Linda Mindiola, Alyssa Loreda, Director Lori Alexander, Asia Allen, Caitlin Woods, Tram To, Desiree Harvey, Paige Cavazos, Feliss Goree, Alaina Burns, Katlyn Hoggard, Shante McGill, Katia Ceja, Sandra Gonzalez, Cassandra Velasquez, Tessa Andrade, Tiana Wilson, Joanna Garza, Clarissa Vega and Secretary Adriana Gutierrez.

Photo submitted

Dobie CC, T&F champs reunite



Above, Gawain Guy (left), a member of Dobie High School's 1980 state cross country and 1981 state track and field championship squads, presents then head coach John Bryan with an award honoring his dedicated work with the Longhorns. Assistant coach Mike McKinney was also honored. Below, the Longhorn athletes gathered to sign a commemorative megaphone during the reunion, held last month in Pasadena.

Photos by Marie Flickinger and Steve Kenney



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Members of the 1980 Dobie High School cross country and 1981 track and field state championship teams gathered for a reunion in honor of head coach John Bryan and assistant coach Mike McKinney Feb. 26 at Cullen's Upscale American Grille. Those attending included, left to right, (kneeling) Hector Gonzalez, Gawain Guy, David Windsor, Brian Bozman, Greg Ehrlich, (standing) David Jackson, Todd Whistler, Ken Dusek, Joe Riojas, Sam Shimfessel, Todd Barto, Lawrence Mitchell, David Massicott, Tony Smola, assistant coach Mike McKinney, Mike Spencer, Bryan, David Boren, Tres Thomas, Greg Johnson, Steve Kenney, Paul Robinson, Mike Kuppisch, Paul Miller, Phillip Williams and James Evans. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Well-attended reunion a big success

One night, yet 30 memorable years

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

It was just one seemingly short evening, but it was long enough for 30 years of memories to come back to life for members of Dobie High School's 1980 cross country and 1981 track and field state championship teams.

Members of the teams gathered late last month at Cullen's in Pasadena with designs on honoring the team's coaches, including Texas high school legend John Bryan and assistant coach Mike McKinney.

What the group gained from the night was all of that and much more.

Todd Whistler, who helped coordinate the event along with Sam Shimfessel, David Jackson and their families and friends, said he won't soon forget the memorable night.

"It was awesome, it went perfectly," Whistler said.

"Everything was simply fantastic. We did work hard at putting it together, but it was one of those deals where several of us agreed to do this or that in the planning, and in the end it turned out to be much more than any of us could have expected. It worked out great."

Of course there were plenty of memories to be

shared. The facts are that the Longhorns' varsity team came through with the Class 5A state cross country title in the fall of 1980.

Those cross country members plus additional track and field athletes then pulled a two-fer by winning the Class 5A state track and field crown in Austin during the spring of 1981.

Gawain Guy, who went on to compete at Rice University, won the 1,600-meter event for a gold medal.

The Longhorns, who specialized in the middle distance events and also had pole vaulter Paul Miller on their side, came away with the gold medal that year.

It took 30 years to get much of the group together, but those in attendance no doubt knew it was worth the wait.

Guy, who has lived in Indianapolis since 1987, was in town. So were other out-of-towners.

"We actually started the idea roughly 27 years out or so," said Guy, a married father of three now.

"It was absolutely grand. It was a unique night for what really was a unique bunch of guys from 1980 and 1981."

The J. Frank Dobie cross country and track and field teams were load-

ed with talent.

Shimfessel believes almost every team member was offered a chance to compete collegiately, something unheard of these days.

That said, few dispute the leadership members like Guy and Paul Robinson had. Robinson was one grade ahead of some of the key members, and the work ethic shown by Guy and Robinson was second to none according to Whistler.

"Robinson was a tremendous athlete, and because he worked so hard he made all of us want to be like him," Whistler said.

"We figured that if we could follow Robinson's lead, we could be good, too. It worked out for a lot of us."

Shimfessel started his collegiate career at Louisiana Tech University along with Whistler and eventually joined the Houston Baptist University program.

In 1986, Shimfessel and his Huskies' teammates had the fastest time in the nation in the 4x800-relay.

Looking back to his Dobie days, Shimfessel believes much of the success he enjoyed in the sport was due to the work ethic he witnessed Guy

delivering on a daily basis.

Although he played baseball and soccer during his days at Dobie, Shimfessel chose track and field as his focus.

"Gawain spent a lot of time at our house, and I remember a lot of Sundays running with him. He was a great athlete, but Gawain was also driven to be even better."

"For spring break, a lot of guys would have been taking it easy, but I remember at least one spring break we went to Mississippi on some family property and trained. We put in the extra work."

"Back then I was riding on Gawain's coattails, but he made me a better athlete because of the extra work we put in."

Shimfessel added, "A lot of people asked me why I chose track and field over baseball and the other sports, but it's because of the relationships and the bond that we had as a group in cross country and track and field."

As for Bryan and McKinney, the special feelings shared by those in attendance are endless. Bryan eventually left Dobie High School and became the boys' track and field coach at Clear Lake High School.

SB track club to BBQ

The South Belt Track Club will host a fundraiser barbecue Saturday, March 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in The Gardens parking lot. Club officials will be selling brisket and sausage combination plates for \$7 and brisket sandwich

plates for \$5. Youths age 6 to 18 may also register to join the team for the upcoming spring/summer track and field season. Registration is \$125, which includes a uniform and Amateur Athletic Union dues. Practices are currently under way.

Clear Brook run-rules Creek in 24-5A softball opener

It's just one game, but Clear Brook would love to bottle the results and perhaps use them again down the line.

In perhaps its best all-around performance of the season, Clear Brook opened District 24-5A varsity softball play by run-ruling Clear

Creek 8-0 March 9 at Lady Wolverine Field.

On this night, everything went right for the home team. Stephanie Gonzalez led off the bottom of the first inning with a triple and later scored.

Gonzalez doubled later in the game as part of a

two-hit game. Freshman outfielder Taylor Nickell, who has been an early season spark, pushed her team-leading RBI total to 11 with a 3-for-3 effort at the plate.

Nickell, who was not on the preseason roster but joined the team early on when injuries and ill-

ness struck the team, has been nothing short of solid. Against Creek, Nickell also had a triple and two runs driven in.

In the circle, senior Emma Napoli was terrific as well, striking out 13 as Clear Creek could not get its offense going.

Clear Creek has yet to play like the team that made its way to the 2009 Region III final, but that matters little right now.

Lady Wolverines' head coach Ashley Pillow simply wants to win games, and the first one is out of the way. "My players were re-

laxed and poised," Pillow said. "I could not have expected to come out and win as impressively, but we did it. It shows the potential we have as a team."

Michelle Svehla added to the offensive attack with two hits and three RBIs, and Bridgette Begle was 2 for 3 with a double and a run driven in.

It was a good opening-night win, but Pillow has made it clear the win is

behind the Lady Wolverines and the focus is facing Dickinson Friday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.

"We have to take it one game at a time," Pillow said.

Clear Brook is hosting Pack the Place Pink night against Dickinson in conjunction with the "Hits for Hope" breast cancer awareness game. Proceeds from the game will go to the Susan B. Komen Foundation.

Lady Horns, Mavs delayed

Wet grounds at the Pasadena Independent School District sports complex forced Dobie's varsity softball district opener against Memorial to be postponed one day.

The two teams played March 10 after press time. For game details, see the March 18 Leader.

Brook hosts Dickinson

Fri., March 12, 7:30 p.m.

Brook at Brazoswood

Tues., March 16, 7 p.m.

Dobie vs. South Houston

Fri., March 12, 6:30 p.m.

PISD sports complex

Dobie hosts Deer Park

Tues., March 16, 6:30 p.m.

PISD sports complex

Dobie's Davis wins 22-5A hoops MVP



Having led Dobie to the District 22-5A varsity girls' basketball championship, senior Vacie Davis was named most valuable player in the league when the coaches revealed their postseason honors. At just over 14 points per game, Davis paced a balanced scoring attack as the Lady Longhorns went 13-1 in 22-5A action, including a 12-game winning streak. Davis also played a big role as Dobie won its bidistrict playoff game against Port Arthur Memorial to move on to the area round. On this play, Davis is challenging La Porte defender Connie Lindsay. In the team's area round loss to Clear Lake, Davis scored a team-high 15 points in her final game. For more District 22-5A girls' basketball coverage, see Page 3B.

Photo by John Bechtle

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Prep soccer races going down to wire

Making the playoffs isn't likely an issue, but the boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams at Clear Brook and Dobie still have little idea just what the pecking order will be when the postseason comes around.

The lone group of the four that could use a little working room is Clear Brook's boys, which are 7-5-4 with a game to go against Alvin. Otherwise, the Clear Brook girls and both boys' teams know they are headed for the playoffs.

The Clear Brook girls are 9-3-1 with a single regular-season game against Alvin coming up. Clear Lake has secured the district title, but the Lady Wolverines are in good position to finish in

the second slot. Dobie's varsity girls' team is working to solidify second place in the standings but still has closing games against Sam Rayburn and Pearland.

The Lady Longhorns tied La Porte March 5 on a Tanya Palomares goal and then defeated Pasadena March 9.

Dobie's boys, meanwhile, still have a shot at the top spot in the District 22-5A standings.

The Longhorns defeated La Porte 1-0 March 6 and then tripped Pasadena 2-0 March 9 as Carlos Ibarra netted each of the team's goals.

Dobie, which is currently second in the standings, will finish the regular season

Continued on Page 6B

Brook, Dobie baseball teams eye consistency

Just one tournament remains before the race to the playoffs begins with district play coming, and the varsity baseball teams at Clear Brook and Dobie are seeking a little more consistency.

Clear Brook played very good baseball at its own Clear Creek ISD tournament, winning three of four games. Along the way, the Wolverines defeated state-ranked Lufkin 11-10 after surviving Lufkin's five-run, seventh inning.

But the Wolverines let one slip away March 9, losing 7-6 at St. Thomas after scoring a run in the top of the seventh inning to tie the game.

So at 6-4 and the 24-5A opener against Clear Creek coming March 16 at Wolverine Field, Clear Brook is looking for a good, all-around performance at the Spring ISD tournament March 11-13 (see game breakdown on Page 2B).

Over at Dobie, the Longhorns are coming off a pair of offensive-backed games. Dobie downed First Baptist 11-2 March 6 to wrap up the Pasadena ISD tournament.

Then on March 9, the Longhorns crushed Humble 15-4, winning back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Against Humble, Sport Beynaerts had his second straight good outing on the mound.

Beynaerts blanked an overmatched Northbrook team back on March 4 as the Longhorns cruised to an easy 20-0 victory.

Facing Humble, Beynaerts did his part with a great effort, the defense was solid with Aris Adame making a couple of sparkling plays at shortstop, and the hitters did their part.

The hits kept coming against Humble as Dobie scored two runs in the first inning, six runs in the second inning and five more in the fourth inning.

Marcelo Martinez, hitting 7-6 at St. Thomas after scoring a run in the top of the seventh inning with a bases-clearing triple.

"We need all of our guys to hit, and especially Marcelo being in the middle of the lineup needs to be able to drive in runs when we have a chance," Dobie head coach Miguel Torres said.

"Marcelo understands his role, and overall as a team, we are doing some of the little things that you need to in order to be able to win.

"Early in the season, we weren't doing the little things very well."

The two wins are certainly breezy in the right direction, but at 3-7, the Longhorns are bracing for what has historically been a talent-driven tournament at Round Rock March 11-13.

Continued on Page 2B

Regular season closes

Dobie boys vs. Rayburn
Friday, March 12
Newcomb Field, 7 p.m.

Dobie boys vs. Pearland
Tuesday, March 16
Newcomb Field, 5 p.m.

Dobie girls vs. Rayburn
Saturday, March 13
Newcomb Field, noon (senior day)

Dobie girls at Pearland
Tuesday, March 16
The Rig, 7 p.m.

Brook girls host Alvin
Friday, March 12, 7 p.m.

Brook boys at Alvin
Friday, March 12, Alvin



Clear Brook starting pitcher Keaton Miller (left) and catcher Kris Templin know the Wolverines must start to perform consistently now with just one more tournament remaining before the start of 24-5A play.

Photo by John Bechtle

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Baseball teams have one last tune-up tournament

Continued from Page 1B

Dobie will play six games over three days, meaning a lot of players are going to get their chance to shine.

If plans come together for the Dobie coaching staff, Austin Abbott will start against either Pflugerville or Coffeyville Heritage on March 11 and will therefore be ready to start the 22-5A opener March 16 against Memorial.

Beynaerts, coming off a pair of good outings, is expected to pitch against South Houston Thursday, March 18, at Maguire Field.

With those two district games in mind, Dobie is also looking to build some momentum at Round Rock.

Torres, the team's varsity assistant coach before taking over the lead role last summer, understands the task at hand.

The Round Rock event always features some of the Austin area's top talent. Dobie will be unphased.

"We need to have some fun and play good baseball," Torres said.

"Our guys are getting some confidence from get-

ting a couple of wins. Of course we would like to have a better record than 3-7, but you can only play them one at a time."

Dobie 2-2 at PISD
The Longhorns did not get off to a very good start in the Pasadena tournament, losing to Katy Taylor 7-3 to fall to 0-6 at the time.

But a convincing 20-0 victory over Northbrook turned things around for 24 hours.

On March 5, Dobie got a great pitching effort from Mike Medina and was tied with Dickinson at 1-1 be-

fore a four-run top of the seventh inning broke the game open for the Gators in a 5-2 victory.

Dobie ended the tournament with an 11-2 victory over First Baptist.

Clear Brook goes 3-1
A 5-4 loss to regional champion Pearland was tough, but otherwise Clear

Brook broke out the big sticks in the Clear Creek tournament.

Clear Brook opened the event with a 7-6 victory over Seven Lakes as Josh Salway got the win in relief.

The Wolverines then defeated state-ranked Lufkin 11-10 as Michael Donovan and C.J. Montag slapped

home runs. However, an 11-5 lead shrunk to just one as the Wolverines had to hang on.

After the 5-4 loss to Pearland, Clear Brook cruised past Westfield 11-0 to complete its run in the tournament.

Clear Brook lost to St. Thomas March 9.

Dobie at Warrior Classic, Round Rock

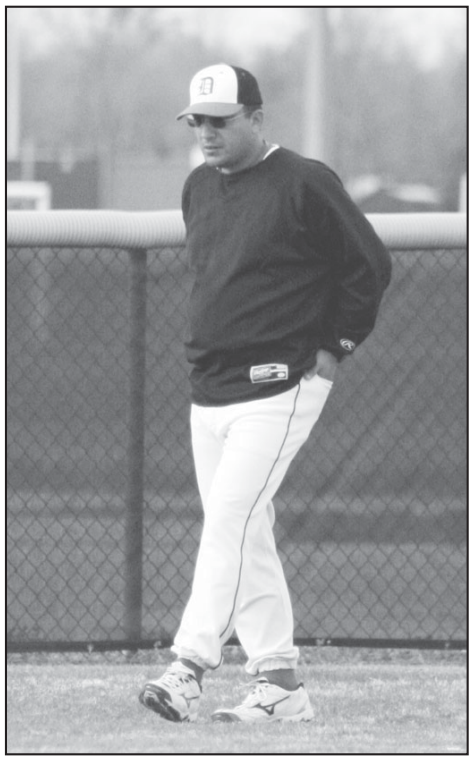
- March 11 games:** vs. Pflugerville at Pflugerville, 2:15
vs. Coffey. Heritage at Pflugerville, 4:45
- March 12 games:** vs. Midland Lee at Dell Diamond, 10 a.m.
vs. Leander at Leander, 4:45
- March 13 games:** vs. Austin Westlake at Leander, 9 a.m.
vs. Cedar Park at Cedar Park, 1:30

Brook at Spring/Crafton Memorial

- March 11 games:** vs. Spring at Spring, 1:00
vs. Katy Taylor at Spring, 4:00
- March 12 game:** vs. Richland at Spring, 4:00
- March 13 trophy games determined by pool play results*

At left, Andrew Williams was just one of many players who delivered crushing blows as the Longhorns downed Northbrook 20-0 March 4 at the Pasadena Independent School District tournament. Williams had a triple in the third inning as Longhorns broke the game open. Dobie went 2-2 in the event and is now 3-7 heading into the final tournament of the season. Dobie will open the 22-5A campaign Tuesday, March 16 against Memorial at Dobie High School.

GaryWPhotos.com



Varsity head baseball coach Miguel Torres has seen his Dobie Longhorns (2-7) lose two games in the final inning of play thus far. He hopes the team can get back on track at the Warrior Classic in Round Rock, the final tournament before District 22-5A action begins.



Dobie student Murray makes hockey history

Tyler Murray, a junior at sports history, helping his Dobie High School, made Houston Wild U-16 AA a bit of Houston youth hockey team to nationals.

With three goals and a pair of assists in three games, Murray led the way as the Wild became the first-ever Houston-area team to make nationals in the division.

The Wild qualified for nationals in April by taking top honors with a 3-0 record at the Texas U-16 Tier 2 State Tournament.

The Wild had a perfect state tournament, defeating the Dallas Stars Selects, the Dallas Junior Hockey

Association Penguins and the Texas Aces U-16 AA teams.

Murray was second in points for the tournament, netting three goals (a hat trick with three goals in the first game) and two assists in three games.

Murray and the rest of the Wild will head to Westchester, Pa., April 7-11 to compete in the National Championships. The Wild is looking to make another mark as a team.

Bears, Lions run well at PISD cross country

The Thompson and Beverly Hills intermediate cross country teams experienced mixed results as the Pasadena Independent School District season continued March 3 at Sam Rayburn High School on a two-mile course.

Lions fifth in 8th event
Thompson's eighth-grade team was fifth in the standings as Antonio Beltran guided the team with an 18th-place finish in a time of 12 minutes, 7 seconds.

Joe Lopez (22nd at 12:17), Ahmad Neal (28th at 12:31), Carlos Amaro (39th at 12:48) and Khoa Truong (42nd at 12:51) were the Lions' other scorers.

Ozzy Castillo (12:57), Matthew Salas (13:35), Jeremiah Pipkin (13:42), Carlos Sanchez (13:43), Mauricio Rivera (13:46), Jesse Tate (13:56), Jacob Arnold

(14:07), Kyle Gee (14:33), Jesse Jackson (14:41) and Marcus Velasquez (14:47) also took part in the meet for Thompson.

BHI 8s are eighth
Beverly Hills' eighth-grade team found itself eighth in the team standings.

Vinny Rudulfo, 34th in a time of 12:41, was the Bears' best finisher. Shelby Nunez placed 50th at 12:59, and teammate Adrian Nunez was next, 51st overall in a time of 13:00.

The Bears' other two scorers were Sabin Rocha, who placed 54th in a time of 13:03, and Levi Marshall, whose time of 13:06 was 57th.

Ta'varea Shelton (13:21), Robert Garza (13:53), Ivan Macias (14:03) and Christian Bertrand (15:41) also ran for the Bears.

7th Lions are fourth
Ty Lozano's fourth overall finish at 12:02 sparked the Lions' seventh-grade team to a fourth-place finish.

Jacob Cardenas was next for the Lions as his time of 12:34 placed him 15th.

Robert Saenz (23rd at 12:45), Alex Winnie (30th at 12:58) and George Molina (36th at 13:07) also scored for the Lions.

Thompson's other competitors included John Rico (13:30), Carlos Martinez (13:49), Alex Martinez (14:04), Jimmy Nevarez (14:14), Jacob Lara (14:29), Nick Fernandez (14:39), Samson Tamijani (14:41), Luis Garay (14:50), Caxton Petri (15:03) and Nathan Flores (15:10).

BHI 7s place sixth
Beverly Hills' seventh-grade team ran well as a

group, eventually capturing sixth place in the 10-team event.

The Bears' best runner in the meet was Rodolfo Jimenez, who logged a time of 12:11 for eighth place.

Fabian Osorio was 24th in a time of 12:46, and Thomas Errington also scored well with his time of 12:48 for 26th place.

Quinton Bolling (38th at 13:10) and Isaiah Perez (40th at 13:12) were the Bears' other scorers.

The Bears' also got an outstanding effort from Eloy Garcia (13:15), Isaac Martinez (13:42), Alvaro Sanchez (13:46), Eddie Rivera (13:59), McCay Sumra (14:26), Jason Reyes (14:38), Robert Barrera (14:42), Jason Gutierrez (14:59), Aaron Jordan (15:19) and Jeffrey Lopez (15:25).



Christmas all-ACC tourney pick

Karima Christmas (13), a junior forward at Duke University, was named an Atlantic Coast Conference tournament first-team pick after guiding the Blue Devils to the tournament title with double-figure scoring efforts in three straight games. Christmas, a 2007 Dobie High School graduate, had 13 points as Duke defeated North Carolina State 70-60 in the final March 7 in Greensboro, N.C. Duke, ranked ninth nationally, is 27-5 this season and is now awaiting its seeding in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament which begins March 20.

Photo courtesy of Duke University athletic department

BHI seventh-grade places second; eighth-grade is third, Lions ninth

The Pasadena Independent School District hosted its third intermediate school girls' cross country meet March 3 at Sam Rayburn High School.

Beverly Hills' seventh-grade team was second overall, while the eighth-grade unit was third on the two-mile course.

Both Thompson's seventh- and eighth-grade teams were ninth.

BHI 7s stand out

Led by Erica Romero's second-place finish at 13 minutes, 28 seconds, the Lady Bears' seventh-grade team was second in the team standings.

The Lady Bears also got a great effort from several others, including Malyn Nunez (eighth at 14:09) and Clarissa Moreno (13th at 14:25).

Zermeno Kianna placed 21st overall in a time of 14:53, and teammate Alondra Arriaga was 24th at 14:59 to round out the Lady Bears' scoring.

Valline Bertrand (15:10.67), Alona Turner (15:10.95), Samantha Brewer (16:11.46), Christen Dryden (16:19), Maybelt

Lopez (16:51), Tina Nguyen (17:19.56) also competed well for the Lady Bears.

Lions' 7s are ninth

Thompson's seventh-grade team was ninth in the standings as Emily Wolfe (14:30) paced the team with a 14-place finish.

Celeste Briones (51st at 15:44), Kara Snyder (61st at 16:03), Sasha McCoy (70th at 16:17) and Valerie Colunga (93rd at 17:07) were the Lady Lions' scorers.

Others taking part in the meet for Thompson were Desiree Johnson (16:42), Everest Cox (17:09), Rachel Glass (17:17), Danell Bell (17:19.78), Ashley McDonald (17:35), Monica Ploucha (17:46), Tia Joseph (17:48), Celina Rabe (18:05) and Maria Mejia (20:28.02).

BHI 8s are third

Beverly Hills' eighth-grade team was third as Mikaela Guevara was the leader, taking second place in a time of 13:40.20. Brianna Guevara also ran exceptionally well, taking eighth in a time of 14:08.86.

The Lady Bears' other scorers included Destinee Smith (69th at 16:15.43), Aimee Mar (72nd at 16:17.36), Jaelyn Fox (76th at 16:26.16) and Shalyn Scott (83rd at 16:36.64).

The Lady Lions also got a great effort during the meet from Abby Pedroza (16:38.02) and Maria Flores (17:12.16).

Alarcon (19th at 14:42.08), Audrey Hernandez (25th at 14:50.69) and Kayla Dokhani (28th at 14:57.45).

Others running well for the Lady Bears included Emily Sargent (15:16.50), Amber Nguyen (15:18.36), Ironesha Brewer (16:02.91), Reniece Arevalo (16:16.63), Diana Menchaca (16:16.98), Karina Ramirez (16:44.52), Leslie Hernandez (16:48.60), Marquette Johnson (16:59.60), Yvonne Molina (17:08.72) and Marlene Martinez (18:20.34).

Lady Lions' 8s are ninth

Like the seventh-grade team, Thompson's eighth-grade unit took ninth as a group.

At 29th overall, Christina Oliviera was the team's top finisher in a time of 15:01.43.

Thompson's other scorers included Destinee Smith (69th at 16:15.43), Aimee Mar (72nd at 16:17.36), Jaelyn Fox (76th at 16:26.16) and Shalyn Scott (83rd at 16:36.64).

The Lady Lions also got a great effort during the meet from Abby Pedroza (16:38.02) and Maria Flores (17:12.16).

Sports calendar

SOCCER

Friday, March 12

- Clear Brook varsity girls host Alvin, 7:00
- Clear Brook varsity boys at Alvin, 7:00
- Dobie varsity girls vs. Sam Rayburn, Newcomb, 7:00
- Clear Brook JV girls host Alvin, 5:00
- Clear Brook JV boys at Alvin, 5:00
- Dobie JV girls vs. Sam Rayburn, Auxiliary, 5:00

Saturday, March 13

- Dobie varsity girls vs. Sam Rayburn, Newcomb, noon
- Dobie JV girls vs. Sam Rayburn, Auxiliary, 2:00

Tuesday, March 16

- Dobie varsity boys host Pearland, Newcomb, 5:00
- Dobie varsity girls at Pearland, The Rig, 7:00
- Dobie JV boys host Pearland, Auxiliary, 7:00
- Dobie JV girls at Pearland, The Rig, 5:00

SOFTBALL

Friday, March 12

- Dobie varsity vs. South Houston, PISD complex, 6:30
- Clear Brook varsity hosts Dickinson, 7:00
- Dobie JV vs. South Houston, PISD complex, 5:00
- Clear Brook JV hosts Dickinson, 5:30

Tuesday, March 16

- Dobie varsity hosts Deer Park, PISD complex, 6:30
- Clear Brook varsity at Brazoswood, 7:00
- Dobie JV hosts Deer Park, PISD complex, 5:00
- Clear Brook JV at Brazoswood, 5:30

Wednesday, March 17

- Dobie varsity hosts La Porte, PISD complex, 6:30
- Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Lake, 7:00
- Dobie JV hosts La Porte, PISD complex, 5:00
- Clear Brook JV hosts Clear Lake, 5:30

BASEBALL

Thursday, March 11

- Dobie varsity at Pflugerville, 2:15
- Dobie varsity at Coffeyville Heritage, 4:45
- Clear Brook varsity at Spring tourn., TBA
- Dobie JV at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA

Friday, March 12

- Dobie varsity vs. Midland Lee, Dell Diamond, 10 a.m.
- Dobie varsity at Leander, 4:45
- Clear Brook varsity at Spring tourn., TBA
- Dobie JV at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA

Saturday, March 13

- Dobie varsity at Westlake, 9 a.m.
- Dobie varsity at Cedar Park, 1:30
- Clear Brook varsity at Spring tourn., TBA
- Dobie JV at Pasadena ISD tourn., TBA

Monday, March 15

- Clear Brook JV at Clear Creek, 7:00
- Dobie sophomores at Memorial, 4:00
- Clear Brook sophomores at Clear Creek, 4:30

Tuesday, March 16

- Dobie varsity hosts Memorial, Dobie, noon
- Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek, 7:30
- Dobie JV at Memorial, 4:00

Thursday, March 18

- Dobie vs. South Houston, Maguire, noon
- Dobie JV vs. South Houston, PISD complex, 4:00
- Dobie sophomores host South Houston, Dobie, 4:00

Friday, March 19

- Clear Brook varsity at Dickinson, 7:30
- Clear Brook JV hosts Dickinson, 7:00
- Clear Brook sophomores host Dickinson, 4:30

San Jacinto softball signs six for 2011

The San Jacinto College softball team has signed six players to national letters of intent to play for the squad during the 2010-2011 school year.

Shannon Millman (Pasadena Memorial High School), Courtney Shaw (Stephen F. Austin High School), Jessica Hempfling (Clear Creek High School), Candyce Carter (Sweeny High School), Ariel Brayer (Atascocita High School), and Rainn Guerrero (Warren High School) have all signed.

Millman is a first-team all-district pitcher who earned the Golden Glove team award last season for the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks. She plays club softball for the Lady Stros.

Shaw is a two-time second-team all-district infielder at Stephen F. Austin High School and plays during the summer for the Texas Aces Express Gold.

Hempfling helped Clear Creek advance to the regional final last season. The outfielder is a teammate of Millman's on the Lady Stros.

Carter is a third-team all-state selection at Sweeny High School. The outfielder plays summer club softball with the Magic Gold.

Brayer, an outfielder, was a second-team all-district selection last season for Atascocita High School.

Guerrero is a catcher from Warren High School in San Antonio.

"These student-athletes are great additions for our 2010-11 season," said head coach Kelly Saenz, now in her seventh season at the helm of the Coyotes' softball program.

"They will all fit in very well with the players we'll be returning, and I look forward to their contribution to our program on and off the field."

Lee College pulls upset, defeating SJC hoops

Lee College, the tournament's 11th seed, upset third seed San Jacinto College 64-61 in quarterfinal action of the 2010 National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIV Tournament, March 6 at Tyler Junior College.

San Jacinto led the entire first half, including by as much as 10 points at one point. Freshman Dre Harrison scored 10 points in the half as the Ravens led at the break.

But Lee proved to be too much for the Ravens in the second half.

The Rebels took their first lead of the game early in the second half on a pair of free throws, and the two teams proceeded to go back and forth.

Down the stretch, Lee, which lost twice to the Ravens during the regular season, made the plays it needed to win.

San Jacinto sopho-

mores, Dion Prewster and Carrington Tankson each scored a game-high 14 points. Harrison finished with 12.

In earlier tournament action, top-seed Paris knocked off No. 9 Jacksonville College 70-52; No. 5 Trinity Valley defeated No. 4 Lamar State-Port Arthur 73-67; and No. 2 Navarro defeated Tyler Junior College 69-59.

San Jacinto finished the season with an overall record of 25-6. Head coach Scott Germander completed his 23rd season at the helm of the program and now has a career record of 611-154.

Navarro, the second seed in the tournament, advanced to nationals for the second straight season after downing Paris 55-46 in the title game March 8. The national event is March 16-20 in Hutchinson, Kan.

District champion Dobie rules 22-5A girls' hoops picks

Davis is MVP; Gaston top newcomer

As expected, District 22-5A champion Dobie was well-represented as the league's coaches revealed the 2009-2010 all-district selections.

In fact, the Lady Longhorns swept the individual awards after winning the 22-5A crown with a 13-1 record.

Senior guard Vacie Davis

was named the most valuable player of the league. Sophomore Shanequa Gaston, meanwhile, claimed newcomer of the year accolades after giving the team a big boost in her first season with the varsity.

Dobie's Shane Brown, in his third season as the Lady Longhorns' leader, was named co-coach of the year

in 22-5A, a distinction he shared with Jodi Thompson of La Porte.

Dobie won its first 12 games of the District 22-5A campaign to secure the championship before falling to Deer Park.

The Lady Longhorns ended the regular season with a win and advanced to the area playoffs.

22-5A Girls Basketball Honors

Most Valuable Player

Vacie Davis, Dobie, Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Shanequa Gaston, Dobie, Soph.

Co-coaches of the Year

Shane Brown, Dobie

Jodi Thompson, La Porte

First team selections

Derlesha Thomas, Dobie, Sr.

CaSonya Palmer, South Houston, Sr.

Candace Riojas, Sam Rayburn, Sr.

Akira Hillard, South Houston, Soph.

Tabitha Hawthorne, Deer Park, Soph.

Jelisa Evans, La Porte, Sr.

Ashley De La Garza, Deer Park, Sr.

Ebony Ford, Pearland, Jr.

Meaghan Scott, Sam Rayburn, Soph.

Jessica Elkins, Memorial, Fr.

Second team selections

Nastacia Hill, Memorial, Sr.

Celeah Kennedy, La Porte, Jr.

Kirbie Ferrell, Deer Park, Jr.

Jazmine Guerrero, Dobie, Soph.

Marissa LeJune, Pearland, Soph.

Ashley Johnson, Dobie, Sr.

Mercedez Santana, Deer Park, Jr.

Knysa Fontenette, South Houston, Soph.

Johnasha Manning, Pearland, Soph.

Tori Wise, La Porte, Fr.



Shanequa Gaston put together a terrific season for the Lady Longhorns, grabbing newcomer of the year honors in the District 22-5A ranks. With five seniors set to exit the program, Gaston, a sophomore, is vital to the continued success of the Lady Longhorns in the future.



Dobie's Shane Brown was an easy pick for co-coach of the year in District 22-5A as he led the Lady Longhorns to the title in the district. The team won its first 12 games and finished 13-1 to grab a No. 1 playoff seed. Brown shared the honor with Jodi Thompson, who led La Porte to fourth place in the district at 9-5.



Lady Longhorns' post player Ashley Johnson (35), working against Port Arthur Memorial's Wendi Mitchell (21) during the varsity girls' bidistrict playoffs at San Jacinto College North, finished a fine career at Dobie by being named to the District 22-5A second team.



At left, Dobie senior guard Derlesha Thomas was a first team pick among the District 22-5A honorees, having handled ball-handling duties for the Lady Longhorns during their championship run. Thomas is one of five seniors who will exit the program with graduation coming in June.

At right, Jazmine Guerrero, a sophomore, quickly became one of the district's top shooters this season. In giving the Lady Longhorns a huge lift from beyond the 3-point line, Guerrero was able to earn all-22-5A second team honors.

Photos by John Bechtle



CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

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

9:30 a.m.

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse Fellowship of Friends, 144 Park Avenue in League City. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others to the interdenominational meeting.

11:30 a.m.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets on the second Thursday of each month at MiMi's Cafe in the Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway Street, #1600. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes networking with professional business women, lunch and guest speaker. Women of all ages and occupations are invited. Bring plenty of business cards. Reservations are appreciated. Contact Monica Perez at mlpnperez2002@yahoo.com for reservations, or visit the Web site at www.seen-abwa.org.

Noon

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

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

6:30 p.m.

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

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, MARCH 12

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.

AARP-South Belt Chapter - The American Association of Retired Persons meets the second Friday of each month at the community center at El Franco Lee Park on Hall Road.

Noon

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

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 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

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. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

Noon

Free Exercise Class - Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the 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.

Continued on Page 4B

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For Dobie's Nguyen, West Point is perfect college choice

Weighing just 74 pounds roughly four falls ago, Amanda Nguyen did not evoke images of being one of Dobie's all-time best student-athletes.

Yet for what she lacked in stature at the time, Nguyen certainly made up for with a ball of grit and determination to be at her best at all times.

Today, that's the image Lady Longhorns' fans, her coaches, friends and teammates admire most when the senior two-sport star is in action.

Nguyen, who has been one of Dobie's top female student-athletes during her stay, has signed a letter of intent to continue her education and softball playing career at West Point in New York. For her, it's just another step in the right direction toward building a nice life for herself and family.

"I want to be a pediatrician, and once I took my visit I realized West Point is the right place for me," said Nguyen, who admitted to being frightened by the idea of attending a military academy in the beginning of her search.

"This is a great opportunity that has been given to me, and I am looking forward to it. It's a prime educational chance for me to reach my goals. I'm excited."

As for reaching goals, Nguyen has seemingly done nothing but excel both on and off the field.

She joined the Dobie varsity softball team midway through her freshman season and has been locked in as a starter at second base since her sophomore season.

Last season, while helping the Lady Longhorns to the regional quarterfinals, Nguyen stood out enough to earn all-state honors via the Texas Girls' Coaches Association.

And Nguyen also made quite a name for herself on the volleyball court during a three-year stay on the varsity team for head coach Joe Sabatell.

Playing libero this season, Nguyen was one of the team's inspirational leaders as the Lady Longhorns started the 22-5A campaign at 6-0 and eventually won a bidistrict playoff match for the first time since 2003-2004.

But softball is Nguyen's first love, and when first-year West Point coach Michelle DePolo offered the unique chance to attend the academy located in West Point, N.Y., Nguyen had to at least think it through.

"When I took my visit,

it was very cold," Nguyen said. "As I said before, I was scared to death at the thought of going to a military academy."

"But my visit was great and the campus was great for me. I talked with my family about it, and they encouraged me to go for it. I know I made the right choice."

Nguyen's prize of attending West Point does not come without a price. She will be enlisted for a minimum of five years and will perform three years of reserve duty thereafter for a total of an eight-year commitment.

It's a duty Nguyen is excited to uphold. "I'm really ready to get there and start the next part of my life," she said.

Desire to compete
Nguyen certainly is a gifted athlete, but she pulls more out of her talents by simply refusing to give an inch.

"I remember when Amanda came to Dobie she weighed 74 pounds, and she has come a long way since then," Robin Rackley said.

"Amanda is one of those special people who doesn't like to be told she can't do something. Failure is not an option for her. She will find a way to get things done and has done that during her career here. She's a great per-

son, and she deserves everything that comes her way. Amanda has been a terrific presence in our program."

Nguyen says all she has ever asked for is the chance to compete. She's been given that chance and has excelled.

"When I got here to Dobie I just told myself that I was here to compete," Nguyen said.

"My parents (La and Vinh Nguyen) taught me to never give up and to take nothing for granted. God gave me an opportunity to do my best, and I have just tried to do that."

Nguyen has been great on the softball field, but she also delivered one of her finest performances this past volleyball season.

Teammate Gabby Romero, who had been battling renal cell cancer, passed away midway through the district race.

Just hours after her death, the Lady Longhorns decided to go ahead with their scheduled match at Pearland. Dobie lost that match to fall to 6-1 midway through the 22-5A race but wound up tied for second place at 11-3 with Deer Park.

In the playoffs, the Lady Longhorns won an emotional five-setter over North Shore to advance to the area round before a loss to heav-

ily favored Fort Bend Travis.

Nguyen was again named a first-team all-district selection, and several of her teammates were also recognized after the season.

"It was a great year but a tough year at the same time," Nguyen said.

"When Gabby passed away, we had to come together as a team and play in her honor. We did that to the best of our abilities and will have a lot of memories from that time. As far as volleyball goes, I can say that I got the most out of it."

It's the same mantra Nguyen uses in the classroom. Currently ranked 15th in the 2010 senior class, Nguyen has continually strived to be at her best, choosing to be included in as many advanced placement courses as possible.

"I think it could be part of my Asian background," Nguyen said. "I hate to fail, and I'll give 110 percent in everything I do."

As for her final season in softball, Nguyen is sticking to what she does best - do her part and know the best will come.

Last season, Dobie had more power at the plate and could generate runs in bunches, but after five players signed college letters of intent following the season, adjustments have been



Amanda Nguyen has been a constant fixture at the top of Dobie's lineup for much of the last four seasons. Next up, Nguyen will try to carve a niche for herself at West Point. Photo by John Bechtle

made.

Nguyen is one of the Lady Longhorns being asked to get on base frequently and use her speed to get around the base. In turn, Dobie will have to manufacture runs with speed and smart baserunning.

"I just feel like I can play all out and make a difference," Nguyen said. "Other than that, I try not to put any pressure on myself."

"Softball is a great sport that I love so much. I can only do my part. Our team goals are the same to make the playoffs and go to state. I just want to do my part."

West Point journey next
Although the prospect of facing cooler temperatures in New York is something that will take some time to get used to, Nguyen is looking forward to getting there.

She is due at West Point August 28, and from that point forward she will be a member of the Army Black Knights softball program.

"It's perfect for me," Nguyen said. "I'm ready to go."

And as soon as Nguyen arrives, she simply wants the chance to compete. She'll take care of the rest on her own as she has always done to this point.

West Point softball tidbits

Head coach: Michelle DePolo, 1st season (third overall)

Team name: Black Knights

2009 record: 21-34 (8-12 in Patriot League)

Texas players: Jill Galloway, Jr. outfielder, Spring; Alex Reynolds, Fr. infielder, Cinco Ranch; Jessica Garcia, West Columbia

Roster breakdown: With just three seniors on the 2010 roster, West Point is a young team with 11 sophomores and three freshmen on the team.

Program established: 1979

Dobie's Nguyen headed to West Point



Dobie High School senior Amanda Nguyen (seated third from left) will continue her education and softball career at West Point after inking a letter of intent with the academy. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Aaron Nguyen (brother), La Nguyen (mother), Vinh Nguyen (father), Amber Nguyen (sister), Robin Rackley (Dobie varsity softball coach), (standing) Chris Swinnen (Dobie varsity assistant softball coach), Mo Hickman (Dobie varsity assistant volleyball coach), Joe Sabatell (Dobie varsity volleyball coach), Austin Nguyen (brother), Joe Diaz (select softball coach), Mai Tran (grandmother), Justin Sellers (Dobie athletic trainer), Vy Nguyen (grandfather), Erin Thompson (Dobie academic counselor), Carmela Swinnen (Dobie junior varsity softball coach) and Donna Branch (Dobie assistant principal). Amanda Nguyen was also a two-time all-district volleyball pick.



Amanda Nguyen (right) and her mother, La Nguyen (left) joined Army head coach Michelle DePolo for a chilly photo opportunity during Nguyen's recruiting visit. DePolo, who is in her first year as head coach at West Point, has been the team's assistant coach for the previous two seasons.

Horns' state champions reunite for a night

Continued from Page 6A

Bryan exited from the coaching field in 1998 but remained a teacher at Clear Lake until his retirement in 2003. He is widely considered a prominent figure in high school track and field.

Neither Bryan nor McKinney were known to be loud of voice back in their Dobie days, but the messages were clear nonetheless.

"They never raised their voices, and I think that is why all of us respected them so much," Whistler said.

"They were methodical in their approach, and they trusted us to do our work and contribute toward the team."

"They also did a great job of making us realize that although cross country and track and field are individualistic sports to a degree, it's all about team. We knew what they expected, and they didn't have to do a lot to push us."

Whistler added that today, three decades since his Dobie career ended, he still tries to emulate the approach of McKinney and Bryan.

"I still try to be like them today when I am dealing with clients," Whistler said. "Their life values were very high, and the experiences we had went way past the scope of track and field."

"We were fairly good athletes, but that was a sidebar to me. It was all about becoming good young men and doing the right thing."

"I gained more from coach Bryan and coach McKinney than any of the other coaches I had altogether. I respected the way they treated us, and I think a lot of us felt that way."

Looking back on it, Guy said it was a case of the Longhorns and their coaches being in the right place at the right time, with the right team. "It was like it was destiny," Guy said.

"I remember that Clear Lake and McCullough were great rivals of ours in cross country, and we fed off of that to get better."

"We won the cross country title not because any of us were the individual champion but because our scorers one through five and even others gave it their all. It was a great thing to be a part of."

As for the track and field team and the leadership Bryan brought, Guy still has fond memories.

"Coach Bryan had a great way of tapping into our potential," Guy said. "But it's because he wasn't all talk. "When he encouraged us to attend AAU track meets in the summer, he was there supporting us on his own time as a volunteer. He had a love of the sport, and he walked the walk."

"We had deep leadership values coming from coach Bryan. He taught us that we had to have the discipline to train, no matter the day or

time. "If we did train and were focused, we could reach our goal, no matter what that goal is. I think a lot of us still use that today in our thinking."

For Bryan, the reunion was all about seeing some of his former athletes again and hearing the stories of family and loved ones. "The night was an absolute thrill for me," Bryan said. "Seeing how successful they have become in life is the main thing. They've all done so well."

Recalling the state championship squads, Bryan still

has great memories.

"It was such a privilege to work with that group," Bryan said. "They were talented but also self-motivated to excel. A lot of things came together for us at that time."

"I actually had no idea we had won the state track meet. We had a low score with just five individuals and no relay, but we got it. So many of those guys made a sacrifice to the team concept."

McKinney agreed with Bryan's assessment. "It was great to see all the guys after all these years."

McKinney said.

"We had a great group and they worked hard to be as good as they were. It was truly a special group to be a part of, and it was a treat to be able to see them all again. It was absolutely a great thing to be part of."

McKinney spent 24 years at Dobie before retiring in 2004. He said that particular group still stands out. "What a great group," McKinney said. "They were able to reach their goals as a team."

One great night that was all too short, but a memorable one nonetheless.



The Pasadena Independent School District recognized John Bryan (third from right) for his contributions to the Dobie High School cross country and track and field programs during intermission at the Brown Relays Feb. 26 at Auxiliary Stadium. In turn, several members of the Dobie High School 1980-81 program came out to show their support. Those at the brief ceremony included, left to right, Todd Barto, Todd Whistler, Gawain Guy, former Dobie freshman coach Charlie Goehring, Phil Williams, Mike Spencer, Sam Shimmfessel, Bryan, Greg Johnson and Tres Thomas. Photo by David M. Jackson

Regular-season soccer near complete, playoffs coming soon at CB, Dobie

Continued from Page 1B with home games against Sam Rayburn March 12 and first-place Pearland March 16.

Since Pearland closes against playoff contender Deer Park, Dobie still has a chance at sneaking into the top spot.

The important thing is to close strong with the playoffs coming up.

The Longhorn boys' have not been able to score goals in bunches during the district campaign, but

Ibara has provided a lift lately.

As for the Lady Longhorns, the March 13 senior day figures to be special.

Dobie's 11 seniors entered the program at the school at the same time head coach Kersten Mullan arrived from the San Francisco area.

During the last four years, the seniors have played a big role in the resurgence of the girls' program at the school. Now it's time to recognize their

efforts at senior day.

As for the playoffs, Clear Brook will have to face off against schools from the Fort Bend Independent School District in the first round.

For Dobie, the bidistrict round will bring teams from the District 21-5A ranks, including North Shore, Port Arthur Memorial, Baytown Sterling, Baytown Lee, Beaumont Westbrook and Channelview. The first round begins March 22-23.



Four-year varsity starter Cheslea DeLeon will be one of the players recognized as Dobie hosts senior day Saturday, March 13, at Newcomb Field. Prior to the Lady Longhorns' noon game against Sam Rayburn, there will be a short ceremony. GaryWPhotos.com