

Tree waste pickup set

Tree waste only will be picked up Thursday, March 24, for city of Houston residents living south of Beltway 8. For information, call 3-1-1.

Dual credit meeting at Dobie

There will be a dual credit meeting for Dobie juniors and their parents on Thursday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dobie cafeteria. A representative from San Jac South will be there to present information.

Health fair at Life Church

Life Church will host a health fair put on by Texas Children's Health Plan, on Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to noon in the church activity center. Activities will include screening for vision, dental, glucose, cholesterol and nerve compression, and an obesity reduction program.

The Harris County Hospital District will be on hand to provide immunizations to children at the event. Bring the child's shot records. There will also be plenty of fun activities for children.

Cowboys, Cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls will hold early registration at the Little League fields in El Franco Lee Park on Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Applications will be accepted from all returning football players and any new or returning drill member or mascot. A \$50 deposit is required for football players and a \$100 deposit is required for drill, cheer and mascots. Contact information will also be accepted from any new football player.

Hope Village fundraiser set

Hope Village, 15403 Hope Village Road, will present its seventh annual Passport to the World of Wine Saturday, March 26.

The wine tasting and silent auction bidding begin at 6:30 p.m., and the live auction at 8 p.m. The event will benefit the Hope Village and its foundation. For information, call 281-400-2011 or visit www.hope-village.com.

Melillo carnival March 25

Melillo Middle School will hold its spring carnival on Friday, March 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the school at 9220 Hughes Road. Food booths will sell turkey legs, sausage on a stick, snow cones, beverages and more.

Various games will include a dunk tank, soccer kick, bungee jump, rock wall, cake walk, basketball toss, silent auction and music, to name just a few of the events planned.

Knights hold fish fry

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will serve fish dinners during Lent at St. Luke and the Evangelist Catholic Church on the Fridays, March 25, April 1, April 8 and April 15.

Each dinner consist of breaded fish fillet, french fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea.

Baked fish, soft drinks and desserts will be available. One-piece dinners are \$9 and two-piece dinners are \$12, dine in or take out. Dinners will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. at the parish hall.

Profits will be used for scholarships and local charitable projects. The public is invited. For more information, call 832-444-4958.

GAT Athletic Banquet set

The Thompson Athletic Banquet will be held on Friday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at Dobie High School. All athletes are free, parents are \$15 and children are \$10.

For tickets, contact Nadine Guzman at 832-489-1649 or Felecia Williams at 832-640-9500.

PW Library sets events

The following events are scheduled for the week of March 24 through March 30 at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Movie Madness is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, at 4 p.m. This family-friendly film is rated PG and runs 96 minutes.

On Saturday, March 26, Vietnamese storytime will include Reading Club at 9 a.m., followed by intermediate storytime at 11 a.m. and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.

The monthly Friends of the Parker Williams Library book sale will also be on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AARP representatives provide free income tax preparation assistance on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring all tax documents and a copy of last year's income tax return.

Preschool storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, and toddler storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Dobie band parents meet

The Dobie Band Parent Organization will meet Monday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All band parents are urged to attend.

KW South meets March 24

The Kirkwood South Committee will meet today, Thursday, March 24, in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's court room at 7:30 pm.

Freeman reinstates Pct. 2 deputies

By James Bolen

Just four days after abruptly ending the local Harris County Precinct 2 deputy patrol contract, Constable Gary L. Freeman announced he plans to reinstate the program. (See related editorial on Page 2A.)

Freeman had originally canceled the area contract due to a budget shortfall. The cancellation was set to take effect April 15.

However, a recent review of the constable's figures conducted by auditors at the county budget office revealed an error of more than \$1 million toward the constable's annual budget of roughly \$5.5 million.

According to Freeman, the error stemmed from a misplaced decimal point, which calcu-

lated 28 percent as 2.8 percent.

"We're police officers, not accountants," Freeman said.

With the newfound funds, Freeman could either renew the local deputy contract or that of the Galena Park Independent School District, which the Precinct 2 Constable's office is also contracted to patrol.

After hearing the previous week's news of its contract termination, however, the Galena Park ISD, which employs 11 Precinct 2 deputies, had already gone ahead with plans to form its own police department.

Similar discussions took place locally about starting a police force to patrol the areas of the South Belt community that are not incorporated

by the City of Houston.

The move to start a community police force, or "MUD marshal" program, would necessitate that local governing bodies meet several state and county requirements, such as having an inspected and certifiable property room, holding cells and a juvenile detention room.

Friday, March 18, Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District Manager Chris Clark and *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger met with Harris County Community Aide David Matthews to discuss the possibility of using the existing Precinct 2 facility at Scarsdale and Beamer, as it already meets all of the requirements – a proposal to which the county seemed receptive.

The Sagemeadow Municipal Utility District voted Tuesday, March 22, to approve going forward with plans to create a MUD marshal program in case the issue should arise again, as

Freeman is not seeking re-election in 2012.

A similar action was expected to take place Wednesday, March 23, after press time at a Kirkmont Municipal Utility District meeting.

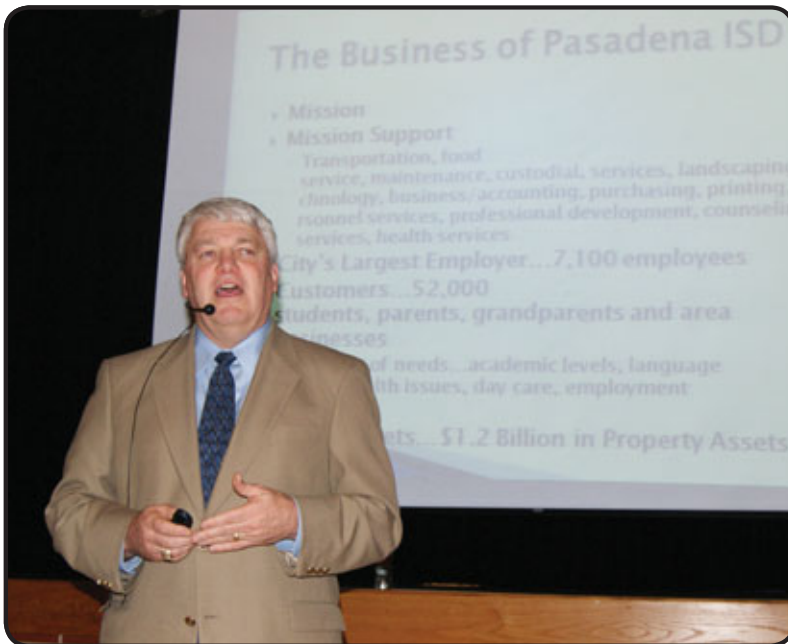
Any such police force would attempt to re-employ the nine local affected Precinct 2 deputies, some of whom are already applying for employment elsewhere due to the recent cancellation of the contract.

Despite the challenges, Freeman said he remains committed to the South Belt program.

"I never wanted out," Freeman said. "That's been my baby since it started. I campaigned on it. It just came down to money."

Freeman is not the only one feeling the pinch of county budget cuts, as Precinct 8 Constable Bill Bailey resigned Tuesday, March 22, after being forced to lay off 11 deputies. He had served for more than 28 years.

Lewis speaks on finances



The Pasadena Independent School District held a meeting Tuesday, March 22, to discuss the possible effects of the expected state budget cuts. PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis (shown above) said he expects the school district to receive between \$20 million and \$50 million less in funding per year over the next two years. Photo by James Bolen

PISD holds budget meeting

By James Bolen

Hundreds of local parents and concerned community members gathered at Dobie Tuesday, March 22, to hear Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis discuss the possible effects the current budget crisis will have on the area district.

While the exact figures will not be known until the end of this legislative session, Lewis is preparing for a shortfall of between \$20 million and \$50 million for PISD.

Working with the best-case scenario of a \$20 million cut, the school district was essentially forced to lay off 180 teachers and 156 administrators and support staff this week. The layoffs will take effect next school year.

Additionally, PISD has reduced all campus budgets by 10 percent for next year and plans to use \$7.5 million of its \$63.4 million emergency fund balance.

Should the budget cuts from the state exceed \$20 million, Lewis said the district would have to take even more drastic measures, such as possibly closing small elementary schools and eliminating swim, golf and tennis programs – something many in the audience were vehemently opposed

to.

"These programs are just as important as football, baseball and basketball," said one parent to a roaring applause. "If you cut one athletic program, you cut all athletic programs."

Another parent suggested creating district teams, rather than campus teams for these sports and allowing students to transfer to whichever school offered the respective activity.

Lewis said he would take both ideas into consideration should the need arise to make further cuts.

Despite the current economic challenges, Lewis remains optimistic.

"Your kids are in good hands," Lewis said. "We'll get through this. We'll find a way."

This sentiment is shared by PISD board president and former Dobie principal Jerry Speer.

"Never in my 49 years with the school district, have I seen things worse than they are now," Speer said. "But never in my 49 years with the district, have I been associated with any superintendent with the leadership of Kirk Lewis. I'm confident with him and his staff. Your children will get the education they deserve. The school district could not be in better hands."

Crooks target area vehicles

The strip center in the 11600 block of Hughes Road at Beltway 8 has been the site of multiple vehicle break-ins in recent months.

One resident notified the *Leader* that her purse was stolen from her car Monday, March 7, around 4:30 p.m. In addition to taking the woman's cell phone and credit cards, the crooks also got away with her wedding ring that was being taken to get sized.

The loss is particularly difficult for the resi-

dent, as her husband died, and the ring was to be given to her daughter as a birthday gift.

A second break-in occurred at the same location the following day.

At least one store in the strip center has posted a sign warning patrons not to leave valuables in their vehicles.

Anyone with information on these cases is urged to call the Houston Police Department's Burglary and Theft Division at 713-308-0900.

Casino Night slated for April 29

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Casino Night on Friday, April 29, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The yearly event allows attendees to use fake money to gamble in Las Vegas-style games, such as blackjack, Let it Ride, roulette, baccarat, craps and poker, including Texas Hold 'em. A special

"High Roller" section will also be available.

Winners will receive raffle tickets rather than cash, with drawings for prizes being held during the evening. Larger prizes will be awarded at the end of the evening. The event will also feature music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

For more information, contact chamber Executive Director Sally Mitchell at 281-481-5516.

Filing ends for May elections

CCISD has election, PISD, San Jac don't

Filing has wrapped up for the May 14 school board elections, with the Clear Creek Independent School District being the only local district headed for a vote.

CCISD District 2 incumbent Win Weber is being challenged by Lisa Salinas. A Clear Lake resident, Salinas, 39, is a real estate agent.

Small business owner Alan Benjamin, 42, has filed to fill the District 4 position currently held by incumbent Page Rander.

District 3 incumbent Ken Baliker is running unopposed. Area tax consultant Star Lazarow had filed to run against Baliker, but has since withdrawn her application.

In the Pasadena Independent School District,

incumbents Marshall Kendrick and Vickie Morgan are also both running unchallenged.

After serving on the San Jacinto College board since 2004, Ben Meador will not seek re-election for his Position 1 seat. Brad Hance has filed to fill the position. He currently chairs the San Jacinto College Foundation and is the owner of MECO Inc.

Michael "Keith" Sinor has filed to fill the Position 7 seat that was vacated in December 2010 by longtime board member C. Wayne Slovacek. Sinor, 42, is co-owner of Sinor Engine Company Inc. and a former San Jacinto College student.

Position 2 incumbent Dr. Ruede Wheeler is running unopposed.

Drabek benefit set for March 27

A benefit golf tournament for Scott Drabek, whose wife Lisa recently died unexpectedly, will be held Sunday, March 27, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Freeport Municipal Golf Course, 830 Slaughter Road in Freeport.

A 1990 Dobie graduate, Drabek has been without insurance and a steady income since he lost his full-time employment. He is left with three young children, Jesse, 12, Emmi, 8, and Elli, 3. Now a resident of Lake Jackson, Drabek is the son of former longtime South Belt residents Rudy and Donna Drabek. Drabek's sister, Staci Drabek Atchison, is a 1986 Dobie graduate.

Hosted by the Brazoria Masonic Lodge, the tournament format will be a four-player scramble.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, closest to the pin, longest drive and hole in one. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Hole sponsorship costs are \$1,000 for Gold,

\$500 for Silver and \$100 for Bronze. Putting green sponsorship is \$50.

Player fees are \$75 per player or \$300 a team. A barbecue plate dinner is included. Mulligans are \$5, with a limit of 3. Those not participating in the golf tournament may still purchase a barbecue plate for \$8.

A memorial fund has also been established at First State Bank, 200 N. Brazosport Blvd. in Clute. Contributions can be made either directly to the Lisa Drabek Memorial Fund account No. 6067987 or through the Brazoria Masonic Lodge. For more information, call 979-265-2511.

Forms can be picked up at S.F. Austin Elementary, 7351 Stephen F. Austin, or Freeport Municipal Golf Course.

For more information, contact Gilbert Alonzo at gilbert.alonzo@dow.com or 979-299-4209 or Jimmie Bowers at jbowers@dow.com or 979-824-9020.

Cookoff to be held May 12 -14

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cookoff is set to take place at El Franco Lee Park from Thursday, May 12, to Saturday, May 14.

Now in its 15th year, the event is the only fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, also to be held at the area park.

This will mark the first year that the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department will be responsible for organizing the cookoff. They are replacing the mother-daughter team of Linda and Shelley Arnone, who are stepping down after organizing the event for the past nine years.

Foods to be judged this year include brisket, chili, beans, chicken, ribs and chef's choice.

Unlike in past years, the foods will be rated by outside judges with no affiliation to the cooking teams.

Also new this year, organizers said they plan to erect a fence around the event and charge guests a small admission fee. The cookoff will feature a silent auction. Space is limited, and past participants will have first dibs on cooking spots.

Organizers are seeking additional committee members to help coordinate the cookoff, as well as local businesses to donate auction items or to sponsor a golf cart.

For more information, e-mail John Layton at jlayton@live.com.

SJC South holds chili cookoff



San Jacinto College South recently hosted a chili cook-off and dessert bake-off complete with traditional Texas decor. Staff and faculty were invited to taste and judge nine chili entries and six desserts. The chili winners were as follows: first place, Sizzlin' Steakhouse Chili by Tami Kelly; second place, BIO Prep Room Chili by James Albritton and Detra Merino; and third place, Bubba's White Magic by Kathy Miller. The bake-off winners were as follows: first place, rum cake by Marylou Robbins; second place, turtle cake by Carol Long; and third place, double chocolate peanut butter brownie by Team RLVN/ Paramedics ADN Mobility. Pictured are faculty members Carole Patterson (left) and Tria Wood getting some of the first tastes of the competition.

Photo by Andrea Vasque, San Jacinto College

Publisher's Opinion

South Belt won't lose protection!

It has been quite a while since a story in our paper caused as much interest as the story last week on the cancellation of the security program which covers the unincorporated South Belt area. The news this week is Constable Gary Freeman has found a \$1 million+ error which allows him to reinstate the program.

Between the time the program was cancelled and reinstated, plans were well under way to replace the program with a municipal utility district marshal program. This is allowed under Texas state law. MUD districts are allowed to have such a program. Since the current program is funded by the community through the three MUDs, there would have been little change visible to the residents. The plan was to hire those who had been patrolling the area and were told their jobs were lost.

This plan could not have progressed as quickly as it did if we did not have the

support of County Commissioner El Franco Lee, his aide, Dave Matthews, and Clear Brook City MUD Manager Chris Clark, who put many hours in the project, and the Sagemeadow and Kirkmont MUD representatives.

When I called Lee to ask for his assistance, he immediately put Matthews on the project. We met most of Friday morning. Friday afternoon we learned Freeman was re-establishing his program.

The MUDs, Matthews and I are continuing to work on this plan, as the odds are that one day we will permanently lose the current contract program.

In these tough economic times, the sheriff's department could not pick up the slack losing the contract would have caused. But, I can assure you, the South Belt area **will not** lose security protection. Please let your MUD officials, Dave Matthews and El Franco Lee know you appreciate their efforts.—**Marie Flickinger**

CDA collects for soldiers

Catholic Daughters will sponsor a sock and wet wipes drive for the men and women in the armed forces. Bring donations of socks (the long work tube kind) and wet wipes (each wipe must be wrapped in an individual package so they won't dry out too quickly) to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church located at 11011 Hall Road. Items will be collected through the end of April. For further information, call Carol at 281-484-4170.

PTO scholarships available

Stuchbery Elementary
The Stuchbery Elementary PTO will offer scholarships to graduating Dobie High seniors who attended Stuchbery in fourth and fifth grades. Applications are available through the Dobie High School senior counselor's office. The completed application must be turned in to the counselor's office by Friday, March 25, to be considered.

Frazier Elementary
Frazier Elementary will offer scholarships (\$500 to \$1,000) to six graduating seniors at School. The students must have attended Frazier in fourth and fifth grades and must be good citizens. Applications are available in the Dobie senior counselor's office. Completed application must be turned in to the counselor's office at Dobie by Friday, March 25, to be considered.

Moore Elementary
Moore Elementary PTO will offer scholarships to four graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Moore in fourth and fifth grades. Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor and must be returned by Monday, March 28, to be considered.

Readers' Opinions

Concerns regarding Hughes Road to RR

I am writing this letter in response to the County's decision to add barriers to both sides of Sageorchard Lane where they meet Hughes Rd. We live on Sageorchard Lane near the end of Hughes Rd. and this decision would greatly affect our ability to get in and out of our neighborhood. If they decide to put the barriers up, and we are not allowed to exit onto Hughes Rd. then that will force a great many of the residents in this neighborhood to exit out onto Blackhawk by way of Sagequeen or Sageorchard Lane.

The problem with exiting from Sagequeen is that there is a 3 way stop nearby that causes us to have to beat many cars who are going through that stop sign, and many of them on many occasions actually don't even stop and they run right through the stop sign going south on Blackhawk. That makes for a very dangerous situation.

Also, if we exit from Sageorchard, there is limited visibility from the slight curve on Blackhawk, which again affects our ability to exit safely on many occasions.

We have a teenage daughter who is getting ready to get her driver's license and we would feel much more comfortable if she was able to exit our neighborhood onto Hughes and then make the left turn onto Blackhawk at the 4 way stop sign when she is going to school at Dobie every weekday morning.

Also, in October of last year, we had a major gas leak at our house and we were experiencing the side effects of exposure to the gas, and we were able to get immediate response from the fire dept. around the corner. If they put up the barriers then precious seconds or minutes will be wasted for anyone living in this neighborhood as the fire trucks and/or ambulance will have to go all the way to Blackhawk then make the turn onto Sagequeen or Sageorchard Lane.

We strongly believe that a 4 way stop sign should be put up instead of the barriers and that a blinking light in front of the fire dept. should be added as well. We believe that by adding the stop sign, that would make the flow of traffic HAVE to slow down and stop, rather than having them speed through what is basically our backyards at speeds that will exceed 50 mph or more, and create a safety hazard to any of our children that may be playing in the safety of their backyard.

Right now, on any given night, and sometimes during the daytime as well, there are people who use this section of Hughes Rd. as a racing area and all it would take is for one of those vehicles to lose control and end up in one of our neighbor's houses or backyards, and the same safety hazard would apply if the flow of traffic was not made to stop at a 4 way stop.

We feel that no decision should be made without first having a community meeting with all of those people who would be affected by the decision, that is

the only fair thing to do.
Sincerely,
Kevin & Lillian Lee

County to block off Sageorchard traffic?

I want to echo my neighbor's previous concerns expressed here in the *South Belt Leader* with regard to 'the county' blocking our source of egress from our homes on Sageorchard Lane onto Hughes Road.

While most of us residents knew that Hughes Road would eventually be extended into Pearland (dreaded is more so my opinion) and therefore substantially increase speeding traffic on Hughes Road, I don't believe any of us knew that the county planned to block our primary exit from our neighborhood.

If their plans were to go forward as designed, they are going to create any number of very dangerous traffic patterns out of and into the immediate neighborhood bordering the Sageorchard/Hughes intersection. It will totally eliminate our present primary source of egress from Sageorchard onto Hughes on both the north and south side of Hughes, period.

On the north side of Hughes, any residential traffic needing to gain access to Beltway 8 or the Gulf Freeway, will bottleneck in 2 spots. The first being Sagequeen where the crossover onto Blackhawk for a left hand turn is precarious at best with the curve in Blackhawk limiting vision of northwest bound traffic coming from the right and the rapid fire sequence of southeast bound traffic from the left due to the close proximity of the 4 way stop at Hall Road.

The second and only other route would be straight up Sageorchard to Blackhawk with a no cross-over right hand turn only and in all probability increasing u-turns at the Blackhawk/Hughes intersection, which is already bad enough with people ignoring any sense of stop and go order at the 4-way stop and/or not stopping at all.

Actually even more dangerous in my opinion is the potential for mistaken right turn entry by clueless non-residential traffic off of Hughes onto the north side of Sageorchard with the mistaken impression that because it is one-way entry only, that it is a one-way street. Anyone whose home and driveway is on the corner and on that curve is going to be subject to the constant fear of a head-on collision or being side-swiped by some hapless driver not paying attention to the possibility of oncoming traffic and basically driving down the middle of the road.

This is a very distinct difference between the south side of Sageorchard and the north side of Sageorchard intersecting with Hughes Road. On the south side, there are NO driveways on the short run of Sageorchard where it tees into Sagecastle WITH an existing stop sign. On the north side, there ARE driveways beginning at the corner and wrapping around the immediate curve with people who need to get into their safety.

Readers' Opinions

Those are a few of the safety reasons that a 4-way stop at the Sageorchard/Hughes intersection is the safest, simple, and most reasonable inclusion to a problematic plan. The added advantage is effectively controlling gathered traffic speed coming from Blackhawk with what would otherwise become a full throttle thoroughfare. There are NO other side roads on the westbound lane of Hughes between Blackhawk and the Sageorchard intersection, therefore obviously NO stop signs. Think children, bus routes, pedestrians, garbage trucks, recreational vehicles, emergency vehicles, etc.

Just the other day I watched a school bus have to back all the way up Sageorchard to Hughes so it could turn around, because of contractor vehicles parked on both sides of Sageorchard and not enough clearance for the bus to pass between them. Right or wrong, there are always vehicles parked on both sides of Sageorchard and Sagequeen. They are both narrow residential streets. Sagequeen is curved just like the beginning of Sageorchard and requires careful and deliberate negotiation because of both factors. If their little one-sided concrete blockade had been at the intersection as currently planned, the school bus would have been stuck waiting on someone to move their vehicles. Now after the new construction think about that scenario and whether or not the bus would

even be able to negotiate the narrow one-way entrance, much less back out onto a street that then has become an unencumbered speedway.

I just hope for the sake of all who truly have a stake in it, that this independent engineering look or study or whatever they are calling it, is a sincere effort and that common sense will prevail over bureaucratic regulations. I also suggest that unlike the events leading up to our present situation, it would be nice if the residents/taxpayers paying for all of this (including the independent engineering study) had direct input to the independent engineer.

I don't see where the county should or would object to furnishing a contact point for that representation. As far as that goes, it would be nice to see a finished graphic of the plan as engineered and how it would look with this bridge over the hike and bike trail. This is a major project representing a major disruption to our neighborhood and safety. I see no reason why we shouldn't be considered smart enough to have some say in it.

Thanks to Marie Flickinger and the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* for their continued voice in the community. There are PETITIONS being circulated for signature. If you live in the area and share these concerns, we welcome you to sign on as a show of unity.

Larry Bennett

Renowned neuroscientist to speak at San Jac South

Dr. David Eagleman, a pre-eminent neuroscientist will give two lectures at the San Jac South campus Monday, March 28.

Eagleman directs the Laboratory for Perception and Action at Baylor College of Medicine and is also the founder and director of Baylor's Initiative on Neuroscience and Law. His research includes time perception, synesthesia, social neuroscience, and the intersection of neuroscience with the legal system. In conjunction with his research, he is also the author of several critically acclaimed books, which include the international bestseller, *SUM: Forty Tales from the Afterlives*.

"During our lifetimes, we will get further on that pier. We'll understand more at the end of our lives than we do now, but it isn't going to cover an ocean," Eagleman said. Eagleman has been a contributing science writer for the New York Times, Discover Magazine, Slate, Wired, and New Scientist. He also has lent his expertise to a number of television documentaries, radio programs, lectures, and podcasts. He has represented his research on science programs featured on the History Channel, Discovery Channel, ABC News and PBS.

"He has the ability to make neuroscience accessible to the lay person," said Scott Furtwengler, dean of the San Jacinto College honors program. "In addition to explaining his research in the area of perception clearly, he challenges our notions of consciousness in an exciting way."

Cardenas, Lyceum committee chair. "He shows our students and our community how your intellectual passion can better humanity. We are honored to have him as our spring 2011 speaker."

Eagleman will present two lectures on March 28. The first lecture, *In Praise of Uncertainty: Why I am a Possibilian*, will be from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., open to San Jacinto College and local high school students. The evening lecture from 7 to 8 p.m., *Neuro-law: The Brain and the Future of the American Legal System*, is free and open to the public.

A reception and book signing will follow. Both lectures will be held in the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building Proscenium Theatre, 13735 Beamer Rd.

CB debate team to state



Members of the Wolverine debate team who participated at the TFA State Debate Tournament pictured are, left to right, Rishi Suresh, Courtney Hamala and Hunter Bodiford.
Photo submitted

The Clear Brook High School Debate Team returned from an annual TFA State Debate tournament on March 13, effectively wrapping up the bulk of their competitive season.

At the end of a tiring three-day schedule, Hunter Bodiford, advancing to the semifinal round in domestic extemporaneous speaking, came away with a rank in the top 20 of all state qualifying students.

This event stresses the ability of limited preparation time to formulate and deliver speeches over a variety of topics including, but not limited to, social issues, fiscal disci-

pline and attitudes toward foreign policy. Of the more than 180 students competing in this event, Bodiford, along with his team members, made a great showing for Clear Brook and Clear Creek Independent School District at large.

Additionally, Rishi Suresh found himself in the double-octo final round of LD debate, which equated to his being one of the top 32 Lincoln Douglas debaters in the state of Texas. Suresh was also ranked 37th as one of the best LD speakers at the tournament as he debated the topic, *Resolved: The U.S. is justified in us-*

ing private military firms abroad to pursue its military objectives.

Newcomer to the team, Courtney Hamala, was an honorary attendee at the meet and found herself in the semifinal round of Student Congress, as well.

Also earning recognition at the state tournament was the team of Dinusha Wijesinghe and Nathan Tamburello who were ranked 24th for speaking style of public forum debate as they engaged in five rounds over the topic, *Resolved: North Korea poses a more serious threat to US national security than Iran.*

Deaths

Joyce Ghormley



Joyce Adams Ghormley, 79, Thursday, March 17, 2011, at Colonial Oaks Assisted Living in Pasadena where she had resided since December 2008 after being diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2006.

Ghormley was born on May 6, 1931, in Abilene, Texas, to Kelso and Minnie Ola Ferguson Adams as their only child. She lived in Midland and San Marcos where she graduated from high school in 1948. She attended Southwest Texas State College, receiving both her bachelor's and master's in music education. She was a longtime teacher of music at Jackson Junior High and South Houston High School, and her students and choirs gave outstanding musical programs performing successfully in UIL competitions year after year.

In 1963, she was recruited by San Jacinto College where she taught music theory, ear training, vocal and instrumental performance until retirement in 1997. She retired as the chairman of the College Music Department.

Ghormley served as Chancel Choir director of First United Methodist Church for three years where the family has been members since 1959. She was sought as a soloist through the years and remained a devoted advocate of San Jacinto College and trusted advisor for former students until her untimely illness. In retirement, Ghormley enjoyed scrapbooking for her grandchildren, flower arranging, and making baby blankets for friends and new parents. She tried to spend as much time as possible with her mother-in-law, Naomi Ghormley, and her pet schnauzer, Max, at the family retreat in Huntsville.

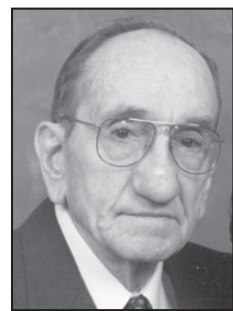
Ghormley is survived by her husband of 51 years, Cecil Ghormley, who served as elected trustee for the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees for many years. She is also survived by children Elizabeth Dauer and husband Daryl, and Michael Ghormley and wife Pam; grandchildren Lindsey and Ryan Dauer and Meagan, and Aly Ghormley; and a host of extended family and former students.

Services were held Saturday, March 19, 2011, at Grand View Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the San Jacinto College Foundation or the Pasadena First United Methodist Church Choir Fund.

To express words of comfort to the family, visit www.grandviewfunerals.com.

Philip N. Emigh Sr.



Philip N. Emigh Sr., 95, formerly a resident of the Sagemont area for 33 years, died Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

He is survived by his son, Philip Norman Emigh Jr., and wife Charlotte of South Belt; daughter-in-law Alice Emigh of McDonough, Ga.; grandson Bradford Emigh Jr. of Georgia; granddaughter Teresa Marie Emigh of La Porte; great-grandchildren Ryan Adams, Lacey Adams Russell, Steven Adams, Heather Hanagriff and Maxwell Frost, all from Houston and surrounding areas; and Sedona Emigh of the Atlanta area and two great-great-grandchildren, Savana and Noah.

Emigh was a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant and a Shriner.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 21, 2011, at the League City United Methodist Church with interment at Forest Park East in Webster.

RoxAnn Sexton



RoxAnn Sexton, 52, died Thursday, March 17, 2011, while held in the arms of her children after a two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer.

Born in Pasadena on Dec. 30, 1958, Sexton was a longtime South Belt resident.

She is survived by her children, Scott, Tim and wife Micah, and Craig and Laura; seven grandchildren: Sammie, Maddie, Evan, Stitch, Baxter and Ariel; father Doyle Jennings; and a very large network of friends and family.

A service celebrating Sexton's life was held Monday, March 21, 2011, at Niday Funeral Home.

Beverly Kay Symons Crouch

Beverly Kay Symons Crouch, 63, died peacefully Monday, March 21, 2011, surrounded by family and friends.

Crouch is preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Mary Symons of Kilgore, and her father and mother-in-law, Charles and Mary Crouch of Brenham.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Bob Crouch; daughters Crista Crouch of Beaumont and Denise Crouch; sister and brother-in-law



Charlesette of Pun and Scooter Polk of Brenham; brother Larry Symons of Colorado; nieces, nephews and great-nieces Deborah, Jeff, Christina and Jessica Day of Brenham, and Robbie and Pamela Heugatter of Las Vegas; as well as a multitude of relatives and friends.

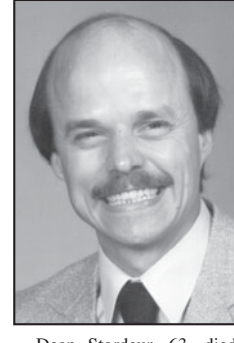
Crouch taught at Meador, Freeman and Sparks elementary schools before retiring from Genoa Elementary School and she impacted the lives of thousands of children in her 30-plus years of service. She was an active member of Cokesbury United Methodist Church, Wesley Sunday School Class and Red Hat Society. She was a longtime Kirkwood subdivision resident.

She loved to fish, camp, cruise, swim, read, paint, play games and to be with her family, friends and dogs.

A celebration of her life will be held Thursday, March 24, 2011, at Cokesbury United Methodist Church. Interment will be at 4 p.m. at Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

Donations to the American Diabetes Association or American Heart Association may be made in lieu of flowers.

Dean Stordeur



Dean Stordeur, 63, died Sunday, March 20, 2011. He was born May 31, 1947. He had been a South Belt resident since 1977, and a Sagemont Park resident since 1984.

Stordeur is preceded in death by his son-in-law, Daniel Renteria and parents Edith and Ambrose Stordeur.

He is survived by his wife, Laura; children Deani, Michael, Rachel, Hayley, Nicholas, Benjamin and Deidra; son-in-law Chris Green and daughter-in-law Kimberly Stordeur; brothers Bob and Harold Stordeur; grandchildren Savannah and Layla Renteria, Michael Green and Audrie Stordeur; numerous nieces and nephews, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; father- and mother-in-law Harold and Carolyn McNeely.

Stordeur was an avid swimmer and participated on a Wisconsin swim team. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years and had worked for Deer Park Lumber since 1975.

A celebration of life memorial for Stordeur will be held Friday, March 25, 2011, at 10 a.m. in the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District Park at Scarsdale and Blackhawk.



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Harry Zamora is also the only candidate who brings real law enforcement leadership experience that includes police budgeting, policy and procedure development and implementation and police training programs.

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Remember When

30 years ago (1981)
Construction began on a new gym, a new band hall and music ensemble rooms at Thompson Intermediate. Conversion of the existing band hall to accommodate the orchestra department and expansion of the existing library were also being assigned.

Dobie High School Latin students took the state championship at the Junior Classical League Convention held at Lamar Consolidated High School.

25 years ago (1986)
A raid by officers from the Precinct 2 constable's office, Houston Police Department and the South Belt Security Alliance confiscated nearly four pounds of marijuana and arrested area residents Joe DeLarosa, alias George Mendez, and wife Maria Rincon.

20 years ago (1991)
Over a three-year period, Pasadena Independent School District schools were to receive six computers per classroom.

15 years ago (1996)
After 18 months of successfully negotiating a Brio Superfund remedy satisfactory to both the community and the chemical companies charged with cleaning, relations broke off over the Brio Site Task Force's refusal to pilot a study on soil vapor extraction of volatile organic compounds at the site.

10 years ago (2001)
A new study for a flood reduction plan involving Clear Creek was initiated.

5 years ago (2006)
Three years' worth of negotiations rose to a new level as a proposed agreement was presented to the Pearland City Council. If approved, the agreement would allow Hughes Road to be extended to Pearland Parkway. This would open the door for two new schools, a possible San Jacinto College South extension and other community facilities.

The Clear Brook City MUD board of directors voted unanimously to increase the over-65 and disabled exemptions by 100 percent to \$50,000.

Precinct 2 Constable deputies were busy with assaults and family violence calls.

A resident was robbed and shot outside his apartment on Beamer. A friend who had followed him home happened upon the robbery and the two suspects left. They later led Houston Police on a chase but were captured after they stopped and ran through a neighborhood near Mosscrest and Interstate 610.

1 year ago (2010)
Longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell was one of 28 travelers who made a trip to Washington, D.C., to lobby federal officials to re-examine President Barack Obama's proposed 2011 NASA 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 Outreach Program, and in 2009, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee. Joining Mitchell were Friendswood Mayor David Smith and Harris County Commissioner Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, among others.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR B.J.
Longtime local optometrist **Dr. B.J. Garner** celebrated his birthday Wednesday, March 23. Belated wishes are sent from wife **Laura**, family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 24 through March 30.

Burnett Elementary
Efren Cardozo and **Carmen Norris** share a birthday March 25. Blow out the birthday candles for **Debbie Ramm** March 27.

Meador Elementary
On March 29, **Cecelia Stewart** enjoys a birthday. **Moore Elementary**

March 26 is the day for a party for **Bertha Ramirez**. **Melissa Hickman** has a birthday March 28. March 29 is the day for a cake for **Jackie Tumej**.

South Belt Elementary
Birthday for **Natalie Boynton** is March 27. **Stuchbery Elementary**

On March 26, a birthday is enjoyed by **Ester Flores**.

Melillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday March 25 is **James Sky-Eagle Smith**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Elizabeth Williamson** March 26. Blow out the birthday candles on March 29 for **Arlene Sibley**.

Morris Middle School
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Sherry Horton** March 25. On March 27, **Tina Jimenez** has a birthday. A birthday is enjoyed by **Maria Lopez** March 28. **Maria Ramon** marks a birthday March 29.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Blow out the birthday candles for **Janis McKinny** March 26.

Thompson Intermediate
Travis Meyer is wished a happy birthday March 24. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Deanne Davis** March 25. **Stephanie Albert** enjoys a birthday March 27.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles for **Tyler Coker** March 24. **Glenda Nicholson** and **Tracy Whitley** are wished a happy birthday March 26. The day for a cake for **Cornelia Oprea-Khalaf** is March 27. March 30 is the day for a double birthday surprise for **Betty Hollin** and **Leslie Seigler-Keton**.

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

Thompson names solo, ensemble contest winners



Thompson choir students earned 23 First Division Medals and five certificates at the recent Pasadena Independent School District Solo & Ensemble Contest. Thompson's choir is under the direction of George Martin and Abby Seible. Contest winners are, left to right, (front row) Marcela Pena, Giselle Rivas, Lauren Tran, Randall MacNeil, Kayla Posey, Alyssa Gonzalez, George Molina, (middle row) Gabriele Flores, Julie Nguyen, Chelsea Tajonera, Jessie Huynh, Veronica Tzintzun, Nicole Cypert, A'yuaana Bradford, Tea Ajuha Jackson, David Garcia, (back row) Krista Richard, Carlos Martinez, Jorell Campos, Caxton Petri, David Casas, Jimmy Nevarez and Kristina Enriquez.

Post 490 hosts 21st annual golf tourney

Ellington Field Post 490 of The American Legion will hold its 21st annual charity golf tournament at the Pasadena Municipal Golf Course, Monday, April 18.

This year, the annual June tournament has been moved back to April. The purpose of the move is to have cooler weather for the golfers.

This is the largest non-corporate sponsored golf tournament in the Houston area.

The tournament is the financial source for the Post's support of its children and youth programs.

Last year, the annual golf tournament used the raised funds to support youth programs.

This included high school student awards, scholarships for students and the support of local America Legion baseball teams.

Registration is limited, but there are still openings.

In addition to the actual golf fee and the many awards and trophies, this cost includes a full country breakfast, hot dogs and beverages on the course, and a barbecue dinner at the awards presentation.

The breakfast and the dinner will be at the Post home.

To sign up for the tournament contact Bob Burrows at 281-844-3327, Pat Jones at 832-477-3260, or Linda Mortier at 281-236-7893.

Post 490 is on Galveston Road, across the street from Ellington Joint Reserve Base.

Flores' class celebrates Go Texan Day



Students in Domingo Flores' fourth-grade bilingual class dressed up in western wear for Go Texan Day. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Emily Estrada, Aylin Bonilla, Adriana Torres, Ashley Rivera, Zandy Lucero, and (back row) Flores. Photo submitted

Lilley places at livestock show



Trent Lilley, a junior at Clear Lake High School, was an exhibitor at the 2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. His limousin steer, Bocephus "Bo," placed sixth in the lightweight limmi division at the world's largest rodeo. This is Lilley's second year to show at the Houston Livestock Show. He is the treasurer of the Clear Lake High School FFA chapter. He also participated in the calf scramble at the rodeo and caught the "mystery calf." Not only will he receive a check for catching the calf, he also received a commemorative Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo watch. He plans to pursue a career in agriculture. Pictured with Lilley are, left to right, his steer's breeders, Mark and Johnny Lively, Clear Lake High School ag teachers Kori Adams and Bryan Aaron, and his mother, Rebecca Lilley, who is the director of physician resource at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and is a member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Photo submitted

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.

Life Church holds recovery program

Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa, is sponsoring Celebrate Recovery, a ministry that originally began in 1991 in California with the purpose of helping people gain control of life's hurts, hang-ups and habits. This is done through a 12-step program with emphasis, through worship, teaching and fellowship, celebrating God's healing power in lives as people work their way along the road to recovery. Celebrate Recovery begins April 3 at 5:30 p.m. and will be held in the chapel on the Life Church campus.

The focus is to encourage fellowship and celebrate God's healing power in lives on the road to recovery.

Jay Melton, a 10-year Sagemont resident who is the Celebrate Recovery coordinator says, "I'm so excited to have finally found a program that can help people who struggle with any type of hurt, habit or hang-up. Celebrate Recovery allows people to work the 12-steps of AA from a Biblical standpoint." Any one needing help to be free from life's hurts, hang-ups and habits is invited to attend. Topics covered include alcoholism, chemical dependency, those affected by someone's addictive behaviors, financial struggles, relational issues, sexual issues, marital problems and past hurts.

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BBQ fundraiser for St. Luke youth summer mission trips

The youth at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church who will be going on mission trips and to conferences this summer are holding a barbecue plate fundraiser Sunday, March 27, to help with their expenses.

The barbecue will be served in the church social hall after the 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 1 p.m. services, or until all plates are sold. Dinners will be \$9 and will include brisket, two sides, tea or lemonade, bread and fixings (pickles, onions, jalapeños). Sausage can be added to a plate for \$1 more.

To order whole brisket and check prices, call the youth minister at 281-481-4735 or e-mail him at youthministry@stlukescatholic.com. Donations will be accepted.

Moore celebrates in style



Students at Moore Elementary recently celebrated Go Western Day in style. Third-grade students pictured are, left to right, Jackie Perez, Juliana Espinoza, Kobe Ruiz and Keithdrick Howard. Photo submitted

Casas' class goes western



Students in Jessica Casas' first-grade class at Stuchbery Elementary were all decked out in western wear to celebrate Go Texan Day at the school. Pictured are, left to right, Trent Jarvis, Aaron Guillon, Casas, Sedrick Clark and Alan Lucero-Flores. Photo submitted

San Jac South hosts free service learning professional workshop

San Jacinto College South will host a free service learning professional development workshop for local community college faculty on April 1.

Keynote speaker and nationally renowned service learning expert, Dr. Mary Prentice of New Mexico State University, will open the workshop. Other presentations include student panelists in college prep, early college high school, sociology, and cosmetology, along with faculty panels from the chemistry, reading, and cosmetology departments. Student and faculty panelists from Houston Community College's psychology department will also present at this year's event. Round-table discussions with faculty and community partners will be held in order for attendees to gain hands-on knowledge about how to incorporate service learning into college curriculums.

"Service learning creates opportunities for faculty, students, and community partners to work toward common objectives," said Deborah Smith, San Jacinto College South career and employment services coordinator. "Students receive credit for the learning that takes place outside of the classroom while they perform service relevant to their curriculum, which directly supports one of our core college values: 'Sense of Community.'"

Representatives from Armand Bayou Nature Center, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc., Dress for Success Houston, Memorial Hermann Southeast and the Sickle Cell Association of Texas

Gulf Coast will also be on hand to give insight into how they have participated in student service learning opportunities as well. Area community college faculty are encouraged to register for this event to get more information on ideas of implementing components of service learning as class projects and activities, as well as how to motivate and engage students to learn course concepts through community experiences.

The Service Learning Roundup will be held on

Friday, April 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning in the Proscenium Theatre in the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building on the South campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. Those interested are asked to register at www.sanjac.edu/service-learning-roundup. Confirmation e-mails including a map with directions will be sent to all registered participants.

For more information on the Service Learning Roundup, call 281-669-4782.

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UH-Clear Lake Pearland Campus hosts open house

Find out why University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus is the place for reaching educational goals by attending the UH-Clear Lake Pearland Open House Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the campus located at 1200 Pearland Parkway in Pearland.

Prospective students will tour the campus and learn about program and course offerings. Attendees who bring their transcripts and test scores to the event will be considered for on-the-spot admission. Counselors will be available to discuss degree plans and opportunities.

"Open house is a great opportunity for students to discover what is available to

them in Pearland," says Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Yvette Bendeck. "UH-Clear Lake Pearland Campus offers a beautiful setting to help Pearland-area residents fulfill their higher education dreams.

"Students can choose from six complete undergraduate programs, as well as five graduate programs."

Academic offerings at the university include Bachelor of Science degree programs in accounting, management, behavioral sciences-general, criminology, psychology and interdisciplinary studies with E-6 Generalist certification. Master of Science degree programs available include

counseling and educational management, while Master of Arts degree programs include behavioral sciences - general, criminology and psychology.

Bendeck stresses that courses offered at the Pearland campus can also fulfill degree requirements for the more than 80 degree programs available at UH-Clear Lake.

Admission to the UHCL Pearland Campus Open House is free, but reservations are requested. To reserve a spot, visit <http://www.uhcl.edu/pearland> and select the Open House link under "What's Happening at the U." For more information, call 281-212-1690.

Meador enjoys Rodeo Day



Meador Elementary enjoyed Rodeo Day on Friday, March 11. Above, left to right, students Laura Rios and Jose Loza participate in the event. Each grade level performed square dancing and line dancing throughout the day. Parents were invited to watch, and then to join the students in the line dancing. The day was enjoyed by administration, faculty, parents and students. Photo submitted

Beverly Hills Intermediate to offer scholarships

The Beverly Hills Intermediate PTO will offer scholarships to any graduating senior who attended Beverly Hills in the seventh and eighth grades.

Applications and requirement information is available through the senior counselor's office at Dobie High School.

Deadline for applications is noon on Monday, April 4, 2011.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Varsity baseball: Dobie tops 22-5A early on; CB among 24-5A leaders

There might be a month or so to go before the real varsity baseball playoff conversations begin, but there's little doubt at this point that both Dobie and Clear Brook will be in the mix.

Longhorns rolling
Winning four straight games to open the District 22-5A race, the Dobie Longhorns are currently atop the standings alone at 4-0 thanks to an 11-9 come-

from-behind victory over South Houston March 20.

The Longhorns trailed 8-2 in the game but refused to give in as the action progressed. Marcelo Martinez's RBI triple in the sixth tied the game at 9-9, and the Longhorns went on to take the victory.

Thanks to Sam Rayburn's 8-0 shutout victory over

Deer Park March 22, the Longhorns will now play at Deer Park March 25 with a chance to create some distance between themselves and others in the standings.

"It's great to be in this position, but the guys are doing a good job of keeping things in perspective," Dobie head coach Miguel Torres said.

"They know we still have 11 games left in the race, so a lot can happen. Having said that, it's impossible not to like where we are."

During the comeback against South Houston, the Longhorns simply did what they have done best all season - swing the sticks.

Starting pitcher Emmitt Pitts experienced his first

rough outing of the season as the Trojans built a six-run lead. South Houston obviously had a lot to be happy about, but the momentum would soon shift.

Xavier Johnson came on in relief and threw scoreless frames in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Meanwhile, the Longhorns' offense came alive,

Clear Brook (see Page 4B).

But that loss to Springs has not discouraged the Wolverines, who are 3-1 for the second spot in District 24-5A at this point.

Coming back from a 1-0 deficit, Brook plated five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and hung on from there for a 5-3 win over Brazoswood March 22.

District 22-5A Standings		
Varsity Baseball (As of March 24)		
Teams	W	L
Dobie	4	0
Deer Park	3	1
South Houston	2	2
Sam Rayburn	2	2
Pasadena	1	3
Memorial	0	4

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Upcoming baseball action

March 25: Dobie at Deer Park, 7 p.m.; Brook hosts Clear Lake, 7 p.m.

March 29: Dobie vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 7 p.m.; Brook at Pearland, 7 p.m.

getting within 8-7 in the fifth and then taking the lead in the sixth. Zack Long pitched the seventh for the win as Dobie earned a clutch victory.

It is the third time in four 22-5A games that the Longhorns have scored double-digit runs.

"We always know we are going to score some runs," Torres said. "Emmitt has pitched well for us all season, but it just wasn't his night."

Xavier came in there and pitched to contact, letting his defense help him. Eventually, our hits started coming."

Ryan Vrugink got his second 24-5A win as he pitched into the seventh inning before needing relief help.

In the critical fifth inning, Daniel Coats had a two-run double and Nolan Trabani had a two-run single as the Wolverines eventually went on top 5-1.

In the top of the seventh inning, reliever Keaton Miller came on with a pair of Brazoswood runners on base. Those runners scored, but he closed out the win without further damage.

Continued on Page 4B

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Apr. 19 - May 11	May 2 - May 23	
4-6 p.m.	6-8 p.m.	

Senior starter Chandler Salas capitalized on his opportunity against Sam Rayburn, handcuffing the Texans on a five-hitter as Dobie won 12-3 March 17 at Maguire Field. Salas, who threw 98 pitches in the game, finished strong by fanning the side in the seventh inning. He is scheduled to make his next start March 25, at Deer Park as the Longhorns look to hang onto sole possession of first place.

Lady Horn softball crushes Pasadena to open 22-5A; Clear Brook defeated by Clear Springs 2-1, falls to 2-3

Faith Roberts doubled twice and Shannon O'Connor continued her solid pitching in the circle as Dobie's varsity softball team routed Pasadena 16-0 March 25 to open 22-5A play.

The Lady Longhorns scored eight runs in the first inning and eight more over the next two frames to take a 16-0 lead.

O'Connor allowed just one hit to earn the win as Dobie made a statement to begin the playoff chase.

CB falls to 2-3
Meah Maddox had eight strikeouts to guide Clear

Springs past Clear Brook 2-1 in 24-5A play March 25.

Clear Brook starting pitcher Laura Napoli threw

the ball well, but the Lady Wolverines' offense struggled to get much going against Maddox. With two games remaining in the first

half of district play, Brook is at 2-3 with remaining first-half games against Brazoswood and Clear Lake.

Continued on Page 4B

Dobie soccer teams net Sterling; doubleheader at Memorial Field

The bidistrict varsity soccer playoffs are about to get under way with an unusual set of circumstances playing out locally.

Both the Dobie girls' and boys' teams will take on Baytown Sterling as part of a doubleheader Monday, March 28, at Pasadena ISD's Memorial Stadium. The girls will play first at 5 p.m., followed by the boys' game at 7 p.m.

Coin flips decide a lot
While the players may not always be privy to what happens behind the scenes, there is always plenty of give-and-take going on between the opposing coaches. And the decision-making process almost always involves the use of a coin flip.

In this case, the four respective coaches agreed to either play at Baytown's Stallworth Stadium or PISD's Memorial Stadium. That was decided by a coin flip, as was the day on which

the games would be played. "You can give (Dobie girls' head coach Kristina) Butler all the credit on the location," Dobie head boys' coach Jesse Saavedra said.

"She won the coin flip to play at Memorial, and she also won the coin flip to play Monday. It was her day."

Dobie teams prepared
Without further ado, the Dobie teams will begin the state playoffs against the Sterling Rangers of District 21-5A.

The Dobie boys, champions of District 22-5A, will face the fourth-place

Rangers. Careful not to get ahead of themselves, the Longhorns must take care of Sterling in the first step of what the team hopes is a trip to state.

At 17-1-3, Dobie is in the midst of its finest-ever season from a record standpoint. Still, there is a lot of work to be done to ensure this special season isn't washed down the drain.

"We have had a great season to this point, but now we start fresh with our eventual goal still in mind," Saavedra said.

"In the playoffs, we know

Continued on Page 4B

Bidistrict playoffs set

Dobie girls vs. Baytown Sterling
Monday, March 28, 5 p.m.

Dobie boys vs. Baytown Sterling
Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.

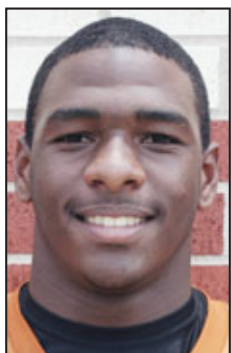
Both games at Pasadena ISD Memorial

JFD powerlifter Rice to state

Dobie High School powerlifter Justin Rice has become the first Longhorn in school history to qualify for the state meet.

Rice, also a member of the Longhorns' varsity football program, put together a total of 1,520 pounds in the required lifts to finish fourth at regionals.

The school's powerlifting program is still in its early stages. This is just the third year that the Longhorns have fielded full competitive teams in the boys' and girls' fields.



Justin Rice

Dobie competes along with many other schools in the state in the Texas High School Powerlifters Association.

Rice is one of several athletes who have excelled in the program, and he will now compete in the state meet March 25-26 in Abilene.

The senior, ranked 12th in the region in his 242-pound weight class, is also a member of the National Honor Society. For more on Rice's state finish, see the March 31 Leader.

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12610 CORNING (by Burnett Elem.). Fri., Mar. 25, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. & Sat., Mar. 26, 7 a.m.-noon. Multi-family, lots of stuff, girl/boy, men/women, household items, children's toys. 3-24

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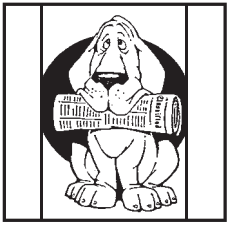
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

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

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

Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787. 6:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at 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 25

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

Noon
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. 6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets the last Friday of each month at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive in Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For any adult who has lost a loved one. Meets every Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. For more information, call 281-487-8787. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 28

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

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

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

New Directions Singles Club - The New Directions Singles Club has moved its time and location from St. Paul's Catholic Church, Nassau Bay, to Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 West NASA Parkway in Webster. Meetings are held every Monday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. This organization was created as a social support outlet for 50+ widowed, divorced and never married individuals. In addition to the regular meeting, a potluck dinner is held on the first and third Mondays. Call 713-340-2354 for information.

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

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.

1 p.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565. 1:30 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Bayshore Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, 4021 Brookhaven, Pasadena. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. 6:30 p.m.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Due to Sagemont Recreation Center closing for remodeling, TOPS will meet at the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint. For information, call Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

Clear Lake Toastmasters Club - Meets at the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 938 El Dorado Blvd. Call Jerry Tate at 281-481-5417 for information. 7 p.m.

St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com. 8 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

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.

4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise held from 4 to 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. 6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Domestic violence support group for male survivors meets each Wednesday at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway. Call 281-338-7600 for information. Participants may join at any time as this is an open group. 7 p.m.

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

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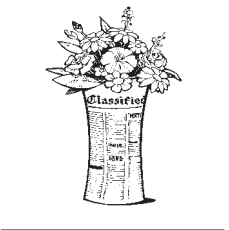
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Dobie takes first, Brook sits near top as respective varsity baseball races progress

Continued from Page 1B

Salas stops SR
Both Dobie and Sam Rayburn entered their head-to-head matchup seeking to solidify their pitching depth moving forward, and it was the Longhorns who clearly came out on top.

The Longhorns' coaching staff, looking for a stable No. 2 starter to team with current No. 1 Emmitt Pitts, turned to senior right-hander Chandler Salas.

Meanwhile, the Texans' having used No. 1 starter Santos Saldivar two days prior, went with right-hander Daniel Cobb, and two others followed.

Bottom line: Salas was the clear winner, going the distance on the mound to earn his first 22-5A victory at the varsity level.

The senior allowed baserunners in each inning except the seventh but each time pitched out of trouble.

Along the way, he coaxed Sam Rayburn into hitting two double-play balls. Cobb lasted just four outs.

"Chandler really has thrown the ball well in his last three outings or so," head coach Miguel Torres said.

"Today, he was in the strike zone and consistently getting the ball put in play. Overall, just a great effort by him."

Salas retired the first two Rayburn hitters in the top of



Dobie shortstop Jose Reyes was all smiles after banging a 3-run homer high off the scoreboard at Maguire Field during the Longhorns' 12-3 victory over Sam Rayburn March 17. He also played a role in a pair of double plays turned defensively.

the first inning before surrendering a single and double for a 1-0 Texans' lead.

By the time Salas wavered a little in the sixth, the Longhorns already led 10-1.

Offensively, the Longhorns did what they have done for much of the season — punish opposing pitching.

The team collected hits in every inning, and seven of the nine hitters in the lineup had at least one hit.

Zach Long paved the way with a single, double and triple to go with a sacrifice bunt.

The Longhorns also got plenty of production from the bottom of the lineup as No. 7 hitter Andres Armenta had a 2-run double and No. 9 hitter Jose Reyes slammed a three-run homer off the scoreboard in left field.

Already up 4-1 in the bottom of the fifth inning, Dobie plated six runs on six hits, with the big blows coming from Armenta (2-run double) and Reyes (3-run homer).

Al Gonzalez's RBI single gave the Longhorns a 10-1 lead, and the locals were a hit away from ending the game by run-rule.

The Texans got within 10-3 in the sixth, but the Longhorns kept coming with the offense, finishing with 16 hits against three Rayburn hurlers.

Deer Park next

With a big game coming at Deer Park March 25 to close out the first of three rounds of 22-5A, the Longhorns now have a chance to take sole possession of first place.

Some may say that doesn't mean much with 10 games to play after that, but the outcome will go a long way in establishing the true contenders at the top of the 22-5A ranks.

As of right now, the Longhorns are certainly in the conversation.

CB splits pair

Prior to heading into action against Brazoswood, Clear Brook split a pair of games against Clear Creek and Clear Springs.

The Wolverines defeated Clear Creek 5-0 as Nolan Trabanino threw six shutout innings but then suffered a crushing 13-1 loss to Clear

Springs, falling to 2-1. Trabanino, a junior left-hander, limited Clear Creek to three hits in six shutout innings and was never in serious trouble.

Senior Keaton Miller came in to close out the game in the seventh inning and struck out the side to end an impressive performance by the Wolverines.

Andrew Phu started the scoring for Brook in the

third inning when he belted a solo home run to left field.

Brook staged a two-out rally in the top of the fourth inning as Ryan Vrugink drove in a pair with a single after Jeff Schuma and Matt Heidt had previously singled.

Schuma came through with a two-out single to knock in a run in the top of the fifth inning after Phu

and Dustin Suttle had just singled.

Trabanino's pitching effort included getting Clear Creek to hit into three double plays in the sixth innings.

Springs routs Brook

Both teams entered the game at 2-0, and Clear Springs emerged undefeated after cruising past the Wolverines 13-1.

J.C. Neighbors was the

winning pitcher for the Tyler Winfield slammed Chargers after striking out two homers each as the

nine. J.D. Arrowood and game was never close.

Sports news, notes

PISD youth tennis set

The Pasadena Independent School District is slated to begin its Scoop It Up Quick Start youth tennis program across the area. Students attending the second through sixth grades are eligible to take part in the program. The program is designed to help get the district's young students involved in the game of tennis at an early age. Students may pick up an entry form from their physical education instructor at school. Cost of the program is \$25, which includes a racket, T-shirt and water bottle along with the lessons. Student pick-up packet date is Saturday, April 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Phillips Field House in Pasadena. The lesson dates include April 3, April 10, April 17 and May 1. Each of the lessons will run from 2:15 p.m.

Atkinson's health/fitness fair

The Atkinson Elementary physical education department will host its third annual health and fitness fair Tuesday, March 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. All Atkinson students and their families are invited to participate in the festivities. Some of the activities scheduled include jump roping, cup stacking, jogging, dance, dance revolution and much more. Inside the school, various vendor booths will include products and services from the health and fitness field.

Rising Stars extend track sign-up

The Rising Stars youth track and field club extended registration through the end of March. During the team's practice sessions each Friday, Saturday and Sunday, team officials will also accept registration. Those registration and practice times will include: each Friday from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturday from noon to 2 p.m., and each Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information about the Rising Stars' program, contact head coach Ivory Kimble at 832-561-1248, assistant coach Erica Davis at 832-830-5029 or assistant coach Donald Walker at 832-283-7945. Those interested in other team information may also visit the team website at www.sportata.com/risingstars.

HTown Jokers 10U car wash

The HTown Jokers, a 10-under select baseball team from the South Belt area, will host a fundraising car wash Saturday, March 26. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kroger, located at the beltway and Sabo.

Dobie baseball parent meeting

The Dobie Diamond Club, the Longhorns' baseball booster organization, will host a mandatory parent meeting Wednesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the athletics media room. At least one parent from each player's family must attend. For more information, call Gloria Sanchez at 713-303-9157 or Lisa Manriquez at 713-516-7539.

Thompson paces victory



Jocelyn Thompson made the game-winning free throw with no time remaining to lift the Dream Team 9- to 10-year-old basketball team to the girls' age group championship, 19-18 over the Monarchs. Along the way, Thompson got plenty of support from her parents, Traci and Chris Thompson, brother Tyson Thompson and grandparents Debbie and Danny Sales.

Cleckleys help in hoops title games



Siblings Yelena Cleckley (left) and Christian Cleckley each walked away with championship trophies after helping their respective youth basketball teams win titles in the City of Pasadena league. Yelena Cleckley played for the 9-10 Dream Team which also placed first. She attends Morris Middle School. Christian Cleckley played for the 7-8 Lakers, which won first place. He attends Laura Bush Elementary.

Sports Calendar

- SOFTBALL**
Friday, March 25
Brook varsity at Brazoswood, 6:30
Dobie varsity vs. Memorial, PISD, 6:30
Brook JV at Brazoswood, 5:00
Dobie JV vs. Memorial, PISD, 5:00
- Tuesday, March 29**
Brook varsity hosts Clear Lake, 6:30
Dobie varsity vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD, 6:30
Brook JV hosts Clear Lake, 5:00
Dobie JV vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD, 5:00
- Friday, April 1**
Brook varsity at Pearland, 6:30
Dobie varsity vs. South Houston, PISD, 6:30
Brook JV at Pearland, 5:00
Dobie JV vs. South Houston, PISD, 5:00
- Tuesday, April 5**
Brook varsity hosts Dickinson, 6:30
Dobie varsity at Deer Park, 6:30
Brook JV hosts Dickinson, 5:00
Dobie JV at Deer Park, 5:00

- BASEBALL**
Friday, March 25
Dobie varsity at Deer Park, 7:00
Brook varsity hosts Clear Lake, 7:00
Dobie JV hosts Deer Park, Dobie, 4:30
Brook JV at Clear Lake, 7:00
Dobie sophomores host Deer Park, PISD complex, 4:30
Brook sophomores at Clear Lake, 4:30
- Monday, March 28**
Brook JV hosts Pearland, 7:00
Brook sophomores host Pearland, 4:30
- Tuesday, March 29**
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 7:00
Brook varsity at Pearland, 7:00
Dobie JV hosts Pasadena, Dobie, 4:30
Dobie sophomores vs. Pasadena, PISD complex, 4:30
- Friday, April 1**
Dobie varsity vs. Memorial, Dobie, 4:00
Brook varsity at Dickinson, 7:00
Brook JV hosts Dickinson, 7:00
Dobie JV at Memorial, campus, 4:30
Brook sophomores host Dickinson, 4:30
- Saturday, April 2**
Dobie sophomores at Memorial, campus, noon
- Monday, April 4**
Brook JV hosts Alvin, 4:30
Brook sophomores host Alvin, 7:00
- Tuesday, April 5**
Dobie varsity vs. Sam Rayburn, Maguire, 7:00
Brook varsity at Alvin, 7:00
Dobie JV hosts Sam Rayburn, Dobie, 4:30
Dobie sophomores vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD complex, 7:00

JFD softball on fire; Brook seeks rebound

Continued from Page 1B

While Clear Brook has struggled to score runs while slipping in the standings, Dobie has been one of the hottest teams in the region.

The easy 16-0 victory over Pasadena aside, Dobie is a legitimate threat down the line.

Dobie has matched against one of the toughest schedules in the area and has gone 12-6.

O'Connor has consistently done her job in the circle, and the Lady Longhorns' offense features a unique combination of speed at the top and bottom and power through the middle.

Yet head coach Robin Rackley has seen her team fly under the radar from a Region III perspective, and she likes it that way.

There are still nine games remaining in the 22-5A race, but Dobie will make the playoffs just as it has done each year since softball became an official University Interscholastic League sport back in 1993.

The rest of the way, including a playoff run down the line, Rackley is preaching the mantra of focus.

"I think we have a legitimate shot (to make a deep run in the playoffs)," Rackley said. "But we're Dobie, and other teams get most of the talk. That's OK with us."

If that is indeed the case, several other big-name programs in the region might serve themselves well to take notice of Dobie.

With outfielders Amie Gallant, Kellen Gomez and Shelby O'Brien, Rackley believes Dobie has one of the best trios in the state defensively and offensively.

Roberts and Ariel Morgan are the heavy hitters in the lineup, and Rackley is getting an offensive contribution from up and down the lineup.

The key, then, is focus. "At this point we can't be concerned with the names

on the jerseys of the opponents," Rackley said.

"Memorial is our rival along with Deer Park, and South Houston has some pretty good players. What we have to do is just play our game."

"If we can keep swinging the bats, and then pitch it and catch it like we can, we'll be fine. In our district, you only play 10 games. Each one is extra important. We just have to stay focused and take care of business."

Next up for Dobie is Memorial, which opened 22-5A action with a 6-1 victory over Sam Rayburn March 22 at the Pasadena ISD complex. Dobie will face Memorial March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the complex.



Former Dobie High School standout Karima Christmas had 11 points and six rebounds as the Duke University Blue Devils reach the NCAA tournament Sweet 16 with a 71-66 victory over Marist March 21.

Duke, Christmas net Sweet 16

Former Dobie High School basketball star Karima Christmas has had her collegiate career extended after the Duke University women's team downed Marist to reach the Sweet 16.

With the win, Duke will advance to the NCAA National Tournament's field of 16 for the 13th time in 14 years. However, the Blue Devils did not have an easy time of it.

Marist, which led by as many as 11 points early in the second half, actually stayed in front for all but 6

1/2 minutes of the game.

Christmas, a senior at Duke who was a four-year varsity player at Dobie (2004-2007), played a big role in Duke's comeback win.

The senior guard/forward had 11 points, six rebounds, four steals and two assists in 26 minutes after sitting on the bench with foul trouble in the first half.

Duke, seeded second in the Philadelphia Region, will next take on No. 3 DePaul in the Sweet 16.

March 29, with the games to be shown on ESPN.

The Blue Devils are now 31-3 and a pair of wins away from reaching the Final Four.

Duke, champions of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, has spent much of the regular season ranked within the top 10 teams in the nation.

For Christmas, Duke's win over Marist not only ended Marist's 27-game winning streak but also allowed Christmas to continue her playing career with the Blue Devils.

Lady Longhorns' softball clinic a big hit as local youths attend



The Dobie High School softball program, including its coaching staff, hosted a successful and well-attended clinic as dozens of young South Belt area players were in attendance. The clinic was also a fundraiser for the program in order to cover expenses incurred during the season. Dobie players and coaches involved included, left to right, (front row) Miranda Rodriguez, Ashley Garza, Katie Lee, Kellen Gomez, Lisa Brooks, Ceci Gonzalez, Crystal Fagnana, Chezni Critchfield, Jenna Medina, Faith Roberts, Ariel Morgan, Julia Ramirez, Shannon O'Connor, (middle row) varsity head coach Robin Rackley, Karina Ramirez, Aliyah Ortega, Amie Gallant, Alyssa Lerma, D'Anne Ornelas, Shalyn Scott, Joanna Gutierrez, Jordan Hinojosa, Emily Espinoza, junior varsity coach Carmella Swinnen, (back row) varsity assistant coach Chris Swinnen, Shelby O'Brien, Jackie Estrada, Stephanie Buenrostro, Stephanie Cherry, Sara Vela, Audrey Medina and McKayla O'Connor.

Welcome to the South Belt-Ellington Leader Community Profile

Welcome to the *Leader's* community profile. This issue features items which will be of interest to your family throughout the year, letting you know when youth sports events are scheduled, the story behind some of your favorite businesses and what growth is in South Belt's immediate future. Don't throw this away; the information will be useful throughout the year.

Major South Belt growth continues

By Marie Flickinger

While there is no denying that the South Belt area, as well as the majority of the rest of the country is undergoing a long economic slow down, growth in the community is quite strong.

San Jacinto College is building two new facilities on the South Campus. One will be a student

one-stop building the other a Science and Allied Health Center nursing training facility.

Contracts are under way for the construction of a skilled nursing facility to be located near the intersection of Beamer and Scarsdale and a new charter school to be built in Riverstone Ranch. Currently there are no charter schools in the area. A currently private school in the area is also seeking to become a charter school. There is a new

service station being built at the corner of Beamer and Dixie Farm Road.

There is also a new shopping center which will soon be ready for occupancy at the corner of Beamer and Astoria. Various shopping centers are also being constructed near the Beltway and Pearland Parkway.

Harris County officials are in the process of building the fourth and last planned connection between the South Belt and the city of Pearland. The areas have grown together so there is not a clear distinction between the two. For example, the first school named for the South Belt area, South Belt Elementary, which is a Pasadena Independent School District school, is actually located within the city limits of Pearland.

A new subdivision will be built adjacent to the western side of the South Belt subdivision of Clear Brook Meadows. The new subdivision, The Preserve at Clear Creek, will be bounded on the south side by the new Hughes Road connection to Barry Rose.

Officials from Beazer Homes, the developers of the subdivision say the homes will

be built in the \$175,000 to \$300,000 range.

The homes will be in the Pasadena ISD and will pay taxes to the Pasadena district.

Students from this proposed new Pearland subdivision will attend schools in the Pasadena ISD. The residents will also be taxpaying members of the San Jacinto Community College district allowing residents to attend the college with in-district rates.

Ellington Field has experienced tremendous growth in the last few years in spite of the loss of the Texas Air National Guard's Fighter unit. Many other units have transferred to Ellington Field from such other locations as the Old Spanish Trail site near Reliant Stadium. (See story this page.)

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* is in its 36th year of publication. There have been tremendous changes and growth in the area during that time. This community was good then and still is today. This is due largely to residents and businesses who care and are involved. This issue of the *Leader* will highlight positive aspects of the South Belt community.

San Jac looks back at 50 years

By Rob Vanya

San Jacinto College staff

San Jacinto College, now designated a Texas Historical Institution, will soon begin celebrating its 50th anniversary with campus fairs, fun runs, and other festivities. Surrounded by the monuments of history, the industries and maritime enterprises of today and the space age of tomorrow, SJC serves the citizens and communities of east Harris County. The service area includes the Channelview, Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte, Pasadena and Sheldon independent school districts, as well as portions of the Humble, Pearland and Clear Creek school districts.

In September of 1961, in three rented vacant store buildings in downtown Pasadena, SJC opened its doors to 876 students, a record for first-year enrollment at Texas junior colleges. In fall 1962, the Vincent Henrich Science Building was opened on Spencer Highway, and students began attending classes at two locations, 10 miles apart. The Central campus was officially opened in 1964, and all operations were moved to the new campus.

SJC expanded to serve the north channel area with the opening of its North campus in December 1975 and the South campus serving the South Belt-Ellington area in September 1979. The college has grown to include three campuses and nine extension centers with a diverse student population and a continuing and professional development division dedicated to training today's workforce. Online learning, a dual credit program with local high schools, including an early college high school housed on the South campus and a host of support services designed to encourage and develop student success have also become synonymous with the school.

San Jacinto College South has a lengthy tradition of excellence. As the South Belt-Ellington area developed rapidly in the 1970s, SJC began to offer extension classes at J. Frank Dobie High School to provide educational services to the community. In May 1976, the college's board of trustees voted to purchase a 114-acre site on Beamer Road in order to develop a third SJC campus. In March 1978, the board of regents awarded a \$4.7 million contract for construction of a South campus administrative building and discussed plans to start classes in 1979.

On Sept. 4, 1979, classes officially began at the South campus, as crews worked to finish construction of facilities. Seventeen days later on September 21, 1979, college administrators and contractors gathered for cornerstone ceremonies for two buildings still under

construction at the new South campus – the Homer Longenecker Academic Administration Building and the yet-to-be-named physical education building.

By October 1979, enrollment at SJC's three campuses had soared to nearly 15,000, with 1,210 students enrolling at the South campus during its first semester, a figure which ranked among the largest first-year enrollments for any college in Texas history.

In 1981, the San Jacinto College District hired its first female president, Dr. Parker Williams. She served as the South campus president from 1981-1997, and subsequently, the college elected her to the board of regents in 1997. Shortly after Williams' retirement, the South campus welcomed the college's first African-American president, Dr. Adena Loston. Interestingly, four female presidents have led the South campus since its inception with Dr. Linda Watkins and current campus president Dr. Maureen Murphy following Williams and Loston.

In August of 1986, the South campus, with an enrollment increase of 1,871 in 1980 to 4,049 in 1985, topped all two-year colleges in Texas in growth for a six-year period. The growth continued, and during fall 2009, the enrollment at the South campus surpassed 10,000 students for the first time ever.

Through the years, San Jacinto College has earned a reputation for flexible, affordable, and innovative programs. In December 1980, the South campus introduced a "family plan" for children of students taking weekend classes. Children from the ages of 7 to 12 participated in classes in art, ballet, drama, electronics, music, and tap dancing.

In May 1982, the campus dedicated the new Buddy Jones vocational-technical building, equipped with the most up-to-date facilities to provide training for the college's growing technical programs.

In November 1985, the South campus launched innovative "telecourses," college coursework on Channel 8 public television station. And in December 1985, plans were finalized for construction of a new student center.

In December 1987, a new telephone registration system was brought online, which greatly streamlined the enrollment process and proved to be a great resource for students.

In March 1988, the campus introduced an environmental technology program to prepare students for water and wastewater plant operator certification. Two months later the South campus launched the innovative "Kids College" for elementary, junior high, and high school students. Classes included computer

literacy, foreign languages, arts and crafts, first aid, etiquette, sewing, guitar, modeling, swimming, tennis and other sports.

In February 1992, the South campus auto body repair program became the first college in the state to be designated as a training facility for the DuPont Corporation.

In April 1993, SJC welcomed the first-ever international student from Russia, Marin

Continued on Page 3C

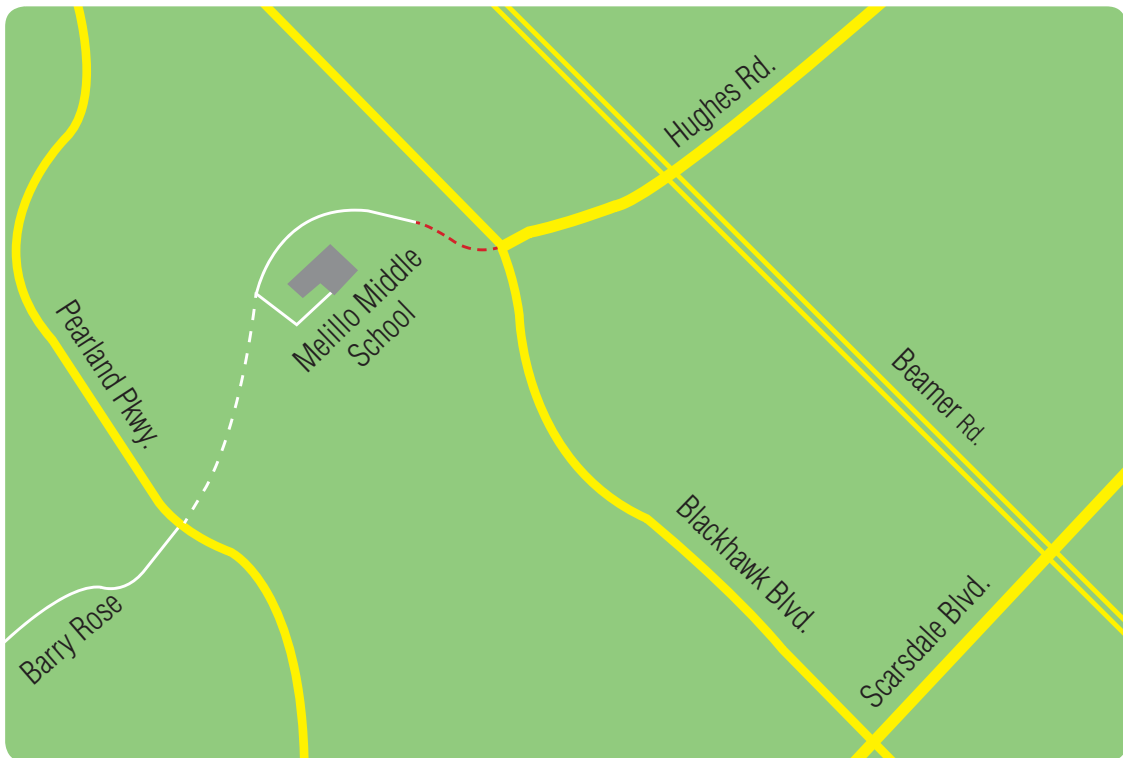


Artist rendering of new nursing facility to be constructed on San Jacinto College South campus Above, outside, below courtyard area



Hughes Road to connect with Pearland Parkway, Barry Rose

The red dotted line represents new road to be constructed in 2011 by Harris County to connect Hughes into Riverstone Ranch. Construction is expected to begin shortly. See related story Page 6D.



Ellington Joint Reserve Base has multiple units

Though many of the articles that are published in the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* involve South Belt residents, the community would not be as great as it is if it were not for the involvement of a local military detachment located a stone's throw from the beltway.

Ellington Airport, now a joint property between the U. S. Armed Forces Reserves and the City of Houston, houses the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, which is home to several units throughout the armed forces.

The 1st Battle Command Training Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division moved into the newly built 40,000-square-foot state-of-the-art battle command training center which executes battle simulation exercises for commanders and their staffs preparing for deployment in support of military operations. Under this brigade are the 1st and 2nd Battle Command Training Groups, which operate as subordinate units of the 1st Battle Command Training Brigade. This unit was established November 2008.

Also located at the joint reserve base is the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion. Activated Oct. 16, 2002, in Pasadena, Texas, and relocating in January 2011 to Ellington, the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion has served in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Consisting primarily of civilian experts such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, police, firemen, bankers, computer programmers, farmers, and others, CA soldiers provide critical expertise to host-nation governments and are also able to assess need for critical infrastructure projects such as roads, clinics, schools, power plants and water treatment facilities.

Another unit located on base is the 10th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 100th Division. The 10th Battalion is a Total Army Schools System Training Battalion of the U. S. Army Reserves headquartered at Ellington Field Joint Reserve base.

The unit serves as a major training unit of the U. S. Army Reserves and National Guard soldiers in

instruction of noncommissioned officer leadership courses and military specialty occupations for medical services personnel, as well as instruction of miscellaneous medical services courses that keep soldiers' training current. The 10th Battalion is part of the 95th Regiment.

The 1st Battalion, 289th Training Support Battalion, also at Ellington, comprises Army National Guard, Army Reserve and active component soldiers. The unit conducts training and support functions critical to the success of mobilizing units' wartime missions to include Army Reserve, National Guard, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps units. The unit is one of six battalions within the 797th Field Artillery Brigade providing training support, assistance and evaluation.

The 4005th U.S. Army Hospital Detachment moved into Ellington in November 2008. It provides trained Army medical professionals to serve at military hospitals and combat support hospitals throughout the United States. In 2010, 4005th Reservists deployed to Afghanistan where they provided medical services for the Afghan National Army. Designated as the first U.S. based Innovative Readiness Training Mission in 2009, the unit provided free dental and optometry for U.S. citizens in Mississippi and Alabama. In 2008, the unit provided nurses, doctors, combat medics and dental assistants for Operation "Beyond the Horizon" in Trinidad and Honduras.

Perhaps the most well-known occupant at Ellington Field is the 147th Air Reconnaissance Wing, though when it first moved in in 1917, it was known as the 111th Aero Squadron. It was officially formed Aug. 14, 1917, but was later deactivated and reactivated when it was mustered into the Texas National Guard in June, 1923, moving into Ellington in September of that year. Under different names, and fighting with different aircraft, the unit has served during countless wars and exercises, most recently serving in the global war on terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Legler represents South Belt



State Rep. Ken Legler at the House dais in Austin

From where do school names come?

Meador Elementary, 1963, was the first school opened in the South Belt area as homes were built in the southern part of Pasadena Independent School District.

The school was named after B.F. Meador who served on the board of trustees for the South Houston School District before its consolidation with Pasadena.

Beverly Hills followed in 1964 and was named for the Beverly Hills subdivision which was the first residential area to attend the school.

Stuchbery Elementary was named after Gene Stuchbery who was the long-time band director at Pasadena High School, in 1967.

J. Frank Dobie opened in 1968 and Atkinson Elementary in 1969.

Atkinson was PISD's second school to honor a father and son team of board members. D.E. Atkinson served from 1914 to 1918 and was re-elected in 1919 for another two-year term. His son, Delbert, served from 1934 to 1938.

Thompson Intermediate opened in 1972 to relieve serious overcrowding at Beverly Hills and was named in honor of George Thompson, who served as PISD's superintendent from 1961 to 1972.

Frazier Elementary was completed in 1975 and named for R. B. Frazier, a former trustee who served from 1947 through 1957.

Burnett Elementary, named after John H. Burnett who was one of the founders of Pasadena, opened in 1977. An interesting side note - his wife's maiden name was Beaver which was thus adopted as the school's mascot.

Burnett was involved in both construction and promotion of railroads and knew their impact on the value of property. The land was sold in 10 acre lots. He had also established the nearby towns of Deepwater and Genoa, later to be incorporated into Pasadena and Houston.

Moore Elementary was the southernmost campus at the time it was built in 1980. It was named for Richard Moore, who was the principal at Shaver Elementary from 1949 to 1959 and also served as an assistant superintendent for elementary education.

In 2003, the new J. Frank Dobie High School opened to relieve overcrowding.

This new facility led to shuffling within the district as Beverly Hills Intermediate moved to the old Dobie site on Beamer.

Morris Middle School, named after J. B. and Kathleen Morris Pasadena residents who both worked hard for the benefit of the Pasadena Independent School District, opened in the former Beverly Hills Intermediate site on Fuqua in August, 2004.

J.B. Morris was a former board member for Pasadena ISD.

Both Laura Bush and Schneider Middle School opened in 2006 as part of the 2004 bond package. Schneider was named for Dr. Rick Schneider, former superintendent of PISD.

Also within the 2004 bond package was Dixie Melillo Middle School which opened in 2008 and was named after the founder of The Rose, Dr. Dixie Melillo.

South Belt Elementary, named after the area that it so proudly represents, was completed in 2009.

Frequently Called Numbers

AIRPORTS
Ellington 713-847-4200
Hobby 713-640-3000
Bush Intercontinental 281-230-3100

ANIMAL CONTROL
Harris County Rabies/
Animal Control 281-999-3191
Humane Society 713-433-6421
S.P.C.A. 713-869-7722

BIRTH CERTIFICATES
City Vital Records 713-837-0311
County Vital Records 713-755-6438

BUILDING PERMITS
Harris County 713-956-3000
Houston 713-535-7732

CAR SHARE 713-224-7433

COLLEGES
San Jacinto College
Central 281-476-1501
South 281-484-1900
North 281-458-4050
University of Houston
Clear Lake Campus 281-283-7600

U.S. CUSTOMS 281-985-6700
DISABILITY
Fed. Soc. Sec. 1-800-772-1213

DRIVERS LICENSE
Ellington area 281-486-8242
Registration and Title 713-802-4300
Statewide Insurance 713-681-6637

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
South Belt-Ellington Chamber
of Commerce 281-481-5516
Economic Alliance 281-867-1112
Houston Port Region 281-867-1112

EMERGENCY
Ambulance, Fire, Police 911

FLOOD CONTROL 713-684-4000

GOLF COURSES
Glenbrook Park (Pub) 713-649-8089
Golfcrest (Private) 281-485-4323
Pasadena Municipal 281-481-0834

GOVERNMENT OFFICES
CITY
City Attorney 713-247-2000
City Hall 311
Controller
Ronald Green 832-393-3460
Councilmember
Mike Sullivan, Dist. E. 832-393-3008
City Council Members At-Large
Sue Lovell 832-393-3013
C.O. "Brad" Bradford 832-393-3012
Melissa Noriega 832-393-3005
Jolanda Jones 832-393-3006
Stephen C. Costello 832-393-3014
Mayor
Annis Parker 713-837-0311
Parks & Recreation 832-395-7000
City Help Line 311

COUNTY
Atty.-Vince Ryan 713-755-5101
Clerk- Stan Stanart 713-755-6411
Commissioner-
El Franco Lee, Pct. 1
..... 713-755-6111
Jack Morman, Pct. 2
..... 713-755-6220
Constable-
Gary Freeman, Pct. 2 713-477-2766
County Operator 713-755-5000
(Customer Care)
Courthouse Annex 281-481-9630
District Attorney
Patricia R. Lykos 713-755-5800
Engineers Office
Jackie Freeman 713-755-4972
County Judge
Ed Emmett 713-755-4000

Justice of the Peace
Jo Ann Delgado
Pct. 2, Pos. 1 281-481-9630
George Risner
Pct. 2, Pos. 2 713-274-6100
Parks & Recreation, Pct.1
..... 713-440-1587
Sheriff 713-755-6044
Tax Collector/Assessor
Leo Vasquez 713-224-1919

STATE
Attorney General
Greg Abbott 1-800-252-8011
Comptroller
Susan Combs 1-800-252-5555

Governor
Rick Perry 1-800-843-5789
Lt. Governor
David Dewhurst 1-800-441-0373

Representative
Ken Legler, Dist. 144 281-487-8818
John Davis, Dist. 129 281-333-1350
Garnet Coleman, Dist. 147
..... 713-520-5355

Secretary of State
Hope Andrade 512-463-5650
Senator
Mario Gallegos, Dist. 6
..... 713-678-8600

Mike Jackson, Dist. 11
..... 713-948-0111

FEDERAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES
Pete Olson, Dist. 22 281-342-7383
U.S. Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison 713-653-3456
John Cornyn 713-572-3337

HOSPITALS
Memorial Hermann S.E.
..... 281-929-6100

IMMIGRATION 1-800-375-5283
I.R.S. 1-800-829-4477

POLICE/CONSTABLE
Emergency 911

Constable Patrol Dispatch
Non-emergency 713-477-2766
Emergency 713-477-4070
D.P.S. 281-990-0599
Houston Police 713-884-3131
Houston Police
Clear Lake Sub. 281-218-3800

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
..... 713-920-2831

PASSPORTS 877-487-2778

POISON CONTROL 1-800-764-7661

POST OFFICE
Downtown 1-800-275-8777
Genoa Station 1-800-275-8777
Windmill Lakes Station 1-800-275-8777

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Clear Creek ISD Admin. 281-284-0000
Pasadena ISD Admin. 713-740-0000

UNEMPLOYMENT
Texas Work Force
Commission 281-983-1100

UTILITIES
CenterPoint 1-800-752-8036
Reliant Energy 713-207-7777
AT&T Telephone
New service- Res 1-800-288-2020
New Service- Bus. 1-888-944-0447
Repair- Bus. 1-800-286-8313
Repair- Res 1-800-246-8464
Municipal Utility District
Clear Brook City 281-484-1562
Kirkmont 281-484-4325
Sagemeadow 281-481-4182

V.A. 1-800-827-1000

VOTER REGISTRATION
INFO 1-800-252-8683
WEATHER AND TIME INFORMATION
Houston 713-529-4444

A day in the life of state Representative Legler

March 1, 2011, was the 50th day of the 82nd Legislative Session, and the pace had gone from a trot to a gallop in the blink of an eye. March 1 was the start of the gallop. Following is a glimpse of a typical day as a member of the Texas House of Representatives during session.

Legler arrived at the office at 7:15 a.m. to a brief staff meeting with his Capitol office staff. During this meeting, the appointments that were scheduled for the day were discussed, items that would be heard on the floor of the House analyzed, and the agenda for House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services was reviewed. At 7:50 a.m. Legler walked to a House committee room to begin an 8 a.m. hearing. The chair of the House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services, Vicki Truitt, oversees the committee in a straightforward manner, which is one of the reasons Legler enjoys serving on her committee. This is an organizational meeting. In such a meeting, state agencies that are overseen by the committee come before the group and explain the purposes they serve. One of the agencies testifying was the State Securities Board. It is responsible for regulating the Texas securities. In Texas, the government registers securities offered or sold within Texas and oversees the firms and individuals selling securities or providing investment advice to Tex-

ans. This hearing lasted until 9:50 a.m., at which time it recessed so Legler could go to the House floor for the day's proceedings. (Rules prohibit committees from meeting while the House is in session)

At 10 am, Speaker Joe Straus gavelled the House to order so the House could begin the scheduled events. Normally during the first 60 days, no bills are considered by the House, so the main items for consideration were various House resolutions. This is the opportunity for members to introduce people from their districts, whose actions have benefited their communities. This session, Legler has offered House resolutions for several well-deserving groups and people from House District 144. Around 12:30 p.m., the House adjourned for the day.

At 1 p.m., Legler returned to the House Committee on Pensions and Investments to continue the hearing. On the schedule was testimony from the mayor of Houston and representatives from the Houston Fire Fighters Pension Board. At the same time, the House Committee on Insurance began its hearing. Though he is not on the Insurance Committee, one of the bills he filed was set to be heard at that time. Around 1:30, Legler went across the Capitol Extension to present House Joint Resolution 26 to the Insurance Committee. HJR 26 would provide constitutional protection to funds that are held by the Texas Windstorm Insur-

ance Association so they cannot be diverted for use in other areas. After laying out HJR 26, it was back to the Pensions, Investments and Financial Services for another two hours. Around 4 p.m., the committee adjourned for the week and the representative returned to his office for several more meetings.

Back at the office, he met with representatives from the Texas Workforce Commission concerning his proposal that people receiving unemployment benefits should pass a drug test.

Additionally, he met with representatives from the Texas State Aquarium. Now most people think that a day would end around 5:30 or so; this idea does not hold true in the Capitol. After all of the office meetings, Legler left the Capitol to attend a working meeting at a restaurant downtown. The focus of the meeting was to help mentor some of the new freshmen members.

Legler says, "You can take it from me, being a freshman in the House can be a very daunting experience." Thus, a group of senior lawmakers decided to extend a hand to this large class and help guide them. The group talked to them about the process, the people involved and how the opportunity they have been given is one that can truly have a positive effect on all Texans.

Around midnight, he arrived at his apartment, knowing tomorrow would be even busier.

Resources

The South Belt community is much like a city within Harris County. Everything needed from cradle to grave is here. The area has its own hospital, college, senior citizens centers, two libraries, funeral home and a wide variety of churches. Nearby there are two airports, a place to get a driver's license, assistance for the blind, a facility to apply for food stamps, and the list continues.

Bracewell City Library
Located at 9002 Kingspoint at Beltway 8. Bracewell provides an outside bookdrop as well as telephone renewal at 832-393-2580.

Department of Public Safety
The office is located at 111 Tri-Star, at Highway 3, across from Ellington Field and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 281-486-8242.

Ellington Airport
Ellington Joint Reserve Base
Located on Highway 3 (Old Galveston Road), Ellington Airport houses both military and independent commercial flight operations. For information, call 713-847-4200.

Harris County Parker Williams Library
The Harris County Parker Williams Library, at Scarsdale and Beamer, opened in 1993. Harris County library cards are free to residents of Texas who provide proof of residency. Hours are Monday from 1 to 9 p.m., closed Tuesday, Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 281-484-2036.

Hobby Airport
Hobby Airport is located at 7800 Airport Blvd. For information, call 713-640-3000 or log onto www.fly2houstons.com.

Metro Bus
Houston's Metro Bus serves the South Belt area with daily service from various locations. For information, call 713-635-4000 or log onto www.ridemetro.org.

San Jacinto College South
San Jacinto College South serves the

South Belt by providing community college educational and technical programs. It is located at 13735 Beamer. For information, call 281-484-1900 or visit www.sjcd.edu.

Southeast Volunteer Fire Department
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department has served the unincorporated area of South Belt for nearly 30 years. SVFD has three locations, two on Hughes Road in Sagemeadow (one unmanned), and a third located on Scarsdale. To volunteer to join SVFD, call 281-485-7576.

Fuqua Park and Ride
The Fuqua Park and Ride off Fuqua Street has the capacity for approximately 950 vehicles. The facility connects to the High Occupancy Vehicle lane of the Gulf Freeway. For information, call 713-635-4000.

Star Van Pool Program
The Metro, located across the Gulf Freeway from the Fuqua Park and Ride, has the capacity for approximately 100 vehicles. For information, call 1-888-606-7433 or visit www.ridemetro.org.

South Belt Security Alliance
The South Belt Security Alliance gives additional security surveillance to the city portion of South Belt. For information, call Linda Arnone 281-484-4325.

Harris County Tax Collector
Located at 10851 Scarsdale, the office provides many tax services, where property taxes can be paid, and voter registration and vehicle registration can be filed. Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 713-368-2000 for information.

Harris County Clerk's Office
The Harris County Clerk's local branch is at 10851 Scarsdale. The clerk can issue marriage licenses, file assumed names, file release of liens, file military discharges, file death records, and issue birth records and death records. For more information call the office at 281-464-0115.

KEN LEGLER

State Representative District 144



I am honored to have served as your State Representative and look forward to representing you in the future.

1109 Fairmont Parkway
Pasadena, TX 77504
(281) 487-8818
(713) 944-1084 Fax
Ken.Legler@house.state.tx.us

Christ Church celebrates 60 years

By Matt Griesmyer

With all of the religious options that South Belt residents have from which to choose in the area, it's not hard to find a service that provides what is wanted. But if residents' preferences lean toward Pentecostal services, Christ Church on Fuqua fulfills those needs and more.

Founded in 1951 by the Rev. Fred and Jean Olson, services were originally held in a garage.

After moving a few times, the church ended up at its current location at 12815 Fuqua in 2000. Now in its 60th year of serving its members, the church is a South Belt landmark.

The direction of the church has since passed from the hands of the founding pastors and into the care of the Rev. Mike Anderson, a South Belt resident for 20 years.

Anderson and his wife, Kris, have been leading Christ Church for the past almost-20 years, as pastor and parish administrator, respectively, and have helped with several organizations within the church.

"We have a strong youth ministry and children's ministry," Anderson said. "A 75- to 90-voice children's choir sings ev-



The Andersons pose along with their son, his wife and their children for a family photograph showing three generations. Pictured are, left to right, the Rev. Mike Anderson, Kris Anderson, Kristen Rebekah, Jon Paul II, Crystal McDaniel and Jon Paul McDaniel.

ery Sunday in the morning service. We serve needy and less fortunate; we have a food pantry and a ministry to Spanish-speaking people. All together, we have a combination of about 15 different ministries represented in the church."

In addition to their efforts within the church, ministries are supported all around the globe by Anderson's flock.

"The church supports 26 different missions around the world," Anderson said. "Our children

have funded three homes for a program in Africa for HIV/AIDS orphans called Reclaim Kids."

The church itself has grown tremendously over the past 10 years in its current location. When the new sanctuary opened up, the parish had approximately 75 members. Now the congregation numbers around 300.

Quite a feat for a church that began in a garage.

"Olson saw a need for a church on the south side of town near what was then called Chocolate Bayou," Anderson said.

According to Anderson, the former pastor found the land off Fuqua, where the church stands today, within South Belt's borders.

As far as what the church offers to its own members and neighbors, Anderson is very clear on his program.

"This is a place that is not only friendly, but you can make friends here," Anderson said. "We have a family atmosphere. We offer exciting and exuberant services and sound Bible preaching. We are a loving community, not just on the surface, but a very loving atmosphere committed to showing love to the community."

As mentioned before, the Andersons have been members of the South Belt community for the past 20 years.

The past 10 have been spent living in Sageglen, and before that they lived in Kirkwood. They have one son, Jon Paul McDaniel, whom they adopted when he was 17 years old.

McDaniel and his wife, Crystal, have two children and reside in Kirkwood. He graduated from South Houston High School, and they were installed as pastors at Anderson's church on March 6.

50 years at SJC

Continued from Page 1C

Titova, who attended classes at the South campus. In January 1995, the South campus launched Project Start Trek, an innovative partnership involving six school districts within the SJC district in which eighth-graders could visit SJC to get a sample of college life.

In February 1995, South Belt area businesswoman Marie Flickinger became the first female to be elected to the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees. In April 1995, the South campus launched a program that enabled students to receive grades over the telephone.

In 1999, SJC patrons approved a bond referendum that funded construction of cutting-edge interactive learning centers at all three campuses, as well as the new Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center at the South campus.

In the 21st century, the South campus continues its tradition of excellence and innovation. The campus houses the Clear Horizons Early College High School, which opened its doors in 2007, giving students from Clear Creek Independent School District a chance at earning an associate degree while obtaining their high school diploma. Also, partnerships with a variety of other school districts across the San Jacinto College region have allowed more than 700 high school students to pursue their dual-credit hours at the South campus.

In 2008, SJC patrons approved a bond issue that funded construction of new facilities at all three campuses. The capital improvement campaign includes a new Student Success Center at the South campus, as well as a state-of-the-art Allied Health facility at the South campus.

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church cares for the local community

Not everybody wants a mega church. Some people feel left out and anonymous when they worship with hundreds or thousands of people. Many folks need a smaller community of faith where people care about them and support them as they grow in their relationship with God.

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church is that kind of church, a place to belong and to serve God. Founded in 1957, the church attracted many NASA engineers who moved to Houston to put a man on the moon. That "can do" attitude was built into the DNA of St. Stephen, and its ministries have been on the cutting edge ever since.

It is a fun and lively place to be! Besides the usual worship and educational experiences that are a normal part of church life, St. Stephen boasts a number of ministries that are unique to the community. The Bronson Street Community Garden, affiliated with Urban Harvest, was started last year to engage the neighborhood in growing fresh produce, to help supply the church's growing food pantry and to teach children about gardening. Anyone who wants to garden can sign up for a plot and join the fun of this creative, nourishing and educational ministry.

The church's Theology and Film Group has been featured in many news articles. Members see current movies and gather monthly to talk about them, but the meetings are more than just lively discussions. The dinners often feature food, decorations and costumes that were seen in the movie. For the last 10 years there has been a black tie Oscar gala with participants awarding "Oscars" according to theological categories like the best Christ figure

or the best example of fallen humanity. One fun event this spring is a rock and roll party called "Jesus Rocks." Designed for people who love rock and roll, this event - besides listening fun - explores the Christian themes present throughout decades of rock music. Everyone is invited to this free event April 2 at 7 p.m. There will be food, prizes and child care provided. Preparations for Easter are in full swing! The Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. will commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Every believer is welcome to receive the sacrament of Communion. A choral

Councilman Mike Sullivan brings personal involvement to District E

By Karma Lennon

Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan is no stranger to local politics. Since 2008, he has represented District E, which covers South Belt, areas south of Hobby Airport, all of Ellington Airport, Clear Lake, Northshore, Summerwood and Kingwood, where he has lived with his family for 20 years. Though his district sprawls across the entire metro area, Sullivan likes to remain very active in each of his towns, belonging to multiple chambers of commerce. He is a member and regular attendee of South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce functions.

Before becoming a council member, he served on the Humble Independent School District Board of Trustees and was a member of the Region H Water Planning Group. He has been a small business owner for many years and has held a real estate broker license since 1978.

Currently, Sullivan is kept busy serving on a number of committees, such as Transportation and Infrastructure, Neighborhood and Quality of Life, Public Safety and Homeland Security, International Business Initiatives, and Budget and Fiscal Affairs. He

serves as chair of the Ethics and Council Governance Committee as well as Houston's Water Resource Management Committee. This extensive experience and proven capabilities led Gov. Rick Perry to recently appoint Sullivan to the Task Force on Unfunded Mandates on Local Governments.

Some of the largest contributions he has been instrumental in bringing to South Belt are the building of the new \$6 million Bracewell Library, the design of a brand-new community center at Sagemont Park scheduled to begin construction in April 2011, major reconstruction along South Shaver and Sabo, an expansion of Ellington Airport and a study of its flood preparedness, railroad repair adjacent to Highway 3, and the closing of two dilapidated apartment buildings in the area.

Due to community concern, the Leader recently contacted Sullivan regarding congestion and safety issues at the Beamer and Beltway 8 intersection. Upon Sullivan's recommendation, the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department studied the area and is now suggesting increased signage and the addition of a second left turn lane.

Also in the area, Sullivan has been working on upgrading Blackhawk Park with new lighting and seeding for a soccer and football field. Additionally, Sullivan scheduled meetings with Pasadena Independent School District to discuss state funding cuts and how they will affect the district's students and staff.

As Sullivan is deeply committed to working with South Belt residents to address their concerns and improve the overall quality of life in the community, he wishes to invite all residents to the upcoming town hall meeting to be held on May 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at San Jacinto College South's Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building located at 13735 Beamer Road. Sullivan hopes to see everyone there.

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2011-Future
Jon Paul II & Kristen

Guest Speakers




Dr. David Bernard
General Superintendent UPCI








Rev. Jerry Jones
General Secretary UPCI

12815 Fuqua St., Houston, TX 77034
281-481-3222
www.christchurchhouston.com

Councilman Mike Sullivan



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900 Bagby, First Floor Phone: 832.393.3008 E-Mail: districte@houstontx.gov

pd pol ad Mike Sullivan Campaign

Maintenance & Civic Groups

Ashley Pointe
President, Sherry Applewhite
Call Judith Lanham or Cathy Smith at Ashley Pointe Homeowners Association 281-481-2160
Meets Quarterly

Beverly Hills Civic Club
Carolyn Dickinson; Meets quarterly 713-941-1636

Blackhawk
President, Daniel Pearson
Direct call to Nita Haywood at 281-464-8080 or 832-477-0185
Meets quarterly

Clear Brook Landing
Calls to Rose Rodriguez at Principal Management; 713-329-7100

Clear Brook Meadows
Owners Association
President, Mark Smith
Call Paula McDonald, 832-864-1246
Meets third Wednesday at Parker Williams Library

College Place
President, Keith Schoonover
Calls Kandyce Dudley at AMI Association Management Inc. Meets monthly; 713-984-7205

Highland Meadow
President, Mike Davis
Meets second Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Parker Williams Library

Kirkmont I
Homeowners Association
President, Becky Manly
Call Consolidated Management

Meets second Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Kirkmont MUD Building
281-296-9775

Kirkmont II
President, Joe Bennett
Meets second Monday, 7 p.m.
Kirkmont MUD Building
281-484-4325
Call CIA Services 713-981-9000

Kirkmont III & IV
President, Eric Papel
Meets one time a year at end of year.
Kirkmont MUD Building
281-484-0383

Kirkwood Civic Club
President, Ralph Robbins
Contact Robbins for meeting times at Sagemont Recreation Center 281-481-3178

Kirkwood South Committee
President, Estella Valdez-Davis
Haywood Management; 281-464-8080
Meets quarterly 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Judge Jo Ann Delgado's courtroom

Riverstone Ranch
President, John Santasiero
Call Kate Loeffler, Van Moor Properties; 832-593-7300

Sageglen/Meadows of Clear Creek Civic Club
President, Chuck Tylka
Meets third Monday every other month, 7 p.m. at Sageglen building 281-481-2160

Sageglen Meadows of Clear Creek Civic Club
President, John Santasiero
Call Kate Loeffler, Van Moor Properties; 832-593-7300

Sageglen/Meadows of Clear Creek Civic Club
President, Chuck Tylka
Meets third Monday every other month, 7 p.m. at Sageglen building 281-481-2160

Sageglen Meadows of Clear Creek Civic Club
Contact person, David Montgomery

Meets second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Sagemeadow MUD Building www.sagemeadow.org 281-485-3548

Sagemont Civic Club
President, Julius Schindler
Meets second Monday, 7 p.m.
Parker Williams Library
sagemontcivicclub.org
jschindler3@comcast.net or 832-545-4054

Sagemont Maintenance
Chris Lacamu, 281-464-8874
One public meeting per year at the Sagemont Recreation Center
Maintenance@sagemontcivicclub.org

Sagemont Park Civic Club
President, Jeff Shepherd
Meets annually in May or June 832-545-9279

Sagemont Park Townhomes
President, Jackie Little
Houston Community Management, Liz Hey, 832-864-1264
Meets fourth Monday, 7 p.m. at Townhome Cabana

Scarsdale Civic Club
Beverly McCoy
Meets last Monday, 7 p.m. at Scarsdale Civic Club; 832-864-1227

Bella Vita*
Ronald Gerlach
ronaldhg@sbcglobal.net
Club Manager: Nancy Triggs 281-464-3150

Villa D'Este & Villa Verde*

AMI Management; 713-932-1122

Woodmeadow II
President, Cecelia Ganje
Meets last Wednesday every month, 7 p.m. Parker Williams Library, Scarsdale at Beamer
Call Andrea East;
Houston Community Management, 832-864-1245

Public Schools

Pasadena I.S.D.
Atkinson Elementary
9602 Kingspoint Road
713-740-0520
Principal: Lena Rhone Ortiz

Burnett Elementary
11825 Teaneck Drive
713-740-0536
Principal: Cynthia Henderson

Frazier Elementary
10503 Hughes Road
713-740-0560
Principal: Rhonda Parmer

Genoa Elementary
12900 Alameda Genoa Rd.
713-740-0592
Principal: Tiffany Bennett

Jessup Elementary
9301 Alameda Genoa Rd.
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9220 Hughes Rd.
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Two generations of Carpenters are serving at least two generations of South Belt residents through South Belt Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc. Pictured are Eddy Carpenter (left) and son Scott Carpenter, who helps his father run his business.

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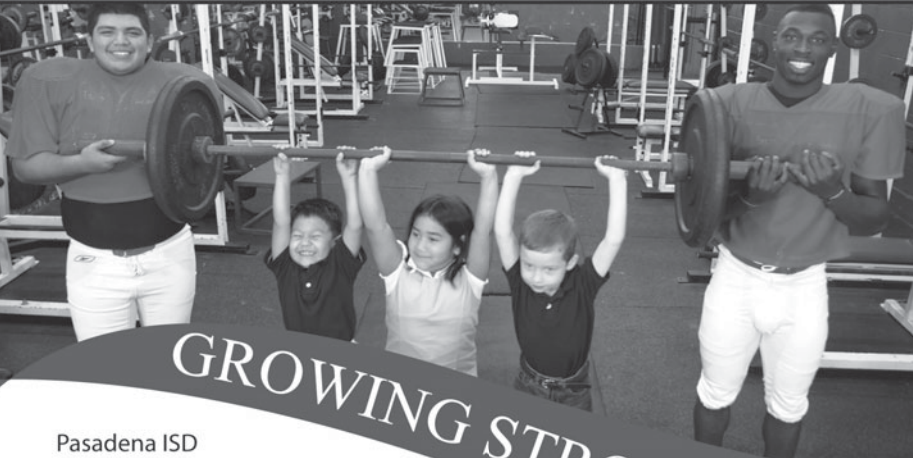


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|--|--|---|



South Belt Air - serving area since '82

By Matt Griesmyer
South Belt Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc. has been a South Belt institution since 1982, even though they may not technically reside within the boundaries of the area.

Eddy Carpenter, owner and founder of South Belt Air, has worked in the air conditioning business since graduating from high school in 1973 and continues to think of himself and his company as a South Belt business. His family moved to South Belt in 1979 and he lived in the area for 20 years. His wife, Pam, was one of the original teachers at Moore Elementary. His children Scott and Jillian both attended South Belt schools. Scott, 28, now helps run the business.

"When the business first got started, we were located off of Alameda Genoa," Carpenter said. "Since then we have moved twice. We were on Beamer for many years and moved a year and half ago just four miles up the road to where we are now."

The newest incarnation of the business is located at 4403 FM 2351, a stone's throw from the intersection of Beamer Road and 2351.

The new facility boasts a lofty 7,500 square feet and services a large area.

"The only reason we moved is because we ran out of room at our old location," Carpenter said. "We were running out of warehouse space and parking spots, so we moved here."

At any one time Carpenter has as many as 10 trucks making service calls throughout the areas he services: South Belt, Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Clear Lake, Friendswood, Pearland, Webster, Dickinson and more.

Even though the business now operates out of the Friendswood office, Carpenter never thought of changing the name from South Belt Air. When he started out, he chose the name and location of his business because that was his home. He lived, went to church and knew what was around the area when it came to South Belt.

"If we wouldn't have grown so much, we would still be on Beamer," Carpenter said. "We just had to move for more room. South Belt is such a close-knit community full of great schools, great churches and great people. When we did have to move, I knew that we had to find a place near South Belt. That's where so many long-term customers of ours live. If a call comes in from South Belt, we are going to try hard to get that call. We are South Belt Air Conditioning and we will put our South Belt customers first."

Some of Carpenter's customers have been with him for so long, he is now providing his services to their children.

"I have been in South Belt for so long, I am now serving the kids of our original customers," Carpenter said. "When I went to their parents' houses, some of them were 6 years old. Now I go into the houses that they own, and they remember me. It makes me feel old sometimes, but it also feels good that we have second-generation customers."

One thing that Carpenter has always prided himself on is that his company always provides great service. South Belt Air is a member of the Better Business Bureau and has recently received an award for superb service on the website Angie's List – a website that lists businesses and how they rate as far as service is concerned.

"I will always tell customers that the A/C is the only appliance that needs help to work," Carpenter said. "You can hang a microwave on a tree, but if you plug it in, it will still work. If you take the A/C unit without the ductwork, insulation and ventilation, it won't. If someone says they need a new A/C unit because theirs is not performing well, instead of selling them a new system, I try to see if there is another reason that the unit is not cooling properly. We always try our best to be fair and honest. A good A/C man has to look at the whole picture, and we look at the whole picture."

Now in his 28th year of operation, Carpenter has no plans on leaving the business or the community. What are his plans for 2011?

"We are going to work as hard and fair and honest as we can," Carpenter said. "We are going to do our best to be there when the phone rings."



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Organizations

Bay Area Quilt Guild
The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church at 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Call Linda Snyder at 281-332-6952 for information.

Friends of the Parker Williams Library
Friends of the Parker Williams Library meet quarterly with coffee and doughnuts the fourth Monday of each month at 9 a.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for more information.

Lions Clubs
Space Center & Hobby Airport
The Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization. It is a medium through which people serve their fellow man.

The South Belt is served by the Space Center Lions and Hobby Airport Lions. Hobby Airport Lions meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral at 12500 Gulf Freeway.

Space Center meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Golden Corral at 12500 Gulf Freeway. For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243 or visit www.lions2s2.org.

South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce
Organized Oct. 12, 1984, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce is designed to improve the quality of the community through controlled economic development.

The chamber's work includes strong support for continual improvement of roads, schools, medical facilities, transportation, and community services. The executive director is Sally Mitchell. For information, call 281-481-5516.

South Belt-Ellington Super Neighborhood
The Super Neighborhood program, sponsored by the city of Houston, is designed to unite a defined portion of the city as a recognized, incorporated group working to prioritize local city spending in Houston.

The Super Neighborhood has the authority to recommend budget items which affect the local community.

Major projects the organization has impacted include the repaving of Beamer Road and the building of football fields at the Blackhawk Park location. The organization is composed of various civic club and community representatives.

Anyone wishing to work with the organization may contact Marie Flickinger at 281-481-5656 or Sandy Robb at 281-481-2838.

TOPS
Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint. For information, call Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

Red Hat Society
The Red Hat Society is a national organization of women over 50. The group meets monthly at local restaurants and tea rooms. The queen mother of the South Belt chapter is Charline Knox. For information on how to start a chapter, visit www.redhatsociety.org.

Music Go Round serenades community

By Karma Lennon
Since 1997, South Belt residents have been able to depend on Music Go Round for quality service with anything and everything involving music and sound. The passion and experience of the staff members is obvious through their commitment to excellence in work and charity.

Owner and accomplished musician Rick Meyers has been a lifelong South Belter. After graduating from Milby High School in 1975, he began touring with the USO. The USO took him to countless American military bases around the world until 1978 when he settled back in South Belt to serve as a Baptist Music Minister – a position he enjoyed for 18 years. Though no longer a music minister, he does currently head the audio department of Friendswood United Methodist Church, where he is very active.

One of the philosophies of Music Go Round, being a Christian owned and operated business, is that music really is a ministry in itself, which likely accounts for the establishment's large church clientele. One of the continued outreach programs Music Go Round staffers are glad to participate in is updating sound systems for new wireless microphone frequency laws; when upgrading an institution to be compliant with the law, the out-of-date, but still functioning, technology is collected and donated to local mission trips to Mexico if their frequency laws still permit its use.

As exemplified through memberships in the National Association of Music Merchants and Texas Music Educators Association, music education is very important to Music Go Round's success. They pride themselves on employing professional instructors who are highly qualified to teach a wide variety of instruments. Not only will students learn the practical applications in playing their chosen instru-

ment, but they also gain a thorough and exceedingly important background in music theory.

When asked what he liked best about living and working in South Belt, Meyers cited the diversity in the community and how the abundance of churches, wonderful schools, and opportunities for community involvement make South Belt a great place for families to put down roots. He is excited by the rapid growth that South Belt is experiencing and, through his planned expansions for 2011 and beyond, is anticipating a lucrative and lengthy career here, which is certainly music to every one's ears.

New kid on the block, Jack Morman, takes on Precinct 2

By Karma Lennon
Harris County Commissioner of Precinct 2, Jack Morman, came in like a lion when he defeated incumbent Sylvia Garcia – a historic victory during the last election, the likes of which hasn't happened in 36 years.

Morman has always been described as being logical and level-headed. He has been a lifelong resident of Deer Park and competed as a varsity tennis player at Deer Park High School where he was also a straight-A student. After graduating, he pursued his undergraduate and law degrees at Baylor University, graduating well under the projected time frames. Now a family man with two young children – Jordan, 4, and Jack III, 2 – he feels ready to take what some say was an uncharacteristic risk.

His career thus far has been as a civil litigation attorney, most recently in the firm of Michael P. Fleming and Associates. His experiences as a lawyer earned him recognition by *Texas Monthly: SuperLawyers* as a 'Rising Star' and by *H Texas Magazine* as a 'Professional on the Fast Track.' This plucky ambition and the support of his high school sweetheart, now wife, are what finally coaxed him to dive into the election feet first.

Morman didn't rely on flash and pomp to win the election; he felt his heart and his actions would prove his point and that his continued success in education and career would attest to his incomparable work ethic.

In fact, he didn't even employ a campaign manager and was grossly outspent by his competitor; further evidence he practiced what he preached.

With his background in civil litigation and a desire to see "lower taxes, safe streets, and less government interference," Morman has long been poised to tackle the challenges of being county commissioner. Since accepting the position, he has worked tenaciously in support of the precinct's parks, senior centers, roads, bridges and drainage – all vital elements of the precinct and of his success.

In spite of the recent deep budget and personnel cuts, which have proved to be significant setbacks, Morman is certain his outlook on conservative spending with citizens' tax dollars will get things back on track in 2011, and the community will continue to thrive.

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Jack Morman

Commissioner, Precinct 2

Commissioner Jack Morman looks forward to serving the diverse community of Precinct Two in the years ahead. Together, we will make great progress for the families and neighborhoods of South Belt and the Bay Area.



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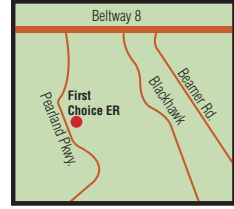
attempt to provide customer service where historically there has been none, we have taken the emergency room out of the hospital and placed it in the community,” says Dr. Jack Novak, executive chairman and owner.

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Area drainage largest undertaking yet coming

While the City of Houston is facing staunch criticism for its “Rebuild Houston” program, the controversial drainage and street repair fee passed last November as Proposition 1, Harris County officials are moving forward with their own plans to reduce flooding in the South Belt community.

In one of its largest undertakings to date to alleviate area flooding, the Harris County Flood Control District is set to construct a massive detention pond on 120 acres of land off Beamer, across the street from San Jacinto College.

To be located in the area that once housed the South Bend subdivision, the new pond will hold approximately 1 billion gallons of water. Soil sampling conducted by both the county and the Brio Site Task Force have determined the once-hazardous site to now be safe.

The new detention site, which will drain into Mud Gully and then into Clear Creek, will be similar to the existing pond near Blackhawk and Dixie Farm Road, but more

than three times the size. Although the detention facility had been proposed more than 20 years ago, it wasn’t until a July 2009 meeting sponsored by Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan that county officials decided to take action. At the meeting, representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the earliest drainage improvements could be made to Clear Creek would be 13 to 15 years.

The Corps has been studying the Clear Creek Project since 1962 at the cost of \$35 million. Corps officials at the meeting further said any future work on Clear Creek would likely require a new congressional authorization and additional funding, due to its change in scope over the last 47 years.

Following the 2009 meeting, Harris County officials, with strong support from Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee, began the process of acquiring the necessary land. The deal has been finalized.

While the endeavor is expected to greatly improve drainage in the

area, the Corps project will still go forward as originally planned.

This past year, a coalition that included the chairs of both the local Republican and Democratic parties was created to promote the construction of the new pond. The group’s efforts were not necessary, however, as all local officials, including U.S. Rep. Pete Olson, were supportive of the measure.

The overall cost of construction has yet to be determined, as Harris County has only begun its preliminary engineering studies and has not started the design phase.

Galveston County officials, however, have agreed to contribute \$10 million to the project, as it will also benefit them by detaining water that currently drains to Clear Creek.

Construction is expected to begin sometime in the next two to three years, according to HCFCD spokeswoman Heather Saucier.

Once begun, Saucier said construction is expected to take roughly 30 months to complete.

County plans 2nd detention pond



Harris County officials are set to move forward with plans to construct a massive 120-acre detention pond across Beamer from San Jacinto College. A South Belt resident is shown above walking at the hike-and-bike trail on Blackhawk near Dixie Farm Road that is adjacent to a similar, but much smaller, 30-acre reservoir.

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Mall remains community staple

Since its beginning in 1968, Alameda Mall has been a shopping destination for the South Belt area. While other malls of its size have come and gone, Alameda Mall still thrives in the community as a hub of retail. "We know we are not the biggest, but we recognize we have a vibrant community to serve, and we plan to continue our commitment to the community" said General Manager Terry Felton. Felton has been with Alameda Mall since 1990 and has been active with the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of

Commerce Board. The mall has seen many changes over the years, but change is good. Like many businesses in the community, Alameda Mall was hit hard by Hurricane Ike which delayed the opening of a new department store and closed Macy's for a year. In September of 2009, the Macy's re-opened completely remodeled from wall to wall. Everything in the store was replaced. In addition, the new Burlington Coat Factory store opened with great success. "The opening of two brand-new

department stores has been well received by our community" said Felton. Palais Royal is one of the original tenants and joined the mall re-grand opening with an interior remodel as well. "We think this kind of commitment from the retailers and mall owners shows we are committed to providing the right merchandise at the right price for our customers." The mall will continue to invest in the property with a goal of making sure customers have a pleasant shopping experience. Workers

recently completed the renovation of the mall entrances and a fresh paint job on the exterior of the building. More work coming this year includes improvements to the parking lot and behind-the-scene upgrades like roofing and air conditioning. As the economy improves and with the success of the anchor stores, Felton said they are seeing more interest from local, regional and national retailers. One thing for sure, Alameda Mall remains committed to the South Belt area and is here to stay.

The king is back!

By Karma Lennon
All hail the king! Burger King, at 10991 Scarsdale Blvd., celebrates its return to South Belt after being ravaged by an electrical fire on Feb. 28, 2010.

The grand opening of the new store, set for Saturday, March 26, will feature music with a DJ, raffles and giveaways, local students' artwork and a fundraiser benefiting Frazier Elementary's scholarship fund.

When asked why Burger King chose to rebuild, chief operating officer Sonny Surendran recalled the 25 years of loyal patronage the establishment had while in South Belt. The people of the community had made the restaurant one of the top operations in the entire Houston market - with a gold standard rating - so rebuilding in the same familiar location was the only logical option.

Patrons can look forward to the same excellent service in the nation's first completely upgraded facility exemplifying the futuristic Burger King 2020 image with dual drive-through lanes for speedier visits. Surendran, District

Manager Jalal Alkiswany, and store Manager Martha Armanderiz are looking to the future with great anticipation as they are already beginning to make plans to sponsor local school fundraisers and P.T.O.s, sports teams, VFW events and the MDA Jerry's Kids telethon. Surendran and Alkiswany are very close with their store managers and have a mutual passion for charity work. This

year, many of the managers will volunteer at a Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp just outside Brenham for the second consecutive year. "The biggest pride we take is in our people. We have long-time employees. It is very much like a family business," says Alkiswany.

Already members of the Deer Park and Baytown chambers of commerce, they will soon be

joining the South Belt-Ellington Chamber to deepen their roots in the community. "We hire lots of school kids. Many former employees are now doctors and lawyers," says Surendran. "We offer lots of basics in life. Here, employees can learn discipline and a good work ethic." Right now, they're looking forward to offering a lot of life to South Belt.



Area firefighters are shown above extinguishing the blaze that destroyed the Scarsdale Burger King on Feb. 28, 2010. While the store recently re-opened for business with a new look, an official grand opening will take place Saturday, March 26.

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- 10:30 a.m. - Giveaway for a \$50 BK Crown Gift Card
- 11:00 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting with South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Frazier Elementary Fundraiser
10% of sales go to school scholarship
- Noon - Team photo with community leaders
- 1:00 p.m. - Giveaway for free dirt bike
- 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Music with DJ, Dobie Cheerleaders

Commissioner Lee: Working hard for South Belt

Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee's day started with an early stationary bike ride at his home. About 9 a.m., he arrived at Finnigan Park dressed in jeans, a long-sleeved, pullover shirt and tennis shoes to compete in a table tennis tournament.

Later that evening, he was off again to the 5 p.m. Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League Spring Season Opening Ceremonies at El Franco Lee Park in south Harris County.

By the way, this was a Saturday, a normal off day for many county employees.

But the 26-year Precinct One Democratic incumbent has learned from his vast political experience that this isn't a 9-to-5, Monday-through-Friday gig.

In a sense, this day typifies how Lee's earlier life as an athlete helped mold him into a successful politician and former businessman. "The same discipline that's required for athletes is parallel to the preparation for life," said Lee.

He passes that concept on to others, including constituents and employees through several comprehensive programs. He staunchly advocates that youth and seniors' groups stay informed and active.

That philosophy is used in many of his programs, including the Precinct One Harris County Street Olympics, a nonprofit organization he founded 25 years ago that uses athletics and other developmental-skill programs to help Harris County youth live healthy and productive lives.

There are also numerous programs at his six senior citizens' centers that are geared toward exercise and healthy diets.

"Commissioner Lee is very passionate about young people along with a deep concern about the elderly — all vulnerable members of our society," said Hannah Chow, public services and infrastructure bureau chief at the district attorney's office, who met Lee in 1984 when she was campaigning for her successful bid for state district judge and he was seeking election as commissioner.

As the senior member of Commissioners Court, Lee has amassed a wealth of knowledge about county government. It helps him to better understand hot-button issues such as jail overcrowding, public safety and the county budget, especially in these tough

economic times. "Most people underestimate the commissioner," said Chow, who later worked for Lee after she left the bench in 1998. "He is soft-spoken, deliberate and thoughtful in his speech. He has an incredible memory and a vast knowledge on a range of subjects. He does not need all the trappings to make him successful. He does most of his work behind the scenes."

Said Precinct One Constable Jack Abercia: "Well, I have nothing negative to say about this man. This man does what he says he's going to do. There is no drawn-out answer to wait for because he's going to give it to you immediately if he can or can't do it."

On March 8, Commissioners Court passed a \$1.23 billion budget that called for each department to cut spending 10 percent due to the drop in county revenue, which was prompted by lower property values during the recession. But even before the vote, Lee in the past year has been a leader in making sure that all county departments keep costs down.

"Commissioner Lee through the years has been a budget watchdog," said Richard Raycraft, director of Harris County Management Services and the county's budget officer. "And he has contributed his years of experience and knowledge to other court members. And I'm sure it's very much appreciated."

Over the past year, Lee also has been directly involved in a major project that's expected to have a positive impact on the budget in the long run. The Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, of which Lee is the chairman, was created by Commissioners Court to improve the criminal justice system and reduce the jail population — both of which currently cost the county millions of dollars annually.

As a result of the council, Commissioners Court last year — with the help of a \$4.1 million grant from the state of Texas — started a Public Defender's Office, a pilot program that will handle juvenile, adult felony and mental health cases in participating district and county criminal courts. The Public Defender's Office also will represent indigent

clients in appellate courts. He also builds alliances that enable him to work with county officials, community leaders and other politicians — Republican or Democrat.

Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado, for example, is thankful that Lee reached out to her when she was elected in 2000. She said Lee visited her to get a better understanding of what her office does and what it needed. As a result, she said, he worked to expand the office and give the outer building a facelift with new signage. The commissioner also advocated for a tax assessor-collector's office in the complex.

"I have enjoyed our partnership for the past 10 years, especially with our annual Easter egg hunt that we have for the children of our community," Delgado said. "Commissioner Lee has been a fine example of what a public servant is about. He is here to serve and to make our community better for the next generation."

Other Precinct One projects in the South Belt area last year include an asphalt overlay of Hall Road and a left-turn lane on Blackhawk at Beltway 8. Projects that will start this year include a right-turn lane on Blackhawk at Beltway 8, Hughes Road expansion from Sageblossom to the Pearland city limits and the Constitution pedestrian bridge.

Commissioner Lee's position requires him to, among other duties, participate in county departments' budget hearings and adopt the county's budget. He also oversees his precinct's annual budget that's used for — among other things — the oversight of capital improvement projects, and the maintenance of more than 600 miles of roads and some 30 parks' grounds.

He credits his life experiences as a child and a young adult for preparing him for his job as commissioner.

Lee was raised by his mother, Selma, in Houston's Kashmere Gardens in a family of three older brothers and a younger sister. His mother, who is now deceased, owned a bar and grill with an adjoining boarding house on the historic Lyons Avenue from the 1930s through the 1960s. He learned a lot of life's lessons — especially in economics — from the small-business back-

ground of his mother, other relatives and people in the community.

He graduated from Wheatley High School, where he reached the state finals as a swimmer and pole vaulter. After high school, he attended San Jacinto Junior College and competed on its gymnastics team. He later transferred to Texas Southern University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Technology. He also completed related course work and post-graduate studies at TSU's School of Public Affairs, and at the University of Houston.

He's married to his high school friend, Kaye, and they have two adult children.

His high school work experiences ranged from his first summer job as a lifeguard during his summer vacation with relatives in Henderson, Texas, as the first black lifeguard, and upon his return to Houston as a City of Houston Finnigan Park swim instructor and lifeguard. Upon graduating from Wheatley, thanks to his neighbor and mentor, Willie Clay, who worked as a foreman on the waterfront, Lee immediately gained employment as a longshoreman.

During his tenure as a college student he worked a variety of jobs that contributed to his knowledge and versatility of labor options, which included a city position as a meter reader, and later a position with a local construction company through the TSU Co-Op Education Program.

After college he taught drafting and design at TSU's School of Technology, and later held a position with Systems Planning Corporation before entering into a partnership with Blum Engineering that lasted until 2005.

Once again, what he learned from his mother's entrepreneurial background helped him grow the engineering firm from two employees to 52.

That engineering background gives him the added knowledge of his current position when it comes to the oversight of administration and the construction of roads and bridges, county buildings and flood-control projects.

"My junior high school education — in addition to my formal college training — was geared toward technology, engineering

and architecture," Lee said. "That formal training and practical experience in all the jobs I've had professionally were very similar to what I do now."

Lee was introduced to politics by his close personal friend, the late U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland. Lee ran Leland's first campaign in 1972 for state Legislature. He managed all of Leland's campaigns for state and federal offices, as well as Craig Washington's successful 1989 race for U.S. Congress.

Initially, he preferred managing other people's campaigns as opposed to running for office.

"I never did have an all-out pursuit to be elected or run for office," Lee said. "It kind of evolved from my community activities. Living in an area that was being neglected by city and other public services is kind of what channeled me in that direction."

When Leland decided to run for Congress, he talked Lee into running for his seat in the Texas Legislature. After a successful campaign, Lee took office in 1979 as the District 142 state representative, an office he held through 1984. In November 1984, he was elected as the first African-American to serve on Harris County Commissioners Court where he was sworn in on Jan. 1, 1985.

And since that time, he has continued to be a quiet yet powerful politician who sticks to the simple rules he followed during his upbringing. For example, he's a stickler for cleanliness to the point where it's not uncommon for him to be seen cleaning between the letters on an employee's computer keyboard or wiping dust off one's desk. He clearly relays that message to employees to keep the parks and other facilities clean at all times, including the restrooms and the grounds.

Dennis Wranich Sr. — president of the Sagemont Cowboys Youth Football Organization, which uses the field at El Franco Lee Park in Precinct One — said the county has been accommodating to the team, which plays home games and practices at the sports complex.

"The guys that work at the park are on top of it," he said. "You never see full trash cans. After home games, you go out there the next day, and it doesn't look like anything has ever happened."

Youth Activities

The South Belt area is well-known locally and statewide for its great youth sports activities and achievements. One thing the community does not have is a shortage of youth activities. The following represents programs available.

AQUASTAR Swim Team
The local AQUASTAR swim team is a year-round competitive swim team that registers year-round. The highly competitive group is open to all ages. Contact Ed Mullery at 281-282-0004. www.swimaqua.org.

Cowboys Football
The Sagemont Cowboys have a football program for boys ages 5 through 13 and a cheerleader and drill team program for girls ages 5 through 13. The team's home field is now at El Franco Lee Park. For information, call Denny Wranich at 281-785-8353.

Cub, Boy & Venture Scouts
The South Belt Area Eagle Trail District of the Sam Houston Area Council serves boys from first grade through age 21. Boys may join the Cub Scouts, from first grade to 10 years old, or Boy Scouts from ages 11 to 18. Boys and girls both may join the Venture Scouts after eighth grade up to 21 years of age. Call the Eagle Trail District executive at 713-726-6246 for additional information.

Dolphins Football
The Southbelt Dolphins football teams are for boys ages 5 through 13. The Dolphins also have a program for girls ages 5 through 13. All home games are played at the Blackhawk Park. President for the Dolphins is Kelli Gonzalez, who can be reached at 832-444-2316.

The Dolphins also feature a girls drill team.

Ellington Rams
The Ellington Rams are for boys ages 5 through 13. Cheer/drill members are 7 to 13 years of age, and mascots are 5 to 7. To join this organization, e-mail president Armethia Carr at agreenlee_carr@yahoo.com.

Girl Scouts
The Challenger Service Unit of the Girl Scouts represents the following schools: Dobie Fifth Grade Center, Atkinson, Burnett, Frazier, Genoa, Jessup, Meador, Moore, Stuchbery and Weber elementary. A section of Sageglen is in the service unit also. To learn how to be a part of Girl Scouting, call 713-292-0300 or 800-392-4340 or log onto www.gssjc.org.

Girls Softball
The fast pitch softball league is designed for girls ages 5

through 14. The registration for spring ball is held in January. Fall season registration is held in August. Visit www.eteamz.com/southbeltgirls for information.

Little League - Junior, Senior
Teenage boys from the area play in the junior and senior division through the Little League organization. For information on this program visit www.eteamz.com/sbhl.

Rising Stars Track
Rising Stars is a Junior Olympic track and field team for boys and girls ages 5 to 18. Registration is held January through April. For information, call Ivory Kimball at 832-561-1248.

Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League
The program is directed at boys ages 5 through 12, but girls have also been members throughout the organization's history. Games are played at the El Franco Lee Park facility. Registration is held each January. For more information visit www.eteamz.com/sbhl.

South Belt Area Sports Association
SBASA includes local Little League, soccer and two football leagues, consolidating most of the events held in area youth sports teams to one complex.

SBASA worked with Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee to build the complex at El Franco Lee Park. Currently, Little League, the Cowboys and girls softball play at the park, with the rest of the complex to be built over the next few years. Contact Rich Newell at 281-485-6047 for more information.

South Belt Sharks
There is no minimum age requirement to join, but all must be able to swim the 25-meter length of the pool without assistance. Competitive meets are held at Beverly Hills and Southmore intermediate schools. Maximum age is 18. For more information, visit www.sbast.com

South Belt Soccer
South Belt Soccer Club consists of 50 teams for boys and girls ages 4 through 18. Registration for the fall session is in May. Spring session registration begins in January. Games are played at Beverly Hills Park or El Franco Lee Park. For information on registration, contact Alex Dokhani, president, at 713-559-6200.

South Belt Track Club
Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Track Team accepts children aged 5 to 18. Practice is held at Dobie High School. The season starts in March and ends in July. For more information, call Arthur Moore at 832-524-3313.

County park at Dixie Farm and Blackhawk



Under El Franco Lee, what was recently the Harris County tree farm is now a park adjacent to a 30-acre holding pond. The park includes portable restrooms, parking lot and a walking trail.

Abacus Plumbing Company provides service and opportunity for South Belt

By Karma Lennon
Abacus Plumbing is one of Houston's preferred plumbing companies for residential and commercial work.

Endorsed by Tom Tynan, Abacus has been the recipient of multiple Better Business Bureau awards, such as the Pinnacle Award in 2009 and the Winners of Distinction in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

More recently, it was given the Angie's List Super Service Award for 2010 and was recognized by Inc. 5000 and Houston Fast 100 for continued company growth.

Owner and president Alan O'Neill has been practicing since 1977, when he began his apprenticeship in his home of Dublin, Ireland.

Now, his team of committed individuals offers customers more than 50 years of plumbing expertise all across the Houston area.

Abacus' dedication to integrity and service goes far beyond plumbing. In 2010, it launched a charitable program called Count on Us to Care, based on its brand promise.

The goal of the program is to award monthly donations of \$500 to local charities and local chapters of national organizations.

Thus far, it has been able to help in refurbishing a local youth center through Boy Scouts and sponsor a charity softball league.

In addition, monthly donations have gone to the nonprofit breast cancer organization The Rose, Montgomery County Food Bank, Salvation Army, American Heart Association, and an annual scholarship for graduating seniors.

"We just wanted to give something back," O'Neill says. "We pride ourselves on exceptional service in solving cus-

tomers' plumbing needs. We're very excited to apply that in a way that will positively impact our

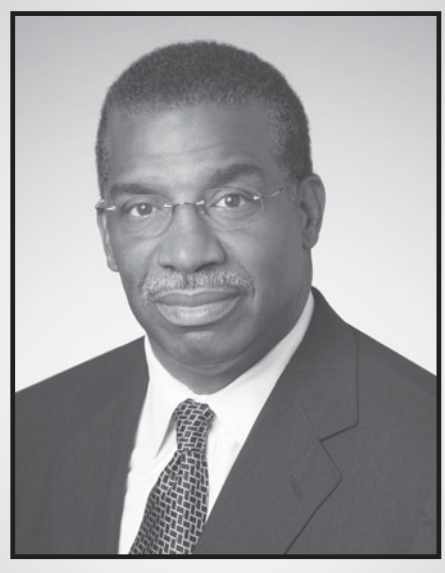
neighbors in many different ways."

With this attitude toward service and value, O'Neill and Abacus will be secured as one of Houston's kindest and most reliable businesses for decades to come.

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Commissioner Harris County, Precinct One

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SVFD has a rich, heroic 40-year history



New Southeast Volunteer Fire Department station #1 located on Scarsdale Boulevard

By Chuck Tylka, fire chief

In mid 1971, as the Sagemont community was just getting started, a group of neighborhood men and women recognized the need to have a local fire department to serve the growing number of residents moving into the new houses. The area had been served by the Genoa Volunteer Fire Department, but length of response times coupled with significant internal problems within the GVFD made it imperative to have a local fire and emergency response agency to better serve the residents. This group banded together, officially formed the Sagemont Volunteer Fire Department, and received basic training compliments of the Houston Fire Department. The first response vehicle was a retired Cook Book Bread truck which the volunteers repaired on the weekends and fitted out with hose, turn out gear and other fire fighting tools while using the fire hydrants as a water supply instead of a fire truck. Soon the Houston FD donated a retired open cab pumper, then a second one, and the decision was made to build a fire station on the grounds of the water treatment plant operated by the original Sagemont Municipal Utility District on Sagemont Drive. Shortly after completing the fire

station, and purchasing a brand-new American LaFrance fire truck, the City of Houston annexed the area, took over the fire station and the volunteers had to sell the new truck to Houston because they had no funds to continue the payments. By that time, the Scarsdale Utility District, the Sagemeadow Utility District, the Kirkmont Utility District, and Municipal Utility District 13 had formed to continue the expansion of the general Sagemont area. The Sagemont VFD continued to operate with the old donated engines. They also built their first ambulance on a Chevy Step Van chassis to support the number of volunteers that began taking Emergency Medical Technician classes to take care of the emergency medical needs of the growing neighborhoods. The Sagemeadow MUD built a small garage on the site of their water plant on Hughes Road to house the engines and ambulance, and the Scarsdale MUD leased a piece of land to the growing department to build their main fire station. When completed, the department operated out of two stations serving all the communities. Funding for the department was based upon voluntary donations which made it very difficult to obtain financing

for needed equipment. The utility districts, including the newest one, MUD 67 in Sycamore Valley, came to the rescue and began including a voluntary donation on their water bills that funded the department in such a manner that allowed them to obtain financing and grow with the area. They were able to replace the aging and often completely unreliable fire trucks with a new, state-of-the-art Pierce engine and the first commercially produced ambulance. This provided a much improved capability and reliability for the department as well as sparked interest in the organization, attracting new members and expanding the coverage. It was during the late '70s when the department found itself as the central relief and response agency during Tropical Storm Claudette which extensively flooded the local communities. Volunteers made rescue calls and ambulance calls, opened the station as a relief center and forcibly opened the elementary school in Scarsdale as a gathering point to begin evacuations to the Gulf Freeway. After the storm, volunteers helped countless people remove wet carpeting and ruined furniture from their homes. This spirit of community service and volunteerism continues through

the years and has helped countless residents during the major events such as Claudette, Hurricane Alicia and Ike, as well as the many community events they continue to serve. It's the people that makes the fire department and SVFD has been blessed with many, many individuals who have given thousands of hours of their personal time to help the other residents in their time of need. Nothing gets done unless someone takes it upon themselves to make something good happen and that same spirit of volunteerism continues today. When the City of Houston annexed the Scarsdale subdivision, the newly named Southeast Volunteer Fire Department received some much needed help from San Jacinto College when it allowed the department to build a small station on its campus to replace the fire station lost in the Scarsdale annexation. Then in 1988, the developer of the entire area, Ayrshire Corporation, donated a piece of property to the Southeast VFD at the end of Hughes Road in the Sagemeadow neighborhood, and a new fire station was built. This served as the main fire station until 2010 when the directors of the Clear Brook City MUD (renamed from the original MUD 13)

built a state-of-the-art fire station on Scarsdale Boulevard for the department. The department continues to operate out of both stations to serve the still growing South Belt Ellington area. This allowed the department to return the building on the San Jac campus to the school. The threat of annexation was always a major hindrance to long term financing for the department, but with Clear Brook City and Sagemeadow MUDs signing long term strategic partnership agreements, this has assured the department of continued life and a bright future. It continues to operate a primarily volunteer fire department although it uses some paid staff to supplement the times when most volunteers are unavailable to respond. It continues to have active mutual aid arrangements with the surrounding fire departments to ensure an aggressive, multiple engine response for major events and situations. The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department celebrates its 40th year in business this year, and it is all due to the many fine men and women who have donated their time and talents to the neighborhood they live in and love. Celebrating with them are the outstanding men and women who comprise the directors of the local MUDs, Clear Brook City, Sagemeadow and Kirkmont, that provide the funding necessary to get the tools and training needed by the fire department. Those directors are as important a part of the SVFD as the members... without them, none of this would be possible. The volunteers and staff are the lifeblood of this organization and the pulse of the community. They are neighbors, friends and even relatives who provide this service and expect nothing in return. They are unpaid professionals willing to put everything on the line to help their neighbors. The volunteers of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department and the paid staff that serves with them are truly South Belt's heroes.

Historic photos of William P. Hobby Airport



Above, Hobby Airport, then named Houston International Airport, decorated for the grand opening of a new and expanded terminal in 1954. Below, an airplane being refueled and prepared for flight by crews at Houston International Airport, 1954.

Photos courtesy of Houston Airport System



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Norwood Richardson chooses South Belt for work and charity



Lisa, Norwood and Rocco Richardson

By Karma Lennon
State Farm agent Norwood Richardson became a fixture in South Belt when he opened his office 27 years ago with his wife, Lisa, as his office manager for 12 of those years. Truth be told, it was State Farm who selected South Belt as his market, but it was Richardson who chose to stay. It was his entrepreneurial spirit that prompted him to open his doors. He wanted to see what he could accomplish as a business owner and has experienced immense success

by taking on that challenge. He has become a Lifetime President's Club agent which places him among the top 50 of the 17,000 State Farm agents, and he is also a member of the prestigious Million Dollar Roundtable. In addition to these honors, Richardson has been Rotary Club president for multiple terms, an active member of various insurance and financial service organizations and was a charter member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Outside of his work, Richardson and his wife serve the community through their impassioned involvement in the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Lisa served as CCFA's chairman of the board from 1998 to 2001, and president of the Houston chapter from 2007 to 2010. This, and her many other charitable efforts, earned her the title of one of Houston's 10 Women of Distinction for 2011. The Richardsons also donate the State Farm office space for

monthly meetings of a Crohn's and Colitis support group. In the past 27 years, Richardson has also had the pleasure of sponsoring many local youth sports such as football, baseball, softball and soccer, as well as dance and cheerleading teams. Since his big move to a new office last June, which was an enormous yet exciting undertaking, Richardson has focused on expanding his agency within the greater Bay Area and looks forward to continued service in the South Belt area.

U.S. Golf & Games excites community

By Karma Lennon
In 1984, Neal Andrasco brought family fun to South Belt in the form of U.S. Golf & Games, and for the last 26 years, his establishment has been integral in keeping the entire Houston metro area swinging. According to Neal, the vision for U.S. Golf & Games was "to provide a fun, clean, and safe environment for families to enjoy and be together."

Situated at 10106 Thermon St., by Alameda Mall, the facility is easily accessible and boasts enough activities to satisfy visitors of any age, including baseball and softball batting cages, miniature golf, go-karts, and arcade games. Also available are special party packages for any occasion. Planning a visit is made even easier because the facility is open late every day, including major holidays.

Over the course of U.S. Golf & Games' existence, Neal and the staff have been overjoyed at the opportunities they've had to support many local youth organizations like Little League, Pony, Colt, high school and church teams, soccer, football, and basketball teams, cheerleaders, high school bands and orchestras, as well as national organizations with local chapters, like Boy Scouts of America and Shriners Children's Hospital.

The support of South Belt residents has enabled U.S. Golf & Games to not only keep its doors open, but double in size and add new attractions to its original lineup. The entire Golf and Games staff has enjoyed the success and friendships found by being a South Belt business and hopes to entice and entertain a new generation of South Belters through continued involvement in the community.

St. Luke's Patients Medical Center now serving South Belt

St. Luke's Patients Medical Center, a 61-bed acute-care hospital located in Pasadena offers inpatient and outpatient medical and surgical services to residents of Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Baytown, Clear Lake, Pearland and South Belt.

With a mission to provide high-quality patient care in the communities it serves, the hospital has experienced successful business operations and favorable patient satisfaction ratings since its opening in 2007. In late 2010, St. Luke's Episcopal Health System acquired a

majority interest in Patients Medical Center to expand its special brand of care to the southeast region. The center provides advanced technologies and an innovative collaborative approach to the

delivery of Faithful, Loving Care® to it patients by offering a full spectrum of health care services and a 24-hour emergency department. Additional services include diagnostic and imaging ser-

VICES, including a 64-slice CT scanner, MRI, digital mammography and bone density, interventional lab for cardiology and radiology, cardiac catheterization, outpatient rehab, wound care, hyperbaric oxygen

therapy, sleep disorder treatment, surgical weight loss and laboratory. At St. Luke's Patients Medical Center, volunteers provide many valuable services while enjoying a rewarding and fulfilling experience. For volunteer opportunities, call 713-948-7066.

For more information about the services at St. Luke's Patients Medical Center, call 713-948-7000 or visit StLukesPMC.com.

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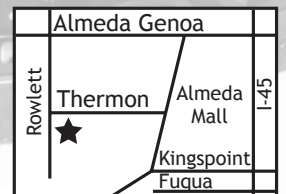
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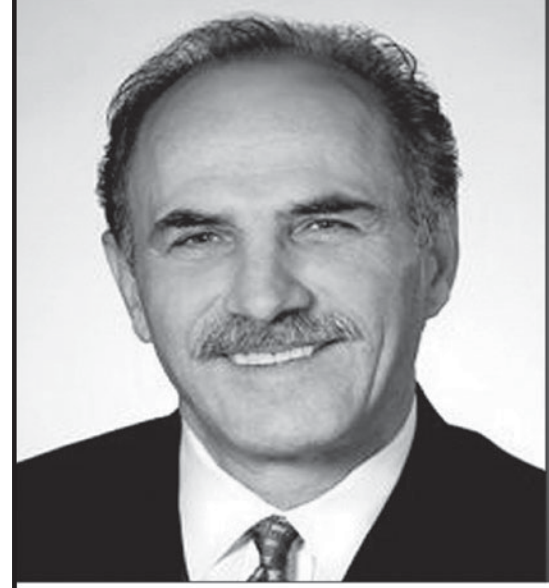
St. Luke's Patients Medical Center Wound Care is dedicated to caring for people with chronic, non-

healing wounds. The friendly and professional experts offer the latest treatments to wound healing and prevention including hyperbaric oxygen treatment, which can help the wound heal more quickly.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the St. Luke's Patients Medical Center Wound Care Program at 713-948-7175, located at 4001 Preston Road, Suite 175 in Pasadena.

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South Belt area Churches

Bibleway Fellowship Baptist Church
Pastor Ivory Varner
10120 Hartsook St.
713-943-2215
www.bibleway1.org

Christ Church
Pastor Michael J. Anderson
12815 Fuqua Street
281-481-3222
www.christchurchhouston.com

Christian Temple Assembly of God
Don and Susan Nordin
9701 Alameda Genoa Road
713-944-4815
www.ctchurch.tv

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
Rev. Mark M. Pedersen
10030 Scarsdale Blvd.
281-484-9243
www.cumchouston.org

Community of the Servant-Savior Presbyterian Church
Rev. Allan Brem
11303 Hughes
832-865-9354 or 281-481-1692

Easthaven Baptist Church
Kevin Rizer

13100 Beamer
281-922-5520
www.easthavenchurch.org

Faith Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Bobby Bryant
9850 Mango
713-941-6002

Freeway Baptist Church
Rev. Mark Butcher
8702 Kingspoint
281-484-0323
www.freewaybc.com

Grace Community Church
Pastor Steve Riggle
14505 Gulf Freeway
713-363-2500
www.grace.tv

Gulf Meadows Church
Pastors Joe and Becky Keenan
8012 Fuqua
713-991-5683
www.gulfmeadowschurch.org

Kirkwood South Christian Church
10811 Kirkfair
281-481-0004
www.kscce-disciples.org

Life Church

Rev. Jim Kilgore II
9900 Alameda Genoa
713-910-1911
www.life.cc

St. Luke the Evangelist
Rev. James Burkart
11011 Hall Road
281-481-6816

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
Rev. Randy Ledbetter
10310 Scarsdale Blvd.
281-922-5673
mountolivehouston.org

New Covenant Christian Church
Pastor Bill Hines
10603 Blackhawk
281-484-4230
www.bhinesministries.org

Repairer's Church
Pastor Clifton Slayton
10824 B Kingspoint
713-948-0445

Sagemont Church
Pastor John Morgan
11300 S. Sam Houston Parkway E.
281-481-8770
www.sagemontchurch.org

South Belt area Parks

One of the major attractions of the South Belt-Ellington community is the many varied recreational areas. For information call Harris County, Precinct I at 713-440-1587.

Beverly Hills Park & Pool
The pool and park are located at 10201 Kingspoint. Use of the outside park facilities is free. Rooms may be rented. For park information, call 713-948-9065. For pool information, call 713-948-9063.

Bishop Park
This 7-acre park is located in Sageglen on Blackhawk. Volleyball, baseball and soccer facilities are available. Call 281-484-1562 for information.

Clear Brook City Park
The 10-acre park on Scarsdale includes picnic areas, a hike and bike trail with exercise stations and baseball and soccer fields. Call 281-484-1562 for information.

El Franco Lee Park
The park has children's play equipment, restrooms, a pavilion and various facilities. EFL Park is located off Beltway 8, just south of Blackhawk, at 9500 Hall Road. For information, call 713-440-1587. The park now includes a 10,000-square-foot community center. The building features a meeting room with full audio and video. The center caters to area seniors and nonprofit organizations. Senior activities are scheduled daily and consist of exercise

classes, arts and crafts, dance, gardening and monthly bus trips. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information call the park staff at 281-464-9708. Nonprofit meetings can be scheduled Monday through Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call Stephanie Gilder at 281-464-9708 or e-mail stephanie_gilder@cp1.hctx.net.

Frankie Carter Randolph Park
Frankie Carter Randolph Park, 5100 FM 2351, contains 73 acres. The park features a barbecue pavilion, shelter, tennis courts, two baseball fields and a volleyball court. To reserve the barbecue pavilion or shelter, call 713-440-1587.

Highland Meadow Park & Pool
Playground equipment is available. There is a picnic area available for family enjoyment. Highland Meadow Pool opens in May and closes with the beginning of school.

South Belt Hike and Bike Trail
The trail begins at 10700 Blackhawk. An asphalt parking lot is located at the start of the trail and at the midway point at Scarsdale and Blackhawk. There is a paved parking lot adjacent to the trail in Clear Brook City M.U.D.'s Bishop Park on Blackhawk.

Kirkmont Park
Kirkmont Park is located at Blackhawk and Hall Road. There are benches, a walking trail, and water park.

Kirkwood South Park
Kirkwood South Park, located at 10700 Sagetrail, is 3.5 acres. The park features two lighted tennis courts, playground equipment, a water fountain, two adult swinging benches, two covered shelters, a backstop, a quarter-mile walking/jogging asphalt trail, security lighting, picnic tables and barbecue pits. For reservations, call 713-440-1587.

Sageglen Park & Pool
Sageglen Park is located on Sageglen at Sagegreen. Tennis courts, playground equipment and a swimming pool are available. The pool opens in May and closes with the beginning of school. Sageglen Pool requires membership and is open only to Sageglen residents. Call 281-481-6578 for pool information and the Homeowners Association 281-481-2160 for information on the park.

Sagemeadow Park
Sagemeadow Park, 11200 block of Sageglen, is 3.5 acres. The park has two lighted tennis courts. Playground equipment is available with water fountains and security lighting. A lighted basketball court with covered rest shelter is provided. A backstop and 1/4-mile walking/jogging asphalt trail, picnic tables and barbecue pits are also available. For information, call 713-440-1587.

Sagemont Recreation Center & Pool
Sagemont Pool at 11507 Hughes Road was renovated during 2006. Year-round sports are offered for ages 4 and up. For information, call 281-922-2343. The center has a free tennis program.



Above, the founders of Central Hardware, Louis and Beth Williams, and to the right, left to right are sons and daughter, Ron, Sandra and Mike Williams.



Park Manor serves South Belt 12 years

By Karma Lennon
Since late 1999, Park Manor has been providing skilled nursing, rehabilitation and long-term care to South Belters in need. Healthmark Group, the corporation that owns and operates the Park Manor establishments, saw a lack of care facilities in the community and decided to step up to the challenge.

The 120-bed facility, located at 11902 Resource Parkway, one street north of Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, offers 24-hour nursing care, meals planned by a trained and registered dietitian, social activities for residents, and extensive physical, occupational and speech therapy in a comfortable and familiar homelike atmosphere.

Shortly after opening the current South Belt location, Louis signed up as the first non-founding member of the South Belt Chamber of Commerce.

Beth served as a member of the chamber board of directors for a number of years.

Together, as a family, the Williamses mutually participated in guiding a small single store business into a successful four-store chain in one of the most competitive retail business environments.

Ron, Mike, and Sandra continue with the business philosophy instilled in them by their parents - placing value and customers first.

Ron went to J. Frank Dobie High School and graduated in 1971 then attended the University of Houston, graduating with a B. S. in math in 1977. He worked for Gates Rubber Co. for a few years before deciding to assist his parents in the opening and operation of the hardware store.

In 1975, Mike also graduated from Dobie, moving on to get an associate degree from San Jacinto College.

He worked in the oil industry in the early '80s and then decided to work in managing the sales floor and equipment service department for the hardware store.

In 1976, Sandra, the only Williams daughter, also graduated from Dobie and then earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Houston in 1981. Shortly after graduation, she joined the rest of the family at Central Hardware.

A fourth Williams, John, decided to go a different direction, which led him to Tennessee, where he also shares the family's entrepreneurial spirit, operating his own oil recycling business.

Park Manor is a member of South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, as well as many reputable medical organizations like CAP of Pearland and CAP of Clear Lake, AHCA and THCA. Brad Janacek, admissions director, and Donna Banks, admissions coordinator, say South Belt is the perfect setting for an establishment like Park Manor for the sense of community and camaraderie that isn't common anymore.

In keeping with this tightly knit atmosphere, Park Manor will start holding conferences in a town hall fashion to encourage residents and families to ask questions and become more involved in resident welfare.

For additional information, visit www.parkmanor-southbelt.com or call 281-922-6802.

Williams family has long tradition of serving South Belt

Since 1979 when Louis and Beth Williams decided to fill their time with a new endeavor, Central Hardware, Inc. has been a South Belt institution. The first store the Williamses opened was located on Beamer Road, at the shopping center at

the corner of Beamer and Hughes Road. This store opened June 1, 1979. In 1985, it was replaced with the current South Belt location also on Beamer, just south of the beltway. It was to be the first of four stores

opened throughout the following decades. Now four stores, located in South Belt, Rosenberg, Clear Lake and Cypress, are part of the Central Hardware family and are all under the operation and ownership of three of the

Williams children: Ron, Mike and Sandra. Their parents helped guide them in the direction of operating their business, from sweeping the floors to implementing planned growth strategies. The reins of the company now rest with the

children, although Beth, often referred to by the staff as "Mom," still makes an appearance from time to time. She is officially retired but still assists with office and accounting functions part time and is known to make a surprise appearance in the stores, checking to make sure all is happening to the standards that the customers expect.



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Sagemont cross impacts people



The Rev. John Morgan oversees placement of the final piece of the cross.

By James Bolen
 The massive cross on the grounds of Sagemont Church has proved inspirational for many of South Belt's faithful, as well as others who merely commute through the area.

Completed in February 2009, the structure stands 170 feet tall with a span of 60 feet at the horizontal beam.

It is made of painted steel and weighs 90 tons.

The purpose of the cross is to positively inspire passing drivers, according to the Rev. Dr. John D. Morgan of Sagemont, who headed the project.

"Everyone who drives by will be reminded how much God loves them," he said.

Morgan estimates roughly 1 million drivers see the structure each week. Like all other Sagemont Church projects, the cross was built debt-free.

Morgan declined to put a monetary price tag on the structure, but humbly said, "It cost God his son and Jesus his life."

The cross is lit at night, allowing it to be seen for several miles in any direction.

The cross is part of an extensive renovation and beautification project at the church.

Other plans call for a new sanctuary, an educational space and extensive landscaping. In all, the renovations will provide 115,000 square feet of new building space.

Morgan has received hundreds of letters from both members and non-members alike since the cross was erected, telling him how the structure has inspired them.

"It is so beautiful," read one letter. "What a great way to start and end my workday. The cross says so much, and the message is there. You can't get that out of a billboard, ever."

While the cross is visible from the Gulf Freeway, many drivers said they have changed their routes to work so they can get a better view as they travel down Beltway 8.

Many of the collected letters tell of drivers who are dealing with hardships feeling blessed as they drive past the structure.

"I was very, very depressed over the loss of my best friend a couple of weeks ago," wrote one nonmember. "I got in my car and just started to drive down 45. As the tears rolled down my face and my heart was about to burst, I saw the cross! I pulled over on the freeway and began to praise God for this vision that I was given through your church. Despite what some nonbelievers may say, this was truly a blessing to me when I needed it most."

Morgan said the sight of the cross prevented another individual from committing suicide, as the intersection of Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway has been the site of two such deaths in the years prior to the cross's construction.

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Hughes, Barry Rose to connect

Despite a few setbacks, plans to extend Hughes Road west of Blackhawk into Pearland are now moving forward. (See related map Page 1C.)

The expansion will allow South Belt residents easier access to Pearland Parkway and Highway 288 and vice versa.

The proposed construction has made news in recent weeks, as it will be the site for a new subdivision. The Preserve at Clear Creek will be located east of Pearland Parkway, just west of the Clear Brook Meadows subdivision.

Harris County is responsible for extending Hughes Road 300 feet beyond Melillo Middle School (the Pearland city limits), while the City of Pearland is responsible for the extension west of Pearland Parkway (referred to as Barry Rose on this side).

While technically located in the City of Pearland, the stretch of road between these two areas is to be finished by Beazer Homes, the developer of the subdivision.

Construction bids for the Harris County portion of the road went out on Dec. 1 and were received by Monday, Jan. 24, according to Harris County Precinct 1 Project Coordinator Larry Allen.

Work will begin soon on the area thoroughfare and is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

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