

Leader Christmas program

The *Leader* is now soliciting toys, food and money for needy families over the holidays, as part of its annual Christmas program. Now in its 29th year, the drive is aimed at helping families in the immediate South Belt area.

Changes have been made to the application process for this year. Applicants who have participated in the program within the past three years are asked to apply online at www.southbeltleader.com/christmas.html. Public computers are available at the Parker Williams and Bracewell library branches for those without access. Previous participants in the program who are unable to submit their applications online may not apply in person until Monday, Dec. 12. New applicants should visit the *Leader* office in person at 11555 Beamer between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., beginning Thursday, Dec. 1. Applicants must reside in the South Belt area and possess one form of identification verifying their address. All applicants undergo a screening process.

City delays pipe repairs

City of Houston officials have told the *Leader* that repairs to the water leak at Dixie Farm Road and Beamer will be delayed, as not to interrupt service to Friendswood. The leak, which was detected weeks ago, has gotten progressively worse in recent days.

Sagemeadow holds election

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will hold its annual election for a seat on the subdivision's board of directors Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011. The election will be at the municipal utility district building at Hall and Blackhawk from 9 to 11 a.m. Homeowners in good standing on their maintenance fees are eligible to vote. Proof of home ownership or a driver's license is required for identification.

Lariaettes host dance clinic

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold their annual Winter Dance Clinic on Saturday, Dec. 10. The clinic will be held at Dobie High School from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Preregistration is \$40, or at the door is \$50, cash or money order only. Preregistration by Dec. 2 guarantees a T-shirt. Clinic participants will be invited to participate in the Lariaette Spring Show May 5-7, 2012. For more information, email Bertha Hernandez at 723amaly@gmail.com.

PW Library events set

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Dec. 1 through Dec. 7.

After-school craft time is set for Thursday, Dec. 1, at 4 p.m. This program is for ages 5 and up. All materials will be provided.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, Vietnamese storytime will include Reading Club at 9 a.m., followed by intermediate storytime at 11 a.m. and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.

A holiday reading program will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Projects will be available for children, teens and adults. Contact the library for more information.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, join the library for an adult craft program at 2 p.m. Beaded holiday decorations will be made.

Preschool storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, and toddler storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Knights host blood drive

St. Luke Knights of Columbus will sponsor a quarterly blood drive Sunday, Dec. 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the church parish hall.

Book donations needed

Parker Williams Branch Library is accepting donations of books, CDs, DVDs, etc. and especially small pocket-size fiction paperbacks, children's books, non-fiction and current fiction. Money raised goes toward the library and helps fund programs. Donations can be brought to 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

Mata baby benefit Dec. 10

A benefit is scheduled for the family of Adriana Mata, infant daughter of Isaiah and Kristen Mata, who was born Sept. 10, 2011, and died Oct. 23, 2011, as a result of AIDS. The benefit will be Saturday, Dec. 10, at Scooter's Ice House at 1134 N. Main St. (Telephone Road) in Pearland. Starting at noon there will be barbecue plates, raffles, 50/50, lottery, a silent auction, a live auction, and three live bands (Cin City is one of the bands). An account for donations has been set up at a local bank. All proceeds will help the family deal with funeral costs.

For information, call Debbie or Willie Mata at 281-485-3199 or Sandra Morgan at 281-352-5415. The public is invited to attend and help support this South Belt family. Plate orders of eight or more can be delivered.

Dobie food drive set

J. Frank Dobie AFJROTC will hold its annual food drive in support of the Salvation Army Food Bank Saturday, Dec. 10, at Food Town, 10902 Scarsdale, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Nonperishable foods will be accepted. Cash donations will also be accepted and used to purchase needed perishable foods.

Pct. 2 deputy accused of sexual assault

A local deputy from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Gary L. Freeman's office has been relieved of his duties over allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman on Thanksgiving.

The deputy, who works out of the contract

substation at Beamer Road and Scarsdale Boulevard, is under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office for the alleged assault case.

The incident reportedly took place at an apartment complex on Thursday, Nov. 24, while the

deputy was working off-duty.

At press time, no charges had been filed, and the deputy's name had not been released.

The case is still under investigation, as the

deputy and the alleged victim have given conflicting statements of the account, according to Harris County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Christina Garza.



The Rose praises Perry

Longtime South Belt resident and real estate broker Helen Perry was recently honored by being given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 25th anniversary ceremony of The Rose, a local nonprofit breast cancer organization. The award was the first of its kind since the charitable group's inception. A former patient of the 501(c)(3) organization, Perry's current volunteer duties include stuffing envelopes, data entry, marketing and attending health fairs and other group functions.

Photo submitted

Organization honors South Belter

When The Rose celebrated its 25th anniversary on Nov. 10, the nonprofit breast cancer organization surprised and honored longtime South Belt resident Helen Perry as well.

In a night filled with historical remembrances and recognitions, Perry received the Lifetime Achievement Award, a first-of-its-kind acknowledgement of the volunteer service Perry has given The Rose since its inception as a 501(c)(3) organization. "I lovingly call Helen our 'oldest, living volunteer,'" said Dorothy Gibbons, CEO and co-founder of The Rose, as she invited Perry to join her and co-founder Dr. Dixie Melillo on stage before the crowd of more than 500 at the Houston Marriott South.

She recounted several roles Perry has played throughout a history that saw the work grow from a 900+ square foot space to its current two facilities and two mobile units. Activities include stuffing thousands of envelopes, data entry, marketing, health fairs and accompanying Gibbons to events. "I'm not a cocktail party person, but I believed in what she was doing, so I did whatever I needed to do," said Perry.

Her lack of enthusiasm over the "party scene" and her continued assistance - including working with the ticket holders' packets for the Silver Rose Gala - made keeping the secret of her award a bit of a challenge.

She wondered if something was up when she saw names of family members she hadn't heard were attending on the guest list and noted lifelong friends Beth Baker and Mary Keene were present. She never dreamed she would be in front of the crowd accepting an award. She likes the attention to be given to The Rose, she said, not to her. Still, she's appreciative of the honor.

Typical of her humble nature and desire to share the wealth, she posted on The Rose's Facebook wall the day after the event:

"How fortunate I am! A family who loves me (including my Rose family), friends who support me, and The Rose that fulfills me. Being the 'Oldest Living Volunteer' has been a badge I wear proudly. To have received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' is over the top!

"Thank you to all of you who make The Rose

what it is. A place where - whether the news is good or bad - women know they are cared about and will be cared for. You are the BEST!"

Gibbons, who refers to Perry as her cousin due to a distant relationship by marriage, noted in her remarks, "We've said that The Rose Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual who exemplifies caring at its most tangible level in the immeasurable and priceless gifts of one's time, talents and guidance. Helen Perry does all that and more. If I had my way, we would shower you with awards and accolades."

Perry notes that from the beginning she thought The Rose was a good idea. Having had the experience of stressfully waiting for six weeks for the news after her first mammogram indicated there might be issues, she was particularly appreciative when Gibbons and Melillo promised they would make follow-ups much more quickly.

Concern for people and hearing stories of women whose lives were being saved as a result of The Rose's screening and diagnostic services has kept Perry, a real estate broker, active as a volunteer. While she's never missed the annual fundraising shrimp boil, her greatest investment may be her belief in the power of prayer, something Gibbons noted in her introduction.

"Dorothy and I used to meet for breakfast at the Marriott every week in the early days," said Perry, the mother of two sons, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of four. "Since 1987 we have a group that meets monthly, and The Rose is one of the major prayer issues. Every time we needed a new machine or funding for something, we prayed. And we still do."

Other notable guests at the Silver Rose Gala included honorary chairs Judge Ed Emmett and Gwen Emmett; master of ceremonies and KPRC meteorologist, Khambrel Marshall; newly elected City Councilmember, Ellen Cohen; and Houston professional basketball player, Jordan Hill.

More than \$275,000 in gross proceeds were generated by the gala.

For more information on The Rose, its mission and services, visit www.TheRose.org, join its Facebook page or check out its blog at www.therosehouston.blogspot.com.

Homeowner kills burglary suspect

The fatal shooting of a man allegedly trying to break into a car in the 10900 block of Gulf Valley at Springtime on Sunday, Nov. 27, will be referred to a Harris County grand jury to determine if charges will be filed in the case, Houston police say.

Nicolas Sanchez, 25, suffered a single gunshot wound and was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to police, the homeowner stated that Sanchez, along with two other men, was witnessed breaking into the homeowner's fiancée's car around 2:15 a.m. The homeowner reportedly confronted the suspects and told them to stop.

When one of the men allegedly made a "suspicious move," the homeowner discharged his weapon, prompting the suspects to flee in their

vehicle. The men's car, however, only made it a short distance before coming to a stop after striking a curb. Two of the suspects then fled on foot, leaving Sanchez in the vehicle with a gunshot wound to the head.

Responding patrol officers searched the area and located suspect Jesus Valentine Alaniz, 20, who was subsequently arrested and charged with burglary of a motor vehicle in the 184th State District Court.

The unidentified third suspect remains at large, police say.

While investigators did find some of the homeowner's belongings in the vehicle, they did not recover any weapons.

Murder suspect still at large

Police are still searching for Jonathan Anthony "Rock" Franklin, 22, who has been charged in the Nov. 18 killing of Xavier Rubio.

Franklin, a former Dobie student, is charged with murder and one count of aggravated assault in the 174th State District Court.

According to Houston police, Franklin, of the 10000 block of the Gulf Freeway, had gotten into an argument with Rubio, 17, and his brother Ruben Rubio, 22, at the Indigo Falls apartment complex at 10910 Gulf Freeway around 11 p.m. During the altercation, Xavier Rubio pulled out a knife, and Franklin produced a pistol and shot the brothers multiple times, police say.

Xavier Rubio was pronounced dead at the

scene.

Ruben Rubio was transported to Ben Taub General Hospital with nonlife-threatening injuries.

Franklin attended Dobie during the 2005-2006 academic year, after transferring from Louisiana, according to Pasadena Independent School District spokeswoman Candace Ahlfinger. The following year, Franklin transferred to South Houston High School, Ahlfinger said.

Anyone with information on Franklin's whereabouts is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Resident accidentally shoots self

A Sagemeadow resident is alive and in stable condition after accidentally shooting himself in the face the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 26.

Multiple units, including the Harris County Sheriff's office, paramedics and fire department officials responded to a report of a gunshot in the 11200 block of Sageyork near Sagemeadow Park at roughly 1 p.m.

Responders arrived to discover that homeowner Jackie Miller, 55, was sitting in a puddle of blood with a gunshot to the chin and a discharged .40-caliber bullet nearby in the room.

Although county homicide detectives attempt-

ed to question Miller at the residence, he was unresponsive and was transported by ambulance to the trauma center at Ben Taub General Hospital for treatment.

Once Miller regained consciousness at the hospital, he told investigators the shooting was unintentional and that his gun had accidentally discharged as he was cleaning it, striking him in the face, according to Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn.

The *Leader* received multiple calls and e-mails about the incident, as the scene was taped off for several hours while the shooting was investigated.

Early city runoff voting begins

Early voting for the Dec. 10 City of Houston runoff elections is under way and will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 6.

South Belt voters will play a role in deciding who will fill the At-Large Position 2 and At-Large Position 5 City Council seats.

Vying for the At-Large Position 2 seat are former District 133 state Rep. Kristi Thibaut and Andrew C. Burks Jr., founder of a telephone service company and a pastor. Burks, 60, has run for Council on four other occasions.

In the general election, Burks received 17.3 percent of the vote (17,512 total votes) to Thibaut's 15.6 percent of the vote (15,808 total votes).

At-Large Position 5 incumbent Jolanda "Jo" Jones, an attorney and former track star, is being challenged by Jack Christie, a chiropractor and

former Texas State Board of Education chairman.

Jones, who has dodged multiple allegations of ethics violations this past year, received 39.1 percent of the vote (42,386 total votes) in the general election to Christie's 32.8 percent of the vote (35,600 total votes).

Early voting locations closest to the South Belt community are the Freeman branch library at 16616 Diana Lane in the Clear Lake area and the Houston Community College Southeast Campus Learning Hub at 6815 Rustic, Building D, in the Gulfgate area.

Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Dec. 1 to Dec. 3; 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 5 and Dec. 6.

For more information or to view a sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

El Franco Lee visits San Jac



Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner and San Jacinto College alumnus El Franco Lee (second from left) was one of several speakers at the SJC Summit on Community Colleges on Friday, Nov. 18. Sponsored by Alpha Gamma Zeta, the San Jacinto College chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society, the function featured alumni from the school telling students the importance of obtaining an associate degree or technical certification and the effect that the area college had on their professional careers. Lee, who attended San Jacinto College from 1968 to 1970, has served 26 years as commissioner and will soon file for his eighth consecutive term. Lee recalls fond memories of his time as a SJC student. "I was provided the opportunity to gain exceptional academic training from a well-respected community college with an affordable tuition and user-friendly campus," he commented. "Also, I was very fortunate to meet classmates where we formed friendships that remain in full force to this day." Lee chose San Jacinto College because of positive word-of-mouth advertising. "I had heard good things about San Jac from friends who had attended the college as well as adult mentors," he said. "SJC has always been known for its affordability, quality curriculum, and instructors." Other San Jac alumni speaking at the function included PTK Executive Director Rod Risley, Snead State Community College President Robert Exley and Galveston County Tax Assessor Cheryl Johnson. Shown with Lee are, left to right, South Campus PTK President Ivan Quinones, South Campus Business Professor Susan Eason and South Campus Government Professor John Bolen.

BHI cheer shines



The Beverly Hills Intermediate cheerleaders continue to shine this year after a great season that kicked off with a district win of "Camp Dance Champs" at this year's Pasadena Independent School District summer cheer camp. BHI cheerleaders pictured are, left to right, (front row) Andrea Cahue, Rubby Moran, (back row) Dejanise Pradia, Ashley Hicks, Keuhna Bailey, Ashley Salinas, Katrina Herazo, Ikea Taylor and Angelika Martin (sponsor). Photo submitted

Houston Police Dept. offers holiday safety reminders

In an effort to help make this the safest of holiday seasons, the Houston Police Department encourages citizens to pay particular attention to their surroundings during the holidays.

Police offer the following holiday safety tips while shopping:

- Stay alert to the surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend whenever possible. There is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card.
- If possible, carry only a driver's license, necessary credit cards or personal checks.
- If a purse must be carried, do not wrap straps around arms or shoulders. This could risk injury from a would-be purse-snatcher.
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket.
- When possible, slip bags/purchases in a nondescript bag(s).
- Watch all purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags can be easily snatched.
- Have car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.
- Ask shopping center security for an escort to car if uncomfortable walking alone.
- Glance in the back seat and under the vehicle before getting in.
- While at home during the holiday:
 - Keep the outside of the home well lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
 - Do not display gifts beneath the Christmas tree to be seen from windows or doors.
 - After the holidays, do not advertise gifts received by the boxes left for garbage collection.
 - Destroy boxes and place them in sealed garbage bags.

Students and alumni gather for community college summit

San Jacinto College students and alumni recently gathered for the SJC Summit on Community Colleges held at the South campus.

The South campus Alpha Gamma Zeta chapter of national honor society Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) organized the event in an effort to support President Obama's goal of having the best-educated, most competitive workforce in the world by 2020.

PTK Executive Director Dr. Rod Risley, Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee, Snead State Community College President Dr. Robert Exley, and Galveston County Tax Assessor Cheryl Johnson served as SJC alumni guest speakers, telling guests about their experiences at SJC through the years, how ob-



SJC alumni guest speakers Dr. Robert Exley (left) and Dr. Rod Risley (right) join SJC Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer (center) at the SJC Summit on Community Colleges. Photo by Andrea Vasquez

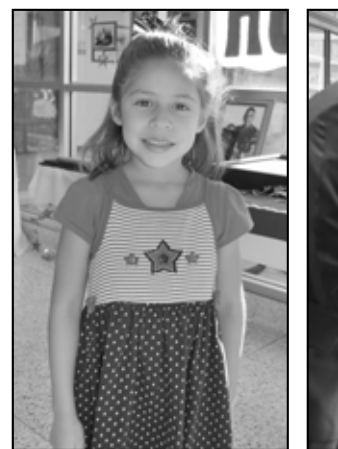
Olson honors astronauts

Rep. Pete Olson, R-Sugar Land, recently joined in the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony to honor astronauts John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin. The Gold Medal represents Congress's highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

Olson stated, "These four great men made a tremendous impact on America's history. They were pioneers, and their dedication to human space flight and fearless pursuit of the unknown still inspires this nation. Their contributions to American exceptionalism cannot be underestimated. It's a privilege to congratulate them on earning the highest congressional honor. These men are role models for future generations of explorers and scientists who will rise to the challenge and get America back in space."

Congress approved the New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act in July 2009 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing.

Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth, achieving the feat onboard Friendship 7 on Feb. 20, 1962. On July 20, 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon, while Collins piloted Apollo 11's command module. All four have received the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded with distinction. A complete list of Gold Medal recipients is available at House.gov.



Leyla Salazar dressed in patriotic colors in support of veterans.

Atkinson honors veterans

Atkinson Elementary recently held a Veterans Day program dedicated to current and past members of the armed forces. The fourth-grade choir sang patriotic songs to the staff, students and special guests, members of the armed forces of the United States.

At left, kindergartner Zoey Zaragoza and her uncle, Mike DelRosa, enjoyed spending time together during the program.

Photos submitted



Fourth-grader Corbin Sherwood greets a serviceman as he arrives at the program.

Chancellor's contract renewed

Dr. Brenda Hellyer has served as San Jacinto College Chancellor for more than two years, and the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees recently approved a contract extension through 2014.

"The board is very pleased to announce the extension of Dr. Hellyer's contract," said Marie Flickinger, chair of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees. "Her annual evaluation resulted in the highest rating given employees. Despite the rough financial time all community colleges in Texas are facing, her leadership has been focused on maintaining the college's strong fiscal position while aggressively progressing the college's strategic goals, especially those focused on increasing student success. The board could not be more pleased with her leadership, achievements, and dedication to San Jacinto College."

Through a college-wide focus on student success, San Jacinto College continues to be a leader in higher education in the region and throughout the state. This has been evidenced with Hellyer's participation on high-profile committees including the Center for Houston's Future Talent Dividend effort, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Council for Continuous Improvement in Higher Education, and the American Association of Community Colleges' Academic, Student, and Community Development Commission.

Among the many accomplishments over the last year are the full implementation of the college's performance management system for staff and faculty; the recognition of San Jacinto College as an Achieving the Dream Leader College; the continuation of a \$295 million bond construction program; implementation of a mandatory student success course; achieving a balanced college budget during one of the most difficult legislative sessions and extensive budget cuts received in recent years; and eliminating late registration along with introducing a "pay-as-you-go" policy to manage enrollment.

Hellyer is a strong advocate for expanding and strengthening partnerships throughout the community, and during the past year she has worked closely with the Port of Houston, Houston Pilots Association, East Harris County Manufacturers Association, Economic Alliance of the Houston Port Region, and the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Additionally, expanded community partnerships have resulted in the creation of an early college high school with Pasadena Independent School District and a San Jacinto College Center with La Porte Independent School District.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, Hellyer and her Strategic Leadership Team completed the implementation of an accountability-based performance management system for all employees, a top priority for the Board of Trustees. The key guideline of this system aligns each employee's annual performance plan to the college's annual priorities. After a pilot year the previous year, and revisions to the system based on employee feedback, the performance management system is now in place college-wide, and is a process that Hellyer herself goes through at the end of the year.

San Jacinto College received Achieving the Dream Leader College status last month, a designation that identifies SJC as a leader in the completion agenda. Under Hellyer's guidance, San Jac increased fall-to-spring persistence from 73 percent in 2007 to 78 percent in 2010 through a combination of interventions including the First Year Experience Calling Program, Mandatory New Student Orientation, a student success course, free tutoring, and the Men of Honor program. Overall, these efforts reached 27 percent of students.

This past year, San Jac broke ground on five new buildings as part of the \$295 million bond construction program approved by voters in 2008. In addition, a state-of-the-art transportation center was opened at the Central campus, where U.S. Department of Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Administration Deputy Administrator Gregory Winfree served as guest speaker.

Hellyer has been intimately involved in the planning of these new facilities that will enable San Jacinto College to better serve its students, and provide more training opportunities in the areas of automotive technology, the sciences and allied health.

Finally, despite a challenging legislative session in which community college funding and budgets were significantly reduced, Hellyer remained committed to the college, its students and employees, and its community.

In working closely with the college's Strategic Leadership Team, Hellyer implemented a multi-faceted plan that sustained achievement of the college's strategic goals, minimized the impact on students, preserved jobs, and maintained employee productivity.

The four-step strategy included a cost-savings program which was implemented in April, 2011; future savings suggestions that were solicited from students and employees; a voluntary separation and severance plan for those employees who may have been considering retirement, a career change, or a different career path; and, a college-wide reorganization that allowed redeployment and restructuring to gain greater efficiencies in several areas.

The college was able to manage the budget challenge without laying off employees, raising tuition, and by maintaining its effective tax rate.

Hellyer began her work with San Jacinto College in 1996 as a board member for the San Jacinto College Foundation. She then went on to serve as the executive vice president of the San Jacinto College Foundation for three years before being named vice chancellor of fiscal affairs. In June 2007, upon the announcement of then-Chancellor Dr. Bill Lindemann's retirement, the board of trustees named Hellyer as the sole finalist for the chancellor position.

A licensed CPA, Hellyer holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Fort Hays State University in Kansas and two degrees from the University of Texas in Austin - an MBA and an Ed.D. in community college leadership. She is married with three children and three grandchildren.

When asked about her first two years, Hellyer responded, "I have the best job because of the incredible community that surrounds and supports San Jacinto College and because of committed employees. Each person employed at the college realizes that we play a critical role in the economic vitality of this region. Our work is important and our challenges are actually opportunities in how to better achieve our mission and serve our students. San Jacinto College is committed to our current and future students by helping them achieve their postsecondary educational goals. We are committed to excellence!"

Interfaith Care Partners meet

Interfaith Care Partners ministry will meet in the Mother Cabrini Center at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St. in Houston on Friday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The gathering for persons with Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, strokes and similar disabilities and their caretakers is provided on the third Friday of each month. It consists of a continental breakfast, arts and crafts, exercises, entertainment, devotional break, lunch, and ends with a bingo game. Those who have a family member or know of someone with these challenges, are welcome to attend.

For more information, call the church office at 713-946-5768 or Claudia Rojas at 713-682-5995, or visit the website at interfaithcarepartners.org.

Deaths

Elizabeth S. Derrick



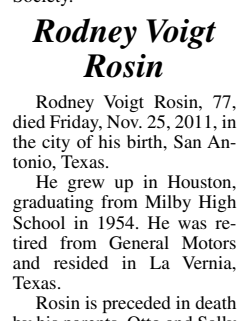
Elizabeth S. Derrick, 92, died on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

Derrick is preceded in death by her husband of more than 50 years, Laurence J. Derrick; son Laurence Van Derrick; four sisters; and three brothers.

She is survived by her brother, Dean Williams and wife Lynn; son Clay Derrick and wife Polly of South Belt; daughter Elizabeth Sheets and husband Ralph; grandchildren: Rhonda Franke, Timothy Cadwell, Randy Cadwell, Sara Michelle Eakin and Jason Derrick; great-grandchildren: Kristine Franke, Matthew Franke, Cody Franke, Amanda Cadwell Palacios, Brandon Cadwell, Jennifer Cadwell, Rachael Cadwell, Gracie Cadwell, Caleb Cadwell, Jasper Derrick and Max Eakin; and great-great-grandson Christopher Palacios.

The family will receive friends Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at 1 p.m. with the funeral service at 2 p.m. at the Forest Park Lawndale Family Chapel, 6900 Lawndale in Houston. Interment will follow at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

Linda Annette Shotwell



Linda Annette Shotwell, 57, of Alvin, died Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011. She was born on March 7, 1954, in Hollywood, Fla.

She moved to Houston with her family in 1959 and grew up in Southeast Houston and Pearland. She attended Alvin High School.

Shotwell is preceded in death by her mother and stepfather, Louise and Kenneth Bingham; father William A. Shotwell; and brother John Shotwell.

She is survived by her brother, Bill Shotwell of Santa Fe; sister Donna Bullard and husband David of South Belt; and her little companion, "Miss Lula."

Leader obituary policy

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

San Jac rings in the holidays with Santa's Christmas Magic

San Jacinto College Central's theater and film department rings in the holiday season with its annual festive production of *Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical*.

The "family celebration spectacular" will be performed in the Powell Arena Theatre, located on the Central campus at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

Performances are set for Dec. 1, 2 and 3 and Dec. 8, 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 4 and 11 at 2:30 p.m. A special matinee will be performed for area schools and day cares on Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical is a fantasy about a sinister plot to steal Santa's magic. The cast includes male and female actors, as well as singers and dancers from ages 5 to adult.

Highlights of the show include toys that come alive and dance and sing, and singing children elves.

Children in the audience will have an opportunity to visit with Santa Claus at intermission.

The cost for general admission is \$10 per person. Tickets bought and picked up at least two days before the show are \$8 each. For reservations, call 281-476-1828.

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South Belt releases first nine-weeks rolls

South Belt Elementary recently announced its honor, merit and perfect attendance rolls for the first nine-weeks grading period. Students earning status are:

Kindergarten Math Whiz

Cienna Adam, Aaron Aguilar, Mercedes Borjas, Aidan Brown, Cody Carter, Austin Corwin, Jacob Dunlap, Ariana Garza, Devin Garza, Kameron Gilliland, Colten Gilmore, Lydia Golenko, Diego Gonzales, Genesis Guerra and Ashton Hampton.

Antonio Hernandez, Ezequiel Hernandez, Jose Hernandez, Kara Hungaski, Aidan Johnson, Makayla Johnson, Avery Jones, Di K. Dao, Charles Lacy, Cameron Mathews, Madeline Medina, Hailey Mendiola, An Ngo and Kailee Nguyen.

Joseph Ortiz-Ramirez, Jacqueline Peralta, Kevin Pino, Mia Ramirez, Gerrell Reed, Mandilyn Riley, Devin Rios, Gustavo Salinas, Aliyah Sanchez, Malcolm Sherwood, Juliana Tavera, Caleb Thomas, Mathew Vu, Hannah White and Jaidan Wright.

Language Art Star

Cienna Adam, Aaron Aguilar, Julian Arredondo, Mercedes Borjas, Aidan Brown, Cody Carter, Angel Cavazos, Austin Corwin, Jacob Dunlap, Ariana Garza, Devin Garza, Kameron Gilliland, Colten Gilmore and Lydia Golenko.

Diego Gonzalez, Genesis Guerra, Ashton Hampton, Antonio Hernandez, Jose Hernandez, Kara Hungaski, Aidan Johnson, Makayla Johnson, Avery Jones, Di K. Dao, Charles Lacy, Mayte Marfil, Cameron Mathews and Hailey Mendiola.

An Ngo, Kailee Nguyen, Joseph Ortiz-Ramirez, Devin Pino, Mandilyn Riley, Angelina Rios, Devin Rios, Gustavo Salinas, Aliyah Sanchez, Malcolm Sherwood, Celissa Steans, Juliana Tavera, Caleb Thomas, Mathew Vu, Hannah White and Amar Wilridge.

Honor, Merit roll

Mikel Baskerville, Zoe Espinoza, Torie Fox, Quynh Ky, Rachael Le, Roselynn Molina, Michael Montano, Victoria Ortiz-Ramirez, Trinity Parker, Patrick Perez, Nathan Pinon, Thalia Tabarez, Thien Y. Tran, Stephen Wiggins and Savannah Woods.

Perfect attendance

Cienna Adams, Julian Arredondo, Austin Corwin, Calvin Dam, Jacob Dunlap, Zoe Espinoza, Ariana Garza, Diego Gonzalez, Genesis Guerra, Jose Hernandez and Makayla Johnson.

Avery Jones, Quynh Ky, Charles Lacy, Kyla Lobo, Mayte Marfil, Kailee Nguyen, Felicity Padilla, Patrick Perez, Kevin Pino, Mandilyn Riley and Gustavo Salinas.

Aliyah Sanchez, Malcolm Sherwood, Celissa Steans, Thalia Tabarez, Valentin Trae Bernal, Thien Y. Tran, Mathew Vu, Savannah Woods and Jaidan Wright.

Helping Hands

Jacob Aguirre, Angel Cavazos, Ariana Garza, Adian Johnson, Avery Jones, Quynh Ky, Layla Ochoa and Malcolm

First grade Honor roll

Mia Alexander, Michael Alvarez, Leanna Ancira, Abdelrahman Asafteh, Rabab Asif, Saad Bhatti, Kaitlyn Campos, Kaleb Campos, Alexa Cavazos, Thomas Cook, Alexander Couchman, Victoria Couchman, Cecilia Dale and Colin Dang.

Jenny Do, Adison Galloway, Cameron Galloway, Noah Garcia, Systine Garcia, Swazi Gurnell, Emma Hernandez, Kaiden Hills, Daisy Irwin, Ian Johnson, Justice Johnson, Rayyan Khan, Aidan Liniger, Ivann Longoria and Natalia Martinez.

Celeste McBride, Danielle Mendiola, Yulia Meza, Connor Mohwinkel, Marcus Momie, Anthony Morin, Melody Nabi, Demah Naser, Kelly Nguyen, Ryan Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Dominic Ortiz and Cole Palermo.

Jeremiah Palma, Bella Perez, Nicholas Ponce, Thessaly Quintana, Logan Riley, Christian Schmidt, Mable Self, Caden Spiller, Anni Tran, Alisa Vargas, Christian Vega, Taya Williams, Lorelei Winnick and Antony Zavala.

Merit roll

Sidney Armstrong, Kamilya Collins, Isair Corona, Kaden Fernandez, Noah Gaytan, Shantay Jones, Tevin Massie, Matthew Mendiola, Tyler Nguyen, Juliana Pruneda, Asher Ridge, Fynnlan Ridge, Kenzie Snook, Alexis Stewart, Yvonne Thai, Robert Villatoro and Kiet Vo.

Perfect attendance

Mia Alexander, Ranyia Allen, Michael Alvarez, Torion Arminlin, Daylan Boone, Conlie Christmas, Kamilya Collins, Thomas Cook, Isair Corona, Alexander Couchman, Victoria Couchman, Cecilia Dale, Colin Dang and Kaden Fernandez.

Blake Flower, Lizette Fonseca, Adison Galloway, Cameron Galloway, Noah Gaytan, Jacque Giron, Faith Gonzalez, Swazi Gurnell, Jacob Hernandez, Madeline Hernandez, Kaiden Hills, Lara Huynh, Daisy Irwin and Shantay Jones.

Shantee Jones, Blake King, Tevin Massie, Celeste McBride, Javier McCoy, Nathan Mena, Connor Mohwinkel, Marcus Momie, Alena Morin, Kelly Nguyen, Troy Nguyen, Tyler Nguyen, Dominic Ortiz, Atoria Parker and Bella Perez.

Good Citizen

Alexa Cavazos, Conlie Christmas, Colin Dang, Adison Galloway, Faith Gonzalez, Ian Johnson, Justice Johnson, Shantee Jones, Rayyan Khan, Celeste McBride, Nicholas Ponce, Christian Schmidt, Yvonne Thai and

Christian Vega, Principal's Award

Mia Alexander, Ranyia Allen, Michael Alvarez, Leanna Ancira, Sidney Armstrong, Gabby Arredondo, Abdelrahman Asafteh, Rabab Asif, Kayla Belle, Andrew Cabrales, Kaitlyn Campos, Kaleb Campos, Alexa Cavazos and Aidan Ceditillo.

Conlie Christmas, Thomas Cook, Alexander Couchman, Victoria Couchman, Cecilia Dale, Colin Dang, Jenny Do, Kaden Fernandez, Lizette Fonseca, Adison Galloway, Cameron Galloway, Noah Garcia, Systine Garcia and Kimberly Garza.

Michael Gaynor, Noah Gaytan, Jacque Giron, Faith Gonzalez, Jamorion Gray, Swazi Gurnell, Emma Hernandez, Jacob Hernandez, Lara Huynh, Akira Jack, Ian Johnson, Justice Johnson, Shantee Jones, Rayyan Khan, Blake King and Caleb Loredo.

Caidence Martin, Natalia Martinez, Nathan Mena, Danielle Mendiola, Matthew Mendiola, Yulia Meza, Connor Mohwinkel, Marcus Momie, Alena Morin, Anthony Morin, Hoang Nguyen, Kelly Nguyen, Ryan Nguyen and Steven Nguyen.

Troy Nguyen, Dominic Ortiz, Janice Padilla, Cole Palermo, Jeremiah Palma, Bella Perez, Nicholas Ponce, Thessaly Quintana, Justin Rhoden, Daniel Rice, Asher Ridge, Fynnlan Ridge, Adrian Rios, Alexander Rios and Manuel Rodriguez.

Sadie Roessler, Bryce Russell, Mable Self, Kenzie Snook, Ava Soza, Caden Spiller, Hanna Stevens, Yvonne Thai, Anni Tran, Alisa Vargas, Brianna Vasquez, Christian Vega, Luis Villarreal, Robert Villatoro, Taya Williams, Lorelei Winnick and Antony Zavala.

Second grade Honor roll

Alana Arrington, Zaynab Asafteh, Keegan Ashworth, Andre Barrientos, Rhiannon Barron, Aaron Begazo, Michelle Blanchard, Madison Cai, Makenzie Castillo, Matthew Collins, Di Dao and Cameron Galloway.

Joseph Garza, Emily Gonzalez, Alaina Hampton, Katelyn Hernandez, Niklas Hernandez, Madison Hoop, Anh Ky, Jocelyn Limon, Christian Medina, Diego Melchor, Marcus Momie and Xavier Musquiz.

Kelly Nguyen, Jeremiah Palma, Keith Parker, Megan Rodriguez, Kennedy Scimmions, Dominic Serna, Kenzie Snook, Brianna Toro, Diego Torres, Londa Wiggins and Taya Williams.

Merit roll

Jorge Arredondo, Ava Ayala, Jayden Balderaz, Brandon Cates, Jaxon Efrid, Kaden Fernandez, Leslie Hernandez, Kevin Lewis, Matthew Mendiola, Katelyn Mendoza, Avry Munoz, Corey Reyes, Asher Ridge, Ryan Saxton, Kal Self, Kenzie Snook and Abby Whitley.

Perfect attendance
Alyssa Alvarado, Abraham Amaro-Diaz, Jorge Arredondo, Alana Arrington, Keegan Ashworth, Jayden Balderaz, Andre Barrientos, Rhiannon Barron, Michelle Blanchard, D'Aisha Bob, Jeremiah Bradley, Madison Cai, Brandon Cates and Alyssa Chapman.

Conlie Christmas, Di Dao, Jaxon Efrid, Kaden Fernandez, Cameron Galloway, Vincent Gonzales, Emily Gonzalez, Faith Gonzalez, Xavier Gutierrez, Isaac Haimes, Elijah Hernandez, Katelyn Hernandez, Leslie Hernandez and Sy'mora Holt.

Madison Hoop, Kadin Hosein, Lara Huynh, Ja'Ceii Jones, Anh Ky, Quincy Leadon, Jocelyn Limon, Cory'on Matthews, Javier McCoy, Diego Melchor, Katelyn Mendoza, Kenneth Merritt and Marcus Momie.

Avry Munoz, Xavier Musquiz, Devin Ngo, Kelly Nguyen, Colby Reed, Asher Ridge, Adrian Rios, Ryan Saxton, Kennedy Scimmions, Kal Self, Dominic Serna, Wyatt Sherwood, Kendon

Smith and Kenzie Snook, Good Citizen

Kielee Snook, Kemi Star Alade, Brianna Toro, Derrick Turner, Fernando Villarreal, Luis Villarreal, Vincent Vo and Taya Williams.

Jasmine Bethely, Conlie Christmas, Dia Dao, Faith Gonzalez, Johnathan Guerrero, Anh Ky, Katelyn Mendoza, Gentry Perez, Kielee Snook and Vincent Vo.

Alyssa Alvarado, Abraham Amaro-Diaz, Jorge Arredondo, Zaynab Asafteh, Keegan Ashworth, Ava Ayala, Gael Barrera, Andre Barrientos, Rhiannon Barron, Aaron Begazo, Jasmine Bethely, Michelle Blanchard, D'Aisha Bob and Jeremiah Bradley.

Madison Cai, Makenzie Castillo, Brandon Cates, Izabella Cavazos, Alyssa Chapman, Conlie Christmas, Terrilyn Claiborne, Matthew Collins, Dia Dao, Jaxon Efrid, Kaden Fernandez, Jacob Fuentes, Cameron Galloway and Vincent Gonzales.

Emily Gonzalez, Faith Gonzalez, Johnathan Guerrero, Alaina Hampton, Elijah Hernandez, Leslie Hernandez, Niklas Hernandez, Katelyn Hernandez, Sy'mora Holt, Kadin Hosein, Lara Huynh and Akira Jack.

Isaac Jaimes, Mandy Le, Quincy Leadon, Joseph Limon, Caidence Martin, Adrian Martinez, Mazen Massoud, Christian Medina, Matthew Mendiola, Katelyn Mendoza, Kenneth Merritt and Marcus Momie.

Avry Munoz, Xavier Musquiz, Devin Ngo, Kelly Nguyen, Jeremiah Palma, Gentry Perez, Colby Reed, Corey Reyes, Asher Ridge, Adrian Rios, Megan Rodriguez, Bryce Sanchez, Ryan Saxton and Kennedy Scimmions.

Kal Self, Dominic Serna, Kenzie Snook, Kielee Snook, Brianna Toro, Diego Torres, Fernando Villarreal, Luis Villarreal, Vincent Vo, Zaire Walker, Abby Whitley, Londa Wiggins and Taya Williams.

Third grade Honor roll

Matthew Campos, Devyn Cook, Jacob Flores, A.J. Garcia, Alonso Garza, Lily Gutierrez, Jordan Hayes, Karisa Hernandez, Anissa Howard, Jonathan Jean, Reagan Jones, Jose Martinez and Erin Maslonka.

Janah Naser, Albert Nguyen, Duy Nguyen, Jacob Perez, Morgan Pytka, Dimitri Rios, Elliot Spiller, Michael Vo, Nate Wallace, Zachary Wallace, Alise Williams, Garrett Winnick and Bella Woernley.

Merit roll

Kaitlyn Bess, Heaven Cadena, Leah De Hoyos, Laura Diaz, Wesley Godwin, Emily Gonzalez, Thomas Herrera, Savannah Herring, Brooklynn Lathan, Victoria Lazo, Robert Montano, Christina Moses, Alexis Nguyen, Trishta Nguyen, Austin Rhoden, Ryan Roppolo, Arianna Soza, Alyssa Toro and Daqari Tuckson.

Perfect attendance

Cheyenne Alexander, Joseph Allen, Lylah Arredondo, Kaitlyn Bess, Tierra Bickems, Matthew Campos, Jaydon Carter, Luke Castillo, Devyn Cook, Ricky De La Fuente, Jade Derobles, Laura Diaz, Alex Enriquez, Jacob Flores, A.J. Garcia and Alonso Garza.

Luke Giron, Wesley Godwin, Clayton Goforth, Lazarus Gonzalez, Jeremy Gutierrez, Carl Harris, Jordan Hayes, Savannah Herring, Jonathan Jean, Miciah Jones, Brooklynn Lathan, Victoria Lazo, Adrian

Lopez, Alex Lopez, Jose Martinez and Erin Maslonka, Good Citizen

Taurean Millien, Robert Montano, Albert Nguyen, Alexis Nguyen, Duy Nguyen, Trishta Nguyen, Justin Padilla, Damian Parton, Mary Pham, Austin Rhoden, Brandon Salinas, Christian Sauter and Arianna Soza.

Elliot Spiller, Ruth Tabarez, Marquise Terry, Alyssa Toro, Marco Torres, Michael Vo, Nate Wallace, Zach Wallace, Alise Williams, Garrett Winnick, Bella Woernley, Key'ana Yanney and Enlai Yui.

Good Citizen

Lylah Arredondo, Mason Banhart, Luke Giron, Emily Gonzalez, Karisa Hernandez, Miciah Jones, Reagan Jones, Jose Martinez, Austin Rhoden and Enlai Yui.

Principal's Award

Zariah Aguilar, Cheyenne Alexander, Mason Banhart, Kaitlyn Bess, Tierra Bickems, Ayanna Brooks, Heaven Cadena, Matthew Campos, Matthew Campuzano, Jacob Carter, Luke Castillo, Moises Cisneros, Devyn Cook and Leah De Hoyos.

Ricky De La Fuente, Jade Derobles, Laura Diaz, Raven Finister, Jacob Flores, A.J. Garcia, Alonso Garza, Emman Ghunem, Luke Giron, Megan Godeke, Wesley Godwin, Emily Gonzalez, Lazarus Gonzalez, Valerie Gonzalez and Lily Gutierrez.

Carl Harris, Jordan Hayes, Karisa Hernandez, Thomas Hernandez, Savannah Herring, Miciah Hones, Anissa Howard, Jonathan Jean, Reagan Jones, Brooklynn Lathan, Victoria Lazo, Adrian Lopez, Alex Lopez, Jose Martinez and Erin Maslonka.

Kristene Mena, Taurean Millien, Christina Moses, Janah Naser, Albert Nguyen, Alexis Nguyen, Duy Nguyen, Trishta Nguyen, Justin Padilla, Jasmine Peralta, Jacob Perez, Christian Perkins, Mary Pham, Morgan Pytka, Amya Ray, Isaac Real, Kyle Redmon and Austin Rhoden.

Dimitri Rios, Ryan Roppolo, Isaac Salazar, Brandon Salinas, Christian Sauter, Lily Simons, Kaitlin Skidmore, Tristan Soria, Elliot Spiller, Ruth Tabarez, Alyssa Tori, Everett Triplette, Daquari Tuckson, Michael Vo, Alise Williams, Garrett Winnick, Bella Woernley, Ariana Xayadeth and Enlai Yui.

Fourth grade Honor roll

Angel Aguilar, Nathan Ancira, David Benavides, Yenny Bui, Sophia Colmenares, Bailee Dang, Alex Dhuperior, Annette Eonne, Alejandra Gracias, Tyler Guth, Shaniah Humphrey, Vivian Luu, Eloy Sanchez, Alyssa Sarabia, Samatha Schroder, Kobe Thompson, Jordan Tran, Angela Vu, Mary Vu and Zoey Whitley.

Merit roll

Brittany Aguilar, Briana Andrade, Jacqueline Arrington, Olga Cisneros, Jacob Efrid, Noah Gonzales, Jaylen Gonzalez, Kayla Guajardo, Abigail Hogan, Faith Johnson, D'untre Miller, Alexis Mottu, Hallie Nelms, Alysa Tamez, Isaiah Trevino and Erin Woodard.

Perfect attendance

Brittany Aguilar, Ashley Amaro, Zavier Armelin, Colby Arnold, Jacqueline Arrington, David Benavides, Joshua Bickers, Justin Blogg, Yenny Bui, Daijia Carter, Diego Cerda, Sophia Colmenares, Nicolas Cook, Shelby Couchman and Bailee Dang.

Jacob Efrid, Malynda Ellis, Annette Eonne, Efosa Ewansha, Mikayla Gutierrez, Continued on Page 6A

Role models named at Meador



Good character is an important quality at Meador Elementary School. Faculty and staff expect the third- and fourth-graders to be good role models for the younger students. Third- and fourth-graders nominated for the Good Character Award for the first nine weeks are pictured with Counselor Tara Merida. They are, (front row) Angela Torres, Alexandra Navarretter, Brianna Gomez, Daniela Torres, Gizelle Cardona, Devin Richard, (back row) Merida, Julisa Cruz, Christopher Walker, Ruben Guerra, Ricky Bailey and Daniel Ortega. Photo submitted

SJCS sets fine arts holiday performances

The San Jacinto College South campus is gearing up for the holiday season with upcoming fine arts performances.

Opening the campus' fine arts holiday schedule is the Guitar Ensemble led by South campus music professor Jeremy Garcia. An Evening of Guitar will be held on Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Proscenium Theatre.

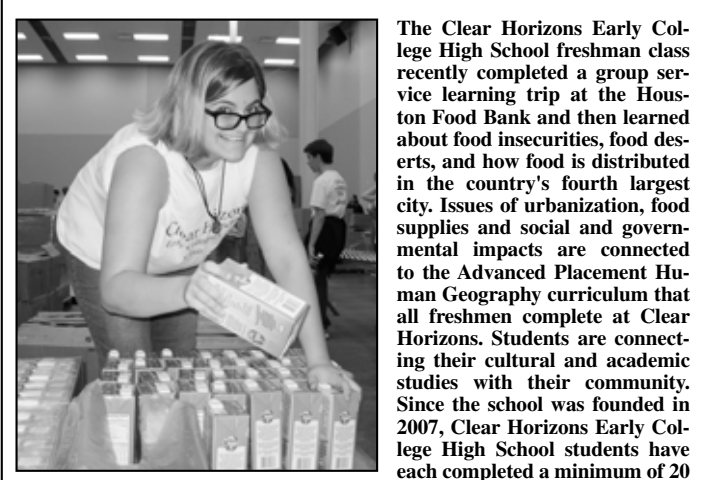
The South campus theater department gives a unique twist to the classic Christmas film, *It's a Wonderful Life*. It's Christmas Eve 1945, and only a handful of radio actors have braved the blizzard to perform that evening's broadcast of *It's a Wonderful Life* to keep the radio station afloat.

In this imaginative reincarnation of a cherished holiday tradition, audiences will fall in love with George Bailey and his timeless tale of despair, redemption and hope all over again. *It's a Wonderful Life* runs Dec. 8 through Dec. 10 with curtain at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 11, with curtain at 2 p.m. No late seating will be available. Tickets are \$5 for regular admission, and \$3 for senior citizens. All performances are held in the Black Box Theatre.

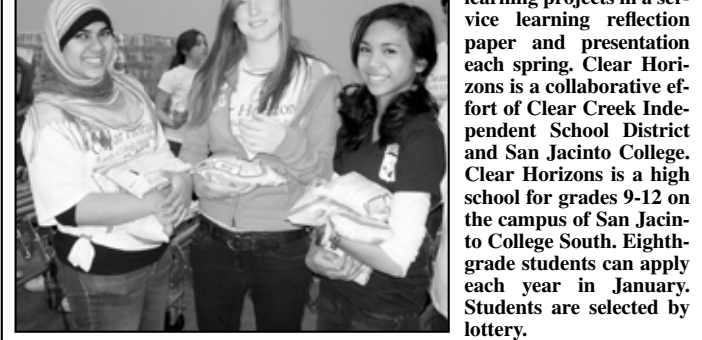
The campus choir will also host two concerts in celebration of the holiday season. Audiences will enjoy a selection of traditional holiday music including two pieces from Vivaldi's *Gloria* as well as Handel's *Hallelujah* from the classic oratorio *Messiah*. Some pieces will also be accompanied by a small orchestra. The Christmas choir concerts will be held on Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free with donations accepted. Both performances will be held in the Marie Spence

Fllickinger Fine Arts Center on the South campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road. For more information on SJC fine arts events, seating reservations, or donation opportunities, call 281-998-6150 or visit arts.sanjac.edu.

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Alina Mughal, Katie Burke and Celeste Tanega



Solomon Scurry, Joshua Zamarron and Leartis DuBose

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LEGAL NOTICE

Homeowner Committee Election

The Sagameedoo Maintenance Committee will hold its annual election for a seat on the subdivision's Board of Directors on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011. The election will be at the Utility District building at the corner of Hall Road and Blackhawk Blvd. from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. Homeowners, in good standing on their maintenance fees, are eligible to vote. Proof of home ownership or a driver's license is required for identification.

Moore teaches technology

This year, Moore Elementary decided to hold monthly Community Nights for parents and students. In November, parents and students met to learn about programs and curriculum at the school, and also how to integrate technology at home using apps on iPads, iPods and cell phones, and using the school website.

At right: Left to right, Arman Ullah, Syed Arsalan, Zainah Arsalan, Xavier Lowtan, Stephen Lowtan, Taven, Taylor Tran and Tom Tran listen quietly. Below: Mayra, Nancy and Miguel Bazaldua. Photos submitted



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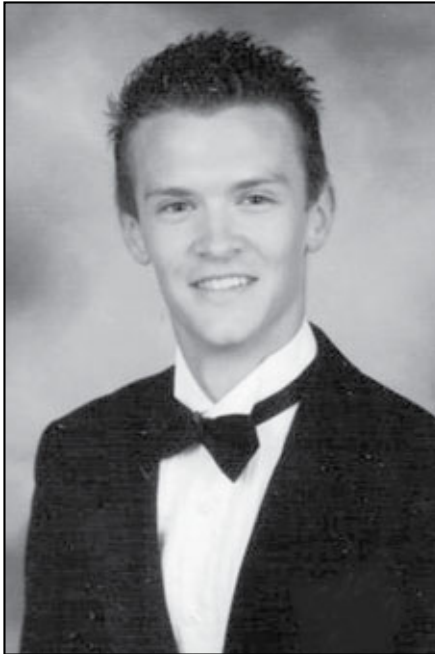
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Scarberry composes piece for Brass Choir



Tyler Scarberry, a 2010 J. Frank Dobie High School graduate, was recently chosen to compose a musical piece for the Sam Houston State University Brass Choir to perform at a concert on Nov. 11. Scarberry was acknowledged at the performance, and a short biography and story about the composition, *Diamond in the Rough*, was displayed in the concert program. At Dobie, Scarberry was a four-year member of the Longhorn Marching Band, earning the title of drum major his junior and senior years. He was also a bassoonist in the Wind Ensemble. He is currently a sophomore at SHSU, majoring in music education. He is the son of longtime South Belt residents Robert and Jannie Scarberry, and the brother of Jenny Hayes Espinosa, Joseph Hayes, Stacey Hayes Flowers and Austin Scarberry, all Dobie graduates.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR FRANCES

Frances Valigura celebrates a birthday on Dec. 5. Best wishes are sent from husband Carl, children David and wife Katha, Donna and husband Gary, Deborah Lea, and Carl Wayne and wife LuAnn. Their 13 grandchildren and great-granddaughter Riley wish their beloved MeMaw the happiest of all birthdays with many more to come.

HAPPY 18TH DAVIN!

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Davin Velasquez who will turn 18 on Sunday, Dec. 4. Davin attends Dobie High School. Wishing him the greatest day are his parents, David and Sylvia Velasquez, and his brothers, Carlos and Nicklaus.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 1 through Dec. 7.

Burnett Elementary
Pam Fraser celebrates a birthday Dec.

1. On Dec. 5, Robert Hughes marks a birthday. The day for a party for Mary Davitt is Dec. 6. Birthday wishes are sent to Miriam Cordova Dec. 7.

Bush Elementary
The day for a cake for Erica Fernandez is Dec. 2. Dec. 7 is the day to celebrate another year for Mariel Mejia.

Frazier Elementary
A special birthday greeting is sent to Pam Williams Dec. 2.

Meador Elementary
Dec. 7 is the day for a celebration for Janet Armenta.

South Belt Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Carmen Castelan on Dec. 2. Kristi Vanzant has a birthday Dec. 7.

Morris Middle School
On Dec. 6, Josh Lovoi enjoys a birthday.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Dec. 5 is the day for a birthday cake for Jorly Thomas.

Thompson Intermediate

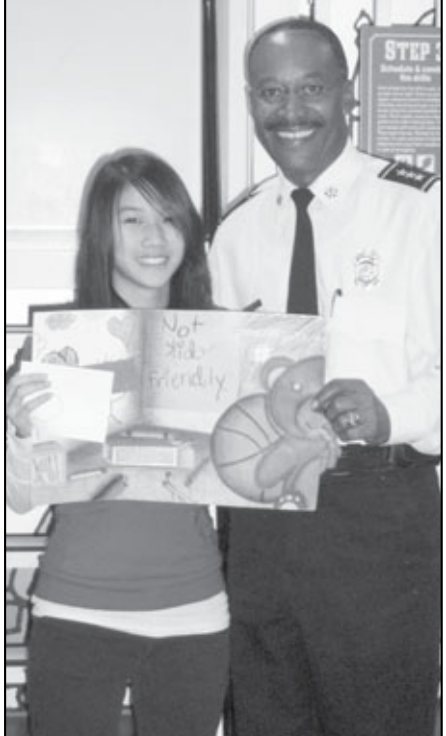
A birthday is celebrated by Maria Pena Dec. 2. Blow out the birthday candles for Sarah Librojo Dec. 5. On Dec. 7, birthday wishes are sent to Maria Ruiz.

Dobie High
Three cheers for a happy birthday are sent to Alba Gutierrez, Brenda Medellin and Sonja Mull who share a birthday Dec. 1. The day for a party for Martha Flores is Dec. 3. Double birthday greetings are sent to Joseph Horton and Jeanne Parlange Dec. 4. Celebrating a birthday Dec. 5 is Norma Castillo. Donna Branch has a birthday Dec. 6. Dec. 7 is the day for a party for Patricia Landrum.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

E-mail birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon to appear in the next week's publication.

Tran earns first place



Kim-Ngan "Michelle" Tran recently took first place in the eighth-grade division for the 37th annual Houston Fire Prevention Poster Contest. She was honored at an awards ceremony at the fire museum. Her work was displayed among the other winning artwork at the FireFest in October at the Houston Fire Department's Jahnke Training Academy near Hobby Airport. Pictured with Tran is HFD Executive Assistant Fire Chief Rick Flanagan. Photo submitted

Meador students say "no" to drugs, bullying

As part of National Bullying Awareness Month, the Omega Man and Friends Bully Prevention and Character Building assembly recently visited Meador Elementary. Students were encouraged to set goals, make healthy choices, and say "no" to drugs and bullying. Pictured at right are, left to right, Tara Merida (counselor), "Guardian" (Greg Lewis), Ricardo Camarillo, Delor Carrera, Ailene Rivera and Molly Savala (teacher).



Photos submitted

Anti-bullying art contest winners named



Meador held its first Stand Up to Bullying Art Contest. Students were taught to "Speak Up, Reach Out, and Be a Friend." Student and staff winners pictured are, left to right, (front row) Crystal Rothberg (staff winner), Javorre Stone, Savannah Brookland, Kaylana Pham, Nya Sanford, Sariyah Pickens, Rade'ja Lynch, Jeremy Miller (staff winner), (middle row) Abel Espinoza, Leandro Giles, Anthony Reyes, Miranda Gutierrez, Lizzette Jimenez, Cecilia Stewart (art liaison), (back row) Tara Merida (counselor), Zack Grocheske, Jhaila Mathews, Alaysia Foster, Nafi Islam and Robert Rodriguez.

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Congratulations, Jana Marie Valigura

Jana graduated from Sam Houston State University in August with a B.S. in Animal Science. A 2007 graduate of Friendswood H.S. and a San Jacinto College South alum, Jana now teaches Agricultural Science in Krum, TX. Jana's grandparents are Beverly Granger, and Carl and Frances Valigura of Freeway Manor. She is the daughter of Tracy and Robert Wamsley of Friendswood, and David and Kathy Valigura of Houston.

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Remember When

35 years ago (1976)
The Pasadena Independent School District offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) who made bomb threats to several district schools, including Dobie.

Three local youth drill teams placed in the top four positions in competition held at Clear Creek Stadium: the Beverly Hills Fillies, the Sagemont Cowgirls and the Sagemont Knights.

30 years ago (1981)
Four Dobie High School students were suspended for alleged harassment of an assistant band director. They were originally suspended for the balance of the school year; however, Superintendent Dr. C. Lee Meyer decided to reduce the suspension until the end of the trimester.

Plans were under way for three county road-related projects. Advertising for bids had begun for a temporary hard-surface road on Black-

hawk from Southbluff to Hall Road; signal lights at Scarsdale Boulevard at Sageglen; and signal lights at Scarsdale Boulevard at Beamer.

The Sagemont station of the Houston Fire Department responded to four pumper calls and 11 ambulance calls during the week.

25 years ago (1986)
Frazier Elementary had an average attendance of 98.16 percent.

Americo Morales was stopped at 1:30 a.m. by South Belt Security Alliance officers after being spotted driving in Sageglen with no headlights. An inventory of Morales' car produced cocaine valued at approximately \$9,800, and \$2,000 in cash.

20 years ago (1991)
Emory Gadd, 44-year-old Sagemont Baptist Church youth minister, chased two bank robbery suspects throughout Sagemont and Sagemeadow. Gadd was under fire as he gave direc-

tions to 911. Police joined the chase in front of Frazier Elementary. One of the suspects, Joseph Paul Marwell, turned the gun on himself. Gerald Edward Englehart, 24, was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery.

Beverly Hills Intermediate School was identified by the Texas Education Agency as one of 19 mentor schools to help exchange ideas and methodology about new trends in middle school education.

15 years ago (1996)
A 15-year-old girl was expected to be certified as an adult after being arrested for the murder of 78-year-old Maria Catalina Palomino in her apartment on Sabo Road.

San Jacinto College and University of Houston officials formalized an agreement which would provide a seamless transition for students transferring from the community college to the university.

10 years ago (2001)
John "Baby J" Alexander, 17, died during a varsity basketball game at Dobie High School from an undiagnosed heart problem.

June Terry, 102, a 20-year resident of Beverly Hills, died. She had been an educator for more than 44 years, the last 23 of those in the Houston Independent School District.

5 years ago (2006)
Sagemont resident and community leader Danice Oliver was chosen by the San Jacinto YMCA as its volunteer of the year.

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Safety the Clown visits Moore



Safety the Clown (Pablo Castellano), of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, made his yearly visit to Moore Elementary to ensure students learn about fire safety.

Left: Second-grader Alexis Flores (left) learns from Safety the Clown.

Below: First-graders Oasis Alanis, Thomas Dang and Jessica Dryden perform a skit about fire safety with Safety the Clown.

Photos submitted



Wilbanks, Pickering engaged



Kristen Kay Wilbanks and Kyle Eamon Pickering, together with their families, announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Jerry and Dena Wilbanks of Houston, and the granddaughter of Jerry Wilbanks Sr., a longtime South Belt area resident. She was raised in the Clear Lake area and attended college at Texas A&M University, where she became a member of the Delta Zeta Sorority and received a degree in genetics with a minor in chemistry. She is currently a fourth-year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and plans to graduate in June 2012. Following graduation, she plans to continue her training as a medical resident in the field of pediatrics, where she will train for three years before entering private practice as a general pediatrician. The prospective groom is the son of Keith and Gayle Pickering of Medina, Ohio. He attended college at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he received a degree in electrical engineering. Following his undergraduate studies, he sought employment as an engineer in Texas where he is currently employed as a field electrical engineer for a Mexican oil company. The couple is planning a late-February wedding.

Merchant, Hayes marry



Tabatha Merchant and Matthew Hayes were united in marriage Friday, Nov. 11, 2011, in a double-ring ceremony at the justice of the peace court. The bride is the daughter of the late Charles Merchant and the late Patricia Merchant, both of South Belt. She is a 2006 graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School and 2010 graduate of San Jacinto College with an A.A. in interdisciplinary studies. She is currently a processing agent at HIG-Henrich Insurance Group. Parents of the groom are the late Willie Hayes and the late Darlean Hayes. The groom is also a 2006 graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School and is currently a field inspector at MLAW Consultants & Engineers. The couple are planning a late summer honeymoon to Oahu, Hawaii.

Distinguished Citizen Philibert honored by PISD

Twenty-six years ago, Dana Johnson was voted "Most Dependable" by her classmates at South Houston High School. Community leaders from across Pasadena gathered recently to attest to how astute that selection was.

"It can certainly be said today that Dana Philibert is still dependable," Pasadena Independent School District

Board of Trustees President Jack Bailey told the audience at the Orozco Complex.

"Her involvement in our community is a blessing to our community."

Dana Johnson Philibert, Pasadena businesswoman and a driving force behind a score of community-service initiatives, was honored as the Pasadena ISD's Distinguished Citizen for 2011. She

became the youngest person so honored in the 17-year history of the award.

Dr. Kirk Lewis, superintendent of Pasadena ISD, noted that Philibert could have easily qualified to win the district's other top prize for distinction within the community - the Distinguished Alumnus honor.

"She is one of the most successful businesswomen in our community and one of the most generous sources of support for our school district," Lewis said. "She has contributed to public service causes in a way that gives new meaning to the term 'public service.'"

Philibert, who owns Philibert Allstate Insurance, listened to the speakers' recitations of her many public contributions and crusades - and then laughed at herself.

"How do I do it? My cloning machine is in high gear in the back of the building," she said.

Philibert credited her family's appreciation for education for her involvement in PISD causes. Her parents, she said, decided to move from the Pearland area to Pasadena, where the quality of schools, she said, shone "like a beacon."

"Excellent education is the reason for our presence here," she said. "It has been an honor for me to work with so many caring people who share the same goal of continuing that beacon."

After graduating from South Houston in 1985, Philibert earned her college degree from Texas A&M and immediately returned to the area, where she earned her insurance license and eventually took the reins of her father's insurance firm.



Dr. Kirk Lewis congratulates Philibert on her award. Photos submitted

"She came back with a positive 'can-do' determination to make this world a better place," Bailey said.

A member of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce for 20 years, she currently serves as chairman of that organiza-

tion. She was elected to the Pasadena City Council in 2001 and served there until term-limited in 2009. In 2006, she was named mayor pro tem.

A member of the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation, Philibert served as president of the group in 2009.

She continues to serve on the steering committee for the McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament, an Education Foundation initiative.

Philibert is also active in the Pasadena Rotary Club, the Pasadena Rodeo, the Pasadena Historical Society and her synagogue.

She is a former Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary and is program chairman of the Pasadena Rodeo's Equine Committee.

Her insurance agency was named Business of the Year by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce in 2006. She is also a member of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce.



Philibert gets a hug from Tom Swan, one of her teachers at South Houston High School. Swan is now the director of Community School with the district.



Philibert hands off her take-home plaque to husband Bill Philibert for the happy ride home.

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For more information, about the free event, visit www.uhcl.edu/admissions and select Events, or call 281-283-2515.

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Melillo holds contest fundraiser



To raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation and Pasadena Independent School District's Education Foundation, students were able to participate in an after-school Monster Mash at Melillo Middle School. Students and staff dressed up for the occasion and had a "spook-tacular" time. Pictured are the costume contest winners, left to right, Xochitl Martinez in a princess dress made out of magazine pages, Christian Rodriguez as Indiana Jones, Hunter Gilmore as Frankenstein, and Principal Diane Wheeler (back) as Snow White. Photo submitted

Air Force beats Army



On Saturday, Oct. 15, Dobie AFJROTC Female Color Guard Team consisting of, left to right, C/Capt. Jasmine Castro, C/Capt. Oranna Trockle, C/Capt. Natalie Garcia and C/SSgt. Lluvia Loy won first place in Female Color Guard drill competition at Sam Rayburn High School. The team competed against 11 other Army JROTC teams and executed a near flawless performance. Photo submitted

Herrera places in poster contest



At left, Hannah Herrera, a dual language student in Ruby Contreras and Cynthia Meguader's class at Laura Bush Elementary, holds her prize-winning fire prevention poster. She took second place for the third-grade division in the 37th annual Houston Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The Houston Fire Museum and the Houston Fire Department put on the contest. All winners and their families were invited to attend an awards ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Houston Fire Museum.



Herrera is shown beside her prize-winning poster at Firefest which was held Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Houston Fire Museum. All entries were displayed at this event. Herrera is the daughter of Melissa and Rick Herrera. Photos submitted



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Free December concerts at SJC

San Jacinto College will host musical concerts during December featuring student, faculty, and other musicians.

All events are free and open to the public, and will be staged at the Central, North and South campuses.

The South campus concerts will be held in the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center, 13735 Beamer Road in Houston.

Unless otherwise noted, the Central campus events will be held at the Dr. Monte Blue Music Building, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

The North campus concert will be held at the Dr. Charles Grant Fine Arts Center, 5800 Uvalde Road in the North Channel area.

• Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. - The Central campus Woodwind Ensemble, under the direction of professor Jeffrey Adams, will present a concert that will feature a variety of styles from composers such as J.S. Bach, W. A. Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, and others.

Instruments played by SJC students will include piccolos, flutes, clarinets and bass clarinets. All styles of traditional classical music and a "jazzy" selection will be performed.

• Friday, Dec. 2, 1:30 p.m.

- The Orpheus Composer's Society of the Central campus will present a concert of chamber music. The performance will include works by student composers Aaron Janeeke, Vanessa Vallejo, Erwin Vreugdenhil, Denise Rocha, Joseph Mills and Robert Killingsworth.

The Orpheus Composer's Society, under the direction of professor Joseph Schenck, performs contemporary chamber music composed by SJC students.

• Monday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. - The South campus Jazz Band, under the direction of professor Richard Voyles, will present a concert featuring a wide range of popular jazz selections. The repertoire includes *Smack Dab in the Middle*, *Sidewinder*, *Take the 'A' Train*, *Oye Como Va*, *US, Coconut Champaign*, *Pick up the Pieces*, *The Christmas Song*, and *Jingle Bells*.

Featured soloists will include Arland Actinon, Kyle Hood, Mike Casa, Scott Sexton, Les Turner, Mike Ross and Don Webb.

• Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. - The North campus Wind Ensemble, under the direction of professor Randy Snyder, will perform a concert of band classics and orchestral transcriptions.

Highlights will include *Candide Overture*, composed by Leonard Bernstein and arranged by Clare Grundman for band.

To celebrate SJC's 50th anniversary, the ensemble will also perform Bernstein's *West Side Story*, a production which also debuted 50 years ago. The band will also recognize military veterans by playing *Armed Forces Salute* by Bob Lowden. Other selections will include *An American Elegy* by Ticheli; *American River Songs* by Robert LaPlante; *Bravura* by Duble; and *Brighton Beach* by Latham.

The concert will conclude with Dr. Allatia Harris, North campus president, conducting *Sleigh Ride*.

• Wednesday Dec. 7, 7 p.m. - The Central campus Steel Drum Band, under the direction of professor Mike Mizma, will present a tribute to the recently deceased musician Dave Marcellin.

The concert will be staged in Slocumb Auditorium, located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. It will be the first concert featuring musicians from Pasadena High School's SJC Steel Band Pilot Program. Members of the high school steel band will perform with SJC steel band musicians at the concert.

The repertoire will include *Maryann/Matilda Medley*, a calypso by Norman Span; *Dark Horses*, a calypso by

Marcellin; *Grand Mother's Song*, a ballad by Marcellin; *Texas Theme*, a pop-infused calypso by Marcellin; *Yellowbird*, a slow calypso by Luloff, Keith, and Bergmann; *Margaritaville*, a pop selection by Buffet; *Jamaica Farewell*, a hip-hop selection by Burgie; *Day-O*, a calypso by Attaway and Burgie; and *Jump in the Line*, a fast calypso by Somvel.

• Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. - The North campus choir, under the direction of professor Edgar Moore, will present a holiday choral concert. The featured selection will be Bach's *Cantata 140, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Sleepers Awake)* featuring the North Campus Chorale and guest artists, the Camerata Chamber Ensemble.

Also on the program will be *Carols and Lullabies from the Southwest* by Conrad Susa, and *Three Christmas Motets* by Jacob Handl.

• Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 10, 2:30 p.m. - The South Campus College/Community Choir, under the direction of professor Cynthia Stevens, will present holiday concerts inspired by the CD *Christmas with Robert Shaw*. Selections to be performed include *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* by Parker and Shaw; *Gloria* and *Et in Terra Pax* from Vivaldi's *Gloria*; *Hallelujah* from Handel's *Messiah*; and *Break Forth* by Bach.

For more information about fine arts programs at San Jacinto College, visit arts.sanjac.edu.

South Belt rolls . . .

Continued from Page 3A
Shannon Hayes, Ja'Darion Henderson, Shaniah Humphrey, Chance Irwin, Elias Jaimies, Carla Lopez, Vivian Luu, Marissa Maxwell, Natalia Melchor, D'untre Miller and Alexis Mottu.

Leslie Nguyen, Andy Rios, Alyssa Sarabia, Samantha Schroder, Will Schroder, Shaun Simpson, Caleb Tamez, Kobe Thompson, Isiah Torres, Justin Tran, Tam Tran, Isiah Trevino, Oscar Velasquez, Angela Vu, Mary Vu, Dylan White, Zoe Whitley and Lian Yui.

Good Citizen
Briana Andrade, Yenny Bui, Joshua Collins, Justin Esquivel, Noah Gonzales, Laila Hernandez, Abigail Hogan, Joshua Morin, Alyssa Sarabia, Caleb Tamez and Erin Woodard.

Principal's Award
Abrianna Aguilar, Angel Aguilar, Brittany Aguilar, Ashley Amaro, Nathan Ancira, Briana Andrade, Colby Arnold, Jacqueline Arrington, Rida Asif, Yulissa Avitia, David Benavides, Josh Bickers, Justin Blogg, Yenny Bui and Priscella Chavez.

Olga Cisneros, Joshua Collins, Sophia Colmenares, Shelby Couchman, Araceli Dale, Bailee Dang, Shaylyn Dunlap, Jacob Efrid, Annette Eonne, Justin Esquivel, Efoza Ewansiha, Jonathan Garcia, Noah Gonzales, Alejandra Gracias and Kianna Groves.

Miquela Guajardo, Tyler Guth, Andrew Hernandez, Laila Hernandez, Xavier Hernandez, Yvette Hernandez, Abigail Hogan, Shaniah Humphrey, Raymond Hung, Korynn Hungaski, Faith Johnson and Andrew Limon.

Carla Lopez, Marissa Maxwell, Natalia Melchor, D'untre Miller, Kaaynat Mistry, Alexis Mottu, Leslie Nguyen, Gracie Roessler, Brianna Salazar, Eloy Sanchez, Alyssa Sarabia, Samantha Schroder, Hunter Stevens and Caleb Tamez.

Dominic Tamez, Everett Taylor, Kobe Thompson, Tam Tran, Jordan Tran, Justin Tran, Isiah Trevino, Oscar Velasquez, Nathan Villaneuva, Angela Vu, Mary Vu, Dylan White, Zoe Whitley, Vorian Wilcox and Erin Woodard.



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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Hoops highlight upcoming holiday season

Need a break from all of the Christmas shopping? Looking for a way to get out of hanging the outdoor lights this year?

Use the high school basketball excuse. There's plenty of it to go around this holiday season.

High school programs across the state are still in the early stages of the 2011-2012 season, which usually means plenty of tournaments and interesting nondistrict clashes.

Those two scenarios certainly involve the varsity boys' and girls' programs at Clear Brook and Dobie, where the respective coaching staffs are still trying to figure out just what lies

Clear Brook girls at Dobie
Friday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Clear Brook boys at Dobie
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

ahead for their teams.

South Belt area fans are about to get a couple of chances to see the Brook and Dobie programs go head-to-head.

First up is the varsity girls' game as the Lady Wolverines head over to Dobie on Friday, Dec. 2, for a 7:30 p.m. game.

The boys' game between the two schools will follow

Tuesday, Dec. 6, at Dobie. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

The Dobie and Clear Brook boys' teams will also be involved in tournament play Dec. 1-3. The Longhorns are part of the Katy Independent School District tournament, where they will take on Scarborough and Morton Ranch Dec. 1 in pool play before being sent to bracket action Dec. 2-3.

The Clear Brook boys will take on Houston Reagan Dec. 1, at Krueger Field House on the campus of Clear Lake High School as part of the Clear Creek Independent School District's Carlisle/Krueger Classic. Tip-off is at 3 p.m.

For a look at the tournament bracket, see Page 3B.

Meanwhile, the Dobie girls, once 5-1 overall, have been working to get back on track after going 0-4 at the McDonald's Texas Invitational.

Seniors Shanequa Gaston and Jazmin Guerrero have given the Lady Longhorns a solid 1-2 scoring punch, but a lack of consistency in other areas of the game has

hurt the team of late.

Dobie fell to Cinco Ranch 61-26 Nov. 22, on the road and lost to Kingwood 41-35 Nov. 29.

For Dobie varsity girls' head coach Shane Brown, the road to recovery for the now 6-7 team is easy to explain.

"We are simply not executing," Brown said. "We seem to have abandoned all of the things that made us successful early in the season."

"We're pushing so hard in wanting to win that we're not playing within ourselves or the context of the team."

"Kingwood simply executed down the stretch and

Continued on Page 6B

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High school soccer workouts under way

Defending Region III boys finalist Dobie is on the statewide list of boys' and girls' programs which are now preparing for the 2012 season.

When students returned from the annual Thanksgiving break, it was back to work for those in soccer cleats as after-school workouts began with coaches in tow.

Locally, there is plenty of excitement to go around. After forcing a shootout in last year's Region III final before falling, the Dobie varsity boys' team is intent on making another long run.

Head coach Jesse Saavedra watched as no less than seven seniors who played key roles exited the program.

It takes plenty of talent, a plan and also some luck to get where the Longhorns were last season - a win away from the state tournament - but Saavedra should have no trouble getting the returnees and some newcomers to buy into the system.

"I think we are going to be really good again," Saavedra said during the

offseason. "How good we are will depend on a lot of things, but we have some talented players who have seen what is possible."

Meanwhile, the Lady Longhorns' varsity girls' team is welcoming its third head coach in as many years as Dobie graduate Bryan McDonald has taken over things.

The Dobie girls have had little trouble advancing to the playoffs and even getting through the first round in recent years, but that next step has proved to be shaky. McDonald's job will eventually be to get his team over that hump, but for now it's all about preparation for the opener in a month or so.

Both the Clear Brook varsity boys' and girls' programs are looking to bounce back after missing the post-season a year ago.

Jeff Brewer returns to guide the Lady Wolverines, and Chris Stromeyer will begin his second season as the varsity boys' head coach.

It's far too early to estimate just how things will shake out come playoff

Continued on Page 6B



At left, Jesse Saavedra is back to lead the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team after a trip to the Region III title game a season ago.

Bechtle, Tanksley share Leader crown

Leader sports editor John Bechtle (seated left) and Eli Tanksley (seated right) finished in a tie for first place at the conclusion of the newspaper's annual high school football game pickers contest. Tanksley, the 2009 and 2010 back-to-back winner, led the contest for much of this season before Bechtle forged an 86-34 tie in the final week. The contest runs from the start of the regular season until the time that either Dobie or Clear Brook is eliminated from the playoffs. The other contestants included, left to right, (standing) Troy Leland, Emory Gadd, Toni Muse and Joe Craddock, who placed third at 80-40.

Photo by David Flickinger



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Atkinson Elementary students donate through Jump Rope for Heart program

Students at Atkinson Elementary jumped all over heart disease and stroke by participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Overall, 74 students in the first, second, third and fourth grades participated, raising \$2,247 for the American Heart Association.

Donations raised during Jump Rope for Heart help fund research to fight heart disease and also support the American Heart Association's public and professional education programs.

"This year's event was a success," said Katy Glass, Jump Rope for Heart coordinator at Atkinson. "We are very proud of all our students who participated; they worked hard to raise donations and were rewarded with a celebration event."

During the celebration, participating students were allowed to douse their respective instructors with silly string shots.

Briana Keim raised the most monies among the girls, and Lance Joyce was the top boys' fundraiser. They were both recognized as Heart Heroes.

Jump Rope for Heart is a program that promotes physical fitness and heart health through the fun activity of jumping rope.

It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.



At left, several Atkinson Elementary students were honored after the completion of the school's annual Jump Rope For Heart program, which raises funds to promote the fight against heart disease and other heart-related ailments. The top fund-raising students in the school included, left to right, Briana Keim, Danielle Bulman, Destiny Thurmond, Precious Oko, Marissa Ramirez and Lance Joyce. Keim and Joyce were the top girl and boy performer, respectively, and were given the honor of being Heart Heroes.



At left, Atkinson Elementary physical education instructors posed with the second and third overall Jump Rope For Heart participants after a silly string party to celebrate the event. At far left is Lance Joyce, who finished third overall in the school. At far right is Danielle Bulman, who was second overall schoolwide. The physical education instructors include, from left, Gisell Ortega, Nicole Nalepa and Katy Glass.

Sports Calendar

BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 1

Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek ISD tourn., Lake, TBA
Dobie varsity girls host Clear Brook, 7:30
Brook JV girls at Pasadena ISD tourn., Rayburn, TBA
Dobie JV girls at Deer Park tourn., TBA
Brook freshman A girls at Barbers Hill tourn., TBA
Dobie freshman B girls at Deer Park tourn., TBA

Friday, Dec. 2

Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek ISD tourn., Lake, TBA
Brook varsity girls at Dobie, 7:30
Brook JV girls at Pasadena ISD tourn., Rayburn, TBA
Dobie JV girls at Deer Park tourn., TBA
Brook freshman A girls at Barbers Hill tourn., TBA
Dobie freshman B girls at Deer Park tourn., TBA

Saturday, Dec. 3

Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek ISD tourn., Lake, TBA
Brook JV girls at Pasadena ISD tourn., Rayburn, TBA
Dobie JV girls at Deer Park tourn., TBA
Brook freshman A girls at Barbers Hill tourn., TBA
Dobie freshman B girls at Deer Park tourn., TBA

Monday, Dec. 5

Dobie varsity girls at Dulles, 7:00
Dobie JV girls at Dulles, 5:30
Dobie freshman A girls at Dulles, 4:00

Tuesday, Dec. 6

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

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Beverly Hills 7th Dark girls at South Houston, 5:00
Beverly Hills 7th Light girls at South Houston, 6:15
Beverly Hills 8th Dark girls at South Houston, 5:00
Beverly Hills 8th Light girls at South Houston, 6:15
Thompson 7th Dark girls at Bondy, 5:00
Thompson 7th Light girls at Bondy, 6:15
Thompson 8th Dark girls at Bondy, 5:00
Thompson 8th Light girls at Bondy, 6:15
Beverly Hills 7th Dark boys host South Houston, 5:00
Beverly Hills 7th Light boys host South Houston, 6:15
Beverly Hills 8th Dark boys host South Houston, 5:00
Beverly Hills 8th Light boys host South Houston, 6:15
Thompson 7th Dark boys host Bondy, 5:00
Thompson 7th Light boys host Bondy, 6:15
Thompson 8th Dark boys host Bondy, 5:00
Thompson 8th Light boys host Bondy, 6:15

Thursday, Dec. 8

Brook varsity boys at Lee College tourn., TBA

Friday, Dec. 9

Brook varsity boys at Lee College tourn., TBA
Brook JV boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
Brook freshman A boys at Sam Rayburn tourn., TBA

Saturday, Dec. 10

Brook varsity boys at Lee College tourn., TBA
Brook JV boys at Pasadena tourn., TBA
Brook freshman A boys at Sam Rayburn tourn., TBA



Briana Keim (left), who was Atkinson Elementary's top fundraiser during the school's annual Jump Rope For Heart program, was given the honor of smashing a pie into the face of teacher Richard Whittaker to celebrate the students' accomplishments in the program.

Williams wins double gold



Mackenzie Williams, a freshman at Clear Horizons Early College High School, spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Argentina, where she won a gold medal for the second year in a row at the Pan American Infantile Judo Championships. Team USA was also invited to fight in the South America Judo Championships, where Williams also took gold. She fought competitors from Brazil, Colombia, Chili and Argentina without losing a match in either event. The Team USA girls took the third-place team trophy in Argentina. As a Clear Horizons freshman, Williams is also a student at San Jacinto College South, where she will earn her associate degree before she gets her high school diploma. Submitted photo

Seventh-Grade Light Boys' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Thompson	1	0
Bondy	1	0
Queens	1	0
South Houston	1	0
Jackson	1	0
San Jacinto	0	1
Miller	0	1
Beverly Hills	0	1
Park View	0	1
Southmore	0	1

Game scores:
Queens 27, Beverly Hills 19
Thompson 58, Park View 22
Bondy 53, Southmore 32
Jackson 35, Miller 33
South Houston 28, San Jacinto 26

Seventh-Grade Dark Boys' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0
Bondy	1	0
Thompson	1	0
Miller	1	0
South Houston	1	0
San Jacinto	0	1
Park View	0	1
Queens	0	1
Jackson	0	1
Southmore	0	1

Game scores:
Beverly Hills 20, Queens 18
Thompson 50, Park View 2
Bondy 44, Southmore 20
Miller 23, Jackson 10
South Houston 17, San Jacinto 10

Eighth-Grade Light Boys' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Queens	1	0
Southmore	1	0
Jackson	1	0
San Jacinto	1	0
Park View	1	0
Thompson	0	1
Beverly Hills	0	1
Bondy	0	1
South Houston	0	1
Miller	0	1

Game scores:
Jackson 35, Miller 24
San Jacinto 48, South Houston 36
Southmore 61, Bondy 45
Queens 55, Beverly Hills 46
Park View 53, Thompson 48

Eighth-Grade Dark Boys' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0
Thompson	1	0
Jackson	1	0
South Houston	1	0
Southmore	1	0
Park View	0	1
Miller	0	1
Queens	0	1
San Jacinto	0	1
Bondy	0	1

Game scores:
Beverly Hills 36, Queens 33
Thompson 51, Park View 18
Southmore 42, Bondy 40
Jackson 24, Miller 23
South Houston 33, San Jacinto 31

Seventh-Grade Light Girls' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0
Bondy	1	0
Thompson	1	0
South Houston	1	0
Jackson	1	0
San Jacinto	0	1
Miller	0	1
Queens	0	1
Park View	0	1
Southmore	0	1

Game scores:
Beverly Hills 25, Queens 2
Thompson 31, Park View 16
Bondy 38, Southmore 22
Jackson 17, Miller 8
South Houston 36, San Jacinto 4

Seventh-Grade Dark Girls' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0
Bondy	1	0
Jackson	1	0
San Jacinto	1	0
Thompson	1	0
Miller	0	1
Park View	0	1
Queens	0	1
South Houston	0	1
Southmore	0	1

Game scores:
Beverly Hills 22, Queens 6
Thompson 37, Park View 6
Bondy 23, Southmore 18
Jackson 32, Miller 15
San Jacinto 10, South Houston 8

Eighth-Grade Light Girls' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0
Bondy	1	0
Miller	1	0
San Jacinto	1	0
Park View	1	0
Thompson	0	1
Jackson	0	1
Queens	0	1
South Houston	0	1
Southmore	0	1

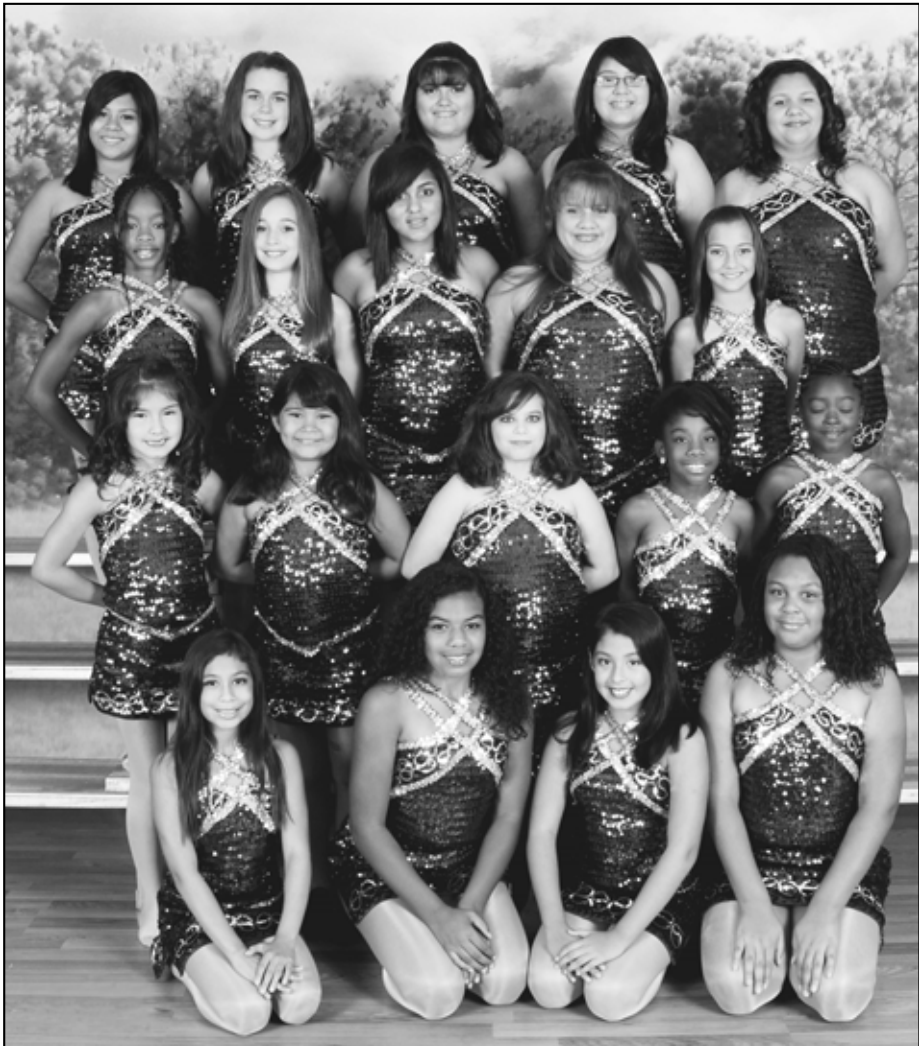
Game scores:
Beverly Hills 47, Queens 17
Park View 36, Thompson 26
Bondy 20, Southmore 17
Miller 40, Jackson 15
San Jacinto 33, South Houston 13

Eighth-Grade Dark Girls' Basketball Standings (Week One)

Teams	W	L
Beverly Hills	1	0
Thompson	1	0
Miller	1	0
San Jacinto	1	0
Southmore	1	0
Park View	0	1
Jackson	0	1
Queens	0	1
South Houston	0	1
Bondy	0	1

Game scores:
Beverly Hills 32, Queens 23
Thompson 27, Park View 26
Southmore 17, Bondy 13
Miller 33, Jackson 24
San Jacinto 32, South Houston 8

Sagemont Cowgirls' drill wins BAFL title



The Sagemont Cowgirls' drill team won first place at the Bay Area Football League championships Nov. 12, at Stingaree Stadium in Texas City. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Bianca Espinoza, Adrianna Castillo, Jackie Mendoza, Leah Jean, (second row) Madisyn Saenz, Rebekah Ramirez, Alannah Hudleston, Anaya Antoine, Haile Sprauve, (third row) Khalia Moore, Lizzi McMahon, Jazmine Howard, Madelyn Escobar, Sara Otwell, (back row) Arianna Gonzalez, Gabby Hansford, Brianna Campos, Marissa Amezcua and Victoria Escobar. Not pictured are Kiara Wells, Brittany Puente and Breana Puente, team directors Michelle Castillo and Maria Zuniga and coaches Clarissa Vega and Angelica Zuniga. *Rosie's Photography*

BAFL honors SB Dolphins' Vinny Finney



Vinny Finney (third from right) was recognized by the Bay Area Football League during the Super Bowl round of games for his many years of service within the league, including the past 24 with the Southbelt Dolphins. Those with Finney included former and current members of the Dolphins' organization, including, left to right, Ed Hensley, Tony Riojas, Jamie Alcocer, Raoul Garza II, Wayne Finney and Leo Gonzalez. *Submitted photo*

Roller-coaster Wolverines take on elite CCISD field

With three wins in four games prior to taking on Ridge Point Nov. 29, things appeared to be going swimmingly well for the Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team.

But for head coach Jason Pillow, who understands the road that lies ahead for his team, things don't seem so tidy.

The Wolverines opened the season with a terrific performance against host Deer Park for three quarters, only to see a fourth-quarter collapse lead to a loss.

Three wins, including those over Cy-Creek, College Park and Clear Falls, followed.

But Pillow knows there is still more room for development, and the team is about to get its chance.

Heading into the 16-team Carlisle/Krueger Classic Dec. 1-3 at Clear Lake High School, the Wolverines are set to face some of their stiffest competition yet.

On Dec. 1, Clear Brook will host Houston Reagan, which has averaged more than 80 points per game early this season.

Then it's on to face either Pasadena Memorial or Spring in the team's second game.

Elkins, which competes in the Houston area's toughest district, 23-5A, and Clear Springs, also reside in Clear Brook's portion of the bracket.

"We have the opportunity to make a statement and gain valuable experience for our young kids," Pillow said.

"We will see a high scoring Houston Reagan team in the first game and then one of two solid programs in Spring or Pasadena Memorial.

"If we are lucky enough to get through both of those games, then we could see Clear Springs or Elkins.

"In short, we hope to play our (style of) game against several quality opponents and get the experience we need to compete in district and, hopefully, beyond."

In the big picture, Pillow is hoping to see one or more of his less experienced players step up to help take some of the scoring burden off seniors Fred Richardson and Chris Campbell.

In the team's Nov. 22 win over Clear Falls, by a 79-51 margin, Richardson paved the way with 25 points, and Campbell pumped in 21 more.

"We have seven new varsity players, three of which are sophomores who are

learning to play at this level," Pillow said. "Fred Richardson and Chris Campbell have carried us so far, as we expected.

"We have been given some good help from junior Davon West as well, but we

need to get more consistent help from the other guys to help take the pressure off of Fred and Chris.

"The young guys have to step up and contribute soon or it could be a difficult year for us."

South Belt area sports news, notes

SBHLL sign-up dates

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has established 2012 spring season registration dates as Saturday, Jan. 7 and Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at the SBHLL facility at El Franco Lee Park. Junior T-Ball fees (ages 3 - must turn 3 by Jan. 1, 2012 - and 4) are \$100. Fees for all other divisions (age 5 and up - must turn 5 by April 30, 2012) are \$140. Those registering must provide a birth certificate and three forms of residency.

SBHLL taking bids - The league is also accepting bids through Jan. 10, 2012, for those wishing to handle the league's team picture services as well as those wishing to take action photos (for sell) at league games. The league is also seeking a snow cone provider for the season. Those wishing to submit a bid or obtain more information may do so by directing email to sbhll@hotmail.com.

SBHLL to debut Challenger BB

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League is continuing plans to host a Challenger Baseball program for children with physical or mental handicaps for the spring 2012 season. The program will follow the competition and safety guidelines as determined by Little League Baseball. SBHLL board member Chrystal Sulak is handling the off-season plans for the program. Those wishing to get involved with the program or to learn more may contact Sulak at Chrystal_Sulak@hotmail.com.

San Jacinto softball tryout

San Jacinto College head softball coach Kelly Saenz will host a tryout for players wishing to earn a spot on the college's spring 2012 or 2013 rosters. The tryout will be held on the South campus Saturday, Dec. 3. Pitchers and catchers will be seen from 1 to 2:30 p.m., with position players to follow from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Participants must complete a questionnaire and insurance waiver form prior to the tryout. To obtain the forms and to reserve a tryout spot, direct email to Saenz at kelly.saenz@sjcd.edu.

Dobie baseball camp

The Dobie High School baseball coaching staff, along with current and former players, will host a baseball/softball camp Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 19

and 20, from 9 a.m. to noon for boys and girls age 8 to 14. The cost of the camp is \$40 prior to the camp and \$45 on the day of the camp. The fee includes a camp T-shirt. For information, direct email to dobiebaseball@yahoo.com.

8U Texas Storm softball tryouts

South Belt's 8U Texas Storm Elite select softball program will host open tryouts beginning Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the South Belt Girls Softball Association facility at El Franco Lee Park. The first tryout will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and additional tryouts will be held each Tuesday and Thursday at the same time on field No. 3. For more information, call coach Mario Barajas at 832-776-7593 or direct email to txstormeli@8u@yahoo.com.

Dobie softball youth clinic

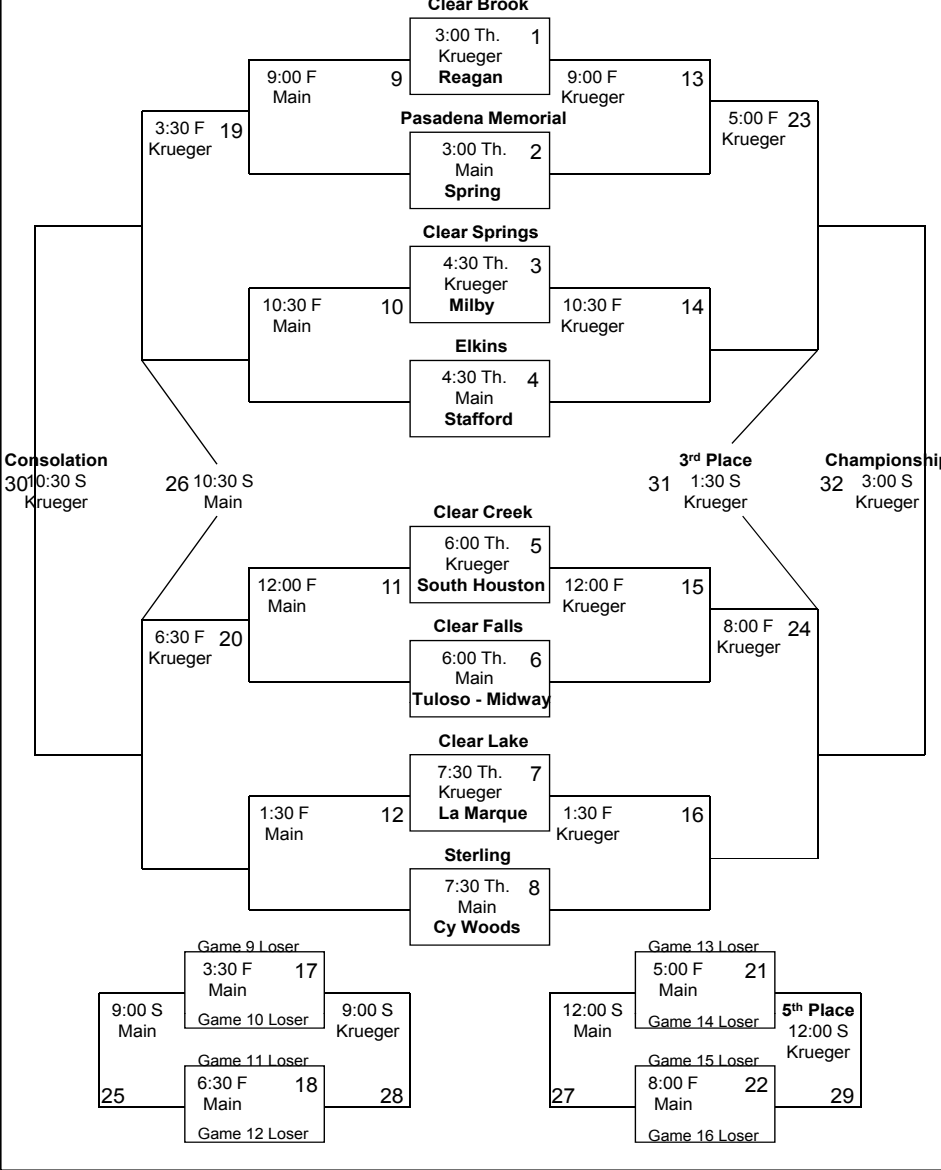
The 2012 Dobie Lady Longhorn Softball Clinic will be held Saturday, January 28, from 9 a.m. to noon at the South Belt Girls Softball Association facility at El Franco Lee Park. Girls age 6 to 14 are eligible to attend the session, which is \$30 per participant. The fee includes a clinic T-shirt to those who register prior to Jan. 18. The clinic will include hitting, fielding, bunting and baserunning instruction from members of the Dobie coaching staff as well as current players. To sign up for the clinic, families may download the entry form and get updated information at www.ladylonghornsoftball.org.

Dobie football banquet Dec. 10

The Dobie High School football booster club has set the season-ending banquet for Saturday, Dec. 10. The exact time of the event and ticket prices have yet to be established. For up-to-date information, visit the football website at www.dobielonghorns.com. The entire Longhorns' football program will have plenty to celebrate this season. The varsity football team qualified for the playoffs for the second straight season, putting together a 7-4 overall mark. At the banquet, coaches from each of the teams will recognize their respective players, and there will be a video commemorating the school's varsity season. Annual college scholarship awards and team awards will also be recognized at the event.

CARLISLE/KRUEGER CLASSIC

December 1-3, 2011



CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

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

6:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, or just drop in.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

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

6 p.m.
Spanish Al-Anon - Friday at 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

6:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Thursday and Friday 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

8 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre - Opening night for Pasadena Little Theatre's *The Little Town of Christmas* by Houston playwright, Pat Cook, at 8 p.m. at 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. The show runs through Dec. 18. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m., with one special-priced Thursday show at 8 p.m. on Dec. 15. The director is Gregory R. Brown. Make reservations online at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org or call 713-941-1758.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting - Women Only - Meets each Saturday morning from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

6 p.m.
Frontier Squares - Meets to square dance at the Westminster

Academy at 670 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or visit www.frontiersquares.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

6:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous - Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

7 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre - Auditions for *Rumors*, by Neil Simon, will be held at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. Auditions start at 7 p.m. and will consist of cold readings from the script. Six men and four women ages 30s to 50s are needed. Show dates are weekends, Jan. 27 to Feb. 12, 2012. Contact the director, Janet Sharpley, at actsharp@sbcglobal.net for more information or check the website for information and character descriptions at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

tion, or just drop in.

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

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

6:30 p.m.
New Directions Singles Club - New Directions Singles support meetings are held each Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway in Webster. For further information, call Linda at 409-392-6886.

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

7 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre - Auditions for *Rumors*, by Neil Simon, will be held at Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen-Genoa Road. Auditions start at 7 p.m. and will consist of cold readings from the script. Six men and four women ages 30s to 50s are needed. Show dates are weekends, Jan. 27 to Feb. 12, 2012. Contact the director, Janet Sharpley, at actsharp@sbcglobal.net for more information or check the website for information and character descriptions at www.pasadenalittletheatre.org

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

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

Local NARFE Meeting - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Parkway. A meal will be available for \$6. For more information, call Bob Mitchell at 281-333-2881.

Trailmixers - Meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Luby's Cafeteria on Fuqua. Former and current employees of J. Frank Dobie High School are welcome for lunch and conversation.

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

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

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - TOPS #1530 meets at the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint, from 2 to 4 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

Spanish Al-Anon - Tuesday at 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Clear Lake Toastmasters Club - Meets at the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 938 El Dorado Blvd. Call Jerry Tate at 281-481-5417 for information.

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

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

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

Spanish Al-Anon - Wednesday at 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway (Fuqua and I-45). For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

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

Spanish Al-Anon - Wednesday at 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

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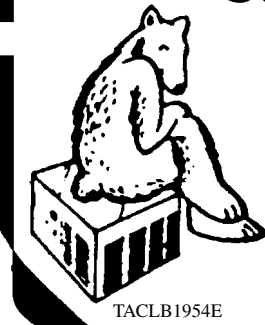
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South Belt resident is Player of the Week



South Belt resident and La Porte High School running back Keith Whitley (left), a junior running back for the Bulldogs, was honored as the Built Ford Tough Player of the Week after leading his team to the District 21-5A title with 205 yards rushing and an interception return for a score against Port Arthur Memorial. Whitley played in the Sagement Cowboys' youth football organization and in the Sagement-Beverly Hills Little League. He attended South Belt area

schools, including Thompson Intermediate, before choosing to play at La Porte High School, where his father, Keith Whitley Sr., is a member of the football coaching staff. With Whitley is La Porte varsity head football coach Jeff La Reau and A.C. Collins Ford general sales manager Anthony Loya. Ironically, La Porte has now advanced to the Class 5A Division II state quarterfinals, where the Bulldogs will encounter a rematch against Port Arthur Memorial.

Houston Jokers 12U select baseball on a roll



The Houston Jokers 12-under select baseball team won its second straight tournament, going undefeated at the Gator Gobbler Championships at the Big League Dreams facility in League City. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Jonathen Acosta, Ricky Gonzales, Arthur Galvan, Joey Espinosa, (middle

row) Mattias Gallo, Andrew Hinojosa, Andres Padilla, Adrian Balandran, (back row) Andy Garza and Hector Martinez. Not pictured is the team's coaching staff, including Ricky Gonzales, Carlos Gallo and Lupe Galvan.

Submitted photo

Brook boys' hoops 4-1; other local squads stumble a bit lately as nondistrict, tourney play remains

Continued from Page 1B

The Dobie boys were once 4-2 after a 12-0 run helped the group edge

Avenger baseball tryouts

The Nightmare select baseball organization is seeking South Belt area youths to try out for spots on the 6U, 7U, 9U, 11U and 12U teams that will compete in tournaments and leagues early next year.

Beverly Hills Little League for the 2012 spring season. The Nightmare will host a tryout Saturday, Dec. 17, at El Franco Lee Park, beginning at 9 a.m.

Friendswood late during the holiday break. But back-to-back losses have left the Longhorns at 4-4 heading into the Katy tournament. In both losses, the Longhorns fell behind by a large margin and could not regroup. Against SevenLakes, an eventual 68-60 loss, Dobie trailed 47-31 entering the fourth quarter before a big run closed the gap.

17 points through three quarters as Langham Creek took an easy 53-30 victory. "We struggled with our shooting," Dobie head coach Kevin Cross said of the Langham Creek defeat. "We were 2 of 14 from 3-point range, and we shot poorly from inside the arc. I give credit to Langham Creek for playing good defense, but we missed quite a few wide open shots."

main confident that better days are ahead. Christian Sanders, a sophomore newcomer, has averaged 20 points per game, and players such as Taylor Holland and Devonte Banks have also played well.

For Cross, it's all about staying the course and looking to get better every day. "We intentionally have a tough nondistrict schedule to see where we are during the early portion of the year and where we want to go," Cross said.

lot of work still to be done to reach the level we want to be at by the time the district schedule and playoff run comes around." So the work continues

for some of the local teams, but at least the respective coaches have seen enough great things to believe the 2011-2012 season still holds plenty of promise.

High school soccer workouts under way at Dobie, CB

Continued from Page 1B

horns have plenty of talent to make a playoff run.

In 24-5A where Brook resides, both teams will

have to battle talented programs including Clear Lake, Dickinson, Clear Creek, Pearland and Brazoswood.

MTI attendance sets new record

Looking ahead, the road to the playoffs will likely take vastly different paths. As for the Dobie boys, this team is the class of District 22-5A and one of the region's big names of late. It's no big secret that Saavedra and his team have every intention of pushing the envelope further in 2012.

The Dobie girls will most certainly have to deal with frontrunner Deer Park in 22-5A, but the Lady Long-

Attendance and ticket receipts for the 2011 McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball tournament set new records, beating previous marks by more than 17 percent, according to a preliminary assessment by the tournament's organizing committee.

he estimates that somewhere between 44,500 and 45,000 attended the tournament, which featured 80 high-school teams and 200 games.

Television links to the boys' and girls' championship games produced record traffic for the tournament's website. The girls' championship game drew over 21,000 hits.



Members of the Clear Brook High School student athletic training program and their adult leaders supported cancer research by taking part in the program's fourth annual Wrapping For A Cure event. The students collected monies during a couple of athletic events this fall, bringing in \$1,100 to raise the four-year total to more than \$3,000. Those taking part in this year's event included, left to right, (front row)

sophomore Ashley Milton, junior Maritza Rosales, sophomore Lily Stokley, sophomore Kayla Moreland, sophomore Amiee Summer, senior Amy Long, (middle row) freshman Melanie Hubbard, sophomore Brianna Hill, senior Caitlin Blackmore, junior Miliza Martinez, (back row) Clear Brook High School adult athletic trainers Steven Tran and Cathy Supak.

Submitted photo

Student trainers' Wrapping For A Cure helps familiar faces at Clear Brook H.S.

Student athletic trainers at Clear Brook High School are continuing to do their part in the fight against cancer.

ing the Wolverines' home football game against the Clear Lake Falcons, bringing in about \$1,100. Over the four years, Clear Brook participants in the program have helped raise more than \$3,000.

research. Back in 2008, Lady Wolverines' head trainer Cathy Supak learned that the mother of one of her student trainers, Sean Hoff, was battling cancer. That year, the funds were donated in Tammy Hoff's name.

For her part in the effort, Supak said she is proud of the students' effort.

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