

Heavy trash scheduled

Junk waste will be picked up Thursday, April 15, for city of Houston residents living north of Beltway 8. Residents south of the beltway are scheduled for Thursday, April 22. For more information, call 3-1-1.

PIP meeting April 20

The next Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. in the first floor staff meeting room at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria. Guest speaker will be Special Agent Corbin Wickman, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The PIP program consists of police and citizens working together to make neighborhoods safer. For more information, call Officer Randy Derr at 281-218-3900.

BHI dance tickets on sale

Beverly Hills Intermediate 8th-Grade Dance tickets will be sold in the Commons area at the school April 15-16 from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. This is the last chance to purchase tickets. The dance is Saturday, May 8, from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Road. Tickets are \$30 and available by advance purchase only (cash only) and include dance admission, food, drinks and a class T-shirt. For information, e-mail Jamie Troxlar at jaymyrz@aol.com.

Youth Nights at KSCS

New Youth Nights start Friday, April 16, at Kirkwood South Christian Church (on Kirkfair near Beamer). Using the name HABITAT, they are open to all young people, junior high and up. The first night will feature three local bands. Admission is free. Pizza will be available for \$1 and drinks are 50 cents each.

LSA presents musical

Lutheran South High School will perform the musical *Annie Get Your Gun* on April 23-25 with show times at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. LSA is located at 12555 Ryewater near I-45 and Dixie Farm Road (FM1959). For more information, call 281-464-8299.

Beverly Hills Civic to meet

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will meet Monday, April 19, from 6:45 to 8 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Park on Kingspoint.

SBASA awards scholarships

The South Belt Area Sports Association is accepting applications for the SBASA Scholarships. The SBASA will award two scholarships (one boy and one girl) to eligible seniors. Students who played sports at El Franco Lee Park for at least three years are eligible. Forms are available in the school counselors' office and are due back by May 3. For information, e-mail karenocannon9694@sbcglobal.net.

Kirkwood South meets

Kirkwood South's annual meeting will be Thursday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's court room, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

Cowboys, cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls will hold open registration for all drill, mascot and football players on Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the football field at El Franco Lee Park. All available football spots are on a first come, first served basis.

A minimum \$100 deposit for drill and mascots members and a \$50 deposit for football players is due at the time of sign-up.

For more information, contact the president at denny@sagemontcowboys.com or the drill director at traci@sagemontcowboys.com.

Zion holds garage sale

Zion Lutheran Church and School, 5050 E Sam Houston Pkwy. S. (between Crenshaw and Preston in Pasadena), and will host a huge garage sale Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited.

Lariaette Spring Show set

The Dobie Lariaettes will present their annual spring show, *Lariaettes In the News*, on May 6, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. in the Dobie auditorium. Admission is \$10, under 2 years old (seated in a lap), free. For information or tickets, contact Carmen Guyote at 713-419-4047 or e-mail Lalexander@pasadenaisd.org.

SBAST swim to register

The South Belt Area Swim Team Sharks will host registration Tuesday, April 20, through Thursday, April 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ashley Pointe pool on Blackhawk. Those wishing to learn more about the program may visit the team's Web site at www.sbast.com.

SJC South Health Fair set

San Jacinto College South, 13735 Beamer Road, will host a health and wellness fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, at the student center. Area clinics and organizations will provide wellness information and free health screenings for vision, blood pressure, learning disabilities and mental health.

Area church totally destroyed

Former Sagemont Presbyterian Church victim of arson

By Marie Flickinger

Arson has been ruled as the cause of the Thursday, April 8, fire which totally destroyed the two-building worship facility for A Community of the Servant-Savior Church, previously known as Sagemont Presbyterian Church. The church's roots began in South Belt in the mid-1960s.

The fire, which began at approximately 11 p.m. Thursday night, was ruled arson by the Houston Fire Department on Friday said Patrick Trahan, a spokesman for HFD. As of press time Wednesday, there were no leads in the case.

According to Trahan, more than a hundred HFD members were at the scene on Thursday night. The firefighting equipment not only filled the church's newly built parking lot, but filled Hughes Road from the church all the way to Hughes and Sageglen Drive.

According to HFD officials, the fire appears to have been started in the breezeway, and quickly spread to both buildings of the church. When the fire department arrived, the complex was totally involved, and HFD officers worked to contain the fire as officials knew it was too advanced to save the church.

Only one injury was reported during the fighting of the fire. That was to a CenterPoint employee who was working to disconnect the power. Apparently, when he was disconnecting some large electrical wires, a wall collapsed, and brushed him on one side, sending him to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital in stable condition.

By 6:30 a.m. the morning after the fire, bulldozers were at the church property demolishing the remains of the two buildings. Also present were members of the congregation who searched the ruins trying to salvage anything that was not destroyed by the blaze.

Services for the congregation were held Sunday at the church property. Although the congregation membership is only 30, there were more than 100 people in attendance at the service which was held outside as attendees sat on chairs they brought with them or on blankets. Attendees included all three pastors who have served the church, founding pastor, the Rev. Sherman Wilson, and the Revs. Susan Bryan and Alan Brehm, Ph.D.

The service was conducted by Brehm, who has been the pastor of the church for approximately 2 1/2 years. Brehm also is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Dick-
Continued on Page 6A

Church's history dates back to '60s

By Marie Flickinger

Sagemont Presbyterian Church, (now known as A Community of the Servant-Savior) got its start in the mid-1960s. According to the Rev. Sherman Wilson, the founding pastor of the church, the first location for the church was on Kingspoint, on property that is now part of Alameda Mall's parking lot.

Wilson said the church was first in a small chapel which was later demolished to make room for the Alameda Mall parking lot. Wilson served as the pastor of the church for the first 19 years.

The congregation grew to approximately 350 at its peak in the 1980s.

Three pastors have served the congregation of the church; Wilson for 19 years. He was followed by the Rev. Susan Bryan who served the church for 18 years after Wilson who retired in the mid-1980s.

It was under Bryan's leadership that the church developed the attitude of becoming a gay-friendly church. Church officials define the organization as a member of the More Light Presbyterians.

That means it is a church that is seeking the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry
Continued on Page 6A



A Community of the Servant-Savior Church, previously known as Sagemont Presbyterian Church, was destroyed by fire Thursday, April 8. Houston Fire Department officials determined the blaze to be caused by arson. Firefighters are pictured above battling the fire while nearby Sagemont Church's cross is shown in the background.

Photo by Chris Grenfel (A visitor from England to the South Belt)

Frazier celebrates Earth Day by recycling

In honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, set to take place April 22, students from Frazier Elementary are competing with students from Armand Bayou Elementary in the Clear Creek Independent School District to see who can recycle the most paper.

Parents have been encouraged to save newspapers until that date, and students have been holding on to their school papers as well. Local construction companies have also agreed to contribute old drawings to help the cause.

The drop-off site will be at the Home Depot, located at 18251 Gulf Freeway near the 528 exit, rather than the school itself. Both schools will have bins placed at the store from 10 a.m. on April 21 to 10 a.m. on April 22.

The winning school will receive \$2,500 that can be used for projects such as textbooks, playground refurbishment and field trips.

If Frazier wins the the competition, Principal Rhonda Parmer said the money will go toward future environmental endeavors.

"We are thrilled to participate in the paper drive challenge, engage in a little friendly competition and are working hard to collect as much paper as possible," Parmer said. "This has been a great year for environmental awareness and action at our school. If we win, we would use the funds to support our science club that works on real-life problem solving to improve our school and community by designing vegetable gardens, creating compost piles and planting trees."

For more information, call the school at 713-740-0560.

April 8 Leader correction

The article that appeared in the April 8 edition of the *South-Belt-Ellington Leader* about Brandon Shoaf, a firefighter for the Houston Fire Department, who saved the life of Kelly L'Esperance in a May 2007 alcohol- and drug-related car crash contained an inaccuracy.

L'Esperance, a junior at Deer Park High School, was reported to be paralyzed from the neck down.

While she did receive traumatic brain injury during the accident, she is not paralyzed.

According to L'Esperance's mother, Melody L'Esperance, the high schooler is currently going to therapy three times a week and is working her way toward walking again.

Shoaf was honored for his actions at a recent event held at Deer Park High School.

The *Leader* apologizes for any confusion.

Bracewell to close Saturdays

Starting Saturday, April 17, the Bracewell branch of the Houston Library System, 9002 Kingspoint, will have reduced hours and be closed on Saturdays.

The move is part of a citywide effort to save money. The system presently has roughly \$2.2 million less in its budget than it anticipated at the start of the 2010 fiscal year.

Most of the city's 42 branches will only be open 51 hours per week, rather than the current 71 - a 28 percent decrease. The Bracewell branch will be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Park Place Regional branch, 8145 Park Place Blvd., as well as the central branch, 500 McKinney, will remain open on Saturdays. The central branch, however, will be closed on Fridays.

The Harris County Parker Williams library branch, 10851 Scarsdale, will be unaffected.

Cookoff set to begin April 15

The South Belt Spectacular Cookoff will take place Thursday, April 15, through Saturday, April 17, at El Franco Lee Park, located at 9400 Hall Road. Admission to the event is free.

Now in its 14th year, the annual event is the sole fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fire-

works display also held at the area park.

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

For more information, contact event organizer Linda Arnone at 281-484-4325.

Chamber readies for Casino Night

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Casino Night on Friday, April 30, 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.

Winners will receive raffle tickets rather than cash, with drawings for prizes being held throughout the night.

Prizes include a trip for two to Las Vegas including a two-night stay at Caesar's Palace, patio

equipment from H-E-B, a four-person pass to the Kemah Boardwalk and a wireless Hewlett-Packard printer from Office Depot.

Drawings for prizes will also be held every half hour.

The event will feature music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Tickets are currently on sale at the chamber office, H.E.B. Blackhawk and the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

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

State to widen Gulf Freeway

The Texas Department of Transportation recently announced its plan to enlarge the Gulf Freeway from Kurland, just south of Fuqua, to FM 2351.

Funded through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the endeavor will include widening the existing six main lanes to 10 and adding an additional frontage lane to make three in each direction.

In November, the Texas Transportation Commission approved approximately \$2 billion in general obligation funds for highway projects. The ballot item was called Proposition 12.

In all, 74 separate projects are to be completed statewide using the federal funds.

The Houston TxDOT District was able to secure funding for two major endeavors - the

forementioned work on I-45 and a similar project set to take place at the IH 610/US 290 interchange. These are both mobility projects, which means they needed to meet certain requirements, such as reduced delay and their correlation to the Top 100 Most Congested Roadway Segments in Texas, as published by TxDOT.

The stretch of the Gulf Freeway to be widened was listed as No. 25 in the Top 100 Most Congested Roadway Segments in Texas, as of Dec. 31, 2008. According to projected traffic counts, traffic flow is expected to grow from 173,000 vehicles per day (vpd) to 268,000 vpd.

The I-45 project was awarded \$126.5 million.

Work is currently still in the design phase. Construction is expected to begin July 2011.

City to enforce compostable bags



As of Friday, April 16, the City of Houston will no longer collect yard trimmings that are not placed in city-approved compostable bags. Longtime South Belt resident Juanta Castanda is shown above next to nonapproved bags that have been cited by city workers. City-approved bags are available at Central Ace Hardware and other local merchants.

Publisher's Opinion

Deaths

Issues addressed by Leader publisher

It is not often that the *Leader* staff addresses the readership with an opinion piece, but this week there are multiple issues we want to bring to your attention. First on the list has to do with the story on Page 1 regarding the Saturday closing of City of Houston libraries.

Guest Editorial

CCISD extends Scout salute

Greg Smith, Ph.D., CCISD Superintendent of Schools

As the superintendent of a large school district, one of the most recurring realizations of this post is that we as a district cannot ensure the welfare and success of our students all on our own. It is a tapestry of families, community partners and organizations that enable Clear Creek ISD to grow the next generation of adults who are not only successful, but are meaningfully connected to their communities.

As the Boy Scouts of America turns 100 this year, I thought it was timely to call well-deserved attention to this mainstay of timeless values and character development in our society. For 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has created a strong foundation of leadership, service, and community for millions of America's youth.

Since 1995, Clear Creek ISD has recognized the Scouts' impact on our students and community through the Scout Citizenship Award. Although the award began on one campus, today each CCISD high school offers the award in honor of individuals, living or deceased, who have exemplified the tenets of the Scout Program. The memorial award on each campus is dedicated to the following individuals:

- Clear Brook High School Scout Citizen Award dedicated to John W. Pepperday who demonstrated a passion and joy for family, teaching, church, and working with the youth in the Boy Scouts of America.

- Clear Creek High School Scout Citizen Award dedicated to Patricia Louise Greenwood, a CCHS graduate and Girl Scout who had a love for people,

animals, and the arts.

- Clear Lake High School Scout Citizen Award dedicated to W. Norman Clayton who inspired young people to achieve all they are capable of becoming through his teaching, work with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Scout Programs.

- Clear Springs High School Scout Citizen Award dedicated to Ray Olachia "Chief Ray," a Mescalero Apache who honors the ways and traditions of his Native Americans through his respect for the land and wildlife, being a devout family man, and serving as a Scoutmaster.

- Clear View Education Center Scout Citizen Award dedicated to Col. Michael E. Fossum who, as a devout family man, a NASA astronaut and an Eagle Scoutmaster working with the Boy Scouts, inspires young people to achieve all they are capable of becoming.

In the name of these individuals, each year the School Scout Citizen Award is presented to all senior students on each campus who have represented their school's finest ethical and moral character by earning the high rank of Gold Award in the organization of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and the Eagle Rank in the organization of the Boy Scouts of America. The 2010 School Scout Citizen Awards will be presented in May.

I commend these exceptional role models, all of our area Scout leaders who give so much of their time and themselves, and every Scout in Clear Creek ISD as they travel the wondrous journey. Thank you for your service - we couldn't do what we do without you. Scout's Honor.

sense. As my friend Emory Gadd said, "It's like closing the parks on Saturday." According to library officials at the Parker Williams Branch (which is county and will not be affected) Saturday is the busiest day of the week. It only makes sense.

That is the day more children can use the facility during the school year. School age children are great users of our library facilities. We hope Houston city officials will reconsider and close the library on a day that is not so detrimental to our youth.

We are compiling community comments on the Saturday closing to submit to Houston officials. E-mail us yours!

By the way, I talked to Councilman Mike Sullivan who is sympathetic with this issue, but City Council was not allowed to vote on this issue. They were just informed of the change.

Now to a fun topic. This weekend we see the return of the annual South Belt Cookoff to the El Franco Lee Park. For those who have not attended a

South Belt cookoff, try to make this one. It is a unique activity, and you will get an opportunity to taste some great food!

Saturday is usually the best day for children.

There is a lot going on, and it is great being at the park before the weather gets too hot.

Friday night is a little crazier. It is like a party at each of the 62 booths.

There is no admission fee for the event. This is the event which funds the annual July 4 fireworks. Come out and support the auction on Saturday.

A special thanks to those in the community that share news with the *Leader*. A special thanks this week to Lori Craft who was the first to notify me of the church fire Thursday night.

Thanks also to the others who called and submitted photos.

Don't forget, get me those library closing comments. E-mail to mynews@southbeltleader.com

Thanks, have a great weekend. Hope to see you at the cookoff.

-Marie Flickinger
Publisher

Opal Nadine Hines



Opal Nadine (Byrd) Hines, 81, longtime South Belt resident and member of Sagemont Church, died Monday, April 5, 2010. She was born May 21, 1928, in Leon County, Texas.

Hines is preceded in death

by her husband of 63 years, Ellwood L. Hines, and parents Stella Lee (Rodgers, Byrd) Hodges and Marvin E. Byrd.

She is survived by her daughter, Glynda Pawlik and husband Louis; son Gary Hines and wife Susan; son Greg Hines; granddaughter Kimberly Bland and husband Jeff; granddaughter Erin Hines; and great-granddaughter Jenna Bland.

Hines attended school in Flynn, Texas. After finishing school, she moved to Houston where she worked for the telephone company.

In 1945 her childhood sweetheart, Ellwood, returned from the military, and on June 8, 1946, they were married in Normangee, Texas. Their first years of marriage were spent farming around Flynn. They moved to Texas City when Ellwood went to work for Amoco Oil Company, and in 1954 they moved to Houston. It was only after their youngest child, Greg, was in school that she went to work outside the home.

In 1968 she went to work for Woolco where she managed the ladies' wear department, and after 15 years, she retired in 1983.

A funeral service was held Friday, April 9, 2010, at the First Baptist Church in Flynn, Texas.

Walter "Lester" Smith

Walter L. "Lester" Smith Jr., 61, of South Belt, died April 5, 2010, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born April 30, 1948, and graduated from Jesse H. Jones High School in 1966.

Gabby scholarship donations accepted

Team Gabby, along with J. Frank Dobie administrators, has established a Gabby Romero Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Gabby Romero, a student who lost her battle with cancer last year.

Several scholarships will be presented to Dobie seniors. The family plans to continue this tradition to honor Romero's fighting spirit. Contributions to the scholarship fund are currently being accepted. Those who wish to donate may do so by contacting Dobie's bookkeeper, Leslie Rustin, at 713-740-0370 or lrustin@pasadenaisd.org.



Smith attended San Jacinto College Central campus where he played baseball for Dr. Bragg Stockton. He was a computer programmer for many years but most recently was the manager of Chair King in Clear Lake. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter L. Smith Sr.

Smith is survived by his mother, Peggy J. Smith of Sagemont; his wife, Sharon Williams Smith; and his daughter, Paige Martin, her husband Billy and their daughter Avery of League City. He is also survived by Sharon's daughter, Amy, and her daughters, Tori and Tiara of Waterville, Minn. Smith is survived by his sister, Jean Parnell and her husband Bill of Whitney, Texas; and his nephews, nieces, other family, friends and his dogs, Shelby, Stormy and Pud.

Thinking of helping others with cancer and for further medical research, Smith chose to donate his body to science.

No services or memorial will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Hospice of Houston in Smith's name at www.houstonhospice.org.

Leader Obituary policy

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

Lutheran South Academy earns first place



Lutheran South Academy recently hosted the Private School Interscholastic Association District 11A meet, and of the nine schools attending, LSA took first place overall. The meet included students in first grade through eighth grade competing in various academic challenges such as math, creative writing, spelling, science, geography and public speaking. Students who placed first or second will advance to the State PSIA Meet on April 24 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Pictured are the LSA students who will advance to state.

They are, left to right, (front row) Jackson Rabb, Andrew Leimkuehler, Nicholas Spencer, Christiana Straub, (second row) Eric Amason, Nathan Laughman, Patrick Grigsby, Katarina Straub, Lauren Oggero, (third row) Sophie Baggott, Braden Shaffer, Stephanie Zeller, (back row) Maris Fechter, Wyatt Griffis, Zachary Germeroth and Alex Silvagnoli. Not pictured are Siena Condon, Russell Parrish and JP Stanley. For more information, visit www.lutheransouth.org or call the school at 281-464-8299.

Photo submitted

Library events scheduled

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

Children ages 5 and up and their chaperones can play board games and more starting at 4 p.m. on game day, Thursday, April 15.

Vietnamese Storytime is scheduled for Saturday, April

17, and will include Reading Club at 9 a.m., followed by intermediate storytime at 11 a.m., and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.

The genealogy discussion group will meet Monday, April 19, at 2 p.m. Also, the schedule for May computer classes will be posted. Classes are free, but registration is

required. Space is limited.

Movie Madness is Thursday, April 22, at 4 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for title.

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

South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce

Presents

CASINO NIGHT

Friday April 30, 6:30 P.M.

The Gardens 12001 Beamer Rd.

Win a Trip to Las Vegas for Two

Two Round Trip Plane Tickets and Two Nights at Caesars Palace

SPONSORS

- Royal Flush: Memorial Hermann SE Hospital, San Jacinto College South, South Belt-Ellington Leader, Sterling Bank
- Full House: JSC Federal CU, TX Bay Area CU, Banco Herencia, Windshire/Regency Apartments, Primeway CU, Alameda Mall, Hobbs Auto, Fast Signs, H.E.B. (Blackhawk)
- Straight Flush: Bob Leared

Tickets are \$20 in advance & \$25 at the door.

Tickets on sale at Chamber office, HEB & South Belt-Ellington Leader

For information call 281-481-5516 or 281-481-5656



Morales' star shines



Dobie 10th-grader Jared Morales recently won first place in world history teacher Gloria Flores' yearly competition by creating a Star of David made of stained glass.

Luu wins second



Flores is shown above awarding Phong Luu the second place prize in the contest for crafting a replica of the Eiffel Tower entirely out of Popsicle sticks.

Tran takes third



Julie Tran is shown above receiving her third-place award in Flores' annual contest for creating a Roman soldier helmet made from papier-maché.

Fourth goes to Au



Flores' student Tony Au took home a fourth-place award in the competition for his yin-yang display constructed of black and white rice.

Frazier owls collect hats

Frazier Elementary will host its third annual Hats For Hope service project benefiting M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. The school will collect new hats with the tags still attached or monetary donations until May 7.

All hats and money collected will be donated to M.D. Anderson cancer patients and the Patient Services Program. South Belt residents who know of someone who is undergoing cancer treatments, are asked to let the school know.

Those who would like to make or knit hats would be appreciated.

For information, contact Rhonda Jacobs at 713-740-0560 or rjacobs@pasadenaisd.org.

Best Friends Boutique

Pets need Love-Bring yours in for some special TLC.



Same Location 25 Years

Hughes at Beltway 8
281-484-9655

Flores' students relive history

Students in Dobie teacher Gloria Flores' 10th-grade world history class recently competed in a contest that required them to construct a project depicting a historical item displayed in their textbooks.

Pupils were required to build their projects on their own and were encouraged not to spend any money. They were additionally required to write a report and give an oral presentation on the item.

Projects ranged from a wooden replica of a French guillotine to a working electric light bulb.

Flores has been holding the contest for the past six years. Students are given the assignment when the school year begins in August and have until spring break to complete it.

The teacher said students react the same way every year when assigned the project. "They say, 'Ms. Flores, we can't do any of that,'" Flores said, to which she responds, "That's funny, that's what last year's students told me about their projects that you are looking at now."

To encourage students, Flores offers prizes, which she pays for out of her own pocket. Prizes range from Astros tickets to an iPod shuffle.

Unlike in previous years, Flores now teaches two inclusion classes, making this year's contest special for her.

"Those smiles will be emblazoned in my brain for a lifetime," Flores said. The contest was judged by Dobie principal Steve Jamail and assistant principals Donna Branch and Franklin Moses.

Taking home first place in the contest was Jared Morales, who constructed a Star of David out of stained glass. The second-place winner was Phong Luu, who made an Eiffel Tower out of Popsicle sticks. Third place was awarded to Julie Tran, who constructed a Roman soldier helmet out of papier-maché. Tony Au took home fourth place for making a yin-yang display out of white and dark rice. The fifth-place winner was Brianna Smith, who constructed a Parthenon out of cardboard. Suva Gomes was given a People's Choice Award for also making a Parthenon out of cardboard.

Flores has been with the school district for 15 years and last year, earned her Master of Science in counseling from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Gomes wins People's Choice



Flores' Peoples Choice award went to 10th-grade student Suva Gomes, who constructed a duplicate of the Greek Parthenon out of cardboard and wood.

CL Tea Party rally set

The Clear Lake Tea Party will host an anniversary rally on Thursday, April 15, in Clear Lake Park on NASA Parkway, from 4 to 7 p.m. Among other things, a re-enactment of the dumping of tea into Boston Harbor more than two centuries ago will be held. The public is invited. For more information, visit the Web site at www.clearlaketea.party.com.

Bracewell Library programs scheduled

Bracewell event highlights for the week of April 12-17 include activities for all ages. Come and explore the recently opened library and bring a friend.

Tuesdays are centered on children in the morning and adults in the evening. Storytime is from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and is hosted by staff. Activities include exciting stories, fun songs and simple crafts with playtime to follow.

The Ellington-Clear Lake Professional Alliance will sponsor a series of financial workshops at 4:30 p.m. that include retirement planning with free computer analysis for seniors and retirees covering 401(k)s, IRAs, annuities, risk management, LTC, Medicare/Medicaid, etc. For more information, contact Phillip Hawley at 832-404-7331 or Ron Nixon at 281-331-4343.

On Wednesday, bilingual storytime is from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and is hosted by bilingual staff. It will include stories, songs, finger plays and a craft.

Also on Wednesday, a children's craft will be held from 4 to 4:30 p.m. for families with children of all ages. Thursday evening the focus shifts to young adults with a craft hosted by local photographer Lumenlily from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Special storyteller Don Sanders will help celebrate el Día de los Niños on Wednesday, April 28, at 4 p.m.

Library hours are changing as of April 17. See related story on page 1A or visit www.houstonlibrary.org for more information.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Leader Reader Ads
25 Words \$8 for 1 week
or 25 Words for 3 Weeks \$21
no changes, no refunds.

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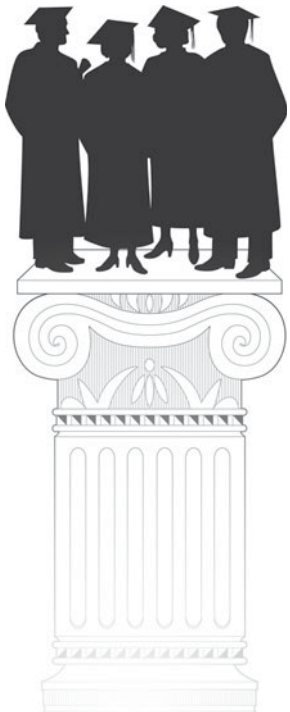
Attention Dobie, Clear Brook, Lutheran South, South Houston and all other Seniors!!!!

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281-484-4337 • 11555 Beamer Rd.



Get job opportunity edge with foreign languages

Looking to add foreign language to your list of career skills? Register now for the next session of University of Houston-Clear Lake's Foreign Languages session. Students can register through Monday, April 19, to learn French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian and/or Spanish at beginner to advanced levels. Classes meet weekly for seven weeks at various times and locations in the university's Bayou Building and Student Services and Classroom Building. New student fees are \$135, while returning students pay \$115. Private lessons are also available. Registration is now open online, by phone or in person with classes beginning April 19 and ending June 4. Register online by visiting www.uhcl.edu/fl, or by calling 281-283-3033. For more information, e-mail Foreign Languages Program Director Christine Paul at paul@uhcl.edu.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, JOSHUA!
Congratulations are sent to the Montes family, Jonathon, Danielle and big sister Denise, for the addition to their family of Joshua Jonathon. He was born Feb. 20, 2010, weighing in at 6 lbs., 6 oz. and stretched 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are sent much love - Nana Betty and Paw Paw Mike Dixon and grandmother Jeannie and grandfather Ozzie Villarreal.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 15 through April 21.

AIDAN TURNS 1!
Aidan De La Rosa will turn 1 year old on April 15. Lots of love and first birthday wishes are sent to him from his parents, Kristin and Fernando De La Rosa, big brother Jacob De La Rosa, Gran and Pop, Rose and Larry Konzelman, Aunt Kimmie and Uncle Mike Frazee, Aunt Allison and Uncle Cody Reynolds, Grandma and Papa, Hilda and Fernando De La Rosa, Aunt Lizet Martinez, and cousins Matthew, Lauren and Zachary Frazee, Avery Reynolds and Nikki Martinez.

Atkinson Elementary
Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to **Makeda Winfield** April 16.
Burnett Elementary
Grace Garcia celebrates a birthday April 21.
Frazier Elementary
Cindy Keane is sent birthday greetings April 15.
Jessup Elementary
Special birthday wishes are sent to **Marie Garcia** on April 15. A birthday celebration is set for **Valecia Nolan** April 20.
Meador Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Anna Ayala** April 19.

HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY, SALLY
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Executive Director **Sally Mitchell** who celebrates her birthday Friday, April 16, from her family, friends and the staff at the **Leader**.

Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday cake for **Susan Martens** is April 16. **Barbara Fain** enjoys a birthday March 17. On April 19, **Janice Murphy** marks a birthday. **Thomas Sewell** has a birthday April 21.

SANDRA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Sandra Williams celebrates her birthday Sunday, April 18. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent from her co-workers, family, friends and the staff at the **Leader**.

South Belt Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to **Allison Sutton** April 17.
Stuchbery Elementary
Celebrating a birthday April 15 is **Marsha Fischer**. The day for a party for **Silvia Ramirez** is April 17.

HAPPY 16TH BIRTHDAY, AARON!
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Aaron Giles** of Kirkwood South who turns 16 on Tuesday, April 20, from his grandparents, **Ken and Bobby Griffin**; parents **Jim and Tracy Giles**; sister **Kristen** and brother **Cody**. Aaron is a sophomore at Dobie High School.

Melillo Middle School
On April 15, **Brandie Fountain** enjoys a birthday. Special birthday greetings are sent to **Betty Haley** on April 17. April 19 is the day for a birthday cake for **Patty Gordon**. Enjoying a birthday April 21 is **H. Beard**.

ANN CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY
Sageglen resident **Ann Brannen** will celebrate her birthday Tuesday, April 20. Best wishes are sent from the staff at the **Leader**.

Morris Middle School
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Kyle Burns** April 16. Blow out the birthday candles for **Darcy Heard** on April 17. Marking a birthday April 18 is **Demetrius Scott**.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, GRIFFINS
Dobie graduates **Angela** and **David Griffin** celebrate their 24th wedding anniversary Monday, April 19. Best wishes and lots of love are sent to the couple from their friends and family in the Houston area.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
The day for a birthday party for **Mary Horn** is April 16. A birthday is enjoyed by **Larhonda Lewis** April 17. A birthday is shared by **William Anders** and **Nneka Obialo** April 21.

ADDISON TURNED 2 APRIL 13
Addison Vela celebrated her 2nd birthday Tuesday, April 13. Many birthday wishes and kisses are sent from mom, **Kristi**, dad, **Frankie Vela**, sister **Lexy**, Grammy and Pop **Karen** and **Donald Gartman**, Aunt **Kelli**, **Nana**, **Teresa** and **Pop-pop**, **Jesse Garcia**, **Uncle Ray** and the rest of the family.

Dobie High
On April 15, **Erin Bransford** and **Lacy Youngblood** celebrate a birthday. The day for a party for **Joseph Janis** is April 17. Double birthday wishes are sent to **Christine Kerr** and **Bonifacio Salgado** April 18. Birthday greetings are sent to **Carey Sink** April 19.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO RICKY!
Ricky De La Fuente celebrated his 7th birthday with family and friends on Easter Sunday, April 4. Ricky is in the first grade at South Belt Elementary. He also plays for SBHLL for the Machine Pitch Blue Jays. Lots of love, hugs and

DOBIE TRAILMIXERS MEET
The Dobie Trailmixers group recently met for its March meeting. Topics of discussion included: **Bob Daugherty**, a 13-year U.S. History teach-

er at Dobie, was recently honored as Texas' outstanding teacher of American History by the state, conferred by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Congratulations are sent to Daugherty.

Paula Herring Goodheart was recently honored in her courtroom with her judicial investiture ceremony. She was elected judge of Harris County Criminal Court of Law No. 1, the first woman in that court and the first redhead in the entire court system. Goodheart is a super Dobie grad and a former academic decathlete. She is the mother of two children, ages 8 and 10, and her proud aunt is **Nelda Sullivan**, a PISD school board member.

Linda Shippey recently attended the Action Summit for Alzheimer's in Washington, D.C. She is working on behalf of husband **Dennis**, Dobie retired swim coach and Alzheimer's patient, to expand the "Silver Alert" program to Alzheimer's patients of all ages instead of just those over age 65. She invites the public to check out her Web site for further information at www.lindahshippey.silveralertchange.org.

Christine Valvko, Dobie's first nurse, has new health issues. She was hospitalized for issues related to macular degeneration, leading to blurred vision.

Sympathy is extended from the Trailmixers to **Bob Blackwell**, whose dad recently died.

Donna Chamblin Langdon Smith is looking forward to the arrival of her fourth grandchild in the fall. She also still keeps a close eye on her dad in Nacogdoches.

Jon Rascoe recently had a great vacation in Chile, just missing that 8.8 category earthquake.

Richard Golenko is starting his third round of employment for the U.S. Census Bureau. **Shirley Blanton** appreciates the newsletters and will join the group when her grandson, who stays with her Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starts school. **Cathy** and **Roy Haney** enjoyed her 50th high school reunion recently, joining many Thomas Jefferson High School classmates in San Antonio. Daughter **Leigh Choate's** company in Austin, Bazaarvoice, was recently featured on a CNN program called *The Situation Room*. It was an example of a young company that has prospered even in hard economic times. Choate said she is proud that she was the 40th employee to join the company.

The Dobie Trailmixers meet for lunch and conversation on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua. All past and present Dobie High School employees are invited to attend.

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.

Workshop explores career assessment

Let University of Houston-Clear Lake's experienced counselors and psychologists from the Office of Career and Counseling Services help find answers to career questions at a two-day Career Exploration Workshop designed to explore vocational resources and skill assessment. The workshop will be held Friday, April 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and April 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 3103 and 3109, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Fees are \$75 for university alumni, \$100 for UH-Clear Lake faculty and former students, and \$200 for all others. For more information, call 281-283-2580 or visit www.uhcl.edu/careerservices.

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LSA presents Annie Get Your Gun



Lutheran South High School will perform the musical *Annie Get Your Gun* on April 23-25 with show times at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Starring are LSA high school students, left to right, (front row) Marie Van Buskirk, (Winnie Tate), Scott Korzep (Tommy Keeler), (second row) Westin Womack (Frank Butler), Emilie Finke (Annie Oakley), Matthew Roth (Buffalo Bill), (third row) Katie Davis (Dolly Tate) and Charlie Davenport (Alex Urbanowich). Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. LSA is located at 12555 Ryewater near I-45 and Dixie Farm Road. Photo submitted

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Remember When

30 years ago (1980)
A Saturday night fire at Garfield Elementary made it the fourth school damaged by fire in the previous year. Total damages were estimated to be \$1 million. All incumbents were returned to office after local water district elections. State Sen. Gene Jones expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the Clear Lake watershed project in a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and various U.S. senators and congressmen.

25 years ago (1985)
Crape myrtles were planted in esplanades along Fuqua in connection with the Releaf Houston project. An attorney and the Pasadena Independent School District's superintendent's office corresponded with the Texas Employment Commission about former superintendent C. Lee Meyer's recent request for unemployment compensation.

20 years ago (1990)
According to a formula provided by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, Southbend mothers experienced a 26 percent miscarriage rate, an alarmingly high percentage. The long-awaited road extension between Freehill and Old Galveston Road was nearly complete. A suspect wanted in connection with area burglaries and home robberies eluded capture by fleeing on foot after being spotted inside a Southbend home.

15 years ago (1995)
Only 110 Pasadena Independent School District employees applied for early retirement, short of the 500 anticipated. Burglars cleaned out a house on Sagewind in Sagemont despite having the Brinks alarm activate. Thompson Intermediate seventh-grader Rahat Ahmed was the only student in the Pasadena school district to compete in the state geography bee in Fort Worth.

10 years ago (2000)
A \$31,000 reward was offered in the stabbing death of Gail Totman, 51. Harold Lundy, 21, and Scott Davidson, 22, survived a car crash into a concrete pillar, thought to be a fatality, with only broken bones. San Jacinto students, Juan Rodriguez, Ricardo Rico, Natalia Bandasik and David Mitchell, were set to fly a NASA aircraft.

5 years ago (2005)
Three South Belt-area men were lost in the Gulf of Mexico. Austin Childs, 19, John Zimmerman, 51, Scott Keller, 41, and a dog boarded Zimmerman's 28-foot boat at Freeport for an offshore fishing trip. Three days later, the boat was located floating adrift in the gulf. Six months later, there was still no sign of what happened to the men. U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay asked Secretary of Homeland Defense Michael Chertoff to name Ellington Field as a regional headquarters for DHS. On the fifth anniversary of Jonathan Barriaca's death, there were still no leads in the case.

1 year ago (2009)
Sagemont Church purchased a former dentist office on Hughes Road with plans to convert it into a counseling center. A public hearing was held regarding the proposed construction of the low-income Dixie Gardens apartment complex on Dixie Farm Road. Arranged by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the meeting gave citizens a chance to voice their concerns about the possible development of the apartments. Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan opened a satellite office on El Camino Real to serve the South Belt/Clear Lake area.

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Blackston, Pruitt engaged



Donald and Sharon Blackston, former residents of Sagemeadow, announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Blackston, to Ryan Pruitt, son of Ricky and Stacey Pruitt of Deer Park. The bride-to-be is a 2004 J. Frank Dobie High School graduate. She also graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2008 with a degree in nursing and is currently working in labor and delivery. The prospective groom is a 2005 Deer Park High School graduate. He currently attends San Jacinto College and is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering. A May wedding is planned.

Siblings marry in double wedding March 19

Rachel Finch and Darren Biles and Erik Finch and Toshie Takahashi were joined in marriage in a double wedding on Friday, March 19, 2010, at the Houston Arboretum in Houston.

Rachel and Erik Finch are sister and brother. They are the daughter and son of Laura Schmidt of Houston and Bruce and Lucy Finch of Scotts Valley, Calif.

Darren Biles is the son of William and Jacqueline Biles of Houston.

Toshie Takahashi is the daughter of Hideo and Hiroko Takahashi of Yokohama, Japan.

Erik and Rachel Finch and Darren Biles are all graduates of J. Frank Dobie High School.

Rachel graduated from the University of St. Thomas, Houston, in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies. She currently works for Spring Branch Independent School

District as a world geography teacher.

Darren Biles graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry. He works for Columbia Analytical Services, Houston, as a project chemist.

After a honeymoon in London and Berlin, Darren and Rachel will make their home in Houston.

Erik Finch graduated from the University of Texas in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian studies and was a Korean linguist in the U.S. Air Force. He currently works for the U.S. Department of State.

Toshie Takahashi graduated from Jissen Women's College in Tokyo in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in life sciences.

After a honeymoon trip to New York City, Erik and Toshie will make their home in Seoul, South Korea.



Mr. and Mrs. Darren Biles and Mr. and Mrs. Erik Finch

Singles dance set

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance will be held Saturday, April 17, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the VFW Lodge in Bacliff at 1401 Grand Avenue on FM-646, one-quarter mile

west of Highway 146. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. For more info, call 409-948-1156 or 281-484-4762.

San Jacinto Day Festival, battle re-enactment April 24

Booming cannons, crackling musket fire, thundering hooves and piercing war cries will resound across the San Jacinto Battleground on Saturday, April 24, as hundreds of history re-enactors recreate the events leading up to Texas winning its independence, culminating in the decisive Battle of San Jacinto.

Witness the excitement at the admission-free San Jacinto Day Festival and battle re-enactment April 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the San Jacinto Battleground historic site. The festival is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games and fun set amidst living history.

The battle re-enactment begins at 3 p.m. Re-enactors will dramatize the decisive battle where Gen. Sam Houston led his Texian soldiers to victory over the Mexican army eventually leading to almost one million square miles of Mexican territory becoming a part of the United States. The re-enactors will interpret the Runaway Scrape (Texians fleeing from advancing forces of Santa Anna), the march of the Texas Army from Gonzales to San Jacinto, the cannon duel and the final battle.

The re-enactment ends with the surrender of the Mexican army's Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna to Houston, followed by the laying of wreaths to honor the sacrifices of both armies.

Activities surrounding the San Jacinto Monument celebrate this special day in Texas history with entertaining and educational activities. On the main stage, numerous local and regional entertainers will perform and demonstrate, including:

- K.R. Wood, a singer, songwriter and historian, brings an authentic chuck wagon and performs his *Camp Cookie* review.
- Last Chance Forever, the Birds of Prey Conservancy will show their magnificent birds.
- The Celtaire String Band will perform period Americana music using instruments including the fiddle, penny whistle, guitar, mandolin, spoons, scrubboard and limberjacks.
- The Houston ZooMobile will be on the grounds with animals native to Texas.
- Marsha's Petting Zoo brings in animals for an up-close look at nature.

Blacksmiths, weavers, spinners, quilters and other demonstrators will give a sense of life in the early 1800s. The Tiny Town Texas shows how towns were laid out in the 1800s.

Dan Barth will use his Medicine Show Wagon to help tell tales of 19th century cure-alls and entertain with magic.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department interpreters will offer guided tours of the restored marshlands and answer questions about the wildlife inhabiting the park. The marsh is historically important in that it barred the escape of many of Santa Anna's troops during the 1836 battle.

Independence Square Dancers from various groups throughout Texas will demonstrate square dancing and give lessons.

Music from the North Harris County Dulcimer Society and the Celtaire String Band will entertain.

Battleship Texas, the first battleship memorial museum, is open for visitors.

Inside the San Jacinto Monument, visitors can enjoy the artifacts of the San Jacinto Museum at no charge.

Visitors can wander among the Mexican and Texian camps to learn what soldiers of that day were doing prior to the battle and to see how civilians lived in 1836.

The historically correct encampments and the battle re-enactment are presented by hundreds of members of the San Jacinto Volunteers and other living history organizations from across the state. These groups help families new to the state as well as native Texans understand the history of this great state.

Visitors enjoy free admission to the festival and battle re-enactment. Combo tickets for the elevator ride, exhibit and movie inside the monument can be purchased for \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Fees for the Battleship

Texas are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for school and youth groups with a reservation, and free for children 12 and younger. Admission fees to the park are waived on festival day.

Visit the San Jacinto Museum's Facebook page. Visitors are encouraged to bring

lawn chairs and/or blankets for viewing the battle re-enactment.

For more information about the San Jacinto Museum of History or the San Jacinto Day Festival and battle re-enactment, call 281-479-2421 or visit www.sanjacintomuseum.org.

HCMGA presents Backyard Pollinators

Diana Foss from Texas Parks & Wildlife will present *Backyard Pollinators* during the next Master Gardener Lecture Series.

Foss will discuss the importance of pollinators in a landscape and how to attract

them on Wednesday, April 21, at 10 a.m. in the meeting room at Clear Lake Park (on the lakeside), 5001 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

For more information on this event, visit the Web site at <http://hcmga2.tamu.edu>.

Bay Area Chorus sets concerts April 25, May 2

The Bay Area Women's Chorus and the Bay Area Mixed Chorus present *Voices of Poets & Playwrights*, highlighting the powerful wedding of text and music that occurs when inventive writers and skilled composers join forces.

Settings by Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman and James Agee are included. BAC soloists and small groups will pay homage to Broadway lyricists and composers with performances of favorites from *Wicked*, *The Wiz* and *Wizard of Oz*.

The Sunday, April 25, concert will be held at 4 p.m. at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 18220 Upper Bay

Road in Nassau Bay. Guests include PVAMU Chamber Singers, Prairie View A&M University, A. Jan Taylor, director.

Tickets are \$10 in advance. At the door, the prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students or seniors aged 65 and over. Group rates are available. Tickets can be ordered by phone at 281-326-1286, e-mail info@bayareachorus.org, or purchased online at www.bayareachorus.org.

Tickets will be sold at the door beginning 30 minutes prior to the performance.

Guests include PVAMU Chamber Singers, Prairie View A&M University, A. Jan Taylor, director.

Tickets are \$10 in advance. At the door, the prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students or seniors aged 65 and over. Group rates are available.

Tickets can be ordered by phone at 281-326-1286, e-mail info@bayareachorus.org, or purchased online at www.bayareachorus.org.

Tickets will be sold at the door beginning 30 minutes prior to the performance.

San Jac hosts veterans reception



San Jacinto College held a reception at each of its three campuses recently to honor military personnel and provide information about services the college offers for veterans. Pictured are, left to right, Army veterans Don Kestler and Roland Thomas at the reception at San Jac South.

Photo by Jeannie Peng-Armao, San Jacinto College marketing department

Guest chefs, culinary students create culinary masterpiece

Culinary arts students at Clear Springs High School will cook up quite a feast at the third annual Culinary Arts Extravaganza.

The event features nine guest chefs who will work with the student chefs to present a night of food and fun. Entertainment will be provided by the Clear Brook High School Jazz Band.

Guests will have a chance to sample the tasty work of the culinary arts program and to bid during a silent auction. The Culinary Arts Extravaganza will be held at Clear Springs High School, 501 Palomino Lane in League City, on Friday, April 23, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 each or \$75 for two. Tables of eight are \$300. Tickets can be purchased at Clear Springs and Clear Lake High Schools or the Education Support Center. They will not be sold at the door. Tickets are required regardless of age.

The student and guest chefs will create appetizers from around the world. Guests will be able to sample everything from boeuf bourguignon and potatoes Dauphinoise to jerk chicken and assorted sushi. Dessert includes crepes with Texas peach compote as well as handcrafted chocolates.

Guest chefs and featured countries for 2010 include:

Executive Chef Brent Robinson, Marina's Restaurant - France; Executive Chef Patrick Guerra, Hobby

Marriott Hotel - Peru; Executive Chef Robert Maccarone, CCISD Child Nutrition - Italy; Executive Chef Roland Kyburz, South Shore Harbor Resort - Spain; Chef Paul Mendoza, Culinary Arts Director Galveston College - Vegetarian; Chef Tori Bosley, Lott Marketing - Caribbean; Chef Ann Curry, Clear Lake Regional Hospital - Asia; Pastry Chef Jarrod Vance, Carabas - Pastry Desserts; and Chocolatier Crystal Perkins, The Chocolate Box - Chocolates.

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Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol	
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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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Pastor's picture preserved



Sagemont Presbyterian Church (now A Community of the Servant-Savior) founding pastor Sherman Wilson (left) is shown above with his son, Stephen Wilson, and his wife, Ruth Wilson. The family is shown with a picture of the Wilsons, which was saved from the fire that destroyed the area church.

Salvaged from ruins



Shown above are crosses collected from around the world and the church's original covenant that were rescued from the blaze. Shown below is rubble from the fire next to a patch of freshly bloomed bluebonnets.



Photos by Marie Flickinger

Church fire . . .

Continued from Page 1A

The service contained many references to the fire with the congregation even praying for healing and forgiveness for the person or persons responsible for the fire.

Brehm told the service attendees that when something like this happens, there are many rumors that go around. He then addressed the accusations about the fire being a result of someone opposed to the church's philosophy of encouraging gay and lesbian membership.

He said that the membership was open to all regardless of religion, race or sexual orientation. The church is one of 18 Texas churches listed as a More Light Presbyterian church. The More Light churches publicly solicit gay and transgender membership.

Brehm said that of the 30 members and 10 to 15 additional people who frequently attend the church, only four or five are considered gay.

The future

Church officials have contracted with the Pasadena Independent School District to hold services at Stuchbery Elementary for the next four Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Plans for future services have not yet been made.

According to Brehm, the church's two buildings were insured for a little over a million dollars. He is concerned that the insurance on the contents is not sufficient. According to Brehm, he has been contacted by churches across the country offering to help. He believes that some of that assistance can come in the form of replacing items that will not be covered by the insurance.

The decision to rebuild will be made by the Presbytery, which is over

all Presbyterian Church (USA) churches in the district. Brehm believes that permission to rebuild will be given since the loss is covered by insurance.

Problems getting fire reported to 9-1-1

According to HFD records, the fire was called in by a law enforcement officer, but a 17-year Sagemont resident tried reporting the fire but was reportedly told by a 9-1-1 official that the area was not in Houston's jurisdiction.

Tina Rodriguez, who is a longtime resident living on Sageriver, which backs up to the church, was making a sandwich for herself and her husband at approximately 11 p.m. when they saw the light from the fire.

According to Rodriguez, she was asked by the female 9-1-1 officer for the address of the church.

Rodriguez did not have the address, but described the location as across from Stuchbery Elementary on Hughes Road and near the intersection of Hughes and Sageriver. Rodriguez said the operator then asked for her address. She gave the 9-1-1 officer her Sageriver address but said she was told that was not in the area covered by 9-1-1. When Rodriguez asked what she should do, she said she was told, "I don't know."

Rodriguez's home is, in fact, in the city of Houston and has been for nearly 35 years.

Under the Open Records act, the *Leader* has requested a copy of Rodriguez's 9-1-1 call and will report the outcome when the report is received.

Church history

Continued from Page 1A

and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Under the pastoring of Bryan, membership in the church decreased dramatically while neighboring churches, as well as the community, experienced major growth.

The membership now stands at 30 members.

Currently the Rev. Alan Brehm, Ph.D., pastors the congregation. He is a part-time pastor, splitting his time between the South Belt church and First Presbyterian Church in Dickinson.

Brehm has served the congregation for approximately 2 1/2 years.

The church went without a pastor for approximately 18 months after Bryan left.

According to church members, there are two original members still attending the church. They are Frances DeGraff and Nancy Lee.

Sunday services uninterrupted



Church services went on as scheduled Sunday, Thursday night. The Rev. Alan Brehm (blue shirt) is shown above serving communion to church members near where the church once stood.

See next week's *Leader* for fire photos submitted by area residents



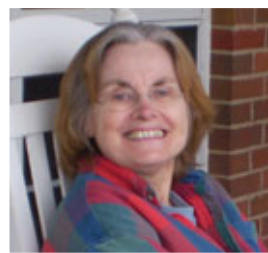
A cross (bottom left corner) is shown above on fire during the Thursday night blaze that destroyed A Community of the Servant-Savior Church.



Members from A Community of the Servant-Savior Church are shown above going through the building's remains in hopes of finding keepsakes not destroyed by the fire. Pictured above are, left to right, Art Niebuhr, Ellie Brown, D'Arcy Bryan-Wilson and Margie Cantalamessa.

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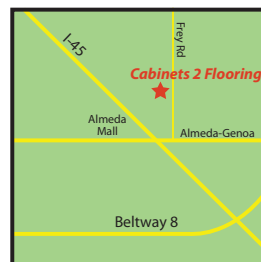
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JFD 2010 class seeks powder puff, picnic aid; final celebration nears

Project Graduation having turned into Powder Puff and Picnic, the Dobie High School Class of 2010 is seeking community involvement as the final celebration nears.

Several caring parents and members of the Dobie senior class officer ranks have banded together in an effort to make the 2010 event exciting for everyone involved.

Because of oversights earlier in the school year, a proper planning committee was not formed to help with the assistance of Project Graduation.

At this point, the traditional Project Graduation evening has been put on hold in favor of a powder puff football game and class picnic at El Franco Lee Park, slated for the final week of May or the first week of June.

Plans are now being put in place for the event, and parental volunteers are asking local businesses and individuals for donations of either upper-end items such as televisions, laptops, radios and the like or monetary donations for purchasing these items.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to Dobie's senior celebration may call Jessica Cordero at 832-275-3188 or Alicia Gonzalez at 281-630-5176.

Car wash up next
Members of the senior class will host a car wash Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Blackhawk Park.

Dolphins sign up
The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will host registration for returning football players and drill team cheerleader and mascot members Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Blackhawk Park.

District track meets conclude
The District 22-5A and District 24-5A track meets were in progress as of press time April 14 and were set to conclude in both districts April 15.

The 22-5A meet will finish up at The Rig in Pearland, while the 24-5A event is set for its final day of events at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson.

In the April 22 issue, the Leader will feature a recap of the events.

Competitors at the district level are bidding to gain regional entry. The Region III meet is set for April 30-May 1 at Turner Stadium in Spring.

The state track and field meet will be held in Austin in mid-May.

Down the stretch, critical games await Softball, baseball races as competitive as ever

With only a handful of games remaining, the varsity softball and baseball races in districts 22-5A and 24-5A are headed for a wild finish. As far as softball is concerned, the usual cast of playoff contenders is still holding court, with Pearlland, Deer Park and Dobie holding down spots in 22-5A and Alvin, Clear Brook and Brazoswood in the mix in 24-5A.

On the baseball diamond, Clear Brook and Dobie are fighting from behind in an effort to make the playoffs.

In 24-5A, Brook is 4-5 and currently fifth. The same goes for Dobie in 22-5A. For more on the races, including current standings, see Page 6B.



Brook's situation: The Lady Wolverines, who are led by catcher Molly Fichtner (above), dropped off the pace in the District 24-5A standings with a 3-1 loss to Brazoswood April 9. With three games remaining, Alvin leads the standings at 10-1, while Clear Brook is 9-2. Brazoswood is third at 8-3.

Dobie's situation: Following a 2-1 loss at Deer Park April 9, the Lady Longhorns, including second baseman Amanda Nguyen (above) are holding down third place in the District 22-5A standings at 8-3. Pearlland is leading the way at 11-0, and Deer Park is now 9-2. Memorial is fourth with a 5-5 record.

Photo by John Bechtle

Photo by John Bechtle



Brook's situation: At 4-5, the Wolverines are facing a couple of games that will likely decide their playoff fate. First up, Clear Brook and catcher Kris Templin (above) play at first-place Brazoswood (9-0) April 16 and then host fourth-place Clear Lake (5-4) April 20. The Wolverines are currently fifth.

Dobie's situation: Having won back-to-back games for the first time in district play after downing South Houston 2-0 April 13, the Longhorns (4-5) are one game behind South Houston and Sam Rayburn, both 5-4. Dobie plays at 3-6 Deer Park April 16 and at La Porte (7-2) April 20. Blake Beynaerts (above) will likely start against Deer Park.

Photo by John Bechtle

GaryWPhotos.com

Longhorns play 22-5A championships



At left, Dobie junior Jonathan Taylor hits a shot during action at the District 22-5A spring tennis championships. Taylor paced the Longhorns with a third-place finish in boys' singles as the team did not qualify any players for the Region III tournament. In fact, this is the first season since 2002 that Dobie will not be represented at regionals. Taylor will be back to lead the way for the Dobie program, which will lose 15 seniors to graduation in June. "There will be a lot of tears at the banquet this year," Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said. "This is the finest group of seniors I've been around in my career as far as togetherness and dedication. The Longhorns will continue to practice as they prepare for the student/faculty tennis tournament May 19-20 at Dobie High School. For photos and more information from the 22-5A action, see Page 3B.

Photo by John Bechtle

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May 8th	8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Saturday

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May 12 - June 3	May 27 - June 18
4-6 p.m.	6-8 p.m.

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Longhorns' powerlifters excel using 'Believe and Achieve' mantra

A "Believe and Achieve" mantra worked very well for the Dobie High School powerlifting program, which completed a rewarding season with several competitors standing out.

Competing for just the second season as a complete program, Dobie made some huge gains, which has head coach Kenneth Foster very excited about the future.

"We finished the season on a positive note, sending five lifters to the regional meet," Foster said.

"Dorothy Tran represented the girls' team at the regional meet in Palacios. Dorothy did a great job this year, splitting duties between her classes, other extracurricular activities and powerlifting."

After finishing first in her weight class in each of her meets and reaching a personal best in the bench and dead lift events, Tran brought home a fifth-place finish at regionals.

Foster said Tran may have finished better, but a red light violation cost Tran in the dead lift.

"She had to reach a certain total in the dead lift, which I thought she achieved, but the judges overruled it and gave her a red light," Foster said.

"But sometimes that's the way it is, and we will learn and build on it. All of the girls' lifters did an awesome job competing this year. They finished tied for first as a team in one meet and took seconds and thirds in several others."

With the majority of the Lady Longhorns set to return next season, Dobie has quite a bit to look forward to.

"A lot of teams rebuild after a season, but we will reload and come back strong," Foster said. "One good thing about the girls' team is that all of them will be back."

The Dobie boys sent four athletes - Michael McDonald, Justin Rice, Ashante Joseph and Charles Tisby to Mayde Creek High School for the regional meet.

"The boys team did an outstanding job with a team

of only five members," Foster said.

"Next year, our goal is to have 13 members on the varsity team. Going into a meet with only five competitors limits you to only a few points even if everyone takes first place.

"These guys worked very hard and split time between offseason football workouts, track and field and powerlifting. Our goal was to peak at regionals, which they did."

With just two lifters slated to return to the varsity level, Foster knows the boys' team will have to reload. But with a solid group at the junior varsity level, the Longhorns are excited about the possibilities.

"One of the best things for our program was to get into the Gulf Coast Powerlifting League, which enabled us to have a JV team," Foster said.

"The JV boys really did a great job competing. It gave our younger kids a chance to learn the sport and compete.

The junior varsity team

consisted of Barry Autherith, Carlos Rice, Jacob Reynoso, Joshua Basquez, Kevin Nguyen, Robert Julks, Chris Garcia and Alexander Johns.

According to Foster, the

program has grown in popularity at the school in just a short time. Foster, a first-year coach at Dobie, agreed to take over the program after dabbling in the sport while he was at Galveston

Ball High School.

Foster said the athletes appreciate the support they've received.

"The Dobie powerlifting team would like to extend a special thanks to all the

parents, faculty and administration for all of the help and support we received this year," Foster said.

"This is a difficult sport, and sometimes you don't always get the recognition.

We received that and more this season. I am sure the program is going to continue to grow for years to come."

Foster is interested in getting more young athletes involved in the sport, or to at least take a look. To that end, the Longhorns are developing plans to introduce incoming freshman boys and girls to the sport by hosting an introductory clinic.

The final details have yet to be worked out, but Foster said the details will be released soon.

"Our motto was to 'Believe and Achieve,' and we did that as a group," Foster said.

"I'm so proud of these young men and women for putting the hard work in and representing their school in such a fine way. It was great to be their coach, and we're excited about the future."



Dobie High School's powerlifting program, in just its second full season of competition, enjoyed a string of success as the Lady Longhorns competed in several local events. In the end, Dorothy Tran advanced to regionals in support of the program. Members of the

girls' team included, left to right, (front row) Christina Dorantes, Tran, Selina Castillo, Megan Snyder, Faith Roberts, Brianna Jamison, (back row) Jessica Torres, Amber Deleon, Ashley Montes, Melissa Garcia, Madelyn Garcia and Carla Galvan.

Sports calendar

BASEBALL

Friday, April 16

Dobie varsity at Deer Park, campus, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity at Brazoswood, 7:30
Clear Brook JV hosts Brazoswood, 7:00
Dobie sophomores host Deer Park, Dobie, 4:00
Clear Brook sophomores host Brazoswood, 4:30

Saturday, April 17

Dobie JV hosts Deer Park, Dobie, noon

Monday, April 19

Dobie JV hosts La Porte, PISD complex, 4:30
Clear Brook JV at Clear Lake, 7:00
Clear Brook sophomores at Clear Lake, 4:30

Tuesday, April 20

Dobie varsity at La Porte, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Brook, 7:30
Dobie sophomores host La Porte, Dobie, 4:00

Friday, April 23

Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 7:00
Clear Brook varsity hosts Galveston Ball, 7:30
Clear Brook JV at Galveston Ball, 7:00
Dobie JV vs. Pasadena, PISD complex, 7:00
Dobie sophomores vs. Pasadena, PISD complex, 4:30
Clear Brook sophomores at Galveston Ball, 4:30

Monday, April 26

Dobie JV vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD complex, 4:00

Tuesday, April 27

Dobie varsity vs. Sam Rayburn, Maguire, 4:00
Dobie sophomores host Sam Rayburn, Dobie, 4:00

Friday, April 30

Clear Brook varsity at Clear Springs, 7:30
Clear Brook JV hosts Clear Springs, 7:00
Clear Brook sophomores at Clear Springs, 4:30

Saturday, May 1

Clear Brook varsity at Alvin, 1:00
Clear Brook JV hosts Alvin, 1:00
Clear Brook sophomores host Alvin, 11 a.m.

SOFTBALL

Friday, April 16

San Jacinto College at Galveston (2), 2:00
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, PISD complex, 6:30
Clear Brook varsity hosts Galveston Ball, 7:30
Dobie JV vs. Pasadena, PISD complex, 5:00
Clear Brook JV hosts Galveston Ball, 6:00

Saturday, April 17

San Jacinto College at Alvin (2), TBA

Tuesday, April 20

Dobie varsity vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD complex, 6:30
Clear Brook varsity at Clear Springs, 7:00
Dobie JV vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD complex, 5:00
Clear Brook JV at Clear Springs, 5:30

Friday, April 23

Dobie varsity hosts Pearland, PISD complex, 6:30
Clear Brook varsity at Alvin, 7:30
Dobie JV hosts Pearland, PISD complex, 5:00
Clear Brook JV at Alvin, 6:00

TENNIS

Thursday, April 15

Dobie JV at 22-5A championships, Strawberry, TBA

Friday, April 16

Dobie JV at 22-5A championships, Strawberry, TBA

Tuesday, April 20

Dobie varsity at Region III championships, Deer Park, TBA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Dobie varsity at Region III championships, Deer Park, TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, April 15

PISD intermediate boys' meet, Auxiliary, 5:00

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

PISD intermediate girls' meet, Auxiliary, 5:00

Thursday, April 22

PISD intermediate boys' meet, Auxiliary, 5:00

Friday, April 30

Dobie varsity boys, girls, Region III champs., Humble, TBA

Saturday, May 1

Dobie varsity boys, girls, Region III champs., Humble, TBA

Brook soccer players land all 24-5A nods

Plenty of excitement on the field generated plenty of interest for the Clear Brook High School soccer program as the district's coaches announced the District 24-5A selections.

The Lady Wolverines, who advanced to the Region III tournament for the first time in school history, earned plenty of attention.

Sophomore Jamie Simmons was named the goalkeeper of the year in the league, and senior teammate Haley Sullivan was named the co-defensive player of the year.

Clear Brook finished second in the District 24-

5A standings behind winner Clear Lake but then took its play to another notch in the playoffs with three wins before Seven Lakes eliminated the locals at the regional tournament.

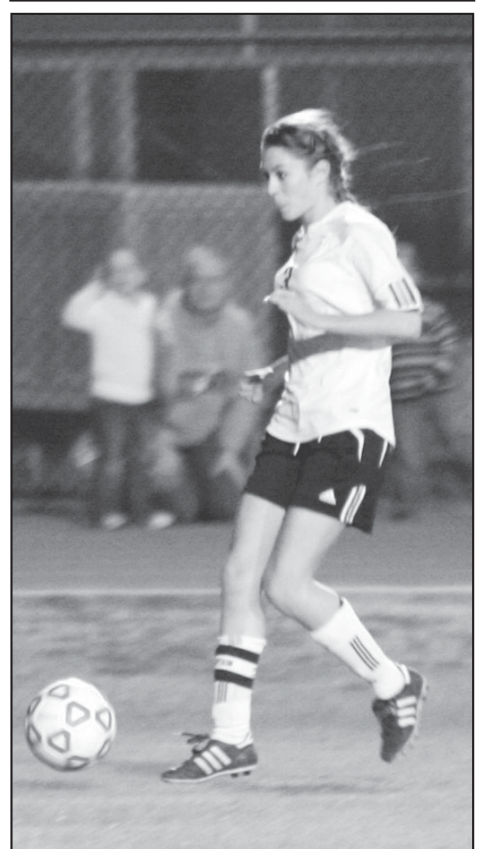
The future looks good for the Lady Wolverines, who will return Simmons along with junior first-team picks Corin Alcazar and Beth Stratton and sophomore Makenzie Kahan.

Clear Brook's boys finished fourth in the 24-5A standings and dropped a first-round playoff game to Fort Bend Austin. Senior Mark Gendi was the co-offensive player of the year.

Girls' co-defensive player/year
Haley Sullivan, Sr.

Girls' goalkeeper/year
Jamie Simmons, Soph.

Boys' co-offensive player/year
Mark Gendi, Sr.



The Lady Wolverines' Sara Eguren was a District 24-5A second team selection as she helped Clear Brook to second place in the final standings. Eguren was also named to the district's all-academic team for the second straight season.

24-5A all-district soccer - Brook

Girls' first team

Patty Stratton, Sr.
Makenzie Kahan, Soph.
Corin Alcazar, Jr.
Beth Stratton, Jr.

Girls' second team

Kate Schladenhauffen, Sr.
Sara Eguren, Sr.
Rachael Arend, Sr.
Chandler Duke, Soph.

Girls' academic

Kate Schladenhauffen, Sr.
Sara Eguren, Sr.
Rachael Arend, Sr.
Patty Stratton, Sr.
Haley Sullivan, Sr.

Boys' first team

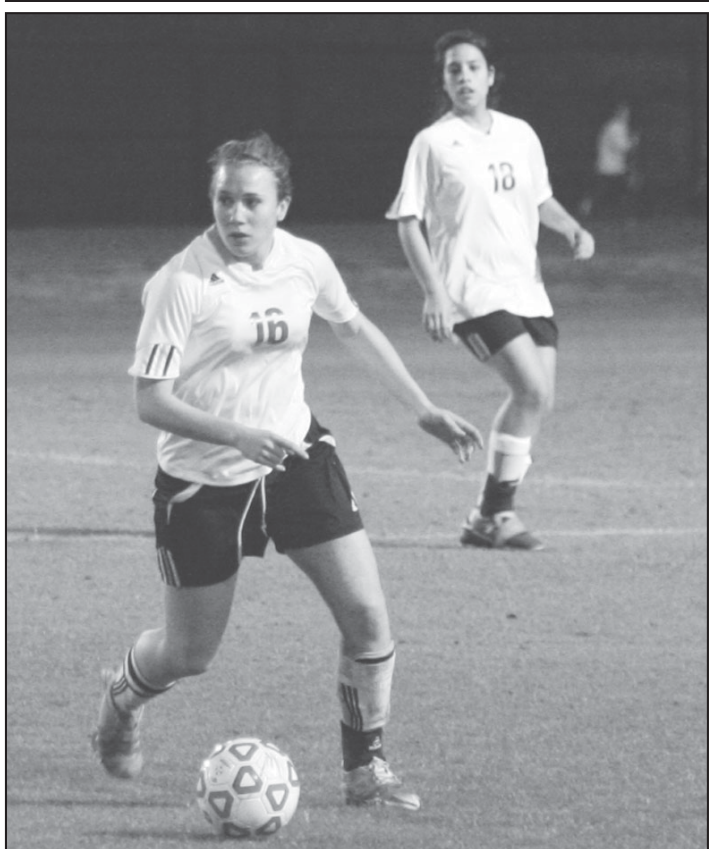
Mark Gendi, Sr.
Andrew Sokol, Sr.
Landon Sikes, Jr.
Drew Pilola, Soph.

Boys' second team

Kyle Allen, Sr.
James Coffey, Sr.
Diego Santillan, Sr.

Boys' honorable mention

Randall Williams, Jr.
Bryan Evans, Sr.
Sergio Luna, Sr.
Brandon Holland, Jr.
Colt Holsomback, Jr.



Haley Sullivan, a senior defender for Clear Brook, dominated in her end of the field as she earned co-defensive player of the year accolades. In the playoffs, Sullivan was at her best as the Lady Wolverines advanced to the Region III tournament.

South Belt Area Sports Association presents 2010 scholarship criteria

The South Belt Area Sports Association is now accepting applications from area class of 2010 high school graduates who meet the required criteria.

Each year, the association presents \$500 scholarships to be applied toward collegiate academic costs to one deserving boy and girl student.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must have competed for a minimum of three seasons in any one of the six youth sports leagues supported by the SBASA, including the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League, South Belt Girls' Softball Association, Sagemont Cowboys, South-

belt Dolphins, South Belt Senior League Baseball (Pony/Colt) or the South Belt Youth Soccer Club.

Eligible candidates also must be in satisfactory standing in both attendance and academic standing and should also exhibit good citizenship, character and community involvement.

The scholarship may be used to defer expenses in the approved areas, including tuition, fees, books or miscellaneous expenses.

The selection will be made by the SBASA Scholarship Committee. Financial need will be considered in the selection process. Students may obtain an application in the school

counseling office at their respective South Belt area high school. The applications must be completed and returned to the counseling office by Monday, May 3.

The recipient must enroll in a minimum of 12 class hours at an accredited institution, including a four-year college, two-year college or technical/vocational school.

The funds will be distributed to the chosen candidates once registration and other appropriate receipts are provided to the committee for approval.

Applicants should also submit a copy of their transcript and a senior portrait with the application.

Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League Standings

As of April 14 on league Web site

Junior/Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Yankees	6	0	0
Astros	5	2	0
Braves	3	2	0
Diamond Backs	2	3	0
Cardinals	2	4	0
Red Sox	1	4	0
Rangers	1	5	0

Major Division			
Team	W	L	T
Cardinals	6	1	1
Astros	5	1	0
Diamond Backs	4	3	0
Braves	4	3	1
Blue Jays	3	3	1
Red Sox	3	4	1
Yankees	2	6	0
Rangers	1	7	0

Minor Division			
Team	W	L	T
Diamond Backs	8	0	0
Braves	6	1	0
Rangers	5	2	1
Astros	4	3	0
Cubs	3	3	1
Blue Jays	3	4	1
Yankees	2	4	0
Phillies	2	5	0
Cardinals	1	4	1
Red Sox	0	8	0

Pee Wee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Diamond Backs	5	1	0
Cubs	4	1	0
Astros	5	2	0
Tigers	3	2	0
Phillies	3	3	1
Blue Jays	2	3	1
Rangers	0	5	1
Yankees	0	5	1

Machine Pitch Division			
Team	W	L	T
Mets	6	0	1
Braves	5	1	1
Cardinals	5	2	0
Red Sox	4	2	0
Rangers	3	4	0
Cubs	3	4	0
Blue Jays	3	5	0
Diamond Backs	2	5	0
Astros	1	4	1
Yankees	0	5	1

T-Ball Division			
Team	W	L	T
Reds	6	0	0
Yankees	5	1	0
Diamond Backs	5	1	0
Phillies	5	2	0
Cubs	4	2	0
Astros	3	3	0
Cardinals	3	3	0
Blue Jays	3	4	0
Red Sox	3	4	0
Braves	2	4	0
White Sox	2	4	0
Rangers	1	4	0
Mets	1	5	0
Tigers	0	6	0

Sports news, notes

Optimists Junior Open Tennis

The Pasadena Optimists Junior Open tennis tournament is coming to the Strawberry Tennis Center April 23-24. Pasadena Independent School District students are encouraged to participate. Age divisions include boys' and girls' 14-under, 16-under and 18-under. Entry fee is \$15. Deadline for entry is April 16. Participants may mail their entries to POJO, c/o Charlie Riggs, 1708 Ruella Lane, Pasadena, 77502. Matches will include eight-game pro sets, with no ad scoring. For information, call Riggs at 713-740-0330.

SBAST swim to register

The South Belt Area Swim Team Sharks will host registration Tuesday, April 20, through Thursday, April 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ashley Pointe pool on Blackhawk. Those wishing to learn more about the program may visit the team's Web site at www.sbast.com.

JFD tennis close, but no regionals

Plenty of effort and will to win came forth, but it wasn't to be this season as Dobie's tennis program saw its spring season come to a close at the 22-5A spring meet at Strawberry Park April 7-8.

The Longhorns came close in a couple of divisions – Jonathan Taylor was third in boys' singles and Heather Jung and Philip Cao claimed third in the mixed doubles draw – but only the top two finishers in each division advanced to regionals.

"It's the first year in a long while that we haven't qualified for regionals, but it wasn't because we didn't play hard or that we didn't put out the effort," Dobie

head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said.

"This was an extremely competitive tournament, and we had our chances in some draws. A lot of times in tennis, it comes down to winning one or two key points, and this year we couldn't win those points."

La Porte proved to be the dominant team in boys' play, and Pearland excelled in the three girls' draws. There simply was not much room for error.

Taylor, who will return to lead Dobie's varsity boys' team this fall, came through in a big way for the Longhorns. He gained a key win early in the boys' draw and made his way to the semi-finals. Although an injury

slowed his play from there, Taylor was solid.

"Jonathan Taylor had a great tournament, bottom line," Moreno said.

"He really stepped up and was aggressive for us. Heading into next season, he has to be one of the top boys' singles players."

As for the others, there were numerous close calls. And with 15 seniors set to graduate, Moreno is sad to see the season come to a close.

"We have had more talent in years' past, but this is the best group of seniors I have had in my coaching career," Moreno said. "I can't say enough about what these kids brought to our program. I'll miss them."



Top Lady Longhorns' singles player Tina Le played exceptionally well in the tournament but could not get to regionals after dropping the third-place match to Pasadena Memorial's Leah Smith 6-2, 6-3.

District 22/5A Tennis Championships Strawberry Park Tennis Center, April 7/8

Boys' Singles

First place – Daniel Hernandez (Pearland) def. Jake Stamps (La Porte), 6-0, 6-1.
Third place – Jonathan Taylor (Dobie) def. Austin Armstrong (Pearland), 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.
Playback – Stamps def. Taylor, 6-1, 6-1.

Boys' Doubles

First place – Charles Martin/Brantlee Rau (La Porte) def. Nate Brock/Bryce Tracy (La Porte), 7-5, 6-3.
Third place – Ryan Cash/Jason Cox (Deer Park) def. David Kolacny/Matt McDonald (Pasadena Memorial), 6-2, 6-2.

Girls' Singles

First place – Maria Hernandez (Pearland) def. Kim Dang (Pearland), 6-1, 6-1.
Third place – Leah Smith (Pasadena Memorial) def. Tina Le (Dobie), 6-2, 6-3.

Girls' Doubles

First place – Rachel Bolter/Victoria Tran (Pearland) def. Cori Chamblee/Madysen Williams (Deer Park), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Third place – Megan Guidry/Katie Guillory (Deer Park) def. Nirali Desai/Sonali Patel (Dobie), 4-6, 6-0, 7-5.
Playback – Chamblee/Williams def. Guidry/Guillory, default (injury).

Mixed Doubles

First place – Danielle Ceron/Jeremiah Turner (La Porte) def. Jessie Hampton/Tyler Shope (La Porte), 6-4, 6-3.
Third place – Heather Jung/Philip Cao (Dobie) def. Jisha Jose/Martin Zuber (Dobie), 6-3, 7-5.
Playback – Hampton/Shope def. Jung/Cao, 6-0, 6-2.

Boys' Team Standings

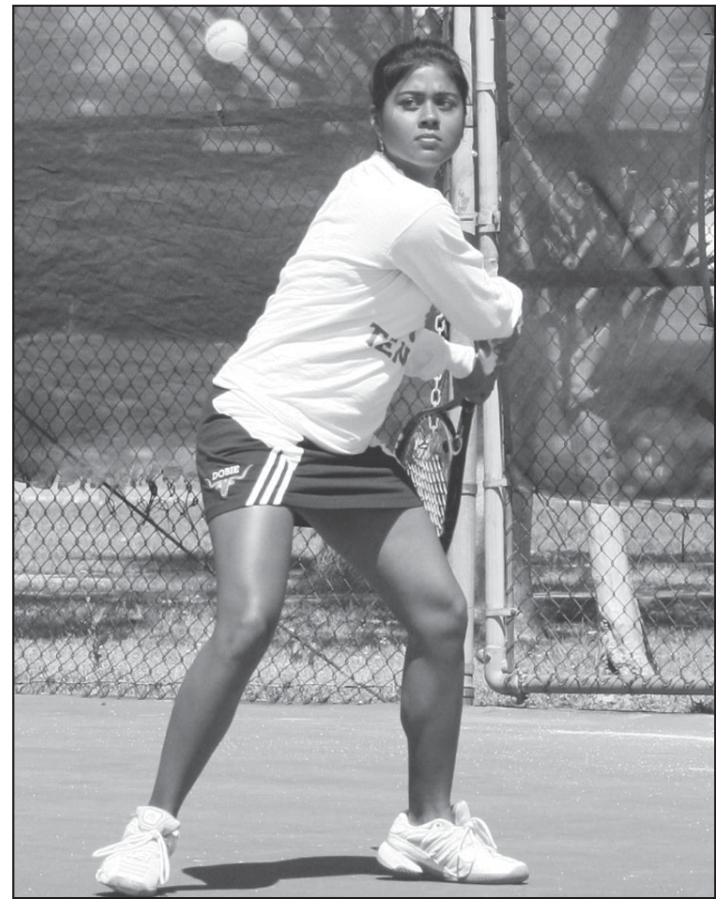
1) La Porte, 14.5; 2) Pearland, 6.5; 3) Dobie, 5.

Girls' Team Standings

1) Pearland, 12.5; 2) Deer Park, 7.5; 3) Dobie, 7.

Co-Coaches of the Year

John Mullins & Tom Shope (La Porte).



Jisha Jose, smacking a backhand return during a mixed doubles match against La Porte's Jessie Hampton and Tyler Shope, saw her career at Dobie come to a close with a loss in the third-place mixed doubles match.



Heather Jung (left) and Philip Cao teamed for a third-place victory at the 22-5A tennis championships. Along the way, Jung and Cao defeated their Dobie teammates Martin Zuber and Jisha Jose.



Martin Zuber (above) and his playing partner, Jisha Jose, had high hopes of reaching regionals after a strong spring season, but the duo was beaten in the third-place match by fellow Dobie teammates Heather Jung and Philip Cao.



Nirali Desai hits a forehand return during the girls' doubles tournament at Strawberry Park. Desai and her partner, Sonali Patel, worked their way to the third-place match in the division before losing to a pair from Deer Park in three sets.

Photos by
John Bechtle,
Sports Editor



At left, Dobie girls' doubles player Sonali Patel hits a backhand during early round action at Strawberry Park. Patel and her partner, Nirali Desai, were bidding to make their way to the Region III tournament but fell short. In the end, the Lady Longhorns' pair fell in the third-place match, 6-4, 0-6, 5-7 against Deer Park's Megan Guidry and Katie Guillory.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

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.

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

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

The Clear Lake Tea Party – The Clear Lake Tea Party will host an Anniversary Rally Thursday, April 15, in Clear Lake Park on NASA Parkway from 4 to 7 p.m. Among other things, a re-enactment of the dumping of tea into Boston Harbor a couple of centuries ago will be held. The public is invited. For more information, visit the Web site at www.clearlaketeparty.com.

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

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

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, APRIL 16

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.

Free Line Dance Class – The Friendswood Senior Citizen Program offers free line dancing classes. The class is held at the activity building, located at 416 Morningside. All area senior citizens, 55 or older, are invited. Previous experience not required. For more information, call 281-482-8441.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Scrabble Club #511 – Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua 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 281-488-2923.

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 281-334-1033.

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

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

The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. – Meets the third week of each month at the Clear Lake Park building, 5001 NASA Parkway. Guests welcome. Designed to promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences, hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the science of minerals and fossils.

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Continued on Page 4B

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Wolverines face tough pair as 24-5A race shortens

As tense on the emotions as the 2009 season became, the Clear Brook varsity baseball team would love nothing more than to deliver a repeat performance.

Last season, the Wolverines had to win on the season's final day to qualify for the playoffs but then went on to win their bidistrict series against Dulles before falling to Pearland in the area round game.

The run to the area round was made all the more amazing considering Clear Brook was just 3-5 with six games to go before winning five of six to close out the season.

So far in 2010? Well, a tough 6-5 loss to Clear Creek left the Wolverines at 3-5 with six games to play. So far, so good as the Wolverines defeated Dickinson 5-0 April 13 behind a shutout pitching effort from Ryan Vrugink.

Now comes the tough part. Clear Brook travels to Brazoswood April 16 and then takes on Clear Lake April 20 at home. Much like last season, Brazoswood is at the top of the District 24-5A standings (9-0), while Clear Lake (5-4) and Clear Brook (4-5) are currently battling for fourth place.

JFD now a game down in chase

Crucial wins keep Dobie baseball close

Losing four straight to finish the first half of district play at 2-5, the Dobie varsity baseball team was presented with a clear directive down the stretch – win or go home for the playoffs.

Heading to the bottom of the fifth inning in a scoreless game, Esquivel had fanned eight hitters. He opened the inning by striking out Joseph Gutierrez for No. 9, but then Dobie rallied.

Aris Adame drew a one-out walk before Aaron Kutra hammered a line-drive single to right field. Adame raced to third base on the play and immediately raced home as Esquivel threw a wild pitch on the first offering to Marcelo Martinez.

Esquivel got out of further damage as Kutra was thrown out at the plate after an Andrew Williams bunt, but the Longhorns were in front.



Ryan Vrugink has done some damage at the plate for Clear Brook this season, but the junior came up with a huge pitching effort April 13 as he fanned nine during a 5-0 shutout win over Dickinson. Vrugink and his Wolverines are one game behind in the race for a playoff spot with five to play. The next two games come against first-place Brazoswood and Clear Lake, which is 5-4.

“Last year at this time it was the same standings, with Lake ahead of us,” Clear Brook head coach Russell Ferrell said. “Then we went 5-1 to make the playoffs, so hopefully we can do the same thing this year.”

As simple as that sounds, the Wolverines likely face a tougher challenge this time.

Four of the five opponents Clear Brook faces down the stretch are juggling playoff hopes. Brazoswood obviously has thoughts of winning the district title, and Clear Lake would love nothing more than to hold off the Wolverines to make the playoffs.

After facing Clear Lake, the Wolverines will close with a home game against Galveston Ball (3-6) and road games at Clear Springs and Alvin.

Like it or not, the Wolverines' season may again come down to the final day of the regular season – May 1 – as the team plays at Alvin.

It was easy to give starting pitcher Austin Abbott the game ball after the right-hander threw a four-hit shutout to beat South Houston.

Yet in truth, Dobie head coach Miguel Torres might have needed a fresh box of baseballs had he elected to honor the heroes in this game.

Deron Waines would have earned one for making a pair of diving catches in left field that kept the Trojans off the scoreboard in the first inning.

South Houston's Regino Rosales singled sharply to left field on the first pitch of the game and went to second base on a walk to Junior Flores.

After Abbott struck out Jaime Esquivel, Waines snared sinking line drives off the bats of Angel Rangel and Rafael Santos on consecutive at bats to end the frame without a run scoring.

From there, the game featured few threats. Dobie turned double plays to end the third and fourth innings, and Esquivel made big pitches when he had to in order to keep the Longhorns at bat.

Edward Peabody, coming off a big game against Memorial, did his job by lifting a sacrifice fly to center field, getting Eckols home for a 2-0 lead.

Entering the top of the seventh inning, Abbott went to work. An error on the first play of the inning created a little uneasiness, but Abbott got a strikeout, a ground ball and a pop up to end the game.

After the game, Torres spoke to the Dobie players about a couple of missteps, but mostly spoke of the team's sudden upswing.

“Austin Abbott has been an absolute leader on the mound for us,” Torres said. “The guy has delivered big-time for us all year. We only made one error today, and while that is one too many, we made the plays when we had to.”

For Peabody, there were more accolades. Since joining the team late from baseball, Peabody has been arguably the team's top offensive producer while locking down the starting job at third base, where he has also excelled.

“We knew Peabody could help us, but he has far surpassed our expectations,” Torres said.

In a battle of 2-5 teams seeking to start the second half of district play on a high note, the Longhorns struck early to hand Memorial a 9-3 defeat.

Blake Beynaerts pitched into the sixth inning to earn the win for the Longhorns as he delivered a strong outing. Some early run support helped ease the pressure as the Longhorns plated four in the first inning.

Memorial starting pitcher Dylan Gallardo struggled from the outset.

Dobie leadoff hitter Justin Eckols walked and went to second as sophomore Zack Long lashed a single back through the middle.

Playing the percentages, Dobie tried to get a sacrifice bunt down with Deron Waines at the plate, but the Mavericks couldn't make a play as Waines reached on a single to load the bases.

After Edward Peabody singled to left field to score Eckols, the wheels came off the Memorial defense again.

Joseph Gutierrez hit a sacrifice fly to right field as Long raced home, but Memorial first baseman Ryan Gimmel tried to cut off the relay throw and make a play on Waines at third base.

Instead, Gemmel's throw sailed past third base as Waines scored. Dobie's fourth run of the inning came as Aris Adame banged a triple to right field, scoring Peabody.

In the third inning, Dobie essentially put the game away as Andrew Williams slapped a two-out, bases-loaded single to center field. Eckols drove home Gutierrez with an infield single as

Dobie moved ahead 6-1. Meanwhile, Beynaerts was doing his part on the mound.

Despite giving up lead-off doubles in the second and third innings, Beynaerts was able to keep the Mavs off the scoreboard. Long helped out in the bottom of the third inning as his throw home erased Tate Gresham at the plate after Dustin Carr had singled to right field.

SJC baseball to host cancer benefit contest

In honor of one of its own, and to raise awareness for breast cancer, the San Jacinto College baseball team will host the first ever Play Pink game on Saturday, May 1, at noon against Laredo Community College.

San Jacinto College assistant coach Jimmy Durham lost his wife, Michele, to breast cancer six years ago.

Grace Flight of America also has a ground crew that drives patients to and from the local airports in their communities to hospitals.

All money raised from donations and the sale of Play Pink merchandise at the May 1 baseball game will go directly to Grace Flight of America, in support of their efforts for the Durham family.

San Jacinto College players and coaches will wear special pink jerseys and Play Pink caps during the game.

Fans are encouraged to wear pink to support the cause, and will have the opportunity to purchase Play Pink baseball gear and fajita plates.

San Jacinto College baseball games are free to attend, but donations will be accepted for admission to the Play Pink game.

San Jacinto College is currently ranked No. 3 with a 22-6 overall record.

After Abbott struck out Jaime Esquivel, Waines snared sinking line drives off the bats of Angel Rangel and Rafael Santos on consecutive at bats to end the frame without a run scoring.

Brook, Dobie softball take misstep, but playoffs loom

Late-season missteps by both the Clear Brook and Dobie varsity softball teams have proved to be costly in the standings, but those issues won't cost either team a playoff berth.

That same evening at Deer Park, Dobie dropped a hard-fought 2-1 game to the Lady Deer.

The outcomes of both games have tightened the standings in both districts, but with just three games to play, Brook and Dobie are all but assured to make the playoffs.

As for Dobie, the Lady Longhorns still have a very good shot at second place if things fall their way.

No matter how things go, however, the Lady Longhorns are headed for the postseason again, keeping a streak alive that has extended all the way back to 1993 when softball became officially recognized by the University Interscholastic League.

After losing so much offense along with the senior class that exited following last season, Dobie has had trouble scoring runs at times, but the next generation of talent is emerging.

O'Connor and Zarate have given the team a pair of solid pitchers, and both will return next season.

The offense has been led by senior lead-off hitter Amanda Nguyen, and other young players such as Ariel Morgan, Shelby Senegal, Shelbi O'Brien and others have emerged.

There wasn't much excitement to go around after Clear Brook lost to Brazoswood on parent appreciation night at Clear Brook April 9, but at least the Lady Wolverines didn't let the effects of the loss linger.



Catcher Ariel Morgan, in her first full season as a starter behind the plate, is just one of a new generation of Lady Longhorns who have the program positioned to make another run in the playoffs. Dobie is currently third in the District 22-5A standings with three games to play.

Stephanie Gonzalez,

Gonzalez,



In the above sequence, Dobie catcher Justin Eckols receives the throw from Zack Long and endures a collision at the plate with Memorial's Tate Gresham. Eckols applied the tag before Gresham reached the plate

and held onto the ball for the out. Gresham was ejected from the game for his part in the play, and the Longhorns went on to beat Memorial 9-3 April 9 at Memorial for a big 22-5A win.

District 22-5A Standings		
Varsity Softball		
(As of April 14)		
Teams	W	L
Pearland	11	0
Deer Park	9	2
Dobie	8	3
Memorial	6	5
La Porte	4	7
Sam Rayburn	4	7
South Houston	2	9
Pasadena	0	11

District 24-5A Standings		
Varsity Softball		
(As of April 14)		
Teams	W	L
Alvin	10	1
Clear Brook	9	2
Brazoswood	8	3
Clear Lake	6	5
Clear Creek	5	6
Clear Springs	4	7
Dickinson	2	9
Galveston Ball	0	11

District 22-5A Standings		
Varsity Baseball		
(As of April 14)		
Teams	W	L
Pearland	8	1
La Porte	7	2
Sam Rayburn	5	4
South Houston	5	4
Deer Park	3	6
Dobie	4	5
Memorial	2	7
Pasadena	2	7

District 24-5A Standings		
Varsity Baseball		
(As of April 14)		
Teams	W	L
Brazoswood	9	0
Clear Creek	7	2
Alvin	6	3
Clear Lake	5	4
Clear Brook	4	5
Galveston Ball	3	6
Clear Springs	2	7
Dickinson	0	9

“Last night's win was a great win and really turned around the 'rut' if you will, that we were in. We won with a vengeance last night, and that's how I want to see us playing, not just scraping by teams.”

“Overall, I'm pleased with where we are, but we need to finish strong, and obviously, we want to get revenge against Alvin.”

So in the final three games of the regular season, there is plenty at stake for both Dobie and Brook, not the least of which is finding a way to gain the necessary steam needed to navigate the playoffs.