

Genoa names honor roll for third 9-weeks

Genoa Elementary School recently released its honor rolls for the third nine-weeks grading period. Students earning status are:

Honor roll
First grade
Jailyn Araujo, Fatima Arif, Fatima Avina, Suzeth Ballona Castro, Torrell Davis, Ana DeLaCerde, Yancy Deleon, Miguel Escamilla, Alexis Escobar, Daniela Esparza and Leonardo Frias.
Juleeza Garcia, Victor Garcia, Michell Garza-Lopez, Adriana Gomez, Isaac Gonzalez, Erik Hernandez, Charnecia Jackson, Zylajja Johnson, Crimson Leonard, Iazareli Loepez, Faith Lopez and Yessenia Lopez.
David Mejorado, Kimberly Mendoza, John Morrison, Tim Nguyen, Aidan Nino, Gwyneth Perez, Mac Postel, Alexa Quintanilla, Jazmine Quintero, Celeste Rodriguez and Cristina Rodriguez.
Noah Rojas, Benjamin Roy, Jorge Sosa, Duraius

Tarpley-Gothcher, Nathaniel Torres, Shyla Torres, Dylan Velez, Brianna Villalpando, Ezequiel Villarreal, Zanae Zavala and Angel Zelaya.

Second grade
Elizabeth Abeja, Yenais Aquilar, Gulsoma Aziz, Caleb Dhaemers, Ivan Esparza, Isaac Garcia, Sophia Lomas, Kathleen McNeil, Daniel Mejorado, Marianna Murchison, Nia Newton, Grace Oreallana, Andrea Rodriguez, Alexandra Ruiz, Omar Ruiz and Natalie Torres.

Third grade
Belen Avina, Natalia Esparza, Katelyn Martinez, Wesley Ndao, Sebastian Nino, Christopher Oreallana, Caleb Pelaez-Gallardo, Alejandro Perez, Gilberto Valdez and Vanessa Vazquez.

Fourth grade
Kimberly Argueta, Athziri Cervantes, Janice Dike, Mitsy Garza, Abel Gonzalez, Ginger Henry, Michelle Nguyen, Zariah Toussaint and Jason Vela.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

CONGRATS TO DEBBIE, CRIS!
Congratulations are sent to South Belt residents **Debbie Boeger** and **Cris Ebbinghaus** on retiring from the Genoa Post Office. Debbie had 38 years of service and Cris had 35 years. Best of luck is sent from family and friends.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 7 through April 13.

Burnett Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Bulah George** April 7. **Marissol Montalvo** and **Melody Tanigawa** share a birthday April 8.

Meador Elementary
The day for a cake for **Mike Gill** is April 7. On April 13, **Maria Hernandez** enjoys a birthday.

Moore Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to **Jennifer Meier** April 11.

South Belt Elementary
April 10 is the day for a party for **Madelyn Winnek**. Marking a birthday April 13 is **Anita Francis**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to **Robin Salinas** April 8. On April 9, a birthday is celebrated by **Erlinda Rodriguez**.

Melillo Middle School
Ashley Miller has a birthday April 8. Blow out the birthday candles on April 11 for **Douglas Reiland**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

April 8 is the day for a party for **Laura Dossman**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Rene Nixon** April 11.

Thompson Intermediate
The day for a cake for **Martha Weatherford** is April 8. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Jennifer Spray** April 10.

Dobie High
April 8 is the day for a birthday surprise for **Bernadette Marsh**. On April 9, blow out the birthday candles for **Tiana Landry**. The day for a party for **Leticia Tamez** is April 11. **Connie Hobbs** and **Bryan McDonald** are wished a happy birthday April 12.

DOBIE TRAILMIXERS MEET
The Dobie Trailmixers recently met at Luby's for their monthly meeting. Topics included:

Dobie's Academic Decathlon Team has an excellent chance to win its third national title this year. The Trailmixers wish them well as they travel to Charlotte, N.C., April 27-30 for the big competition.

Dobie won the District 22-5A UIL Academic Team title recently. They totaled 463 points, followed by Memorial's score of 305.

Dobie's speech team scored well in recent competitions, also.

For the rest of the students, the TAKS test is just around the corner...

Mary Ella Elam, one of Dobie's favorite substitute teachers and parent of four outstanding Dobie grads, sends greet-

ings to all. She says she doesn't miss being in the school these days.

Glen Barnhill sends greetings from Montgomery County. He misses the group, but loves caring for grandson **Aidan**.

Roger Woest's next *Caring Cabaret* is scheduled for the Historic Heights Theater on Sunday, April 10. Roger and several of his friends, including former Dobie drama teacher **Mark Stonebarger**, will present a musical program.

Jean Boudreaux, one of the group's well-traveled retirees, had an experience in Casablanca that she would rather not repeat. Her purse was snatched by a motorcycle thief, and she had a rough time dealing with the issues that followed, especially the replacing of her passport.

Karima Christmas, one of Dobie's basketball greats, ended her college playing career recently. A 2007 grad, Karima played for Duke University for four years. She was the 27th player in Duke women's basketball history to register 1,000 career points. Unfortunately, UConn stopped Duke on its path to the 2011 Final Four tournament.

The Dobie Trailmixers meet for lunch at 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua.

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.

CCART meets April 12

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its April meeting of the 2010-2011 season on Tuesday, April 12, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its April meeting of the 2010-2011 season on Tuesday, April 12, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Following a short business meeting, there will be a program by **Becky Grigg, RN, CDE**. Grigg is a dietician who will speak about health issues, mainly about Type 2

diabetes and how to handle dietary concerns. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Meetings throughout the year are held on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

Student exchange programs seek hosts

World Heritage Student Exchange Program, a non-profit public benefit organization, is seeking local host families for high school boys and girls from France, Germany, Thailand, China, South Korea, Russia, Denmark, Italy and the former Soviet Republics. Students are already awaiting word on their host families for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

Host families provide room, board, and guidance for a teenager living thousands of miles from home. Couples, single parents and families with and without children in the home are all encouraged to apply.

The exchange students arrive from their home country shortly before the 2011-2012 school year begins and each World Heritage student is fully insured, brings his/her own personal spending money, and expects to bear his/her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyle.

CBC MUD safety meeting set

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, until 8:30 a.m. for an employee safety meeting. Payments may be left in the drop slot.

Bay Area New Democrats to meet

Richard Shaw, secretary-treasurer of the Harris County AFL-CIO, will be the guest speaker at the next Bay Area New Democrats meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, at the Harris County Courthouse Bay Area Annex, 16603 Buccaneer.

tionwide are likely to affect public employee labor unions and their bargaining rights. In addition, BAND will conduct elections for two-year terms to the club's board of directors.

Shaw will discuss how budget cuts in Texas and nationwide are likely to affect public employee labor unions and their bargaining rights. In addition, BAND will conduct elections for two-year terms to the club's board of directors.

BAND meets the second Wednesday of each month in the courthouse across from Freeman Library.

Founder of TUTS visits Dobie theater arts



Cast, crew and faculty of the Dobie High School theater arts department pose for a photograph with President and Founder of Theater Under the Stars Frank Young and the award they received for outstanding high school theater production. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Isabel Rodriguez, Laura Guterrez, Frank Young, Raquel Ardion, Kirsten Marshall, (middle row) Paris Nichols, Marissa Escalona, Myreli Vargas, Linda Fletcher, Olivia Maslonka, Lysbeth Sonnier, (back row) Dobie principal Steve Jamail, D.J. Bolden, Javier Salazar, Drake Williams, Clinton Hopper, Aimee Small, Ian Lewis, Chris Nickelson, Shannon Raygoza and Justin Thomas.

Photo by Matt Griesmyer

By Matt Griesmyer
On Tuesday, March 22, the theater company at J. Frank Dobie High School received a visitor to their regularly scheduled dress rehearsal of *The Diviners* by Jim Leonard Jr.: Frank Young, founder of Theater Under the Stars.

Young toured four other schools in the Pasadena Independent School District, giving credit and recognition to the hard-working theater arts

departments of each school. Young carried a particularly large package for the theater troupe. Delivered to the company was the Frank Young Award of Excellence in Outstanding High School Theater Production.

Young attended the dress rehearsal as part of the audience and was able to view the performance in full.

His response will most certainly be remembered by

the cast and crew of *The Diviners* for quite some time.

"It was a truly wonderful experience," Young said. "You guys were really top notch."

Young's responses were truly high praise, especially coming from the first producer of the long-running Broadway hit *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Young also worked with the likes of Carol Channing and Julie Andrews.

"It was truly one of the best high school productions ever," Young said.

Young was born and raised in Pasadena and attended Jackson Junior High School and Pasadena High School. His initial foray into the world of productions for the public was designing the halftime shows for the band to perform during football games. His senior year, he became the captain of the

school band, and the rest is history.

Forty-three years later, Young is one of the most well-known people in Houston theater.

After the dress rehearsal was finished, the young thespians were greeted by Young and their towering trophy, about which Young was adamant on seeing on display so that the school would be as well-known for its theater as it is its sports and musical departments.

The Dobie theater arts department's production of *The Diviners* was performed for the public on March 29 and 31 and then brought to districtwide competition on April 2 at Deer Park High School.

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Remember When

30 years ago (1981)
Final plans for a foot bridge to connect the Wood Meadow subdivision with Stuchbery Elementary were discussed at the site of the proposed bridge.

The Clear Creek School district's board of education

set a date to receive bids for the new intermediate school to be constructed in League City.

25 years ago (1986)
Hobby Airport's \$10 million Express Auto Park directly across from Hobby Airport opened with 1,450 parking spaces.

A new teacher career ladder appeals process was adopted and was followed during appeals concerning placement for the 1985-86 school year in the Pasadena school district.

20 years ago (1991)
Although a Southbend health study had not stopped, 90 percent of the 40 people working the survey moved or were in the process of moving from the subdivision after seeing the preliminary results.

15 years ago (1996)
Dobie 1992 graduate Amber Brannen was crowned queen of the 69th Texas Relays.

Auto theft and auto burglary led crime statistics for Houston District 12 for the six-month period from September through February.

10 years ago (2001)
Thompson academic team advanced to "elite eight" in the nationals. The Leader released a special edition featuring eight new subdivisions in the South Belt area.

South Belt's triplets, Brooke, Blake and Brittany Montross, 5, children of Miriam and Walter (Monty) Montross, were the first set of triplets to play on the same baseball team in remembered history of the league.

South Belt resident Verlin Fox was presented with NASA's Silver Snoopy Award.

Cadet Daniel Edward Murphy, 20, of the Air Force Academy was killed in a one-vehicle accident after a vacation home from the Air Force Academy.

5 years ago (2006)
A fatal shooting of a home invasion suspect was referred to a Harris County grand jury.

Thompson Intermediate was the site of much confusion after several incidents resulted in punishment for all students. Conflicting reports indicated between 18 and 63 students were involved and resulted in many students protesting the punishment by arriving late to their classes.

Local schools were preparing for the upcoming Jori Zemel bone cancer walk. The weekend included live music, rock climbing, moonwalks, sporting events for children, face painting, food and a memorial tribute.

The Dobie drama department presented its UIL one-act play, *Peter Pan*, at Dobie High School.

1 year ago (2010)
John Ralph Ruff, 51, of League City was killed in a single-vehicle motorcycle accident in the 12600 block of Beltway 8. Ruff was riding a 2006 Harley Davidson motorcycle traveling west when he lost control on the I-45 South connector ramp causing him to go down striking the concrete.

Clear Brook seniors Brian Lemke and Karl Schaefer were named finalists in the 2010 competition for National Merit Scholarships.

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Comedy at Red Door Theatre

Red Door Theatre Company will present *Chicken Little and the Prophecy of 2012*, a barnyard comedy directed by South Belt resident Josh Jordan, runs weekends through April 17. Curtain times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (55+), students with a valid school ID, and children 12 and under. The Red Door Theatre Company is located at 4513 Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. To reserve tickets, call 281-542-0500 or e-mail thec at thereddoortheatre.com/company.com. For more information, visit www.thereddoortheatre.com/company.



Chicken Little and the Prophecy of 2012 runs through April 17 at the Red Door Theatre Company, 4513 Red Bluff Road in Pasadena. Pictured are, left to right, South Belt resident Wayne Venison, Drucilla Rovito, Isabel Gonzalez, South Belt resident Meg Velez, South Belt resident Josh Jordan, Bethany MacLachlan, Brenda Ratliff, LaShandria Ratliff, Andrew Martinez and Melissa Cox. Not pictured are Hannah Smith and Hayley Smith. Photo submitted

San Jacinto Day Festival, Battle Re-enactment April 16

Booming cannons, crackling musket fire, thundering hooves and battle cries will resound across the San Jacinto Battleground on Saturday, April 16, as hundreds of history re-enactors recreate the events leading up to Texas winning its independence in the decisive Battle of San Jacinto. This year's re-enactment will have even more significance as the 175th anniversary of Texas independence.

Witness the excitement at the admission-free San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Re-enactment on April 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. The festival is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games and fun set amidst living history. The battle re-enactment, which is the most popular event of the day, begins at 3 p.m. Re-enactors will dramatize the decisive battle where 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 dramatically interpret the Runaway Scrape (Texians fleeing from the advancing forces of Santa Anna), the march of the Texas Army from Gonzales to San Jacinto, the cannon duel, and the final battle between the two forces.

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

- With her band, native Houstonian Liz Talley takes her audience back to the days of the Texas dancehall with twin fiddles and a steel guitar. *More than Satisfied* is her latest CD release.
- 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 magnificent birds including hawks, owls, eagles, falcons and vultures.
- The Celtaire String Band performs period Americana music using a variety of instruments including the fiddle, penny whistle, guitar, mandolin, spoons, scrub-board and limberjacks. They even get the crowd to join in with tambourines.

Republican Women host forum

The San Jacinto Republican Women invite the public to attend a City of Pasadena Candidate Forum. Because of the anticipated turnout, the meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, at the Pasadena Neighborhood Center, located at 720 Fairmont Parkway. The group believes that it is important to be informed on all candidates running for an office. The forum is free and open to the public. This is an opportunity for all voters of Pasadena to meet with the candidates personally in order to help make an informed decision on May 14. Early voting by personal appearance begins May 2, 2011, and ends May 10, 2011. The last day to apply for ballot by mail is May 6, 2011. Election Day is scheduled for May 14, 2011, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Singles dance April 16

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance will be held Saturday, April 16, from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at the VFW Lodge 8566 in Bacliff, located at 1401 Grand Avenue on FM-646, one-quarter mile west of Highway 146. Bring snacks to share. Cost is \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. For more information, call 409-948-1156 or 281-484-4762.

Lions Club meeting set

The Houston Space City Lions Club will meet Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

Wedding and engagement policies

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

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

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

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.

San Jacinto Museum of History Association President Larry Spasic said, "Each year we work hand in hand with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to coordinate this event. We truly appreciate the volunteer support from Deer Park ISD, San Jacinto College, the Pasadena Strawberry Festival, and La Porte EMS." Visitors enjoy free admission to the festival and battle re-enactment. Combo tickets for the elevator ride, Reflections exhibit and movie inside the monument can be purchased at \$12 for adults, \$10.50 for seniors, \$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. Visit the San Jacinto Museum's Facebook page. Festival-goers can participate by uploading photos and videos of their experience to www.flickr.com/groups/sanjacintomuseum and www.youtube.com/user/SanJacintoMuseum. Some photos may be chosen for posting on the museum's Facebook page. All who submit will be entered into a prize drawing.

The San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site is located just 22 miles east of downtown Houston – take Highway 225 east to Independence Parkway north (formerly Battleground Road) and continue for approximately three miles. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets for comfortable viewing of 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.sanjacinto-museum.org. For more information on the Battleship Texas, contact the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at 281-479-2431.

Commemorative Ceremony
Each year the official State of Texas ceremony marking the anniversary date of the San Jacinto Battle takes place on April 21. The San Jacinto Day ceremony commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto will be held on the north side steps of the San Jacinto Monument at 11 a.m. The commemorative ceremony is open to all.

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Bay Area quilt show

The Bay Area Quilt Guild of southeast Houston will present *A Day on the Coast* quilt show Friday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road in Pearland (behind Strickland Chevrolet). The BAQG meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Boulevard. Service project and donations by the guild have included food drives, children's book drive for Texas Children's Hospital, and quilts of all sizes to area health care facilities.

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 Maundy Thursday, April 21
 Living Last Supper: 7:00 p.m.
 Good Friday, April 22
 Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Easter Sunday
 Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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SJC holds awards banquet

San Jacinto College held its annual awards banquet Friday, March 25, honoring employees who have served with the area school system for 10 or more years.

The longest-serving staff member to be recognized was South campus government professor and former South Belt resident John Bolen, who has been with the college for 40 years.

South campus speech professor Catherine Gragg was honored for having served 35 years with the college.

South campus employees who were honored for 30 years of service included Joseph Granata, geology professor; James Meeks, computer information technology professor; Joyce Miller, chemistry professor; Linda Nichols, director of children center; Theresa Rudisell, cosmetology instructor; Sherry Swim, physical education professor; and Joyce Welby, computer information technology professor.

South campus employees honored for 25 years of service included Mary Ann Bednar, engineer drafting professor; and Ricardo Garcia, foreign language professor.

South campus employees who were honored for 20 years of service included J.P. Anderson, math professor; James Griffiths, developmental math professor; Phyllis Harris, copy center clerk; Rebecca Shuttlesworth, nursing instructor; George Stockton, math professor; and Jeffery Wylin, testing supervisor development advisor.

South campus employees honored for 15 years of service included Vickie Hodges, English professor; Collin Hutchison, English professor;

and Kathryn Roosa, dean of liberal arts.

South campus employees who were honored for 10 years of service included Lou Brock, art professor; Cecil Dorsey, government professor; Leanne Freestone, cosmetology instructor; Jeremy S. Garcia, music professor; Patricia Grissom, developmental reading professor; Terry Hanks, computer information technology professor; Laurene Mathews, nursing professor; Danielle Morgan,

math professor; Martha Olivares, administrative assistant II; Kirsten Raines, biology professor; Dianne Simmons, library assistant; Ive Stahlberg, administrative assistant; and Mary Wisgird, biology professor.

Bolen, others honored



San Jacinto College South government professor and former South Belt resident John Bolen (center) was one of many staff members to be honored at the area school's annual awards banquet Friday, March 25. Shown with Bolen are San Jacinto College board president and Leader publisher Marie Flickinger and San Jacinto College board member Ruede Wheeler.

Photo submitted

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Merit roll
 Jeffrey Argueta, Savannah Brookland, Guillermo Chino, Idalia Contreras, Amya Dubose, Briana Gomez, Allan Gonzalez and Christopher Goudeau. Andrew Montano, April Rodriguez, John Rodriguez, Trey Rutherford, Chelsey Sosa, Javorre Stone and Rosmary Torres.

Second grade Honor roll
 Elizabeth Bui, Sameer Buksh, Alberto Campa, Gizelle Cardona, Alaysia Foster, Mia Myers, Jennifer Thorpe and Christopher Walker.

Merit roll
 Brianna Ayala, David Banda, Alondra Castillo, Natalie Garza, Daisy Gonzalez, Darren Groves, Kevin Mendez, Joey Ortega, Tristan Pedraza and Juan Rodriguez.

Third grade Honor roll
 Nathan Ancira, Luke Burton, Bianca Cruz, Brianna Gomez, Alejandro Mena, Daniel Ortega, Omar Parada, Ambar Robles, Ariel Robles and Angela Torres.

Merit roll
 Matthew Barajas, Ethan Cristancho, Artemio Garza, Jesse Herrera, Tasmeha Kazi, Giovanni Solis and Oscar Valladares.

Fourth grade Honor roll
 Henri Bui, Sebastian Hi-

Summer registration approaching at UHCL

Get the education necessary to take charge of career opportunities by attending the University of Houston-Clear Lake this summer. Apply for admission to the university before May 31 for classes beginning June 3 and running through early August. The open registration period runs April 22 through June 3, and is available to new students who have submitted all the appropriate application information.

Students can choose from 40 undergraduate degree programs and 45 graduate degree programs, including one doctoral program, in the Schools of Business, Education, Human Sciences and Humanities and Science and Computer Engineering.

For more information, contact admissions@uhcl.edu or 281-283-2500, or visit www.uhcl.edu/admissions.

Meador honor, merit rolls named

Meador Elementary recently named its honor rolls for the third nine-weeks grading period. Students earning status are:

Machado wins bicycle



Moore Elementary recently participated in Harris County Precinct 2's "Soupa Bowl" food drive. The class with the most food donated received a pizza party. One student from the winning class was selected to win a new bicycle. Pictured are, left to right, Deputy Vance Britt, bicycle winner Haley Machado and Deputy Michael Tran.

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Summer registration approaching at UHCL

Get the education necessary to take charge of career opportunities by attending the University of Houston-Clear Lake this summer. Apply for admission to the university before May 31 for classes beginning June 3 and running through early August. The open registration period runs April 22 through June 3, and is available to new students who have submitted all the appropriate application information.

Machado wins bicycle

Moore Elementary recently participated in Harris County Precinct 2's "Soupa Bowl" food drive. The class with the most food donated received a pizza party. One student from the winning class was selected to win a new bicycle. Pictured are, left to right, Deputy Vance Britt, bicycle winner Haley Machado and Deputy Michael Tran.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Second-half uprising lifts Dobie boys' soccer into Final Four

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

The best part about team sports is that when a group of players believe and trust in one another, anything is possible.

Well, the Dobie varsity boys' soccer players obviously do believe and trust in one another.

And right now, anything

is possible for the Longhorns after they knocked off Dickinson 3-1 April 5 at Galena Park ISD Stadium to reach the Region III Final Four.

The win is historic in that it has given the team just its second regional tournament berth in school history. In 2009, the Longhorns made their way to the semifinals

before falling to Houston Westside 3-2.

The current group, now 21-1-3 overall, will face Morton Ranch in the first

of two semifinal games Friday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m. The nightcap features Deer Park against Strake Jesuit, at 7:30 p.m. The winners

will meet Saturday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m., for a berth in the state tournament.

In knocking off Dickinson 3-1, Dobie got a pair of

goals from Omar Arreguin and another from Carlos Ibarra to advance.

The Longhorns surrendered their first goal of

the postseason early in the first half but then tightened things up defensively from there on out.

Offensively, the Longhorns simply did what they do best — share the ball.

Dobie senior forward Jose Gonzalez, arguably the best player on the field whenever he's in the game, assisted on Arreguin's header just eight minutes into the action for a 1-0 Longhorns' lead.

Gonzalez went scoreless from there, but Dickinson felt his presence on the field throughout the game.

Arreguin, the team's leading scorer in the playoffs, scored just over six minutes into the second half to give the Longhorns the lead for good.

On the play, Gonzalez fired a shot off the far post, and Arreguin was there to collect the rebound and put-back for the lead.

With just over 17 minutes to play, sophomore striker Carlos Ibarra iced the game as he delivered a one-on-one effort worthy of the highlight reels, eluding a Dickinson defender before blasting the ball past Gators' keeper Armando Calderon for the clincher.

"Players like Jose and Omar cause havoc out there on the field, and you have to account for them defensively," Calderon said.

Continued on Page 3B



Dobie sophomore forward Carlos Ibarra, eluding Dickinson defender Daniel Contreras as part of a brilliant one-on-one series, heads in for a strike in the late stages of the Longhorns' regional quarterfinal victory over the Gators April 5 at Galena Park ISD Stadium. Moments later, Ibarra beat Gators' keeper Armando Calderon for an insurance goal that lifted Dobie to a 3-1 win and a berth in the Region III Final Four.

O'Connor blanks DP, Lady Horns seize lead

Junior right-hander Shannon O'Connor came through once again, and the Dobie varsity softball team stayed on a roll.

The team's offense came through with just enough offense as the Lady Longhorns took over sole possession of first place with a 2-0 victory at Deer Park April 5.

Dobie moved to 5-0 in District 22-5A action and has now won 12 straight games this season. Clearly, O'Connor has been outstanding, but for head coach Robin Rackley, it's all about the fundamentals.

"When we execute, we are tough to beat," Rackley said. "There were some things out there tonight that we could have been better at, but for the most part, we pitched well, caught the ball well and came up with a couple of big hits."

The Lady Longhorns got single runs in the first and third innings for a 2-0 lead and then turned things over to O'Connor.

Deer Park put together a

threat in the bottom of the fourth inning, getting runners on the corners with one out. But O'Connor escaped

that jam and pitched out of trouble again in the fifth inning. She was even tougher over the final two innings as

Dobie seized the outright lead in 22-5A.

"I give Deer Park credit,"

Continued on Page 6B



Dobie starting pitcher Shannon O'Connor (right) shows her excitement after escaping a jam during the team's 2-0 win over Deer Park April 5. Head coach Robin Rackley (center) and assistant coach Carmella Swinnen congratulate her.

San Jac softball ready for Blinn showdown

**San Jacinto hosts Blinn
Friday, April 8
South campus, 3 p.m./5 p.m.**

Blinn might have the prestige of a national ranking, but San Jacinto has what really counts — the Region 14 lead.

Something has to give, and it's about to. San Jacinto, winner of its first 10 games in Region 14 play, will host Blinn March 8 for a pair of games on the South

campus. The outcome of the doubleheader could very well go a long way toward determining the eventual champion in what has already largely become a three-team race involving Alvin as well.

For San Jacinto, the doubleheader against Blinn could not come at a better time. Coming off a 6-5, 13-1 sweep of Alvin, San Jacinto is on fire at the plate.

Sophomore catcher Megan Matejka got things rolling with a grand slam and two-run double in the 13-1 win over Alvin.

But Matejka isn't the only player who has warmed at the dish. Sophomore Nicole Andrade has also homered in two of her last three games, and Mikaela Adams has homered twice of late.

"I think it's just a case of settling in and realizing what everybody's role is," San Jacinto head coach Kelly Saenz said.

"Some of the sophomores, like Megan and Nicole, have stepped up. Along those lines, freshmen like Michaela and Jaelyn Bechtle have gotten hot."

With 14 games to go in the regional race prior to the



Megan Matejka, who had a grand slam and a two-run double in an April 1 win over Alvin, is just one of several San Jacinto hitters who have gotten hot at the plate at the right time.

Region III Boys' Soccer Final Four

Dobie vs. Morton Ranch
Friday, April 8, 5:30 p.m.

Dobie vs. Morton Ranch
Friday, April 8, 5:30 p.m.

Championship game
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JFD baseball alone in first

Zack Long and Justin Eckols drove in three runs apiece, and Emmitt Pitts was strong on the mound as Dobie downed Sam Rayburn 11-7 April 5, at Maguire Field.

Dobie's win, its seventh in eight district games, helped the locals take over sole possession of first place after Memorial defeated Deer Park earlier in the day.

Including Dobie's 12-11

come-from-behind win over Memorial April 1, the locals continue to slug their way past opponents. In five of their eight games in district play, the Longhorns have produced double-digit run totals.

"We are a good-hitting team, but we also know we have to pitch much more consistently to be able to get where we want to be," Dobie head coach Miguel

Continued on Page 2B

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Dobie boys' soccer to regional final four

Continued from Page 1B
ively," Dobe head coach Jesse Saavedra said. "The great thing about all of our guys is that it's not about goals but about team victories. We got another one." For the third time in three playoff games, Dobe scored early as Arreguin's header found the nets, but then Dickinson came back to tie the action.

It wasn't Dobe's best half of play, but instead of panicking, the Longhorns regrouped at halftime.

"We just had to settle down and play Dobe soccer," Saavedra said. "The bigger the games, the harder it is to settle in and just play. In the second half, we were able to do that, and we basically dominated the last 40 minutes."

Against Morton Ranch, Dobe will again see a team it knows little about. But on the other side of the coin, Morton Ranch will have to deal with what Dobe brings.

"It's hard to handle speed and execution on the soccer field, and when we are

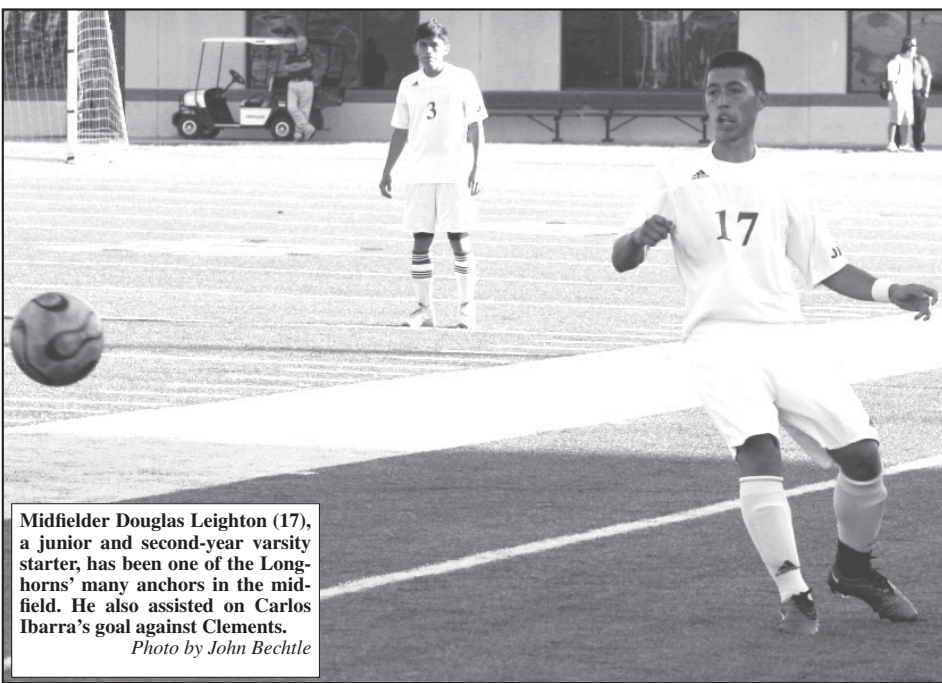
on we bring those things," Saavedra said. "This has been our goal all along, but now we have bigger goals." Arreguin, who like Gonzalez and others, is playing his final season, agrees with his coach.

"As long as we keep playing as a team, we'll be fine," Arreguin said. "We knew we had to pick it up in the second half, and we did that."

Dobe fells Clements

Raul Bustos, Arreguin and Ibarra netted goals as Dobe dominated the action throughout in the 3-0 area round playoff game April 1. Bustos scored two minutes into the game, and Arreguin scored roughly two minutes before halftime. Just past the midway point in the second half, the Longhorns got a score from Ibarra to nail down the win. Defensively, Leo Gallegos, Edwin Padilla, Carlos Rivas, Douglas Leighton, Pedro Mares and Jose Alvarado locked down the Clements attack.

"A huge effort from our guys," Saavedra said.



Midfielder Douglas Leighton (17), a junior and second-year varsity starter, has been one of the Longhorns' many anchors in the midfield. He also assisted on Carlos Ibarra's goal against Clements. Photo by John Bechtel



In what has become a familiar scene during Dobe's run through the varsity boys' soccer playoffs, teammates Carlos Ibarra (14), Jose Gonzalez (7), Omar Arreguin and Raul Bustos (12) join the celebration after

Arreguin opened the scoring early against Dickinson with a header after a cross by Gonzalez. The Longhorns advanced past Dickinson 3-1 to reach the regional semifinal round. GaryWPhotos.com

SJC's Weiler picks St. Thomas VB



Brittany Weiler will continue her education and volleyball career at the University of St. Thomas. Pictured with Weiler (center) are her family members (first row, left to right): James (brother), Kim (mother), and Mike Weiler (father); (back row, left to right): Trent Herman, University of St. Thomas volleyball head coach; Sharon Nelson, San Jacinto College volleyball head coach. Photo by Jeannie Peng-Armao

Lady Stros 12-U softball second



The Lady Stros '98, a 12-under select softball team from the South Belt Girls Softball Association, took second place at a tournament in Santa Fe to open the season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Kimberly Ontiveros, Dominique Palacios, CeCe Abad, Kimberly Hernandez, Jocelyn Reyes, (back row) head coach Bobby Reyes, Destiny Barclay, Yessika Pena, assistant coach Craig Paton, Jade Giron, Alyssa Corpus, Celeste Ontiveros and assistant coach Lexie Paton.

H-Town Jokers baseball second at Fool's Bash



The H-Town Jokers, a 10-under select team from the South Belt area, finished second at the April Fool's Bash in La Porte. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Alex Hernandez, Lorenzo Mendez, Brandon Valdez, Aaron Perea, Jorge Garza, Sam Velasquez, (middle row) Nick Gayton, Dave Amaya, Frank Mendez, Tyler Langston, Dylan Heim, Bryan Cisneros, (back row) coaches Oscar Perea, Mike Mendez and Donny Velasquez, and manager Rudy Mendez.

LSA middle school softball still perfect



The Lutheran South Academy Middle School girls' softball team was all smiles after winning the Faith West Invitational Softball Tournament in Katy and continuing their perfect season. LSA beat First Baptist Pasadena 12-3 in the championship game to take the trophy and remain undefeated this year. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Kerry Reeves, Reagan Gonzales, Brooke Golden, Bonnie LeBlanc, Genna Rogers, (back row) Brittney Jones, Tara Everett, Coach John Simonis, Morgan Burnley, Nikki De Los Reyes, Autumn Taylor, Payten Hussein, Kathleen Johnson, Megan Golden, Shelby Achille and Amanda Kelm.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 8

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

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

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

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

MONDAY, APRIL 11

7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday,

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

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

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

3 p.m. Pasadena Little Theatre - The closing performance of *Cinderella* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II will begin at 3 p.m. at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. David Blystone is the director. For reservations, call 713-941-1758 or online at pasadenalittletheatre.org.

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

6:30 p.m. New Directions Singles Club - New Directions Singles support meetings are held each Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. Nasa Parkway. For further information, call Susan at 832-494-5098 or Carolyann 281-340-2354.

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

7 p.m. Sagemont Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Kirkwood South Christian Church, 10811 Kirkfair Dr.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

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

9:30 a.m. CCAAT - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. They are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 Nasa Parkway in Seabrook near the Landolt Pavilion. All Texas retired school employees from all surrounding school districts are welcome to attend and join this organization. Annual dues are \$35.

10 a.m. American Begonia Society - Meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Town Square Community Room. For more information, call 713-946-4237 or 713-941-7158.

10:30 a.m. Tri-County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month except June and July at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland. A luncheon is available. To make reservations, call 281-484-8083.

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

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

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Continued on Page 4B

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10422 ACACIA FOREST TRAIL. Fri. & Sat., Apr. 8 & 9, 8 a.m. Clothes, toys, household items & more! 4-7
10118 SAGEGREEN. Fri. & Sat., Apr. 8 & 9. Three family garage sale! Baby stuff, electronics, furniture, antiques, sports. 4-7
10915 BAZIN. Sat., Apr. 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Estate/Yard Sale: No early birds! Tools, lumber, electronics, housewares, furniture, antiques, men's clothing, misc. 4-7
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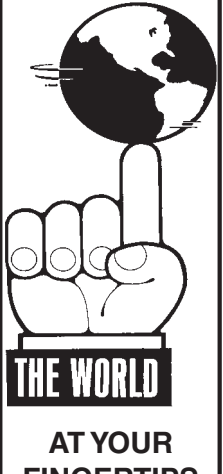
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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
2 p.m.
Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week of each month at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Nellie Galney at 713-991-3517 for more information.
11:30 a.m.
American Business Women's Association Bay Area Vision Chapter - Now meets at Perry's Italian Grill, 1001 Pinelock in Houston on the second Wednesday of every month. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call Lorilyn Wynn at 281-388-5202.
4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise held from 4 to 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
6 p.m.
Alzheimer's Support Group - The free group meets the second Wednesday of each month at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. For more information, call Steven Williams at 281-929-4199 or 713-266-6400.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Domestic violence support group for male survivors meets each Wednesday at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway. Call 281-338-7600 for information. Participants may join at any time as this is an open group.
7 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Confidential domestic violence support group for women meets every week. For information, call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturn.org.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Tuesdays and Sundays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

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First-place SJC softball to take on ranked Blinn

Continued from Page 1B postseason tournament May 5-8, the Coyotes know the time has come to get on a roll. Apparently, some of the sophomore veterans have been able to show the way for the freshmen, who have also chipped in.

"As long as we keep swinging the sticks like we can, then we are going to be fine," Saenz said.

"We have been able to get on this little roll because we have taken advantage of the opportunities in front of us. When we have needed the big hit, we have gotten it."

Coming into the season, Blinn was the favorite to win this side of the regional crown, with San Jacinto, Alvin and Galveston battling for contention.

Not much has changed with the exception of Blinn's lone loss to Alvin, which will mean San Jacinto is likely to enter the big doubleheader April 8 with first place in hand.

"Now the target is on our back," Saenz said. "Blinn has had a great year and has been ranked in the top eight or so all year nationally. But now we are on top, and teams will be gunning for us."

Yet with so many bats getting hot at the same time, the season essentially has gone according to plan at this point.

Saenz and her staff knew before the season began that the offense had a chance to deliver big things. So far, so good on that. And, the pitching has

been better than expected with three freshmen carrying the load.

At the end of the line, all that matters is winning the regional tournament and advancing to nationals. Right now, San Jacinto has to be

considered a true threat to get that done.

"Players know their roles and what to expect," Saenz said. "It sounds easy, but it takes a while to get that together. We're there now."



Alexis Estrada is one of three freshman pitchers for San Jacinto College who have stepped up in a big way, particularly during the team's 10-0 start to Region 14 action.

Dobie softball leads 22-5A

Continued from Page 1B Dobie head coach Robin Rackley said. "They have some big hitters over there, and their shortstop also made some big plays. They are a good team."

Ah yes, but Dobie got the win because they pitched well, caught the ball well and came up with the timely hits when the chances were there.

"That's what we have

been doing now I guess for the last 12 games or so," Rackley said. "We haven't lost since the Bellaire game, and their shortstop also made some big plays. They are a good team."

"Getting on base, using our speed to move up on the bases and then getting the big hits from the middle of our lineup is what we do."

With one more round of district play to take place, Rackley just wants to see

more of the same.

"We just have to be ready (April 8) for the next game (against Pasadena)," Rackley said.

"With five games to go, including another round of district, we just have to keep it going."

"These ladies have gotten us to where we want to be, but now we have to finish strong. Our goals are much larger than this."

Brook run-rules Gators 12-2

With the youth movement in full swing on the Clear Brook varsity softball field, wins in 24-5A action have been hard to come by, but the group has refused to give in.

With contributions coming from up and down the lineup, Clear Brook run-ruled Dickinson 12-2 in five innings April 5 to move to 3-6 in league play.

It was a total team effort, and everybody hit the ball well," Clear Brook head coach Ashley Pillow said.

Freshman pitcher Laura Napoli, in the circle for much of the season, again was steady.

"Napoli pitched a great game, only giving up four hits and striking out seven," Pillow said. "She also hit a stand-up triple and drove in two runs."

The team's only senior,

had a three-run triple and scored on the play as Dickinson threw wildly to the plate.

The Lady Wolverines got started quickly as Chynadoll Phipps tripled to open the bottom of the first inning and later drove in a pair of runs.

Alexa Anzaldua, the team's shortstop, continued her great defensive work and also drove in two runs.

Junior catcher Katie Bischof threw out a runner trying to steal defensively, and also had an RBI.

"Katie is doing a great job as the rock behind the plate," Pillow said.

"She is a real hard-nosed player and does a great job of leading by example."

Against the Gators, sophomore first baseman Taylor Blaskow stepped up with two hits.

Pillow also praised Taylor Nickell, who is settling in at third base defensively and has worked very hard to learn the position as fast as possible.

With great teams such as Pearland, Brazoswood and Alvin atop the standings, it's been difficult for some of the other teams to break through, but Pillow believes her program is still on the right track after several playoff runs in recent years.

"It has been a tough year, but the girls are a family on and off the field, and they are really starting to pick up speed during this second round of district play," Pillow said.

"They are showing the real talent and potential this team has. I am very proud and excited to work with such a fine group of young ladies."



Clear Brook's Sami Reis blasted a three-run triple to left field in the bottom of the third inning as the Lady Wolverines knocked off Dickinson 12-2 April 5 at Brook. Reis eventually scored on the play after Dickinson committed a throwing error. The win gave Brook a 3-6 mark in district play. Photo by Al Carter

Rice raises the bar among Dobie powerlifters; advances to state

In just under two months from now, Dobie High School senior Justin Rice, like many of his class of 2011 mates, will exit the school's halls for the final time.

But when Rice does leave, there's little doubt that his mark will still be felt for years to come in the Dobie athletic program.

Last fall, Rice was a defensive lineman for a Longhorns' varsity football team that got back on track in a big way by winning the 22-5A title and putting together an 8-3 record.

Fast forward to this spring, when Rice was one of the standout members of the school's powerlifting program.

Dobie, now in its third year of competition in the Texas High School Powerlifters Association, experienced its finest results this fall.

While female lifter Dorothy Tran fell short of her goal of advancing to the state level, Rice did not miss the mark.

Competing in the 242-pound class, Rice compiled 1,520 pounds of lifts in the bench, deadlift and squat categories.

Although Rice scratched and therefore did not place at the state meet in Abilene, he more than carried his weight among his fellow Dobie teammates.

Dobie was briefly involved in the sport of powerlifting during the mid-

1980s. Jesse Saavedra, currently Dobie's varsity boys' soccer coach and a graduate of Dobie, told the *Leader* he was the spotter for Steve Garza, who qualified for the state meet in 1986.

Garza did not place at the state meet, either, but was still known as one of the Longhorns' strongest overall athletes. Now Rice has joined the short list.

"I really got involved so I could stay strong and fit for the football season," Rice said. "But it's great to be out there competing. I benched 305 pounds, but the judges ruled that my spotter (illegally) talked to me. At 325, I got it off my chest and up, but couldn't close it out."

Overall, Rice now holds personal best lifts of 345 pounds on the bench, 600

pounds in the squat and 605 pounds in the dead lift.

"I'm proud of what I was able to accomplish," said Rice, who is still looking at several options on the football field collegiately. He hopes to attend Texas Lutheran University but is still working out some of the details.

Academically, Rice figures to have very few prob-

lems. He carried a grade point average of 3.8 into the spring semester and was recently notified of his inclusion into the National Honor Society.

Eventually, Rice wants to study mechanical engineering, but he won't likely forget his accomplishments at Dobie.

"You have to go out there and do what you can,

because these opportunities aren't there forever," Rice said.

"I had a lot of fun in powerlifting. Coach (Kenneth) Foster expects a lot out of us, but it's good for you because you have to be willing to put in the work or else you won't make it."

"Hopefully, I've made a difference in the program while I was here."



Dobie senior Justin Rice became just the second athlete in school history to advance to the state level in the sport of powerlifting. The Longhorns took part in the sport for a brief time

in the mid-1980s, and Steve Garza made his way to state. Rice was also a varsity football player for two seasons. Photo by John Bechtler

24-5A champion Clear Lake eliminates Dobie girls' soccer



Above, Dobie senior defender Monika Rivera (right) heads a ball out of danger as she takes on Clear Lake star player Brittany Wade (18). One of just five seniors on the Dobie team, Rivera was one of the team's leaders throughout the season.

An eight-goal surge in the second half helped Clear Lake ease past the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team 11-0 in the area round of the playoffs April 1.

Clear Lake, the champion of District 24-5A, built a 3-0 lead at halftime of the game played at La Porte's Bulldog Stadium before things got out of hand in the second half.

Dobie, which finished third in the District 22-5A standings and then downed

Baytown Sterling in the bi-district playoff round, ended its season at 10-7-2 overall.

Despite the loss, Dobie appears to be in a good position going into the offseason.

The loss of five seniors, including Monika Rivera, Karen Treto, Tanisha Hernandez, Yumara Suarez and Jassmen Cirlos, will be cause for some reshuffling no doubt, but the bulk of the roster is set to return for head coach Kristina Butler.

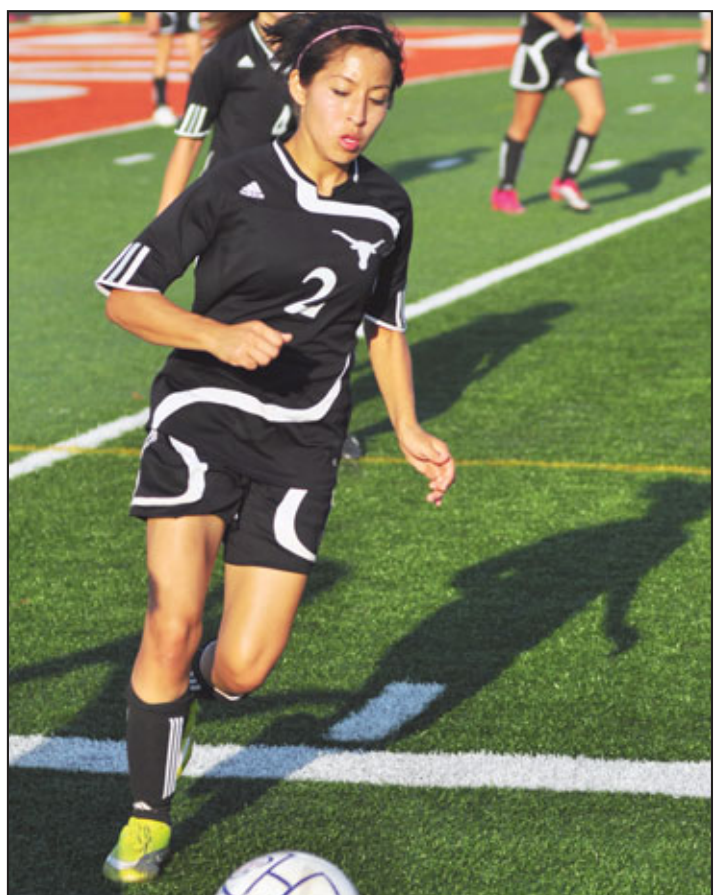


Below, Dobie's Tanisha Hernandez, a forward/midfielder, works the ball upfield during first-half action against Clear Lake. Hernandez played in her final game as the Lady Falcons defeated Dobie in the area round of the playoffs. Sharon Sanmiguel (8) of Dobie, one of as many as 13 players slated to return to the Lady Longhorns' program next season, had her hands full while trying to mark Clear Lake's Brittany Wade (18), one of the area's top scorers.



Clear Lake netted 11 goals in the area round playoff games, but Dobie goalkeeper Jackie Baade (right) nonetheless had a solid performance, stopping many other scoring chances by the Lady Falcons. Baade will return in 2012 for her third season in the nets.

Photos by GaryWPhotos.com



Dobie senior defender Jassmen Cirlos (17) was part of the action against Clear Lake in the area round playoff game at La Porte ISD Stadium. On this play, she defends against Clear Lake's Rachel Smith, who had a goal and two assists.