

South Belt Leader

Ellington

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Voice of Community-Minded People

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PISD issues warning

The Pasadena Independent School District informs parents of a company claiming to be endorsed by the district to help seniors apply for college aid. According to reports, Benchmark Company based in Irving is making claims to provide aid to those who are applying for college admission. Benchmark is not endorsed by Pasadena ISD.

Davis sets town meeting

State Rep. John E. Davis will hold a Town Hall meeting Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m. in Judge Louie Ditta's courtroom, 16603 Buccaneer. The meeting is open to the public. This is Davis' sixth elected term as state representative for HD 129 which includes portions of the South Belt area. His committee appointments for the 81st Legislative Session include County Affairs and Public Health.

For more information, contact Davis' office at 281-333-1350.

Band BBQ dinner March 26

The Dobbie Longhorn Band will hold a barbecue dinner, concert and silent auction Thursday, March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Bands will perform throughout the dinner. There will be no tickets for dinners available at the door.

Heavy trash scheduled

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

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.

Thompson car wash set

The Thompson Lions eighth-grade class will hold a car wash at Kroger, 11701 S. Sam Houston Parkway, Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to raise money for its dance.

Dance tickets are \$40 and will be available to purchase at the car wash. See Kimberly Campos to purchase tickets. The dance will be held May 30 at The Gardens and includes food, dance and prizes.

Orchestra parents to meet

The Dobbie High School Orchestra Booster Club will hold its next meeting Thursday, April 2, at 7:15 p.m. in the orchestra room. All orchestra parents are encouraged to attend.

Cowboys, Cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys announce the final registration for returning football players has been set for Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Little League Field at El Franco Lee Park.

Returning football players who are not registered after this date will lose their reserved spot on the team. The Sagemont Cowgirls will accept applicants for the 2009 drill and mascot squads at this registration.

A \$50 deposit is required for all football and mascot applicants, and a \$100 deposit is required for all drill applicants. Contact information will also be accepted from new football players. For more information, visit the Web site at www.sagemontcowboys.com.

K of C fish fry at St. Luke's

The Knights of Columbus will serve fried catfish dinners at St. Luke's the Evangelist Catholic Church on March 27 and April 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 11011 Hall Road.

Dinners consist of a large catfish fillet, 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 available for sale. The public is invited. For information, call 281-484-2127.

Church to present tribute

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta, off Edgebrook, will present *Jesus Rocks*, a rock song tribute to Jesus Christ, to be held Saturday, April 4, at 7 p.m. For information, call 713-946-4006.

Legion BBQ April 3 & 4

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

Kirkwood South to meet

Kirkwood South Committee will meet Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom of Judge Delgado located at 10851 Scarsdale.

Pasadena ISD passes RIF resolution

By James Bolen

Due to a looming budget crisis for its 2009-2010 school year, the Pasadena Independent School District approved a reduction in force (RIF) resolution at its March 11 board meeting.

Based on current local and state funding, PISD officials initially projected a deficit of more than \$20 million for the next academic year. The school district has identified almost \$18 million in proposed budget reductions that could include the cut of more than 100 certified personnel positions.

By approving the RIF resolution and officially declaring financial exigency, the district is permitted to terminate employees before their contracts have expired.

"The lack of adequate and equitable state funding for Texas public schools has required districts to make many changes, and Pasadena ISD is no exception," said PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis. "For the past several years, we have been making budget reductions to conserve funds. Unfortunately, the only way left that we have to cut our budget significantly is by reducing personnel costs."

The resolution could affect 42 intermediate school teachers in the district, including four from Beverly Hills and two from Thompson.

An additional 39 high school teachers may be affected, including two from Dobbie, nine from South Houston and five from Memorial.

Potential administrative losses include nine assistant principal positions, one being from Thompson.

The RIF resolution originally included the possible elimination of all of the district's special education facilitators and 10 of its peer facilitators.

The school district has since scrapped such plans in hopes that the federal government's economic stimulus plan will help defray these costs, according to district spokeswoman Candace Ahlfinger.

PISD officials are hopeful most of the positions can be absorbed through natural attrition.

The school district passed a similar resolution in March 2003 when planning for its 2003-2004 budget. Of the original 113 potential personnel losses, only 57 employees' contracts were not renewed.

Lewis is optimistic the state will alter its current public school finance schematic to prevent any of the possible personnel cuts.

"We also hope that the state will make changes in the funding formula that will make all reductions in force unnecessary because every position that was created helps to improve our students' education either directly or through the support of our staff," he said. "Unfortunately, changes in state funding are not going to be made until after we are required to take steps to prepare a balanced budget for the next year."

The superintendent is also encouraged by the recent economic stimulus plan.

"We are also working with the stimulus package to see if funding comes through and,

if so, where we can best utilize those funds to reinstate positions that we initially planned to eliminate," he said. "Our goal is to do what is best for our kids."

Groundbreaking for new library



Groundbreaking for the new City of Houston Bracewell Library took place Monday, March 23. The ceremony occurred 39 years to the day that the original location opened, despite earlier reports based on city records that stated the previous building was 45-years-old. Construction of the facility, located at 9002 Kingspoint, is due to be complete by the end of the year. Pictured above are, left to right, Director of General Services Issa Dadoush, Eli Tankley, Houston Public Library Director Rhea Brown Lawson, David Wasson, City Councilman Mike Sullivan, Bill Edwards and Rosemary Carraway. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Two dead bodies found in car

Two dead bodies were found in a car Thursday, March 19, at a Gulf Freeway strip center located between Almeda Mall and Fuqua.

DeAndre Goodson, 23, and his cousin Joseph Bivens, 19, of Missouri City had been missing since Monday, March 16.

Houston police had been dispatched to the scene near Fuqua to investigate a report of a

suspicious vehicle in the parking lot.

Upon their arrival, officers found one of the bodies in the back seat of the car that belonged to Bivens. The second body was found in the trunk of the vehicle.

At press time, the cause of death was unknown. Anyone with information on this incident is urged to call 713-222-TIPS.

Proposed low-income apartment complex concerns many

The proposed construction of a low-income apartment complex on Dixie Farm Road has many area residents concerned.

If approved by City of Houston officials, the 148-unit Dixie Gardens will be located between the east side of the College Place subdivision and Lutheran South Academy.

While the developer has applied to the State of

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, an application to the City of Houston Department of Housing and Community Development has yet to be filed. If given the green light by the city, a subsequent public hearing will be required.

Residents opposed to the construction of the complex are concerned about added traffic on

Dixie Farm Road and additional students attending local schools.

Another concern is the high concentration of other low-income apartment complexes already in the area. There are currently eight government-subsidized apartment complexes between Almeda Mall and Dixie Farm Road.

A possible increase in crime is also a factor

worrying many opponents of the proposed complex. In 2007, the low-income Highland Meadow Village apartment complex had five times more calls for police and ambulance service than local single-family residences, according to Chris Clark, manager of the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District.

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Area theft, drug possession arrests made by Pct. 2 officers

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office have remained vigilant battling crimes ranging from theft to drug possession.

On Sunday, March 22, Deputy Jason Curry was dispatched to a domestic disturbance call at 7 p.m. in the 10900 block of Sageyork.

Upon his arrival, Curry discovered the complainant, Elizabeth Llamas, had an outstanding warrant for theft.

Llamas, 21, was subsequently arrested.

The previous week, Curry stopped a vehicle at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the intersection of Riverstone Ranch and Blackhawk on a routine traffic stop.

The deputy reported the driver of the car, Rene Guerrero, appeared to be nervous and acting suspiciously. Curry asked permission to search Guerrero's vehicle, to which he consented.

A search of the car yielded a bag of white powder that tested positive for cocaine.

Guerrero, 36, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Deputy Raymond Deleon responded to an incident Saturday, March 21, at 3 p.m. in front of Harris County Parker Williams Branch Library where a man was described as acting in an "irate" manner.

Deleon witnessed the male, Phillip Yruegaz, throw a bicycle on the ground in anger.

As the deputy attempted to arrest Yruegaz for disorderly conduct, the suspect resisted. Yruegaz,

27, was then arrested and charged with both disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Two days later on Monday, March 23, Deleon was dispatched at 5:30 p.m. to a shopping center in the 10900 block of Scarsdale where a man was described as being highly intoxicated.

The suspect, described as a Hispanic male in his early 30s, had no identification and was unable to speak with the deputy. The man was arrested for public intoxication and taken to the Harris County Jail.

New EFL community center caters to seniors

After a few delays, the new community center at El Franco Lee Park has officially opened its doors.

Located at 9400 Hall Road, the facility caters

to area seniors and local nonprofit groups.

Funded as a county improvement project, the facility cost roughly \$4 million to construct. The 10,000-square-foot building features a 150-per-

son-capacity meeting room with full audio and video, including a 20-foot screen

Several area homeowners associations and youth sports groups have already made arrange-

ments to utilize the new center. There is no charge for use of the meeting room as long as the group falls within the nonprofit guidelines and group-size stipulations.

The South Belt chapter of AARP held its first meeting at the center Friday, March 13.

For more information, call 281-464-9708.

South Belt water to be temporarily altered for 30 days

Residents in the South Belt area may soon notice a temporary difference in their water.

To maintain the water quality throughout the city and in the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District distribution system, there will be a modification in the disinfection process used in areas served by the Southeast Water Purification Plant which serves the entire South Belt area.

Chris Clark, manager of the CBCMUD, explained the process which includes not only the CBCMUD, but the entire South Belt area.

Typically, chlorine in combination with ammonia (chloramination) is used by the utility for water system disinfection.

For approximately a five-week period, beginning April 1, and ending May 1, CBCMUD and the City of Houston will be using chlorine without ammonia.

This method of free chlorine disinfection is somewhat stronger and will provide greater protection of the finished water quality.

This temporary change in the treatment process is standard water utility industry practice performed in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has been consulted and has approved this method for routine maintenance of potable water distribution systems.

Customers may notice a slight chlorine taste

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Don't have to visit the hill country



It is not necessary for area residents to make the journey to the hill country to see bluebonnets, as the state flower of Texas has been spotted locally. The flowers above can be seen along the South Belt Hike and Bike trail on Blackhawk.

Photo by Sagemeadow resident Christa Kaiser

St. Luke's to bless grounds for new church property

By James Bolen

The Catholic Community of St. Luke's the Evangelist will hold a celebratory blessing of its new property on River Ranch Road at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

The area church has outgrown its current 4.5-acre location at 11011 Hall Road.

When the church first formed in 1975, parishioners worshipped at Thompson Intermediate School, then referred to as "St. Thompson."

Before moving to its present location in 1978, the church had 500 registered families. It now has more than 3,400 registered families and more than 12,000 individuals.

The church has now begun a multiyear capital campaign to raise funds to construct a new campus on 20 acres of property located off Blackhawk.

Attendees at the blessing are urged to bring two gallons of water. The water will be blessed during a short prayer service. At the end of the service, everyone will be invited to disperse and pour out one of the gallons on the property, thus blessing the church's future location.

The other gallon can be taken home to be used for a family home blessing.

Prekindergarten students from the church will also be planting flowers at the service.

Readers' Opinions

What would you do differently?

I see so many people criticizing President Obama. He has been in office going on 8 weeks now and all people can do is find fault. He's the "teleprompter President", like presidents before him never used a teleprompter when making speeches. There are less than creative nicknames like "Pee-BO" and just plain "B.O." because, why show respect for the President? Apparently he is on track to eliminate term limits and turn our Democracy into a "Socialist regime" right after banning all guns and legalizing late-term abortions. And "Joe 6-pack" doesn't realize that is what's going on because the Media is in the pocket of the left and bows down when Mr. Obama passes by. The President has been in office going on 8 weeks and he has made (or is planning on making) a lot of changes. First priority has been the economy. To the critics, what would you have done better? A stimulus package that was roughly half tax cuts and half spending was passed. But since the economy isn't fixed yet it's obviously not working. Nevermind that he has said many times that this is a situation that will take YEARS to fix and it's been 4 weeks. He wants to reform healthcare and social security so that we can actually pay for them instead of more and more borrowing. He wants to bring us home from a war (Iraq) that has cost hundreds of billions of dollars, and focus on a war against the people who actually attacked us (The Taliban in Afghanistan).

So I ask you, what would you be saying were John McCain in office? He certainly would have passed a "Bailout" package seeing as how he suspended his campaign to help with the first one late last year. The difference would have been it would have had Republican support and been filled with more tax cuts and less spending. But you can bet spending would have been included. Would there have been a visible change within 4 weeks of passing the bill?

I ask, where has the patience of the American people gone? Along with patience, where is the due diligence and responsibility? The economic situation is something that was years in the making, no matter who people try and place blame on. The Federal Budget that was just passed contained earmarks (or pork) from BOTH republicans AND Democrats (with 6 out of the top 10 "earmarkers" being Republican) that amounted to a scant 2% of the budget. Although we all like tax cuts, how can we pay for the government (which includes police, teachers, and firefighters to name a few) if everyone is paying less and less taxes? President Clinton raised taxes and created 21 million jobs in 8 years.

So, before you criticize the President for doing things he hasn't done yet or is "rumored" to do, (if you believe the far right), give the changes he has made a chance to work. "Rumors" aren't fact and I would pay attention to who is spreading them. The American people will make a change of their own in 2 years if this President can't deliver on his promises.
Beverly Wall

Morris MS chosen for tree program

Houston's own Morris Middle School was selected among only 13 nationwide sites to be a part of the Arbor Day Foundation and the Home Depot Foundation's national "Trees for Success" tree planting program. The school will receive 75 trees, which will be planted by students, teachers and volunteers on Tuesday, March 31.

Morris Middle School lost several of its trees during Hurricane Ike in 2008. These newly planted trees will help replace those lost as well as provide much needed shade for portable classrooms on campus. The school plans to use these trees to emphasize Arbor Day and Earth Day as well as impress upon the students the impact of Ike on the local trees and environment.

Please join Morris Middle School and local community volunteers at the dedication ceremony and at 10 a.m. followed by some tree planting fun. A representative from the Arbor Day Foundation will be available for interviews.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at amy@iandocom.com or call 512-288-4054.

Thanks so much,

Amy Gryll

Reams: Bloodless coup, take two

Pseudo-intellectuals like to use big words to impress, dazzle and confuse; to distract from the intentions and facts of a discussion. The elitists, Mr. Obama included, does that daily and I have a critic who employs the same tactic. All critics are welcomed.

In a previous Letter to the Editor I called Mr. Obama a Marxist. I used three paragraphs to enumerate twenty-five separate points to make my case. My critic responded with six paragraphs to refute my use of one word, twice. Essen-

tially he said my use of the term Marxist to describe Mr. Obama was my opinion, nothing more. He is correct, but he completely missed the point of my letter, ignoring those twenty-five points as "other incongruous remarks." Contrary to his comment that I began my letter stating Mr. Obama instigated a "bloodless Marxist coup," I ended my letter with that term.

My critic admits there are variations of Marxism. He listed a few. There must be a hundred variations. Mr. Marx's original intent (although he contradicted himself in his own writings) was Orthodox or Classical Marxism. This was a classless society where there was no government; anarchy. Everyone's own labor was valued at what he produced for himself; no profit; no competition; only cooperation. All goods and resources are socially owned. We would arrive at this condition through a revolutionary overthrow of the government and private industry. Life would be similar to a prehistoric lifestyle of a 10,000 years ago.

Mr. Obama probably does NOT follow this version of Marxism. Evolutionary Marxism, also synonymous with various forms of Socialism and Communism, removed the violent overthrow in favor of change (evolution) on a gradual basis. It still replaces capitalism and private ownership with social ownership but you do have a government. It's like "change we can believe in," my use of the term "bloodless" coup, and the other twenty-four points I mentioned. All blurred variations of Marxism, or Socialism, or Communism nonetheless.

"From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." (Karl Marx, Marxist) "Spread the wealth around" and, take from taxpayers who pay their own mortgages and give to non-taxpayers who do not pay their own mortgages. (Barack Obama, Marxist, Socialist, Communist) If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and acts like a duck, it's probably a duck.
Larry Reams

Dobie band parents meet April 6

The Dobie Band Parent Organization will meet Monday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All band parents are urged to attend.

Library events scheduled

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

Movie Madness is Thursday, March 26 and April 2 at 4 p.m. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for feature title.

The Friends of the Parker Williams Library will hold a used book sale Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Free income tax assistance is available every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until April 14. Call the library at 281-484-2036 for more information.

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.

Dobie 10-year reunion set for June 20

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 dobie_classof99reunion@gmail.com or visit the Web site at www.dobieclassof99reunion.webs.com. Also visit the MySpace group at http://groups.myspace.com/dobie_classof99reunion.

Area water will be altered

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or odor in the tap water for a short period during the change.

Typically, within a day or two after the change, no objectionable conditions should be present.

"The CBCMUD water will remain safe to drink, to use for cooking, to bathe in and for other everyday uses," said Clark.

However, users of home kidney dialysis machines, owners of tropical fish aquariums and managers of stores and restaurants with fish and shellfish holding tanks are advised that the methods for testing and removing free chlorine residuals differ from

those used for chloramines aquatic animals if not treated properly. "We encourage

residuals. Both types of residuals customers who may be affected by this change to kidney dialysis machines and seek advice from their professionals," said Clark.

Dobie Spanish Credit by Exam March 28

Dobie High School will offer Spanish Credit by Exams Saturday, March 28, as follows:

Spanish Level I - 9 to 10:15 a.m.

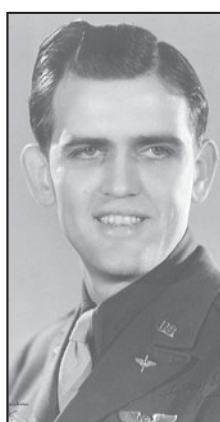
Spanish Level II - 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

There is no cost and applications may be picked up from the Dobie Counseling Office or any Spanish teacher at Dobie. They must be completed and returned no later than Friday, March 27.

The exam cannot be taken for a Spanish class that a student is currently enrolled in.

Deaths

Theodore Arnold Unruh



Theodore "Ted" Arnold Unruh, 89, died Saturday, March 21, 2009.

Unruh was a decorated pilot during World War II. His passion was flying planes. He knew a lot about them by listening to their sound.

Unruh met his wife and married her 11 days later. They were married 67 years.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Unruh; daughter Dixie Unruh Melillo; his "like a son" Ralph Melillo, wife Rita and their daughter, Alyssa; grandchildren Ralph Melillo, Anthony Melillo, Justin Unruh, Carrie Porter and husband Bill, Justin Tarr, Dixie Jacob and husband Chad, Beau Unruh, and Jonnie Unruh; and great-grandchildren Lacey Melillo, Barbie Melillo, Eddie Melillo, Amanda Melillo, Theodore Melillo, Nicho-

las Melillo, Anastasia Melillo, Sidney Porter, Leizer Porter, Will Porter, Annie Porter and Braslyn Jacob.

Unruh is preceded in death by his son, Gregory Unruh.

Unruh last visited the South Belt area on Feb. 10 when the Dixie Melillo Middle School was dedicated.

A celebration of Unruh's life was held Monday, March 23, at Fairmont Funeral Home Chapel in Pasadena. Burial followed at Grandview Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to The Rose Breast Center, 12700 North Featherwood, Suite 260, Houston, TX 77034.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.FairmontFH.com.

Federal, state officials at work

Transportation committee hears road finance bills

With Texas expected to nearly double its population in the next 25 years, transportation needs and funding have taken prominent positions in the last few legislative sessions. This session is no different, and members of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee recently considered

several bills dealing with transportation funding.

Committee member Sen. Robert Nichols of Jacksonville said at the meeting that the Legislature must act to fix the transportation funding system in Texas. "We have got an incredible transportation problem, particularly in the urban areas," he said.

"I know that many of us, for years, have tried to figure out when the Legislature is actually going to step up and try and come up with something to come up with the revenue to help resolve that." The bills considered at the meeting look to accomplish that goal.

Sen. John Carona of Dallas laid out a plan to give counties the authority to raise funds for various transportation projects, subject to voter approval. SB 855 would permit large metropolitan county commissioners courts to hold local option elections to create special fees dedicated to funding a variety of transportation projects, including highway projects, bridges and mass transit. The ballots in these elections would have to list each project under consideration, its cost and projected completion date.

Money earned from fees could only go toward transportation projects, and county courts would have discretion to waive or lower fees for economically disadvantaged citizens.

Carona said that given the contentious nature of transportation funding, his bill has appeal because of its transparency. "There are very few things that we can do that we can garner political support for in sufficient amounts to make a meaningful difference," he said. "This, I believe, is one responsible way to get there, because it is voluntary and it does allow voter involvement."

As considered before the committee, the bill would relate only to the 12 county North Texas area in and around the Metroplex, as well as Bexar and Travis counties, but Carona did say that Houston and El Paso officials have expressed interest in joining in.

The Senate passed several bills, and one of these would increase penalties for illegally parking in a handicapped spot. SB 52, by Laredo Sen. Judith Zaffirini, would raise the fine for first time offenders from a maximum of \$500 to a maximum of \$750. The fines would increase for subsequent offenses and would add community service

for multiple offenders, up to \$1,100 fine and 50 hours of community service for a fourth offense. The Senate also granted tentative approval to a bill that would create a needle-exchange program for syringes used for illegal drugs. Bill author Sen. Bob Deuell of Greenville argued on the floor that Texas is the only state that prohibits such programs. His bill, SB 188, would permit certain organizations to operate needle-exchange programs, as well as provide education on prevention of communicable diseases and substance-abuse treatment. Deuell, who is a practicing family physician, said these programs have been proved to reduce transmission of diseases such as HIV and hepatitis. The controversial Voter ID bill received final passage recently. This bill will now head to the House.

Economic Alliance finds success in 2008; looks forward to 2009

The Economic Alliance Houston Port Region found continued success of its programs in 2008, and in the words of Chairman Jim Gilbert, looks to 2009 as "positioned to provide a positive impact for continued economic growth and vitality for the area."

The alliance is funded by 12 chambers of commerce; Harris County; the Port of Houston Authority; private sector members; the cities of La Porte, Shoreacres, Morgan's Point, Pasadena, South Houston, Deer Park, Baytown, Seabrook, Pearland, Galena Park, Baytown and Jacinto City; as well as the communities of Channelview, Sheldon, South Belt-Ellington and North Shore. Since early 2004, the alliance has helped bring some \$300 million of capital investment to the area.

Alliance President and CEO Jan Lawler notes that 2008 marked "a pivotal point in our organization's evolution to more effectively fulfill our mission. Five years ago, in 2004, we embarked on a focused path developed by our board of community and business leaders. Together, we energetically revised our bylaws and organizational structure; changed our name and image; established new goals, strategies, systems and processes; recruited vibrant talent; grew business development; built content-expert coalitions; and coordinated public policy education focused upon our economic development goals.

"The results, in terms of both capital investments and jobs - have not gone unnoticed. We were honored in 2008 by the Texas Economic Development Council, as the recipient of their Economic Excellence distinction award. And we were also awarded a statewide Best Practices Award in the area of workforce development.

"This recognition gives us added confidence in our programs and our efforts, as we work hand in hand with our area communities to face the challenges of a continued post-Ike redevelopment and the impact locally of a worldwide economic downturn." Highlights for the alliance for 2008 include, as Gilbert reports, "a growing member-

ship count and, along with it, an expanded wealth of volunteer talent; a significant grant from the Port of Houston in excess of \$1.1 million to study and coordinate the growing transportation requirements for the area; and a Shell Oil Company contribution of \$500,000, aimed at supporting the growing activities of the Project Stars program.

"Through Project Stars," Gilbert continued, "the rich and colorful history of our great state is dramatically displayed for all to see within the San Jacinto Historic District, which encompasses the boundaries of the alliance. The continuing development of the Project Stars program is an indication that the vision of Harris County Precinct 2

Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia and our President and CEO Jan Lawler is coming to fruition."

In the wake of Hurricane Ike and the subsequent devastation experienced by many area residents and businesses, alliance officials joined with the Small Business Development Center at San Jacinto College and SBA to help those impacted get back on their feet as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The alliance continues to provide office space for SBA representatives at its headquarters in La Porte, and numerous residents and business owners have thus been able to find the help and support they need.

As a fitting toast to 2008, the alliance hosted its annual

Business Excellence Awards Gala on the shores of Galveston Bay, inside the beautiful new cruise terminal operated by the Port of Houston Authority at its Bayport Container Terminal complex.

The event included awards presented to 15 champions of small and minority-owned businesses, and awards as well to the businesses of the year from each of the communities represented by the alliance. Also, former Chairman Thane Harrison received the 2008 Visionary Award.

The alliance has a redevelopment plan that now enjoys a five-year record of success and a growing membership anxious to participate in its effort of marketing and growing this vibrant regional

economy. Programs aimed at promoting business retention, marketing the strengths and opportunities of the region, and enhancing the image and aesthetics of that same region will continue as will efforts to educate policy makers about the region's economic development projects and programs and issues of benefit to the Port Region communities.

The Economic Alliance provides economic development services and is funded by 12 chambers of commerce; Harris County; the Port of Houston Authority; private sector members; the cities of La Porte, Shoreacres, Morgan's Point, Pasadena, South Houston, Deer Park, Baytown, Seabrook, Pearland,

Galena Park, Baytown and Jacinto City; as well as communities of Channelview, Sheldon, South Belt-Ellington and North Shore. Since early 2004 until the current time, the alliance has helped bring approximately \$300 million of capital investment to the area. The Economic Alliance Houston Port Region is also known for its quality of life urban revitalization master plan, named Project Stars(tm), which has been championed by mayors of the port region, Harris County Pct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia and many others.

For more information about the economic development services, contact CEO Jan Lawler at 281-867-1112 or visit the Web site at www.allianceportregion.com.

Scarlet Southern Belles attend luncheon



The Red Hat Society's Scarlet Southern Belles Queen Mother Charline Knox held a Mardi Gras luncheon at Brady's Landing recently. The Scarlet Southern Belles have 43 members in its group, which is 5 years old. The Red Hat Society is a national organization that does many things and visits interesting places. Members attending the Mardi Gras luncheon are, left to right, (front row) Knox, Barbara Digges, Jackie Leftwich, Carol Yeane, Pat Richardson, Barbara Strong, Carol Cannon, (middle row) Joan

Buerkle, Dee Pouzar, Erma Coskey, Mary Hackward, Claudia Wooley, Ellie Melanson, Queen guest Kathy Hausan, Queen Kelley Smith (Pink Hatter guest), Marlette Reed, (back row) Eileen Gadin, Lois Seeley, Norma Barton, Carol Groff, Shanon Miller (Pink Hatter guest), Pat Eubands, Joe Hartnett, Jean Bonds, Carol Jenkins and Gladys Viktorin. Not pictured is Nancy Owen. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at Brady's Landing. Photo submitted

Hutchison secures \$15 million for Houston METRO

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-TX, Texas' senior senator, recently announced the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill includes \$15 million that she secured for Houston METRO. The legislation provides full-year funding for various government departments, agencies and priority programs.

"As Houston's population and economy continue to thrive, it is essential that METRO's rail and bus rapid transit system expand to keep Houston's citizens moving and its economy growing," said Hutchison.

Houston Metro will utilize the funding as part of a comprehensive transit system plan to help solve the region's traffic congestion and air quality problems.

As part of the plan, the funding will continue im-

plementation of the rail transit plan approved by Harris County voters in November 2003.

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

BHI Science Night a success

Science Family Fun Night was a huge success at Beverly Hills Intermediate. Parents and students were able to enjoy an array of activities. A few featured events are shown below. Other events included Wii, science demonstrations, chemical "fireworks," a colorful lab on the effects of hot and cold, Powerpoints, a book fair and door prizes.



Teacher David Hastings demonstrates a "magic book" to onlookers, mother Toni Blackwell, and students Clyde and Dessarae Blackwell.



Also enjoying making slime are (left) Zachary Trahan and (right) Robert Vargas.



Mother Sandra Rule and student Zee Rule make colorful, slippery slime in Diane Hallman's class.



Roderick Russell, Isaiah Wallace and Shondrell Wallace enjoy hot dogs, chips and drinks in the cafeteria.

Local resident attends program on advocacy

Stuart Stromeier of Clear Creek Independent School District was among a group of school board members gathering in Corpus Christi recently to learn the latest on brain research and futurist studies and how those trends have implications for educators. Session theme for this, the third of five training sessions of Leadership TASP (LTASP), was "Where Leadership Happens through Becoming an Agent for Change."

Trustees began activities by attending sessions at the Winter Governance and Legal Seminar, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB).

Training focused on critical issues facing local districts and legislative updates. LTASP participants also presented preliminary findings from their ongoing study of school finance.

Later, trustees toured the Driscoll ISD campus, a small rural south Texas K-8 school district noted for its innovative reading program and success with students with limited English language skills.

Debbie Estes, the keynote speaker, is a former teacher and administrator who founded her own firm that specializes in training business and education sectors. In her presentation she demonstrated how to create an atmosphere for optimal learning for students and adults.

The next day, Dave Zach explored "An Educator's Guide to the Future." Zach is a futurist who has worked with more than 1,300 corporations, colleges and associations, offering insights on the personal and professional effects of strategic trends. He currently teaches future studies at the University of Wisconsin.

The day also included a tour of Corpus Christi ISD's celebrated Moody High School Health and Science Academy.

The final day's speaker was Denver's Debra Fine, bestselling author and regular guest on NBC's *Today*. Fine's presentation taught trustees the art of using small talk to become an expert communicator.

Selected by TASB, the group of 31 trustees is participating in a year-long education leadership study program. The Leadership TASP class of 2009 represents Texas school districts of all sizes, with student populations of



nized experts in the fields of leadership development and education.

Teams also work on extended learning assignments between meetings throughout the year. Created in 1993, Leadership TASP has almost 450 graduates to date. Program sponsors include Lineberger Goggan Blair &

Sampson, LLP.

TASB is a voluntary, non-profit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve approximately 4.7 million public school students.

SoHo '69 reunion set

The 1969 graduating class of South Houston High School will celebrate its 40th-year reunion Oct. 16-17, 2009.

On Friday evening, an informal gathering will be held in the lounge at the Hilton Hobby Hotel.

Saturday, guests are invited to the Wings and Wheels event at Hobby Airport at 10 a.m.

Saturday evening, a dinner/dance celebration will be held at 7 p.m. at the Moody Ballroom at the Hilton Hobby Hotel.

Visit the class Web site at http://www.classreport.org/usa/tx/so_houston/shhs/1969/ for more information.

Sen. Hutchison secures \$34.4 million for Houston, Galveston area projects

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas' senior senator, recently announced the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill includes \$20.7 million in construction funding that she helped to secure for the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels and \$13.7 for the operation and maintenance of the Houston Ship Channel. The legislation provides full year funding for various government departments, agencies, and priority programs.

cargo travel through our shipping channels each year," said Hutchison. "This funding will help expand the flow of goods and boost our economy by making the channels more navigable."

The funds will be used to maintain the Houston Ship Channel at its authorized depth and to establish placement sites for dredge material. Funding will also be used to make improvements to the Galveston Ship Channel.

Though Hutchison is pleased that she was able to

secure significant funding for many deserving projects in Texas, she voted against the final bill due to the fact that it grew by more than 8 percent compared to FY '08 levels, including duplicative and unnecessary spending on 122 projects and agencies recently funded by the stimulus bill.

At a time when American families are facing tough economic decisions, she believes Congress should show spending restraint. Hutchison introduced an amendment that would have

sent the Omnibus back to the Appropriations Committee to reduce the bill to the overall spending level approved by Congress in Fiscal Year 2008, with adjustments for inflation.

While the measure would not have dictated how the Omnibus funding was redistributed to meet the FY 2008 level, the amendment would have required offsets from accounts that have already been funded in the recently-passed stimulus bill. Hutchison's motion failed to pass by a vote of


40-55.

"My amendment would have told the American people that Congress is ready to show fiscal responsibility," said Hutchison. "While I'm disappointed that the Senate was unwilling to make modest, common sense cuts and do away with billions of dollars of wasteful, duplicative spending, I worked hard on the Appropriations Committee to ensure as many meritorious Texas projects as possible were able to receive federal funding."

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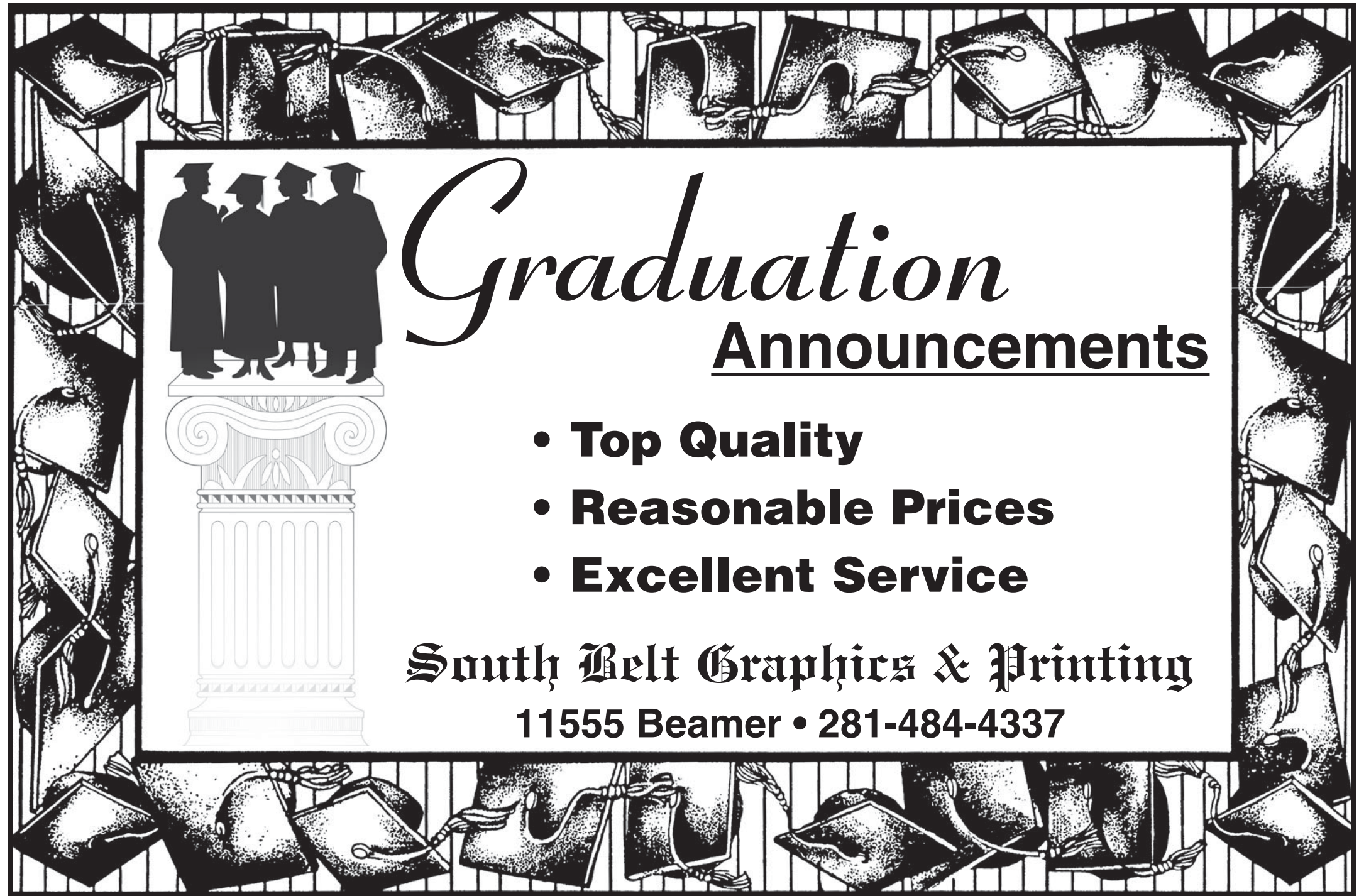
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Frazier scholarships offered

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.

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 MONSTERS VS. ALIENS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) (10:00 @ \$9), 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25, 12:55

DIGITAL 3D
MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) (11:25 @ \$8), 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25, 11:55

12 ROUNDS (PG-13) (10:00, 11:15 @ \$9), 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:10, 8:15, 9:50, 10:50, 12:40

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13) (10:10, 11:10 @ \$9), 12:10, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:10, 7:05, 8:10, 9:10, 10:05, 11:10, 12:10, 12:55

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) (10:25, 10:55, 11:55 @ \$9), 12:55, 1:25, 2:25, 3:25, 3:55, 4:55, 5:55, 6:25, 7:25, 8:25, 8:55, 9:55, 10:55, 11:25, 12:25

3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLICITY (PG-13) (10:50 @ \$9), 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (10:05, 11:20 @ \$9), 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:15, 8:20, 9:45, 10:45, 12:15

KNOWING (PG-13) (10:15, 11:30 @ \$9), 1:05, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40, 12:30

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (7:45, 10:20, 12:50)

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (11:05 @ \$9), 1:35, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15, 11:45

MISS MARCH (R) (10:10 @ \$9), 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:50, 10:00, 12:05

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (11:00 @ \$9), 12:05, 1:20, 2:30, 3:40, 4:50, 6:05, 7:20, 8:30, 9:35, 10:55, 11:50

WATCHMEN (R) (10:45 @ \$9), 12:20, 2:05, 3:50, 5:40, 7:35, 9:00, 11:05, 12:25

FIRE UP (PG-13) 5:20, 10:10, 12:25

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (10:10 @ \$9), 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:05, 9:20, 10:35, 11:40, 12:55

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) 12:40, 2:50

FRIDAY THE 13TH (2009) (R) 4:20

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (10:30 @ \$9), 1:30, 6:30

TAKEN (PG-13) (11:00 @ \$9), 1:15, 3:35, 6:20, 8:35, 10:50, 12:55

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) 5:40

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (10:40 @ \$9), 1:00, 3:20

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) (10:05 @ \$9), 12:15, 2:20, 4:25, 6:35, 8:50, 11:15

THE CROSS (PG) (10:35 @ \$9), 12:50, 3:30, 5:50, 8:05, 10:15, 12:35

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (11:35 @ \$9), 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20, 12:55

GRAN TORINO (R) (10:00 @ \$9), 7:30

Close Captioning - Descriptive Video Service - SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT - No passes or discount coupon

Over The Back Fence by Jan

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR ALEXYS

Alexys Vela turned 7 years old on March 21. Her family would like her to know they are very proud of the young lady she is becoming. Happy birthday is sent from proud parents mommy **Kristi Gartman**, daddy **Frank and Addison Vela** of Sagemeadow; Grammy **Karen**, Pop **Donald** and Aunt **Kelli Gartman** of Sagemeadow; Nana **Teresa** and Pop-Pop **Jesse Garcia** of Pasadena; and the rest of Alexys' family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUDGE DELGADO! South Belt's justice of the peace, Judge **Jo Ann Delgado**, celebrates a birthday Thursday, March 26. Best wishes for a wonderful day are sent from the *Leader* staff.

DON TURNS THE BIG 5-0! Don Gartman of Sagemeadow celebrates his birthday March 28. Congratulations on not only turning 50, but achieving a lifelong dream of acquiring a pilot license. Best wishes and love are sent from **Karen and Kelli Gartman, Kristi (Gartman), Frankie, Alexys and Addison Vela**, and all of his family and friends.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 26 through April 1.

Burnett Elementary
On March 27, **Debbie Ramm** celebrates a birthday. The day for a birthday party for **Pamela Finklea** is March 30.

Bush Elementary
On March 30, a happy birthday wish is sent to **Ryan Anderson**.

Jessup Elementary
On March 28, **Herlinda E. Valdez** is sent a birthday greeting. The day to celebrate a birthday for **Ling Chen** and **Adriana Uribe** is March 29.

Meador Elementary
Birthday wishes for a wonderful day are sent to **Cecelia Stewart** March 29.

Moore Elementary
A birthday is enjoyed by **Melissa Hickman** on March 28. The day for a birthday party for **Diane Sanchez** is April 1.

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Ester Flores** March 26. **Carlos Torres** has a birthday April 1.

Melillo Middle School
Enjoying a birthday March 26 is **Elizabeth Williamson**. On March 27, **Megan Schumann** marks a birthday. Birthday wishes for a wonderful day are sent to **Virginia Boone** March 29. Celebrating a birthday March 31 is **Michelle Wheeler**.

Morris Middle School
Tina Jiminez celebrates a birthday March 27. Blow out the birthday candles for **Maria Lopez** March 28. On March 29, **Maria Ramon** has a birthday. **Carlos Torres** celebrates a birthday April 1.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Janis McKinney** March 26. The day for a birthday cake for **Theryn** is March 31.

Thompson Intermediate
The day for a birthday party for **Stephanie Albert** is March 27. **Angi Watkins** is wished a happy birthday April 1.

Dobie High
March 26 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for **Glenda Nicholson** and **Tracy Whatley**. **Cornelia Oprea-Khalaf** celebrates a birthday March 27. Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Betty Hollin** and **Leslie Seigler-Keton** March 30. Celebrating a triple birthday April 1 are **Maria Cano, Melissa McCalla** and **Johanna Roy**.

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.

Cultural extravaganza set for March 28

Learn more about world cultures without ever getting on an airplane with the annual University of Houston-Clear Lake Cultural Extravaganza.

The 2009 extravaganza will be Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in the university's Bayou Theater. Attendees will enhance their knowledge about a variety of cultures through music, dance, poetry and food. Admission is free.

For more information, call the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services at 281-283-2575, or visit www.uhcl.edu/international.

Hobby Lions Club to meet

Hobby Airport Lions Club meets Wednesday, April 1, at noon at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45. E-mail HobbyAirportLions@gmail.com for more information

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BHI names fourth 6-weeks honor rolls

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

Honor roll

Seventh grade

Rene Max Aguirre, Deanna Marie Alanis, Maria Isabel Alarcon, Eliza Selena Alvarado, Benjamin Dean Arnett, Carolina Sanniguel Avila, Zechariah Isaac Bailey, Destiny A. Barnes-Hall, Corey Bouleris, Zachary Thomas Bright, Peter Dinh Bui and Naasiha Ruqayya Buksh.

Carolina Bustos, Katya Canales, Victor Manuel Castillo, David Guerra Cavazos, Angel Cervantes, Alexandra Guadalupe Cirlos, Eric Daniel Cortes, Judy Nga Dang, Javier Russell, Scott Ryan Dornak, Russell Glenn Dyess, Edgar Aljandro Escalera and Ricky Ted Flores.

Stephanie Alicia Galaviz, Roberto Miguel Gallegos, Cassandra Marie Garcia, Eren Garcia, Jesus Garcia, Joslyn Rene Garcia, Nicholas Rohan Ghansyam, Kristin Danielle Gonzalez, Hannah Celeste Graham, Erika Lucia Guerra Alcala and Cristian Giovanni Guerrero.

Sofia Alejandra Guerrero, Brianna Guevara, Mikaela Guevara, Amy Denise Hallaron, Audrey Alexandra Hernandez, Leslie Marie Hernan-

dez, Alexis Nicholle Hicks, Michael Huynh, Autumn Renee Johnson, Emmi Trang Kieu, Cassandra Lara and Gina Le.

John An Le, Lauren Alexis Lozano, Jenny Ly, Levi Keelin Marshall, Andrew Medrano, Sara Mendoza Alcoser, Jessica Carmen Montoya, Luis Angel Mora, Chanse Manuel Morris, Chayse M. Morris, Geraldine Navarrete, Amber Autumn Nguyen and Anh Thi Cindy Nguyen.

Kenny Nguyen, Thao Mai Nguyen, Shelby Keith Nunez, Alejandro Cruz Pack, Aimee Gabriela Perez, Eduardo Adrian Perez, Hong Thixuan Pham, Jordan Robert Razo, Jonathan Isaac Rivera, Sabin Rese Rocha, Rodolfo Vicente Rodulfo, Gabriela Jazmin Romero and Yadira Ruiz.

Ivana Salazar, Steven Sanchez, Emily Nicole Sargent, Bethany Marrie Sauseda, Tamianna Renee Shelton, Cheyenne Marie Simpson, Rosalva Elizabeth Solis, Bandur Tessa Soudah, Lorena Belle Stover, Daniel Dat Trung Ta, Timothy Ray Tatum and Ernest Martin Thumann.

Luynda Tieu, Anh Tran, Bryan Huy Phong Tran, Diana Thuy Duong Tran, Emily Phuong Tran, Jennifer Gia Bui Trinh, Sabrina Paige Troxlar, Bianca Michelle Valerio, Ilse Alejandra Vielma, Greer Ethan Vincent, Brian Mbugua Williams.

Eighth grade

Oluchi Chinonyerem Aarouchukwunyer, Allyson E. Abrom, Ivette Alejandra Alba, Analia Victoria Alcobia, Mason Patrick Ankenbruck, Jessica Patricia Ayala, Jacquelyne Marie Baede, Ronnie Gene Barnes, Rhianna Raquel Barrientos and Angelica Michelle Benavides.

Cody Edwin Bennett, Sobia My Bhatti, Clyde E. Blackwell, Krystal Marie Brewer, Amber Nicole Cadena, Javier Oswaldo Caranza, Melina Ceja, Jun Hao

Chen, Marlene Ann Cisneros, Cody G. Collins, Mark Anthony Cruz and Travis Pham Dao.

Raven Elizabeth Davis, Phuc Nguyen Duc Dinh, Alberto Joel Dorantes, Noah West Escamilla, Emily Grace Espinoza, Maria Eugenia Ferreira, Andrew J. Flores, Erik Flores, David Eduardo Fraga, Jennifer Elizabeth Galvan, Leianesse Reina Garcia, Jason Vy Giang and Lisa Renee Gill.

Cassandra Marie Gillman, Giovanni Paolo Gonzalez, Martin Gonzalez, Johnathan Lloyd Griffin, Rebecca Michelle Guerra, Osaka Heng, Marcy Lee Higginbotham, Rosaura Delpilar Hilario, An Gia Ho, Aleeyah Anjeanique Holland, James Lynn Hubbs and Nantiporn Kate Inchain.

Anna Lynne Ingalls, Jesmi Jacob, Sidney Joseph Jacques, Jacqueline Jaramillo, Adrian Jimenez, Vanessa Guadalupe Jimenez, Ira Mitchell Lanza, Aaron Chaise Lariviere, Valeria Leal, Michelle Elizabeth Lee, Kody Alan Lefever, Destiny Rene Lopez and Mariana Edith Lopez.

Kimberly Oanh Luu, Gloria Esmeralda Mancina, Gregorio Marin, Scott Earl Marsella, Daniel Martinez, Karina Martinez, Cristyan

Medina, Sarah Marie Merrill, Lily Nicole Meyer, Brittany Lee Montross, Brooke Ashley Montross, Cynthia Moreno and Syeda Siddra Naqvi.

Kortney Marie Neely, Cuong Sy Nguyen, Duy Ngoc Nguyen, Linda Hoai Nguyen, Mike Ngocthanh Nguyen, Quynh Anhminh Nguyen, Sally Nguyen, Thao Tran Phuong Nguyen, Ojodulume Annaqueen Onokwu, Edwin Eduardo Padilla Hernandez and Eric Wayne Patterson.

Cassidy Lily Peng, Rebecca Linn Peters, Jennifer Vy Pham, Tracie Phan, Evin Mikal Prescott, Patrick Jermaine Preston, Eduardo D. Reyna, Manuel Alexander Reyna, Tyler R. Reyna, Carlos Lamont Rice, Eduardo Rios and Edward Demarcus Roy.

Benjamin Desi Salazar, Janie Briana Silva, James Thomas Sturdevant, Brenda Samantha Tamez, Brandon Deon Terrell, Erika Renee Tijerina, Zachary Matthew Trahan, Andrew Le Tran, Michael Tran and Ngocque Thi Tran.

Thione Tam Nhi Tran, Oranna Trockle, Cecilia Uribe, Venerson Orquillano Villanueva, Gregorio Junior Villegas, Denny Hoang Vu, Shondrell Christinmeyon Wallace, Lauren Ashley Wil-

Author to speak during mini-course

Local author Lionel Garcia will be the featured speaker at the April 3 CLASP mini-course. Garcia will discuss his vision and experience of *A Lifetime of Writing*.

The native Texas published his first novel, *Leaving Home*, in 1985, which, as a work in progress, won the 1983 P.E.N. Southwest Discovery Prize.

Other books by Garcia include *Brush Country* and *I Can Hear the Cow Bells Ring*.

This mini-course will take place at the Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, Houston.

There is no fee to attend, but reservations are requested. To reserve a place for this program, call 281-283-2019 or e-mail clasp@uhcl.edu.

Remember When

30 years ago (1979)
Boundary line changes were approved for local Pasadena Independent School District students in both elementary and intermediate schools.

Members of the Sagemont Spurs basketball team were named runners-up in a tournament.

25 years ago (1984)
Sagemeadow resident Diane Black complained to the Pasadena Independent School District school board about the fact that basic courses were being taught only two of three trimesters. This was making it possible for there to be a nine-month gap between subjects.

The board of directors of the Sagemeadow Utility District passed a resolution granting 100 percent exemption for homeowners over the age of 65.

20 years ago (1989)
Facing an angry crowd of around 200 people, Clear Creek Independent School District administrators could not produce the sought after answers to the questions concerning the possible moving of all district sixth-graders to intermediate schools. No solution to the overcrowded logistics problem met with the citizens' approval.

The Environmental Protection Agency agreed to deep-core analysis of the ball fields located on Dixie

Farm Road for possible contaminants, provided more documentation on potential problem sites is provided.

15 years ago (1994)
A near perfect rating for the seven-member school board resulted in approval of a \$7,500 raise for Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Rick Schneider, which brought his salary, including car expenses, to \$108,500 annually.

A fire destroyed a house, which had stood vacant for a couple of years, in the 9200 block of Kirkmont.

10 years ago (1999)
A 22-year-old male was found dead in his Green Arbor apartment.

While construction crews were busily working on streets and paving for the new Clear Brook City Meadows subdivision, there were no plans to finish the seven blocks of Scarsdale Boulevard.

5 years ago (2004)
Three major incidents kept Houston police officers busy: a stabbing fatality in a field on Kingspoint, a drive-by shooting in Sagemont Park and a shooting fatality in the parking lot of a night club on Edgebrook.

Rhonda Parmer was named to replace Sharon Oakes as Frazier Interim.

Thompson Intermediate seventh-grader Mariel

Arhelger advanced to the Texas finals of the National Geographic Bee.

Pasadena Independent School District officials were looking to hire election workers who were fluent in Vietnamese.

1 year ago (2008)
Clear Lake Traction Unit made two drug-related arrests in the Kirkwood subdivision following an investigation which began earlier in the month.

Homes with a history of flooding in the South Belt area were the most recent to get an opportunity for a Harris County Flood Control District and Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout. Some residents who had experienced substantial repetitive losses were asked to participate in the Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot program.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce was set to host its annual Casino Night at The Gardens.

Vandals painted graffiti on the concession stand of the recently opened Blackhawk Park.

After six months of meetings, five public hearings and countless hours of work by members of the School Boundary Advisory Committee, the board of trustees approved new school boundary zones for the Clear Creek Independent School District.

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Bears of the Month named for February



The students pictured were chosen as Bears of the Month at Beverly Hills Intermediate for the month of February. These students were chosen by their team of teachers for being positive role models, working hard in class, and having a good attitude. Pictured

are, left to right, (front row) Zachary Bailey, Lauren Wilkerson, Brooke Montross, Emily Tran, Pablo Canales, Allyson Abrom, (back row) Jose Lopez, Malik Dorsey, Ronnie Barnes, Destiny Barnes-Hall, Lizbeth Cavazos and Martin Gonzalez.

Wilson, Nehls engaged



Randy and Becky Wilson of Sageglenn announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Christie Marie Wilson, to Brian Nehls, son of Ed and Erica Nehls of Heritage Park. The bride-to-be graduated from Clear Brook High School in 2007. The prospective groom also graduated from Clear Brook High School in 2007 and is an appliance sales specialist at Lowes. The couple are planning a late-May wedding at Butler's Courtyard in League City.

De La Cruz lassos rodeo calf



At the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's March 6 calf scramble, Clear Brook High School student Chris De La Cruz wrestled, captured and coaxed his calf into a large white rectangle chalked into the dust. This feat earned him a certificate to purchase his own heifer, which he will raise and show at the 2010 rodeo.

Master Gardeners schedule April events

The Harris County Master Gardener Association has scheduled its events for the month of April.

Green Thumb Gardening Series

Chris LaChance from the Texas AgriLife Extension Office will present a program on Water Smart Landscapes, discussing drought tolerant Texas native plants and smart ways to water. The programs will be held Tuesday, April 14, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Bass Pro Shops, Highway 288 at the Sam Houston Tollway in Pearland.

For more information, visit the Web site at <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>.

Lecture Series

Harris County Master Gardener Carol Fraser will present *Shade Gardens for Harris County*. The program will help attendees understand and develop shade garden areas with innovative technologies and techniques. The lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, at 10 a.m. in the meeting room at Clear Lake Park (on the lakeside), 5001 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

For more information,

visit <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>.

Open Garden Day

The public is invited to tour the working and demonstration gardens maintained by the Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. Visit an extensive vegetable garden, fruit orchard, perennials, roses, herb and cactus gardens and two working greenhouses.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions during this free

event. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Bring any one gallon or smaller plastic plant pots and trays to be recycled to Open Garden Day and the Master Gardeners will put them to good use. The tour will be held on Monday, April 20, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff.

For more information, visit the Web site at <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>.

Greater Houston Area Writing Project programs announced

Teachers can explore new ways to help students become excited about writing this July when the Greater Houston Area Writing Project hosts two summer institutes. Held at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, the program is accepting applications for these institutes.

Experienced teachers from all content areas interested in learning methods that can

increase teaching effectiveness may want to consider the Invitational Summer Institute. This program is scheduled for July 13-Aug 7. Attendees receive six hours of graduate credit, and the National Writing Project covers 50 percent of the tuition.

The New Teacher Institute will occur July 13-24 and is geared for teachers with one to three years of experience

who are looking to improve their own writing and learn teaching methods. Participants earn three hours of graduate credit, 45 hours of professional development and six hours of gifted and talented credit. Greater Houston Area Writing Project pays 100 percent of the tuition for the teachers accepted to the program.

All teachers who participate in a summer institute must be currently enrolled at UH-Clear Lake or they can apply as non-degree seeking students.

Applications for the institutes are available online and can be found by visiting <http://www.uhcl.edu/community> and selecting the Greater Houston Area Writing Project link under the Centers and Institutes heading.

For more information, call 281-283-3598.

Wedding, engagement policies

Wedding writeups must be submitted in the newspaper, not submitted, in the time outlined. From wedding date to six weeks - photo and full article; Six weeks to three months - photo and limited information; After three months from wedding date - will not be run.

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

Sagemeadow changes meeting day

Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee, the homeowner's association for Sagemeadow subdivision, will now hold its monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 9. For more information, visit www.sagemeadow.org or call 281-485-1135.

Sago Palm Yard Sale

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EASTHAVEN Easter Egg-Stravaganza 2009

When: Saturday, April 4th @ 3 p.m.

Where: Easthaven Baptist Church 13100 Beamer Rd. (Astoria at Beamer)

What: Easter Egg Hunts Toddlers-age 4: 3 p.m. K-2nd Grade: 3:30 p.m. 3rd -5th Grade: 4 p.m.

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PISD approves 2009-10 calendar

The Pasadena Independent School District's Board of Trustees recently approved the 2009-2010 school calendar.

Under the calendar, the first day of school for students will be Aug. 25, 2009, with the exception of ninth grade, which will begin one day earlier on Aug. 24 as part of the Expectation Graduation program.

Key dates on the 2009-2010 school calendar are as follows:

- First day of school for students - Aug. 25, 2009 (Ninth-graders will begin one day earlier on Aug. 24 as part of the district's Expectation Graduation program)
- First day for teachers - Aug. 17, 2009
- Last day for students - June 3, 2010
- Last day for teachers - June 4, 2010
- Holidays
 - Labor Day - Sept. 7, 2009
 - Thanksgiving - Nov. 23-27, 2009
 - Christmas/Winter Break - Dec. 21, 2009-Jan. 1, 2010
 - Martin Luther King Day (students only) - Jan. 18, 2010
 - Spring Break - March 15-21, 2010

- Easter - April 2, 2010
- To view the entire 2009-2010 calendar, log on to www.pasadenaisd.org.

Attending space launch



Local residents were among those who watched the launch of NASA's latest space shuttle Discovery STS-119 mission Sunday, March 15. The shuttle's crew will deliver solar panels and batteries to the International Space Station. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) South Belt-Ellington Leader publisher Marie Flickinger, David Flickinger, (middle row) Paige Sullivan (daughter of City Councilman Mike Sullivan), San Jacinto College Vice President of Marketing Teri Fowle, Rachel Schlabra and (back) Mike Sullivan.

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

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Traditional Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:45 & 11 a.m.

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
 281-484-9243 • 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

Opposing proposed apartment complex

Continued from Page 1A
 The opposition to low-income housing in the South Belt area is nothing new. Many residents tried unsuccessfully in 2007 to halt the construction of the low-income Regency Park apartment complex located at Beltway 8 and Southdown Trace Trail. Residents opposed to the construction of the new complex can contact the State of Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs at www.tdhca.state.tx.us or call City of Houston Department of Housing and Community Development Director Richard Celli at 713-868-8305.

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AARP supporters recognized



At the first AARP meeting held in the new El Franco Lee Community Center, members Cecil Callahan, Neil West and LaRue Welch are recognized for their efforts in helping to get the center built for the area. In the background, members Charles Dyrud and Charlene Knox watch. Marie Flickinger, publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader, was the first guest speaker at the new center. She was also presented with a certificate of recognition for her efforts in helping get the center established.

SJC's roundtable meets to explore current issues

San Jacinto College's honors program will sponsor a philosophy roundtable to explore various current issues. The free event is open to the public and will be held in the ballroom located in the Central campus student center, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. The meetings will take place on two days - March 30 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and March 31 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served at 6 p.m. on March 30 and 9 a.m. on March 31. There will be a different set of panelists for each event, although the discussion questions will be exactly the same. The roundtable will feature a panel of instructors and students, including John Osterman, San Jacinto College government instructor; Yuri Horner, who teaches English at the college; Tyson Woolman, Mari Drey, Kelly Bufkin and Leland Barton, honors students at the college; Charlotte Dalton and Rachelle Scott, ethics students at the University of Houston-Sugar Land; and Rikki Saldivar, a San Jacinto College student and editor of the San Jacinto Times student newspaper. "The purpose of the roundtable is to model a philosophical discussion on contemporary issues," commented Thi Lam, San Jacinto College philosophy professor. "People from various backgrounds will explore the relationship between faith and government." Key issues to be considered during the roundtable include separation of government and religion, rights for homosexual couples, and government funding for faith-based charitable organizations. Audience participation will be encouraged during the second half of the program at both roundtable meetings. San Jacinto College offers philosophy courses as part of its behavioral science associate of arts degree program. For more information about San Jacinto College, call 281-998-6150 or visit www.sanjac.edu.

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St. Frances bazaar set for May 17

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 Street 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, entertainment, kiddie land, bingo and other games, a raffle with a \$4,500 Visa gift certificate first prize, a laptop computer second prize, 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 will go toward the mortgage on the new church dedicated in January 2005. For information, call 713-946-5768.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Soccer's Sweet 16s will include Dobie teams, CB girls

High school soccer's version of the Sweet 16 will include Dobie's varsity boys' and girls' teams as well as the Lady Wolverines from Clear Brook. In the bid-

istrict playoff round March 24, the trio left little doubt as to just which team was better.

Dobie's boys, the champion of District 22-5A, got two goals apiece from Gilberto Tzintzun and Jose Gonzalez and another from Chris Torres in a 5-0 shut-out of Baytown Lee at Newcomb Field.

The Lady Longhorns, meanwhile, went to work at blanking host North Shore 4-0 at a Galena Park Independent School District Stadium.

The Dobie girls will now take on Fort Bend Austin in the area round.

Clear Brook's girls scored two first-half goals and then held off Clements for a 2-1 victory at Alvin High School. The Lady Wolverines are now aiming at Kingwood in the area round.

The lone setback for the local teams came as the Clear Brook boys were beaten 2-1 at Newcomb Field by Hightower, which scored two early goals and then kept the Wolverines at bay.

Continued on Page 2B



Dobie forward Jose Gonzalez (right) beat Baytown Lee defender Manuel Martinez (4) on his way to scoring the Longhorns' first goal in a 5-0 win over Baytown Lee March 24 at Newcomb Field. Gonzalez added his second goal early in the first half for 22-5A champion, which now faces Fort Bend Austin in the area round.

Photo by John Bechtle

Bidistrict playoffs/area round schedule

Dobie boys 5, Baytown Lee 0

Area round: Dobie vs. Fort Bend Austin

March 27, 5 p.m., Alvin High School, Memorial Stadium

Dobie girls 4, North Shore 0

Area round Dobie vs. Fort Bend Austin

March 27, 7 p.m., Alvin High School, Memorial Stadium

Hightower 2, Brook boys 1

Brook girls 2, Clements 1

Area round: Brook vs. Deer Park

March 27, 5 p.m., Pearland High School, The Rig

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2009 Schedule

Mar. 30 - Apr. 20	Apr. 7 - Apr. 28
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Apr. 21 - May 12	Apr. 29 - May 20
6-8 p.m.	4-6 p.m.

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Varsity baseball

Deer outlast Dobie 2-1, B-wood downs Brook

Deer Park pushed across the game-winner in the bottom of the ninth inning, outlasting Dobie 2-1 March 24 in Deer Park.

Despite an outstanding pitching effort from Cody Priest, the Deer led 1-0 after five innings before Aris Adame tied the game with a solo homer in the top of the sixth inning.

In the ninth, Deer Park, which needed a victory to avoid going 0-3 in District 22-5A play, delivered the decisive run.

Dobie, which opened the district campaign with a pair of wins, slipped to 2-1 on the heels of a big road game March 27 at La Porte, also 2-1.

In Clute, Clear Brook took its second road pounding of the season, falling 10-2 to Brazoswood.

The Bucs scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning and five more in the fifth en route to the easy victory. Clear Brook, which hosts Galveston Ball March

Continued on Page 6B

Clear Brook, Dobie softball finds stride

Just a couple of weeks ago, Ashley Pillow and Robin Rackley were a couple of frustrated varsity softball coaches.

The coaches had just watched their respective varsity softball teams lose their district openers, placing both programs in recovery mode.

Pillow's group at Clear Brook and Rackley's Dobie team have recovered nicely, thank you.

Four-game winning streaks have followed those opening losses for

the local squads. And while neither district has reached the midway point in the race for a playoff spot, there is a positive aura beginning to build.

Brook girls rolling
Despite losing a couple of key seniors after last season's run to the area playoff round, Pillow expected a lot this season, too.

The Lady Wolverines didn't jump out of the gate as fast as they had a season ago, starting 2-5.

Continued on Page 2B

Coyotes ready to make region run

With 22 Region 14 games coming over the next month, it's time for defending champion San Jacinto College to make its move in women's softball.

At the moment, it appears San Jacinto will battle Blinn and Galveston for the regional title.

From there, seeding will play a key role in deciding which team will advance to nationals May 14-16 in St. George, Utah.

All three teams, including San Jacinto, are ranked nationally. Blinn, sitting at No. 4, is now 4-2 in the conference after splitting a pair of games against Navarro March 22.

The following day, San Jacinto, currently 19th nationally, crushed Navarro 13-1, 7-1 to improve to 7-3 in the conference. Thirteenth-ranked Galveston did its part to stay close by splitting a pair against San Jacinto March 21.

Galveston won the first game 4-0 in 14 innings, while the Coyotes rebounded for a 4-3 win in the second game as Krystal Plummer drove in the game-winning run.

So with the majority of conference play remaining to unfold, none of the top three contenders appear willing to budge.

San Jacinto hosts Blinn

April 1 but appears to have a smoother road down the stretch. Blinn and Galveston must still clash four times.

For San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz, who is nine victories shy of 200 for her career with the Coyotes, the key is consistency.

Sophomore pitcher Kelsey McClain has done everything asked of her, putting together a 16-2 record even after pitching all 14 innings in the loss to Galveston.

Courtney Pettit, a sophomore transfer student, has joined Plummer as the team's offensive leaders. Cheyenne Parent and Si-

erra Gale have also played well in the outfield. Beyond those players, though, Saenz has relied on a large group of freshmen who have now gained experience on the run.

Saenz is hoping that experience pays off as the Coyotes face the stretch run.

"We have had some trouble with consistency, like not being able to get a run home in 14 innings against Galveston," Saenz said. "But we broke out with the bats against Navarro, and I think that performance is going to give us some confidence going forward."

Continued on Page 3B

San Jacinto College battles through Region 14 competition



San Jacinto College's Krystal Plummer was tagged out at the plate by Galveston catcher Chastity Skipper while trying to score in the 11th inning of an eventual 4-0 loss to Galveston March 21. At right is San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz. Plummer then gained revenge in the second game as she drove

in the game-winning run during a 4-3 San Jacinto victory. The following day, San Jacinto swept Navarro to move to 7-3 in Region 14 play. The Coyotes were back in action March 25 after press time at Alvin.

Photo by John Bechtle

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Sports news, notes

Thompson Int. athletics meet

Parents of incoming seventh- and eighth-grade Thompson students for the 2009-2010 school year are encouraged to attend an athletics meeting March 31, at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Current Dixie Mellilo sixth-grade students and seventh-grade students who will attend Thompson next school year are the focus group. Coach John Fowler and staff members will discuss various athletic department procedures, rules and guidelines.

SBHLL player openings

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has five openings for players in the PeeWee division. Children who will be 9 years old by April 30, 2009, are eligible to play. Parents should contact player agent Randall Smith at Rsmith77525@aol.com to have their child placed on a team. The openings will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

SBHLL board openings

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has several league roles available for candidates. The league is seeking a T-Ball division director, a machine pitch division field maintenance director and junior/senior division concession stand director. Those wishing to apply should contact league president Cindy Munoz at sbhll@hotmail.com.

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 accommodate 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.

SJC 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.

SJC men's hoops tryouts

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will host open tryouts for the 2009-10 team April 25, beginning at 11 a.m., at Anders Gymnasium, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. Anyone interested in trying out for the team can register the day of the tryouts. Questions about the tryouts should be directed to head coach Scott Germander at 281-476-1847 or assistant coach Scott Horstman at 281-476-1849. There is a \$20 processing fee per player for the tryouts.

Dobie spring football May 4

The Dobie High School football program will begin spring workouts May 4 for players competing for varsity jobs. Current Longhorn freshmen will begin workouts May 11. Details concerning the Longhorns' spring game and other highlights are being finalized.

Brook spring football May 4

The Clear Brook High School football program will begin spring workouts May 4 for players competing for varsity jobs. Head coach Paul Lanier has set the program's annual spring game for May 28. During the spring, the players will work out Mondays through Wednesdays, with Thursdays set aside for scrimmages. There will be no Friday workouts.

Lake's McDonald retires

Longtime Clear Lake varsity boys' basketball coach Lynn McDonald has retired. McDonald, just the second head coach in program history, made the announcement during the state tournament in Austin. District officials are accepting applications.

Early bump aside, Brook, Dobie softball teams now rolling

Continued from Page 1B

Then came a 5-4 loss to Clear Creek in the 24-5A opener March 10.

Just like that, Clear Brook was thrown into recovery mode.

If four straight wins constitute a recovery, then declare Clear Brook a title contender at this point.

Playing three games in three days because of rain, Clear Brook beat Dickinson 3-1 with a pair of runs in the 10th inning, then topped Brazoswood 2-1 with two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Clear Brook then bounced Clear Lake 4-1 using a four-run first inning as ammunition.

The team's fourth win, 9-0 over Galveston Ball March 24, officially has the team on a roll.

Although her team went 15-7 in nondistrict play, Pillow was wary of a shaky start in district play. Unfortunately, Pillow's wariness came to fruition.

However, the Lady Wolverines have bounced back

with vengeance.

"I told the players to take it one game at a time last week with the three games in three days," Pillow said. "They did a good job of staying focused on that idea. After the loss to

Clear Creek, obviously our goal was to go 3-0. I was proud of my team. They met the challenge. But I have stressed to them that we are only as good as our last game. They get that."

A big key to Clear Brook's success this season has been catcher Molly Fitchner's ability to work closely with the team's two pitchers - Jill McGinnis and Emma Napoli.

Fichtner calls the pitches from behind the plate, and

the two pitchers have developed a bond. McGinnis, the team's ace last season, has adjusted well to sharing time with Napoli, who has emerged this season as a junior.

"Jill and Emma have done a fantastic job of sharing time," Pillow said. "Emma has stepped up and done awesome work, especially against Brazoswood. Jill pitched a great game against Dickinson, getting herself out of numerous jams. Against Clear Lake, Jill looked untouchable."

Offensively, Bridgette Begle, a force last season, is again the team's top RBI bat. Many others, including Michelle Svehla, Mary Aubin, Brandy Gonzalez, Stephanie Gonzalez, Kristy Gonzalez and Rachael Urick, have all produced something positive.

Steady is the way, says Pillow.

"Any team in this district can beat you," she warns. "We can't look past anyone."

Dobie battles on

While Dobie's season has been filled with adversity - injuries the main culprit - the team is now playing very well with four straight wins.

Dobie's 7-0 win over Pasadena March 24 came as senior pitcher JoJo Krienitz fanned nine, and several players came through with big hits.

But there is no time to relax. The Lady Longhorns face Sam Rayburn (2-3) March 27, Pearland (5-0) March 31 and Memorial (4-1) April 3, all three games at the Pasadena Independent School District complex at 6:30 p.m.

From here on out, every game is big. For now, Dobie head coach Robin Rackley has her team focused only on Sam Rayburn.

"Rayburn has a tough team," Rackley said. "They have a couple of good pitchers and some solid hitters. I

knew they were going to be improved this season."

Yet despite fighting the injury bug all season, Dobie has persevered to this point.

Freshman Shannon O'Connor and sophomore Alyssa Zarate have pitched well as Krienitz has eased back into action. Seniors

Nicole Andrade and Chelsea D'Ambrosio are pacing an offense that has also gotten key hits from Shelby Senegal, Kellen Gomez, Christina Diaz, Ariel Morgan and Chelsea Morgan.

"This team has battled, and I am proud of them so far," Rackley said.

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

Senior catcher Chelsea D'Ambrosio (right) banged a two-run homer in Dobie's 10-0 win over South Houston March 19. She has been just one of the team's many offensive sparks lately.



District 22-5A Standings Varsity Softball (As of March 25)			
Teams	W	L	
Pearland	5	0	
Memorial	4	1	
Dobie	4	1	
Deer Park	4	1	
Sam Rayburn	2	3	
Pasadena	1	4	
South Houston	0	5	
La Porte	0	5	

District 24-5A Standings Varsity Softball (As of March 25)			
Teams	W	L	
Clear Brook	4	1	
Alvin	4	1	
Dickinson	4	1	
Clear Creek	4	1	
Brazoswood	2	3	
Clear Lake	1	4	
Clear Springs	1	4	
Galveston Ball	0	5	

Soccer playoffs: JFD boys, girls and Brook girls advance

Continued from Page 1B

JFD boys win 5-0 There are perks that come with winning a district title, and the Dobie varsity boys' team took advantage.

Taking on fourth-place Baytown Lee out of District 21-5A, Dobie wasted little time putting the game away.

Gonzalez scored the first of his two goals in the sixth minute, and Gilberto Tzintzun added a score off his own rebounded penalty kick in the 10th minute, giving the Longhorns a quick 2-0 lead.

When Tzintzun added a goal just 38 ticks before halftime, Dobie was in control.

"Gilberto's second goal was huge," Dobie head coach Jesse Saavedra said. "You're talking about a 2-0 game versus a 3-0 game. That's very big in soccer."

Gonzalez and Torres chipped in with second-half goals as the Longhorns moved on in the region.

Longhorns' freshman goalkeeper Jose Balvaneda wasn't heavily tested but did make a brilliant leaping save of a Lee shot try with 25 minutes left to preserve the shutout.

Torres, who along with Tzintzun are two key seniors who have played vital roles in Dobie's resurgence under

Saavedra, was pleased with the way the Longhorns took care of business.

"It feels really good," Torres said. "We have a great group of guys. Our goal was to win the district title and we did that. Now, we have a chance to keep

playing in the playoffs."

Saavedra acknowledges that each playoff game the rest of the way will be tougher than the last. Still, he believes the Longhorns are up to the challenge.

"I'm very proud of these guys," Saavedra said.

"They have answered some pretty big challenges all season."

Lady Horns win

A three-goal barrage in the first half led to an easy 4-0 win for Dobie's girls against North Shore.

Ashlyn Leighton, La

Shaye Cooper, Yancy Moreno and Lariza Uribe all netted goals. Senior goalkeeper Beatrice Soto notched the shutout.

"It was basically a business-as-usual game for us," Dobie head coach Kersten Mullan said.

"We had beaten North Shore in the preseason, so I was nervous about playing them again. We were in good shape after the first 20 minutes, so it was a good effort. It wasn't our best, but it was solid."

Next up for Dobie is the area round. Last season, the Lady Longhorns lost in this round to Brazoswood.

"At this point in the season, all of the teams remaining are good," Mullan said.

"I don't think there's any one thing you can do or any special plan you can use to move on. You just have to go out and be at your best. When we are at our best, we are a tough team to handle."

CB girls also move on

Goals by Brittany Hankinson and Beth Stratton in the first half were enough to lift Clear Brook to a bidistrict win over Clements in Alvin.

Next up for Clear Brook is Deer Park, which went undefeated at 14-0 to win the District 22-5A crown.

Wolverine boys out

If only Mark Gendi's goal had counted.

Gendi scored what appeared to be the game's first goal just 10 minutes into Clear Brook's boys' playoff game against Hightower.

But the Wolverines were whistled for being offside on the play, and Hightower scored a goal four minutes later. In the 20th minute, Hightower's Desmond King scored the eventual game-winner.

"Hightower was better than we were tonight," Clear Brook head coach Rick Sickmiller said. "When that first goal was called back, I saw the wind go out of our sails a little bit. We should not have let that happen."

Gendi scored in the 53rd minute to cut Hightower's lead in half, but the Hurricanes were able to hold on for the win.

"We played a much better second half," Sickmiller said. "We went down battling. I'm proud of the way we came out in the second half and gave ourselves a chance to tie."



Clear Brook's Sergio Luna (4) battles Hightower's Edgar Mora (3) during first-half action of Hightower's 2-1 win over the Wolverines in bidistrict soccer playoff action March 24 at Newcomb Field.



Senior forward Gilberto Tzintzun (left) had his penalty kick stopped by Baytown Lee goalkeeper Adrian Gutierrez but scored on the rebound in the 10th minute of action March 24 at Newcomb Field. Dobie went on to win the bidistrict playoff game 5-0. Looking on is Lee's Johnny Pulido (5) and Dobie's Chris Torres (right).

22-5A boys' basketball coaches reveal league's best

Six Dobie players earned some form of all-district recognition in 22-5A after the Longhorns' run to the varsity boys' basketball playoffs. Senior Deylan White and Randy Owens, a junior, were named to the first team. Tyrone Sagers, who gave the Longhorns a big road win over eventual district champion La Porte with a

buzzer-beating three-pointer, was named to the second team. Three players, including starting point guard Andre Spiller, forward Trevar Mayon and reserve post Cody Catney, were honorable mention selections. Dobie, despite returning only Owens and Mayon from the regular rotation the season prior, put together a solid 19-18 march

under first-year head coach Kevin Cross. Dobie stayed in the playoff hunt thanks to wins over Deer Park and La Porte and took care of business against the non-playoff teams. In the end, La Porte won the championship at 12-2. Pearland and Deer Park tied for second place at 11-3 and Dobie was fourth at 9-5. Predictably, 22-5A champion La Porte walked

away with the district's top awards. Junior forward Randy Collins was named most valuable player, and the Bulldogs' Chris Mason was honored as coach of the year. In all, 10 players were named to the first team. Ten others were picked as second-team nominees. Each of the district's coaches also presented candidates for honorable mention status.

22-5A All-District Varsity Boys Basketball Picks

Most Valuable Player
Randy Collins, La Porte

Coach of the Year
Chris Mason, La Porte

First Team Members

Adrian Morales, Deer Park
Tyler Aston, Deer Park
Clint Ray, Deer Park
Deylan White, Dobie
Randy Owens, Dobie
Cedric Jones, La Porte
Drew Parker, La Porte
Dorian Purnell, Pearland
Shai Fields, Pearland
Josh Martinez, Sam Rayburn
Josh Mitchell, South Houston

Second Team Members

Joseph Nedbalek, Deer Park
Tyrone Sagers, Dobie
Titus Edwards, La Porte
James Evans, La Porte
Carl Johnson, Memorial
Arturo Salazar, Pasadena
Kelly Lawson, Pearland
Kevin Williams, Pearland
Nemo Sanchez, Sam Rayburn
Stacy Mose, South Houston

Honorable mention – Dobie

Andre Spiller
Trevar Mayon
Cody Catney



San Jacinto College catcher Jean Fusilier (left) congratulates pitcher Kelsey McClain after McClain wriggled out of trouble in the 11th inning against Galveston March 21. The Whitecaps finally broke a scoreless tie in the top of the 14th inning, scoring four times for a 4-0 win. It was just McClain's second loss this season.



San Jacinto College's offense has struggled to produce runs at times this season, but second baseman Haley Sandoval (above) and the rest of the Coyotes' defense has played well for the most part. Now 7-3 in conference play, San Jacinto still has 22 games remaining on its Region 14 slate. Photos by John Bechtle

Coyotes covet winning streak

Continued from Page 1B
Roughly midway through the season, Saenz has seen a little bit of everything from her team. The Coyotes began the season on a hot streak and then cooled down a bit during a couple of road trips. Now with seven wins in 10 games in regional play and a string of games coming against the teams below them in the standings, San Jacinto has a chance to hit its stride. In 2008, when the team eventually advanced to nationals, it was about the midway point when everything seemingly came

together. San Jacinto was playing its best softball of the season when the playoffs arrived over and led to the program's first-ever national berth. Fourth-ranked Blinn and Galveston, currently ranked 13th nationally, have shown they will likely be in the mix when the regional title is decided April 30 through May 2. But Saenz is also confident the Coyotes will put themselves in position for a repeat. "Our bats exploded against Navarro, and I think that is the kind of perfor-

mance we needed to get rolling," Saenz said. "We have one more big doubleheader with Blinn coming up but are done with Galveston until regionals. Right now, I think this is our time to get on a roll." Saenz opened the season with several freshmen playing key roles. But with 32 games already having been played, those freshmen now have valuable experience that can carry them. "I can see our confidence coming," Saenz said. "We're into a routine; we know our roles and what it takes to win a lot of games. This is the time to do it."



Named to the 22-5A second team from Dobie, senior Tyrone Sagers played a big role in the Longhorns' success in 2008-2009, hitting a pair of game-winning shots in district play.



Junior Randy Owens (left) and senior Deylan White were named to the all 22-5A boys' basketball first team after helping the Longhorns to the playoffs this season.

Intermediate PISD Cup standings tighten

When the Pasadena Independent School District's intermediate school track and field season begins April 1 at Auxiliary Stadium, there will be plenty at stake. Athletes from Beverly Hills, Thompson and the other eight intermediate schools certainly will be trying to make a name for themselves on the track and in the field events. But the athletes will also be vying for something bigger – the 2008-2009 PISD Cup title. District athletic department director Mike Stephens and assistant athletic director Rodney Chant designed the PISD Cup program in an effort to promote friendly competition and rivalries within the district. So far, the PISD Cup has been a big hit. Points are awarded based on the performance of teams in all of the sports, including football, volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' cross country and boys' and girls' track and field.

With only boys' and girls' track and field remaining on the schedule, the PISD Cup remains up for grabs. Realistically, as many as five of the district's 10 schools still have a shot at the top spot. Bondy holds a slim lead in the standings, and second-place Beverly Hills' edge over third-place San Jacinto is even tighter. Thompson, which is currently fifth, can vastly improve its standing with a great track and field season. There will be three regular-season track meets for both the boys' and girls' programs followed by the district championships April 22-23. By that time, the PISD Cup title will also be hanging in the balance. The PISD Cup high school standings are also close as the spring sports season unfolds. Currently, Memorial has a slim lead over Dobie. Track and field, baseball, softball and spring tennis results will factor into deciding the eventual high school winner.

PISD Cup	
<i>Intermediate School Standings</i>	
Bondy	163
Beverly Hills	157.5
San Jacinto	156.5
Queens	126
Thompson	115
Miller	106.5
Southmore	99.25
Park View	78.5
South Houston	62.25
Jackson	43.75
Sports included: football, volleyball, basketball and cross country	

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
Noon
Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.
6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church – 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.
Pasadena Gulf Coast Art Society – Monthly meetings held the last Thursday of each month in the Community Room at Pasadena Town Square Mall.
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 27
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.
4 p.m.
The Men's Club of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Community –

The public is invited to a fish fry on Friday, March 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Cabrini Center, 10727 Hartsook. Meals are \$8 each, eat in or take home.
6 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society – Meets the last Friday of each month at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive in Clear Lake. For more information, call Neil Miserendino at 281-286-8243, Jeanine Lawrence at 281-334-6100 or visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
SATURDAY, MARCH 28
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.
SUNDAY, MARCH 29
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.
3 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre – Closing performance for *Lend Me a Tenor* by Ken Ludwig at 3 p.m. at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. Janet Sharpley is the director. Reservations can be made online at pasadenalittletheatre.org or call 713-941-1758.
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 30
7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
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.
10 a.m.
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.
Noon
Free Exercise Class – Basic low impact aerobic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Registration is required. For more information, call Beatrice at 281-922-2343.
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 – Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua from 6 to 9 p.m. All who enjoy the game or want to learn to play are invited to join. For more information, call 281-488-2923.
6:30 p.m.
Civil Air Patrol Meeting – Weekly at Ellington Field in the Civil Air Patrol Building. Call 281-484-1352 and leave a message for more information.
7 p.m.
Grief Support Group – "Friends Helping Friends" meets every Monday from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehab Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Those who have lost a spouse or other loved one are invited to participate. For information, call Betty Flynn at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.
TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
Noon
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.
1 p.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum – Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565.
1:30 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free exercise and speech therapy from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Bayshore Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, 4021 Brookhaven, Pasadena. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
5 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free water therapy from 5 to 6 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
6:30 p.m.
Clear Lake Toastmasters Club – Meets at the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 938 El Dorado Blvd. Call Jerry Tate at 281-481-5417 for information.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) – Meets at Sagemont Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes. For information, call Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

7 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - Free tutoring for all ages is available Tuesdays from 7 to 9 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.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
April Fool's Day

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

9:30 a.m.
Active Living Every Day - Seniors Active Living Every Day is a free class that is held every Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the EFL Community Center, 9500 Hall Road. During the 20-week course, individuals will learn how to get and stay physically active, live healthier, build confidence, overcome obstacles and stay motivated in ways that work for each person. Classes are practical and personalized, including a study guide, a free step counter, field trips and fun. For more information, call the El Franco Lee Community Center at 281-464-9708.

10 a.m.
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.

11:30 a.m.
Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45. E-mail HobbyAirportLions@gmail.com for more information.

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

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

6 p.m.
Alzheimer's Support Group - The free group meets the first week of each month in the third floor classrooms 3 and 4 of Bayshore Medical Center, 4000 Spencer, Pasadena. For more information, call 713-944-4782 or 713-266-6400.

6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Domestic violence support group for male survivors meets each Wednesday at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway. Call 281-338-7600 for information. Participants may join at any time as this is an open group.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

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

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

6:30 p.m.
St. Luke'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.

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

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

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.

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- C-04 Jaime Elizalde: Chevrolet C10 Truck, Steel: rebar, pipe & plate steel.
- E-17 Christopher Rayburn: 2004 Homemade trailer, roofing materials.
- E-24 Traci Schillaci: Furniture & Household Goods.
- B-28 David Swanson: Air Compressor, Power Saw, ice chests, Household Goods.
- B-02 Ella Ramirez: 1940's Plymouth Car & Household Goods.
- A-02 Jorge Villanueva: Building Materials.
- D-02 Carmen Ortega: 1984 Bayliner Boat with o/b motor & Trailer.
- B-27 Janice Johnson: Household Goods.
- C-01 Greg Miller: 1992 Chevrolet Truck

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10110 SAGEMARK: Sat., Mar. 28, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Furniture, piano, clothes, lots of everything. 3-26

1401 RICHARD ST.: Dixie Farm Rd. & McDonald. Sat., Mar. 28, 8 a.m. Clothes, toys, small appliances, karaoke machine, lots of misc. household items. 3-26

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CAREGIVER/HOUSEKEEPER for husband. Alameda Mall/ Hobby Airport Area. M-F 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Non Smoker. 713-943-9254. 4-9

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FOR SALE: Whirlpool Elite, 4 yr. electric dryer. Silver-gray, runs perfect. \$150. 281-481-5413 or 281-507-7899. 4-2

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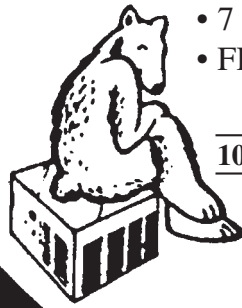
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Longhorn tennis team prepares as stretch run nears; district is April 8-9

It's getting to the point in the high school spring tennis season where players must gear up for the district tournament.

The Dobie Longhorns will send players to the Kemah Boardwalk and Hurricane Ike (Galveston) tournaments March 27-28 and then take on St. John's April 2 at home. Then comes the 22-5A tournament April 2.

From this point forward, it's up to Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. to put his respective players in the best positions possible to achieve success.

While the players still

represent Dobie High School, the spring is much different than in the fall team tennis season.

Whereas in the fall players are battling for team wins and the first school to reach 10 wins, the spring season is open to individual success.

Top Dobie boys' singles player Andy Peng, will have a chance to be crowned the 22-5A champion, which would qualify him for regionals. Yen Le and Allison Wells, a likely Dobie doubles girls' mix, will have a chance to get themselves to regionals as well.

The goal, simply put, is for the players to be able to do something special late in the season, particularly the seniors.

Busy spring
With some of Dobie's top performing players due to be absent in Kemah and Galveston, it may be difficult for Moreno to gauge just where some of them stand with district approaching.

Several players, including Peng, will instead spend the weekend taking care of other school-related functions.

While he certainly enjoys the idea of his players being well-rounded as student athletes, Moreno said the chance to play in the Kemah Boardwalk and Hurricane Ike tournaments will be big for all of those involved.

In the Kemah event, which will be played at Clear Creek High School, 12 state-ranked teams will have players involved.

At the Galveston tournament, players from 17 teams will compete, includ-

ing each of the schools in the Pasadena Independent School District.

Moreno simply wants his players to see how they stack up against some of the best competition from not only the region but the state.

Last spring, Shawn Tripitti and Yen Le qualified for regionals in the mixed doubles along with the boys' doubles team of James Tran and Peng.

This season, the road to regionals may be tougher. But Moreno has just about decided which players are best suited for the various divisions.

The sister act of Shohleh Abedinzadeh and Shohreh Abedinzadeh will play doubles, as will Le and Allison Wells.

In girls' singles, Nurali Desai and Sonali Patel will likely represent the Lady Longhorns.

The mixed doubles field could include girls Jisha Jose and Heather Jung, and boys' candidates include Paul Tran and David Abrego.

In boys' singles, Moreno could match Huy Nguyen with Martin Zuber and Michael Nguyen with Julian Tran.

Although Dobie has experienced plenty of success in team tennis over the past several years, some of the current players lack experience at the district and regional levels in the spring competition session.

Peng, a four-year varsity member, is the team's veteran heading down the stretch.

The left-hander recently won boys' consolation division honors at the Spring Branch tournament after winning four straight matches.

"We have some players who are playing really well right now," Moreno said. "It'll be interesting to see how they finish."

Julian Tran of Dobie figures into head coach Manuel Moreno Jr's plans as the program prepares for district competition.



Griffin wins for Baylor, Duke, Christmas out

Kelli Griffin's shining moment in Baylor University women's basketball history has arrived.

Griffin, a 2007 Clear Brook High School graduate, hit a floater in the lane with 0.5 second remaining, lifting Baylor to a 60-58 victory over South Dakota in the NCAA women's national tournament March 24.

A sophomore point guard, Griffin led the Lady Bears with 21 points.

Baylor, a No. 2 seed in the Raleigh Regional, now advances to the regional

semifinals March 28 against Louisville.

The Lady Bears, now 29-5, survived a scare in the first round of the tournament, outlasting the University of Texas at San Antonio 87-82 in overtime.

The news wasn't as good for Duke, which includes former Dobie High School graduate Karima Christ-

mas. Michigan State downed the Blue Devils 63-49 March 24, outscoring Duke 14-2 over the final eight minutes. Christmas had 13 points for Duke (27-6).

Sports Calendar

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

Tuesday, March 31

Dobie JV at Pasadena tournament, Strawberry, TBA

Thursday, April 2

Dobie varsity hosts St. John's, Dobie, 3:30

SOFTBALL

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

Sunday, March 29

San Jacinto College at NTCC, Mt. Pleasant (2), noon

Tuesday, March 31

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

Friday, April 3

Clear Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek, 7:00
Dobie varsity hosts Memorial, PISD complex, 6:30
Clear Brook JV hosts Clear Creek, 5:30
Dobie JV hosts Memorial, PISD complex, 5:00

Wednesday, April 1

San Jacinto College hosts Blinn (2), 2:00/4:00

Sunday, April 5

San Jacinto College hosts Lon Morris (2), 11 a.m./ 1 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, March 26

Dobie JV girls at Clear Creek meet, 3:00

Saturday, March 28

Dobie varsity girls at Santa Fe meet, all day

Wednesday, April 1

PISD intermediate girls' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

Thursday, April 2

PISD intermediate boys' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

BASEBALL

Friday, March 27

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

Saturday, March 28

Dobie JV hosts La Porte, Dobie, noon

Monday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 31

Clear Brook varsity hosts Galveston Ball, 7:30
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 7:00

Friday, April 3

Clear Brook varsity at Clear Springs, 7:30
Dobie varsity hosts Sam Rayburn, Maguire, 7:00
Clear Brook JV hosts Clear Springs, 7:00
Clear Brook sophomores host Clear Springs, 4:30
Dobie sophomores host Sam Rayburn, Dobie, 4:00

Saturday, April 4

Dobie JV hosts Sam Rayburn, Dobie, noon

Baseball contenders already emerging

Continued from Page 1B
March 27 at 7:30 p.m. Like the Wolverines, Galveston Ball enters the game at 1-2 in District 24-5A action.

DP tops Dobie
While it was indeed a tough loss to swallow, Dobie head coach Roy Grant found little fault with his team's effort in the 2-1 loss to the Deer.

The Longhorns did fail to execute properly in a couple of key situations that could have led to runs scored, but overall the game was well played by both teams.

Senior right-hander Cody Priest held Deer Park scoreless through four but then gave up a run in the fifth.

Dobie countered with Adame's homer to tie the score at 1-1 entering the sixth inning.

Priest got one out in the ninth inning before leaving with a pair of runners on. Adame then issued a pair of walks as the Deer stole the win.

"We had a couple of missteps, but overall we played defense pretty well, and Cody threw the ball real well again," Grant said.

"We just have to make better contact, put the ball in play and get some more runs on the board.

"We missed a couple of opportunities to score runs. In the first inning, we got doubled off of second base on a popout. If we would have scored first and set the tone, maybe there would have been a different outcome in the final score."

JFD nips SoHo
A four-run second inning held up as the Longhorns trimmed South Houston 4-3 March 19 at Dobie.

Daniel Sawyer, who pitched a complete game for the win, helped his own cause with a two-run homer in the second inning after a lead-off double by Cody Priest.

Justin Eckols and Joseph Gutierrez also drove in runs as Dobie built a 4-0 lead and held on, just barely.

Francisco Esquivel pitched well for South Houston, going six innings. But both teams handcuffed themselves in the field and at the plate during the

game. The two teams each hit into a pair of double plays that ended innings. South Houston made four errors, and Dobie committed three.

The Longhorns put runners on base and had legitimate scoring threats in place before double plays ended both frames.

In the fifth inning, former Sagement-Beverly Hills Little League standout Wesley Castillo made a beautiful diving catch in short right field from his second base spot and turned it into a double play.

Dobie third baseman Derrick Murray, despite making an error in the game, turned two double plays in the game, including one in which he made a great grab on an attempted sacrifice bunt.

Murray then ended South Houston's final scoring threat in the sixth, laying out to snatch a liner to his left and getting the double play at first base.

Sawyer, who had thrown a no-hitter in his previous outing against Humble, was not at his best against the Trojans.

The senior right-hander had trouble controlling his fastball but was able to use his slider as a solid strikeout pitch en route to fanning seven.

In the end, the bottom line was simple. Dobie was 2-0 early in the 22-5A race.

Brook crushes Dickinson
Needing a win after being run-ruled 10-0 by Clear Creek in the 24-5A opener, Clear Brook turned the tables on Dickinson courtesy of a 13-1 victory March 20 at Clear Brook.

District 24-5A Standings Varsity Baseball

(As of March 25)

Teams	W	L
Alvin	3	0
Clear Creek	3	0
Brazoswood	2	1
Clear Lake	2	1
Clear Brook	1	2
Galveston Ball	1	2
Dickinson	0	3
Clear Springs	0	3

District 22-5A Standings Varsity Baseball

(As of March 25)

Teams	W	L
Dobie	2	1
La Porte	2	1
Sam Rayburn	2	1
Pearland	2	1
South Houston	2	1
Deer Park	1	2
Memorial	1	2
Pasadena	0	3



Dobie, including senior third baseman Derrick Murray (above) has a chance to make a major move in the District 22-5A standings with a big game at La Porte coming March 27. The Longhorns then face Pasadena March 31 at Maguire Field.

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