

Happy New Year!

South Belt-Ellington Leader 40 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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VIP Dobie meeting Jan. 12

Dobie High School will hold a parent night Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Dobie auditorium at 6:30 p.m. for incoming freshman for the 2017-2018 school year. School officials say they cannot express enough the importance of this meeting, as they will share important course registration information with parents and students before they register for classes for the upcoming school year. There will be an update on the progress of the new Dobie freshman campus at Monroe and Fuqua.

This orientation will offer parents an opportunity to meet the administrators and counselors who will work with their students at the new Dobie freshman campus. The session will provide important information for parents to ensure everyone is involved in their child's course selection for the upcoming year. There will be tables set up for families to purchase T-shirts and other items as well as receive information from the many organizations at Dobie. All upcoming freshman and parents should attend.

Gulf Freeway closure set

There will be a total closure of the southbound exit ramp to FM-528/NASA Road 1 until further notice. Detour: Southbound mainline traffic wanting to exit at FM-528/NASA Road 1 will have to exit at Bay Area Boulevard, go through the Bay Area Boulevard intersection and travel down the southbound frontage road to FM 528/NASA Rd. 1.

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

Haircuts for school supplies

The San Jacinto College Cosmetology Department will host its Spring School Supply Drive Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, 10510 Scarsdale, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will provide vouchers for free professional haircuts with a style to those who donate \$25 or more worth of school supplies. This year's event will focus on providing supplies to underprivileged students at Stuchbery Elementary. Students in need will be identified with the assistance of Stuchbery counselor Shannon Garris. Having proper supplies will not only ensure students start the school year with confidence, it will also let them know people in the community care about them. For additional information, contact Jeanette Wright at 281-922-3406 or jeanette.wright@sjcd.edu.

Constant flow of dump trucks continues

A constant stream of dump trucks continues to flow through the South Belt community, as they haul dirt from the site of the future detention pond near Beamer and Dixie Farm Road to a dump site near Beltway 8 and Mykawa.

The line of trucks can be spotted driving north from the site up Beamer, then west down Beltway 8 throughout most of the day. While Harris County Flood Control District officials said the drivers had been instructed to avoid traveling through residential areas, the trucks can routinely be seen also traveling along Blackhawk.

According to Phase II Project Manager Zeke Saavedra, the residential travel is likely related to additional construction projects that are ongoing at Beamer and Hughes and Beamer and Beltway 8, which have caused extensive traffic congestion

along the area thoroughfares.

Saavedra said alternate routes, such as taking Dixie Farm to the Gulf Freeway, are currently being examined to alleviate overcrowding in the community.

"We're trying to be proactive," Saavedra said.

The excavations began on Nov. 11, and Saavedra said the contract is for 723 days, weather permitting. Contractors are hoping to expedite the process, however, by beginning night hauls Jan. 16.

Saavedra noted, however, this is the contractor's option and not required by the county.

"The intent is to finish sooner," Saavedra said. "But they're not obligated to do so."

Once night hauls begin, crews will essentially

work around the clock, taking possible breaks only during peak traffic hours, Saavedra said.

"The less traffic, the more round trips you can make with fewer trucks," Saavedra said.

At the project's peak, Saavedra said crews can service one to two dump trucks per minute. Approximately 1.47 million cubic yards of soil are

to be removed during Phase II, alone. Once loaded on the trucks, the dirt is dumped at a privately owned site, located at 6250 Schurmer Road.

Officials hope to have the second phase of construction complete by late 2018. Once complete, the pond will hold up to 1,250 acre/feet or 407 million gallons of storm water.

Hughes project behind schedule

The project to reconstruct Hughes Road from Beltway 8 to Sagecanyon is running at least one month behind schedule, according to city officials.

Originally scheduled to be complete by the end of the year, the work is now slated to be complete by February 2017 at the earliest, officials said. Construction crews, however, could remain on the project through June 2017.

Begun in June 2015, the Hughes Road Drainage and Paving Project is designed to mitigate flooding in areas along and surrounding the thoroughfare.

The \$11.7 million project will provide key upgrades such as new concrete pavement, water lines, sanitary sewers, sidewalks and curbs, street lighting, traffic control and new signage.

The ongoing project has drawn the ire of many local residents and business owners, who say the project is causing widespread confusion and traffic congestion.

A primary concern is the added traffic when traveling north on Beamer toward Hughes from Scarsdale. Drivers are often forced to wait several minutes to travel through the intersection.

Construction at the intersection of Beamer and Hughes has made it difficult to maneuver through the crossing, making it difficult to access multiple businesses located at the corner.

A second concern is the high frequency of automobile accidents at the corner of Beamer and Hughes. While the official number of collisions was unavailable at press time Wednesday, the *Leader* has heard from multiple Houston police officers that at least one crash takes place per day at the intersection – some of which are serious in nature.

Since construction began at the intersection, at least one vehicle has fallen into the adjacent drainage ditch at the corner, and another vehicle has crashed through a residential fence, narrowly

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Commissioner Ellis sworn in



Rodney Ellis was officially sworn in as Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner on Jan. 1. Ellis replaced Gene Locke, who had been appointed to the position to fill the remaining term of El Franco Lee, who died last January after holding the seat for more than 30 years. Ellis is pictured above with his wife, Licia Green-Ellis. See related story on Page 2A.

Photo submitted

CCISD opposes state rating system

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution in opposition of the new A-F rating system of schools in Texas because it creates a false impression about students, ignores the unique strengths of each school and unfairly reduces each student's worth to the school's assigned grade.

"Quite frankly, our children, staff and community deserve a better accountability system that provides a balanced report card and not some arbitrary rating system that you cannot explain," CCISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith said.

The A-F rating system relies heavily, 55 percent, on the results from students' State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) performance, which is a one-day snapshot of an academic portrait.

"When I see a single letter grade based on more than 50 percent of a test with lagging indi-

cators, that is wrong," Board President Dr. Laura DuPont said. "How does this letter show what's going on in these schools?"

There is also mounting evidence the tests are not valid assessments of what students have mastered.

"The reading sections are supposed to measure comprehension of passages," Bailey Buchanan, an Advanced Placement English Language Arts student from Clear Brook High School, said. "But really it is just a game of trying to guess the answers from clues." Buchanan and her peers are urging legislators to ditch STAAR for nationally-recognized and valid assessments.

At least 16 states have implemented similar A-F rating systems and, to date, there is no definitive research that suggests these ratings have improved student or school performance.

"To me, reducing a child to a single letter

Continued on Page 2A

Leader remembers highlights, sad times of 2016

Another year has passed, and the *Leader* staff would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the more significant stories of 2016. Due to space limitations, the year in review will be continued in the Jan. 12 edition. Section B includes the sports year in review.

Jan. 7

Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee died from a heart attack Sunday, Jan. 3. He was 66. A native Houstonian, Lee began his political career in 1979 when he was elected state representative for District 142, where he served five years. In 1985, Lee was elected Precinct 1 commissioner – a position he would hold for seven terms. He was the first African-American to serve on the panel. A graduate of Wheatley High School, Lee went on to attend Texas Southern University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science. He completed related course work and postgraduate studies at the TSU School of Public Affairs and the University of Houston. Lee was instrumental in facilitating many South Belt projects including the county courthouse annex at Beamer and Scarsdale, the paving and extension of Beamer Road, the Blackhawk hike-and-bike trail and the community center and youth sports fields on Blackhawk.

Longtime South Belt resident Bill Morgan died from a heart attack on his birthday Monday, Dec. 28, 2015. He had just turned 64. Morgan was a former board member for the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District and was a founding member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Jan. 14

Hundreds of friends and colleagues gathered Tuesday, Jan. 12, to bid farewell to outgoing Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis. Originally from Ropesville, near Lubbock, Lewis received his bachelor's in advertising/public relations from Texas Tech in 1976. Following this, he attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where he received a master's in education futures in 1983. Lewis went on to earn a doctorate in educational leadership from Lamar University in March 2008. Lewis began at PISD in 1986 as administrative assistant to the superintendent, responsible for

communications and policy development. He was promoted to executive director for communications and community relations in 1995 and to deputy superintendent for administration, public relations and governmental affairs in 2001, before being promoted to superintendent in April 2006.

Jan. 21

Dobie High School announced its fourth class of Hall of Honor inductees. Inductees included banker Robert E. Marling Jr. (Dobie Class of 1974), research scientist Dr. Mark Yandell (Class of 1983), the Rev. Sean Horrigan (Class of 1984) and Harris County Constable Phil Sandlin (Class of 1987). The inductees were honored at a ceremony the following month at the high school. The late Carole Stockinger, a longtime English teacher at Dobie, was also inducted.

Jan. 28

Dr. DeeAnn Powell assumed the role of superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District, replacing the outgoing Kirk Lewis. Powell began her career as an educator in 1991 when she joined the Jackson Intermediate staff as a history teacher. She was named the school's assistant principal in 1997 and principal in 2002. In 2005, she was named an associate superintendent of campus development for the district.

Houston city attorney Gene L. Locke was appointed to finish the late El Franco Lee's term as Precinct 1 Harris County commissioner. A longtime friend and counsel to Lee, Locke had previously served as city attorney from 1995-1998, general counsel to the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority and special counsel to the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Feb. 4

Leader founder and publisher Marie Flickinger was honored as the 2015 Pasadena Independent School District Distinguished Citizen of the Year. Through her work with the newspaper, Flickinger has served as an active supporter of PISD and its partner, San Jacinto College, where she sits on the board of trustees. Flickinger has backed several PISD initiatives, such as the expansion of the district's dual-credit and career and technical programs and was instrumental in passing the district's 2014 school bond measure. Flickinger

also serves on the board of directors for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, which works closely with the school district. In 2015, she was inducted into Dobie High School's Hall of Honor as a community volunteer.

Feb. 11

Two South Belt siblings were killed early Sunday, Feb. 7, in a house fire that took place in Pasadena. Jesse Walker, 19, and Taylor Walker, 20, were pronounced dead at the scene. Both were Dobie graduates.

A local man was killed Saturday, Feb. 6, in an auto-pedestrian accident at the corner of Scarsdale and Beamer. Cedric Roby, 59, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Roby was attempting to cross the street when he was struck by a vehicle heading north on Beamer. Witnesses said the driver had a green light. No charges were filed.

Feb. 18

The South Belt community was struck by a wave of violent crime, with two drive-by shootings and a home invasion all taking place within three days of each other. The most serious crime occurred early Sunday, Feb. 14, in the 11500 block of Gullwood near Olivewood, where a drive-by shooting took place at a house party, striking four victims – one fatally. While police believe the two shootings were related, no immediate arrests were made.

Longtime Pasadena Independent School District staff members Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary, and Steven Fullen, South Houston High School, were selected as the district's elementary and secondary Principals of the Year for 2016. PISD Superintendent DeeAnn Powell and several district administrators delivered the news Friday, Feb. 12, by surprising the honorees at their respective campuses.

Howard has dedicated 32 years of service to PISD, first serving alongside Fullen as a fifth-grade music teacher at Kruse Elementary from 1984 to 1997. Howard rose to a leadership position at Jensen Elementary, first as assistant principal and then principal from 1997 to 2000. In 2009, Howard was named principal of the new South Belt Elementary.

Feb. 25

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball program advanced to the Region III Final Four for the first time since the 1994-95 season after a 59-56 quarterfinal victory over Hightower.

March 3

The results from the March 1 primary elections were tallied, with the Harris County Precinct 2 constable Democratic race heading to a May runoff between incumbent Chris Diaz and George Goffney Jr. Diaz received 45 percent of the vote to Goffney's 21 percent. Joe "Joey"

Martinez received 17 percent of the vote, while Ruben Loreto received 16 percent. In the Republican primary for the constable position, Daniel Vela narrowly avoided a runoff, defeating Joe Alanis 51 percent to 49 percent.

March 10

The Pasadena Independent School District officially dedicated the new Marshall Kendrick Middle School on Tuesday, March 8. Named in honor of longtime PISD board member Marshall Kend-

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Truck traffic to continue through 2017



South Belt residents have undoubtedly noticed the constant stream of dump trucks driving up and down Beamer, Beltway 8 and Blackhawk in recent weeks. This trend is expected to continue through 2017 and much of 2018. The trucks are hauling dirt from the site of the future detention pond near Beamer and Dixie Farm Road to a dump site near Beltway 8 and Mykawa. Mud from the trucks recently caused the closure of Beamer, forcing traffic to divert through San Jacinto College South (shown above). Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Mullen discloses dump truck danger

Is there anything you all can do about the numerous speeding dump trucks in the area? They are speeding on Blackhawk, Beamer and Scarsdale. Yesterday I saw 6 of them run the red light at Beamer and Scarsdale. I went and talked to a foreman at the job site... still no change. I just saw two go very fast through the red light at Blackhawk and Scarsdale. I am worried about everyone's safety. Thank you very much!

Beth Anne Mullen

Karkosky thanks community

Thank you to *South Belt Leader* and all who donate to them to give. I'm raising 17- and 13-year-old girls and a 2-year-old great-granddaughter. I was laid off my job of 16 years and *South Belt Leader* blessed them with Christmas.

I thank everyone at South Belt for the blessing of Christmas for my family. They all gave graciously.

Thank you, Frances Karkosky

Christmas generosity noted by Hamiltons

My family would like to thank everyone for their generosity in giving for Christmas. Our family appreciates the gifts and thoughtfulness. God is so good and resides in the hearts of his children. That's why we praise him! May God Bless everyone and Have a Happy Holiday.

Sincerely, The Hamilton Family
Latoya, Edward, Lawryn, Deandre and Roderick

Cubos expresses thanks for program

Hey Marie! I just wanted to say Thank you! If it were not for your program and the generosity that it takes to make it happen I'm not sure how the kids were going to have gifts this year.

It's been tough but I'm grateful and can not thank you enough!

Claudia Cubos

Benjamin Lee Brantly



On the day in 2006 that his beloved St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, he stood in the stands at Busch Stadium in St. Louis and cried. He said that next to the days his two sons were born, it was the best day of his entire life. That says everything about Benjamin

Lee Brantly, 69; he loved his two sons, three grandsons and baseball with every fiber of his body.

He graduated from Houston's Westbury High School where he was, not surprisingly, a varsity baseball pitcher. He attended Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., where he was a lifelong member of Sigma Nu Fraternity and graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. He married Sharon Lane Brantly in 1969 and was a resident of the South Belt area until 1983. Lee worked for Monsanto in Texas City, and Browning Ferris Industries before going to work for his best friend Jerry Lewis at Car Country in Angleton. He married Patricia Brantly in 1984.

To say he was a baseball enthusiast was an understatement. He showed up for MLB games early to watch batting practice and talk to players - but during the game he dare not engage in idle chatter, because at every game he bought a program to keep score and track every pitch of every play. He was an umpire before his sons' births, coached those two sons' games and, most recently, coached one of his grandson's team. While seri-

ous about the sport, he always brought a sense of joy, fun and teaching to baseball.

With a memory allowing him to tell stories from decades ago as if they happened yesterday, he recently organized and emceed his Sigma Nu class reunion with an impromptu stroll down memory lane recalling incidents involving every alumnus in the audience that happened more than 40 years ago. As an active member of Sagemont Church, he will be remembered as someone who never met a stranger, and will, therefore, be a much-missed smiling face of the congregation, as well as a shining example of God's love.

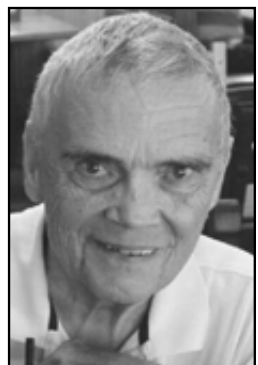
He is preceded in death by his parents Ernest Lee and Ernestine Ramsey Brantly; and his grandparents Penn Leary Brantly, Eunice Brantly Beck, Benjamin Levi and Ora Williams Ramsey.

He is survived by one sister, Suellen Ryan (husband Mike); brother Dennis Brantly; sons Jason Allan Brantly, Paul Byram Brantly (wife Yessica); grandsons, Jackson Lane Brantly, Benjamin Levi and Nathan Lane Brantly; nieces Shannon Ryan and Brayden Ryan Dinkins (husband Chip),

and nephew Chris Ryan (wife Julie). Also survived by his uncle Brythel Brantly, aunt Nellie Brantly and numerous cousins.

He died at home in Lake Jackson on Dec. 19, 2016. A Celebration of Life will be held at Sagemont Church Friday, Jan. 6, at 1:30 p.m.

Ronald Gustav Heitman



Ronald Gustav Heitman, 76, of South Belt, died Dec. 29, 2016, surrounded by his family.

He grew up in a small town in southern Illinois where he earned his degree in electrical engineering. He was a team

member on one of the greatest exploration endeavors of humankind: Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Shuttle, and Space Station programs. While working for McDonnell Douglas during the '60s, he had the opportunity to work side-by-side training astronauts on flight simulators. It was at Cape Canaveral, Fla., that Ron met the love of his life, Wendy Smith and they later married in 1964. They then moved to Houston to raise their three children. After enjoying fulfilling years of being a member of the JSC NASA space program community, he retired in 2007.

He was born Feb. 16, 1940, in Fairfield, Ill., to Gustav and Maria (Nitschke) Heitman of Germany. He was preceded in death by wife Wendy, and his parents. Ron is survived by his son Christopher Heitman and wife Stephanie of Richmond, Texas, son Jonny Heitman of Houston, daughter Jennifer Pliske of Goodyear, Az., and by his grandchildren Emily, Josh, and Carson Pliske, Niklas, Andrew, and Kathryn Heitman, Gwendolyn Heitman, great-granddaughter Olivia Rector; and loving niece Kathy and her husband Eddie Paddock.

A service was held at the Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland, Wednesday, Jan. 4, with burial at South Park Cemetery.

Barbara Northern



Former South Belt resident Barbara Ann Northern, 70, of Houston, died Dec. 27, 2016.

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio on Jan. 15, 1946. Barbara graduated from Midway High School and received a business degree from San Jacinto College.

She was married to Thomas Carl Northern, Sr., on Nov. 7, 1965.

Barbara had a career in banking for JP Morgan Chase Bank. She had a passion for her family and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Carl Northern; mother, Betty Huber; children, Chris (April) Northern, Lisa (Heath) Jones, and Jason (Kristy) Northern; grandchildren, Kortney Northern, Roger Solis, Loren Northern, Jordan Northern, Kaitlyn Solis, Brittany Northern, Brandon Solis, Justin Northern, Emily Northern, Madison Northern, Kristelynn Northern, Joshua Hong Kham, Caylor Jones, Colby Jones, and Presley Northern; sisters, Diana Flohr and Cheryl Bennett; and her brother, Robert Huber.

Barbara was preceded in death by her father, James Bennett and her son, Thomas Carl Northern, Jr.

A visitation was held Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, at Forest Park The Woodlands Funeral Home. A funeral service was held Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, at Woodlands Church in the Chapel in the Woods, One Fellowship Drive, The Wood-

lands. Interment to immediately follow at Dresden Cemetery in Dresden, Texas.

Loretta Dietz Bowser



Loretta Dietz Bowser of Houston, died Dec. 3, 2016, at Houston Hospice.

She was born Nov. 13, 1939, in Youngstown, Ohio, the daughter of Sue Ann and Leo Dietz. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Leona Bartos, twin brother Leo Dietz Jr. and his wife Peggy and granddaughter Angel Bowser. She is survived by her loving husband of 50 years James Bowser; daughter Jeanee and husband Blair Wells; and sons Shawn, Chad and his wife Sharlene Bowser, Josh and his wife Lisa Bowser and daughter Sue Ann Bowser and wife Jenny. She is survived by her grandchildren Allison Wells, Kelsey Wells, Chad Wayne Baker, Cameron Bowser, Christopher Bowser, Chandler Bowser, Charles Bowser and Alyssa Bowser, sister Susie Scheetz and husband Jerry. She will be missed by her husband and family, numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends and her pets, Maddie, Paris and Izzy.

Loretta and Jim moved to Texas in the early '70s living in Pasadena and then moving to South Belt area. Their home was a sanctuary for everything Loretta loved; her family, friends, pets and nature. Birds and hummingbirds are fed daily and can be enjoyed out of the back window of their home. Family and friends of her children were always welcome and offered a plate of food and a place to sit and relax. Loving the holidays, her home was always decorated both inside and out. Even being ill Loretta made sure this year to handwrite Christmas cards that were mailed before she entered the hospital.

In Ohio, Loretta was a hair dresser after moving to Texas, and was a homemaker, raising her five children. She was involved in all of the agricultural projects that her children were involved in, helping to care for many of their animals and even raising them in the backyard. She loved all animals and supported her and her family's love for pets. Loretta worked in the cafeteria of Burnett Elementary during the time some of her children attended the school.

She also worked numerous years in the insurance industry. Her final job was a greeter at Wal-Mart. Loretta was a perfect fit for this and made lots of friends with her co-workers and the regular customers. Her personality made everyone who met her know they were valued and appreciated.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, Jan. 6, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

South Belt shares Christmas joy



Students from South Belt Elementary participated in the annual Leader Christmas program by collecting and donating toys to the drive. South Belt Principal Candy Howard (back left) and counselor Lakitha Green (back right) are shown above with students

Courtlyn Fletcher, Alex Olvera, Jayden Reimer, Carter Pham, Anthony Cancel, Santiago Morales, Dexter Sullivan, Annabella Cancel, Caylee Martinez, Paris Valencia, Annie Nguyen, Anyia Fleming, Jordan Bernard and Patrick Fobbs. Photo submitted

H-Town Texas Cookers donate



The H-Town Texas Cookers participated in this year's Leader drive by collecting toys. To encourage donations, the team traded barbecue sandwiches for toys. Team members shown above are, left to right, Rudy Luna, Esmerelda Reyna, Leo Reyna, Marissa Amezcua and Isabel Reyna. Not pictured is Fernando Reyna. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Rodney Ellis sworn in as Commissioner

Rodney Ellis was sworn in as Harris County Precinct One Commissioner on Jan. 1, pledging to improve the lives of his constituents and fight for important reforms that will benefit the entire county. (See related picture Page 1A.)

A dedicated public servant who spent more than 25 years in the Texas Senate, Commissioner Ellis took his official oath of office with other county elected officials at a ceremony held on New Year's Day.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner administered a second, ceremonial oath Jan. 2 to Commissioner Ellis and more than 30 other Democrats elected to various Harris County offices.

"This really is to say thank you first of all to our voters for having confidence in us and also the people who didn't vote for us to challenge us to do better," Commissioner Ellis told the crowd at NRG Stadium. "This is an opportunity for all of us to say that we commit to you publicly to fulfill the promises that we made when we were running."

Commissioner Ellis was elected last November to the Precinct One position, which was left vacant with the death of El Franco Lee. He honored the late Commissioner's dedication and commitment to the Precinct at a gathering of employees on Jan. 3 at the Tom Bass Community Center.

"We can do great things in this Precinct and build on the legacy of El Franco Lee," Commissioner Ellis told the group. Ethel Kaye Lee, Commissioner Lee's widow, also attended the meeting, where she thanked employees for their kindness and praised Commissioner Ellis as a strong leader.

Commissioner Ellis said one of his first priorities will be to enact reforms to the County's criminal justice system with the help of newly elected District Attorney Kim Ogg and Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

"We are wasting taxpayers' money by locking up someone for riding a bike on the sidewalk," Commissioner Ellis said, referring to a recent arrest of a man in the Fifth Ward. "We want to make sure we protect the public by jailing dangerous criminals. But we don't want an overcrowded jail with mostly low-level defendants who are there simply because they can't make bond." The Commissioner said he also will closely monitor the upcoming state legislative session, particularly any bills that would restrict the county's ability to raise money to benefit its constituents.

Commissioner Ellis also pledged to build on the Precinct's commitment to improving county roads and bridges and maintaining clean and safe

parks. He is also committed to providing quality and accessible services and programs that will enhance the lives of citizens in Precinct One and fighting for reforms that will benefit all County residents.

Commissioner Ellis was born in Houston and raised in the Sunnyside neighborhood. He attended the Texas public school system from grade school through law school.

In representing a Houston district in the Texas Senate for more than 25 years, he earned widespread praise as a leader on economic development, education, civil rights, budget issues, responsible environmental policy, tax cuts for the middle class, criminal justice, and workforce development.

Before joining the Texas Senate in 1990, Commissioner Ellis served three terms on the Houston City Council and as chief of staff to the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. He holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commissioner Ellis also studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and the London School of Economics.

Commissioner Ellis is married to Licia Green-Ellis and has four children.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

The Sagemont Civic Club is recruiting block captains for its Neighbor Helping Neighbor initiative. The block captain will help with engaging others on their block with regards to their needs or their desire to help others. If interested in joining the Neighbor Helping Neighbor initiative, contact president of the Sagemont Civic Club, Kay Barbour, on the Sagemont Civic Club Facebook page.

Voting for the Pasadena ISD's Capture the Moment Photo contest has begun and is open until 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6. The votes will be counted by the photograph with the most likes on the Pasadena ISD Facebook page.

One winner from each high school with the most votes will be awarded a Go-Pro Hero 4 and will move on to the final round of voting that will take place the week of Monday, Jan. 23 through Friday, Jan. 27.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to conform to the Leader style.

CCART to meet Jan. 10

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its next meeting Tuesday, Jan. 10. Meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The program will feature former astronaut and author Clayton Anderson, who will review his book, *The Ordinary Spaceman: From Boyhood Dreams to Astronaut*. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$45.

- Local library events set -

Parker Williams Library

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

- Thursday, Jan. 5, 4 p.m. Movie Madness. Feature presentation is *The Secret Life of Pets*, rated PG.
- Friday, Jan. 6, 5 p.m. Anime Club will view *Mobile Suit Gundam-Iron Blooded Orphans*, rated TV-14.
- Saturday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. HERO&S Foundation presents a nutrition and exercise seminar.
- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2:30 p.m. Internet Basics computer class.
- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 5 p.m. Building Life Skills-Meal Prep, for ages 7 and older.
- Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.
- Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on these programs, phone the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:

- Saturday, Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m. Computación Básica (Spanish Computer Class)
- Saturday, Jan. 7, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Manga/Anime Club
- Tuesday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m. Para los Niños
- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11 a.m. Toddler playtime
- Wednesday, Jan. 11: Computer courses:
 - 2 p.m. Computer Basics - Course covers the main parts of a computer. Common computer terminology is defined and features of different computers and types of productivity, communications, educational, and entertainment programs are explained.
 - 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics - Course explains the purpose of the Internet, what is needed to connect to it and important terms. Learn how to use web browsers and search engines. Students will be introduced to English vocabularies specifically to searching the Internet.
 - 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint - Students learn basic functions of this program to create presentations, including adding graphics and multimedia. Students learn to identify the printing options for presentations.
- For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.
- Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday - noon to 8 p.m., Friday - 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our Family Has Grown!

Now with two locations to better serve our community

Niday - Fairmont Funeral Home
6777 Fairmont Pkwy. • Pasadena
281.991.0575

Niday Funeral Home
12440 Beamer • Houston
281.464.7200

Still family owned and operated, our exceptional service and affordability set us apart from other funeral homes. The moment you sit down with us, you will feel and see the difference. Niday Funeral Home services all cemeteries and offers a range of funeral and cremation options.

Planning in advance can be one of the most thoughtful decisions you make for your family. Our plans are transferable should you move, and we also accept most existing policies from other funeral homes.

Niday Funeral Home
12440 Beamer Road
281.464.7200
www.nidayfuneral.com

ADVERTISE IN THE LEADER!

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www.southbeltleader.com

Frazier hosts Family Reading Genre Night

Frazier Elementary held its annual Family Reading Genre Night on Thursday, Dec. 8. Families dressed in their pajamas, participated in a great night of fun reading activities and enjoyed milk and cookies.



Left to right are (front) Susan Cardenas, Sophia Cardenas, Elias Cardenas IV and (back) Elias Cardenas III.



Elizabeth Falcon and Anastasia Falcon



Abigail Aguilar and her father, Marcos Aguilar



Cub Scouts of Pack 773 attended Frazier's Family Reading Night to help pass out cookies and milk. Pictured are, left to right, Dennis Tran, Nicholi Soto, Xander Fiterman and CJ Johnson.

Middle School students write 2017 resolutions

Melillo Middle

The following are New Year's resolutions for 2017 written by students at Melillo Middle School.

Maria Diaz's class

My New Year's Resolution is to get good grades because I want to go to a really good college.

Katharina Ramirez

My New Year's Resolution is to study more and help my mom because I want to bring my grades up and I want to help my mom with all the work she has at home.

Maria Escamilla

My New Year's Resolution is to get better grades in school because I want to go to a good college.

Samantha Flores

My New Year's Resolution is to study more because I want to learn English.

Jonathan Jasso

My New Year's Resolution is to be truthful to others because you won't get in trouble.

Jules Manlangit

New Year's Resolution is to walk 20 minutes every day because I want to be healthy.

Samuel Martinez

My New Year's Resolution is to study more because I want to learn more and get better at math.

Lesly Montoya

My New Year's Resolution is to help my mom at home because my mom is having a baby.

Sergio Ortega

My New Year's Resolution is to help my mom clean more because she already has a lot of cleaning to do.

Jason Tenorio

My New Year's Resolution is to pay more attention in class and try not to get in trouble because I do not really pay attention and I get in trouble a lot.

Julian Cervantes

My New Year's Resolution is to get good grades because I want to pass to the next grade.

Zulik Garcia

My New Year's Resolution is to make good grades because I want to be better at school and have good grades.

Antony Gonzalez

My New Year's Resolution is to study more and get better grades so I can go to a good college.

Natalie Hernandez

My New Year's Resolution is to learn more English because I want to get good grades.

Christopher Mendez

My New Year's Resolution is to try harder in reading class because I want to get better grades.

Yohander Mercado

My New Year's Resolution is to study more because I want to get better grades.

Kim Phan

My New Year's Resolution is to keep my grades on the "A" side!

Mia Vazquez

My New Year's Resolution is to try not to argue with my sister as much because she calls my mom and blames it all on me.

Stephen Wiggins

My New Year's Resolution is to go to Antarctica and go to the icy mountains because it is something cool to discover and investigate how cold it is.

Brooklyn Bush

My New Year's Resolution is to have a great school year because I want to have fun while doing school work.

Victoria Luna

My New Year's Resolution is to make good grades because I want my grades on my report card to be good.

Cindy Ni

My New Year's Resolution is to always be thankful for what I have because I feel I have a lot of great people and things in my life.

Adriyonna Alvarado

My New Year's Resolution is to live up to my full potential everywhere I go because I want a puppy.

Angela Botello

My New Year's Resolution is to spend more time with my family because I usually just play games.

Alex Nguyen

My New Year's Resolution is to get tougher because I don't want to get bullied.

Robert Portillo

My New Year's Resolution is to stop drinking soda because it will rot my teeth.

Liam Vasquez

My New Year's Resolution is to be nice to my sister and brother because we fight a lot.

Mikey Bishop

My New Year's Resolution is to do my best in all my classes because I want to pass 5th grade and I don't

Dulce Torres

My New Year's Resolution is to get a moose as a pet because it is my favorite animal.

Joseph Martinez

My New Year's Resolution is to get A's in every subject because my classes are really hard this year.

Megan Ly

My New Year's Resolution is to get straight A's because my whole family is smart and I believe I can do it!

Ashley Cruz

My New Year's Resolution is to become a better gamer because I am not that good at games yet.

Joseph Ortiz-Ramirez

My New Year's Resolution is to not have an attitude with my family because it puts them in a bad mood.

Kylie Anderson

My New Year's Resolution is to have another great year because this year is great but I want 2017 to be better.

Adrienne Spencer

My New Year's Resolution is to help children around the world to read and like books because I heard about children not reading and flunking their grades.

Leanna Snowton

My New Year's Resolution is to eat healthy because I want to be in shape and get strong.

Cymone Potier

My New Year's Resolution is to get better grades in conduct because I want to pass 5th grade.

Zeni C-Vives

My New Year's Resolution is to go to the homeless can come and get food for free since they can't afford to pay for their own food.

Julysa Sanchez

My Resolution for 2017 is to become better at reading and math. I will do this by reading more and studying math fact problems.

Maddisyn Sockwell

My New Year's Resolution is to limit my video game playing because it hurts my eyes to play so much.

Jorge Salinas

My New Year's Resolution is to read more books because I want good grades for all my classes and so I can learn more.

Noah Bahena

My New Year's Resolution is to eat more broccoli because eating greens is good.

Alex Nguyen

My New Year's Resolution is to start eating healthy because when I get older I want to stay fit and be able to do things in the future.

Meadow Ross

My New Year's Resolution is to eat healthy and try new foods because I don't eat healthy and try new things often.

Maddox Rodriguez

Hugo Flores

Isaiah Hernandez

Kiana Rodriguez

I want to improve myself in 2017 by studying harder and paying more attention. I will improve my grades. I will research how to be a fashion model, like taking modeling classes and maybe one day...

Alexandra Vega

This New Year's I'm going to save my money for other stuff like college and to maybe buy a dog or an Xbox.

Furquan Awan

In 2017, I want to be better in everything I do. I want to go to college when I graduate and pass all of my classes.

Isaiah Hernandez

Hugo Flores

Isaiah Hernandez

Isaiah Hernandez

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CCISD's 2017-2018 calendar approved

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the 2017-2018 academic calendar during the regular meeting on Dec. 12, 2016.

The most noticeable change in the calendar is the official start date of Aug. 21, 2017.

By law, public school districts may not start the school year until the fourth

Monday of August. However, since Clear Creek ISD is a District of Innovation, it is authorized to work outside certain legislative mandates, including the law that governs the start of the school year.

The District of Innovation process was approved by the Legislature in 2015 to allow high performing school districts like CCISD

flexibility to meet the needs of the community, flexibility already provided to public charter schools.

The calendar design and selection process began in September.

Three calendar options were developed by the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) Calendar Subcommittee and were presented to the CCISD staff

and community for input.

The calendar options were posted to the district website and community and staff choices were surveyed.

Based on the DEIC's collection of input from individual Campus Instruction Improvement Committee votes as well as input tallied from the CCISD website, the DEIC recommended calendar

option one and the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation.

The 2017-2018 academic calendar can be viewed at www.ccisd.net.

Additionally, elementary summer school dates recommended and approved by the board are as follows: June 5, 2017, teacher work day; Summer school, June 6 through June 28, 2017.

South Belt Elementary names spelling bee winners

South Belt Elementary recently held its annual spelling bee. At right are the top winners, Champion Jabez Palma (left) and Runner-up Sebastian Sanders (right). Pictured with the champions is Sarah Smith, spelling bee coach and Literacy Peer Facilitator.

Photos submitted



Participants in the South Belt Elementary 2016-2017 Spelling Bee were, left to right, (front row) Haley Nguyen, Jonathan Garcia, Mario Martinez, Lennyn Mendoza, Jacob Kostikoglou, (back row) spelling bee coach/Literacy PF Sarah Smith, Ayden Munoz, Jordan Scimmions, Jabez Palma, Sebastian Sanders, Layla Jack, Joshua Lastik and Michael Collins. Photo submitted

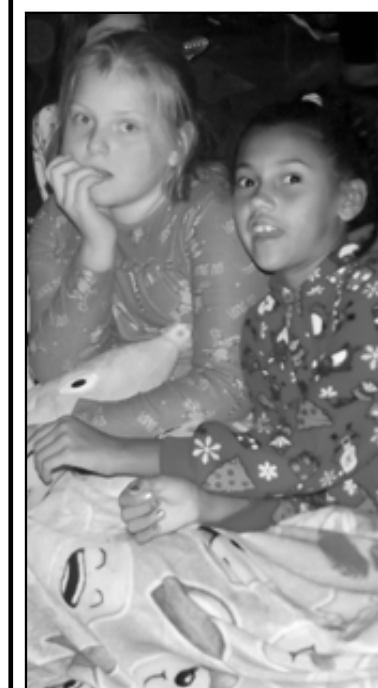
Polar Express at Moore



Students, parents and staff at Moore Elementary had a fun evening watching *The Polar Express* with hot cocoa and a cookie.

Photos submitted

Shown at left are, left to right, Britny Greuter, first grade teacher, Shelby Willis, kindergarten teacher, and Cindy Walker, librarian.



Fourth-grade student Annelise Goodrum-Toth and Tabllon Provost



Second-grader Carter Burbank and third-grader Peyton Lynn

Santa visits Waugh



Santa Claus recently visited the *Leader* office to spread holiday cheer to volunteers assisting in the newspaper's annual Christmas drive. Santa is shown above visiting Stacey Waugh, a longtime volunteer in the program. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Judaism and Religion in General:

Free monthly open discussions

Congregation Shaar Ha-shalom's Rabbi Stuart Federow will host free, open to the public, weekly discussions. Sessions are held the second Thursday of every month at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., in Houston (next to McDonald's) at 7 p.m. Anyone can join the discussion and bring questions, thoughts and opinions to share with everyone present. Congregation Shaar Ha-shalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real in Houston, and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For additional information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or email at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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Over The Back Fence by Alexis

BO CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes to *Leader* staffer **Bo Bolen** who celebrates a birthday Saturday, Jan. 7, from friends and the staff at the *South Belt Leader*.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 5 through Jan. 11.

Burnett Elementary
Light the birthday candles for **Carlota Ramirez** Jan. 6.

Bush Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Deborah Muniz** Jan. 7. The day for a party for **Vicki Sheppard** is Jan. 9. **Cynthia Covarrubias** enjoys a birthday Jan. 11.

Frazier Elementary
Light the birthday candles Jan. 8 for **Christine Grazioli**. **Nancy Guerra** celebrates a birthday on Jan. 10.

Meador Elementary
The day for a double celebration for **Layna Hamon** and **Cheryl Caudill** is Jan. 6. Enjoy a slice of a double-layer cake Jan. 11 with **Tara Merida** and **Anne Hamilton**.
South Belt Elementary

Send a birthday greeting Jan. 9 to **Cynthia Gomez**. Jan. 10 is the day for a birthday celebration for **Amy Campos**.
Stuchbery Elementary

Victor Clorio is wished a happy birthday Jan. 6. Sing a chorus of a birthday song Jan. 11 to **Sheri Graham**.
Melillo Middle School

Jan. 10 is the day for a birthday cake for **Jessica Adamek**.
Roberts Middle School

Sing a happy birthday song Jan. 9 to **Adriana Robinson**.
Beverly Hills Intermediate

Angel Fernandez enjoys a birthday Jan. 6.
Thompson Intermediate

Jan. 9 is the day for a birthday cake for **Ashley Chaddock**.
Dobie High

Anthony Benitez Arroyo enjoys a birthday Jan. 7. Light the birthday candles Jan. 9 for **Michael Alexander** and **Brianna Williams**. Celebrating a birthday Jan. 10 is **Camille Calo Widaski**. Sharing a birthday Jan. 11 are **Daniel Fitzmorris** and **Stacy Thomas**.
FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Thursday, Jan. 5: **John Carnes, Jessica Fernandez, Jamie Troxlar, Natalie McCoy, John Jenkins and Jovon Lartigue-Davis**; Friday, Jan. 6: **Bonnie Ferguson, Jeremy McMillan, Myranda Davis, Edwin Clark, Scott Parchmont and Seth Marshall**; Saturday, Jan. 7: **Michael Lake, Kathi Kemp, Sherry Crawford, Meagan McMurry, Jessica Sellers, Bob Townley, Larry Shewell, Jason Cox, Brian Gallagher and Diane Gonzalez**; Monday, Jan. 9: **Jennifer Gonzalez, Mary Meyer, Jill Rea, Mike Escobedo, Monette Falzon, Cecelia Faske and Holly Lyons**. Tuesday, Jan. 10: **Jennifer Murillo, Roy Gunter and Caron Cantu**; and Wednesday, Jan. 11: **Kelly Cavazos, Myles Barkman, Amy Villareal, Kathleen Wenzel, Deirdre Davis and James Mouton Jr.**

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email 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.

South Belt Elementary December VIPs



South Belt Elementary recently announced its VIPs for the month of December. These students were chosen by their teachers, based on their ability to display the character trait of the month, *compassion*. December VIPs pictured are, left to right, (front row) **Sebastian Hernandez, Sophia Hernandez, Mateo Mancillas, Charles Fobbs, Emily Rodriguez, Iris Durrette, Anthony Cancel**, (second row) **Kailynn Scott, Makayla Salazar, Krystal Thomas, Ava Morin, Benson Ton, Jasmin Vazquez**, (third row) **Joseph Bello, Ethan Pereida, Xander Fiterman, Heather Yount, Juliana Perez, Alex Vouffo**, (fourth row) **Andrew Ullman, Max Perez, Mia Bella Garcia, Emily Golenko**, (back row) **Bao Ngo, Cedric Gillespie, Dominic Ortiz, Addison Yount, Tatiana Luna, Aundrea Amescua and Yazmine Gonzalez**.
Photo submitted

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department experienced an increase of nearly 100 percent in responses compared to the previous year. Nancy Gehman, of County Commissioner Tom Bass's office, instigated a study of traffic on Beamer Road in an effort to determine what, if any improvements should be made as the road neared completion. During one 24-hour period over 4,300 vehicles traveled the road.

30 years ago (1987)
Laura Hayes, 15, a Dobie freshman, suffered from a fractured pelvis from a hit-and-run accident. Lamont Roberts turned himself in after killing his father, Benny Roberts, according to police. Lamont had intervened in a quarrel between his parents resulting in a "physical confrontation." The son went upstairs obtained a shotgun and returned to the kitchen where he shot his father in the upward portion of the body.

25 years ago (1992)
Demolition of three structures at the Park on Fuqua began to make room for Sam's Wholesale Club on the site. Students in the Clear Creek Independent School District scored above the state averages on every portion of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test at every grade. Linda Wayland, daughter of South Belt Justice of the Peace Howard Wayland, was preparing for a trip to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the fourth largest city in the former Soviet Union, to teach English.

20 years ago (1997)
Dobie's Academic Decathlon won the regional championship with 45,938 out of a possible 60,000 points. Linda Krysler, who resided at her sister's Sagemeadow home, was awakened at 3 a.m. by a barking poodle named Teddy who jumped on her. At first she knocked him away, but then she heard breaking glass. She leaped from the bed to find a fully engaged fire engulfing their house. Krysler woke her sister, and the two fled from the burning house.

15 years ago (2002)
Redistricting in the state Legislature led to many changes in the representation of the South Belt area. Longtime Reps. Garnet Coleman and Al Edwards, both Democrats, were left with little or no political interest in the area, while Republican Robert Talton, a Pasadena representative, gained much of the South Belt area. Paul Kieft was shot by two young white males. They came from behind his vehicle and demanded money, and when he refused, they shot him. Gene Paul Robertson, 29, a South Belt resident, was sentenced to 10 years of deferred adjudication and 45 days in jail after pleading guilty to manslaughter. Robertson was on trial for the murder of Anthony Chapin.

10 years ago (2007)
Two Harris County deputy sheriffs, Tommy Wilks and Bilsen Espinoza, wrote at least 737 traffic tickets in just four months. The majority of the tickets came from the intersection of Dixie Farm Road and Beamer, where road construction was under way. David and Marie Flickinger (publisher of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*) celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Jan. 20. The family of former Dobie student Dianne Hegar Helms set up a fund to help cover medical costs after a New Year's Eve automobile accident left her in a coma. Longtime South Belt resident and former Dobie teacher Gloria Shifflet was spared injury after her car flipped and snapped an electrical pole.

5 years ago (2012)
Harris County Precinct 2 Constable deputies busted a suspected marijuana growing operation in the 10300 block of Sageberry. Deputies responded to a call at roughly 8 p.m. after a neighbor called to report suspicious behavior at a residence that involved a U-Haul truck. Three men were at the residence when the deputies arrived. One of the men, Fernando Hernandez, reportedly consented to a search of his home, where deputies found large amounts of marijuana. In all, 12 pounds of marijuana was confiscated. Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn said there were multiple signs that the house was used to grow the marijuana. Dobie graduates Trevor Cobb and Christa Williams were named part of the inaugural class of 12 inductees for the new Pasadena Independent School District Athletics Hall of Fame. Cobb, Class of 1989, played nearly every sport offered at Dobie, but his performances as an elusive running back for the Longhorns quickly earned him a statewide reputation. Following high school, he signed with the Rice Owls and earned four letters. Cobb signed as a free agent with the Kansas City Chiefs and made the Chicago Bears' roster in 1994. He returned to Houston to form Helping Hands, a charitable organization that assists children with special needs. He was selected for the Rice Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998. As for Williams, she arrived at Dobie for the 1992-1993 school year and instantly made an impact. That year, the University Interscholastic League, the official governing body of extracurricular activities in public schools, had given the go-ahead for the sport of softball to be played. In the early summer of 1993, Williams pitched Dobie to the state championship, then did so again in 1995. Opting to try out for the U.S. Olympic team, a successful endeavor, Williams did not pitch for Dobie in 1996. Instead, Williams won the first of two Olympic gold medals. At the time, she was the lone high school player on the Olympic team. Collectively, Williams pitched one year at UCLA before pitching three more seasons at the University of Texas from 1997 to 1999. Williams won a second gold medal with the U.S. Olympic team in 2000. She then pitched for several years in the professional softball ranks. **1 year ago (2016)**
Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee died from a heart attack Sunday, Jan. 3. He was 66. A native Houstonian, Lee began his political career in 1979 when he was elected state representative for District 142, where he served five years. In 1985, Lee was elected Precinct 1 commissioner — a position he would hold for seven terms. He was the first African-American to serve on the panel. A graduate of Wheatley High School, Lee went on to attend Texas Southern University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science. He completed related course work and postgraduate studies at the TSU School of Public Affairs and the University of Houston. Lee was instrumental in facilitating many South Belt projects including the county court-house annex at Beamer and Scarsdale, the paving and extension of Beamer Road, the Blackhawk hike-and-bike trail and the community center and youth sports fields on Blackhawk. Longtime South Belt resident Bill Morgan died from a heart attack on his birthday, Dec. 28. He had just turned 64. Morgan was a former board member for the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District and was a founding member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Jeana Gilligan to speak at NASA Aglow Jan. 12

Begin the New Year right by worshipping with friendly ladies at NASA Aglow on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 9:30 at Praise Chapel. After a time of praise and worship, attendees will hear an inspiring message from speaker Jeana Gilligan. Gilligan is a pastor's wife and minister of the gospel. She ministers through preaching and singing. Gilligan and her husband, John, are celebrating 32 years of marriage and are pastors of Living Faith Outreach in Dickinson. Continuing the fellowship, attendees will go to a near-by restaurant for lunch. NASA is part of Aglow International with groups in more than 170 countries around the world. NASA Aglow meets every second Thursday at Praise Chapel, 15817 Highway 3 in Webster, at 9:30 a.m. From I-45 south, take NASA Road 1 east to Highway 3 and turn left. The church is on the left about 1 block. For more information, call Sheila at 281-910-1971.

Business Women meet Jan. 12, registration deadline Jan. 10

South East Express Network of the American Business Women's Association will welcome Thecia Jenkins, on Thursday, Jan. 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque (private meeting room), 9005 Broadway (FM 518) in Pearland. Jenkins is a performance improvement expert who teaches BOLD steps toward big improvements in organizational culture and professional development. In her career spanning more than 20 years, she has become a sought-after speaker and trainer on the topics of emotional intelligence, cultural competence, communication and women's issues. Professionals throughout the community are invited to attend. A \$20 fee will cover a meal and the meeting. RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 10, at www.SEEN-ABWA.org.

Ballroom dance classes set

The public is welcome to attend ballroom dance practices every Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Pkwy. in League City. Dance lessons will continue through the upcoming holidays. Recorded music is played by Neva Schroder. All rhythms played at any ballroom dance are played at this practice dance. It's casual, comfortable and on a beautiful floating hardwood floor. Teachers are available to assist or to teach a new move; or practice independently without interruption. For more information, call Schroder at 417-838-2204. The Hump Day Dance is free itself, but League City requires nonresidents to purchase an activity card or a day pass. The park office can answer questions regarding an activity card at 281-554-1180.

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A look back at 2016 in South Belt

Continued from Page 1A
rick, the campus, located at 3000 Watters Road in Pasadena, opened the previous August.

March 17
Former longtime Dobie varsity football head coach Hensley "Buzzy" Kieth died Sunday, March 13, at the age of 81. Kieth coached at the area school from 1985 to 1994. During Kieth's debut season in 1985, Dobie went 10-0, winning a district title.

March 24
The Dobie Academic Decathlon team represented the Pasadena Independent School District in the state competition in San Antonio. Under the leadership of coach Steven Higginbotham, the team included Bill Huynh, Steven Nguyen, Noelle Phan, Martin Nguyen, Rey Aguilar, Tareen Kazi, Noe Garcia, Christine Perry and Adrian De Los Santos.

March 31
Approximately 200 business and community leaders, as well as numerous elected officials, gathered Wednesday, March 30, as the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its 32nd annual installation banquet. Newly elected Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner was the featured speaker at the event.

Atkinson, South Belt, South Houston and Turner Elementary Schools were named Honor Roll Schools for the 2015 school year by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Productivity in Education. The Honor Roll is a national program that highlights student achievements, particularly among economically disadvantaged school communities.

April 7
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District hosted the inaugural South Belt Family Fun Event Saturday, April 9, at Clear Brook City Park. The event featured a fun run/walk, a disc jockey, line dancing, inflatables, games, multiple demonstrations and food trucks.

April 14
Two former Dobie baseball players were among the seven honorees inducted into the Pasadena Independent School District's Athletics Hall of Fame at a banquet held Saturday, April 9. Representing Dobie were John Scheschuk (Class of 1995) and Shane Nance (Class of 1996).

April 21
Longtime Sageglen resident Mary Maddox hosted the inaugural Strut Your Mutt Doggy Parade Saturday, April 16, at Clear Brook City Park. The event included multiple contests, including prettiest dog, ugliest dog, largest dog, smallest dog, best trick, best dog and owner costume, female diva

dog and male macho dog.
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon Wednesday, April 20, to honor the top-graduates from Dobie High School, Lutheran South Academy and Clear Horizons High School. Dr. Victor Van Phan, an orthopedic surgeon from Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, was the featured speaker at the event.

April 28
Multiple assaults were reported as taking place along the Blackhawk hike-and-bike trail, sending two female victims to the hospital on the same day. Despite increased police patrols at the trail, no arrests were made.

Chris Clark retired from his position as general manager of the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District, after serving in the position for 16 years. Before joining the MUD in a paid capacity, Clark was an elected official on the district's board from 1982 to 2000, serving 16 of those years as the organization's president. Clark also stepped down from his role as chair of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. A founding member of the organization, Clark had served four terms as chamber president.

May 5
Hundreds gathered at El Franco Lee Park to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, despite rain-fall. Texian Cookers won the prize for best overall cooking team, placing first in beans, fourth in chef's choice and fifth in ribs.

The Pasadena Independent School District officially dedicated the new Fred Roberts Middle School on Thursday, April 28. Named for longtime PISD school board member Fred Roberts, the new campus is located in the 13400 block on Conklin near Beltway 8.

May 12
The Harris County Toll Road Authority began work on a massive project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction from Beamer to Highway 288. The project is in addition to a second endeavor that will widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction from the Gulf Freeway to Highway 225. That project will also replace the existing Beltway 8 Ship Channel toll bridge.

May 19
The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Directors named Angela Stallings and Steve Fullen associate superintendents of Campus Development. Stallings and Fullen had each formerly served as both assistant principal and principal at Dobie High School.

May 26

In the May 24 primary runoff election for the Democratic nomination for Harris County Precinct 2 constable, incumbent Chris Diaz handily defeated challenger George Goffney Jr., receiving 73 percent of the vote to Goffney's 27 percent. Diaz would go on to face Republican Daniel Vela in the November general election.

Former South Belt resident Jeremy Richardson was named principal of Pasadena Memorial High School. A 1995 Dobie graduate, Richardson began his educational career in 2002 at his alma mater, where he taught world geography and government and coached football, soccer and golf, before taking on the role of assistant principal at Memorial in 2009. Richardson filled the position left open by Memorial Principal Angela Stallings, who had been promoted to associate superintendent of campus development the previous week.

On Friday, May 20, the San Jacinto College Foundation presented the 2016 Lifetime Legacy Award to longtime South Belt residents Neil and Eloise West based on their contributions to student scholarships. Neil West was one of the original members of the San Jacinto College Foundation Board of Directors.

June 2
The body of a missing 15-year-old female South Houston High School student was found inside an abandoned apartment complex in the 1600 block of Avenue N Monday, May 30. Karen Perez, a ninth-grader at the area school, had been reported missing the previous Friday after she failed to return home from school. A male juvenile, reportedly the girl's boyfriend, was arrested and charged with her murder.

June 9
Sagemont Church celebrated its 50th anniversary with multiple services Sunday, June 5, culminating with a special outdoor celebration that evening. Over the past five decades, the church has grown from a mere 16 members to a congregation of more than 20,000 — one of the largest in the country, with ministries all around the globe. The church, then known as Sagemont Baptist Church, was founded in 1966 by the Rev. John D. Morgan. The original church, located on 5.46 acres of land, cost a meager \$160,000 to construct. Around the year 2000, the church added a \$12.5 million children's building and parking lot expansion and a church retreat in Danbury. A recent expansion at Sagemont included the installation of a 170-foot, 90-ton cross on the church's property along Beltway 8 near the Gulf Freeway. The expansion also included the construction of a new \$30 million worship center and adult education facility. Overall, Sagemont's buildings and property are now valued at more than \$50 million. Sagemont's budget and offering receipts total roughly \$20 million annually. Mission gifts have increased to more than \$2 million per year, and total gifts received over the church's history total around \$250 million. The church has now baptized more than 16,800 people, and more than 300 people have been licensed or ordained through the church.

June 16
A Pearland police officer was killed early Sunday, June 12, when he was involved in a head-on collision at the intersection of Broadway and Country Club Drive. The accident occurred when Officer Endy Ekpanya was en route to a non-emergency call when he was struck by a gray Chrysler SRT, driven by Amber Willemson, who had reportedly veered out of her lane. Both vehicles suffered extensive damage, and both drivers had to be extricated by emergency crews. Ekpanya, 30, was transported by Life Flight to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where he was later pronounced dead. Willemson, 38, was also transported to the hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Willemson, a former assistant principal with the Clear Creek Independent School District, was charged with intoxication manslaughter of a peace officer, a first-degree felony. Records show she was out on bond at the time of the crash for drug possession and has a previous DUI charge from 2012. The fatal crash marked the first time a Pearland officer had died in the line of duty in 40 years.

June 23
Clear Creek Independent School District's Clear Horizons Early College High School, located on the San Jacinto College South Campus, was recognized by the nonprofit advocacy group Children at Risk as being one of the top-10 high schools in the Greater Houston area. In all, 1,331 public schools were evaluated — 171 of which were high schools. CCISD's Clear Lake High School was also ranked in the top 10.

June 30
Longtime state Sen. Rodney Ellis handily won the Democratic nomination for Precinct 1 commissioner during a closed party election Saturday, June 25, guaranteeing him the position the following November, as he was running unopposed. Ellis received 78 votes to interim Commissioner Gene Locke's 36. Nelda Sullivan was named president of the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees. She had previously held the position of assistant secretary on the board. Originally elected to the PISD board in 1993, Sullivan formerly worked in the banking industry for 36 years.

July 7
Recent Dobie graduate Cedric Washington made nationwide headlines after saving an elderly man from a house fire in the 4700 block of Teton Monday, June 27. Washington, 19, spotted the blaze while driving to visit his grandmother. The 75-year-old man's wife did not survive the fire. Washington was transported to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

Longtime Sagemont resident Kay Barbour was selected to serve as the new executive director for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Barbour replaced outgoing executive director Sherry Trainer, who stepped down from the position to care for her sick daughter. Former

chamber executive director Sally Mitchell had been filling in for Trainer in recent months as an interim director.

July 14
A recent Dobie graduate was fatally shot Saturday, July 9, while riding as a vehicle passenger in the 12300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua. Giovanni "Geo" Rios, 18, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Rios was a backseat passenger in a white Chevrolet Tahoe traveling north on the freeway frontage road around 1:35 a.m. when the vehicle was struck by multiple gunshots, presumably fired from another vehicle, investigators said. Rios was struck in the head by a bullet, killing him. No immediate arrests were made.

South Belt resident and longtime owner of USA Karate, Michael Stewart Tucker, died Friday, July 8, after battling an illness.

July 21
A 19-year-old Dobie graduate died early Friday, July 15, after an accidental shooting that took place in the 12000 block of Sagedowne. Jacob Lara was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Lara and his 16-year-old girlfriend were trying to latch the safety lock on a gun when it discharged, striking him in the face. The female called 911, but Lara was already dead by the time paramedics arrived. Lara had reportedly just purchased the handgun.

July 28
Construction began on the Harris County project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction from Beamer to Highway 288. The project will be divided into two phases: from Beamer to Wayside and from Wayside to Highway 288. The contract for the first phase of construction was for \$96 million, while the contract for the second phase was \$77 million. The project is in addition to a similar endeavor that will widen the beltway to four lanes east of the Gulf Freeway to Highway 225. That project also calls for replacing the existing Beltway 8 Ship Channel toll bridge with a new four-lane structure.

Aug. 4
A former Dobie student and her husband were killed at their Bellaire-area home early Friday, July 29, allegedly at the hands of their 16-year-old son. Dawn Whitely Armstrong, a 1992 Dobie graduate, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her husband, Antonio Armstrong, was transported to

Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he later died. The story has made international news, as Antonio Armstrong was once a star football player at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

A man died Thursday, July 28, from a self-inflicted gunshot in the 17000 block of the Gulf Freeway near FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard following a brief police chase. Gary Leonard Blalock Jr., 38, was pronounced dead at the scene. Officers had originally attempted to stop Blalock for being a suspected drunk driver.

Aug. 11
The Pasadena Independent School District officially broke ground on the new Dobie Ninth Grade Campus Tuesday, Aug. 9. To be located at the corner of Fuqua and Monroe, the campus will alleviate overcrowding at the area high school. The campus is scheduled to open in August 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Aug. 18
Jae Lee was named the new Burnett Elementary. Lee formerly served as assistant principal at South Belt Elementary. He replaced Cynthia Henderson, who had served as Burnett principal for 21 years.

Aug. 25
A 22-year-old South Belt woman was killed and three injured, including two children, following a three-car collision Wednesday, Aug. 17, in the 13700 block of Scarsdale near the Gulf Freeway. According to police, Scarsdale resident Angelly Heidi Caballero was driving east in a black Kia Forte at a high rate of speed when she struck the rear of a gray Honda. The Kia then veered into oncoming traffic, where it slammed head-on into a white Ford F-150 pickup. Caballero was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Sept. 1
The body of a dead man was found floating in a lake at an apartment complex located in the 10200 block of Windmill Lakes Thursday, Sept. 1. Gordon Scott Blocker, 42, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Blocker's body was discovered by a jogger, who then notified authorities. Blocker's death was ruled an accidental drowning.

Sept. 6
A home on Corkwood near Grapewood was destroyed by fire Tuesday, Sept. 6. The fire was electrical in nature. No one was injured in the fire.

commence on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, and will continue every Sunday, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Congregation Shaar Hashalom. The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real in Houston, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area.

The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the Synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at cs@shaarhashalom.org.

Line by line with the prophets

After a month's hiatus, the opportunity to get familiar with the prophets' insights, reading the ancient text together is back, where each verse is learned and discussed.

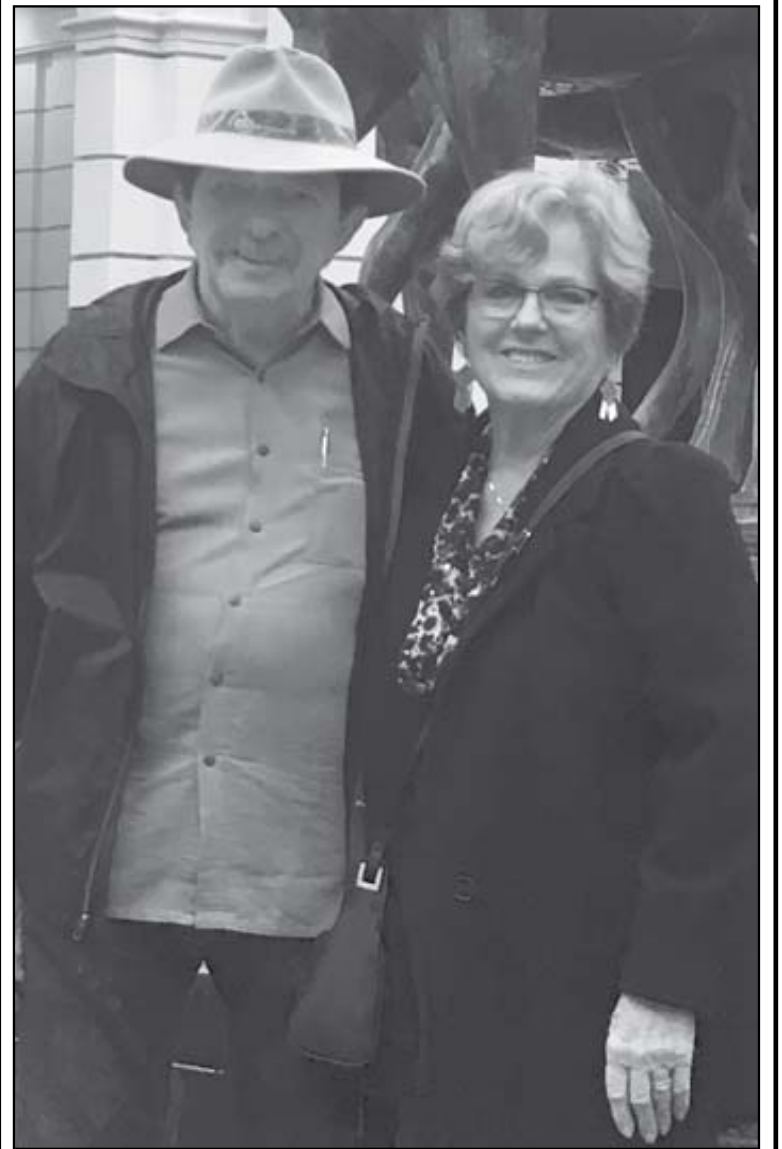
Although the study is line by line through the text starting with Isaiah, one does not have to have attended previous classes. Everybody is welcome to attend anytime and enjoy.

The sessions, guided by Rabbi Stuart Federow, will

begin on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, and will continue every Sunday, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Congregation Shaar Hashalom. The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real in Houston, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area.

The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the Synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at cs@shaarhashalom.org.

Couple celebrates 55th



Former South Belt residents Wayne and Glenda Dougharty recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. The couple were married in 1961 at Ellington Air Force Base. They have two children, Michael and Leah, and five grandchildren, Grant, Cara, Cameron, Leighton and Chase. The couple opened Wayne's Landscaping Supply on Dixie Farm Road in 1990. Their son, Michael, now runs the business. The couple celebrated their wedding anniversary in Charleston, S.C., where the above photo was taken.

Khan graduates from UH



Mohammad Jamal Khan graduated from the University of Houston on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a minor in finance. He is a lifelong South Belt resident and attended Burnett Elementary and Thompson Intermediate. He graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 2012. His family is very proud of all his accomplishments and congratulate him on a new chapter in his life. Lots of love and luck is sent from dad Mohammad A. Khan; mom Yasmeen Khan; sisters Rabia, Fatima and Samina; brother-in-law Khurram Sikander; and nieces Amna and Zoya.

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Moore Elementary Student Council holds toy drive

The Moore Elementary Student Council held a schoolwide toy drive to benefit the South Belt Leader Christmas Program.

Representing the student council at left are Kimora Shio and Jezreel Ramales.

Photos submitted



Members of Moore Elementary's Student Council displaying toys are, left to right, (front row) Tristen Mouton, Marissa Lugo, (back row) Kimora Shio, Leo Martinez, Ava Macias, Jezreel Ramalez, Sandra Garcia and Keenan Llanes.

Frazier Elementary donates for Christmas



Frazier Elementary's annual toy drive was a huge success this year. The students and staff contributed 205 toys which were all donated to the South Belt Leader to help area families in need this Christmas. Once again, the Frazier Owls have demonstrated what generous hearts they have. Pictured with a few of the donated gifts are, left to right, kindergartners Hailey Michaud, Alex Buntaer, Gemma Carter, Alexander Williams and Ella Donaldson.

Photo submitted

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The San Jacinto College Foundation presented Covestro LLC with a recognition award for its \$26,000 donation benefiting scholarships for industrial technology students at the College's December board of trustees meeting.

Covestro LLC Industrial Park in Baytown, Texas. "We love giving back, and through this financial assistance, we connect and hope to ignite the passions of the future innovators of tomorrow. We invite San Jacinto College students to apply for summer internships and hope they become part of Covestro's workforce of tomorrow."

"Covestro has always been a good corporate citizen that engages in the communities in which we operate," said Rod Herrick, vice president and site manager of Covestro LLC. "The gift establishes a \$25,000 endowment with the San Jacinto College Foundation and an additional \$1,000 to immediately fund two \$500 scholarships in the College's industrial technology programs such as electrical technology, environmental health and safety technology, instrumentation, pipefitting and welding technology."

"The San Jacinto College Foundation is proud to continue our partnership with Covestro LLC," said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director of advancement. "Their commitment to our students provides the means for them to achieve their dream of an education and transition into the workforce."

For more information on giving to the San Jacinto College Foundation, visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

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Master Gardeners set events

Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 will host the following activity open to the public and free of charge during the month of January 2017:

Vermiculture, Composting Worms set for Jan. 12

Thursday, Jan. 12 - Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2 Lecture Series will feature Charlene Perry of Diggitt Organics, who will present a program on Vermiculture, Composting Worms from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Genoa Friendship Garden Educational Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road in Houston.

Open Garden Day Jan. 16

Monday, Jan. 16 - Open Garden Day with Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road in Houston. Master Gardeners will also be available to answer any gardening questions. The event is free and open to the public. Plants will be for sale in the Greenhouse.

Fruit Tree, Tomato Sale on Feb. 18

Save the Date: On Feb. 18, Harris County Master Gardeners will hold its Fruit Tree and Tomato Sale in Campbell Hall at the Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Road in Pasadena.

For more information on these or other HCMGA events, visit [https://hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu).



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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Brook boys, Dobie girls make early hoops statements

It's 2017, which means varsity basketball teams across the state need to get serious about either making a statement or stepping aside where the playoffs are concerned.

Consider some of those statements made. The Dobie varsity girls have to be considered one of the big stories of the young season in District 22-6A.

Lady Longhorn head coach Shane Brown said prior to the season that he felt confident his team could make a push toward the crown in the revamped 22-6A. So far, he's been right. Dobie blasted Beaumont West Brook by 30, 78-48, in the final league game before the holidays.

After a successful run to the bronze bracket title game at the Barbers Hill Classic, Dobie returned to league play Jan. 3 with a 56-27 win over South Houston at Phillips Field House.

Now at 4-0, Dobie is tied with Deer Park in the standings. The top contenders for the 22-6A title have thus been established.

While Dobie's varsity girls' team is rolling, the same cannot be said for the JFD boys' team. True, just two district games have been played.

Yet following a 47-37 loss at South Houston Jan. 3, the Longhorns have some work to do as the race begins to take shape.

At this point, the 22-6A championship appears to be wide open. Sam Rayburn is 2-0 but has won both by just two points each.

South Houston, which has become quite a fixture in the 22-6A title hunt in recent years, is also 2-0.

A handful of teams, including Dobie, are at 1-1, while Pasadena and Deer Park are 0-2.

SBYSC invites girls' U-12 competitors

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is seeking female players born in 2005 to compete on a newly-formed U-12 team, with play beginning in early March.

Those interested in competing on this team may contact coach Jerry Garcia at 832-875-0111 to learn more about tryouts, registration, etc. In addition, the South Belt Youth Soccer Club will begin league-wide online registration later this month. Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org for additional details.

The District 24-6A varsity boys' race could feature some of the region's toughest competition. To this point, Clear Brook is passing every test.

David Azore led the way with 19 points and Kendrick Christian followed with 13 as the Wolverines moved to 2-0 in 24-6A with a 58-48 win over Clear Creek at home Jan. 3.

Meanwhile, the Clear Brook varsity girls' team is standing at 1-3 following a 58-43 loss at Clear Creek Jan. 3.

On Jan. 6, the Brook girls will play at Friendswood, while the Brook/Friendswood varsity boys' game will be played at Clear Brook.



After a ho-hum fourth-place finish in the District 22-6A varsity boys' basketball race, the Dobie Longhorns won three playoff games in thrilling fashion to advance to the Region III Final Four. Above, Longhorns' varsity boys' head coach Kevin Cross (left) congratulates staff member Charles Washington after the team scored a bidistrict playoff win over North Shore. Photo by John Bechtle



The Clear Brook varsity football team made its way to the third round of the playoffs for the first time since 1998, earning its share of the *Leader's Story* of the Year for 2016. Above, Wolverine quarterback Jaizac Garcia (with ball) and his teammates rolled Dawson in the bidistrict playoffs en route to an eventual 8-5 finish. Cy-Ridge ended Brook's season in the third round.

Leader's Story of the Year

JFD boys' hoops, Brook FB share honor

The top sports stories of the year in the South Belt area both began in similarly mundane fashion yet ended in sparkling success.

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team's brilliant run to the Region III Final

Four tournament at Aldine ISD's Campbell Center was the clear winner of the Story of the Year. That is, until the Clear Brook varsity football team pulled off something that hadn't been done in 19 years within the pro-

gram, winning two playoff games and advancing to the Region III semifinals in the Class 6A Division II ranks.

A new bar has been set, and the Wolverines will look to take things even farther in 2017.

Longhorns make a run
Harken back to mid February, when the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team was experiencing an up-and-down run through District 22-6A action.

The Longhorns got off to a slow 1-4 start and **Continued on Page 3B**

Can Dobie boys keep it rolling? High school soccer nears start

The new year will usher in what could potentially be one of the most exciting high school soccer seasons in years.

Locally, there are several key questions facing the varsity boys' and girls' teams at Clear Brook and Dobie.

As for the Dobie boys,

the only issue to be decided would seem to be just how far can this roster go in 2017?

Head coach Justo Manrique has led the Longhorns to back-to-back undefeated seasons in district play.

While going undefeated in any sport can rarely be a

realistic goal, winning the league is once again the Longhorns' focus in 2017.

After that, can the Longhorns make a run at the Region III crown?

Alief Elsik is certainly a title contender along with the usual suspects such as Cinco Ranch, North Shore, etc.

Elsewhere across the South Belt area, there are other questions that will be answered as the season progresses.

The Brook boys' and girls' varsity teams certainly enter the season with plenty of talent, but the road to the playoffs in the revamped District 24-6A may be as challenging as ever.

Ditto for the Dobie girls, who now must tangle with Deer Park in District 22-6A, as well as La Porte.

Continued on Page 2B



Sabino Lozano has been a starter on the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team since arriving on campus. Now a senior, Lozano hopes to lead the Longhorns on another long playoff run later this season.

SBHLL, SBGSA Spring sign-up chances down to just a few more

Now that the new year is upon us, families are running out of chances to register their children for competition in either the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League or the South Belt Girls Softball Association.

There is still time, but officials from both leagues are asking families to have a sense of urgency in order to ensure their child is included in what should be a terrific spring 2017 season. Opening day will come in March.

SBHLL sign-up details

Officials with the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League are still accepting online registration in preparation for the 2017 spring season.

Families may visit www.eteamz.com/sbhll to register their child for the season.

Those ages 3 and 4 (born between Sept. 2012 and Jan. 1, 2014) may register for \$125

per player, while those ages 5 to 16 (born between May 2000 and Aug. 2012) may register for \$175 per player.

There is a \$5 discount for families registering more than one player.

SBHLL will also host its sixth season in the Challenger division, which is designed to allow disabled children between the ages of 5 to 18 to enjoy the game of baseball in a safe environment.

Registration in the Challenger division is free of charge.

The league will also host a pair of in-person registration dates at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park this month.

Those dates include Saturday, Jan. 7 and Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m., as in-person sign-up dates.

Tryouts and late registration will be \$125 **Continued on Page 3B**

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Sports Calendar

South Belt athletes made memories in 2016

BASKETBALL

Friday, Jan. 6

Dobie varsity girls host Rayburn, 7:00
 Brook varsity girls at Friendswood, 7:00
 Brook varsity boys host Friendswood, 7:00
 Dobie varsity boys at Rayburn, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys at Rayburn, 5:30
 Brook JV boys host Friendswood, 5:30
 Brook JV girls at Friendswood, 5:30
 Dobie JV girls host Rayburn, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys at Rayburn, 5:30
 Brook sophomore boys host Friendswood, 5:30
 Dobie freshman A boys at Rayburn, 4:00
 Brook freshman A boys host Friendswood, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls host Rayburn, 4:00
 Brook freshman A girls at Friendswood, 4:00
 Brook freshman B boys host Friendswood, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B boys at Rayburn, 4:00

Monday, Jan. 9

Beverly Hills 8th Dark girls host Park View, 5:00
 Beverly Hills 8th Light girls host Park View, 6:15
 Beverly Hills 7th Dark girls host Park View, 5:00
 Beverly Hills 7th Light girls host Park View, 6:15
 Beverly Hills 8th Dark boys at Park View, 5:00
 Beverly Hills 8th Light boys at Park View, 6:15
 Beverly Hills 7th Dark boys at Park View, 5:00
 Beverly Hills 7th Light boys at Park View, 6:15
 Thompson 8th Dark girls at Queens, 5:00
 Thompson 8th Light girls at Queens, 6:15
 Thompson 7th Dark girls at Queens, 5:00
 Thompson 7th Light girls at Queens, 6:15
 Thompson 8th Dark boys host Queens, 5:00
 Thompson 8th Light boys host Jackson, 6:15
 Thompson 7th Dark boys host Jackson, 5:00
 Thompson 7th Light boys host Jackson, 6:15

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Dobie varsity girls at Pasadena, 7:00
 Brook varsity girls host Clear Lake, 7:00
 Brook varsity boys at Clear Lake, Krueger, 7:00
 Dobie varsity boys host Pasadena, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys host Pasadena, 5:30
 Brook JV boys at Clear Lake, Krueger, 5:30
 Brook JV girls host Clear Lake, 5:30
 Dobie JV girls at Pasadena, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys host Pasadena, 5:30
 Brook sophomore boys at Clear Lake, Krueger, 5:30
 Brook freshman A boys at Clear Lake, Krueger, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A boys host Pasadena, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls at Pasadena, 4:00
 Brook freshman A girls host Clear Lake, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B girls at Pasadena, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B boys host Pasadena, 4:00
 Brook freshman B boys at Clear Lake, Krueger, 4:00

Friday, Jan. 13

Dobie varsity girls host Deer Park, 7:00
 Brook varsity girls at Clear Springs, 7:00
 Brook varsity boys host Clear Springs, 7:00
 Dobie varsity boys at Deer Park, 7:00
 Dobie JV boys at Deer Park, 5:30
 Brook JV boys host Clear Springs, 5:30
 Brook JV girls at Clear Springs, 5:30
 Dobie JV girls host Deer Park, 5:30
 Dobie sophomore boys at Deer Park, 5:30
 Brook sophomore boys host Clear Springs, 5:30
 Brook freshman A boys host Clear Springs, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A boys at Deer Park, 4:00
 Dobie freshman A girls host Deer Park, 4:00
 Brook freshman A girls at Clear Springs, 4:00
 Dobie freshman B boys at Deer Park, 4:00
 Brook freshman B boys host Clear Springs, 4:00

SOCCER

Thursday, Jan. 5 (Regular season opener)

Dobie varsity boys vs. MacArthur, Winston, 2:00
 Brook varsity boys at Katy Showcase, TBA
 Brook varsity girls at Humble Showcase, TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Humble Showcase, TBA

Friday, Jan. 6

Dobie varsity boys vs. Friendswood, Veterans, 4:00
 Brook varsity boys at Katy Showcase, TBA
 Brook varsity girls at Humble Showcase, TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Humble Showcase, TBA

Saturday, Jan. 7

Dobie varsity boys vs. G.C. Memorial, Veterans, 11 a.m.
 Brook varsity boys at Katy Showcase, TBA
 Brook varsity girls at Humble Showcase, TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Humble Showcase, TBA

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Brook varsity girls at Santa Fe, 7:00
 Brook JV girls at Santa Fe, 5:00

Thursday, Jan. 12

Dobie varsity boys vs. Kingwood, Austin, 7 p.m.
 Brook varsity girls at Katy Shootout, TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Port Neches-Groves tourn., TBA

Friday, Jan. 13

Dobie varsity boys vs. Lake Travis, Austin, 7:00
 Brook varsity boys host Pasadena, 7:00
 Brook varsity girls at Katy Shootout, TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Port Neches-Groves tourn., TBA
 Brook JV boys host Pasadena, 5:00

Saturday, Jan. 14

Dobie varsity boys vs. Leander Vista Ridge, 10 a.m.
 Brook varsity boys at Katy Shootout, TBA
 Dobie varsity girls at Port Neches-Groves tourn., TBA

Memories have been made by generations of young athletes in the South Belt area. Dating back to the 1960s, young athletes have been forging their dreams on athletic surfaces across the area, and 2016 was no different.

While the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team and Clear Brook's varsity football team landed *Story of the Year* honors, there were certainly plenty of other noteworthy accomplishments throughout the year.

January

The high school soccer season got off to a fast start in January, with the regional power Dobie boys' squad again making its presence felt. Clear Brook's varsity boys' team also started strong.

Dobie, the defending and undefeated District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer champion, stood tall at the Pasadena ISSD Cup, outscoring four opponents by a combined 9-3 score while making the championship match.

Aldine, featuring star player Mario Granados, wound up winning the championship trophy with a 2-0 victory over the Longhorns.

"It's just very difficult to beat two of the region's top 10 teams in one day," Dobie varsity boys' soccer coach Justo Manrique said.

The Clear Brook varsity boys' team showed it may have had something special going on early in the season, scoring a big win over defending Class 5A state champion Lufkin at the Klein Showcase championship tilt.

The indoor track and field season got off to a blazing start for Clear Brook star Brandon Taylor.

Competing at the Texas A&M University High School Classic, Taylor

bested more than 200 other prep sprinters on his way to winning the boys' 60-meter dash.

He did it despite only being released for competition just days prior after healing a fractured arm incurred during the football season.

"I came in expecting to do good things, but to say I expected to take first place overall is a stretch," Taylor said.

"There were some guys who came in wearing their college colors and so forth, but I think I just flew under the radar a little bit."

A week later at the University of Houston, Taylor went on and posted the fastest time in the nation in the same event.

As the month of January closed, the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team had rebounded from a 1-4 start in district play with six straight wins.

San Jacinto College, perhaps setting the tone for a late-season run, got off to a fast start with the sister duo of Gabby Gonzalez (catcher) and Niki Gonzalez (pitcher) contributing quite a bit.

February

With the 2016 spring athletics schedule now in full swing, and the University Interscholastic League also realigned high school districts for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

The Pasadena ISSD lost Manvel, Dawson, Pearland and Alvin, but now holds Deer Park and La Porte, with Beaumont West Brook included in every sport with the exception of football.

In 24-6A, the Clear Creek ISD schools welcomed Alvin, while Brazoswood moved out.

Several members of Lutheran South Academy's high school swim team performed exceptionally

well at regionals on their way to qualifying for the state meet.

At the regional meet, LSA's Justin Roy led the way with a victory in both the 100-yard fly and the 200-yard individual medley.

Trevor Marston placed second in the 500-yard freestyle event and also took fourth in the 200-yard freestyle.

Lily Fehst was third in the 100-yard fly, while George Rockett captured third in the 500-yard freestyle. Lea Luke was fourth in the 100-yard backstroke, with Eric Amason fourth in the 100-yard fly and seventh in the 100-yard backstroke.

In the relays, LSA's boys' 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay teams were second.

Winning its final three regular season games to reach the playoffs, Dobie's varsity boys' team reeled off three straight wins (see Page 1B and Page 3B), reaching the Region III Final Four for the first time since the 1994-95 campaign.

In that Final Four tournament, Dobie fell to Cy-Lakes in a semifinal, and eventual regional champion Sam Houston then defeated Cy-Lakes a day later.

March

District, area, state, regional and even a couple of world championships involving a few of the league's players.

Over 50 years, the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League stood tall and firm, and last March, it was time to take a bow.

The league officially celebrated its 50th anniversary with the arrival of opening ceremonies the second week of March.

Since that 1966 debut season, the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has been the

home for players who later developed themselves into professional and collegiate players, and has also sent some of the nation's finest competitive teams to both state and Southwest Regional competition.

The league also sent a pair of Pony/Colt baseball teams to world series competition in the late 1980s.

In 1983, 1985 and 1992, the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League sent teams to the state tournament in the 12-year-old division.

Perhaps getting hot at precisely the right time, the Dobie varsity baseball team swept four wins at the Pasadena ISSD tournament.

Dobie went into the event on a bit of a slide with losses to Pearland and Manvel in district play, but the team got back on track following the string of wins.

The Longhorns began the PISD tournament with a 7-5 victory over Mayde Creek as Cody Murray got the win on the mound, with Jacob Salas earning the save.

Jesse Paredes, a key cog in the Longhorns' offense, drove in three runs, and Euro Diaz Jr. scored three runs in the win.

Later in the day, the Longhorns defeated Beaumont West Brook 5-3.

Julian Flores was the winning pitcher, and Paredes doubled and drove in a run.

Tyler Myers, like Paredes a three-year starter, scored a pair of runs. The Longhorns closed out pool play with a 6-1 victory over Lutheran South. Jesus Tijerina went the route for the Longhorns on the mound, allowing just two hits.

Paredes again paced the offense with two hits, including a two-run double. Myers also doubled in the

game. Playing Houston Reagan for the consolation title Dobie emerged as 5-0 victors.

After leading the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team to a near playoff berth, junior Jade Giron and senior Gabby Jones were 22-6A postseason selections.

The real fun began as the varsity boys' and girls' soccer teams from Dobie advanced to the bidistrict playoffs.

The Longhorns' varsity boys, delivering back-to-back unbeaten seasons, finished off their second title run with a 1-1 tie against Memorial.

The Longhorn boys (13-0-3) went against Port Arthur Memorial in the first round, with the Lady Longhorns taking on District 21-6A champion Deer Park.

The Dobie girls reached the postseason after playing Memorial to a 1-1 tie in the regular season finale.

The Lady Longhorns won the subsequent shootout three goals to one, but had already edged out the Pasadena Lady Eagles for the fourth and final playoff seed by virtue of the tie.

Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball player David Azore was named the Offensive Player of the Year in the 24-6A ranks, while Dobie's Tyler Giron was the winner of the Defensive Player of the Year honor in District 22-6A. Both players led their respective teams to the postseason.

Dobie's Royce Hunter was a first-team selection for the Longhorns.

Clear Brook High School bowler Anthony Propeck was a 2016 Greater Houston Bowling Hall of Honor inductee, honored for skills and service to the game, and

also received a collegiate scholarship award.

One of the Wolverines' all-time greats, Propeck joined three other previous Hall of Honor inductees from Clear Brook, including Charles Smoot, Ashley Lawler and D.J. Casas. Propeck has put together a long list of accomplishments while at Clear Brook, having helped the school's bowling team reach both regional and state competitions on multiple occasions.

For the second time in three seasons, Deer Park eliminated Dobie from the Class 6A varsity girls' soccer playoffs.

The Lady Deer came away with a 4-0 win over fourth-place Dobie. In 2014, Deer Park used a big second half barrage of goals to turn a scoreless halftime game into a 5-0 win.

In the first-round playoff matchup between Dobie and Port Arthur Memorial, the Longhorns' Sabino Lozano scored a goal in the opening minute. By halftime, Dobie led 4-0 en route to a 5-0 victory.

Dobie went on to beat Alief Taylor 1-0 in the area round, a game played in freezing conditions at Dawson High School. However, the Longhorns fell a bit short in the regional quarterfinals as North Shore escaped with a 1-0 win.

Thompson Intermediate's seventh-grade boys' track and field team made a statement, winning the Pasadena ISSD Championship Meet. In girls' competition, Bondy swept both grade level titles.

With six games to go in the regular season, the Dobie varsity softball team was waging a legitimate battle for second place in District 22-6A.

Following a 15-0 drubbing of Manvel, Dobie was

7-3 in league play with five games to go.

Meanwhile, Dobie's varsity baseball team, once 2-4 in league play, got back to 6-6 with a string of wins before a few key setbacks hurt the Longhorns' playoff chances.

Donna Branch. Shane Nance. John Scheschuk — three names and faces that have been as big a part of successful athletic programs at Dobie High School as any other, joined Pasadena ISD royalty in April.

The Dobie trio were inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.

Back-to-back undefeated District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer champion Dobie dominated top honors as the league's all-district awards were released following the completion of the regular season.

Senior forward Josue Villalta was named the 22-6A Most Valuable Player, while senior Rigoberto Fuentes was named the Goalkeeper of the Year for his outstanding work in the nets.

Five other Longhorns' players took home first-team honors, and Dobie's Justo Manrique was named Co-Coach of the Year.

Overall, it was a successful run for the Dobie varsity tennis team at the 22-6A championships, and it was even better for three of the team's players.

The boys' doubles team of David Ho and Albert Luu headed to regionals after winning the bracket at the 22-6As.

And boys' singles player Luis Cabreja, who entered the district round as the top seed, also headed to Deer Park High School for the Region III tournament.

Continued on Page 6B

Brook, Dobie soccer set high standards

Continued from Page 1B

It's going to be a busy start to the new year for all of the soccer programs in the state, including those at Dobie and Clear Brook.

As has become customary, the Dobie varsity boys' team has every intention of being in the running for the Region III title.

Yes, Alief Elsik, Cinco Ranch, North Shore and other R-III heavy hitters will eventually have something to say about that.

As Manrique pointed out to the *Leader* in the offseason, the current University Interscholastic League alignment that went into effect at the start of the school year will almost certainly present challenges.

Presuming Dobie does make the postseason in 2017, the Longhorns could face either North Shore, Atascocita, Kingwood or any other postseason qualifier among Goose Creek Memorial, Channelview or Baytown Sterling. Goose Creek, keep in mind, advanced to the Class 5A Region III final a season ago.

It's simply not a dream of a first-round matchup regardless of whom the Longhorns face.

Ditto for the Dobie varsity girls, who will first have to deal with the likes of Deer Park, La Porte and Memorial in league play, not to mention an improved Pasadena team that pushed the Lady Longhorns hard a season ago for the fourth and final playoff spot.

Deer Park will enter league play as both the 22-6A front-runner and possible Region III title contender. La Porte advanced to the second round of the playoffs, and West Brook made the postseason but then was hammered, 5-0, by Alvin.

Speaking of Alvin, the Lady Yellowjackets could help make 24-6A one of the strongest girls' soccer districts in the region.

Friendswood won 24-6A a season ago and will

also have to deal with Clear Springs, Clear Lake and now Alvin, meaning Clear Brook really has a challenge ahead of itself.

The Clear Brook varsity boys are looking to get back to the playoffs after just missing out a season ago, but it will not be easy. Friendswood, Clear Springs, Dickinson, Clear Lake and Clear Brook could all be in the mix in the end.

Early season a grind
 For certain, the Dobie and Clear Brook teams will find out where they stand immediately.

In girls' play, Dobie and Clear Brook will travel all the way to Humble ISD's Turner Stadium in for what is the regular season opener for both teams Jan. 5.

The Lady Longhorns will also face Dawson in nondistrict play thereafter in what should be a tough match.

The Dobie boys aren't shying away from any opponents in its quest for another deep playoff run.

The Longhorns played road scrimmages against the likes of Conroe, Klein and Mayde Creek and will face both Friendswood and Goose Creek Memorial in the Jan. 5-7 Pasadena ISSD Cup.

Taking things a step farther, the Longhorns will play in the Austin Showcase against Kingwood, Lake Travis and Vista Ridge, all postseason bigwigs, and then take on North Shore in its final nondistrict tuneup.

The Clear Brook boys will return to the Katy ISD Shootout, where the competition is always tough. The Wolverines will also take on Deer Park and La Porte in nondistrict play.

Clear Brook's varsity girls have a tough Brazoswood team on its schedule, and will also be

tested heavily at the Humble and Katy ISD tournaments.

In short, it's going to be a challenging start to

the season for local high school soccer programs. But for the best teams with big goals, it's the only way to go.

Prep soccer for openers

Dobie varsity girls vs. Clear Brook
 Jan. 5, Turner Stadium Humble, 7:30

Dobie varsity boys vs. Aldine MacArthur
 Jan. 5, Winston Stadium, Friendswood, 2 p.m.

Brook varsity boys vs. Cy-Springs
 Jan. 5, Katy ISD, 2 p.m.

Dobie High School Varsity Boys' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 27	at Conroe scrimm.	1 p.m.
Dec. 31	at Klein scrimm.	1 p.m.
Jan. 2	at Mayde Creek scrimm.	7 p.m.
Jan. 5	Aldine MacArthur (FISD)	2 p.m.
Jan. 6	Friendswood (FISD)	4 p.m.
Jan. 7	G.C. Memorial (FISD)	11 a.m.
Jan. 12	Kingwood (Austin Show)	7 p.m.
Jan. 13	Lake Travis (Austin Show)	7 p.m.
Jan. 14	Vista Ridge (Austin Show)10 a.m.	
Jan. 20	at North Shore (GPISD)	6 p.m.
Jan. 28	*West Brook (Vet.)	noon
Jan. 31	*South Houston (Vet.)	5 p.m.
Feb. 3	*Sam Rayburn (Vet.)	6 p.m.
Feb. 6	*Pasadena (Vet.)	5 p.m.
Feb. 11	*Deer Park (Vet.)	10 a.m.
Feb. 13	*La Porte (Vet.)	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	*Memorial (Vet.)	7 p.m.
Feb. 21	*at West Brook	7 p.m.
Feb. 24	*South Houston (Vet.)	4 p.m.
March 1	*Sam Rayburn (Vet.)	7 p.m.
March 3	*Pasadena (Vet.)	4 p.m.
March 7	*at Deer Park (Abshire)	7 p.m.
March 10	*at La Porte (Bulldog)	7 p.m.
March 13	*Memorial (Vet.)	2 p.m.
*District 22-6A match		
*(Vet.) Veterans Stadium, Pasadena		

Brook High School Varsity Boys' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 2	Cy-Woods scrimm.	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 5-7	at Katy ISD Showcase	TBA
Jan. 13	Pasadena	7 p.m.
Jan. 17	Deer Park	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	at La Porte	6 p.m.
Jan. 27	*at Clear Falls	7 p.m.
Jan. 31	*Clear Creek	7 p.m.
Feb. 3	*Friendswood	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	*Clear Lake (Challenger)	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	*at Alvin	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	*Dickinson	7 p.m.
Feb. 21	*Clear Falls	7 p.m.
Feb. 24	*at Clear Creek	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	*at Friendswood	7 p.m.
March 3	*Clear Lake (Challenger)	7 p.m.
March 7	*at Clear Springs	7 p.m.
March 10	*Alvin	7 p.m.
March 20	*at Dickinson	7 p.m.
*District 24-6A match		

Brook High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 3	Texas City scrimm.	7 p.m.
Jan. 5-7	at Humble tourn.	TBA
Jan. 10	at Santa Fe	7 p.m.
Jan. 12-14	at Katy I-10 Shootout	TBA
Jan. 20	Brazoswood	5 p.m.
Jan. 24	*G.C. Memorial	7 p.m.
Jan. 27	*Clear Falls	7 p.m.
Jan. 31	*at Clear Creek	7 p.m.
Feb. 3	*at Friendswood	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	*Clear Lake	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	*at Clear Springs	noon
Feb. 14	*Alvin (Challenger)	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	*at Dickinson	7 p.m.
Feb. 21	*at Clear Falls	7 p.m.
Feb. 24	*Clear Creek	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	*Friendswood	7 p.m.
March 1	*Sam Rayburn (Vet.)	7 p.m.
March 3	*at Clear Lake	7 p.m.
March 7		

SBHLL, SBGSA host registration

Continued from Page 1B
 tration, which will include an additional \$25 fee, will be held later this month.

All registering families must provide a copy of the player's birth certificate, to be kept on file.

Families must also provide three current forms of residency, such as driver's license, voter registration,

utility bills, etc.

Online sign-up at SBGSA

The early registration deadline for those wanting to compete in the South Belt Girls Softball Association has passed, but there is still time to get things handled.

To do so, families are asked to visit the league's new website at southbeltgirlssoftball.leagueapps.com.

Registration cost is \$70 per player, in addition to a \$70 candy sales fee. Families may also pay a candy buyout fee.

For league updates, simply text 81010 to @southbelt. The league will post updates on its websites as they become available or are needed in the sign-up process.

Dobie, Brook share top billing

Continued from Page 1B
 seemed destined to fight the contenders from behind throughout the course of the district race.

But the Longhorns persevered. A 6-game winning streak in league play righted the ship for a time, but the Longhorns still needed to defeat Memorial in their final game of 22-6A to make certain of a playoff berth.

An easy 71-47 defeat of the Mavs seemed to spark the Longhorns as they entered the postseason. After having been handled quite easily by North Shore in the first round of the 2015 postseason, there were those who expected a similar outcome in the bidistrict round.

Instead, Dobie turned the tables. Controlling the game essentially from start to finish, Dobie eased past North Shore 60-52, setting up an area round playoff game against Alief Elsik, which had pulled a bit of an upset in downing 24-6A champion Clear Creek.

Against the Rams, Royce Hunter scored 26 points as the Longhorns advanced with a 64-57 win, making the third round of the playoffs.

At Campbell Center, the Longhorns went up against a bigger and more physical Hightower team. Weathering an early storm, the Longhorns took care of business with a 59-56 win as Hunter scored 18 for the winners.

The fun ended in the Region III Final Four as Cy-Lakes and University of Kentucky signee DeAaron Fox simply proved to be too much. No matter, though, as the Longhorns had delivered the Story of the Year.

Brook FB believes

The Wolverines needed a late-season win over Alvin to qualify for the playoffs as the fourth seed out of District 24-6A. After two playoff rounds, the Wolverines were the lone league representative still standing.

Finishing fourth in the District 24-6A standings, the Wolverines qualified as the No. 2 seed in Division II, drawing a first-round matchup against Dawson.

The Wolverines quickly unleashed their vast array of offensive weapons, running out to a 21-0 lead before the Eagles knew what had hit them.

Dawson drew closer late, but the Wolverines escaped with a 55-42 vic-

tory. Moving on to the second round, the Wolverines made their first of two appearances at NRG Stadium.

For the second time in two weeks, the Wolverines sprinted out to a 21-0 lead before the Mustangs could recover.

But while Dawson made things interesting late in the first round game, Kingwood could not as Clear Brook advanced with a 42-28 win.

Cy-Ridge turned the

tables on Clear Brook in the third round en route to a 21-0 lead. The Wolverines got within 21-14 but Cy-Ridge advanced with a 49-14 victory.

It was the first move to the third round for the Wolverines since the 1998 season, certainly a feat that qualified the Wolverines for the Story of the Year in South Belt.

Hail, hail to the Longhorns and Wolverines. What a year it truly was for both programs.

Dobie baseball's Diaz Jr. will play at Angelina College

At right, Dobie varsity baseball player Euro Diaz Jr., (seated center) will continue his education and playing career at Angelina College in Lufkin after signing a letter of intent with the Roadrunners. Those with Diaz at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Jacob Salas (god brother), (middle row) Euro Diaz Sr. (father), Ancy Diaz (mother), Lauren Escobar (girlfriend), (back row) Alberto Quiroga (first youth baseball coach), John Salas (god brother), Enzo Diaz (brother), Evelio Diaz (cousin), Miguel Torres (Dobie varsity baseball head coach) and Enzo Mendiola (uncle).



Pasadena ISD Intermediate Girls' Hoops Through Dec. 12 games

8L Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
San Jacinto	1	0	0	4	0	0
South Houston	1	0	0	2	2	0
Park View	0	0	0	0	4	0
Southmore	0	1	0	0	4	0
Beverly Hills	0	1	0	0	4	0

Game Scores

Thompson 67, Park View 12
 South Houston 33, Beverly Hills 13
 San Jacinto 39, Southmore 31
 Bondy 44, Queens 14
 Miller 38, Jackson 9

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Bondy	1	0	0	1	0	0			
Miller	1	0	0	1	0	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	4	0	0			
Jackson	0	1	0	2	2	0			
Queens	0	1	0	2	2	0			

8D Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
San Jacinto	1	0	0	2	2	0
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	2	2	0
Park View	0	0	0	0	4	0
Southmore	0	1	0	1	3	0
South Houston	0	1	0	0	4	0

Game Scores

Thompson 42, Park View 4
 Beverly Hills 29, South Houston 27
 San Jacinto 24, Southmore 5
 Bondy 29, Queens 14
 Jackson 20, Miller 14

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Bondy	1	0	0	4	0	0			
Jackson	1	0	0	2	2	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	4	0	0			
Queens	0	1	0	3	1	0			
Miller	0	1	0	2	2	0			

Pasadena ISD Intermediate Girls' Hoops Through Dec. 12 games

7L Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
South Houston	1	0	0	3	1	0
Southmore	1	0	0	1	3	0
Park View	0	0	0	2	2	0
San Jacinto	0	1	0	0	4	0
Beverly Hills	0	1	0	0	4	0

Game Scores

Thompson 26, Park View 24
 South Houston 29, Beverly Hills 28
 Southmore 18, San Jacinto 10
 Bondy 38, Queens 15
 Jackson 36, Miller 14

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Bondy	1	0	0	4	0	0			
Jackson	1	0	0	4	0	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	1	3	0			
Queens	0	1	0	2	2	0			
Miller	0	1	0	1	3	0			

7D Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
San Jacinto	1	0	0	3	1	0
Park View	0	0	0	2	2	0
Southmore	0	1	0	2	2	0
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	2	2	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	3	0

Game Scores

Park View 23, Thompson 18
 Beverly Hills 34, South Houston 31
 San Jacinto 12, Southmore 4
 Bondy 48, Queens 10
 Miller 22, Jackson 10

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Miller	1	0	0	4	0	0			
Bondy	1	0	0	3	1	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	2	2	0			
Jackson	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Queens	0	1	0	0	4	0			

Pasadena ISD Intermediate Boys' Hoops Through Dec. 12 games

8L Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
Southmore	1	0	0	3	1	0
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	1	0
Park View	0	0	0	2	2	0
San Jacinto	0	1	0	3	1	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	3	0

Game Scores

Thompson 66, Park View 22
 Beverly Hills 57, South Houston 48
 Southmore 37, San Jacinto 34
 Bondy 60, Queens 35
 Miller 30, Jackson 7

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Miller	1	0	0	3	1	0			
Bondy	1	0	0	2	2	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	3	1	0			
Queens	0	1	0	0	4	0			
Jackson	0	1	0	0	4	0			

8D Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
San Jacinto	1	0	0	4	0	0
South Houston	1	0	0	3	1	0
Park View	0	0	0	1	3	0
Beverly Hills	0	1	0	1	3	0
Southmore	0	1	0	0	4	0

Game Scores

Thompson 56, Park View 7
 South Houston 44, Beverly Hills 37
 San Jacinto 37, Southmore 15
 Bondy 40, Queens 13
 Miller 40, Jackson 34

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Bondy	1	0	0	3	1	0			
Miller	1	0	0	3	1	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	4	0	0			
Queens	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Jackson	0	1	0	0	4	0			

Pasadena ISD Intermediate Boys' Hoops Through Dec. 12 games

7L Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	1	0
Southmore	1	0	0	2	2	0
Park View	0	0	0	3	1	0
San Jacinto	0	1	0	1	3	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	1	0

Game Scores

Thompson 59, Park View 21
 Beverly Hills 45, South Houston 41
 Southmore 36, San Jacinto 22
 Bondy 53, Queens 10
 Miller 42, Jackson 22

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Bondy	1	0	0	4	0	0			
Miller	1	0	0	2	2	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	4	0	0			
Jackson	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Queens	0	1	0	0	4	0			

7D Records	District			Overall		
	Zone A	W	L	T	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0	0	3	1	0
San Jacinto	1	0	0	3	1	0
Park View	0	0	0	2	2	0
Southmore	0	1	0	1	3	0
South Houston	0	1	0	1	3	0

Game Scores

Thompson 47, Park View 13
 Beverly Hills 33, South Houston 4
 San Jacinto 36, Southmore 12
 Bondy 56, Queens 2
 Miller 34, Jackson 16

Zone B	W			L			T		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Bondy	1	0	0	3	1	0			
Miller	1	0	0	3	1	0			
Thompson	0	0	0	4	0	0			
Queens	0	1	0	0	4	0			
Jackson	0	1	0	0	4	0			

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. Directly afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in both English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome to join! 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alateen - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets

Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's, 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for details.

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group - A national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families meets the second Monday at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. For information, call 281-538-4648.

Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.

Sagemont Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday, 7 p.m., Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.

Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Russell at 832-483-6715.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$35.

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Tri-County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Must have exact cash or a check. For reservations, call Laura Morgan at 281-484-8083.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nax@texascitizensbank.com.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at driglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.

Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Luby's (11595 Fuqua). For details, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for information.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call 281-480-1911 for details.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Hometown Heroes Park - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204.

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.

Bay Area New Democrats - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit www.bayareanewdemocrats.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. Public welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Harris County Master Gardeners - The Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 Lecture Series presents *Vermiculture, Composting Worms*, a program by Charlene Perry of Diggitt Organics, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the (new location) Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., 77034. For details, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. Directly afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in both English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome to join! 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the Conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the Synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.

Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Alateen - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

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Star names, star programs make area '16 sports year a hit

Continued from Page 2B
ment. What a run it was for Ho and Luu, who entered the tournament as the No. 3-seeded duo. The Dobie pair won three straight matches in straight sets, taking down teams from Pearland, Manvel and Dawson to reach the championship match.

In that one, Ho and Luu finished off their title run with a big three-set win over Rahman/Tharash of Pearland. The set score was 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Dobie senior Summer Naser completed her varsity girls' soccer career in style, landing both first team all-district and academic all-state honors out of District 22-6A.

Three other Lady Longhorns made the 22-6A first team, and three others were selected to the second team.

Still others made their way on to the honorable mention list. Naser was also a four-year member of the varsity swimming team at Dobie.

Dobie senior girls' standout Justice Henderson and junior Jeremy Davis led a local contingent of Region III track and field meet hopefuls as the District 21/22-6A Area Championships.

Henderson, a University of Houston signee, won the 100-meter dash and long jump crowns at the District 22-6A Championships.

She also helped the Lady Longhorn 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter dash teams to victory at the meet, accounting for 30 points in all.

Davis, meanwhile, hoped to move on to regionals in the 110-meter hurdles as well as the shot put after excelling at district.

The Dobie varsity baseball team put itself in a tough position but was still hopeful after a rough loss against Dawson featured several Longhorn blunders.

The task of making the playoffs got a little harder thanks to a 9-8 loss to the fourth-place Dawson Eagles at Longhorn Field.

Dobie trailed 2-0 but then led 5-2 and 8-7 before losing a crucial game.

Dobie fell to 6-7 in District 22-6A action with three games remaining. Dobie did not advance to the postseason.

Clear Brook sprinter Brandon Taylor turned in a sensational season to this point, but he's not done yet.

The University of Miami track and field signee went undefeated in the 100-meter dash during the regular track season.

Taylor, a state medalist in the 100-meter dash a season ago, was eying the gold medal this time around.

At the District 24-6A Championships April 12-14, Taylor claimed yet another gold medal in the event, winning at 10.59 seconds.

Justice Henderson and Camille Singleton were the big headliners among a group of Dobie varsity track and field athletes headed to the Region III Championships at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster.

Henderson, who is now competing in the long jump at the University of Houston, placed second in the event at the District 21/22-6A Area Championships.

Competing during an often drizzle and certainly soggy afternoon and evening, Henderson also won the 100-meter dash and helped Dobie reach regionals in the 4x200-meter relay.

Singleton, meanwhile, continued to impress in the 200-meter dash, where she scored an area meet victory en route to a regional berth.

As for the Dobie boys, junior Jeremy Davis rode solo, representing the Longhorns in both the 110-meter hurdles and the discus.

Putting it all together at the right time, the Clear Brook varsity boys' track and field team stole the

show at the District 23/24-6A Area Championships.

Sprint star Brandon Taylor won the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Luke Barksdale landed three regional berths and the Wolverines advanced to regionals in all three relays.

It all added up for Brook, which was crowned as Team Champion at the meet with 100 points.

Henderson for Dobie and Taylor for Brook advanced to the state meet.

With the regular season in full swing, the National Junior College Athletic Association weekly poll ranked San Jacinto College (37-9, 24-8 conference) as the top baseball team in the nation.

San Jac started the season ranked No. 10 by the NJCAA (No. 3 in Perfect Game USA), climbed up to No. 2 on April 13th by the NJCAA (No. 3 in Perfect Game USA), and since climbed to No. 1 on April 20 in both the NJCAA as well as Perfect Game USA polls.

May
So much for things going according to form.

San Jacinto College headed back to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I National Championship for the third time after sweeping past the competition at the Region XIV tournament at the college's South campus.

Hosting the regional tournament for the first time in a long while, San Jacinto put together very possibly the best four days of its season, beating No. 1 nationally ranked Tyler twice and outscoring four opponents by a combined 23-7 en route to the championship.

Clear Brook's varsity baseball team engaged in a one game, "winner take all" bidistrict playoff battle against District 23-6A champion Fort Bend Travis.

The Wolverines finished at 7-7 in District 24-6A action during the regular season, grabbing the fourth and final playoff seed. Travis, meanwhile, went unbeaten in league play. Travis went on to defeat Brook 11-0 in the game.

The cream has risen to the top as the field of Class 6A State Track and Field Championships has been set, and it includes a pair of locals.

Clear Brook senior Brandon Taylor will make a bid to sweep the 100- and 200-meter dash crowns in Austin come May 14 at the Mike A. Myers Track Complex.

Taylor was looking for the gold this time after claiming a state bronze medal in the 100-meter dash in 2015 at 10.40 seconds.

The senior made his way to state during his senior season after winning the 100-meter dash at the Region III Championships April 30, at Columbia Challenger Stadium in Webster.

Taylor's time of 10.54 gave him the win as he held off second-place finisher Caleb Jolivet of Manvel, who also reached Austin with a time of 10.58.

In the 200-meter dash, Taylor's time of 21.31 placed him second to champion Kary Vincent of Port Arthur Memorial (21.15).

Dobie's Justice Henderson was also on her way to the state meet for the first time in her career.

Defending Class 6A long jump state champion Samiyah Samuels of Cypress Springs punched her ticket for a return, getting to 20 feet, 1/2 inches for the win. Henderson's best effort of 19'11" was second.

Jeremiah Rose grabbed a state championship, Marleen Guerrero earned a silver medal and Terrel Davis found his way to a bronze medal to highlight Lutheran South Academy's trip to the 2016 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools

Track and Field Championships.

The TAPPS championship meet featured athletes from many of TAPPS' 230 member schools covering five classifications May 6-7 at Baylor University's Hart-Patterson Sports Complex in Waco.

Rose's gold medal came in the 4A boys' triple jump as he went 44 feet, 5 1/2 inches for the top spot in the event.

As for Guerrero, her medal also came in the triple jump as she scored a top effort of 35'5 1/2" for a silver medal.

Guerrero led the way as the LSA varsity girls' track and field team won the district championship and then excelled at regionals.

Davis placed third in the 400-meter dash at 49.95 seconds for his bronze medal, and just missed out on a second medal as his time of 22.48 was fourth in the 200-meter dash.

Zaire Walker (left), a sixth-grade student at Melillo Middle School, was again one of the stars of the Pasadena ISD's districtwide Get Fit Jog at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Walker was the champion of his sixth-grade boys' class, covering the 2.3 mile course before anyone else.

It was the third win in four years for Walker, who was second in 2014. Walker's brother, Zion, owns a cross-country time record at Thompson Intermediate, and Zaire went on to win the Pasadena ISD District Championship meet in the seventh grade in December.

Almost from the moment it took the field at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Softball National Championship, San Jacinto College found itself climbing a mountain.

Surrendering three runs in the first inning of a 6-1 tournament-opening loss to Florida SouthWestern State, SJC slipped into the loser's bracket of the double-elimination event at the Canyons Complex in St. George, Utah. Game on!

San Jacinto took the first step back by downing Howard (Texas) 2-1 in nine innings.

Freshman starting pitcher Niki Gonzalez, who had given up five earned runs in the loss to FSS, came back against Howard with a gem of a performance.

Over the nine innings, Gonzalez allowed just four hits and an earned run.

June
Following the completion of the varsity softball season, the District 22-6A head coaches unveiled their selections for the postseason teams.

Four Dobie players – including Michelle Kristoff, Deja Gaines, Yvonne Whaley and Taylor Pleasants – were selected to the first team.

Dobie varsity softball player Yvonne Whaley was an honorable mention All-State selection by the Texas Sports Writers Association, as announced earlier this month.

A varsity player since she set foot on campus, Whaley, a center fielder who hits in the lead-off spot for the Lady Longhorns, is now a junior at Dobie.

Teams were selected by TSWA members based on nominations from coaches and media members from around the state.

The San Jacinto College baseball team's quest for a sixth national championship fell short in a heartbreaking 5-2 loss to Yavapai College (Ariz.) in the final game of the 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I World Series June 4 in Grand Junction, Colo.

The championship game was a tense pitchers' duel throughout. In the end San Jac's potent offense, which produced 46 runs in the first five games of the tourna-

ment, was held at bay by Yavapai's ace pitcher JoJo Romero, a top MLB prospect eventually chosen in the fourth round of the MLB draft.

Dobie outfielder Euro Diaz was the Longhorns' lone representative on the first-team, all-District 22-6A list after a solid junior season on the diamond.

Diaz made the first team as an outfielder, but also pitched in several games for the Longhorns.

Diaz was also selected to take part in the Houston Area Baseball Coaches Association Junior All-Star Game at the University of Houston's Schroeder Park.

Clear Brook's Reggie McCalister has also been chosen to play in the game.

A national title proved to be a step closer to with-in reach for the San Jacinto College softball team as it ended the season as the 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIV champions and wound up ranked seventh in the nation.

Finishing the season 38-25 overall and earning an automatic bid to the NJCAA national championship tournament with a regional win, it was the third-ever national tournament appearance for San Jacinto College.

The last national tournament appearance for San Jac was in 2014 when the team finished fifth in the nation.

July

What a regional track and field few days it was for the Rising Stars Track Club, the South Belt's longtime youth organization under the guidance of head coach Ivory Kimble.

Nineteen different athletes scored top-3 medals, and seven of those athletes landed those same top-3 medals in multiple events.

There were plenty of sensational athletes and teams at the Amateur Athletic Union/Junior Olympics Region 17 National Qualifier at Jay Guy K. Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg, yet it was tough to top the Rising Stars Track Club.

Six Rising Stars won regional championship titles, headlined by female 12-year-old division competitor Camryn Dickson, who reeled off victories in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes.

August

Getting some first-match jitters out of the way, Dobie's varsity volleyball team downed Elkins in four sets – 25-13, 25-13, 22-25, 25-20 – earning a split following tri-match action also involving Atascocita at Donna Branch Gymnasium.

Atascocita, coming through in a big way un-

der the direction of first-year head coach Kendria Brown, defeated Dobie 25-21, 25-16, 25-18 in the opening match of the night.

The Lady Eagles then swept Elkins in three games – 25-11, 25-10, 25-12 – to complete their night with a pair of wins.

In one of longest marathon matches of opening night, the Clear Brook varsity volleyball team came up on the short end of a five-set thriller at Lady Wolverine Gymnasium.

Again facing private school heavyweight St. Agnes Academy to open the season, Clear Brook saw the Lady Tigers walk away with a 29-27, 24-26, 25-22, 13-25, 15-13 victory.

The win, coming on the heels of a 13-6 win over Morton Ranch in the final round of the Remembering Ike Invitational, has the locals feeling good.

Coasting out to a 27-0 lead, Clear Brook had little trouble getting out of the gate in the District 24-6A varsity football race, punching Clear Falls to the tune of 48-13 at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

October

It was a long day, or maybe a short day, depending on how one views it.

Deer Park, claiming its dominance to this point in the District 22-6A varsity team tennis race, handed previously unbeaten Do-

bie a 19-0 setback Oct. 4 at Deer Park.

The decisive victory virtually locked up the 22-6A championship for the Deer, who wound up finishing second at the area championships after electing not to travel to Kingwood for the finals.

The end of an era is coming, but not before a true Pasadena ISD coaching legend leads his troops for perhaps the final time in one of the greatest rivalries the district has ever known.

It was Beverly Hills versus Thompson in intermediate football action, and since there was not a playoff system in the Pasadena ISD ranks for the 2016 season, it was the last time the Battlin' Bears' Ben Portis coached against the Lions of Thompson after 30 years.

Portis is retiring at the end of the school year, and what a memorable career it's been. He actually spent several years as a coach at Thompson before making the move over to Beverly Hills Intermediate.

He will officially retire June 1 when the current school year is complete. Sometimes it's not always about the team. While Dobie did not advance as a team in either the boys' or girls' District 22-6A Cross-Country Championships Oct. 20,

at Northwest Park in La Porte, a pair of individuals were outstanding.

Junior Andrea Perez placed fourth in the varsity girls' race, covering the 5K course in a time of 20 minutes, 27.41 seconds to reach the Region III meet.

The Longhorns' Jacob Salas also continued his season, placing ninth in the boys' race at 16:43.29.

November

The Region III varsity volleyball ranks are easily the state's hardest to navigate come playoff time, and Clear Brook and the entire District 22-6A field found out the hard way Nov. 1.

The Lady Wolverines won game two against District 23-6A champion Dawson but then lost a tight fourth game as Dawson advanced with a 25-14, 25-27, 25-14, 25-23 victory.

The San Jacinto men's soccer program, which will be no more as of the 2018-2019 school year after a Nov. 7 board vote eliminated men's soccer, men's basketball, volleyball and women's basketball, headed to nationals for the fourth time in history.

Ricardo Ramos scored two goals, and Heiko Leinweber had two assists as the Coyotes defeated Hinds, Miss., 3-1.

At nationals, the Coyotes advanced out of pool

and into the semifinals but ultimately lost a 2-0 decision to eventual national champion Tyler.

December
The Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team officially sent a solid message, just in time for the approaching District 24-6A league title chase.

Winning five games over three days, the Wolverines capped it all off with a 56-53 victory over Clear Lake, winning the Clear Creek ISD's Carlisle/Krueger Classic for just the second time in school history, with both tournament finale wins coming over Clear Lake.

Former Dobie High School star quarterback Blake Jackson ended his collegiate career in style, leading Mary Hardin-Baylor to the NCAA Division III national football championship with a 10-7 victory over Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Jackson was named the Most Outstanding Player after scoring the game-winning touchdown on a 1-yard run and leading the Cru in rushing.

The Cru went 15-0 this season as Jackson set single season passing records in every category.

Another Dobie graduate, Reggie Wilson, played a key role in the defensive secondary as UMHB went on to win its first-ever national championship.

Dobie-ex Wolfe headed to Stephen F. Austin softball



Former Dobie High School varsity softball star Emily Wolfe (seated third from left) will continue her education and playing career at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches after signing a letter of intent with the Lumberjacks. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Audrey Farfan (SFA assistant coach), Sandy Tabolka (mother), Nicole Dickson (SFA head coach), Kevin Stein (SFA assistant coach), (standing), Jack Butler (Paris team statistician), Kevin Tabolka (stepfather) and Erin Thompson (Dobie counselor). Wolfe, a 2015 Dobie graduate, was a four-year starter for the Lady Longhorns and spent her collegiate freshman season at Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas, where she was an all-conference selection after leading the team in numerous offensive categories. According to RegionXIVathletics.com, Wolfe hit .431 for the Dragons last season with 43 runs batted in, 59 runs scored, 19 doubles, eight home runs, 81 hits and 34 stolen bases.

San Jac VB's Rhoder lands All-American



Madison Rhoder arrived at San Jacinto College poised as one of the most decorated and awarded high school volleyball players of the 2015-2016 season in the state of Texas. Once at San Jac, Rhoder certainly delivered on that promise. The 6-foot middle blocker from Fort Bend Austin High School was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association's All-America first team following the regular season. As a senior at Fort Bend Austin, Rhoder guided



the Lady Bulldogs to the Region III crown and a Class 6A tournament berth. A Texas Girls' Coaches Association all-state pick, Rhoder also landed on the all-tournament team at state. This season at San Jacinto College, Rhoder led the team in kills with 272 and posted a kill success percentage of .337, also a team-best. She also led the team in total blocks with 168 and block solos with 50. Action photo by Jeannie Peng-Mansour