

South Belt Leader

Ellington

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www.southbeltleader.com

March 19, 2009

Voice of Community-Minded People

Vol. 34, No. 7

Wood Meadow II to meet

The Wood Meadow II Association will hold its annual meeting March 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parker Williams Library on Scarsdale.

Band BBQ dinner March 26

The Dobie Band will hold a barbecue dinner, concert and silent auction Thursday, March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. Dinners are \$10 each, dine in or take out. Each band will perform during dinner. Donations are being accepted for silent auction items. For information about donations or to purchase a ticket through March 20, e-mail cdenise630@yahoo.com.

Cowboys, Cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls will hold early registration for all returning football players and all drill and mascot members at the Little League Field in El Franco Lee Park on Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. A \$50 deposit is required for all football and mascot applicants, and a \$100 deposit for drill applicants. For information, visit www.sagemontcowboys.com.

Dobie 10-year reunion set

Class officers from J. Frank Dobie's Class of 1999 are planning a 10-year reunion for Saturday, June 20, at 7 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Pearland, 12101 Shadow Creek Parkway. Presale tickets are available before April 20. For more information, e-mail dobieclassof99reunion@gmail.com or visit the Web site at www.dobieclassof99reunion.webs.com. Also visit the MySpace group at http://groups.myspace.com/dobieclassof99reunion.

Dobie Project Grad to meet

The next Dobie Project Graduation meeting will be held Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. in the media room at the school.

Frazier scholarships offered

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

Heavy trash scheduled

Tree waste will be picked up Thursday, March 19, for city of Houston residents living north of Beltway 8. Residents south of Beltway 8 are scheduled for Thursday, March 26. For more information, call 3-1-1.

Lions Club meets March 24

The Houston Space City Lions Club will meet Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

Library events scheduled

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale: Game day is Thursday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m. Come to the library and play games.

Discuss ways to support the library when the Friends of the Parker Williams Library meet Monday, March 23, at 9 a.m.

Movie Madness is Thursday, March 26, at 4 p.m. Call the library for feature title.

Free income tax assistance is available every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

CBHS Project Grad set

The Clear Brook High School Class of 2009 will hold a Project Graduation fundraiser to help its seniors have a safe, alcohol-free, drug-free graduation night. Tax-free donations can be made directly to the Clear Brook Project Grad - Class of 2009. Individual and business donations are welcome. Raffle tickets can also be purchased for \$10 each for a chance to win one of four \$500 gift cards or one of two \$250 gift cards. For information, call 281-286-0644 or 713-822-8958.

K of C fish fry at St. Luke's

The Knights of Columbus will serve fried catfish dinners at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church on March 20, March 27 and April 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 11011 Hall Road. Each dinner consists of a large catfish fillet, french fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea. One- and two-piece dinners will be available, dine in or take out. Soft drinks and desserts will be for sale.

Profits will be used for scholarships and other charitable projects. The public is invited. For more information, call 281-484-2127.

Legion BBQ April 3 & 4

American Legion Post 490 will host its annual barbecue cook-off April 3 and 4. Cooking teams can visit the following for information and rules: www.legiondist22.com, www.legion490.com and www.tgcbca.org. For information, call Jerry Blaylock at 281-480-0000 or Terry Messinger at 713-539-0163.

Metro improving area Park & Ride facilities

By James Bolen

METRO officials have added roughly 125 temporary parking spots at the South Point Park & Ride to alleviate overcrowding there and at the nearby Fuqua Park & Ride.

Both of the Park & Ride locations reached their parking capacity this past summer as gas prices rose to record highs. Surprisingly, however, bus ridership still remains steady even as fuel prices have drastically dropped.

The temporary parking area brought the total number of spots at the South Point location to 496. As recently as Jan. 19, however, 524 cars were counted parked at the lot.

METRO officials are currently in talks with the Texas Department of Transportation about adding a permanent expansion to the South Point lot. Such an expansion would add approximately 325 to 340 new parking spaces.

Design work for the permanent additions was completed in December 2008. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in August.

There have been ongoing discussions between METRO and local entities, both public and private, to provide additional area parking that could be used to shuttle riders to and from the local Park & Rides by van. The talks, however, have been fruitless so far, according to a spokesman for the company.

The spokesman further said the company is currently working with the Houston Police Department on a plan that would allow users of the South Point and Fuqua Park & Rides to travel on the city's High Occupancy Vehicle lanes in a single-occupied car, provided the vehicle had an identifying mark, such as a hang tag from the rear-view mirror. Similar practices have been used to alleviate overcrowding at other Park & Ride lots along Highway 290.

Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan played an instrumental role in promoting the changes, hosting two meetings with METRO officials at the *Leader* offices and bringing the matter up at multiple City Council meetings.

Almeda Chateau resident kills self

By James Bolen

A 79-year-old resident of the Almeda Chateau apartment complex reportedly committed suicide Thursday, March 12, as City of Houston officials attempted to vacate the premises due to unsafe living conditions.

Dimas Yanez was found hanging in his doorway at 8:40 a.m. by a city worker passing out fliers to residents of the complex.

Yanez had reportedly told other neighboring tenants he had nowhere else to go once the apartments were vacated.

A city relocation team attempted to find other homes to which to move the apartments' dis-

placed residents. However, many of the residents had criminal records, making it difficult for them to be placed.

At press time, it was unclear if Yanez had a criminal record.

In related news, KTRK Houston erroneously reported Friday, March 13, the apartment complex was to be demolished over the weekend of March 14 to March 15.

City of Houston Public Works representative Alvin Wright, however, said this is untrue, and David Wise, the owner of the property, is cooperating with the city to make the necessary repairs to bring the building back up to code.

By James Bolen

Brazoria County authorities have made a second arrest in connection with the Feb. 2 abduction and shooting of former South Belt resident Susana De Jesus.

Wallace Charles Ledet IV, 25, was arrested Friday, March 13, and charged with aggravated kidnapping after



allegedly admitting to being at the scene of the De Jesus abduction along with prime suspect, Nicholas-Michael Edwin Jean.

Ledet, however, denies having anything to do with the woman's killing.

The two men both attended Pearland High School and at one time both lived in the same subdivision.

Police began to focus their attention on Ledet after it was discovered he drove a black Ford F-150 similar to one witnesses spotted following

News media visits South Belt

Several residents called the *Leader* this past week regarding the heavy presence of media in the area. The crews were covering the Susana De Jesus killing and funeral. Vehicles were spotted at Bishop Park (shown here) and St. Luke's Catholic church.

Photo by David Flickinger



Second suspect arrested in De Jesus abduction

De Jesus' abduction.

Authorities believe Jean, 21, was the gunman. Capital murder charges on him were pending at press time.

Jean has already been charged with attempted murder, aggravated kidnapping, burglary, aggravated robbery and theft of a firearm, all related to an attempted carjacking in Pearland Monday, March 9.

A second aggravated kidnapping charge connected to De Jesus brings his bond to more than

\$2 million.

Ledet is being held on \$500,000 bond for the aggravated kidnapping charge. If convicted, he faces life in prison.

If faced with the capital murder charge, Jean could face the death penalty.

A memorial Mass was held Wednesday, March 18, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, where De Jesus' mother, Nina Puente, is a member.

(See related obituary on Page 2A.)

Alvin board criticizes Jackson San Jacinto bill

By James Bolen

At its monthly meeting Thursday, March 12, members of the Alvin Community College Board of Regents were highly critical of a bill

recently introduced by state Sen. Mike Jackson that would make the Pearland Independent School District part of the San Jacinto College District's service area.

"It's a bad bill top to bottom," ACC Regent Mike Pyburn said, adding, "It's an absolute bad policy."

Pearland ISD is currently serviced only by Alvin Community College. However, a group of Pearland residents, along with other city organizations, have been battling for years to also be serviced by San Jacinto College.

The group primarily pushing for the change in service is the Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance led by by former state Rep. Mike O'Day.

Other groups joining with the NBCEA in favor of the bill include the City of Pearland City Council, The Pearland Chamber of Commerce, the Pearland ISD and the Pearland Economic Development Corporation.

"It's better for everyone involved," said Pearland City Councilmember and former chairman of ACC's board of governors Woody Owens.

One concern to ACC board members is the lack of tax revenue collected from Pearland residents.

"To me, we're going to get into a spitting contest, and we're both (ACC and San Jacinto) going to be investing in Pearland, and Pearland isn't putting up a penny," ACC Regent Mac Barrow said. "I don't think Pearland should get a free ride."

While Pearland is in ACC's service area, the majority of the city is not in the college's taxing district. Pearland residents living west of Highway 288, however, do pay district taxes to the college. Additional revenue is earned from Pearland ISD students who take dual-credit courses.

Dual-credit students alone contribute \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually to ACC, according to Owens.

"We're not doing anything to harm Alvin," Owens said. "It doesn't take anything away from them."

It's Pyburn's contention that ACC can already fulfill all of Pearland students' needs.

"There's no reason they can't have everything they want without the shared service area with San Jac," he said.

Owens takes exception to this.

"San Jac offers all kinds of services that ACC cannot provide," he said.

Currently, San Jacinto College offers 70 credit programs to Alvin's 31 and 57 technical programs to ACC's 12.

Pearland students already overwhelmingly choose to attend San Jacinto over Alvin, even though the college is presently forbidden to promote itself within the school district.

Last year, 1,400 Pearland residents attended San Jacinto compared with 625 who attended Alvin.

"The residents are already voting with their feet," Owens said.

The demographics of Pearland have also changed drastically since Alvin's service area was first established in 1995.

"We're not the same city as we were in 1995," Owens said, noting the municipality's population has grown from 31,000 to 126,000 over the 14-year period.

ACC board chair L.H. "Pete" Nash errone-

Continued on Page 2A

EFL senior, community center now open



The South Belt chapter of the AARP met Friday, March 13, at the new community center at El Franco Lee Park. The facility caters to area seniors and local nonprofit organizations. Shown above celebrating the grand opening of the center are, left to right, Pat Reed, Bob Reed, Joe Dominguez and Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee. Below, AARP members enjoyed lunch at the new facility.

Photos by David Flickinger



New Bracewell Library groundbreaking begins

Groundbreaking for the new City of Houston J.S. Bracewell Library will take place Monday, March 23, at 11 a.m.

To be located at 9002 Kingspoint near Blackhawk, the facility will replace the 45-year-old building located at 10115 Kleckley near Alameda Mall.

City of Houston District E Councilmember Mike Sullivan and Houston Public Library Director Rhea Brown Lawson will host the event.

Funded as part of the city's Capital Improvement Plan, the new building is projected to cost \$5.1 million.

The structure will be roughly 12,000 square feet, compared to the current 8,000-square-foot library and will offer more resources, city officials said.

Construction of the new facility is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The event is free and open to the public.

Readers' Opinions

US Rep. Olson on heart condition

Yesterday was, to say the least, a series of unexpected events for me and I wanted to provide you an update.

While working out in the House gym, I got quite dizzy and fainted. After being rushed to George Washington University Hospital, it was determined that I had a condition called bradycardia, which is medical talk for a slow heart beat. Whatever they call it, it wasn't good and I don't recommend it.

The docs have now equipped me with a dual chamber pacemaker to ensure my ticker doesn't pull such a stunt again. I feel fine and was ready to get back to work yesterday afternoon, but cooler heads have instructed I rest a little more.

Nancy and I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and well wishes. You have always carried us on your shoulders through challenging times and we appreciate you being there with us once again. Sincerely,

Pete Olson

Talton family thanks community

I have so many individual notes to write, it seems to be a slow and sad process, but I am determined to thank you all. With all the words of kindness, prayers, hugs and even cards that had wonderful words inside, I feel like I need to hug the entire community. Since I can't, I just wanted to thank as many as I can.

If the story is true that you can judge one's life by how many attended his funeral, then my husband outdid himself, although I already knew that.

There were so many people, friends, relatives, teachers, past students, coaches, referees, parents of students who have become long life friends, and they had so many stories, that I wanted to hear them all. Scott was so humble he didn't tell me all of them.

There was one gentleman who said he just started at Southmore and his car wouldn't start. Scott went to his house and stayed until 3:00 in the morning helping him fix it. If you knew Scott, you knew his love for old cars.

In between everything, he was always working with his friends at Dobie on a car (eating lunch at C&D all the time too). Years ago he wanted a jumpsuit to work in and the uniform guys came in and I got him one that had been returned. He liked it because it fit well, but it was funny because it had the name "Steve" on the pocket. One day we were at the Administration Building and a Policeman who would be up at Dobie all the time introduced his wife to me and my husband

"Steve." It was so funny – we didn't have the heart to tell him Scott's real name, so that was a long running funny.

There were also some about softball and helping people fix their yards and roofs. Well I knew about the roofs, I told him no more after he turned 50 (of course he smiled and still did it anyway).

You know, there were hundreds of basketball success stories. So many parents and boys, now grown men, had a story. I received a card in the mail from Michael, he went through Scott's program years ago and now he's a pilot in the Navy and said he owed it all to my husband. Of course, there are the boys who now coach and follow in Scott's footsteps. It's funny when they say "I find myself doing exactly what Coach taught us, with all my own players." He was especially proud when they would call him for advice or tell him about their games.

He worked so hard years ago to start the "Texas Invitational," which started so small and now has grown to over 80 boys' and girls' teams participating. There were people who came up to me who could barely walk and wanted to hug me and tell me how they knew Scott. It was like Scott sent all these people to hug us and tell us more about him we didn't even know.

And then there were all our friends from school, outside school, friends from baseball, basketball, softball, just friends from all over. We had so many good times, we did like to dance and have fun even if we looked silly, we didn't care, we just had fun.

I just wanted to thank you for being in Scott's life and he did love his life. He always lived by the Golden Rule and wanted everyone else to do the same.

The hole in my heart is so big right now, and I'm trying so hard to fill our children's hearts, especially Scotty's. So many friends, hugs and food that was brought over (sorry I didn't taste much, but the family enjoyed it) and the thoughts and prayers were beyond comforting. I was told that there were so many prayer circles; it would be like a blanket to comforting us. That brought tears.

Please keep in touch with us, as we will never forget you. I wanted to end this with a verse I put together for his program:

I heard it said so often how Scott touched their lives, but it was actually those, who made him "Thrive."

With all my heart,

Vicki Talton

Burrus: Obama is not a Marxist

Fortunately, Mr. Reams begins his letter by stating that the view that President Obama has instigated a "bloodless Marxist coup" is indeed a mere opinion. Opinions, of course, do not possess the same esteem as facts, and Mr. Reams'

letter demonstrates a love of egregious hyperbole.

The election of President Obama was not a Marxist coup, but is rather demonstrative of the vox populi. President Obama is not a Marxist, and to make such a claim is utterly ridiculous. Marxism is a peculiar philosophy of history that maintains dialectical materialism as the way to understanding economic development. Mr. Obama does not hold this view. Furthermore, Marx's ideal society does not have anything to do with government control of all that exists. In Marx's ideal, there is no state, that is, there is no government: the proletariat has immediate control of the means of production. When one substitutes "big government" or "regulation" for "Communism" or "Socialism" he/she is guilty of the fallacy of equivocation. Just because you call a rabbit a turtle does not entail that the rabbit is indeed a turtle. Making false statements about things does not make them so.

Certainly, would-be Marxists such as Lenin, Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao Zedong, Nicolae Ceausescu, and Fidel Castro (who all invented their own respective brands of pseudo-Marxism) have all lead quasi-Communist regimes based, supposedly, on Marxist principles. Like the opponents of Mr. Obama, they too have gotten Marxism all wrong. But though these dictators have done atrocious things in the name of Communism, it is false to assume that Marxism is equally evil in that it shares its identity with these illegitimate instantiations. It would be equally false to gauge Jesus Christ by the actions of the Spanish Inquisitors and Crusaders. People who are guilty of crimes in the name of some object should not be conflated with those who legitimately hold such a view. And while all this is the case, it is nevertheless tangential to the fact that Mr. Obama is not a Marxist.

As demonstrated, Mr. Reams does not appear to even understand what precisely Marxism is. Government regulation does not entail Communism. This is merely an enhanced form of Capitalism. Certainly, this ignorance stems from the absurd statements of such men as Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity, who are equally guilty of inculcating others into embracing this kind of base equivocation: "If x is bad, then x must be Communism." Obviously, this is a non sequitur, and Mr. Reams argument that Obama is a Marxist is both invalid and unsound.

For the record, I'm not a Marxist, and I believe Marxism has some very serious problems, as it is a ridiculous philosophy on its own, without being tainted by its would-be proponents. Nevertheless, it is not the case that because one thinks something or someone is Marxist, it is so, on the grounds of your mere opinion.

There are other incongruous remarks in Mr. Reams' letter, but since the above matter seemed to be the heart of his argument, that is all I have decided to critique herein.

Thomas Burrus

Debra writes on apartments

It was welcomed news to read in the March 5th *South Belt Leader* that the city is finally closing Alameda Chateau apartments but embarrassing to have our area be the focus of such negative reports on TV. I sympathize with the Hurricane victims who, after all of these months, are still out of their residences and are being moved yet again, but that is another issue.

Alameda Chateau has long had a crumbling, crime ridden, squalid presence in the region of the Alameda Mall. As Malcolm Gladwell describes in his book, *The Tipping Point*, such disgraceful conditions are "contagious" and negatively impact their surroundings. To prove his point, just drive through that area. There are a growing number of abandoned and deteriorating buildings.

Actions should have been taken by city officials long before over 20 criminal citations were allowed to accumulate, to prevent people living in such conditions and the area suffering, while the Chateau's out-of-state owners profited. Favoring such a business for years at the expense of its residents, and of surrounding businesses and property owners, who have some pride of place and who value their safety, is wrong-minded and ultimately bad business.

Now that our officials have moved to close Alameda Chateau, I hope they will not stop there. Just as a negative presence, can negatively impact its surround-

ings, conversely, a positive influence can help to turn the tide for the better. Tearing down Alameda Chateau could be the first step in a contagious fresh start to restore this area's beauty, its quality of life and its reputation.

Many thanks to the *South Belt Leader* and Marie Flickinger for giving us a forum and being our area's advocate in matters dear to us.

Debra Kendrick-Writer

Is this where we are heading?

In the early part of February, during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland a world leader warned the United States against socialism with the following words:

"In the 20th century, the Soviet Union made the state's role absolute. In the long run, this made the Soviet economy totally uncompetitive. This lesson cost us dearly. I am sure nobody wants to see it repeated..." "Nor should we turn a blind eye to the fact that the spirit of free enterprise, including the principle of personal responsibility of businesspeople, investors, and shareholders for their decisions, is being eroded in the last few months. There is no reason to believe that we can achieve better results by shifting responsibility onto the state." "...we must assess the real situation and write off all hopeless debts and 'bad' assets. True, this will be an extremely painful and unpleasant process. Far from everyone can accept such measures, fearing for their capitalization, bonuses, or reputation. However, we would 'conserve' and prolong the crisis, unless we clean up our balance sheets." "...in the longer run, militarization won't solve the problem but will rather quell it temporarily. What it will do is squeeze huge financial and other resources from the economy instead of finding better and wiser uses for them."

Did a new conservative politician utter these words? Was it perhaps a conservative republican in congress? Perhaps the conservative mouthpiece of America, Rush Limbaugh. Was it an enlightened member of President Obama's administration or President Obama himself?

Unfortunately it was none of the above. No American leader seems to have the courage to say the words that most American people know through common sense. The person who said these words was the ex KGB leader, and ex President of Russia Vladimir Putin. It seems that a person that has lived socialism has the knowledge to best advise America to eschew the critical pitfalls and catastrophic failures of socialism.

My father lives in Greece. In the last decade Greece has become more and more socialist. Greece has nationalized health care, certain government run industries, and government controlled banks. After the riots last month the government of Greece collapsed. When the government runs everything including your healthcare and the government runs out of money, who do you go to for help?

Is that where the United States is heading? I hope not.

George Valtasaros

Howie Rich on trading places

For years, the Communist Chinese have been the butt of American jokes for their Maoist principles and centralized government planning.

They've also received scathing international criticism for their at times brutal suppression of human rights – and deservedly so.

But in the years since Tiananmen Square, China has moved steadily towards a market-based economic system while America has racked up increasingly large deficits for centralized, socialist spending – with a growing percentage of our accumulating public debt held by Chinese creditors.

Also, China has taken steps to improve its human rights record in recent years, while American liberties have gradually eroded under the weight of an ever-expanding federal government.

Clearly repression and communism are still the laws of the land in China, but it is worth noting how one nation waxes and the other wanes – particularly when crisis comes.

Just look at the divergent approaches taken by the American and Chinese governments with respect to their economic "stimulus" plans.

Like our country, China is operating under the flawed assumption that investing in additional government will somehow bring about economic revival.

But, there are critical differences in these two superpowers' positioning and plans which could make the economic downturn much easier for China to manage.

Supporters of the "American approach" like point to the fact that China is ballooning its deficit from 0.4% to 3% of its national income to pay for its plan – but that argument ignores the fact that America's deficit currently stands at 12% of its national income.

We also have an \$11 trillion (and climbing) national debt – of which China was holding \$681 billion prior to the most recent U.S. bailout.

China, meanwhile, entered 2009 with nearly \$2 trillion in foreign currency reserves.

There are also huge differences in the "meat" of the two plans.

In China, the majority of the stimulus package was actually devoted to bricks and mortar. Huge chunks were also devoted to business tax breaks, and a full quarter of the package was devoted to rebuilding an area of the country devastated by the Sichuan earthquake last May.

Has it worked? Few trust China's optimistic estimates of 8% growth in 2009, but the country's lending, spending and consumer confidence has largely stabilized.

By contrast, America has poured billions of dollars into the same failed financial institutions and government bureaucracies that conspired to create its current crisis – not surprisingly, to no avail.

The first bailout failed miserably to

stimulate lending or lift the Dow Jones out of its doldrums, while the second bailout resulted in another massive sell-off on Wall Street over fears that it "didn't do enough to stimulate the economy."

Talk about the understatement of the millennium.

While China at least pursued its flawed interventionist philosophy (it's still a communist country, remember) with a modicum of common sense, America has plunged herself deeper into big government insanity.

For example, billions of dollars intended for small businesses were stripped from the final version of the "stimulus" package, which ended up as a liberal special interest goodie bag routed through the same old inefficient, unaccountable agencies.

Also, China pumped in its "stimulus" money immediately where it would have the maximum effect, whereas the U.S. approach is to engage in a protracted, multi-year federal spend fest on government programs with no immediate economic benefit.

In fact, the Treasury agency charged with picking winners and losers in our marketplace (where was that in the Constitution?) recently acquired four floors of DC office space by agreeing to a ten year lease – a sign they plan on sticking around for awhile.

Thinking that government can rescue a national economy under any circumstances is wrong-headed, but the clear differences in China's reaction to this crisis and America's are telling indicators of the direction each country is moving.

And sadly, America doesn't seem likely to reverse course anytime soon.

Howie Rich

Chair of Americans for Limited Government

Deaths

Susana "Susy" De Jesus



Susana "Susy" De Jesus, 37, died Tuesday, March 10, 2009. She was dedicated to all those she loved including her two chihuahuas Paris and Vani.

De Jesus is preceded in death by her husband, Gregorio De Jesus.

She is survived by her mother, Nina Puente; sister Guilly Puente; several uncles and aunts; and numerous cousins and friends.

A memorial Mass was celebrated March 18, at St. Luke's Catholic Church.

He attended Beverly Hills Intermediate and J. Frank Dobie High School. After graduation, Childs served his country in the U.S. Army.

Following his military service, he worked many years as a welder but found his true calling in hydraulic sales and service.

He was owner of HiTech Hydraulics located in South Houston.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved the outdoors.

Childs was preceded in

death by his father, J.O., and brother James R. Childs.

Survivors include his wife of 24 years, Karla Childs, and daughter, Rachel Childs. He is also survived by his mother, Eula Mae, sister Candace O'Mally and husband Pat, and brother Bob Childs and wife Stephanie. He also leaves behind a host of family and friends.

The funeral service was held Friday, March 13, at Niday Funeral Home.

Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Haywood Management Homeowner's Association and Civic Club Management

We have room for one or two communities in the South Belt Area. *Please contact Nita Haywood at 832-477-0185 for more information.*

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Pearland, SJC bill...

Continued from Page 1A

ously stated at the Thursday meeting the Pearland ISD board had originally made the correct decision to table the service change issue, before later voting 4-3 in favor of it at its March 11 meeting.

When the issue was first brought up to the Pearland board for vote last year, however, the meeting lacked a full quorum, as three members were away on emergency, and no actions were taken that night.

At last Wednesday's meeting, the Pearland board voted unanimously in favor of the proposed service change 6-0.

ACC's Web site has since corrected both mistakes after being contacted by the *Leader*.

According to ACC Dean of Instruction and Provost Dr. John Bethscheider, he has spoken to San Jacinto representatives and gotten little response as to their intentions if the service area is changed.

"They really don't know what they want," he said. "Their hearts are not in it."

San Jacinto Board Chairwoman Marie Flickinger disagrees with this.

"Our heart is in it to the degree that state legislators will allow it to be," she said.

Flickinger added that recent construc-

tion of thoroughfares to San Jac South now make the drive from Pearland easier than when Alvin's service area was originally established.

Every school in the Pearland ISD is closer to San Jacinto South than it is to ACC. The distance from Pearland High School to San Jacinto South is seven miles, compared with the 11 mile drive to ACC.

Upon introducing the legislation, Jackson said he hoped to create a dialogue.

"I filed Senate Bill 1857 to open up lines of communication between the City of Pearland and Alvin Community College," he said.

Flickinger concurs with this sentiment.

"I want what's best for the students," she said. "I think all parties involved should sit down and discuss the issue with Senator Jackson."

Owens, too, says he simply wants what is best for the students.

"It's in the best interest of the city and the residents of Pearland to move forward and allow both San Jacinto and Alvin to service this area," he said. "Right now, residents of Pearland are being held hostage by ACC."

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Neighborhood Centers offer free tax services

Families who haven't paid taxes in years past can come out of hiding—Neighborhood Tax Centers, a program of Neighborhood Centers Inc., will offer free preparation for

tax returns up to three years old during the month of March.

Taxpayers who meet income requirements and didn't file a tax return for the

years of 2005, 2006, or 2007 are eligible for this free service. Neighborhood Tax Centers will also continue to offer free tax preparation for income-eligible taxpayers fil-

ing taxes for 2008, the most current tax year.

"It's fairly common for taxpayers to not know whether they need to file taxes or even avoid doing it because they are afraid they will owe money," says Elizabeth Colvin, Neighborhood Tax Centers director. "If you didn't file in the last three years, it's not too late to make things right and even receive a refund if you had one coming to you."

Neighborhood Tax Centers have already helped thousands avoid paying tax-preparation fees and get back all the refunds and credits they earned in 2008. Households making \$45,000 or less qualify to use this free program.

Taxpayers can dial 2-1-1, the Texas United Way/HELP-LINE, for the nearest location, hours, and what documents to bring, or visit www.neighborhood-centers.org.

From now through Wednesday, April 15, Mi Tienda, 1630 Spencer Highway South in Pasadena, will assist taxpayers.

AARP elects new officers



The South Belt AARP Chapter 4341 recently elected new officers for 2009. Pictured are, left to right, Frances Wright, treasurer; Charles Dyrud, president; Phil Lester, vice president; and Pat Lester, secretary. The South Belt AARP meets the second Friday of each month at the new community center at El Franco Lee Park.

Teaching Opportunities in Pasadena ISD

The Pasadena ISD Alternative Certification Program is offering Career Choice Seminars for anyone interested in becoming a teacher. Potential candidates must possess a bachelor's degree or above by May 2009, and must have an overall GPA of 2.5 on the 4.0 system in ALL semester hours attempted or a 2.7 GPA in the last 60 hours attempted. The application deadline for the 2009-2010 academic year is May 15, 2009.

The seminars will provide an opportunity to learn detailed information about the program and the areas of certification offered. Seminar dates and times are as follow:

Seminar Time and Dates

Saturday, Mar. 28, 2009 at 10 a.m.
Wednesday, Apr. 8, 2009 at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Apr. 21, 2009 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 10 a.m.

All seminars will be conducted at the Pasadena ISD Administration Building, located at 1515 Cherrybrook Lane in Pasadena, Texas 77502.

For more information, please call:
713-740-0029
www.pasadenaisd.org/atcp



South Belt resident Ruben Guerrero (right) was recently sworn in by Precinct 1, Place 1 Justice of the Peace David Patronella (left) as judge of the 174th Criminal District Court. Presiding judge was Debbie Mantooth Stricklin (center) of the 180th Criminal District Court.

Photo by Lloyd Pilkey

NBCEA receives \$150,000



Richard Prets, director of the San Jacinto College Small Business Development Center, presents board members of the Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance a check for \$150,000 to train and upgrade skills of incumbent workers in Pearland. Pictured are, left to right, Mike O'Day, chairman of the NBCEA board; Prets; Richard Wong, NBCEA board member; and Lindsay Smith, secretary of the NBCEA board.

Nominations sought for UHCL alumni awards

University of Houston-Clear Lake alumni continue to play an important role in the community and each year the university strives to recognize those alumni by presenting the University of Houston-Clear Lake Alumni Association awards.

Nominations for UH-Clear Lake's Distinguished Alumni, Early Achievement, Leadership Service, and the Outstanding Professor awards are being accepted through April 30.

"There are many UHCL graduates who have succeeded professionally or who are actively involved in civic or professional organizations, benefiting their community or employer," said Charity Ellis, director of alumni and community relations. "With the UHCL Alumni Association Awards, we acknowledge the diversity of our alumni and celebrate their successes."

First presented in 1984, the Distinguished Alumni Award honors UHCL alumni who have either earned a degree or completed a certificate program whose exceptional contributions in both the workplace and community serve as a model for future graduates and reflect positively on the university.

UHCL alumni, 45 years of

age or younger, with notable accomplishments in her or his business, community service, university commitment or involvement in the Alumni Association may be nominated for the Early Achievement Award.

The Leadership Service Award honors alumni who have contributed to the university community through his or her leadership and service.

For the third year, the Outstanding Professor Award will be presented to a professor (current at the time of the nomination) who has made a difference to students both

inside and outside of the classroom.

This commitment may have been through mentoring, involvement in student organizations or embracing innovative teaching that both educates and inspires.

The 2009 award recipients will be recognized at the annual alumni celebration on Saturday, Oct. 17, at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center.

For more information on the nomination process, call the UHCL's Office of Alumni and Community Relations at 281-283-2021 or visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni.

Church bazaar set

St. Frances Cabrini's 34th annual bazaar will be held Sunday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the church grounds at 10727 Hartsook St. in southeast Houston. Hartsook Street is near the intersection of South Shaver and the Gulf Freeway and intersects the Gulf Freeway northbound feeder between S. Shaver and Edgebrook.

The bazaar will feature a barbecue dinner, Mexican food, a variety of beverages, arts and crafts, country store, trash and treasure, entertain-

ment, kiddie land, bingo and other games, a raffle with a \$4,500 Visa gift certificate first prize, a laptop computer second prize, and 11 more prizes, and lots more. Admission is free.

The trash and treasure, which opens a week before the bazaar, is considered southeast Houston's largest garage sale.

Proceeds from the bazaar go toward the mortgage on the new church dedicated in January 2005. For information, call 713-946-5768.

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HOME RUN CORNER

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

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IMAX WATCHMEN: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R)
(10:50 @ \$8), 2:10, 5:30, 9:10, 12:30

DIGITAL 3D

JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 5:50
CORALINE 3D (PG) (10:40 @ \$7), 1:05, 3:30, 7:55, 10:20, 12:35

DUPICITY (PG-13) (10:55 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15, 12:55
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (10:00, 11:15 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:50, 3:05, 4:25, 5:40, 7:10, 8:15, 9:45, 10:40, 12:25
KNOWING (PG-13) (10:10, 11:30 @ \$5), 1:00, 2:25, 3:50, 5:15, 7:00, 8:05, 9:55, 10:55, 12:45
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (10:45 @ \$5), 12:10, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:35, 7:05, 8:10, 9:40, 10:45, 12:20
MISS MARCH (R) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:20, 4:35, 6:55, 9:25, 11:55
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (10:05, 11:05 @ \$5), 12:05, 12:50, 1:40, 2:35, 3:20, 4:05, 5:00, 5:55, 6:35, 7:25, 8:25, 9:05, 9:50, 10:50, 11:35, 12:10
WATCHMEN (R) (10:00, 11:35 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:20, 10:05, 11:45
WATCHMEN (R) 12:20, 3:55, 7:20, 10:50
STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-LI (PG-13) 8:35, 11:00
FIRE UP (PG-13) 1:10, 3:35, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (11:00 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:15, 5:20, 6:45, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30, 11:40, 12:55
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (10:30 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:25, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
FRIDAY THE 13TH (2009) (R) (11:45 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:20, 6:40, 8:55, 11:15
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (10:25 @ \$5), 1:15, 4:30, 7:35, 10:25
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (10:20 @ \$5), 12:40, 3:10, 5:25, 7:45
PUSH (PG-13) 9:55 PM, 12:25 AM
TAKEN (PG-13) (10:15, 11:10 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:25, 2:30, 3:45, 4:50, 6:15, 7:15, 8:30, 9:30, 10:35, 11:50, 12:50
THE UNINVITED (PG-13) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00, 12:05
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (10:35 @ \$5), 1:05, 3:35, 6:10
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) (11:55 @ \$5), 2:05, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20, 11:30
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:35, 3:15, 6:05, 8:45, 11:25
GRAN TORINO (R) (11:25 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:55, 7:40, 10:10, 12:45

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Over The Back Fence by Jan

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 19 through March 25.

Atkinson Elementary

Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to **Jennifer Garcia** March 19. A birthday is celebrated March 22 by **Kathy Hoang**.

Burnett Elementary

On March 19, **Mary Alvarez** and **John Strickland** share a birthday. The day for a birthday party for **Maria Vargas** is March 22. A birthday is enjoyed by **Linda Resendez** on March 23. March 25 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for **Efren Cardozo** and **Carmen Norris**.

Bush Elementary

On March 21, a birthday wish is sent to **Linda Williams**.

Frazier Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles for **Jean Anne Cozma** March 20. **Maria Campos** celebrates a birthday March 21.

Jessup Elementary

On March 21, **Susan Wilcox** is sent a birthday greeting. The day to celebrate a birthday for **Jose De Los Reyes** is March 22. Marking a birthday March 23 is **Erica Guerrero**.

Meador Elementary

Birthday wishes for a wonderful day are sent to **Jennifer McDuff** March 22.

Melillo Middle School

Enjoying a birthday March 22 is **Yolanda Dorantes**.

Morris Middle School

Nita Boehm celebrates a birthday March 19. Blow out the birthday candles for **Sherry Horton-Wells** March 25.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Pamela Costales** March 22. March 25 is the day for a birthday cake for **Marta Zelaya**.

Thompson Intermediate

The day for a birthday party for **Ayana Swift** is March 21. **Deanne Davis** is wished a happy birthday March 25.

Challenger School

Cynthia Broom is wished a happy birthday March 23.

Dobie High

Jennifer Johnson celebrates a birthday March 19. The day for a birthday cake for **Toni Oliver-Blackwell** is March 20. **Carol Declercq** is sent birthday greetings March 21. Enjoying a birthday March 22 is **Amy Crowder**. On March 24, **Tyler Coker** has a birthday.

HOME RUN CORNER

Congratulations are sent to **Alex Muniz** of the Pee Wee Indians for hitting an in-the-park home run on March 9 against the Padres, from mom **Amy Smith**, dad **Tito Muniz**, **Randall Smith**, brother **Gaven**, sister **Kali**, and **Grandma and Papa Becker**.

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.

BAHEP markets Ellington at world's largest helicopter trade show

To people who do not live in Texas, Ellington Airport is a relatively unknown gem. A joint marketing effort by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, the Houston Airport System, and the economic development arm of CenterPoint Energy intends to change that.

Along with Colliers Inter-

national, these organizations are promoting Ellington Airport, which features a world class aviation infrastructure, as one of the best mixed use airports in the country with both active NASA and military installations as well as emerging commercial sectors.

Dan Seal, executive direc-

tor, BAHEP technology programs, and Steve Nunez, NASA executive on loan to BAHEP, returned from Anaheim, Calif., recently where they highlighted Ellington at HELI-EXPO 2009.

This is the world's largest trade show dedicated to the international helicopter community.

Ellington Airport, a commerce and aviation center, features approximately 380 acres of undeveloped commercial and industrial sites and more than 100 acres with developed, pad ready sites.

With runway access as well as easy access to I-45 South and Beltway 8, these sites at Ellington Airport pro-

vide an ideal location for the establishment of an aviation industry manufacturing center anchored by either a fixed-wing or a rotary-wing main-frame manufacturer.

HELI-EXPO is huge, featuring 500 exhibiting companies in 600,000 square feet of display space, providing optimal networking opportunities with the 17,000 industry professionals in attendance.

Seal noted, "This is the 'granddaddy' helicopter show each year, and all of the major helicopter manufacturers, avionics companies, and composite and materials firms are there, along with decision-making personnel from these key target industries. We made excellent strides in increasing the awareness of the many attractive factors that Ellington offers."

Houston will host HELI-EXPO 2010 from Feb. 21-23 at the George R. Brown Convention Center where BAHEP, HAS and CenterPoint Energy will once again be on hand to tout Ellington Airport's many advantages.

For more information on the real estate opportunities available at Ellington Airport, visit the Web site at www.landatellington.com.

Thompson 4th 6-weeks honor rolls released

Thompson Intermediate School recently announced its honor rolls for the fourth six-weeks grading period. Students named are as follows:

Honor roll

Seventh grade

Jannessa Renee Ackman, Maha Salma Awan Ali, Zavi Awan Ali, Taylor Nichol Ard, Erika Thalia Ascencio, Daniel Jacob Barrientes, Amanda Catherine Bates, Alex Enrique Benitez, Lisa Monei Brooks, Duc Anh Bui, Alexis Marie Caballero, Kevin R. Caballero and Jennifer K. Calderon.

Angel Rafael Castillo, Nicholas Dale Cessna, Darien Anthony Childs, Devin Renae Cooper, Lynsi

Lashay Crawford, Jason Asarel Cruz, Isabel Abigail Curiel, Jaclynn Monica Deleon, Hoang Kim Dinh, Nicholas Paul Engle, Angelica Vanessa Enriquez and Maria Fernanda Flores.

Victoria Chaise Gagneux, Anthony Kyle Gee, Eryqa Jemela Glenn, Andre Guerra, Sydney Nicole Gutierrez, Bryson Payne Hamilton, Frank D.H. Hicks, Greissy Carolina Jerezano, Amari Brianna Lavergne, Wilson Lee, Karina Guadalupe Lopez and Tony Ly.

Aimee Celeste Mar, Joshua Andrew Mendiola-Garcia, Joslyn Lourdes Mendoza, Carmen Nering, Annie Lam Nguyen, Billy Nguyen, Vivian Oanhhoang Nguyen, Ariadna Abigail Pedroza, Jenna Renae Perez, Burgandy Rose Petri, Alan Phan, Tuan Manh Phan and Clarisa Renee Ramon.

Ayeshum Rasool, Allison Rose Ritchie, Mauricio A. Rivera, Octavio Alexander Rodriguez, Fernando Rojas, De Andre Imari Russell, Karla Patricia Santillan, Wesley Michael Schoppe, Waylon Ryan Shofner, Da-

maris Verenice Sidrian and Destinee Moree Smith.

Marvin Daniel Solis, Catherine Jeanette Sorto, Taylor Matthew Surratt, Kayla Meagan Szydlo, Brian P. To, Tanya Torres, Luan Thanh Tran, Shelly N. Tran, Quachthinh Le Truong, James Varghese, Jancy Varghese, Joshua Varghese, Nam Hoang Vu and Alyssa Grace Williams.

Eighth grade

Carol Lilian Amaro, Aaronathaniel Gabino Arambula, Joel Michael Arhelger, Angie Daniela Artega, Genevieve Au, Madeline Margaret Ball, Demetri Armand Bellini, Travis Devin Berkstresser, Audrey Lenore Beyer, Jasmine Hienthanh Bui and Brian Keith Campbell.

Michelle Campos, Roland Cao, Neftali Antonio Carcamo, Cecilia Gisell Cardenas, Erin Simabua Chaniago, Jenny Nguyen Chung, Jennifer Guadalupe Cortez, Avery Lynne Crocker, Xuan Mai Dao, Niza Raquel Del Villar, Danielle M. Diaz-Hernandez and Rene Giovanni Escobar.

Taylor Vincent Finney,

Ericka Elaine Freeman, Gerardo Garza, Claudia Bianca Gonzalez, Yadira Gonzalez, Michael Ryan Graham, Cindy Stacey Guzman, Brenton Pierce Hamilton, Lakiya Raquel Hanks, Kamille Lynette Harris and Olivia G. Henry.

Brittany Marie Hernandez, Kaila Nichole Hernandez, Candace Ariel Hernandez-Lacy, Jasmine Darnesha Hubley, Jimmy Thien Huynh, Alexia Janelle Jackson, Trameshia N. Jackson, Sydney Ann Keatts, Angelica Keller, Paul Kwang Mo Kim and Madeline Renee Lacamu.

Katherine Erin Lee, Eric James Leuenberger, Inez Louis Lopez, Samantha Rene Lovo, Denise Thuy Ma, Eusebio Maldonado, Lorin Rose Mata, Erin Marie Mauk, Steven A. Mendieta, Tiffany M. Mercado, Eric Montoya and Sharrel Chelsey Moore.

Hector David Neira, Kevin Thai Nguyen, Phu Tran Nguyen, Thuhuyen Do Nguyen, Gregory Dillon Nicholson, Sean Michael Peace, Alexia Aundrea

Continued on Page 5A

Remember When

30 years ago (1979)

Pasadena Independent School District students Jay Rasco, Charles Farmer, Chris Dorfingler, Erin Walsh and Jeff Ehrlich had their artwork sent to New York for the National Scholastic Art Awards competition.

Beverly Hills Intermediate School band members received 90 First Division medals at the Intermediate Solo and Ensemble contest held at their school.

25 years ago (1984)

Houston City Council authorized a five-acre expansion of Sagemont Park.

Though Sagemont residents complained about their water quality, department heads at several city of Houston water departments said there were no major problems in Sagemont's water.

20 years ago (1989)

Harris County Commissioners Court's plan to cut the number of unpaid reserve deputies who could serve on a constable's staff was to end the South Belt area's 24-hour contract service.

Constable Precinct 2 deputies arrested three adults and three juveniles after discovering the group playing the fantasy game Dungeons and Dragons in an abandoned house.

An early evening walk turned violent for an 80-year-old South Belt man when he was attacked by a pit bull on Blackhawk and

Sageaspen.

15 years ago (1994)

Because half of the Brio Superfund Site is in an unincorporated area of Harris County and half is in the city of Friendswood, complications had arisen over who would respond to emergency calls from the site.

A Dobie High School freshman was arrested and expelled after marijuana and a 25-caliber gun were found in his backpack in a locker he was using.

10 years ago (1999)

The South Belt chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons celebrated its 10th anniversary. Members of the Thompson Intermediate School's academic team completed an undefeated season against other intermediate schools in the Pasadena Independent School District.

5 years ago (2004)

Burnett Elementary and Thompson Intermediate were recognized for their sustained high academic performance.

Genoa United Methodist Church celebrated its 110th anniversary.

Houston City Council member for District E Addie Wiseman hosted a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting at San Jacinto College South campus to discuss upcoming City of Houston projects.

Thompson Intermediate inducted 66 students into the National Junior Honor

Society.

Local realtor Sandra Yandell was named "Top Dog" by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce for recruiting 16 new members.

Three young men were victims of a drive-by shooting on Alameda-Genoa.

1 year ago (2008)

The Texas Air National Guard took civilians on four of its F-16 refueling missions. The flights were part of the Guard's annual family and employer appreciation day. One participating family member was longtime South Belt resident Laura Garner, wife of TANG Lt. Col. B.J. Garner. Also invited to cover the event were David and Marie Flickinger, publisher of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*. A high-speed chase led to a suspect being arrested and charged with two felony counts, thanks in part to the efforts of a local resident.

Physics and journalism students from Dobie and South Houston high schools were among only five groups in the nation that were invited to participate in an international project to learn and report about a new supercollider project in Geneva, Switzerland.

Pasadena ISD continued to offer students the option of taking courses online through its Virtual School. The program allowed students to take classes on their own time wherever Internet access was available.

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Dottie turns 75!



Dottie Cantalamessa, a well-known longtime South Belt area resident, was surprised with a party on her 75th birthday at the home of Steve and Kelly Buckman. The celebration luncheon included her favorite carrot cake made by Joyce Dittrich with help from her husband, Milton. Dottie is married to Sagemont's Dominic Cantalamessa.

Thompson rolls . . .

Continued from Page 4A
Perez, Krystina Daniele Perez, Meagan Leighann Perkins, Anh Hoang Pham and Kevin The Pham. Angelica Nicole Phillips, Amanda S. Rodriguez, Joy D. Rose, Orfa Zaid Ruiz, Savannah F. Sanchez, Kaitlyn Rae Schuetz, Sarah Ann Schultz, Tyler J. Sias, Natalie Vanessa Skaggs, Nicole Victoria Skaggs, Haley Marie Smith and Loana Magaly Solis. Rebecca Ann Steel, Princess Rebecca Tabarez, Brent

Regan Tevis, Andre Lamont Timmons, Amanda Hien Thu Tran, Andrew G.H. Tran, Anhthung Austin Tran, Brian Anhkhhoa Tran, Kim-Lynn Thi Tran, Lan Hoang Tran and Macy Nicole Traywick. Trey William Trujillo, Khoa Xuan Truong, Andrea Myrei Vargas, Giovanni Vega, Savana Terra Velasquez, Peter Duy Vu, Thomas Lee Vu, Leah Danielle Weaver, Jodie Lynn Williams and Phoenicia Perion Wilson.

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Turbevilles celebrate 60th anniversary



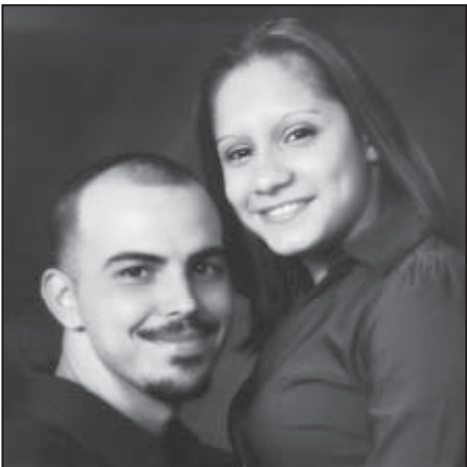
Leroy and Louise Turbeville will celebrate 60 years of marriage on March 19, 2009. They have been residents of Beverly Hills subdivision for 41 years after transferring from Dallas with Hughes Tool Co. in 1968. The couple has four sons, Ronald, Danny, Dennis and Tim, and one daughter, Linda Miller. They have 12 grandchildren and 15 great-



grandchildren. They are members of the Christian Temple Assembly of God. Leroy retired from Hughes Tool Company and Louise retired from Easthaven Baptist Church. All their children live in the South Belt area except Dennis and his family who live in Vidor. The family will be celebrating at their favorite restaurant.

Del Valle, Thomas to wed this month

Christopher L. Thomas, son of Mike and Nery Thomas, will marry Angel R. Del Valle, daughter of Rachel Del Valle and Amy Gause. Both were born in Sagemont, attended Dobie High School, and are involved in South Belt's baseball league at El Franco Lee Park. Christopher is currently in his third year of coaching his son's baseball team, with Angel right by his side. They are raising the third generation of Thomas boys (Gino, Julian and Nolen) in the South Belt area. The couple are planning a late March wedding.



Bay area Singles dance set

The Bay Area Singles Club Monthly Dance will be held Saturday, March 21, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the VFW Lodge in Bacliff at 1401 Grand Ave. 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 information, call 409-948-1156 or 281-484-4762.



Wyatt competes in Mutton Bustin'



Wyatt Sherwood competed in the Mutton Bustin' competition at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on March 4. After suiting up in protective gear and being escorted to the floor of Reliant Stadium, he and nine other contestants sat on the back of a sheep and held on for dear life until they were tossed off. While Sherwood didn't win first place, mom Charissa, dad Jason, brother Malcolm, grandma Susan (former longtime South Belt resident) and grandpa Gary Hemmi, and Oma Jan and Opa Jim Seamans of South Belt thought he did a great job as their little cowpoke. Wyatt's mother is a Dobie High graduate.

Photo submitted by John McCaine

Weintritt, Juren marry



Matthew Clayton Juren and Jessica Marie Weintritt were united in marriage in a candle-light ceremony Feb. 7, 2009, at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland. Parents of the couple are Ronald and Joanne Juren of Friendswood and Donald and Angela Weintritt of Midland, Mich. The bride, a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan, is employed by Jones McClure Publishing Co. The groom, a former South Belt resident and 2004 graduate of the University of Houston-Clear Lake, is an associate with Matthews, Lawson and Bowick, P.L.L.C. Both received their Jurisprudence Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center in May 2008. The couple will reside in the Houston area.

Parker Williams Library events scheduled

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale:
Game day is Thursday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m. Come to the library and play games.
Discuss ways to support the library when the Friends of the Parker Williams Library meet Monday, March 23, at 9 a.m.
Movie Madness is Thursday, March 26, at 4 p.m. Call the library for feature title.
Free income tax assistance is available every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for information.
Family storytime is Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Storytime for preschoolers is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Toddler time is Thursday at 10 and 11:15 a.m.

Leader wedding, engagement policies

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

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

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

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Thompson band performs at state Capitol



On March 10, the Symphonic Band from Thompson Intermediate School traveled to Austin to participate in *Arts Education Day at the Capitol*. Under the direction of Deborah Hirsch, the band performed several short selections on the south steps of the Capitol. This two-day event was sponsored by the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education showcasing groups from across the state to demonstrate for the public and the Texas legislators the importance of fine arts education in the schools. The Thompson band has a long tradition of excellence, recently earning more than 150 medals at Pasadena Independent School District Solo and Ensemble Contest. The band earned a Sweepstakes Award last year at UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest and annually performs at the Texas Renaissance Festival and the Splashtown Music Festival. The Thompson band has also performed the national anthem for the Houston Astros for the past 13 years and was invited to perform at the National Middle School Association Convention in 2007. This year will be the second

time that the Thompson band has been chosen to perform at *Arts Education Day at the Capitol*. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Sean Peace, Peter Vu, Zack Flores, Kamaran Gardner, Carlos Rodriguez, (second row) Jimmy Esquivel, Jennifer Cortez, Brittany Hernandez, Roland Cao, Kevin Pham, Paola Zavala, Nick Engle, (third row) Alex Benitez, Fatima Castellon, Katie Lee, Angelica Keller, Eyan Baker, Vicky Puente, Joel Arhelger, (fourth row) Demetri Bellini, Tearra Small, Madeline Ball, Kamille Harris, Samantha Green, Wesley DeSoto, Ashley White, (fifth row) Lorin Mata, Rene Escobar, Austin Tran, Kevin Nguyen, Mathew Guzman, Tuan Phan, (sixth row) Alexia Jackson, Ezequiel Ramirez, Marina Torres, Inez Lopez, Andrew Tran, Kevin Rodriguez, Alexia Mendez, Candace Hernandez, (back row) Jonathan Jones, Joshua Lewis, Joshua Aldana, Joy Rose, Andre Timmons, Jasmine Hubley, Oscar Campos, Darien Childs, Michael Beltran and Taylor Surratt.

Photo submitted

Young students get a taste of college life at science fair



From left, San Jacinto College students Kelsey Moore and Karina Pacheco collaborate with Melillo Middle School student Mateo Rivera in a hands-on experiment during the science fair.

Young students recently got an introduction to college life thanks to an innovative science program at San Jacinto College.

A total of 119 students from Pasadena Independent School District schools participated in a science fair held at SJC Central. During the fair coordinated by the college's science department, the secondary students displayed projects for judging in the categories of behavioral science, mathematics, engineering, earth science, chemistry, biochemistry, environmental, zoology, physics, botany and health.

Project judges included San Jacinto College science students, science and math faculty members, as well as industry representatives.

At the fair, San Jacinto College student volunteers also provided assistance in hands-on science lab experiments, acted as room monitors and performed other

duties. "All professional schools now want community service as a part of the admission process," commented Ann Cartwright, chair of San Jacinto College Central's department of science.

The college student volunteers helped the secondary students in experiments at 11 project stations, including: Gak, which involved mixing glue paste, water and a borax solution to demonstrate the properties of long molecules called polymers; Shrinky-dink, which involved heating pieces of polystyrene plastic and making the material shrink dramatically to demonstrate how polystyrene shrinks in a symmetrical fashion; and skewer balloon, which involved pushing a lubricated skewer through the thick part of a balloon to demonstrate the elastic properties of some molecules.

PISD students from grades five through 12 participated in the science fair at the college. Project winners in grades seven through 12 advanced to compete at the Houston Science and Engineering Fair, which was held recently at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Alena Grinstead, PISD secondary science instructional specialist, noted that participating in a science fair challenges younger students to select an area of personal interest, ask questions, and solve problems experimentally using the scientific method.

"It is a great way to excite students about science, teach them to think like scientists, develop organizational skills and enhance their oral and written presentation skills," Grinstead commented. "Our students are fortunate that their fair is held at San Jacinto College because they get to see adults doing the same kind of research and learning what they are doing. They have the opportunity to interact with college students, teachers and community members who work in science fields."

The science fair is part of San Jacinto College's Science Service Learning program, which developed nearly 20 years ago through a series of unplanned events. Cartwright invited elementary school students to visit science labs at the Central campus in the fall of 1990.

Back then, Cartwright provided the demonstrations and experiments herself. It was shortly after that she began involving San Jac students. "I noticed that the college students who helped often started taking a more active role in class, and grades sometimes improved. My theory was that the extra time I spent one-on-one with the college students gave them a positive feel for science, and the interaction with the younger students was also a

positive experience for them," noted Cartwright.

San Jacinto College student Kyle Adcock feels the interaction with the younger students is indeed a positive experience. "I enjoy seeing the look in the kids' eyes when they are learning," remarked Adcock, who lives in Deer Park. "They are so fascinated with the way things work and seem to soak it up like a sponge."

Adcock says such outside-the-classroom projects enhance education and renew his enthusiasm toward learning. "It's like looking at learning with fresh eyes," he commented. "The kids are so willing to learn, and it motivates me."

A wide range of behavioral science, biology and chemistry courses and degree options are available at all three San Jacinto College campuses. For more information about the college, call 281-998-6150 or visit www.sanjac.edu.

Buddy Idol setfor March 28

The Clear Brook chapter of Best Buddies will host *Buddy Idol* on Saturday, March 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. at

Clear Brook High School. There will be carnival games, activities, karaoke and dancing. Admission tickets are \$5.

Best Buddies is an international nonprofit organiza-

tion dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for mutually enriching one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

GCLFEDS meeting March 26

The Greater Clear Lake Families Exploring Down Syndrome will meet Thursday, March 26, at United Way Service Center - Bay Area, 1300 Bay Area Blvd., in Room A.

Pizza and an informal parent discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a parent panel discussion on education at 7 p.m. Child care is provided.

Dinner, concert at church

Faith Baptist Church, 9850 Mango, will host a spaghetti dinner and Christian music concert Saturday, March 28.

The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. Cost is \$6 per person and includes a plate of spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and a drink.

The Beene's, Brandon and Christa Beene, will be in concert at 7 p.m. For more information, call 713-943-2275.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Dobie boys claim 22-5A soccer title; Brook boys a two seed

Clear Brook teams, Dobie girls qualify, playoffs are March 24

Hold the yearbook press-

es! The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team has won the district title for the first time in 11 years, and they'd like their just due.

So would the Dobie varsity girls' team and both the Clear Brook varsity boys' and girls' teams.

All of the aforementioned teams will compete in the playoffs.

The Dobie varsity girls

played Pearland in the season finale March 18 after press time. Thus, the team's playoff plans were not known at press time. The Lady Longhorns will enter the playoffs as either the No. 2 or No. 3 seed in 22-5A.

Clear Brook's varsity boys' team defeated Alvin 4-0 March 13 to lock up second place in District 24-5A. And the Clear Brook varsity girls' team claimed

third place in District 24-5A.

Dobie boys celebrate
Poised with a chance to place itself among the best in school history, Dobie left little doubt as to just which team was the best in District 22-5A.

Chris Torres scored twice in the first half, and Dobie went on to blank Pearland 5-0 in the regular season finale March 17 at The Rig in Pearland.

The win assured the Longhorns of first place at 10-2-2, and the team is now preparing to face District 21-5A fourth-place team

Baytown Lee.

Dobie and Baytown Lee will play in the bidistrict playoffs March 24 at Newcomb Field in Pasadena. Game time is 7 p.m.

Records hard to find
About midway through the district race when it appeared the Longhorns had a shot at the crown, head coach Jesse Saavedra began researching just when the program's last district crown had come.

He spoke to those in the school's yearbook department, who explained that because the yearbook sometimes goes to the printer

before the soccer season is complete, an accurate soccer record is often difficult to locate.

Saavedra also visited with former Dobie coaches John Schmitz and Jim Bennett. They recited team records as best as possible from personal memory. But Schmitz's time with the team came primarily in the 80s. Bennett was the head coach prior to Saavedra taking the reins for 2007.

But luckily, Saavedra found the answers he was looking for.

Dobie's last district title came in 1998. After a first-

round bye, the Longhorns lost a heart breaking 1-0 overtime game to Clear Creek in the area round.

New era started
Now 11 years later, the Longhorns are champions again.

The team first staved off Sam Rayburn with a 2-2 tie March 14 at Newcomb Field as Jose Gonzalez scored with eight minutes remaining to deliver the tie.

A Dobie loss to Sam Rayburn would have given the Texans the 22-5A title.

So at Pearland with everything on the line, the Longhorns struck early and

locked up the win with a dominating effort. Chris Torres (two goals) and Gilbert Tzintzun found the net in the first half as Dobie led 3-0.

In the second half, Nathan Carcamo and Walter Anoruo scored as the Longhorns went on to win.

In soccer standings, teams are granted three points for a win and one point for a tie. No points are awarded or subtracted for losses.

At 10-2-2, Dobie has won the 22-5A title with 32 points. Deer Park and Sam

Continued on Page 6B



Things did not go according to plan for Dobie varsity softball coach Robin Rackley (right) as she has watched her injury-depleted team fall to Memorial in the District 22-5A opener. But catcher Chelsea D'Ambrosio (left) and her teammates quickly got back on track with a 3-1 win over Deer Park in 10 innings March 17.

Third time a charm as Dobie tops Memorial 5-1

The third time was a charm for the Dobie Longhorns' varsity baseball team.

The Longhorns began the District 22-5A race with a 5-1 win over the Memorial Mustangs March 18 at Memorial High School.

It's the third time this season that the Longhorns have beaten the Mavericks, the defending district champions.

The Mavericks have struggled a bit this season, and they have Priest and the Longhorns, at least in large

part, to thank.

In just the second game of the season during the Angleton tournament, Priest pitched into the seventh inning, striking out 10.

Priest did not win that game as the Longhorns let a late lead slip away.

But on March 6 during the Pasadena Independent School District tournament, Priest handcuffed the Mustangs during a 13-1 rout.

In the key 22-5A opener, Dobie head coach Roy Grant went back to Priest a third time. For the third



time, Priest was terrific. The Dobie offense came through with some run support for the right-hander, and Priest handled the rest of the details. The big key?

The Longhorns have op-

Continued on Page 6B

**Dobie vs
S. Houston
March 19, noon
Dobie High School**

**Grant, Horns
get road tests**

Dobie High School varsity baseball coach Roy Grant (left) will lead his team into action March 19 at Dobie against South Houston. Due to the spring break holiday, the game will begin at noon. After that, the Longhorns will face a couple of difficult road games. The Longhorns will play at Deer Park High School March 24 at 7 p.m. On March 27, the Longhorns will travel to La Porte to face the Bulldogs in another key District 22-5A contest. Last season, both Deer Park and La Porte advanced to the playoffs while Dobie stayed home. This time around, the Longhorns are trying to turn the tables.

Photo by John Bechtle

Region 14 softball

San Jac gets Blinn next

The annual spring break hasn't felt like much of a holiday for the San Jacinto College women's softball team as it prepares for a bunch of key games.

Head coach Kelly Saenz had her team on the field at 9 a.m. for workouts in the team's ultra-big Region 14 series against Blinn.

Coming off its first-ever appearance at nationals in 2008, San Jacinto (19-8, 3-1) is the defending regional title-holder. Yet so far this season, Blinn (26-2, 4-0) has clearly been the re-

gion's best.

The Bucs (26-3, 2-0) will host San Jacinto March 19 in a twin bill beginning at 2 p.m. at Hohlt Park in Brenham. Both teams know that a sweep in their favor will be mighty nice.

"This series is definitely going to set the tone for the rest of the conference season," Saenz said. "If we sweep the series, then obviously we are in really good shape moving forward. If we lose both, then I would think we have to

Continued on Page 6B

Clear Brook, Dobie grads ready

Locals aim to help two of nation's best at NCAAs

During the recruiting process that began several years ago, Clear Brook's Kelli Griffin and Dobie's Karima Christmas dreamed of playing big-time college basketball.

With those thoughts in mind, both players went for the gusto on National Signing Day. Both 2007 high school graduates, Griffin chose Baylor University, while Christmas picked Duke.

Both players saw the court sprangly as freshmen in 2007-2008 but had the chance to attend the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

This season, Griffin and Christmas have contributed greatly to the success of their respective teams. With the NCAA championships here again, the former

South Belt area stars are set to hit the stage again.

Duke, which at 26-5 gained one of the nation's four regional No. 12 seeds, will take on No. 16 Austin Peay in the Berkeley Regional that opens March 22 and March 24 at East Lansing, Mich. The Duke-Aus-

tin Peay game will be televised March 22 on ESPN at 1:30 p.m. The Duke-Austin Peay winner will take on either Middle Tennessee State or Michigan State March 24.

Baylor earned a No. 2 seed and will face the University of Texas at San Antonio, a No. 15 seed, March 22 in the Raleigh Regional in Lubbock. That game will be shown on ESPN2 at around 8 p.m.

The Baylor/UTSA winner will play either South Dakota State or Texas Christian University in the round of 32.

NCAA women's basketball tournament

No. 1 seed Duke (26-5) vs. No. 16 seed Austin Peay (17-15)

Berkeley Regional: Sunday, March 22, 1:30 p.m., ESPN

Note: Duke features Karima Christmas, a 2007 Dobie High School graduate. The current sophomore has averaged 7.3 points and 3.9 rebounds for the Blue Devils this season.

No. 2 seed Baylor (27-5) vs. No. 15 seed UTSA (24-8)

Raleigh Regional: Sunday, March 22, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Note: Baylor features Kelli Griffin, a 2007 Clear Brook High School graduate. Griffin, a sophomore, has averaged 6.5 points and 3.8 assists for the Lady Bears this season and has been in the starting lineup lately.

Former Brook star paces San Jacinto College

San Jacinto College sophomore Jasmyne Watson (32) has been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIV women's basketball all-conference honorable mention team. Watson, a 2007 Clear Brook High School graduate, was ranked in five of the eight statistical categories in the league. She averaged 11.1 points per game, ranking in the top 20 in Region XIV. She was second in three point field goals with a 43 percent average and was eighth in field goal percentage. In addition, she was also ranked in free throw percentage (12th) and assists (18th). She played in all 30 games for San Jacinto College after transferring in from Missouri State. Darshell Hatch, of Alvin High School also made the all-regional honorable mention squad.

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Sports news, notes

PISD Quick Start tennis

The Pasadena Independent School District will host its sixth annual tennis program for all third-through sixth-grade students in the PISD system. The Quick Start tennis program is an exciting play format for young students interested in learning more about tennis. The program is designed to bring kids into the game by utilizing specialized equipment, shorter court dimensions and modified scoring, all tailored to age and size. All interested players may contact their physical education teacher at their respective school for registration forms. The cost is \$30, which includes a tennis racket, program T-shirt, water bottle and four instructional lessons. The Quick Start kickoff and packet pickup will be held Saturday, April 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., at Phillips Field House, located at 22906 Dabney. Lesson dates will be April 5, April 19, April 26 and May 3 from 1 to 2 p.m. Lessons will be conducted at Dobie High School and Beverly Hills Intermediate in an effort to accomodate students in the South Belt area.

Atkinson Health/Fitness fair

The Atkinson Elementary physical education department will host a health and fitness fair at the school March 31 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. All students of the school are invited to come and bring their families and friends to participate in the festivities. Some of the activities will include; jump ropes, cup-stacking, jogging, dance, dance revolution and a moon walk. Officials from a local martial arts school will also be on hand for a performance. Inside the school, various vendor booths will include products and services from a variety of health and fitness areas.

Brook football to golf

The Clear Brook High School football booster club will host a fundraiser golf tournament April 4 at Evergreen Pointe Golf Club in Baytown. The tournament, which features an 8 a.m. shotgun start, will include foursomes competing for top honors. Individual players may register for \$100. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward costs associated with the Wolverines' football program. For more information, call Wayne Priestly, booster club vice president, at 832-443-7725.

Ellington Rams to register

The Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League will host registration for returning football players and all drill, cheerleading and mascot candidates March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park. All children registering must bring a copy of their birth certificate to the session.

Sports Calendar

SOCCER
Tuesday, March 24
Bidistrict playoffs, TBA (See page 1B)

TENNIS
Friday, March 27
Dobie varsity at Kemah tourn., all day
Dobie varsity at Hurricane Ike tourn., Galveston, all day

Saturday, March 28
Dobie varsity at Kemah tourn., all day
Dobie varsity at Hurricane Ike tourn., Galveston, all day

SOFTBALL
Saturday, March 21
San Jacinto College hosts Galveston (2), noon/2:00

Sunday, March 22
San Jacinto College at Navarro (2), 1:00/3:00

Tuesday, March 24
Clear Brook varsity hosts Galveston Ball, 7:00
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, 6:30
Clear Brook JV hosts Galveston Ball, 5:30
Dobie JV vs. Pasadena, 5:00

Wednesday, March 25
San Jacinto College at Alvin (2), 1:00/3:00

Thursday, March 26
Dobie at Deer Park JV tourn., TBA

Friday, March 27
Clear Brook varsity at Clear Springs, 7:30
Dobie varsity hosts S. Rayburn, PISD complex, 6:30
Clear Brook JV at Clear Springs, 6:00
Dobie JV hosts S. Rayburn, PISD complex, 5:00

Saturday, March 28
San Jacinto College at Paris (2), 1:00/3:00
Dobie at Deer Park JV tourn., TBA

TRACK AND FIELD
Friday, March 20
Dobie varsity girls at Texas Southern U. relays, all day

Saturday, March 21
Dobie varsity girls at Texas Southern U. relays, all day

BASEBALL
Thursday, March 19
Dobie varsity hosts South Houston, Dobie, noon
Dobie JV vs. South Houston, PISD complex, 7:00
Dobie sophomores vs. S. Houston, PISD complex, 4:00

Friday, March 20
Clear Brook varsity hosts Dickinson, 7:30
Clear Brook JV at Dickinson, 7:00
Clear Brook sophomores at Dickinson, 4:30

Monday, March 23
Dobie JV hosts Deer Park, PISD sports complex, 7:00
Clear Brook JV hosts Brazoswood, 7:00
Clear Brook sophomores host Brazoswood, 4:30

Tuesday, March 24
Clear Brook varsity at Brazoswood, 7:30
Dobie varsity at Deer Park, 7:00
Dobie sophomores host Deer Park, 4:00

Friday, March 27
Dobie varsity at La Porte, 7:00

Saturday, March 28
Dobie JV hosts La Porte, Dobie, noon
Dobie sophomores host La Porte, 4:00

PISD boys' cross country

Bears' 7s are 2nd; Lions finish 7th

In the seventh-grade boys race at the Pasadena Independent School District's cross country championships March 11 at Sam Rayburn High School, San Jacinto possessed the best team.

But the Beverly Hills Bears had two of the top individuals, including overall champion D.J. Jones and third-place finisher Jaylon Johnson. The pair ran exceptionally well to lead the locals.

Jones won the two-mile race in a time of 11 minutes, 27 seconds, leading the Bears to second place. Johnson's time of 11:46 gave him third place in the season finale.

San Jacinto placed its five scoring runners in the top 17 places, winning the meet with a low of 72 points. Beverly Hills was next with 89 points.

BHI boys second
Aside from the stellar performances of Jones and Johnson, the Bears also had several other strong runners.

Juan Tolentino jumped into the scoring mix as he was 18th in a time of 12:28. Josh Sutton captured the 32nd position in a time of 12:54. Beverly Hills' fifth scorer was Jacoby Lewis, whose time of 13:00 placed him 35th.

Eighth-grade girls

BHI claims fourth, Thompson gets seventh

San Jacinto was the class of the eighth-grade girls' field with five runners in the top seven places en route to the Pasadena Independent School District cross country title March 11 at Sam Rayburn High School.

Seventh-grade girls

Lady Bears sweep season

Finishing off an unbeaten season, Beverly Hills' seventh-grade girls' cross country team won the Pasadena Independent School District championship March 11 at Sam Rayburn High School.

BHI 7s are champions
The Lady Bears ran

PISD Cross Country

Seventh-Grade Girls

Intermediate School Championships

Beverly Hills	33
Miller	68
Park View	109
San Jacinto	127
Thompson	132
Bondy	138
Southmore	218
Queens	236
South Houston	284
Jackson	312

PISD Cross Country

Eighth-Grade Girls

Intermediate School Championships

San Jacinto	22
Miller	83
Park View	97
Beverly Hills	107
Bondy	124
Queens	161
Thompson	174
Southmore	226
South Houston	385
Jackson	did not qualify 5

Eighth-grade boys

Fifth place to BHI boys; Thompson is eighth

An under-manned Beverly Hills team captured fifth place at the Pasadena Independent School District's cross country championships March 11 at Sam Rayburn High School.

San Jacinto ran past the competition and scored 23 points to win easily.

The Bears, who had just six athletes complete the two-mile race, took fifth place but wound up just 13 points out of second place.

The Thompson Lions' eighth-grade team was seventh in the final team standings.

BHI places fifth
Adrian Flores and Jose Cabreja finished sixth and seventh, respectively, showing the way as the Bears wound up fifth.

Flores came through with a time of 11:47, 30 seconds off the winning pace set by overall champion Apolinar Peralta of San Jacinto (11:17).

Cabreja ran with Flores to the finish line and was seventh in a time of 11:48.

Adrian Trancoza was the Bears' next-best runner as he was 10th at 11:53.

Donte Norris was next up as he was 31st in a time of 12:24. Damien Miller, who was 69th in a time of 13:22, and Roger Lizama (14:53) also ran well for the Bears.

Lions' 8s are seventh
Thompson's seventh-

Eighth-grade boys

Fifth place to BHI boys; Thompson is eighth

place finish was made possible by the efforts of several, including Manuel Edwards,

All meets at Auxiliary Stadium

Intermediate track/field schedule is set in place

Pasadena Independent School District officials have released the 2009 intermediate school track and field schedule.

Athletes from each of the district's 10 schools will take part in three regular season meets.

Those who qualify by placing well in the regular-season meets will then qualify for the championship meet.

PISD track and field

Intermediate school schedule

April 1 – Girls' regular season meet, 5 p.m.

April 2 – Boys' regular season meet, 5 p.m.

April 8 – Girls' regular season meet, 5 p.m.

April 9 – Boys' regular season meet, 5 p.m.

April 15 – Girls' regular season meet, 5 p.m.

April 16 – Boys' regular season meet, 5 p.m.

April 22 – Girls' & Boys' field event, 5 p.m.

April 23 – Girls' & Boys' running events, 5 p.m.

PISD Cross Country

Seventh-Grade Boys

Intermediate School Championships

San Jacinto	72
Beverly Hills	89
Southmore	90
Queens	102
Bondy	134
Miller	200
Thompson	201
Park View	201
Jackson	267
South Houston	308

PISD Cross Country

Eighth-Grade Boys

Intermediate School Championships

San Jacinto	28
Bondy	110
Queens	118
Southmore	121
Beverly Hills	123
Miller	190
South Houston	192
Thompson	194
Park View	256
Jackson	327

nez (34th at 12:29), Ricardo Mendiola (37th at 12:33), Johnathan Betancourt (43rd at 12:44) and Obed Martinez (54th at 13:04).

Others in the big event for the Lions included Nef-

Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League Weekly Standings

Junior/Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Braves	2	0	0
Astros	2	0	0
Yankees	1	1	0
Cardinals	0	1	0
Rangers	0	1	0
Red Sox	0	2	0

Major Division			
Team	W	L	T
Tigers	2	0	0
Rangers	1	0	0
Cardinals	1	0	0
Astros	1	0	0
Yankees	1	1	0
Red Sox	1	1	0
Indians	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Padres	0	1	0
Pirates	0	2	0

Minor Division			
Team	W	L	T
Rangers	2	0	0
Braves	1	1	0
Red Sox	1	1	0
Tigers	1	1	0
Cardinals	1	1	0
Indians	0	1	0
Astros	0	0	0
Pirates	0	2	0
Yankees	0	2	0

PeeWee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Yankees	2	0	0
Indians	2	0	0
Pirates	1	0	0
Astros	1	0	0
Rangers	1	0	0
Tigers	0	1	0
Cardinals	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Padres	0	2	0
Red Sox	0	2	0

Machine Pitch Division			
Team	W	L	T
Padres	1	0	0
Rangers	1	0	0
Tigers	1	0	0
Pirates	1	0	0
Red Sox	1	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Astros	0	1	0
Yankees	0	2	0

T-Ball Division			
Team	W	L	T
Red Sox	2	0	0
Rangers	2	0	0
Reds	1	0	0
Cardinals	1	0	0
Brewers	1	0	0
Tigers	1	0	0
Dodgers	1	1	0
Astros	0	0	0
Giants	0	1	0
Indians	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Yankees	0	1	0
Pirates	0	2	0
Padres	0	2	0

All-district basketball selections include CB, JFD's best

The area's finest boys' and girls' varsity basketball players were recognized as the head coaches gathered for all-district selections. Many of the award winners in the area came from the winners of those districts. Meanwhile, several of the players who guided their respective teams to the playoffs were also honored.

24-5A girls
Clear Brook did not make

the playoffs in the District 24-5A girls' race, but that didn't keep two players from gaining nomination. Senior and three-year starter Kiara Redmon was named to the first team. Hannah Herring-Black, who started for the Lady Wolverines for two seasons, was given second-team recognition. Former Clear Brook head coach Pamela Crawford, who for two seasons has built the Clear Springs High School program from the ground up, was named coach of the year in 24-5A. Crawford's Lady Chargers' team finished second in the district standings and won a playoff game without a senior on the roster.

District 22-5A girls
Dobie's late-season charge was almost good enough to land the team the district title. A loss to La Porte in the regular-season finale forced a tie between those two teams instead, and Deer Park claimed the championship. Deer Park senior Katie Whitaker, easily the district's top offensive player, was named Most Valuable Player. Theresa White of Deer Park was named as coach of the year. As for Dobie, senior D'mesha Hewitt was selected to the first team along with Shadae Shepherd, a junior. Hewitt and Shepherd played key roles as Dobie won eight consecutive games during the regular season and put itself in position to claim the title. Senior post player Ashley Johnson was named to the second team for the



Aaron Miller, a two-year starter at Clear Brook, gained a first-team nomination in District 24-5A, where his Wolverines finished third.

ford, who for two seasons has built the Clear Springs High School program from the ground up, was named coach of the year in 24-5A. Crawford's Lady Chargers' team finished second in the district standings and won a playoff game without a senior on the roster.

District 22-5A girls
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Lady Longhorns along with Tavaceia Davis, a junior.

24-5A boys
District champion Galveston Ball was the big winner as District 24-5A boys' picks were announced. Senior post Ismael Ruiz was selected as the district's most valuable player, while

the Tors' Gerald Temple was the coach of the year. Clear Brook, which wound up third in the final standings after beating Clear Lake in the regular-season finale, landed seniors Aaron Miller and De'Jon John on the first team. Ricky Jackson, a junior,

was listed on the second team along with senior forward Bimo Ghogomu, who will play at Dartmouth College next season. Miller has yet to decide on a college.

See 22-5A boys' picks in the *Leader's* March 26 issue

22-5A All-District Varsity Girls Basketball Picks

Most Valuable Player

Katie Whitaker, Deer Park

Coach of the Year

Theresa White, Deer Park

Newcomer of the Year

Ashley Adams, South Houston

First Team Members

Tabitha Hawthorne, Deer Park

Shadae Shepherd, Dobie

D'mesha Hewitt, Dobie

Heather Tobeck, La Porte

Christina Gallegos, La Porte

Jessica Gonzalez, Memorial

Isis Wilson, Memorial

Julie Bennett, Pearland

Jasmine Lanier, Pearland

Charlene Umunnakwe, Rayburn

Second Team Members

Ashley DeLaGarza, Deer Park

Jessica Hardcastle, Deer Park

Ashley Johnson, Dobie

Tavaceia Davis, Dobie

Nastacia Hill, Memorial

Lisa Ramirez, Memorial

Candace Riojas, Pasadena

Taylor Garcia, Pearland

Janie Nieto, Rayburn

Casonya Palmer, South Houston

San Jac women's hoops tryouts

The San Jacinto College women's basketball team will host tryouts for the 2009-10 team April 18. Two tryout sessions will be conducted, the first at 10 a.m. and the second at 2 p.m. The sessions are limited to 25 players combined.

Tryouts will take place at Nichols Gymnasium located on the North campus at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston. There is a \$20 processing fee for the tryouts.

Players interested in trying out for the team should call 281-998-6150, extension 7675 or 7107 to reserve a spot, and they must also complete a recruiting questionnaire online at www.sanjacsports.com.

24-5A All-District Varsity Boys Basketball Picks

Most Valuable Player

Ismael Ruiz, Galveston Ball

Coach of the Year

Gerald Temple, Galveston Ball

First Team Members

Tyler Archie, Alvin

Kinney Mouton, Brazoswood

Aaron Miller, Brook

De'Jon John, Brook

Dedrick Archie, Dickinson

Darrell Warner, Galveston Ball

Jacob Horton, Lake

Kyle Ashton, Lake

Anthony Horton, Springs

Trevon Randle, Springs

Second Team Members

Christian Leadon, Alvin

Ladarrin James, Brazoswood

Bimo Ghogomu, Brook

Ricky Jackson, Brook

Denzel Benson, Creek

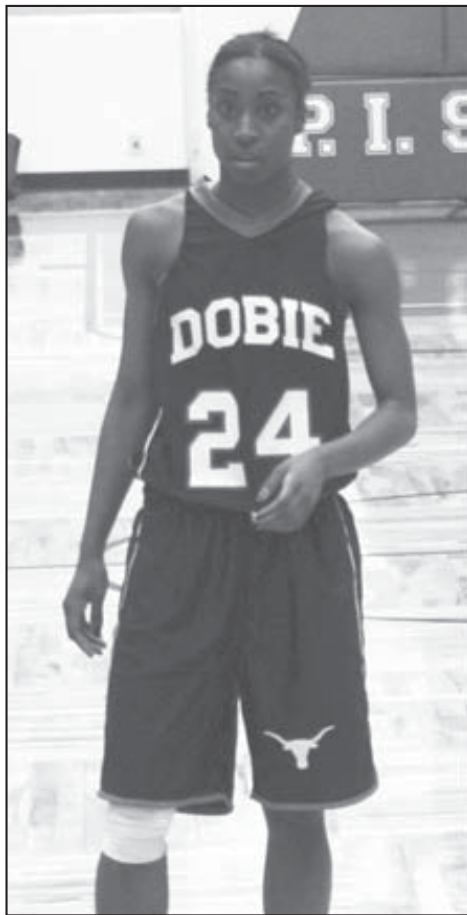
Kenny Harris, Dickinson

Kenneth Jenkins, Galveston Ball

Michael Evans, Galveston Ball

Matt McCollum, Lake

Teris Bourgios, Springs



At right, Dobie's Shadae Shepherd will be one of the district's top returning players in 2009-2010. As a junior this season, Shepherd was a first-team nominee and was among Dobie's leaders in several offensive and defensive categories.



Dobie senior guard D'mesha Hewitt, with basketball, was named to the 22-5A girls' first team after leading Dobie to a second-place tie with La Porte. She will play next season at the University of New Orleans.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19

7 a.m.

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

11:15 a.m.

Texas Southeast Christian Women's Club – Texas Southeast Christian Women's Club, in affiliation with Stonecroft Ministries, hosts monthly luncheons at Golfcrest Country Club from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. The luncheon includes a buffet, an informative program and an inspirational speaker. Cost is \$16 all inclusive. All ladies are welcome, but reservations are necessary. A complimentary nursery is provided. For information, call 281-992-1675 or 281-482-9727.

11:30 a.m.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network – American Business Women's Association-South meets on the third Thursday of each month at Makenzie's Grill, 9330 Broadway in Pearland. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes networking with professional business women, lunch and guest speaker. Women of all ages and occupations are invited. Bring plenty of business cards. Reservations are appreciated. Contact Monica Perez at mlynnperez2002@yahoo.com for reservations, or visit the Web site at www.seen-abwa.org.

Noon

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

5:30 p.m.

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.

6:30 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

Korean War Veteran Association – The Texas Lone Star Chapter meets the third Thursday of each month at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 West Center. For information, call 713-774-3662.

8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

7 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

Free Line Dance Class – The Friendswood Senior Citizen Program offers free line dancing classes.

The class is held at the activity building, located at 416 Morningside. All area senior citizens, 55 or older, are invited. Previous experience not required. For more information, call 281-482-8441.

Noon

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

6 p.m.

Frontier Squares – Meets to square dance at the NASA Gilruth Center on Space Center. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or George Wieland at 281-286-5682, or visit www.frontiersquares.com.

6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Bluegrass Association – Produces a bluegrass music show and jam session the third Saturday of each month. May and December are exceptions. Admission is free. The show is held at the League City Civic Center, 300 Walker. For more information, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

2 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 23

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.

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

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

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 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.

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.

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.

American Begonia Society – Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 303 East Main in League City. For more information, call 281-585-3672.

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.

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

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Soccer playoffs: Brook, Dobie teams in



Lindsey Eikenburg (16) and her Lady Longhorn teammates won't know their playoff seeding until after the final game of the regular season. Dobie is set to host Pearland after press time March 18.

Oops, we made an error

Travis Higgins, a member of the Dobie High School varsity boys' track and field team, was incorrectly identified in the March 12 *Leader*.

Higgins, a junior, claimed fourth place in the

high jump at the Bayshore Olympics in La Porte March 6.

Higgins' fourth-place height of 6 feet, 2 inches is a personal best for him.

The *Leader* apologizes for the error.

Lady Longhorns' tracksters want big-time experience

The Dobie High School girls' track and field program used a great deal of the spring break to gear up for the stretch run.

The varsity team was originally supposed to take part in the Texas Southern University Relays March 20-21, but has dropped out.

Instead, head coach Tina Knight-Gray and her team have opted for a breather with bigger and better things, including the district meet, less than a month away.

Knight-Gray is hoping to qualify several athletes, including the schools' 4x100- and 4x200-meter relay teams, for the Texas Relays, set for April 3-4 in Austin.

The goal, says Knight-Gray, is to give her young team an up-close look at the big time.

Many of the state's top teams will be in attendance at the Texas Relays. But only the best are invited.

Dobie's 4x100- and 4x200-meter relay teams have been dominant this season. Both units have captured top honors at several meets, and medaled at the others.

There is more work to be done, though. "We usually compete in many of the same track meets each season, so our athletes compete against many of the same athletes," Knight-Gray said. "If we can get invited to the Texas Relays, we will truly get a chance to see how we stack up."

In the 4x100-meter relay, Dobie's finest time to date is 48.5 seconds. To qualify for the Texas Relays, the

Lady Longhorns will likely need to run in the 47s at the March 28 Rockhold Relays in Baytown.

At the moment, Dobie's time of 1:42.00 in the 4x200-meter relay is good enough to be included at the Texas Relays, but Knight-Gray wants the group to improve.

Juniors Chili Montgomery, Monique Anderson and Kiara Harris join freshman Charity Knight in the 4x200-meter event.

In an effort to go faster in the 4x100, Knight-Gray has moved Knight into the lineup.

At this time last year, Knight was competing at Beverly Hills Intermediate. She's now being asked to perform at the elite level. Sophomore Tieres Franks, who had been on the 4x100-relay, will be an alternate at Baytown and in Austin.

The Texas Relays will include an upper and lower division, based on previous performances, in the field events.

Knight-Gray is trying to get Ashley Johnson included in the weights, Shadae Shepherd in the long and triple jumps and Montgomery in the high jump.

"Above all, I just want our kids to be able to enjoy the experience," Knight-Gray said. "In that group, only Ashley Johnson is a senior. We still have such a young team with so much potential."

With that in mind, Knight-Gray is realistic. Dobie doesn't have the overall team depth to take out La Porte at district, and

Continued from Page 1B

Rayburn finished with 30 points each. Deer Park advanced in second place in the playoff seedings by virtue of a tie-breaking system. Pearland claimed fourth place in the standings.

Dobie won't have much time to celebrate with the playoffs coming so quickly. But Saavedra is pleased for his team.

"Our guys really deserve to be in this position," said Saavedra, now in his third season.

"They have done everything we have asked them to do and have come up big in some key situations. We had a chance to wrap up district against Sam Rayburn but couldn't do it.

"But to the kids' credit, they came back to tie that game and kept Rayburn from winning district. Against Pearland, they just got the job done."

Dobie certainly did get the job done against Pearland this season. The Longhorns won both District 22-5A games by 5-0 scores.

Brook boys roll on

No team had much success against eventual 24-5A champion Clear Lake, but the Clear Brook Wolverines were clearly the runners-up in the district.

In the regular season final, Brook blanked Alvin 4-0 to finish at 8-2-4.

Head coach Rick Sickmiller still believes the Wolverines could have played with more intensity against some of the teams that eventually finished below them in the standings.

However, Clear Brook came away with the key wins when they were needed.

Sickmiller has now seen five of his last six teams advance to the playoffs. The Wolverines won the 2004 district title with several future college players contributing.

As for this year's crew, the Wolverines excelled because they played as a team sans a standout star. And, the Wolverines won despite battling adversities and distractions that Sickmiller

will not detail further.

"I am real proud of our guys for a lot of reasons," Sickmiller said. "We overcame a lot, and this group really cares."

"My assistant (Chris Stromeier) and I went on a scouting trip to see Hightower play, and a group of our players got together and went over there and met us. They are dedicated and they want to win. It's not often we have had a group this dedicated."

Many players have done a great job. Oliver Mercado, Mark Gendi and Edu Nweze have shared the scoring duties, and Gendi has controlled the midfield. In the back, junior goalkeeper Andrew Sokol played well when he got his chance, and other young players also excelled.

"I think we match up well with Hightower," Sickmiller said.

"If we play up to our capabilities and take care of business, we can make the second round. That would be great for these guys."

Dobie baseball dumps Mavs 5-1

Continued from Page 1B

ened the 22-5A campaign with a win.

Because the Dobie-Memorial game was delayed a day due to wet conditions at Memorial, the Longhorns are now faced with a back-to-back scenario.

The Longhorns will face South Houston March 19 at Dobie High School. The game will begin at noon.

Thanks to the perfor-

mance of Priest against Memorial, Grant can now turn to senior right-hander Daniel Sawyer against the Trojans.

In his last outing, which came March 10 against Humble, Sawyer tossed a no-hitter.

Round Rock washed out

The Dobie varsity baseball team traveled to Round Rock for a tournament there March 12-14 but did not

play a game after the entire tournament was rained out.

Dobie, which went 7-4 during nondistrict play, was scheduled to play state-ranked Coppell in the event but did not get the chance.

"We would have liked to have had a chance to play some of those games," Grant said. "Especially against Coppell. They have about eight Division I signees, so it would have been tough."

eight," Knight-Gray said. "We have done exceptionally well as a group, and I am so proud of these ladies. But our region is loaded.

"To make the final eight at regionals would be great. Then, we have all of next season with these current juniors along with Tiers and Charity."

So down the stretch, the Lady Longhorns are simply going to aim at staying focused and running fast. The team's baton passing has

been good, but the coach insists it can be better. "We meet every week, and I show them the top times in the region and in the state," Knight-Gray said.

"We are close as a group. I consider them like my daughters. I've told them to let me worry about the paperwork and the times, and they can just run."

So far, that process is working well for Dobie. Now the meets are getting bigger.

Clustered slate ahead for San Jacinto

Continued from Page 1B

go back to the drawing board on things."

Of course, no matter the outcome of the San Jacinto-Blinn series, the season will not be considered a success or failure because of that.

The Region 14 season includes 32 games. After playing two against Blinn, the Coyotes will play 26 more.

However, Saenz is undoubtedly correct that the series winner will gain an early upper hand.

Given the goal of the regional race and postseason tournament is to ultimately advance to Utah for nationals, this one is big.

"You can see by Blinn's record (26-3) that they have been consistent all season," Saenz said.

"Their best four hitters are at the top of their lineup, and they like to make things happen early in a game and go from there."

With sophomore pitcher Kelsey McClain in the circle for the first game against Blinn and perhaps again for the second, Saenz is looking to neutralize the Blinn attack.

McClain, who led San Jacinto to nationals last season and will play this fall at McNeese State, is a proven winner in big-game scenarios.

This season, McClain has put together a record of 15-1 with a 1.14 earned run average.

The key is likely to boil down to San Jacinto's ability to score runs against Blinn ace Carley Winkelmann.

Courtney Pettit has been one of the leaders on offense for San Jacinto. Courtney Oliphant has also played well.

Blinn counters with one of the nation's leading hitters, Hannah Schwarz. At .612, Schwarz is ahead of teammate Caley Jeter, who is hitting .596.

Blinn's pitching, or at least quite a bit of it, has been handled by Winkelmann, who is 12-1 with an earned run average of 1.51.

"We have to come out, score some runs and just be consistent," Saenz said. "This team can pitch and play defense against any

team, but at times we have had a little trouble scoring runs. Overall, we are young, but this is the time of the year all of us have been waiting for."

After taking on Blinn, San Jacinto College will return home March 21 to face Galveston in a noon doubleheader at Coyote Field. On March 22, San Jacinto will play Navarro in Corsicana in a doubleheader.

San Jacinto was set to play Angelina at home March 13 in a pair of games. That set was rained out. Instead those games are due to be played April 13.

In short, the Coyotes are scheduled to play 14 games over a 14-day period.

Saenz likes the schedule

the way it is. "With so many games in a time period like that, you can get in a rhythm as players," she said.

"It's a little more difficult on the players because they have to put in the extra work in the classroom, but a lot of our games are on the weekends."

"I just think it's good to be able to get into a flow. You can stay more consistent that way."

And that consistency is exactly what San Jacinto College is looking for as the midway portion of the season nears.

It all starts with Blinn, and as far as the Coyotes are concerned, that's precisely the way they want things to be.

Atkinson students get Olympiad experience



Ten students were picked to represent Atkinson Elementary this school year in the Olympiad 2009, which is a demonstration of physical education skills and activities taught in the Pasadena Independent School District elementary school physical education programs. The Olympiad performance, held at Phillips Field House in Pasadena March 12, involved as

many as 450 students from the district's 34 elementary schools. The fourth-grade students on Atkinson's team were, left to right, (front row) Javier Flores, Hellen Le, Celeste Ontiveros, Nathan Covarrubias, (back row) Macy Williams, Juan Chapa, Alma Gonzalez, Valencia Barrientos, Diego Ortiz and Monserrat Flores.

Softball: Brook girls take crucial 2-1 wins

Quickly coming back from a defeat to open 24-5A play, the Clear Brook varsity softball team seems to be back on track.

Head coach Ashley Pillow was not happy after her team's shaky defense allowed Clear Creek to win the 24-5A opener 5-4.

But the Lady Wolverines have suddenly pleased their coach after back-to-back 2-1 victories over Dickinson and Brazoswood.

The Lady Wolverines had to work overtime to take out Dickinson March 13, winning 2-1 after scoring a run

in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Starting pitcher Jill McGinnis was the winner in the circle as the Lady Wolverines avoided what would have been a tough loss.

Clear Brook struck another big blow in the standings March 17, dealing Brazoswood a 2-1 loss after plating the decisive run in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Emma Napoli earned the pitching win, and Bridgette Begle drove in the game-winner.

The Wolverines played

at Clear Lake March 18 after press time.

On March 24, Clear

Brook will host Galveston Ball at Lady Wolverine Field beginning at 7 p.m.

CB baseball run-ruled

An eight-run fourth inning and two more in the fifth allowed Clear Creek to run-rule Clear Brook 10-0 in five innings March 17.

The Wildcats delivered a rude treatment to the Wolverines in the District 24-5A opener at Clear Creek High School.

Shawn Blackwell struck out nine for the Wildcats, giving up just two hits

along the way. The game was scoreless through three innings before Clear Creek touched Wolverines' starting pitcher Ryan Vrugink for a big inning in the fourth.

A two-run fifth allowed the Wildcats to complete the win.

Brook will try to get back on track March 20, hosting Dickinson at 7:30 p.m.



With one key win over Deer Park March 17 in 10 innings, Amanda Nguyen (left), Chelsea Morgan and their Dobie varsity softball teammates know they have

avoided falling into a rut in the District 22-5A standings. Instead, Dobie has climbed back into the mix among the leaders.

Extra-inning win over Deer Park lifts JFD

Continued from Page 1B

Chelsea Morgan and Kelen Gomez came through with RBI singles against Deer Park ace Brittany Simmons in the top of the eighth inning, lifting Dobie to a 3-1 win March 17 at Deer Park.

The victory was huge in that it came against a Deer Park team that is a bona fide contender in the 22-5A ranks.

More importantly for Dobie, it kept the locals from digging a hole too deep to climb out of in the standings.

"Any time you defeat Deer Park, it's going to give your team some added confidence," Dobie head coach Robin Rackley said.

"They are always tough, and any win is big. Beating them on their field is also huge. At the same time, we have put ourselves back in the mix for one of those four playoff spots. Dropping to 0-2 would have made things a lot tougher."

With 12 more games on the 22-5A schedule, including a March 18 game at La

Porte after press time and a March 19 game versus South Houston at the Pasadena Independent School District's sports complex, the Lady Longhorns still have a lot of work ahead of them.

But at least for one big night in Deer Park, Dobie gained the upper hand. Along the way, so many players contributed something to the win.

The game was scoreless until the top of the seventh inning when Dobie plated a run.

Chelsea D'Ambrosio led off with a single and was replaced by courtesy runner Amy Gallant. Nicole Andrade sacrificed Gallant to second base, and Ariel Morgan drove her home with a key single.

But Dobie could not hold the lead for long. In fact, Deer Park almost broke Dobie's heart much the same way as Memorial had in a 6-3 extra-inning win March 10.

In the bottom of the seventh, Deer Park loaded the

bases against Dobie pitching ace JoJo Krienitz. The Lady Deer eventually tied the game, but Krienitz came up with some big pitches to keep the game tied.

District rules sent the game into the international tie-breaker session in the top of the tenth inning.

Christina Diaz began the frame at second base for Dobie. Ariel Morgan sacrificed Diaz to third base, and Chelsea Morgan scored Diaz with a single for a 2-1 lead. After Shelby Senegal sacrificed Morgan to second base, Gomez banged a single to give Dobie a 3-1 edge.

From there, Krienitz finished off the win for the Lady Longhorns.

The game remained scoreless for six full innings as Kristin Curlin (four innings) and Simmons pitched well for Deer Park. Dobie hit some balls hard against Curlin but could not score.

For Dobie, freshman starter Shannon O'Connor (2 2/3 innings) and sophomore Alyssa Zarate (two

full innings) kept Deer Park off the scoreboard. Krienitz, who entered the game in the fifth inning, was terrific as well as she continues to bounce back from an early-season arm injury.

"I can't say enough about Shannon and Alyssa and their ability to keep us in games as young pitchers," Rackley said. "And our defense made some unbelievable plays. JoJo came through with a great effort for us, and we finally got to Simmons late. What a win for us."

Rackley doesn't make excuses, but the Lady Longhorns have been ravaged by injuries this season.

Krienitz, a four-year starter, is still not back at 100 percent strength but is improving by the day. Outfielder Julie Cross is out for the season with a broken collarbone.

Countless others have nagging injuries, but Dobie pushes on. "This is all going to make us stronger," Rackley said. "We will be right there in the end."

JFD's Moreno honored



Dobie High School tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. was named the 2009 Denene Bammel Coach of the Year by representatives in the Spring Branch Independent School District. Moreno, whose coaching career has spanned 25 years, received his award prior to the SBISD tournament.