

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thanksgiving Day 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Holiday closings set

South Belt-Ellington Leader
The *Leader* office will be closed through Friday, Nov. 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.
Clear Brook City MUD
The Clear Brook City MUD office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will re-open on Monday, Nov. 27, at 8 a.m. Payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru window side of the building. Residents who receive Friday trash service will have regular services Nov. 24. All trash must be at curbside no later than 7 a.m.

City holiday trash schedule

Residents living in the city will not have trash pickup Thanksgiving Day. Thursday collections will be rescheduled for Friday, Nov. 24, while Friday pickups will be rescheduled for Saturday, Nov. 25.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Road 1 to Fuqua will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 8. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

At least two northbound and two southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Road 1 to Fuqua will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 8. Alternate entrance/exit ramps will be closed.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Dec. 31. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

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.

Cabrini women sell cookies

The Women's Club of St. Frances Cabrini will hold its Cookie Walk on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to noon in Francesca Hall, 10727 Hartsook. A large assortment of homemade holiday cookies will be sold by the pound. Come early for the best selection.

Sageglen to meet Nov. 27

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its meeting Monday, Nov. 27, at the community building at 11610 Sageyork at 7 p.m.

Kirkmont I to meet

The Kirkmont I HOA will hold its board meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. Homeowners and interested candidates for the December elections may attend. The nominating committee will consider individuals for nomination as a candidate for the board of directors. Submit name, address, telephone and email address with a brief resume indicating education, qualifying experience and objectives to improve Kirkmont Section I. Elections will take place Dec. 13. Submit resumes to: msanchez@houcomm.com.

Highland Meadow parade

The Highland Meadow Christmas Light Parade is set for Sunday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for the best entries in adult and children categories. For information, contact Rudy Alafa at 281-415-8003 or alafa20@yahoo.com.

Melillo jog planned

The Melillo Middle School will hold its fourth annual Jingle Bell Jog on Saturday, Dec. 2. This is a community event aimed at helping local families for the holidays. All participants are asked to bring two nonperishable food items or one new unwrapped toy. All of the food and toy donations collected will go directly to the *Leader's* annual Christmas drive. Holiday dress is recommended, and the best youth and adult costumes will be awarded a prize. There will also be prizes for the first-place boy and girl joggers. The Melillo Band will perform, and there will be a drawing for a free turkey. Registration is at 8 a.m., and the jog will begin at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Kelly Jurek at 713-740-5260.

Dobie orchestra to perform

The Dobie High School Orchestra freshmen Christmas concert will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. The Dobie Orchestra upperclassmen concert will be held on Thursday Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. All concerts will be held in the Dobie High School Auditorium. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Beltway 8 closures set

At least one inside lane on the westbound frontage road of Beltway 8 will be closed from Beamer to Blackhawk continuously through 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Stuchbery celebrates 50th anniversary

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Stuchbery Elementary.

Opened in the fall of 1967, Stuchbery was the first elementary school to be located in the new subdivision of Sagemont.

The campus was named in honor of James

E. Stuchbery, longtime educator and first musical director in the Pasadena Independent School District.

The school opened with 375 students, and Miles C. Bozarth was named the campus's first principal.

In 1972, Stuchbery became so crowded it was necessary to send the fifth-grade class to the adjacent Thompson Intermediate. The arrangement remained in place until the nearby Frazier Elementary opened in 1975.

That same year, Stuchbery became the largest

school in the district with an enrollment of more than 1,000. This included the transfer of students from Scarsdale, who had previously attended Meador Elementary.

Overcrowding at the campus was alleviated in the fall of 1977 when Burnett Elementary opened in the Scarsdale subdivision.

The first winter carnival in PISD was held at Stuchbery in February 1968, and the school's PTA purchased playground equipment with the profits from the event.

As the area grew, so did the traffic problems. The PTA was responsible for sponsoring volunteer mothers to serve as patrol officers. The mothers were trained and deputized by Harris County.

Through it all, Stuchbery has remained a resilient part of the South Belt community.

"We are Stuchbery strong, and we are 50 years strong in the community," said current Stuchbery Principal Jose Hernandez.

The school will recognize its 50th anniversary with a celebration Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the school cafeteria from 6 to 8 p.m.

One of the highlights of the event will be the dedication of a wing at the campus in honor of former kindergarten teacher, Shirleene Lipsey, who recently passed away. Lipsey was one of the longest-tenured teachers at Stuchbery, having worked at the school for more than 30 years until her retirement at age 83.

The celebration, will also include refreshments, a gallery walk, music and student performances honoring the school's first 50 years. All alumni and current and former staff are invited to attend.

For additional information, call 713-740-0752.

Moore Elementary celebrates Thanksgiving



Moore Elementary recently celebrated Thanksgiving before taking a week off for the holidays. Shown above at the celebration are, left to right, (sitting) Carolina Penado, Ernesto Davalos, Brianna Bustos, Jader Portillo, Kelly Alfaro, Camila Salomon, Hiba Mateen, Karen Stewart, Trinity Woomeer, Edy Gutierrez, Martin Antonio, Alan Figueroa, (standing) Travis Tran, Natalie Dent, Evany Garcia, Maddox Martinez, Jacob Gonzales, Ethan Vega, Jayden Rice, Brody Clouse, Samuel Barahona, Jesse Martinez, Ava Soloya, Nyla Richardson, Jordan Garcia and Bjork Klimowicz. See additional photos on this page and Page 6A. Photo submitted

Mayor responds to insufficient federal Harvey relief assistance

On Friday, Nov. 17, the White House sent Congress a \$44 billion disaster request, falling far short of the aid officials in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico had originally sought to recover from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Gov. Greg Abbott had initially requested \$61 billion in aid for Texas alone.

While administration officials said they plan to provide additional relief funds in the coming months as costs are evaluated, several elected officials in the state have spoken out against what they see as an insufficient federal response.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner released the following statement:

"Today's decision by the federal government to drastically underfund Houston's flood recovery and flood prevention effort is a formula for future failure.

"Houston, the region's economic engine, suffered more rain in a short period than any other U.S. city in history, yet is being funded by Washington at a level below areas hit by hurricanes Katrina (New Orleans), Sandy (Eastern Seaboard) and Maria (Puerto Rico).

"Our city, it seems, is being punished for its efficient Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts and its decision to work, not whine, for its fair share of public money that residents of the region have paid into the U.S. Treasury.

"One of several bitterly disappointing parts of today's appropriations announcement is the absence of funds to help stop preventable flooding from the next epic storm, which will surely come.

"Another serious letdown is the decision to send federal grant money through state govern-

ment before it gets to cities. This approach will cause inexcusable delays, and create bureaucratic barriers, for getting the funds to Houston.

"City government and local nonprofits are doing what they can to address the damage and aid the many Houstonians still in need of assistance

— seniors, children and everyone in between — with housing, food, and other essentials. The role of the federal government is crucial, however, and a mere trickle of money won't be enough to help Houston heal from a deluge.

"Houston, we are on our own."

Heavy trash pickup resumes for many

While normal heavy trash service has not resumed for residents living in the city limits following Hurricane Harvey, it has for residents living in unincorporated parts of Harris County.

Residents living in the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District have had their heavy trash pickup service resumed on every Thursday, excluding Thanksgiving.

According to Clear Brook City MUD General Manager of Administration Cecilia Ganje, the heavy trash must be clearly separated from storm and construction debris or it will not be collected.

For residents living in the Sagemeadow Municipal Utility District, heavy trash pickup service has resumed on every Friday.

Residents living in the Kirkmont Municipal Utility District have had their heavy trash pickup service resumed on every Thursday.

Kirkmont residents should also be aware that their trash service days will change beginning Friday, Dec. 1, when the district switches collection companies. Collection dates will change from Mondays and Thursdays to Wednesdays and Saturdays. When the change goes into effect, residents may leave heavy trash out on either Wednesday or Saturday.

The change in companies is intended to improve the reliability of the district's waste collection, according to Kirkmont MUD Manager Linda Arnone.

At press time, City of Houston officials said it remained unclear when the city's normal heavy trash collection service would resume, as crews are still focusing their efforts on storm debris removal. Recycling service, however, has resumed.

Storm debris

Storm debris collection has concluded for residents living in the Clear Brook City MUD, which used a private contractor to do the work.

According to Ganje, the district's third and final collection pass took place Wednesday, Oct. 18. Any remaining storm debris is the responsibility of the resident.

All residents living in the Sagemeadow MUD have had at least one storm debris collection pass, according to board member Glenn Williams. Collection work is ongoing.

Nearly all residents living in the Kirkmont MUD have had at least two collection passes, Arnone said. Storm debris pickup is continuing.

Residents living in the Houston city limits have had at least one collection pass. Work is ongoing.

Turner to speak at SJC graduation

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner will deliver the keynote address at the San Jacinto College commencement ceremonies on Sunday, Dec. 17.

"We are thrilled to have Mayor Turner speak to our graduates," said San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "Mayor Turner is a respected leader who has a passion for all things Houston, including education. I think our graduates and guests will relate to his message, and I look forward to welcoming him to our ceremony."

Mayor Turner was elected in 2015 and is serving his first four-year term as Houston's 62nd mayor. He has brought a performance-driven approach to the mayor's office that is creating more responsive, streamlined and efficient delivery of city services.

A signature program of Turner's administration is the Complete Communities initiative, which aims to improve quality of life for residents in areas that are not thriving at a level enjoyed by other Houston neighborhoods. The

mayor's other priorities include implementation of a six point holistic plan for addressing homelessness and new programs to reduce flooding and improve drainage.

Prior to his election as mayor, Turner served for 27 years in the Texas House of Representatives, serving District 139. Turner is a lifelong resident of Houston and still lives in the Acres Homes community where he grew up with his eight siblings. He is a graduate of the University of Houston and holds a law degree from Harvard University. He began his law practice at Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., and later founded the Barnes & Turner Law Firm.

Turner is the proud father of his daughter, Ashley Turner, who is continuing the family tradition of public service in the health care field.

The San Jacinto College commencement ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. at Minute Maid Park. More information about the San Jacinto College commencement ceremony can be found at sanjac.edu/commencement-ceremony.

Precinct 1 to expand park access

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis on Monday announced the Park-Smart Precinct One project, a unique plan to advance equitable access to quality parks and green spaces to improve community health and well-being, build social connections and resilience, and expand environmental safeguards after Hurricane Harvey.

The Park-Smart Precinct One project will assess existing parks and trails, identify key barriers to using them, and pinpoint green-space gaps. Team members will cultivate deep, diverse community engagement to create a community-based vision for increasing access to parks and trails, and they will use sophisticated Geographic Information System (GIS) modeling to identify the most effective places to invest in parks and green infrastructure, particularly in vulnerable and underserved areas.

High-quality green spaces such as parks, gardens, and trails can improve residents' quality of life by offering a fun and safe outdoor experience, increasing community cohesion, providing mental and physical health benefits, improving local air and water quality, and mitigating climate impacts such as flooding and rising tem-

peratures.

"I've toured Precinct One and our parks and trails by bike, car and foot — before and after Harvey. As a result, I've gained a unique perspective on the importance of creating equitable access to quality parks and green spaces for all people and communities in Precinct One," Ellis said.

"Parks should not be considered amenities, they're necessary. Parks connect our communities, support healthy lifestyles, and provide green spaces with both environmental and cultural benefits," Commissioner Ellis said. "Park-Smart will bring to life opportunities and ideas that will enhance the lives of our neighborhoods, friends, and families for years to come. I also hope we will inspire others to take on similar efforts to improve park and trail equity."

Park-Smart Precinct One is a collaboration of Harris County Precinct One, The Trust for Public Land and the Houston Parks Board, and is partially funded by a generous grant from the Houston Endowment. It will build on existing green infrastructure efforts by Precinct One and other

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Moore students give thanks



Moore students Clarisa Mendez (left) and Angellie Mendez are shown above enjoying a special Thanksgiving lunch at the area elementary school before taking a week off for the holidays. See additional photos on this page and Page 6A. Photo submitted

In My Opinion

Muecke addresses Mayor, City Council

Saturday was Nov. 11, 2017, the day that our Federal Government set aside to honor all veterans that served in the U. S. military and many that made the ultimate sacrifice. Just two weeks ago the city honored the Astro Baseball World Champions with one of the biggest parades that Houston has ever held. And that was fine, this was a major achievement for a Houston sports team and brought attention to the City of Houston after what we experienced during the major flooding.

Why could this parade be held? Because of the veterans. Remember today 1% of our population is in the military, keeping the 99% to lead a good and enjoyable life and attend sports events. Many make the effort to disgrace America by kneeling. I do hope that next year you make up for this by making and pardon this, darn sure our veterans are honored on Veterans Day for what they are doing and have done for this great nation. Is this asking too much from the City of Houston? Thank you.

James E. Muecke

King notes Texas debt has doubled

Want a killer Trivial Pursuit question? How about this?

While Barack Obama was President, did the debt of the Federal government or the State of Texas increase more on a percentage basis?

Republicans quick to point out that while Obama was president the federal debt increased far more than under any other president. But what they rarely share is that during that same period, the debt of the State of Texas rose even faster, at least, on a percentage basis.

At the end of 2009, the Federal government was just under \$12 trillion in debt. By the end of 2016, the number had grown to \$19.5 trillion, a 64% increase. For the same period, the State's debt went from \$62 billion to \$121 billion, a 92% increase.*

You may be tempted to explain this unfavorable comparison away by noting that Texas is growing faster than the rest of the country and, therefore, a larger increase is to be expected. There is some validity to these arguments, but even if we look at the growth of the debt on a per capita basis, Texas still comes out ahead, 70% versus 54%. And these numbers do not count the billions in debt incurred by local governments. We'll be looking at that in the coming weeks.

To be fair, the State was starting at a much lower base. Its per capita debt as of 2016 was about \$4,300 compared to over \$39,000 for the Federal government. And as a percentage of GDP, the State's debt is also much lower, although I am not sure the comparison of that metric means much in this context.

The lion's share of the increase in the State debt has come from an explosion of its unfunded pension liability.** I will be writing more on this issue soon, but the State's pension debt, based on its own accounting, has gone from zero in 2000, to over \$60 billion at the end of 2016. In other words, according to the State Comptroller's numbers, the Legislature has "borrowed" over \$60 billion from the State's pension

plans by not contributing enough to fund the benefits they have promised.

It is important to note that both the Federal government and the State dramatically understate their liabilities associated with future retirement payments. A recent Moody's report has calculated that the State's true pension liability is over \$100 billion and, of course, the Federal government has never included a realistic estimate of the future cost of Social Security or Medicare in its accounting.

Please do not misunderstand. I am not a debt-phobe. Every businessperson knows that there is a time and place to use debt. Some of you will recall that during the 2015 mayoral campaign I was the only candidate who advocated using pension bonds as tool in solving the pension crisis.

But the reality is that government at every level and both of our political parties are drunk on debt. The Democrats gorge on debt to increase expenses; the Republicans to cut taxes, or to keep from increasing them. Neither want to have an adult conversation with their constituents about what services do we really want government to provide and what does it cost to provide those services. Instead, one party demagogues social issues and the other engages in class warfare and identity politics to distract the public from the fact that both are bankrupting future generations.

A graph (had been produced that) begins with the increase in debt from 2009 to 2010. Those who argue the Federal debt doubled during the Obama administration begin from the time he was sworn into office.

However, since the federal budget fiscal year ends in September, the incoming administration has a limited impact on the financial results for its first year. It would probably be fairer to include FY2017, but those numbers are not yet available. It is interesting to note that the rate of increase did not slow down when the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in 2010 or the Senate in 2014.

Much of the increase in the pension debt was realized when the accounting rules changed in 2015 forcing governmental entities to more realistically report their pension liabilities.

Bill King

Barbour urges all shop South Belt first

As South Belt-Ellington continues Hurricane Harvey recovery and we enter the Christmas shopping season, support our local economy and "Shop South Belt First."

Everyone needs to remember that where they spend their money is a choice. The best way to acknowledge the importance of our local businesses is to purchase our goods and services from those based here in the South Belt-Ellington area.

It is the local business owners that employ our neighbors, pay local taxes, financially support our local charities and serve on the boards of local organizations. Supporting local businesses is the best way we can protect the unique character of the South Belt-Ellington area.

For more information about our local chamber, contact the SBE Chamber at info@southbeltchamber.com or 281-481-5516.

Kay Barbour
President/CEO

Women hold Christmas luncheon

The Dynamic Women luncheon which will be held Thursday, Nov. 30, at Golfcrest Country Club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. will feature guest speaker Latrell Lindon, an accomplished speaker, singer and songwriter.

All area women are invited to enjoy the Christmas spirit, make new friends, shop with local vendors, have a fabulous lunch and enjoy Lindon's inspirational story.

Lindon, the youngest of nine children, grew up singing in the family quartet, and has written and recorded several original albums. Her style is primarily country and southern gospel, but she has also written and recorded songs of other styles including ballads, love songs, jazz, Christmas and children's songs.

Doors open at 10 a.m. when guests can do some Christmas shopping and networking with exciting area vendors who feature Christmas items, home décor, fashion accessories, jewelry, health and beauty, and business and professional services. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the event ends at 1 p.m.

Guests can register for free door prizes. The cost of the luncheon is \$16 which includes the networking/shopping event and lunch.

The Dynamic Women group seeks to connect women through networking and friendship, help women grow their businesses and provide a service to the community. All are invited to attend.

For reservations, email Sandee Ellis at sandeeellis@comcast.net, or call Dot at 713-477-6496.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

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

Monday, Nov. 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Intro to eBooks. For those interested in learning to enjoy books anywhere, this presentation is designed to help get a device set up.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2 p.m. Book discussion of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize winner *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Below are the programs that occur every week:

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 years to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.

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 more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on library events, call the library at 281-484-2036.

Regular library hours are: Monday, 1-9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

The library will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m. though Sunday, Nov. 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The library will re-open Monday, Nov. 27, at 1 p.m.

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 10:30 a.m. Family storytime

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 11:15 a.m. Preschool playtime

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime

Bracewell hours are: Sunday, closed; Monday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bracewell Library will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and Nov. 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Elected officials share their words

Rep. Alvarado thanks Rep. Green

I would like to thank Congressman Gene Green, his wife Helen and their family for their service and commitment to the people of the 29th Congressional District for the past 24 years. I had the privilege of working for him and more importantly took tremendous pride in having him as a friend and mentor.

Over the past 24 hours, I

Congressmen comment on OMB supplemental disaster request

On Nov. 17, Congressmen Ted Poe, Pete Olson, Blake Farenthold, Randy Weber, Brian Babin, Michael McCaul, and Kevin Brady released the following statement regarding the Office of Management and Budget Supplemental Disaster Request:

"After reviewing the latest Office of Management and Budget supplemental request for disaster recovery, we find the proposal insufficient and

unacceptable. We have met personally with the Director of OMB and explained in detail the disaster of Harvey on Texas. Even so, we strongly believe the request is woefully inadequate. Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent flooding events that followed ranks as the second most costly disaster in modern times (the Fukushima Disaster ranks first). While damages are still being determined, estimates currently

at approximately \$190 billion or more. To be clear, this \$44 billion proposal, to be split between multiple disaster areas, does not adequately address long-term recovery needs in Texas. The people of Texas need and deserve federal assistance for long-term flood mitigation, which this request does not sufficiently provide. We stand together opposed to this level of funding and will continue to fight to help Texas rebuild."

Rep. Carol Alvarado

BHI 2nd 6-weeks honor roll set

The following is the Beverly Hills honor roll for the second six-weeks period. Those on the honor roll are:

Seventh Grade

Jordi Ariel Acosta, Andres Francisco Aguirre, Lizette Aguirre, Douglas Steven Aleman, Kaylin Christina Alexander Hamilton, Paloma Alvarado, Katherine Daniela Alvarez Benitez, John Anthony Ezequiel Amos, Vu Vincent Anh Tran, Troy Arevalo, Janet Armenta and Rubry Ariaga.

Izabella Avila, Kennedy Alise Baines, Olivia Nicole Batres, Sayra Cecilia Beltran Fernandez, Houda Amira Ben Achour, Jennifer Anna Ben-Smith, Xavier Alexander Bernal, Hoa Quynh Bui, An Viet Bui, Theresa Juanita Burchfield, Christian Lee Cantu, Lorenzo Cantu, Sully Yessmary Cantu and Brenda Daniela Carcamo.

Linda Esperanza Castelan, Gisselle Val Castillo, Samantha Cavazos-Ramirez, Melanie Bahiana Cejas, Evelyn Marie Cepeda, Kathryn Louisa Cerda, Christopher Kavan Chavez, Sofia Leilani Cisneros, Alexis Breanna Cline, Sharimar Marie Colon Melendez, Liana Adelina Cruz, Edith Alexandra Cueva, Mariana Cuevas, Diana Nguyen Dang, Isaac Toan Song Dao, Keiara Davis Hathorne, Kylie Megan Dennis, Nhi Huan Dinh and Dwayne Darius Loverture Duncan.

Carolina Elizalde, Diamond Unique Ervin, Adrian Escalera, Abel Fernando Espinoza, Alec Zander Faulkner, Alyssa Garcia Flores, Roberto Flores, Camren Lakeith Fowler, Tristan Maximillian Fuentes, Alysia Araly Galvan, Emily Marie Gaona, Andres David Garcia Covarrubia, Grecia Gloria Garcia Turner, Bella Andrea Garcia, Brianna Elizabeth Garcia, Cathina Diane Garcia, John Matthew Garcia and Julissa Marielle Garcia.

Kevin Thomas Garcia, Vanessa Maria Garcia, Damian Garza, Eileen Mellyanna Garza, Natalia Garza, Oscar Luis Garza, Briana Elaine Gomez, Maya Alexia Nevaeh Gonzalez, Syomi Trinidad Gonzalez, Vaneli Gonzalez, Julian Guerra, Jasmine Gutierrez, Leila Lanai Henry and Alexander Angel Hernandez.

Dibanhi Marlen Hernandez, Erik Ismael Hernandez, Kaylee Elizabeth Hernandez, Victor Adolfo Hernandez, Victor Robert Hernandez, Josue Carlos Herrera, Vanessa Lisette Hinojosa, William Bao Ho, Trisha Kim Hoang, Faith Lynn Hughey, Ashley Thi Huynh, Cassidy Marie Idele, Jaidia Jenesis James, Victoria Alejandra Jasso, Leslie Ximena Jimenez, Alexis Marie Lara, Laila Christy Lathan, Brandon Dinh Le, Hue Kim Le and Qui Ngoc Le.

Juanmanuel Leong, Trysta Deja Levy, Greydi Ninth Logan, Maryi Ninth Lopez Fuentes, Brandon Lopez, Nayah Eleese Lopez, Jesus Emanuel Luna, Ngoc Mai Luu, Jesse Raul Magana, Damian Maldonado, Daniela Anais Maldonado, Valery Marroquin, Hayden Marshall, Edgar Israel Martinez, Victor Alfonso Mascorro, Adrian Klien McDonald, Zachary Pierce McKenzie, Iliana Carey-Nagir Mealey, Julissa Melenciano, Jacob Anthony Mikulski, Felipe Jonathan Miranda, Marilynn Lisbeth Montalvo, Andrea Nicole Montano and Jacob Aidan Montez.

Ava Antigone Morales, Makayla Marie Morales, Mia Elizabeth Munoz, Ashley Mayela Narvaez, Nhi Tina Ngo, Vy Vu Tuong Nguyen, Jesse Hoang Nguyen, Kelly Thy Nguyen, Khoi Ngoc Nguyen Nguyen, Martin Thinh Duc Nguyen, Tien Ba Nguyen, Sergio Anthony Ochoa, Ju'dah Elatyrice lashaughn Orobiyi, Steven

Manuel Oviedo, Mariana Pabon Angulo, Omni Ithalia Parris, Harsh Shaunakha Patel, Sydnee Elise Pector, Mark Anthony Penaloza, Mariana Perales Rivera, Jordan Willie Peralez, Kaylenn Gabriela Perez and Emily Pereznegron.

Marisa Renae Perla, Fatima Arlet Pesina Soto, Linh T Phan, Vivian Phan, John Stewart Pozo, Linda Aneth Pulido, Sandra Alexa Quiroz-Catalan, Allen Amado Resendiz, Sandy Reyes, Ryan Xavier Richard, Marvin Javier Rivas, Curtis Lee Rivers, Christopher Jakore Robertson, Raul Rodriguez Rubio, Andre Alexander Rodriguez, Audrie Kiara Rodriguez, Ronaldo Roman Rodriguez, Yariel Rodriguez, Fermin Giovanni Rostro and John Caleb Rubio.

Jessica Saldana, Diego Salinas, Adrian Jesus Sanchez, Alisa Rosalinda Sanchez, Charles Daniel Sanchez, Ulises Jose Sanchez, Victoria Rose Sanchez, Ximena Sanchez, Christian Allen Sanders, Nya Simone Sanford, Ciera She'vonne Santee, Marcello Gabriel Saucedo Carrillo, Karina Serrano, Brianna Solares, Joseph Nathan Brandon Sykes, Alexis Brianna Taylor, Justin Thanhhiem Thach, Gael Pablo Tinoco, Jade Tran, Nguyen, Diego Torres, Karen Torres, Luis Enrique Torres and Rachel Marie Torres.

Yarah Sofia Tovar, Khanh Kieu Tran Nguyen, Carol Kim Tran, Thanh Nguyen Tran, Tiffany Thuy Trang Tran, Janae Marie Tucker, Giselle Valencia, Alan Vargas, David Vidal, Natalie Anh Thu Vo, Dillon Hoang-Long Vu, Ariana Leaiy Walls, Samantha Nicole Wilkerson, Derrick Jermaine Woodley, Abigail Alicia Yanez, Emily Angelina Zuniga-Aguilera.

Eighth Grade

Angelica Corazon Acac, Eris Felipe Acosta, Nicolas Jesus Acosta, Adalynn Alanis, Ronny Lee Alexander, Jaidyn Brianna Almaguer, Naydelin Almaguer and Emily Amezcua.

Hussiel Arias, Jazmyne Melaynie Backman, Naylorne Batista, Raul Xavier Belman, Anthony Paul Benavides, Riani Tiana Benton, Kevin Bennard Beggurs, Bryana Sarai Borjas, Savannah Marie Brookland, Serenity Camacho, Anthony Castillo, Eloy Cavazos Ramirez, Daniel Guadalupe Cavazos, Anthony Luis Cedeno, Colton Ray Chahayed, Mya Anna Laura Chapa, Estrella Chavez, Jasmine Giselle Chew, Idalia Contreras, Alyssa Janae Nashalle Cooper, Christian Corona Yopez, and Malia Alexandria Curry.

Adrian Joshua Dela Rosa, Demetria Delgado, William Andres Devenen, Miguel Angel Diosdado, Kenny Nguyen Duong, Analauna Elizarraras, Micaela Irene Escobar, Miguel Angel Espino, Sarahi Flores, Sydney Asnoa Forde-Richins, Aaron Frias, Evan Nicolas Fuentes, Gabriela Elyse Galvan, Michael Garcia Razo, Alexis Garcia, Aracely Nataly Garcia, David Alfredo Garcia, Judith Marie Garcia, Ramiro Simitrio Garcia, Rubie Ann Garcia, Tiana Marie Garcia, Annabelle Garza, Michael Andrew Garza and Dariely Danhay Gil Villavicencio.

Briana Michelle Gomez Portillo, Kayla Iliana Gomez, Zinaya Lynn Gonzales Muniz, Gloria Minerva Gonzales, Isaac Lee Gonzales, Malayja Zaniah Gonzales, Isaac Abel Gonzalez, Ivan Gonzalez, Jennefer Suzzeth Gonzalez, Ronnie Gonzalez, Samantha Gonzalez, Christopher Earl Goudeau, Justine Toni ann Goulbourne, Serena Nijean Graham, Daniel Eduardo Grajales, Delia Michelle Grantham, Damarcus Lavon Groves and Briana Gutierrez.

Carolina Marie Gutierrez, Zoe Mychell Guy, Estevan Baldemar Guzman, Israel

Priscilla Standley Richardson



Priscilla Aileen "Pat" Standley Richardson died on Nov. 16, 2017. She was born in Helmic, Texas, on April 24, 1923, to Grover Cleveland Standley and Mollie Bertha Breeze Standley. She grew up in the Alabama Creek community near Apple Springs, Texas. It was at Centerville High School that she met the love of her life Cecil Burnett Richardson. They were married on March 1, 1946, after Cecil returned from his service in the Army during World War II. Their marriage lasted 57 years until Cecil's death on June 9, 2003.

During World War II, Pat was a telephone operator for a phone company and for Ingersoll Rand Company in Houston. After raising her family, she returned to work at Beall's Department Store at Almeda Mall and retired in 1988.

Pat loved her family and made everyone feel welcome at her home. Sports were her favorite past time and she was thrilled that she was able to see the Astros win the World Series. She was a longtime member of Cokesbury United Methodist Church and attended United Methodist Women events for many years. Pat was a wonderful cook and homemaker for her family and was loved by all. She also was a member of the Red Hats and enjoyed meetings and luncheons for many years. In her later years, she enjoyed creating beautiful pictures in adult coloring books.

Pat was predeceased by her parents; her husband; son Kenneth Wayne Richardson; brothers James Standley and Olney Standley; and her sister Mollie Lucille Sullivan.

She is survived by her children Jan Jobe (Madison) of Carrollton, Texas and Keith Richardson of Friendswood; sister Betty Trevathan of Houston; brother Donald Standley of Jacksonville, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was the loving grandmother (Mimi) of Jennifer Krupa and husband Nicholas, Joanne Kopeny and husband Patrick, Silver Rich-

Deaths

ardson, Christopher Richardson, Meagan Richardson, Michael Richardson and wife Madysen, Amber Jobe and husband Kris and James Jobe.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, Nov. 21, in the chapel of Grand View Funeral Home, 8501 Spencer Hwy., under the direction of Forest Park East in Webster. Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

The family expresses appreciation to Visiting Angels, Clear Choice Senior Care and Care-Plus Hospice of Dallas for their loving care and requests floral tributes go to Grand View Funeral Home, 8501 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena.

Jose Antonio "Tony" Gonzales



Jose Antonio "Tony" Gonzales, 59, was born Nov. 7, 1958 in Kingsville and died Nov. 17, 2017. Tony was a lifelong resident of Houston and long-time resident of South Belt. He worked for twenty-five years for Drago Supply in La Porte.

He is preceded in death by his parents Ambrosio and Elida Gonzales.

Tony leaves behind his sisters Maria Guadalupe "Lupe" Gonzales, Maria Socorro "Cookie" Orsoco and husband Daniel, Maria Teresa "Terri" Rodriguez and husband Robert, Rhonda Swinney and husband Kyle, Beverly Cokonougher and husband Brian; nephews Ernest Trevino, Michael Rainey and wife Stephanie, Andrew Rainey, Jeffery Swinney and wife Samantha and Jason Swinney; nieces Alicia Trevino and Brianna Cokonougher; aunts Manuela Wilson, Dalia Dominguez and husband Joe, Maria J. Salinas and husband Carlos, Maria F. Gonzalez, Esther Gonzalez, Mary Lou Pena and Ofelia Pena; and numerous cousins.

A visitation was held Tuesday, Nov. 21, at Crowder Funeral Home with a funeral service following.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be sent to: ASP-CA at www.secure.aspa.

Leader checks out social media

By Kaitlyn Tran

A female, German Shepherd was found off Blackhawk and Beltway 8. She is currently at BARC Houston animal shelter.

People who are staying in a hotel with FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) can visit a Houston Food Bank food pantry weekly. All that is required is a mention of the program.

A member of the *Southbelt This & That* lost a black and white Chihuahua named Oreo. For more information, visit the Facebook page.

There is an undermarket Christmas light installation business in the Pearland area that will set an appointment and never show up with no responses.

A member of the South Belt community is missing their dog named Dallas. For any information, visit the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

Chuo, a black Corgi mixed Husky with blue eyes is missing. She was last seen near Fondren Bend Dr and Fondren Village Dr. For any information regarding the missing dog, visit the *Pets of Southbelt Facebook* page.

A member of *Pets of Southbelt* has a Husky named Milo that escaped in the early morning on Nov. 16. He was last seen in the Southeast area. His owners are giving a reward if found. For more information, visit the Facebook page.

Another member of the *Pets of Southbelt* is missing their six month old Chihuahua Terrier named Mason. He was last seen in the Pasadena area off Scarborough Road. For information regarding Mason, visit the Facebook page.

The vetco mobile clinics (Petco) provides low-cost micro-chipping with no vet fees. For more information, visit the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

A male Husky-mixed puppy is missing. Rex is

missing. She was last seen near Fondren Bend Dr and Fondren Village Dr. For any information regarding the missing dog, visit the *Pets of Southbelt Facebook* page.

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The vetco mobile clinics (Petco) provides low-cost micro-chipping with no vet fees. For more information, visit the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

A male Husky-mixed puppy is missing. Rex is

white, tan and yellow and he was last seen at the intersection of Charlmont Dr. and TX-6. If found, do not chase, call or whistle as this may cause him to run in fear and into danger.

The Pet of the Week at Harris County Animal Shelter is June. June was found tied to a fence in a neighborhood. She's spayed, vaccinated and heartworm negative. She gets along with everyone at the mobile adoptions and is a friendly one-year-old.

Adoptions at Petco-Houston Humane Society, located at 11615 S Sam Houston Pkwy E., are scheduled for Sat. Nov. 25. Be sure to stop by from noon to 4 p.m. and see all the furry friends up for adoption looking for their forever homes.

Pets of Southbelt Facebook page presents Forever Home Fridays. Posting of missing pets will begin at noon and will end at 11:59 p.m. every Friday.

health department for help and instructions. If bitten by an animal, seek immediate medical attention.

Survivors staying in hotels under the Transitional Sheltering Assistance program may be eligible to stay longer, the deadline is Nov. 27.

TSA guests will be notified if they're eligible for the extension and what they need to do to remain at their current hotel or find a new hotel. If eligible for the extension and one needs to find a TSA-participating hotel, click on the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (Hotel Locator.)

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SJC art students impress at competition



Two San Jacinto College art and design students took top honors at the 15th Houston Area Community College Student Exhibition, Wednesday, Nov. 8. Shown are, left to right, Daniel Longtin, art professor, San Jacinto College Central campus; Karen Fiscus, assistant director, University of Houston Clear-Lake Art Gallery; Jeffery Bowen, director, University of Houston Clear-Lake Art Gallery; Matthew Napoli, first place, San Jacinto College South campus; Virginia Perez, second place, San Jacinto College North campus; Oscar G. Del Toro, honorable mention, San Jacinto College Central campus; Heidi aus den Ruthen, third place, Lone Star College; Joe Clark, art professor, San Jacinto College North campus; J. Todd Allison, department chair, arts and humanities, San Jacinto College Central campus. Photo by Jeannie Peng Mansyur

SJC students take top honors at art exhibition

San Jacinto College South campus art and design student Matthew Napoli took first place and a \$175 prize at the 15th Houston Area Community College Student Exhibition, Wednesday, Nov. 8. "Winning is a huge honor," Napoli said. "I'm really surprised because so much of the work here is really incredible." Napoli entered three pieces for review in the competition titled, "Forthcoming

Ruthlessness." "Slouching Toward" and "Forthcoming Reduction" using oil, charcoal and graphite on paper. "My pieces reflect relationships and how fluid they are," Napoli said. "How quickly they can break down." Napoli was joined by Virginia Perez from the San Jacinto College North campus, who earned second place and a \$125 prize. Oscar G. Del Toro from the

South campus and Liza Villalta from the North campus were also recognized with honorable mentions. The awards were presented at a reception and gallery opening for the exhibit at the University of Houston-Clear Lake Art Gallery. San Jacinto College students from the North and South campuses made up 14 of the 25 gallery entries. "This is big deal for community college artists," said

Randy Snyder, San Jacinto College North campus department chair, fine arts, speech and education. "This particular exhibit carries weight and prestige. We've had several students win first place in the past." Juried by gallery director Jeffrey Bowen, the exhibition features 25 works by 16 artists currently enrolled in studio art classes at Houston-area community colleges. The

exhibition runs until Thursday, Dec. 14 at the gallery located at 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Students selected for the exhibit are:
San Jacinto College North campus
 Nithzel Barrios, Shavrielle Charles, Alexis Garcia, Virginia Perez and Liza Villalta.
San Jacinto College South campus
 Oscar G. Del Toro and Matthew Napoli.

Dobie given NATA Safe Sports School award

J. Frank Dobie High School is the recipient of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School award for its sports medicine program. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes. The award reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment.

"Dobie Sports Medicine has been working on this award/recognition for about a year or more now and we have finally achieved it," said Jesse Lopez, co-athletic trainer and sports medicine instructor at Dobie. "We are now one of a bit more than 1,000 high schools in the na-

tion with this award. I would like to get this recognition put out there to the community, staff and any other avenue in order to shine a light on our program and also on PISD. By doing this I hope that it will give outsiders the notion that we here in Pasadena take good care of our athletes and we make sure that safety is a priority within our programs." "We remain committed to the health and welfare of young athletes in competitive sports," says NATA President Scott Sailor. "This award recognizes the contributions and commitment of schools across the country that are implementing safe sports policies and best prac-

tices to ensure athletes can do what they love best and have the appropriate care in place to prevent, manage and treat injuries should they occur." In order to achieve Safe Sport School status, as Dobie did, athletic programs must do the following:
 Create a positive athletic health care administrative system;
 Provide or coordinate pre-participation physical examinations;
 Promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities;
 Plan for selection, fit function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment;
 Provide a permanent, appropriately equipped area to evaluate and treat injured athletes;
 Develop injury and illness prevention strategies, including protocols for environmental conditions;
 Provide or facilitate injury intervention;
 Create and rehearse a venue-specific emergency action plan;
 Provide or facilitate psychosocial consultation and nutritional counseling/education; and
 Ensure athletes and parents are educated of the potential benefits and risks in sports as well as their responsibilities.
 For more information, visit: www.athletictrainers.org.

Dobie Sports Medicine recognized



Dobie High School and Dobie Sports Medicine were recognized by the National Athletic Trainers' Association and were awarded the Safe Sports School Award. The Dobie Sports Medicine team shown are, left to right, (front row) Ruth Gonzales-Grasty (L.A.T. and staff athletic trainer), Jazmin Gomez, Madison Caballero, Alex Hernandez, Desiree Ram, Alysa Gonzalez, Raquel Ramirez, Maria Figueroa, Elizabeth Salas, (second row)

Jesse Lopez (L.A.T. and staff athletic trainer), Alexis Austin-Woodrow, Jazlyn Brown, Sabastian Delgado, Amanda Hernandez, Yesenia Morales, (back row) Daija Green, Danae Ram, Kaylynn Tran, Ashley Tovar, Jayden Forges, Kayla Wilkerson, Giselle Cuellar and Sarah Bustamante. The sports medicine team helps with physical fitness as well as the treatment and prevention of sports-related injuries. Photo by Gary Williams

UHCL announces calendar, deadlines

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has announced its calendar of events and deadlines. **Art Gallery - 15th Houston Area Community College Student Exhibition**

Get a glimpse at the future of the art world at the 15th Houston Area Community College Student Exhibition at UH-Clear Lake Art Gallery. The exhibit will showcase Houston metro area students' art.

The exhibit runs through Dec. 14, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. The exhibit is located at the Bayou Building, Art Gallery, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Free parking is available in the visitor lot or Student Lot D. For more information, contact Jeff Bowen, coordinator of audience development, at 281-283-3376 or visit www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery.

Spring open registration
 Returning students can register for classes online for the spring 2018 semester through Jan. 12. Late registration runs from Jan. 13 through Jan. 23. Classes begin Jan. 16.

For course schedules or registration, visit www.uhcl.edu/academics.

2017 Fall Graduates BFA Exhibition
 See the original work of UHCL's graduating students receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Student artists will showcase a variety of works including paintings, drawings and multimedia pieces.

The exhibit runs until Dec. 8 at the Arbor Building, North, Artist Project Space, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The exhibit is curated by Jeffery Bowen, director of the UHCL Art Gallery. This exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery.

Bayou Theater 2017-2018 season tickets

Kick off the new year with performances at the Bayou Theater starting Jan. 11. Tickets for the second half of the 2017-2018 season are available for purchase.

Performers include folk band Bumper Jacksons, award-winning duo Dailey & Vincent and the sibling sing-

ing trio from Texas, the Quebe Sisters.

Ticket prices vary with each performance, and student prices are available. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater.

CEE: Skillfully managing change and conflict
 Change is inevitable in the workplace and today's successful managers need to know how to recognize and respond.

In this class, as part of Management and Leadership Certificate Program in UHCL's Center for Executive Education, participants will learn how to define change, manage change initiatives, strategies to respond to change and managing conflict.

The course will run from Dec. 1 through 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The course includes traditional instruction and interactive activities to help create real-world solutions. Current supervisors, managers and those moving into supervisory roles are encouraged to attend.

The fee is \$850 with group discounts available. Participants must attend both sessions to receive credit. For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/center-executive-education or call 281-283-3120.

Saturday Campus Visit Day at UHCL
 All prospective students and their families are invited to explore University of Houston-Clear Lake at Saturday Campus Visit Day on Dec. 2 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The campus is located at 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Attendees will be able to take campus tours and learn more about the admissions process and financial aid from campus representatives. Students can apply on-site at the event with help from admissions counselors. Applicants to select programs can receive on-the-spot admission decisions.

To register and for more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/admissions/events/campus-visit-day.

Moore students enjoy movie



After reading the book *Wonder*, by R. J. Palacio, Leah Laredo and her fourth-grade class attended an advanced screening of the movie at AMC 30. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Thalia Oddo, Aubry Estes, Melanie Sanchez, Ava Macias, Valerie Sanchez, and Erik Santillanes, (Sitting and squatting) Grant Garcia, Leah Laredo, Jalynn Alix (back row) Alejandro Hernandez, Jathan Obregon, Cooper Estes, Emmerly Lynn, Zara Oddo and Peyton Lynn. Photo by Angelica Moreno-Perez

Lariaettes holds annual Winter Dance Clinic

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold its annual Winter Dance Clinic on Saturday Dec. 16. It will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dobie High School, with a parent show at 12:30 p.m. in the gym.

It is open to pre-K - 12, and is a great opportunity to let one's daughter or son spend a day dancing, playing games and doing crafts with the Lariaettes while one gets all the Christmas shopping done. Pre-registration is \$35 and due Tuesday Nov. 28, or \$45 at the door. Cash or money order only. Participants of the clinic will also have the opportunity to perform in the Lariaette Spring Show on April 5 through 7, 2018. For more information, contact Victoria Armenta at varmenta@pasadenaisd.org.

Cowgirls seniors announced



Shown are the Sagemont Cowgirls departing seniors, left to right, Madisyn Saenz, Katelyn Mendoza, Dayyani Arboleda and Ashlyne Medina. The seniors are dressed in costume for the Looney Tunes performance at the BAFL Drill Competition. Saenz, a team member for nine years, is leaving the team as lieutenant colonel for the past two years. Mendoza has also been on the team for nine years and was one of the first four-year-olds to be accepted by the Cowgirls. Arboleda has been a team member for five years. Medina, who is a major, has been on the team for four years. Photo submitted

Calling all science, engineering fair judges

The Clear Creek Independent School District is seeking volunteers representing all interests and careers to serve as judges for the annual District Science & Engineering Fair.

Each year students from 26 elementary schools, 10 intermediate schools and 7 high schools in Clear Creek ISD work diligently to complete an independent research topic of their own choosing. They compete at their individual schools for the opportunity to advance to the CCISD District Science & Engineering

Fair which, this year, will be held on January 22, 2018.

Projects from approximately 800 students are evaluated by teams of judges to be selected as Grand Award winners or place winners. Winners will be announced at the District Science & Engineering Fair Awards Ceremony on January 30, 2018.

To properly evaluate this huge number of projects and to provide effective feedback to students, approximately 200 judges are required. Professionals in the community

are called upon to spend the afternoon of January 22, 2018 examining the projects, interviewing the students (secondary division only) and collaborating with their fellow judges to determine the place winners in each category.

"The annual Science & Engineering Fair is a success year after year in large part because of the time and expertise contributed by our volunteer judges," explained Secondary Science Coordinator Lisa Wooley. "Many of our judges have participated

for years and consider this to be an enjoyable opportunity to reach out and support the scientists of tomorrow."

To learn more about being a CCISD Science & Engineering Fair judge, visit www.ccisd.net/sefjudge. To sign up to be a Science & Engineering Fair judge, complete the online judge's form. For questions or difficulty registering, call 281-284-7323 or email Lisa Wooley at lwooley@ccisd.net or Paige Newman at pbnewman@ccisd.net.

Orth turns 85 on Veterans Day



Dick Orth celebrated his 85th birthday on Nov. 11, the same day Veterans Day is celebrated. Dick and his wife Jimmie Sue have been residents of Sagemont since 1965 and are the owners of Any Seasons Pest Control. Dick (back row) is shown, above, with his

great-grandchildren, left to right, (front row) Brewer Hutchison, (middle row) Jesali Hutchison, Brenham Athey, Cash Robbins and Jenna Napoleon who are celebrating with him at his birthday celebration. Photo submitted

A Christmas Carol comes to Dickinson

Veteran actor Sam Kee will portray Ebenezer Scrooge when *A Christmas Carol*, the ever-popular holiday classic by Charles Dickens, returns to the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse Nov. 30 through Dec. 17.

Bennie Nipper, artistic director and founder of the theater, selected Kee to portray Scrooge, an old man known for his miserly ways who is visited by a series of ghosts, starting with his old business partner Jacob Marley, played by Mike Fabion.

singers, and dancers convince Scrooge and the audience that a life with generosity, happiness, love and family is best.

Dancers from Richard Tew's Academy of Irish Dancing and the Classical Dance Arts of League City, taught by Sara Gerke, will perform in the show on the large downstairs Main Deck stage.

C. T. Gomez, Dallas Taylor and Lance Nutter portray Scrooge as he appears in his dreams, confronted by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future, played by Jadean East, Shane Taylor

Continued on Page 5A

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

Harper graduates



Cadet Jovan Ralais Harper, son of Ralais and Ruth Harper and husband to Leah Harper, was one of 45 graduates of Cadet Class 2017-C from the Houston Fire Department Academy on Nov. 15. The ceremony was held at Houston Community College Central campus San Jacinto Memorial Building Auditorium. Jovan is a 2009 graduate of Sterling High School and considered entering the public service field following a family emergency. In 2008, his dad suffered a stroke at home. When paramedics and firemen arrived, Jovan rode alongside him in the ambulance to the hospital, paying close attention to everything that was taking place. Seeing his dad in this situation for the fourth time tremendously impacted his life. It was that moment that he says he began to think about his career path as a paramedic and doing something to help people. Jovan attended Houston Community College Fire Academy and graduated in 2013. During that ceremony he received the Physical Fitness Award by having more endurance and out running all the other cadets in his class. Following graduation, Jovan served with the Southeast Houston Volunteer Fire Department for a year. He also worked for the City of Houston and in 2014 received a National EMT Certificate. Although his dad was in a crisis nine years ago, he inspired him to become the fireman and paramedic that he is today. His dad has fully recuperated and returned to work as a personal trainer and watched proudly as Jovan received his badge.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

BEST WISHES FOR SUSAN'S RECOVERY
Susan Gadd, wife of Emory Gadd (an associate pastor of Sagemont Church) is recovering at home after a successful surgery to repair a heart valve. Best wishes and prayers are sent for a speedy recovery from friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 23 through Nov. 29.

Bush Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Nov. 25 is **Cecilia Velez**.

Frazier Elementary
Send a birthday greeting Nov. 24 to **Pat Singletary**. Light the birthday candles for **Cathy Silas** Nov. 25. The day for a celebration for **Sara Rodriguez** is Nov. 28.

Meador Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Nov. 26 is **Luz Chaidez**.

Moore Elementary
Lily Sanchez enjoys a birthday Nov. 23. Light the birthday candles for **Yazmin Cobos** Nov. 26.

South Belt Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Lucia Smith** Nov. 26.

Stuchbery Elementary
Send a warm greeting Nov. 26 to **Oralia Mendez** who celebrates a birthday. The day for a celebration for **James Masonka** is Nov. 27.

Melillo Middle School
Send a birthday greeting Nov. 24 to **Jennifer Wicks**.

Roberts Middle School
Erin Timmons celebrates a birthday Nov. 27.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
The day for a party for **David Hastings** is Nov. 29.

Thompson Intermediate
Cheers for a happy birthday are sent Nov. 29 to **Amanda Carroll**.

Dobie High
Send a birthday wish Nov. 24 to **Darrell Jimerson**. Blow out the candles for **Juliet Weigand** who enjoys a birthday Nov. 25. Join in the birthday fun Nov. 26 for **Catalina Olvera**. Light the birthday candles on a triple-layer cake Nov. 27 for **Amarilyns Martinez**, **Brian McCleskey** and **Frank Mora**. Wishes for a double birthday celebration are sent to **Luz Ossa** and **Robin Rackley** Nov. 28.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The Leader sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Thursday, Nov. 23: **Linda Greuter, Ricky Mitchell, Doriene Salas, Angela Connally, Monika Patterson, Johnny McNeil and Don Doss**; Friday, Nov. 24: **Alice Vanek, Tim Tingle, Rhonda Baird, Makenzie Martinez and Santiago Gonzalez**; Saturday, Nov. 25: **Keith Brown, Karen Allen, Caroline Kacal, Susan Hansen, Jeff Sconyers and Jennifer Ross**; Sunday, Nov. 26: **Kathy Husband, Amanda Marshall, Lydia Fernandez, Luisa Villarreal, Glenda Dick, Trish Simmons and Gabe Gabino**; Monday, Nov. 27: **Shannon Warner, Susie Hughlett, Jason Brantly, Christine Dailey, Tommy Bischof and Chris Hubenak**; Tuesday, Nov. 28: **Sharon Wagner and Christie Fickessen**; and Wednesday, Nov. 29: **Rebecca Carter, Amy Smith, Sheila Higgins, Lawanda Dyson-Lendsey and Hanh Do**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Send an email to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line for notices on birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc. Items are due by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

DRC closes, help remains

A State of Texas/Federal Disaster Recovery Center in the city of Pasadena closed permanently on Saturday, Nov. 18. However, help is just a mouse click, phone call or a tap on the FEMA app away.

The center was at the Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena.

Individuals and businesses in counties included in the Texas federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent floods may still get help and register in the following ways:

Online at DisasterAssistance.gov;

By calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362;

Via the FEMA app, available for Apple and Android mobile devices. To download visit: fema.gov/mobile-app;

By visiting recovery centers listed online at www.fema.gov/DRC.

Homeowners, renters and businesses in Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties may be eligible for help.

For more information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit the Hurricane Harvey disaster web page at www.fema.gov/disaster/4332, or Facebook at www.facebook.com/FEMAHarvey, the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at twitter.com/FEMARegion6, or the Texas Division of Emergency Management website at www.dps.texas.gov/dem/.

EHCMA awards Mitchell, Bechtel for work on area flood protection



Shown, left to right, during the presentation of awards for support of a coastal spine system are Mayor Michel Bechtel, City of Morgan's Point; Craig Beskid, executive director of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association; and Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Photo submitted

Hurricane Ike made landfall near the north end of Galveston Island very early on Sept. 13, 2008. It came ashore as an upper Category 2 storm.

This "small" hurricane generated a 22-foot storm surge that devastated homes, businesses and industries along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast, causing \$30 billion in property damages.

A Category 4 or 5 hurricane could cause a storm surge in Galveston Bay that would create waves which would destroy almost everything in its path.

According to the National Hurricane Center, a storm surge of 23 feet has the ability to inundate 57 percent of arterials, almost half of rail miles, 29 airports and virtually all ports in the Gulf Coast area.

Since 2009, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has worked with Texas A&M University at Galveston and many other committed stakeholders to support and promote the construction of a coastal spine system to protect the region's human and economic assets. The East Harris County Manufacturers Association is one of those stakeholders.

There are more than 500 chemical plants in the Bay Area Houston region, many of which are located along the Houston Ship Channel. EHCMA is an organization that is dedicated to promoting the health, safety, security, environmental, and economic well-being of the petrochemical, refining, and manufacturing industry in East Harris County.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, during a meeting of the International Maritime Advisory Committee of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, Craig Beskid, executive director of EHCMA, presented awards to BAHEP President Bob Mitchell and Mayor Michel Bechtel, City of Morgan's Point, who have both worked tirelessly in support of a coastal spine system.

The awards were presented "in recognition and appreciation of outstanding representation of the industry and the community for regional flood protection."

Houston Interactive launches at Hobby

Visitors to Houston coming through William P. Hobby Airport will receive a warm welcome — and a load of useful information — thanks to Houston Interactive, a technology-driven welcome center based in the former Southwest Airlines luggage office at the airport.

A joint project between the Houston Airport System and the Houston First Corporation, Houston Interactive features touchscreen and LED technology that directly engages visitors, delivering a snapshot of the city at their fingertips. The digital kiosk boasts a user-friendly, 55-inch touchscreen interface that enables users to virtually explore Houston's various neighborhoods and diverse offerings at one time. Among the features is an extensive and diverse list of restaurants, as well as a list of arts and cultural attractions and greenspaces. Users also can compile their selections into their unique "My Houston Bucket List" that can be sent directly to their personal email.

"Houston is a vibrant city that welcomes visitors from all over the world every year," said Houston Mayor

Continued on Page 5A

Keep Kids in School Golf Tournament date set

The ninth annual Keep Kids in School Golf Tournament, the Bay Area's premier golfing event, has been announced by Communities In Schools-Bay Area.

It will be held April 16, 2018, at Bay Oaks Country Club in Bay Area Houston. Proceeds from the tourney will support CIS-Bay Area's dropout prevention program serving 15 campuses in the Clear Creek and Dickinson Independent School Districts.

The all-inclusive shamble Keep Kids in School Golf Tournament includes three hole-in-one opportunities, a putting contest, the famed NFL hole, breakfast/lunch throughout the day, a steak dinner, a martini bar, margaritas and much more.

Co-chairmen for the tournament are Mark Conrad of Express Employment Professionals and Kevin Lardie of Gay Family Auto. Vice chairman is Duane Bolpa of Merrill Lynch.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information on the tournament, contact Hillary Gramm, CIS-Bay Area resource development director, at hillaryg@cisba.org or 281-486-6698.

For more information on CIS-Bay Area's program of doing whatever it takes to keep kids in school, visit www.cisba.org.

Keep Kids in School Golf Tournament founder Rick Gornito (far left) joins tournament executives, left to right, 2018 co-chair Mark Conrad, vice chair Duane Bolpa, co-chair Kevin Lardie and Peter Wuenschel, executive director of Communities In Schools-Bay Area. Photo submitted

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Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
State Rep. Bill Caraway, District 100, was awarded a plaque by the Pasadena Educators Association in appreciation of the 65th Legislative Session.

Local members of the Civil Air Patrol took part in the Spirit of St. Louis display at Hobby Airport.

35 years ago (1982)
Dobie had seven members of its orchestra selected to the All-State Orchestra. The members were Cathy Cagle, Danetta Hawley, Sandra Elkins, Kelly Rubio, Richard Scott, Steve Bova and Chris Williams.

Gerald Williams was charged with the murder of his ex-wife Katherine Williams.

30 years ago (1987)
With the planting of 68 crepe myrtles, the South Belt Civic Coalition completed Phase I of an extensive tree planting campaign.

Groundbreaking began for San Jacinto College South's student center. The \$4.6 million contract was awarded to Gene D. Liggin Inc. for construction of the 58,000-square-foot building.

25 years ago (1992)
Dobie volleyball players Tiffany Carthers, Jennifer Vigliotti, Nicole Williams, Tracey Nance and Robin Rackley were named to the 23-5A all-district volleyball team.

The first slab was poured for a 59-lot subdivision to be known as Green Tee VII, located on 17.5 acres in the Pasadena school district. The subdivision's two streets, to be called Champion and Augusta, are located behind and parallel to the townhouses on Country Club Drive.

20 years ago (1997)
The Texas Department of Transportation was in the process of changing the speed limit signs on Beltway 8 to increase the speed to 70 mph.

J. Frank Dobie varsity cheerleaders came in first place in the large varsity category at UCA Lone Star Regionals held at Sam Houston State University. As a result of this win, they were to attend nationals in Orlando, Florida.

15 years ago (2002)
As a tribute to their devotion to children, Judy and Russell Lamontagne were selected as the Pasadena Independent School District's 2002 Distinguished Citizens.

The South Belt Dolphins won the Bay Area Football League freshman division championship.

10 years ago (2007)
Dobie graduate Reed O'Connor was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a federal judge. O'Connor, who graduated in 1983, filled the federal district court vacancy created when Chief Judge A. Joe Fish of the Northern District took senior status. U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and John Cornyn, R-Texas, recommended that President George W. Bush nominate O'Connor for the position. Any nomination, however, still had to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. During his professional career, O'Connor had served as a civil litigator, a prosecutor and as counsel for the Department of Justice.

Sagemont Church constructed a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree on its grounds in preparation for an outdoor Christmas festival.

The Clear Creek Independent School District announced a districtwide early release as a way to thank the staff, students and community for making CCISD the highest performing, large school district in Texas. CCISD held the record as the only district to maintain a Recognized rating 10 out of 11 years.

1992 Dobie graduate Dianne Hegar Helms was temporarily released from Memorial Hermann's The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIIR), allowing her to spend the holidays with her family. Helms was critically injured in an automobile accident the previous December, leaving her in a coma. Her steady improvement surprised all of her doctors, nurses and therapists.

5 years ago (2012)
Sgt. Zerick Guinn of the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office tendered his resignation. The announcement came just weeks after Guinn lost a hotly contested and controversial primary election and subsequent recount and civil lawsuit to fellow Democrat Chris Diaz for the Precinct 2 constable nomination. Diaz went on to defeat South Belt resident Chris McDonald in the general election for the position. Guinn said his decision to step down was not the result of any pressure from Diaz. A South Belt resident, Guinn started at Precinct 2 as a deputy in 1996. He was promoted to sergeant in 2004.

Nearly 20 suspected illegal immigrants were arrested Sunday, Nov. 25, after they were found crammed into a house in the 9300 block of Klondike at Easthaven. Houston police initially responded to an assault call at the address at roughly 1:15 p.m. When they arrived at the residence, the assault victim was nowhere to be found. Police, however, did find 19 undocumented people inside the home. More than a dozen others fled the house on foot when authorities arrived, police said. The arrested suspects ranged in age from their late teens to 20s. Police suspect they were from Guatemala, Honduras or Mexico. Custody of the suspects was transferred to agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

1 year ago (2016)
The Pasadena Independent School District official-

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Hobby Airport digital welcome center greets visitors

Continued from Page 4A
Sylvester Turner. "From downtown to uptown and every neighborhood in between, our city celebrates diversity and culture through its world-class restaurants and entertainment attractions. Houston Interactive encourages visitors to explore our city and create their own Houston experience."

The Houston Interactive center will be fully staffed by Houston First and HAS volunteers. Houston Interactive is open daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

"Houston welcomes thousands of visitors annually — many of whom are traveling through our airports every day and this center is their first glimpse of the city," said Houston Aviation Director Mario Diaz. "The new Houston Interactive at Hobby Airport is a simple, concierge-like platform that enables quick searches and discoveries, enabling visitors to easily plan their Houston experience before leaving the airport."

The interactive center also offers three iPads for visitor access to VisitHouston, Google Maps, Houston Airport Systems, Houston events calendar and the Avenida Hous-



A ribbon cutting was held at the grand opening of the Houston Interactive center at Hobby Airport. Enjoying the cutting of the ribbon are, left to right, Richard McCurley, general manager, Hobby Airport; Dawn Ullrich, president and CEO, Houston First; City of

ton websites. The iPads also provide access to the newly launched Houston Market- place website, allowing visitors to build a customized itinerary that complements their interests and budget. Visitors can choose from a curated selection of attractions, including tours, museums and bike tours among others and have tickets delivered to their smart phone. Houston Interactive also offers Official Houston Visitor's Guide and Hold Houston guide books, as well as city maps for visitors to take upon arrival.

"As one of the country's largest and most diverse cities, Houston offers visitors a dynamic repertoire of culinary, arts and cultural amenities," said Dawn Ullrich, president

and CEO of Houston First Corporation. "The Houston Interactive user-friendly interface will enhance the overall visitor experience, and allow users to easily explore our city and quickly discover lesser-known neighborhoods."

Houston Council Member Robert Gallegos; Jesus Saenz, COO, Houston Airport System; Jorge Franz, senior vice president, Tourism Houston First; and Paul Allison, senior vice president, Resource Development Houston First. Photo submitted

Trans celebrate 25th anniversary



Marie and Long Tran were married on Oct. 24, 1992, and 25 years later they were able to enjoy the place where they honeymooned — Hawaii. The couple celebrated their 25th anniversary on a trip to Oahu and the Big Island. Above, they are shown hand-in-hand gliding through the treetops on a zipline. Below left, the couple

is shown getting ready to embark into a volcano tube. Below right, the couple enjoys the sights at Rainbow Falls on the Big Island. They also visited the Dole Plantation, the Polynesian Cultural Center and many different beaches as well as enjoyed time together parasailing and kayaking.

Photos submitted



Local delegation travels to Washington for coastal spine

The momentum to build a coastal spine to protect the people, businesses, and industries of the upper Texas Gulf Coast has been building steadily since Hurricane Ike devastated the region in September 2008. The past year has seen a huge jump in activity, notably with Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush fully endorsing the coastal spine.

An April 2017 letter from Bush to President Trump, signed by 62 committed stakeholders, further strength-

ened the case on the critical need for the coastal spine.

This region produces 27 percent of the nation's gasoline, 60 percent of the nation's military grade fuel, 35 percent of the nation's natural gas production and 42 percent of the nation's specialty chemical feedstock.

To say that the American Chemistry Council has a vested interest in the Bay Area Houston region would be quite an understatement.

On Nov. 1 and 2, in Wash-

ington, D.C., a delegation of 13 held Cabinet level meetings, as well as other meetings necessary in moving the initiative forward, to create an interagency working group to champion the project.

The ACC arranged the meetings, and Cal Dooley, president/CEO, and Bryan Zumwalt, vice president, Federal Affairs, of ACC led the delegation, as well as Stephanie Pizzoferrato, U.S. Government Affairs, Covestro LLC, and Kristin Whitman, Government Relations, Shell.

The delegation's message was straightforward — nationalize the issue of storm surge protection for the Southeast Texas coast by showing the region's significance to the nation's economy, energy, defense and port-related transportation.

The delegation asked for the approval and full funding of the \$12-\$15 billion project and expedition of the Army Corps of Engineers process to dual-track engineering, construction and permitting in the same way that the New Or-

leans project was done post-Hurricane Katrina.

The delegation's first day began at the headquarters of the ACC to prepare for the coalition meetings.

Following were meetings with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Transportation, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy, and a dinner meeting with Texas Congressmen Randy Weber, Pete Olson, Brian Babin and John Culberson.

On Nov. 2, there were meetings with the Office of Management and Budget; Wyoming's Sen. John Barrasso, chairman of the Senate's Environmental Committee (Chief of Staff Dan Kunsman); Oklahoma's Sen. James Inhofe, Senate Armed Service Committee (Chief of Staff Luke Holland); Texas Sen. John Cornyn, Senate Committee on Finance; and several staff members of the Office of the Vice President.

The next steps will be to follow up with Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Cornyn, and the vice president's staff to encourage setting up an inter-agency working group to push for approval, funding and expedition of the Corps process on this project.

Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, stated, "It is significant that the ACC contacted Chad Burke, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, who requested BAHEP to form a special team to meet with influential offices and agencies in Washington."

"After nine years of work, this indicates that we're on the cusp of getting the funding necessary to design, develop and build the coastal spine system."



As the morning sun's rays filter through the fence surrounding the White House, the Texas delegation prepares for a full day of meetings. Shown, left to right, Mayor Michel Bechtel, Morgan's Point; City of Houston Council Member David Robinson; Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president; Col. Len Waterworth, executive professor, Texas

A&M University at Galveston; City of Houston Council Member Dave Martin; Marc Havican, chief storytelling officer, Space City Films; Chad Burke, president and CEO, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region; Texas State Sen. Larry Taylor; and Hector Rivero, president and CEO, Texas Chemical Council. Photo submitted

A Little Christmas Spirit at Pasadena theater

Pasadena Little Theatre, Houston's oldest community theater in continuous operation, begins its 63rd season with *A Little Christmas Spirit* by Pat Cook.

J. D. Morse is looking for a Christmas present but with no luck. In desperation he goes into Nick's Emporium. What would you do with the chance to step back in time? Would you make different decisions the second time around? These are the questions J. D. Morse finds himself facing when he steps over the threshold of Nick's Emporium and back into his early 20s.

PLT's presentation of *A Little Christmas Spirit* by Pat Cook features as di-

rectors Julie Owen and Carolyn McLeod along with an outstanding cast. This production opens on Dec. 1 and continues weekends through Dec. 17. Friday and Saturday showtimes are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices for adults are \$18 at the door and \$15 if purchased in advance online. Ticket prices for students and seniors are \$12. There is one Thursday evening show on Dec. 14, which is the 2-for-\$20 show. To purchase tickets, make reservations or for more information, call the box office at 713-941-1758 or log onto www.pasadalittletheatre.org.



Featured in Pasadena Little Theatre's production of *A Little Christmas Spirit* by Pat Cook are, left to right, Kim, Nikki V. Thompson; Jenny, Tegan Merriman; Nick, Jeffery Merriman; Angelina, Jean Ciampi; Jerry, Zachary Seabara; Mary, Peyton Harris; and Sandra, Karen Rush. Photo by Dario Faila

Christmas play set

Continued from Page 3A
and T. J. Griffey.

Annette Forsythe, portrays Mrs. Fezziwig. She is joined by Mary Hendrgen (Mrs. Cratchet), Alexey Kofman (Bob Cratchett), Jordan Emmitte (Belinda), Lucy Manner (Martha), Michael Richards (Tiny Tim) and a number of others. Colorful sets have been designed by Nipper with lighting and sound by Kaira Jackson. Eumyoung Park will be the pianist.

Due to the popularity of the play, an extra Thursday night performance has been added to the regular schedule. Shows will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the theater, 3803 Highway 3 in Dickinson.

Tickets prices start at \$12 with discounts available for students, military, seniors and groups of ten or more.

For more information, call 281-337-7469, visit Facebook or www.harbourtheater.com.

Israeli Folk Dancing dates set

And the dancing continues. What meant to last only for four to five months is now in its eighth year, as the participants do not want to stop dancing. The sessions are not built on one another, so missing a few sessions or just starting still affords catching up quickly.

The dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on Mondays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The last session for November will be Nov. 27. December dates are 4, 11 and 18. There is no session on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The cost is \$4 per session or \$35 for 10 sessions for CSH members and \$5 per session or \$45 for 10 sessions for nonmember will cover expenses.

Dancing is an excellent cardiovascular exercise while having fun and everyone is welcome to join the group.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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New Dobie 9 construction well underway



The Dobie High School Ninth Grade Center is nearing completion. The finishing touches are being added to the school. The school is scheduled to open January 2018 for all Dobie ninth-grade students. Full information for students and parents of students who will attend the new school in January will be printed in the Dec. 7 issue of the *Leader*. Outside area shown here will be available for outside eating and various other activities.

Photo by Israel Grinberg

BHI collects for Leader Christmas Program



Beverly Hills Intermediate students collected canned goods for the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* Christmas food program. Some students participating in the collection are, left to right, (front row) Josiah Izaguirre, Ulises Sanchez, Allan Solache, Edward Gonzalez, Genevieve Herrera, Naydelin Almaguer, Keshaud Conaway, (second row) Stacey Barber (principal), Andres Aguirre, Vicente C. Godinez, Alejandro Garza, Jose Ramirez, Treylyn Burrell, Jerry Pradia, Adrian Escalera, Caleb Rubio, (back row) Bery Mejia, Lamona Lemana, Khalilah Olezene, Armando Chapa and Anthony Gossett.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Meador shares Thanksgiving wishes



Meador Elementary had more than 400 parents and grandparents attend its Thanksgiving family luncheons last week. Families enjoyed turkey and dressing, spending time together and taking fall pictures. Meador staff members are thankful for all the wonderful students,

their families and community. Shown above, Vanessa Cox (left) poses with her first-grade son Jackson Cox. Shown below, second-grader Christopher Nunez (right) enjoys time with his grandma Patricia Jaramillo (left) and great-grandmother Priscilla Jaramillo.

Photos by Tara Merida

Thanksgiving meal at Moore Elementary



Moore Elementary held a family Thanksgiving lunch on campus. Shown, above, is the Chacon family enjoying the festivities. Left to right are (front row) Octavious, Diego, Luke, Sophia and (back row) Esmeralda Chacon. Esmeralda is also a first-grade teacher at Moore. Shown, below, is the Alonso family enjoying the Thanksgiving celebration. Left to right are, Juan, Maria, Sophia, and Mateo Alonso.

Photos submitted



Moore students in program

Shown, left to right, Jayden Rice and Brody Clouse smile big for the first grade Thanksgiving program at Moore Elementary. See related photo on Page 1A.

Martin hosts street widening meeting

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin, the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman's office will host a public input meeting regarding the El Dorado Boulevard Widening Project. The meeting will take place on Nov. 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Bayou Building, Garden Room, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

As development has increased in the area, Martin has received several concerns from residents about future traffic on the section of El Dorado Boulevard, south of Clear Lake City Boulevard to Horsepen Bayou, which is currently two lanes.

In response to these concerns, Martin asked PWE to investigate and conduct

traffic counts along this section of roadway. After assessing the traffic counts, PWE determined El Dorado Boulevard is capable of accommodating current traffic. However, Martin believes the widening of El Dorado Boulevard is essential as the area continues to develop.

By partnering with Morman, the City and County are able to work together and develop three alignment options to improve current and future mobility in this area. The goal of this meeting is to offer residents the opportunity to provide input about these alignment options as well as address any concerns or wishes for the project prior to finalizing the design. There will be free parking for attendees in Lot R.

For more information, contact the District E office at 832-393-3008 or via email at districte@houstontx.gov.

New Directions sets meetings

New Directions is a singles group for those age 50 and older. Meetings are the first and third Mondays at the Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy., at 6 p.m. There will be a potluck dinner and may include guest speakers and/or group activities. For further information, call Margarita 832-715-9658.

Pct. 1 to adjust use of area county parks

Continued from Page 1A
Ellis announced the 18-month project after the first meeting of the Park-

Smart steering committee, a diverse panel of dedicated community leaders and local experts who will help develop priorities, vision, and strategies — and foster deep community engagement.

Scheduled to be completed in early 2019, the project will initially focus on community engagement efforts, including steering committee meetings, community workshops, speak-out events, interviews and a precinctwide telephone poll.

The next phase will involve park and trail evaluations, green infrastructure assessment and an active transportation study. Project leaders also will develop a web-based decision-support tool that Precinct One can use to identify the places where parks and trails are able to be utilized most productively.

Precinct One has a diverse population of 1.1 million people and spans 375 square miles, an area larger than New York City. It is the educational and cultural hub of the city and is home to

the renowned Texas Medical Center, Houston's major universities, the Museum District, and the region's top sports teams, including the 2017 World Series Champion Houston Astros.

Precinct One's urban and rural communities face a range of environmental challenges, particularly post-Harvey.

The historic flooding devastated many communities and exposed the region's vulnerability to severe storms, but it also highlighted Precinct One's community spirit and ingenuity.

While the primary goal of

the project is to enhance and expand access to high-quality parks and trails, the Park-Smart Precinct One team also will identify ways to integrate arts and culture into the process of developing green spaces, cultivating community engagement, and stewarding future public spaces.

Ultimately, all this process will help Precinct One identify the places where parks and trails can do the most to increase environmental resilience and improve the health of vulnerable and underserved communities.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Norman steps down as Dobie's varsity football head coach

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**
Following three seasons of disappointment, including the last two that

included just five overall wins, Mike Norman has resigned from his role as the Longhorns' varsity football head coach.

22-6A has rough week

Just like that, the District 22-6A varsity football season is complete.

Each of the district's four bidistrict playoff entries was bounced out in the opening round.

South Houston, the third-place finisher in 22-6A, was involved in the most competitive game of the bidistrict round, losing to Kingwood 28-21 Nov. 17 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The Trojans took offensive possession in the final two minutes of action before a turnover on downs ended their season.

As for district champion Deer Park, second-place Pasadena Memorial and fourth-place La Porte, the results were no better.

Deer Park lost to North Shore at home Nov. 17 by a 48-7 count, and Memorial was hammered 58-7 against Atascocita at Turner Stadium in Humble.

Similarly, La Porte took on Summer Creek Nov. 18 at Turner Stadium, losing 63-24 after trailing 49-3 at halftime.

Less than a week following a 45-27 loss to La Porte that eliminated his program from playoff consideration, Norman met with Dobie principal Franklin Moses and decided to step down.

A day later, Moses left on a family vacation and was unavailable for comment. Upon his return, it is expected that Moses will appoint an in-house assistant coach to oversee off-season football activities until a new head football coach is appointed.

Norman, who came to Dobie prior to the 2015 season following a long

career at Pearland High School as an assistant coach, delivered a 10-19 overall record in his three



Mike Norman

campaigns.

The Longhorns made the playoffs in 2015, but then defeated only Pasadena and Sam Rayburn in District 22-6A play the past two years while missing the postseason.

The facts are the facts. Being a head football coach in Texas is not unlike most professions in that it is a results-driven business. The results delivered over Norman's three seasons simply did not meet the expectations of the Dobie program.

It's far too early to estimate just how Norman's resignation and the even-

tual arrival of his replacement will affect current assistant coaches.

It's common knowledge that newly-appointed head coaches are typically allowed to bring in their own offensive and defensive coordinator choices.

From there, however, there are other considerations in play with regard to other staff changes, such as a given coach's teaching role, second sport obligations, etc.

Looking at wins and losses only, particularly over the 2016 and 2017 seasons, there's little argument that the Dobie foot-

ball program has hit a low point.

The program has not won a playoff game since 2004, and the last overall winning record came in 2014 at 6-4, but the Longhorns subsequently lost in the bidistrict playoffs to North Shore.

Dobie won eight overall games and a district championship in 2011 and then came up with seven wins in 2012. Since then, Dobie is 26-36 over five seasons.

What will the new head coach inherit? It all starts with a new schedule. The University Interscholastic League will unveil a new

two-year realignment next February that will cover the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years.

Dobie knows it will compete with fellow Pasadena ISD schools Memorial, Pasadena, Sam Rayburn and South Houston in district play, but will Deer Park and La Porte stay or go? Will other programs join the mix?

From a varsity roster standpoint, Dobie will return 22-6A leading rusher Kris Morris at tailback but will start a first-year quarterback for the fourth consecutive season.

Cameron Guy figures

to be a great option at receiver, and there are several offensive linemen slated to return.

Defensively, the Longhorns will lose the majority of what was a solid line-backing crew, and there will be vacancies in the secondary and defensive fronts.

Kicker Joshua Hernandez will return after having had a solid freshman season at the varsity level.

Dobie went to the third round of the postseason in 2004 but has not tasted a playoff win since that season. Just how high shall

Continued on Page 3B

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**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

The greatest of the great. Those are the athletes whose competitive jerseys usually find their way up to the rafters of some of the world's most prestigious arenas and stadiums.

For now and forever, former Dobie High School varsity girls' basketball star Karima Christmas-Kelly will have her lucky jersey No. 13 on display somewhere inside the school's gymnasium.

Family, friends, former teammates and hundreds of current Dobie students were on hand Nov. 17 — the second day of the McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament — to see Christmas-Kelly's

jersey officially retired.

Among those on hand was Doug Gibson, who was the head coach during the Dobie varsity girls' basketball program's best era. He was asked to introduce Christmas-Kelly just prior to her speech commemorating the jersey retirement.

For many reasons, it was fitting that Gibson and Christmas-Kelly came together once more on the hardwood at Dobie High School.

Prior to the 2003-2004 school year, Gibson knew he had a great team with which to work, and there was an incoming freshman from Beverly Hills Intermediate who was the talk of the South Belt area. At a time before it was

commonplace to elevate freshmen to the varsity level in essentially any

sport, Gibson wasted little time in giving Christmas-Kelly a varsity jersey that first season.

How did she repay him? The first week or so of the

regular season, she was named the Most Valuable Player of the Texas Invitational's girls' division after leading the Lady Longhorns to the championship following a win over Clear Brook.

Fast forward to the postseason, where Christmas-Kelly came up big in Dobie's first and only Region III championship that led to a berth in the state semifinals. In the Region III final against Humble, Christmas-Kelly went six for six from the free throw line as the Lady Longhorns held on for the win.

Although Dobie lost in the state semifinals to Westfield, it was quite a Christmas-Kelly's first and only Re-

Photo courtesy Dallas Wings

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regular season, she was named the Most Valuable Player of the Texas Invitational's girls' division after leading the Lady Longhorns to the championship following a win over Clear Brook.

Fast forward to the postseason, where Christmas-Kelly came up big in Dobie's first and only Region III championship that led to a berth in the state semifinals. In the Region III final against Humble, Christmas-Kelly went six for six from the free throw line as the Lady Longhorns held on for the win.

Although Dobie lost in the state semifinals to Westfield, it was quite a Christmas-Kelly's first and only Re-

Photo courtesy Dallas Wings

Dobie hoops squads win brackets at McD's

The Katy Tompkins boys and Duncanville girls teams were the biggest winners at the 15th annual McDonald's Texas Invitational, but the Dobie varsity teams didn't fare too badly, either.

In the Division 2 ranks, the Longhorn varsity boys wound up taking the championship in the bronze bracket, while the Lady Longhorns were crowned champions of the silver bracket on the final day of action Nov. 18.

Dobie senior forward Brick Fosnight registered double-figure scoring in four of the Longhorns' five games, including a big 26-point, 15-rebound outing against Baytown Sterling as the Longhorns won the Division 2 bronze crown with a 75-66 victory over the Rangers Nov. 18 at South Houston High School.

It was a great finish after the Longhorns sputtered out of the gate during

Dobie softball's Whaley picks Texas Tech program

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

It was about this very time back in 2014 when the brief conversation took place.

At Dobie as invitees to another Lady Longhorn national letter of intent signing, longtime South Belt area select softball coach Carlos Morgan chatted up Dobie varsity

softball head coach Robin Rackley about one of her newest players.

The gist of it all? Morgan simply asked Rackley, "Hey coach, what do you think about Whaley?" Rackley's response? "She's got some talent, but she's a freshman. We'll see."

Fast forward some three plus years later, and things have come to fruition.

Dobie varsity outfielder Yvonne Whaley, a starter in Dobie's outfield since the day she arrived on campus, has come of age.

Capping a dream she has had since early childhood, Whaley, on Nov. 8, signed a national letter of intent with the Texas Tech University women's softball program.

Having taken her allotted recruiting trips and having actually begun this search process on her own well before her high school days were here, Whaley knows she's found a new home in Lubbock beginning next summer. "It's really still surreal to me, honestly," Whaley

said days after her signing party at Dobie.

"I'm going to play not only Division I softball, but I'm going to be playing in the Big 12 (conference). That's huge for me, and I'm about to leave in a few months. It's almost hard to imagine that it happened, but it did."

So Morgan was onto something back in 2015. And maybe Rackley knew more than she was letting on. Somewhere in the middle lie the true facts.

Coming in to Dobie as a freshman and, by her own admission, having already drawn the interest of college programs during

Continued on Page 6B



Dobie varsity softball outfielder Yvonne Whaley has been jumping for joy lately after signing a national letter of intent to continue her education and playing career at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She's been a starter at Dobie since the 2015 season.

Continued on Page 2B

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At right, Dobie High School 2007 graduate Karima Christmas-Kelly (second from left) shared her jersey retirement ceremony with family members, including her father, Byron Christmas (left), her mother, Jennita Christmas (third from left) and her sister, Shelly Dejean-Tillman (right). Dozens of close friends, former teammates and supporters attended a reception prior to Christmas-Kelly's jersey No. 13 retirement ceremony Nov. 17, at Dobie High School. A four-year starter on the varsity girls' basketball team at Dobie, Christmas-Kelly also wore No. 13 during a successful four-year career at Duke University and in the WNBA.

Photos by John Bechtler



Doug Gibson (left), former Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach, and his wife, Sherri (right) joined Karima Christmas-Kelly (center) Nov. 17, at Dobie High School as her jersey No. 13 was retired during a ceremony in front of the student body in attendance at the McDonald's Texas Invitational. Gibson was the team's head coach in 2004 when the Lady Longhorns made their way to the state tournament.

Dobie High School honors Christmas-Kelly, jersey No. 13

Continued from Page 1B season for the entire team and quite a freshman year for Christmas-Kelly.

"There was really no hesitation at all," Gibson said of the decision to bring Christmas-Kelly to the varsity ranks that first season right out of the gate.

"Physically she was ready, and although you always wonder about the mental side of the game with a freshman, she was ready. Even in AAU basketball, she was fairly young for her competitive level, but she was productive."

During that 2003-2004

season, Dobie featured future collegiate hoopsters Sharee Shepard (Southern Methodist) and Tamara Vaughn (Texas-Arlington).

Another player, Chewy Agoucha, played volleyball and competed in field events in college at Furman.

Gibson knew he had the leadership end of things covered. For him, it was all about adding Christmas-Kelly's athleticism to an already solid team.

"The other seniors stepped up and played their roles like we knew they would. Karima didn't have the stress of carrying

the load. It was a great fit." While she was also gifted and talented enough to have played varsity volleyball her freshman season, Christmas-Kelly was understandably nervous at the thought of playing varsity basketball.

Granted, Christmas-Kelly had played on the varsity volleyball team earlier in the fall, but basketball, her first love, was a different story.

"I was nervous going into that first basketball season, but being on the volleyball team helped me grow a lot," Christmas-Kelly said.

"It was good experience that I needed, to be able to get a feel for what it was like to compete against the older, more experienced players.

As for winning the MVP award at the Texas Invitational, sometimes everything just fits.

"Those first couple of games, we had the home court advantage of playing at Dobie, and I always enjoyed that," Christmas-Kelly said.

"Even against Clear Brook in the final, it was against a neighborhood rival. It was fun and exciting to be able to play them."

As a sophomore, Christmas-Kelly was obviously thrust into more of a leadership role. Players such as Shepard, Vaughn, Agoucha and others had graduated and moved on. Still, she turned in a solid season in both volleyball and basketball and appeared to be well on her way.

However, Christmas-Kelly suffered a shoulder injury during the summer between her sophomore and junior seasons. To hear Gibson tell it, Christmas-Kelly's injury was a huge blow both to the player and the team.

"The summer between her sophomore and junior seasons, I saw Karima in a summer league game at Dobie that included Sharee, Tamara, Kelli Griffin from Clear Brook and others that were already in college.

"Karima was the best player on the court, and it wasn't close. There's really no telling how good she could have been that year."

Luckily for Christmas, while the injury ended her desire to play volleyball

anymore, she was already drawing heavy interest from some of the country's top collegiate women's basketball programs.

Following the completion of a terrific four-year career at Dobie, Christmas-Kelly signed with Duke University.

Christmas-Kelly has always seemed to play at her best when the stakes are the highest.

Although she was not a top offensive option at Duke, her tenacious play earned her All-ACC Tournament honors on two different occasions.

Most importantly, Christmas-Kelly met her future husband at Duke, and earned her bachelor's degree in sociology.

Following the completion of her senior season at Duke, Christmas-Kelly had thoughts of possibly being selected in the 2011 WNBA Draft.

"I was actually at the gym working out with (Duke teammate) Krystal Thomas, and we weren't really thinking about it," Christmas-Kelly said of the draft process.

"I got a message that I had been drafted in the second round (23rd overall to the Washington Mystics), and it was a dream come true.

"My favorite player growing up in the WNBA was Cynthia Cooper. She was No. 14, and I didn't want people saying I was wearing her number. Plus, I wanted to prove that No. 13 was not unlucky."

In that 2011 draft, Duke's Jasmine Thomas went 12th overall, while Krystal Thomas was taken with the 36th and final choice of the three-round draft. Both Thomas players went to the Seattle Storm.

Whatever the primary reason in Washington, things didn't last long for Christmas-Kelly in the nation's capital. She was traded that offseason to the Indiana Fever and won a WNBA championship ring with Tamika Catchings, one of the game's most recognizable names, leading the way for the Fever.

Christmas has now played for several WNBA teams during her seven seasons and has also played in Israel, Italy and South Korea.

Like it or not, WNBA salaries are nothing special. It is necessary for many of the game's players to travel overseas in the offseason in order to earn the bigger paydays. It may not be fair, per se, but it's the way it is.

With seven years of WNBA service and a new marriage now in the picture, Christmas-Kelly knows basketball won't last forever. She's forever grateful to have played this long and still hopes to continue next season.

But she's also focusing on her future in the business world. She's finishing

up work on her master's degree in sports management. Instead of traveling overseas this summer, she's been home in Atlanta, resting her body and performing an internship in the athletic department at Georgia Tech University.

Because she and her

husband now own a home in Atlanta, Christmas-Kelly would love to eventually work full-time at Georgia Tech or some other college nearby.

While Christmas-Kelly is quick to point out that it's only been 10 years since she left Dobie, she does remember all of the

people who helped her along the way.

She was thrilled Gibson made it to town to be a part of the festivities, and also thanked her parents, Byron and Jennita Christmas, for their never-ending support.

While current Dobie varsity girls' basketball

head coach Shane Brown never had a chance to

coach Christmas-Kelly while either were at Dobie, he did call her "the greatest player in the history of Dobie girls' basketball." He's correct, and now Christmas-Kelly has her jersey No. 13 framed to prove it.

Freshman season at Dobie 2004 – Made the varsity girls' team at Dobie from the moment she set foot through the door, averaged nearly 10 points and more than 5 rebounds per game as a freshman, eventually helping guide the Lady Longhorns to the 2004 Region III Championship and the program's only state tournament berth. Was named the District 23-5A Newcomer of the Year and was the Texas Invitational's Most Valuable Player after leading Dobie to a win over Clear Brook in the girls' championship game. It was the first year the Texas Invitational had included a girls' bracket.

Sophomore season at Dobie 2005 – Scored 13.3 points and pulled down 7.4 rebounds per game, earning District 23-5A Most Valuable Player accolades.

Junior season at Dobie 2006 – Played in just 8 games after suffering a shoulder injury, but scored just over 10 points per game before exiting for the season.

Senior season at Dobie 2007 – Scored 18.7 points and pulled down 9.6 rebounds per game while leading Dobie to a 32-7 record. Was a Parade Magazine fourth team All-American selection and was a McDonald's All-American Game nominee. Played in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's All-American Game. Captured Dobie team MVP honors in 2005 and 2007 and was a Superintendent's Student Council honoree.



Following her standout career at Dobie, Karima Christmas-Kelly played four years at Duke University, earning numerous postseason tournament honors. She met her husband, Austin Kelly, while

at Duke and was drafted into the WNBA. Christmas-Kelly has now played seven seasons professionally and resides in Atlanta.

Photo courtesy of Duke University



Karima Christmas-Kelly speaks to those in attendance during her jersey retirement ceremony Nov. 17 at Dobie High School. She was a four-year varsity

starter while with the Lady Longhorns and is widely considered the best player in program history.



Among the dozens in attendance to celebrate Karima Christmas-Kelly's (center) jersey retirement were Donna Branch (left) and Alyta Harrell. Branch was Dobie's varsity volleyball coach during Christmas-Kelly's freshman season at Dobie and is now

the Pasadena ISD's assistant director of athletics. Harrell, currently a Pasadena ISD associate superintendent of development, was the principal at Beverly Hills Intermediate during Christmas-Kelly's three years there.

JFD baseball sets golf

The Dobie Diamond Club will host its annual golf tournament fund-raiser Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Pearland Country Club. Individual players (\$80) and foursomes (\$320) may register prior to the tournament by call-

ing Dobie booster club member Chris Escalera at 832-630-4007. Prices the day of the tournament increase to \$100 and \$400, respectively. There will also be raffles and door prizes awarded after the event.

Sports Calendar

BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Dobie varsity girls at Clements, 7:00
Dobie varsity boys host Clear Brook, 7:00
Brook varsity girls at C.E. King, 7:00
Dobie JV boys host Clear Lake, 5:30
Dobie JV girls at Clements, 5:30
Brook JV girls at C.E. King, 5:30
Dobie sophomore boys host Clear Brook, 5:30
Dobie freshman A boys host Clear Brook, 4:00
Brook freshman A girls at C.E. King, 4:00
Dobie freshman A girls at Clements, 4:00
Dobie freshman B boys host Clear Brook, 4:00

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Beverly Hills 7th Dark girls hosts Jackson, 5:00
Beverly Hills 7th Light girls hosts Jackson, 6:15
Beverly Hills 8th Dark girls hosts Jackson, 5:00
Beverly Hills 8th Light girls hosts Jackson, 6:15
Thompson 7th Dark girls at Southmore, 5:00
Thompson 7th Light girls at Southmore, 6:15
Thompson 8th Dark girls at Southmore, 5:00
Thompson 8th Light girls at Southmore, 6:15
Beverly Hills 7th Dark boys at Jackson, 5:00
Beverly Hills 7th Light boys at Jackson, 6:15
Beverly Hills 8th Dark boys at Jackson, 5:00
Beverly Hills 8th Light boys at Jackson, 6:15
Thompson 7th Dark boys host Southmore, 5:00
Thompson 7th Light boys host Southmore, 6:15
Thompson 8th Dark boys host Southmore, 5:00
Thompson 8th Light boys host Southmore, 6:15

Thursday, Nov. 30 through Saturday, Dec. 2

Brook varsity boys at Krueger-Carlisle invite., TBA
Brook varsity girls at Krueger-Carlisle invite, TBA
Dobie varsity boys at Katy invite., TBA
Brook JV boys at Alief ISD invite., TBA
Dobie JV boys at South Houston invit., TBA
Dobie sophomore boys at Pasadena ISD invite, TBA
Dobie freshman B boys at Memorial invit., TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Dobie varsity boys at Dawson, 7:00
Brook varsity boys at Goose Creek Memorial, 7:00
Brook varsity girls at The Woodlands, 7:00
Dobie varsity girls host Dawson, 7:00
Dobie JV girls host Dawson, 5:30
Brook JV boys at Goose Creek Memorial, 5:30
Dobie JV boys at Dawson, 5:30
Brook JV girls at The Woodlands, 5:30
Dobie sophomore boys at Dawson, 5:30
Brook sophomore boys at G.C. Memorial, 5:30
Dobie freshman A girls host Dawson, 4:00
Brook freshman A girls at The Woodlands, 4:00
Brook freshman A boys at G.C. Memorial, 4:00
Dobie freshman A boys at Dawson, 4:00
Dobie freshman B boys at Dawson, 4:00
Brook freshman B boys at G.C. Memorial, 4:00
Dobie freshman B girls host Shadow Creek, 4:00

Friday, Dec. 8

Brook varsity girls vs. Dobie, Phillips, 7:00
Dobie varsity boys host Pearland, 7:00
Brook varsity boys host Galveston Ball, 7:00
Brook varsity girls vs. Dobie, Phillips, 5:30
Brook JV boys host Galveston Ball, 5:30
Dobie JV boys host Pearland, 5:30
Brook sophomore boys host Galveston Ball, 5:30
Brook freshman A girls vs. Dobie, Phillips, 4:00
Dobie freshman A boys host Pearland, 4:00
Brook freshman B boys host Galveston Ball, 4:00
Dobie freshman B boys host Pearland, 4:00

Dobie head coach Norman steps down

Continued from Page 1B
The bar be set moving forward? It will be set high. Fair or unfair?

There are plenty of folks on the outside looking in who wonder how a school with a UIL registered enrollment of 4,176 is not more successful on the football field, particularly with many of its student-athletes arriving from two of the district's most successful intermediate athletic programs - Beverly Hills and Thompson.

There will be plenty of interest in the Dobie head coaching job. There is almost always dozens and dozens of applicants for any Class 6A coach of its kind in Texas.

Goose Creek ISD (Baytown) officials received more than 90 applications for one of its varsity football programs that has had very little success over many years.

The head coaching jobs that usually include a campus athletic coordinator role are simply coveted.

What kind of competition might the Dobie search committee, headed by Moses, face?

There are already openings at Clear Creek

and Dawson for the same roles.

Following the completion of the football post-season, there very likely could be a few more in the general vicinity.

Dobie, with Norman stepping down now, has an opportunity to get out of the gate ahead of others in its search.

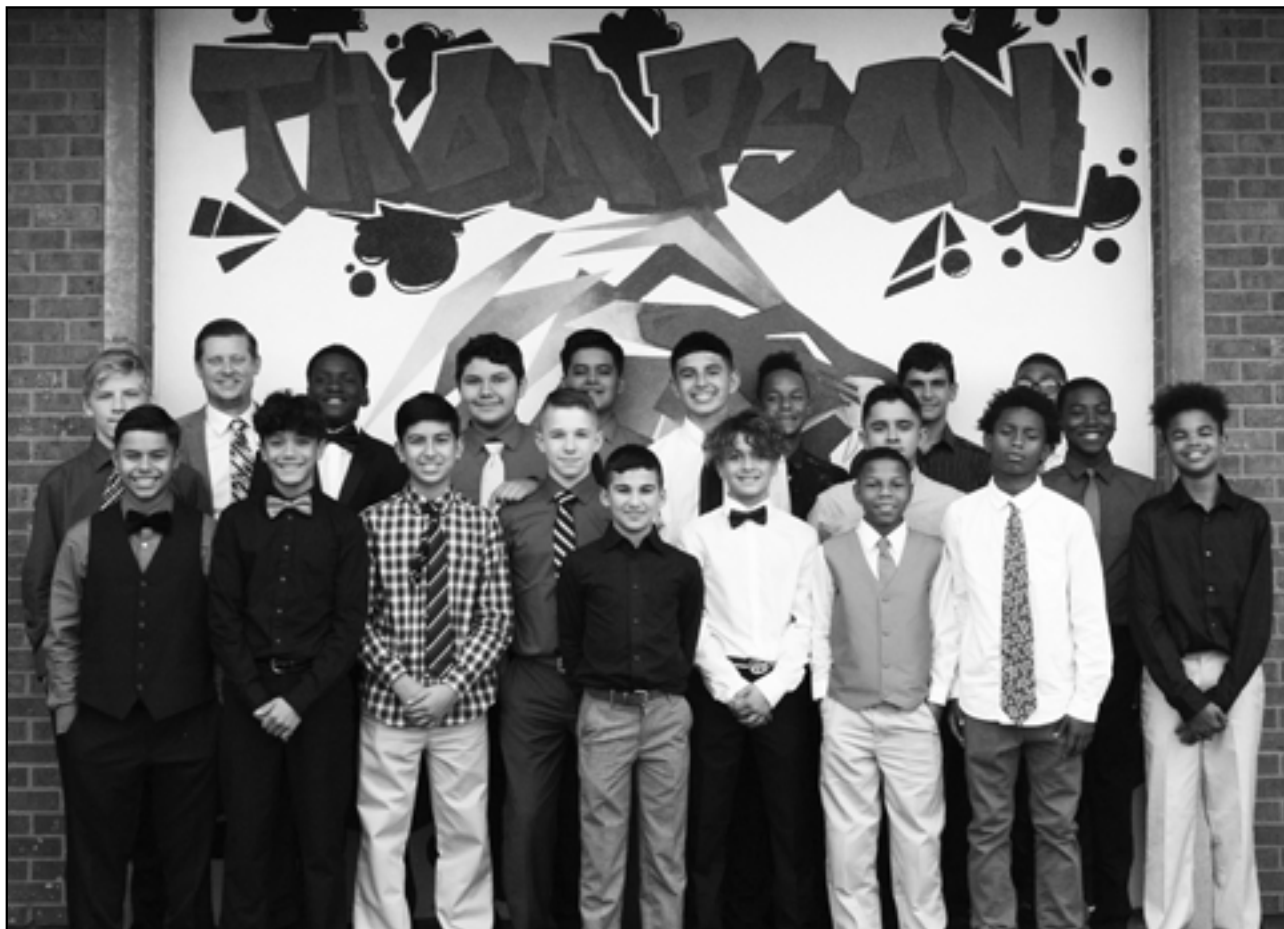
The exact timing of Dobie's progress regarding the opening is not yet known. The job will need to be posted (advertised) for a specific period of time, and Moses and members of his search committee will then need to pare the list of potential candidates down to a select few.

The varsity head coaching job at Dobie was Norman's first of its kind after he was a longtime assistant at Pearland.

Will Dobie opt for a proven head coach with a solid track record on the field, or will another assistant coach draw the nod?

It's anyone's guess at this point. Once Moses returns from vacation, more of the details will begin to unfold. The upcoming holiday season just got a lot more interesting.

Lions' seventh-grade boys' hoops ready to roar



Those chosen to play seventh-grade boys' basketball at Thompson Intermediate dressed for success to celebrate the tipoff of the season. Members of the program include, left to right, (front row) Daniel Delgado, Elias Wallace, Noah Gaytan, Travis Webb, Isaiah Correa, Luis Nieves, Derrick Doss, Juan Estrada, Marcus Millender, Jer'Keithric Moore, Anthony Newsome, (back row) Logan Riley, Thompson head coach Daniel Sawyer, Anfony Lee, Cassius Martinez, Kaleb Campos, Jose Medina, Jose Mitchell, Ramon Revilla and Elijah Howard.

JFD varsity basketball teams collect hardware at McDonald's invite

Continued from Page 1B
pool play, losing games to a pair of teams that eventually won bracket championships in the Division 2 field.

Playing the 9 a.m. game at Dobie Nov. 16 on the tournament's opening day, the Longhorns watched Westside go on a 26-6 run in the third quarter en route to a 61-44 victory.

D.J. Garrett had 16 points for the Longhorns, who also got 14 points

from Fosnight. Westside, meanwhile, went 5-0 in the tournament, beating Mansfield Summit 47-23 in the Division 2 gold bracket title game.

Later in the day Nov. 16, the Longhorns again found themselves on the short end of a 72-51 outcome against Katy Taylor.

In that one, Katy Taylor rolled to the win despite 23 points from Garrett.

After splitting pool play

games, Katy Taylor swept through the Division 2 silver bracket, defeating Fort Bend Austin 61-58 for the championship.

With their two losses, the Longhorns dropped into the Division 2 bronze bracket.

In that bracket opener Nov. 17 against Edinburg Vela, the Longhorns cruised to a 67-36 victory as Marquice Scott paved the way with 17 points. Fosnight added 14, while

Justin Thomas had 10 more.

Going against 22-6A rival Pasadena Memorial later that afternoon at Phillips Field House, Dobie got 19 points from Garrett and 18 from Fosnight to edge the Mavericks 57-54, reaching the Division 2 bronze bracket title game against Baytown Sterling.

Thanks to Fosnight's monster game and 21 more points from Thomas, the Longhorns went on to

win their bracket. Similarly, the Dobie girls came up with a big effort over the three days to grab a championship trophy.

The Lady Longhorns crushed St. Pius 68-28 in their tournament opener, and then bounced Pasadena Memorial 41-33.

Dobie then ran into a buzzsaw Nov. 17 as eventual Division 2 gold bracket winner Cypress Creek delivered a 76-42 victory over the locals at home.

Cypress Creek raced out to a 13-0 lead, pushed the edge to 17-3 and never looked back.

The Lady Longhorns came back in the silver division for a pair of tight wins to claim a trophy.

First came a 37-35 victory over San Antonio Brennan, then the Lady Longhorns came up with a 61-60 win against Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial.

The Clear Brook boys,

perhaps looking to find a top scoring option after the 2017 graduation of all-time leading scorer David Azore, beat Baytown Sterling 75-67 in their tournament opener but then fell in three straight games.

The Wolverines lost 52-49 to Mansfield Summit, then played a tight game against Katy Taylor before a 44-41 victory.

In the Wolverines' final game, Sam Rayburn pulled away to win 68-59.



Dobie's Destiny Estes (21) guards Cypress Creek's Jamia Griffin (24) during the early stages of Cypress Creek's easy 76-42 victory over the Lady Longhorns Nov. 17, at Dobie. Cy-Creek went on to win the title

in the Division 2 gold bracket, while Dobie won the Division 2 silver bracket at the McDonald's Texas Invitational. Dobie went 4-1 overall in the tournament.

Photos by John Bechtle



Charlee Peters (5) of Dobie advances the ball over the time line during the Lady Longhorns' run through the McDonald's Texas Invitational. With a 61-60 win over Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial, Dobie won the Division 2 silver bracket crown.

CALENDAR

THANKSGIVING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

7 a.m.
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.

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

7 p.m.
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.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

7 a.m.
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.

Noon
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.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.

8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are

not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program,

Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

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.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

10 a.m.
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.

11:30 a.m.
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.

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

3:15 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's, 3:15 - 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical

Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for details.

6-8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Mercy Hearts meets on the second and fourth Mondays, 6 to 8 p.m., at CrossRoads UMC located at 10030 Scarsdale. The focus of the new Mercy Hearts is support for families of inmates and ex-offenders. The program will provide a complimentary meal, group Bible study and discussion. Child care is provided. This is a confidential ministry and information will be treated accordingly. For details, contact C. Talbot at 281-245-7072 or Chucktal@msn.com.

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. No meetings on holidays.

6:30 p.m.
Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Enter door next to recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org.

7 p.m.
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.

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

7:30 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 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.

Continued on Page 4B



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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7 a.m.
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.

9:30 a.m.
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.

10 a.m.
American Begonia Society - Houston Satellite meets on the fourth Tuesday, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Pkwy. (on the lake side), Seabrook. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458.

10 a.m.
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.

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

Noon
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 nalix@texascitizensbank.com.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has beginner ballroom lessons taught by Eileen Bauerlein on Tuesdays following the senior luncheon at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents (free to senior League City residents.)

1:30 p.m.
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.

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

7 p.m.
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.

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, NOVEMBER 29

7 a.m.
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.

10 a.m.
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.

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

1611.

1 p.m.
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 more information, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204.

7 p.m.
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.

8 p.m.
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, NOVEMBER 30

7 a.m.
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.

10 a.m.
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.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has dance lessons Thursdays, following the senior luncheon. Lewis and Betty Whistler teach lessons in two-step, triple two-step, west coast swing and night club two-step at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.

7 p.m.
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.

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

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Whaley to play at Texas Tech

Continued from Page 1B her seventh- and eighth-grade school years while competing on the select softball circuit, Whaley thought she was good. The reality? Whaley possessed a tremendous amount of athletic ability. That's likely the biggest reason she landed on the varsity squad.

But like most freshmen always ultimately must go, Whaley was forced to learn that despite her talent, it was all of the extra work and dedication that would make her great. Perhaps no more was that theory on display than last season, when Whaley was easily one of the Houston area's most feared lead-off hitters.

No matter the opponent or importance of the game, Whaley seemed to deliver, hitting well above .500 for the season and even better than that in District 22-6A play. By that time, Whaley had all but decided on Texas Tech, and her performance particularly in 2017 certainly validated her new-found work ethic.

As Whaley explains it, her early days at Dobie included highlight moments on the field, but she wanted more. Even Rackley, said Whaley, knew the young player was capable of more.

"I didn't always like to do the extra work on my own and put in the work to get better," Whaley said. "I knew that coach Rackley had high expectations for me and still does. I decided I didn't want to struggle at the plate anymore."

"Now, I'm much more open to learning and understanding what a pitcher is throwing and what she might try to do pitch-wise at the plate. I'll ask my teammates questions about pitchers, about their tendencies and things like that."

"I'll also look at the defense to see how they are playing me. I want to do everything I can to get better. I still do. If there is something I can do to create problems for the defense or the opposing pitcher, I'll do it."

Heading into the 2018 season next spring, Rackley surely hopes Whaley has her best season yet. Once a gifted freshman but young and inexperienced, Whaley is now relied on for her senior leadership.

Whaley will be the lone returning starting outfielder for the Lady Longhorns next season. Three infield-

ers, including Louisiana State University women's softball verbal commit Taylor Pleasants, will return. But Dobie will have first-year pitchers and catchers, too.

"I've just tried to set the tone for them and let them know what to expect during the offseason," Whaley said. "I think we have a chance to win the district title. Deer Park (defending 22-6A champion) has new pitching, and I absolutely hate to lose to Memorial. It's up to myself and some of the others to lead the way, and some of these young players can help us get there."

Regardless of how things play out at Dobie on the softball field next spring, it won't be long before Whaley is on her way to Lubbock. She credits Dobie graduate and former Texas Tech assistant coach Sharonda McDonald for opening her eyes to the program at Texas Tech. In fact, Iver (McDonald) Robinson, Sharonda's younger sister and also a Dobie graduate, was at Whaley's signing gathering.

"I enjoyed some of my other visits. I went to a basketball game at Kansas University and had a great experience there. But I just loved everything about Texas Tech, the softball program and the university. It's definitely where I want to be."

Once she gets there, Whaley will once again be a freshman battling for playing time as soon as possible. But, if work ethic plays into the decision-making process, Whaley will thrive. "We have 18 players on my (select) team right now, and I'm working hard to earn my time," Whaley said.

"I don't like to sit on the bench, and I don't want to sit when I'm a freshman. I'll put in the work, and hopefully the results will come."

And taking it all in, Whaley says her parents, Esmeralda and Terrance, are perhaps more excited than she is. It's not so much the scholarship money coming her way. That's nice and all, but it's more the experience of seeing their daughter realize the first of many post-high school dreams.

"I am so happy for my parents," Whaley said. "Without everything they have done for me, I certainly would not be in this position. They have been there, believed in me and

taken me to all of the stops along the way. I truly appreciate their love and support."

Off the softball field, Whaley says she plans to study kinesiology at Texas Tech. No she's not headed to the field as a coach, but rather hopes to become an athletic trainer.

A multi-sport stand-out at Dobie — Whaley just days ago was named the District 22-6A first team libero — she simply likes being around sports and the athletes who play them.

"I enjoy sports," she said. "I played volleyball as more of an escape (from softball) for me, but this season was so rewarding. We had a relatively young team but came together as one group and did some great things. I was a little worried about our team in August when we first started. But we competed well, made the playoffs and had a terrific year. It was a lot of fun."

No doubt Whaley hopes the upcoming Dobie varsity softball season plays out similarly. The team will be a little inexperienced at a couple of key positions in the field. But the potential is there. It's all about coming together as a team.

Rackley, who was part of a state championship softball team while at Dobie, said Whaley has left an impression within her program that few others can.

"She was amazing with her skill set and her off-field presence as a freshman and has done nothing but carry that on every year since," Rackley said.

"She hit over .400 as a sophomore and still went out and did the work to get better. Yvonne decided she wanted to go to Texas Tech, and wanted to prove herself and show her abilities. She did that."

Last season, Whaley hit .680 on the season, collecting at least one hit in every district contest with the exception of one against La Porte. To Rackley, Whaley was the district's Most Valuable Player.

Still, to Rackley, it is as much about what Whaley brings as a person that will leave that lasting impression.

"I don't think she would admit to some of the positive things she has done off the field, but Yvonne is a true leader in the community to me. In our program, we talk to the players about leaving

a positive impact during your time here.

"Yvonne has taken that message to heart and has been amazing. She sees an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life or even to help show a young player the right way, and she does it."

"As Yvonne's mentor in the softball program, I can say she is an amazing leader. Yvonne has a good head on her shoulders and knows what she wants to achieve in softball and in life. There's no doubt she'll be successful."

So for one more season, Whaley will be a gift to the Dobie softball program. Both Whaley and Rackley concede the roster next spring will feature several first-time varsity players. Yet with Whaley in house to lead the way, Rackley has few worries.

"I would say we have already seen that senior leadership from Yvonne," Rackley said. "She knows we are going to be a young team overall. But she also realizes this is a chance for her to help lead the way. She's great at that."



Dobie High School varsity softball player Yvonne Whaley (seated third from left) will continue her education and playing career at Texas Tech University in Lubbock after signing a letter of intent with the Lady Red Raiders on National Signing Day, Nov. 8. Whaley has started in Dobie's outfield at the varsity level for the past three seasons and will return this spring to lead the Lady Longhorns before leaving for college late next summer. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Carlos Morgan (Lady Stros select team softball coach),

Esmeralda Whaley (mother), Terrance Whaley (father), Robin Rackley (Dobie varsity softball head coach), (standing) Franklin Moses (Dobie principal), Gabby Ramirez, Christina Beaudoin, Iver Robinson (youth softball instructor, former Dobie standout outfielder), Carmela Swinnen (Dobie junior varsity softball head coach, varsity assistant coach), Chris Swinnen (varsity softball assistant coach) and Mat Ortiz (Dobie softball assistant coach).

At right, Dobie senior outfielder Yvonne Whaley (sliding safely into home plate against La Porte) has at least one hit in all but one District 22-6A varsity softball game in 2016. She hit better than .700 for much of the season before finishing up at .680. A three-year starter heading into her final season next spring, Whaley is set to take her talents to Lubbock, where she has signed a letter of intent to play with the Texas Tech women's softball program. As for her final season at Dobie, Whaley believes the Lady Longhorns have what it takes to win the 22-6A championship for the first time in Whaley's career.

Photo by John Bechtel



Clear Brook hoopsters to CCISD; JFD to Katy

High school basketball programs rarely catch much of a break during the holiday season, and 2017 shall be no different.

The Clear Brook varsity boys' and girls' teams will compete in separate Clear Creek ISD tournaments Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, while the Dobie varsity boys' team will again be at the Katy ISD-sponsored Phillips 66 Classic over the same three days.

The 2017 Carlisle-Krueger Classic, named in honor of two of the school district's most legendary varsity boys' basketball coaches, will play out at Clear Lake High School.

George Carlisle won nine consecutive district titles while coaching the Clear Creek High School varsity boys' program in the 1950s and 1960s. He later went on to become the first principal of Clear

Lake High School in 1972. Bill Krueger, meanwhile, won a state championship while guiding the Clear Lake High School varsity boys' program and was once the nation's winningest head coach.

Carlisle died in 2011, but Krueger is often in attendance at the annual tournament.

This season, the tournament features a talented 24-team field, headed by defending Class 6A state champion Cy-Falls, Manvel, North Forest and others.

Clear Brook, looking to get on a bit of a roll after going 1-3 at the McDonald's Texas Invitational, will go against Hitchcock and Texas City in Nov. 30 pool play, both at Clear Falls High School.

South Houston, meanwhile, will take on Clear Creek and North Brook in pool play the same day at

Clear Lake High School's main gymnasium.

The 60th annual Peggy Whitley Classic will feature 24 of the area's top varsity girls' programs Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 at Clear Creek High School.

Whitley is the former varsity girls' head coach at Clear Creek High School, where she spent 16 of her 33 years in the profession.

She led the Lady Wildcats to a Region III championship and state tournament berth in 1994 and developed many future college standouts.

Whitley retired following the 2004 campaign and is still Clear Creek's all-time leader in wins at the varsity level.

Clear Brook will go up against Goose Creek Memorial Nov. 30 at Carlisle Field House in League City. That game will tip off at noon.

The championship game is set for Saturday, Dec. 2, at 1:30 p.m. in Virginia Butler Gymnasium on the campus of Clear Creek High School.

The Dobie varsity boys' squad, which won three straight contests at the McDonald's Texas Invitational to grab the championship trophy in the Division 2 bronze bracket, will look for similar results at the Phillips 66 Katy Classic Nov. 30 through Dec. 2.

The tournament, which features 24 teams, is headed by Katy Tompkins, which captured the Division 1 gold bracket title at the McDonald's Texas Invitational.

Dobie will take on Eisenhower and Katy Taylor in pool play Nov. 30. Katy Taylor defeated Dobie by a 71-52 count at the McDonald's Texas Invitational.

Thurs. through Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Dobie varsity boys at Katy invite
Brook varsity boys at Carlisle/Krueger
Brook varsity girls at Whitley Classic

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