

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Scholarships offered

Atkinson Elementary PTO

Atkinson Elementary PTO is offering \$500 scholarships to two graduating Dobie seniors who attended Atkinson at least two years, one being fourth grade. Applications and requirement information are available through the senior counselor's office at Dobie. Applications must be received by noon Friday, Feb. 26.

Frazier Elementary

Frazier Elementary is offering scholarships to seven graduating Dobie seniors who attended Frazier in third and fourth grades. Applications and requirement information are available through the senior counselor's office at Dobie. Applications must be received by noon on Friday, March 11.

Moore Elementary Student Council

The Moore Elementary Student Council will offer four scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Moore in the fourth grade. Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Friday, April 1, to be considered.

Knights sell fish Feb. 19

Knights of Columbus Council No. 9201 will sponsor a fundraising fish fry dinner Friday, Feb. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Luke Catholic Church Social Hall, 11011 Hall Road. The menu includes a 9-11 oz. farm-raised catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob, and iced tea or lemonade. Cost is \$10 eat in or take out. Baked fish fillets will be available in limited quantities.

Blood drive at St. Luke's

St. Luke's Knights of Columbus Council No. 9201 will host a blood drive on Sunday, Feb. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the social hall at St. Luke's Catholic church, 11011 Hall Road. Blood is needed every day for medical needs due to health and injuries. All are welcome.

Mandatory cheer meeting set

Dobie will hold a mandatory cheerleader tryout information meeting for parents and students on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6:45 p.m. in the Dobie cafeteria. A parent or guardian must be present.

Lady Longhorns host bingo

The Dobie Lady Longhorns Booster Club will hold a bingo fundraiser Saturday, March 5. Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo games will run from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each and include one table and two chairs. Booths with power are available for \$5 extra. Vendors must provide his or her own extension cords. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Puente at 832-528-4388 or epuente@pasadenaisd.org.

JFD Spanish seeks vendors

The Dobie Spanish Department is currently seeking vendors for its spring craft show, to be held at the school on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Booths are \$30 each and include one table and two chairs. Booths with power are available for \$5 extra. Vendors must provide his or her own extension cords. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Puente at 832-528-4388 or epuente@pasadenaisd.org.

SBHLL opening day

Sagamont-Beverly Hills Little League officials are seeking arts and crafts, food and/or merchandise vendors to take part in opening day festivities at El Franco Lee Park. The league will celebrate its 50th anniversary this season, and it all begins Saturday, March 12, on opening day. Vendor booths are available for \$100 each. Those interested may direct email to league officials at sbhll@hotmail.com.

SBHLL parade invite

Sagamont-Beverly Hills Little League officials invite all South Belt community and non-profit groups to help celebrate the league's 50th anniversary this season by taking part in the annual opening day parade Saturday, March 12. The community and nonprofit groups are welcome to participate in the parade free of charge. Business entries, meanwhile, may take part for \$50 each. Entry forms are available by directing email to sbhll@hotmail.com. The deadline for parade form entries is March 5.

Free tutoring at St. Luke's

St. Luke's Catholic church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 2, for ages K-12 and college. For more information, contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397.

Scrub sale at MSHS

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital volunteer auxiliary will hold a scrub sale on Friday, Feb. 19, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The scrub sale will be located in the CES room. The public and all medical professionals are welcome. Payroll deduction is available for MSHS employees. For more information, call 903-575-1582.

Rash of violent crime strikes South Belt

2 drive-by shootings, 1 home invasion occur within 3 days

The South Belt community was struck by a wave of violent crime this past week, leaving four injured – one in critical condition.

The most serious crime occurred early Sunday, Feb. 14, in the 11500 block of Gullwood near Olivewood, where a drive-by shooting took place at a house party around 2 a.m.

At least 17 shots were fired, striking four victims – one in the head, one in the neck, one in the arm and one in the buttocks. Paramedics from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department transported two of the victims to the hospital, while paramedics from the Houston Fire Department transported a third. The fourth victim checked himself into a hospital.

The victim shot in the head was critically

injured and remained on life support at press time.

Most party-goers fled the scene when the shots were fired, but remaining witnesses reportedly saw three to four suspects in a silver sedan – possibly a Volkswagen Jetta or an Acura.

At press time, there was no known motive. A second drive-by shooting took place Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the 11400 block of Sagemorgan around 7:20 p.m.

In that incident, five shell casings were found inside one house. No one was injured in the shooting, as the resident was not home at the time of the incident.

Witnesses reported seeing a white Cadillac Escalade EXT pickup truck at the time of the

shooting.

A home invasion took place Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the 10900 block of Covered Bridge Street near the intersection of Blackhawk and Fuqua.

According to police, a female resident saw a relative pulling up to the home around 6:20 a.m. and opened the garage door to let them in. Upon opening the garage, five masked men wearing all

black and carrying long guns forced their way into the home.

Once inside the home, the crooks demanded money and jewelry. The suspects also stole shoes from the home, police said.

Anyone with information about any of these crimes is urged to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Martin to hold town hall Feb. 25

Newly elected Mayor Turner to speak at event

Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin will host a town hall meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Space Center Houston, located at 1601 NASA Road 1.

Residents are invited to attend to hear from city and community representatives about ongoing capital improvement projects, local issues and community news related to the Southeast Houston and Clear Lake areas of District E.

In addition to the regularly scheduled city department representatives who annually present from Public Works and Engineering, ReBuild Houston, Houston Parks and Recreation and General Services, newly elected Mayor Syl-

vester Turner will also be attending and speaking to the audience about the financial state of the city and the looming budget deficit he and City Council will have to tackle this next fiscal year.

"I am excited to have Mayor Turner in District E and thank him for taking an interest in the community," Martin said. "As chair of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee on Debt Financing and Pensions, I know we, as a Council, have a large task on our hands of passing a structurally well-balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017, while maintaining the integrity of city services, and I look forward to working with the mayor on this

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Filing underway for MUD elections

Candidate filing for the local May 7 municipal utility district board elections is currently underway and will continue through Friday, Feb. 19.

The Clear Brook City, Kirkmont and Sagemeadow MUDs all have open positions. All incumbents are expected to file to maintain their seats. At press time, no challengers had filed to contest the open positions.

Three seats are up on the Clear Brook City MUD board. Incumbents David Flickinger, Chuck Tylka and Kelly Buckman are all running for re-election. Terms are four years. Those interested in filing to run for an open seat should call Shaila Shah at Fulbright & Jaworski at 713-651-5398.

In the Kirkmont MUD election, incumbents Jean Ann Williams and Lonnie Piquet are up for re-election. Terms are four years. Those interested in filing to run for an open seat should call the offices of Sanford & Kuhl at 713-850-9000.

In the Sagemeadow MUD race, board members Glenn Williams and David Montgomery are running for re-election. Terms are four years. Those interested in filing to run for an open seat should call the offices of Sanford & Kuhl at 713-850-9000.

If no one files to challenge any of the incumbents, no elections will be held, saving the districts significant funds. Should an election be necessary in any of the MUDs, early voting will take place April 25 through May 3.

Annual chamber banquet rescheduled

Due to a scheduling conflict with newly elected Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 31st annual installation banquet has been rescheduled from Thursday, March 3, to Wednesday, March 30. The event will still take place at the Palms Events Center, 15301 Gulf Freeway at Dixie Farm Road, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Turner will be the featured speaker at the function.

The 2016 chamber president and board mem-

bers will be officially sworn into office by Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 Justice of the Peace George Risner. The chamber member of the year and volunteer of the year will also be recognized at the event.

Individual tickets are \$50 each. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$650 to \$1,000.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact chamber Executive Director Sherry Trainer at 281-481-5516 or info@southbelt-chamber.com.

Principals Howard, Fullen honored

Longtime Pasadena Independent School District staff members Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary, and Steven Fullen, South Houston High School, have been selected as the district's elementary and secondary Principals of the Year for 2016.

PISD Superintendent DeeAnn Powell and several district administrators delivered the news Friday, Feb. 12, by surprising the honorees at their respective campuses.

"Through their outstanding leadership, hard work, dedication and collaboration with employees, our principals give students an opportunity to be successful," Powell said. "We congratulate you for your service and thank you for all you do

for students in Pasadena ISD."

The winners were selected by district and campus administrators for their excellence in leadership.

Howard has dedicated 32 years of service to the Pasadena ISD. She served alongside Fullen as a fifth-grade music teacher at Kruse Elementary from 1984 to 1997. Howard rose to a leadership position at Jensen first as assistant principal and then principal from 1997 to 2000. In 2009, Howard was named principal of South Belt Elementary, where she continues to inspire students and staff.

Powell, PISD board member Kenny Fernandez

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4 struck in drive-by shooting



A drive-by shooting in the 11500 block of Gullwood near Olivewood left four injured – one critically – early Sunday, Feb. 14. The shooting occurred around 2 a.m., as a house party was taking place. The yellow evidence markers shown above indicate where at least 17 shell casings were found at the scene of the crime.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Dobie Hall of Honor set for Feb. 26

The fourth annual J. Frank Dobie High School Hall of Honor induction ceremony will take place Friday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

This year's event will honor four alumni and one faculty member.

Distinguished alumni include banker Robert E. Marling Jr. (Class of 1974), research scientist Dr. Mark Yandell (Class of 1983), the Rev. Sean Horrigan (Class of 1984), and Harris County Constable Phil Sandlin (Class of 1987).

The late Carole Stockinger, a longtime English

teacher at Dobie, will also be inducted. She will join previous teaching inductees Richard Golenko, Scott Talton and Catherine Haney.

The Hall of Honor is maintained as a plaque display in the center of the campus.

Inductees are selected each year by a campus panel of faculty and administrators with input from alumni and the community.

The 2016 group of Dobie inductees will bring the total of honored alumni, teachers and community supporters to 35. The public is invited.

PISD earns coveted Gaston award

The Pasadena Independent School District has been named to the College Board's Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll for 2015. This list recognizes 130 districts in the country for "creating opportunities for traditionally under-represented students."

"Pasadena ISD has some of the most dedicated educators across the nation," Superintendent DeeAnn Powell said. "You can see our commitment to career and college readiness at every level – from College Week celebrations at the elementary level to our AP (advanced placement), AVID (advancement via individual determination), College NOW, dual credit and early college high school programs."

In order to make the honor roll, the District must have increased the number of underrepre-

sented students who: took the SATs, took an AP course and exam, were on-track for college by scoring a 1550 on the SAT, scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam and sent their SAT scores to four or more colleges.

The total number of AP exams at Pasadena ISD has doubled from 2,924 in 2011 with 876 achieving qualified scores to 5,858 in 2015 with 1,721 achieving qualified scores of 3 or higher.

In 2015, AP scholars at each of the district's six high schools were awarded checks totaling over \$174,700 for achieving qualified scores of 3 or higher on the AP exams. Students earned \$100 for each AP exam they passed with a qualifying score. The majority of the funding for the check donations was generously provided by the

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After 44 years, Baker still serves SVFD

By Crystal Saucedo

Ed Baker did not plan on becoming a firefighter, but in 1972, Baker and a group of about 100 men organized the Sagemont Fire Department when they realized there was not a fire department in the neighborhood but a lot of fires.

Out of the 100 men who joined, only 60 graduated from training. The fire department did not have any source of funding in the beginning. Baker and others had to go door to door to ask for donations. Because they did not have any funding, the fire department only bought about five or six sets of firefighter clothing, only had one or two breathing apparatuses and "some other hand tools because that is all we could afford at the time."

The equipment was kept on the fire truck, and whoever was able to get there first was able to wear the gear. Some of the firefighters, including Baker, bought their own gear.

Dobie pantry beginning

Dobie's future food pantry, the Dobie Depot, is accepting donations to help stock the shelves. Dobie counselors Erin Thompson and Erin Richardson are planning on filling the pantry with food, school supplies, toiletries, and clothing.

The phone number to reach the counselors in last week's paper was their fax number. If interested in donating or finding out more information, Dobie counselor Erin Thompson can be reached at 713-740-0370 ext. 04136 or by email at eeathompson@pasadenaisd.org. Erin Richardson can be reached at 713-740-0370 ext. 04113 or by email at ERichardson@pasadenaisd.org.

In the beginning, the fire department only had one fire engine, which was leased, and a bread truck that was converted into an ambulance. Because they did not have a radio system, Baker's wife, who passed away 10 years ago, helped out when the fire department first started. When a fire call would come in, Baker would take off to the fire station, while his wife called the other men.

In 1974, the City of Houston annexed Sagemont and Kirkwood, and the Sagemont Fire Department became the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department. Because of the loss of territory, a large number of members dropped out, leaving the fire department with about 20 members.

Remembering how much the fire department struggled in the beginning, Baker now feels fortunate to have adequate funding. The fire department has grown into "quite a large operation now," said Baker. Today, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department has four full-time firefighters, 35 part-time or off-duty firefighters and about 50 volunteers.

The fire department offers to pay the expenses for firefighters to receive training at the Texas A&M Fire Training School. The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department will pay for the firefighters' hotel, provide their meals and pay for their training. The training is offered for a week in July and a weekend in March.

Baker has been an instructor at the training school for the past 35 years. For 22 years, Baker taught ladders. According to Baker, he became "too old to be climbing ladders." He is now a safety officer.

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Pasadena ISD honors Howard



South Belt Elementary School Principal Candy Howard (second from left) was recently named the 2015-16 Elementary Principal of the Year for Pasadena Independent School District. Shown above surprising Howard with the announcement are, left to right, Board of Trustees Member Kenny Fernandez, Associate Superintendent of Campus Development Alyta Harrell and Superintendent of Schools DeeAnn Powell. Howard was selected by district and campus administrators for her excellence in leadership at the elementary level.

Photo submitted

In My Opinion

Hernandez endorses Diaz for constable

Vote to re-elect Constable Chris Diaz

Former South Houston Councilman and Texas Army National Guard Veteran, Lee Hernandez, who has served as a full-time law enforcement officer for the past 25 years strongly encourages voters of Precinct 2 to Re-elect Chris Diaz to the office of Constable. Having run in this same race back in 2012 with the platform of improved patrol visibility and accountability of the deputies, Lee Hernandez believes that Constable Chris Diaz and his deputies have delivered high patrol visibility thus deterring crime before it occurs and display an urgent response to the needs of the South Belt Community. Precinct 2 deputies, under the leadership of Constable Chris Diaz are not just performing reactive police patrol, but catching dangerous burglars, thieves, and crooks in the act. The South Belt community expects these services from our elected Constable and Chris Diaz has delivered on those expectations.

I am the kind of person who judges a person by observations. For the past year I have had the opportunity to observe Constable Chris Diaz. Very quickly he got my attention by his display of respect to his staff, deputies and the general public. He is all about getting new ideas, communication, passion to enforce the laws, listening to residents on their concerns.

He has full knowledge of what it means to be Constable of Precinct 2. We don't have time to break in someone who has not been involved in law enforcement. Our security is fully in Chris Diaz's hands. We all can be better-served when we help to achieve our goals. The next two years are going to be a challenge for all of us. New laws, changes in current laws, more crime, and whatever may be thrown at us. I want someone who knows what to do.

Precinct 2 is a large area to cover. There is more law enforcement needed, monitoring of real criminals which is getting to be a bigger task, address the small misdemeanors which take up a lot of time, put new ideas in the public plans, and do all that is required on a very small budget!

Chris Diaz is a person of LEADERSHIP! Precinct 2 hasn't had that in my 37 years I've been here. His opponents have zero experience.

Chris is NOT a politician. I am asking my Democrat relatives, friends and neighbors to vote to RE-ELECT Chris Diaz as our Constable in the Primary election on March 1.

My Republican relatives, friends and neighbors can vote for him in the general election in November.

We need his ideas, his experience, and his skills to oversee our massive precinct. We need a constable that is openly active in the community! We never had that in the past.

We have a good leader in place now ... let's keep him!

VOTE TO RE-ELECT CONSTABLE CHRIS DIAZ

Aside from the patrol services, the Civil division is a very important part of the Constable's office in Harris County. This division, along with the Criminal Warrants division has some of the highest clearance rates in all of Harris County. That is a sharp improvement from where this department had been prior to Chris Diaz becoming our Constable. Inexperienced candidates can promise new substations or store fronts, but these agendas may not be attainable nor the primary focus of the services provided by the Constable's office. Constable Chris Diaz has worked within the budget allotted to him from Harris County Commissioners Court giving the residents of Precinct 2 a valuable return for their tax money. Not under, not over, but just right. As your "straight talker", I humbly ask for your vote to keep and Re-Elect Chris Diaz as our Constable of Precinct 2. Early voting starts Tuesday February 16, 2016 through Friday February 26, 2016. Election Day is March 1, 2016. Every vote counts and your voice is important.

Sincerely, Lee Hernandez

Bonnie Dimicelli

Moore Science Fair winners



The Moore Elementary Science Fair was held earlier this month. The winners were chosen and will represent Moore at the Pasadena Independent School District Science Fair. Moore winners are, left to right, (front row) Joselyn Benitez, Victor Chapa, Dillon Steve, (back row) Sabrina Pector and Daniel Mendez.

Photo submitted

Renewal period extended for auto registration at grocery stores

Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan is extending the renewal period for drivers to update expired auto registrations at local grocery stores.

like H-E-B, Kroger, Randalls and Fiesta."

"The state has always granted drivers a grace period to renew their registration after expiration," said Sullivan. "In Harris County, drivers had a 5-day grace period to renew their registration at their local grocery store. After that time, they were required to renew at a Tax Assessor-Collector branch office. Now, the renewal period is extended from five days to 30 days so drivers can get their registration sticker at grocery stores,

This extension will allow drivers to renew a registration 30 days after expiration at any Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector registration renewal partner, if they have not received a citation for expired registration. If a driver has received a citation, they must renew at any Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector branch office. "Folks are still adapting to the One Sticker program. We are still working to get all drivers synced up, so in the meantime, I want drivers to have more options and ease

getting their registrations," said Sullivan.

In addition to visiting their local grocery store and the tax assessor-collector's office, drivers can renew their registration online and by mail. Specific instructions will be noted on their registration renewal form. It is also important to note that this renewal extension does not extend the grace period allowed by law and that drivers may be given a citation if they are operating a vehicle with an expired registration.

To view a full list of auto registration renewal partners, visit www.hctax.net.

Elected officials share their words

Are you ready to vote in the 2016 Primary Election?

From the office of Mike Sullivan, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector

Early voting begins today for the 2016 primary election and Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan reminds residents to check voter registration status before voting.

"Voting is incredibly important and I'm excited to announce that we currently have more than 2.1 million registered voters for the March 1, 2016, primary election," said Sullivan. "With this increase, I want to ensure all registered voters know their voter registration status before they go to the polls."

If individuals did not register to vote by the February 1, 2016, cut-off, they will not be able to vote in the March 1, 2016, primary election. However, they can still register to vote in future elections. "Just because you missed the cut-off to vote in the primary election is not a reason to get discouraged," said Sullivan. "There will likely be a primary run-off election in addition to the general election in November, and those elections matter just as much."

Residents are encouraged to call 713-274-VOTE (8683) for questions or assistance regarding voter registration status.

Sullivan also serves as the Harris County Voter Registrar, who conducts voter registration activities and maintains a certified list of registered voters.

Learn more about voter registration by visiting www.hctax.net.

| | Important Election Dates | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | 2016 Primary Election March 1, 2016 | 2016 Primary Run-Off Election May 24, 2016 | 2016 General Election November 8, 2016 |
| Last Day to Register to Vote | Feb. 1, 2016 | Apr. 25, 2016 | Oct. 11, 2016 |
| Early Voting | Feb. 16-26, 2016 | May 16-20, 2016 | Oct. 24 - Nov. 4, 2016 |

CCFA Bay Area to meet Feb. 23

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Bay Area Support Group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at State Farm Insurance, 12941 Gulf Freeway, Suite 101. Patients and caregivers are invited to attend. Meetings are free.

Bay Area Quilt Guild meets March 1

The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship begins at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting/program begins at 7 p.m.

The March 1 meeting will be the annual auction when everyone cleans out their sewing room and donates items for the quilt guild's big fundraiser. Both silent and live auctions will be held. There will be bargains galore. All guests are welcome to attend. For more information, call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 or check the website at bayareaquiltguild.org.

Frazier excels at Big Shootout



Frazier Elementary was represented well at the districtwide Big Shootout competition Feb. 8 at Phillips Field House. Frazier winners were, left to right, Jarvis Solomon (third-grade boys' winner), Q.B. Boyd (fourth-grade boys' winner), Belle Perridon (fourth-grade girls' winner) and Karyme Leal (third-grade girls' winner).

Photo submitted

Deaths

Maria Hilda Ramirez



Maria Hilda Ramirez, 83, died Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, while in her South Belt home. She was born on Feb. 18, 1932, to Emilio Rodriguez and Lucinda Yarrito Rodriguez.

She is survived by her children, Corina Guerra, Martha McCarthy, and Roberto Ramirez; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

Ramirez was retired from her career with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She paved the way for the success of her family by encouraging education, a love of reading, an understanding of finances, and how to live with a servant's heart.

She was an active member of St. Frances Cabrini Church, a leader, a perpetual adoration volunteer parishioner, and Eu-

charistic Minister. She taught numerous Bible study classes. When she wasn't actively ministering to her community, she spent time nurturing her plants, working in her yard, enjoying the theater with friends, and traveling or spending quality time with family.

A Rosary service for Ramirez will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016, at 7 p.m. Her funeral will be the next morning, Feb. 19, at 9:30 a.m., with a reception to follow. Both services and the reception will be at St. Frances Cabrini Church, 10727 Hartsook St. in Houston. Interment will be in the Holy Rosary Garden at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Dickinson.

Ramirez asked that, in lieu of flowers, friends and family make donations so that the love given could be paid forward. Donations can be made payable to St. Frances Cabrini, and in the memo section, write: "In memory of Hilda Ramirez" to ensure the funds are delivered to the specific ministry she selected.

Ruth Ann Beagen

Ruth Ann Beagen, 79, died on Feb. 14, 2016, in Pearland, Texas. She was born Nov. 23, 1936, in Fondulac, Wis.

She lived in the Houston area more than 50 years, 40 of those in the South Belt area. She was of the Catholic faith.

Beagen was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Joseph Daniel Beagen;



parents Florence and Frank Leu; and her brother, Marvin Leu.

Survivors include her seven children: Linda Hudgens and husband Stephen, Bonnie Aronson, Debbie Lilley, Corinne Bernal, Laura Cole and husband Clint, Ruth Ann Escamilla and wife Dianna, Daniel Joseph Beagen and partner Raul Asoy; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; sister Audrey Michalowski; brother Donald Leu; and twin brother Richard Leu.

A visitation will be held Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 19, 2016, with the Rev. Jim Courville officiating. Interment will follow immediately after the service at Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to the Alzheimer's Association at http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_donate.asp.

The Exact Center of the Universe at PLT

Pasadena Little Theatre, Houston's oldest community theater in continuous operation, carries on its 61st season, with *The Exact Center of the Universe* by Joan Vail Thorne.

The play centers around Vada Love Powell, an indomitably opinionated bossy Southern lady and passionately possessive mother of Appleton who is, in his own words, "the center of Vada's universe."

She has scared off every girl laying claim to Apple (a nickname that nicely summarizes his status as the apple of her eye). It's obvious that his marriage to Mary Ann, who's Italian and from a working class family, is akin to an earthquake rocking her tight little world. (Takes place in the '50s and '60s.) Pasadena's presentation of *The Cemetery Club* features as director well-known actor and director Gregory R. Brown along with an outstanding cast.

This production opens on March 11 and continues weekends through March 27. Friday and Saturday show times are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. There is one Thursday show at 8 p.m. on March 24. This is PLT's special Two-Can-At-

tend for \$20 night.

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets, make reservations or for more information, call the box office at 713-941-1758, or log onto www.pasadenalittletheatre.org.

Emergency department to temporarily close

The emergency department at Memorial Hermann Convenient Care Center Pearland will temporarily close from 1 a.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The temporary closure of the emergency department is part of a routine and necessary process conducted by the state of Texas to prepare the hospital for its opening on March 29. The Memorial Hermann Convenient Care Center Pearland emergency department will reopen at 7

p.m. on Feb. 24. The Memorial Hermann Medical Group clinic and Memorial Hermann Diagnostic Lab located at Memorial Hermann Convenient Care Center Pearland will also be temporarily closed during the inspection time.

During this temporary shutdown, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and its emergency department will remain open and is available to all patients in the community.

STEM students build telescopes

Thompson's enrichment all-girl STEM students built telescopes and learned how to use them in preparation for their space unit in a few months. Students also downloaded Stellarium, software that allows students to have a realistic 3-D view of the night sky.

Photos submitted



Nayeli Martinez and Stephanie Alvarez



Amy Tieu and Kitlali "Lali" Martinez

Fullen honored by PISD



South Houston High School Principal Steven Fullen (center) was recently named the 2015-2016 Secondary Principal of the Year for Pasadena Independent School District. Above, Associate Superintendent of Campus Development Rhonda Parmer (left) and Superintendent of Schools DeeAnn Powell rewarded Fullen with a Valentine's Day chocolate arrangement. Fullen was selected by district and campus administrators for his excellence in leadership. (See related story on Page 1A.)

Photo submitted

PW Library seeks book donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., are currently seeking donations of nice condition adult fiction pocket paperbacks and children's books.

AARP Chapter 199 meets Feb. 19

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 will meet at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway in Seabrook (the large building with a blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway). Everyone is invited to come to the meeting, and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Each month, the group has entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors. Every two months the group has a potluck lunch.

Speakers for Friday, Feb. 19, will be Peggy Kelso and Thomas A. Zaubi from the Council for Health Education, who will present a program on *Practical Care Giving* and therapeutic classes that are being offered in the area for chronic pain via special classes such as tai chi. This is not regular tai chi, but a special class that is geared toward those who have chronic pain.

The group also organizes day trips by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next day trip will be on March 16, but the location is not yet confirmed.

For those who are interested in joining the group, annual dues are \$6 per year/per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP to join any local chapter. For information, contact Liz Shepperd at 281-486-7770 or Qeshepperd@yahoo.com.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Branch

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

Thursday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. - Movie Time for Adults. Feature presentation of *Lilies of the Field*; at 4:30 p.m. - Hour of Code: Basic HTML.

Friday, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m. - Anime Club. Viewing of *Steam Boy*, rated PG-13.

TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 18, 2016. Volunteers from AARP TaxAide will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns. This service is free and is available in the library meeting room on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo-ID, Social Security cards and any other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, and any other necessary forms to help the volunteer complete the return.

Wednesdays - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Thursdays - Toddler Story Time, 10:30 a.m.; Saturdays - Vietnamese Storytime. Classes are at 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information on Vietnamese programs, speak with Loc Bui. For more information on all programs, call the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled at the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingsport. Tuesdays - Pre-K Storytime (ages 3-5 years and their parents/caregivers) from 10:30 to 11 a.m.; Storytime Craft from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays - Baby/Toddler Storytime (ages 6 months to 36 months and their parents/caregivers) at 10:30 a.m.; Baby/Toddler Playgroup (ages 6 months to 3 years and their parents/caregivers) at 11 a.m.; Computer Basics at 2 p.m.; Internet Basics at 3:15 p.m.; and Power Point at 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays - Citizenship Class from 4 to 6 p.m. This is a free course designed to guide one through the naturalization process.

Thursday, Feb. 18 - Not Your Mama's Book Club from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 20 - Spanish Computer Class from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday - noon to 8 p.m.; Friday - 1 to 5 p.m.; and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on programs, call the Bracewell Library at 832-393-2580.

Questionnaires for constable Pct. 2 election

The following questionnaire was sent to all the candidates running for Harris County Constable Precinct 2 positions. Their responses appear as they were received and have not been edited. The candidates are in the order in which they are listed on the ballot.

Democrats

Ruben Loreto



NAME: Ruben Loreto
AGE: 44
OCCUPATION: Police Officer / Business Owner
EDUCATION: 4 Years
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married with 5 Children
PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what subdivision and for how long? (50 words or less)

I have been a resident of precinct 2 for the past 10 years and currently reside at Highland Meadow subdivision.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

I am a business owner within the South Belt community and have sponsored many events for the local residents at no cost. (i.e. school supplies, toy drives, holiday festivities, student functions, and business meetings)

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I have been a Police Officer for the past 20 years and am currently serving at the Galena Park Police Dept. My past experience includes: 10 years for Webb County Sheriff's Dept., 5 years with Harris County Constables Office, and 5 years with the Port of Houston Police Dept.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I currently hold a Master Peace Officer TCLEOSE Certification for the past 20 years.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I believe that my 20 years of Training and Experience as both a Police Officer and business owner as well as serving the community best qualifies me to serve the constituents of Precinct 2.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (100 words or less)

I currently don't have any endorsements.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I believe the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community is not enough police patrol in the area, more citizen trust and interaction needs improvement, and lowering our current 22% crime increase. Nobody likes to hear about crime increasing within their community, especially since there has currently been less police presence. To protect and serve needs to be implemented strongly in order to fight the increase of crime and to regain citizen's trust and peace of mind.

What improvements to service in the South Belt area would you like to see? How would that be achieved? (100 words or less)

Like I previously stated, I strongly believe in more police presence, community interaction and trust. With this in place and working together, I know we can bring our crime rate down.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the total precinct? (100 words or less)

I believe the biggest challenge overall within our precinct would be budget/funds for more police officers recruiting and training as well as regaining trust and better communication within the community.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

If elected I would like to accomplish all my goals. I would like to see more officers patrolling our precinct 24/7 not just certain areas but the entire precinct. I would love to see more communication between citizens and police officers including other ethnicity groups within our precinct. I would love to see more police officer training programs implemented to better serve and protect our community as well as finding funding options and better budgeting to make these goals

come true.
In what ways would you work with community members? (100 words or less)
I believe that communication is Key in working together in any situation; so more meetings, questions and answers sessions, a special suggestions phone hot line, more interaction between the citizens of precinct 2 and police officers, more storefronts need to be implemented as well as regaining the trust and faith between all involved will be my priority.

George Goffney



NAME: George Goffney, Jr.
AGE: 59
OCCUPATION: Process Chemical Operator
EDUCATION: Dickerson High School
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: 7
PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what subdivision and for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, for 3yrs at 4411 West Maple Drive, Friendswood Texas 77546

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

No

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, Galveston county Sheriff Department for 6 years.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

N/A

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I feel that I can bring change to the community and move Precinct 2 into a different direction for a better future. Precinct 2 is currently lacking diversity. If I am elected constable, I am committed to making Precinct 2 more diverse.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (100 words or less)

Yes, Friends of Friends Organizations

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I would need to evaluate the area to see what the needs are.

What improvements to service in the South Belt area would you like to see? How would that be achieved? (100 words or less)

Evaluating communities where the crime is high. After attending town hall meetings, some communities feel that their neighborhood has been forgotten.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

Clean up the high crime areas and work together with other agencies. These are some of the goals I wish to accomplish.

In what ways would you work with community members? (100 words or less)

Get with the community members to find out what are their critical needs.

Joe Martinez



NAME: Joe "Joey" Martinez
AGE: 44
OCCUPATION: Law Enforcement
EDUCATION: Product of Houston Independent School District, Fredrick Community College-Emergency Management, Rio Salado College-Criminal Justice
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married, two boys
PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what subdivision and for how long? (50 words or less)

I'm a life long resident of Southeast Houston and live in

the Meadowbrook Subdivision since 2002.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

For years, I have coached in a youth athletic organization that has competed with South Belt area youth athletic organizations. This has allowed me to develop relationships with South Belt residents.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

I have 21 years of law enforcement experience with Harris County Precinct One Constables Office.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I hold the highest level license- Master Peace Officer License.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I'm the only candidate with the most years of experience and knowledge of a Constable's Office. As a Police Instructor and a Field Training Officer, I have the proven leadership by personally training over 115 deputies on the vision of theories, policy and procedures and implemented programs under my supervision and command.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (100 words or less)

I have the endorsement of the voters who want a leader with Law Enforcement experience.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

As with every community in Precinct Two, the lack of Officer presence has become a serious problem that leads to criminal activity, home burglaries, theft.

What improvements to service in the South Belt area would you like to see? How would that be achieved? (100 words or less)

I will provide a strong presence of law enforcement in the community to deter crime and get back the sense of security that has been lost by the residents in the most recent years.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the total precinct? (100 words or less)

Do to the lack of communication with surrounding law enforcement agencies, I will work to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) This agreement provides a frame work and guidance to govern information sharing, use, and handling, and for coordination of man-made or natural disasters in emergency management.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

As Constable, I will bring the leadership and experience needed to make Precinct Two one of the most respected and prestigious Law Enforcement Departments in Harris County.

In what ways would you work with community members? (100 words or less)

I will work with community members and leaders to develop a Citizens Advisory Committee that consist of members volunteering their time and energy to develop ideas and share concerns and work toward one common goal in providing a better quality of life for the residents of Precinct Two.

Chris Diaz



NAME: Christopher E. Diaz
Age: 42
OCCUPATION: Constable, Precinct 2
EDUCATION: Associates Degree from San Jacinto College, attended University of Houston studying Business Administration
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married to Ana Diaz, children: Christopher & Nicholas
PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what subdivision and for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, my family and I reside in Jacinto City and have been lifelong residents. I am a product of Galena Park High School, San Jacinto College and University of Houston Clear Lake.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Since taking office, my staff and I have partnered with the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce, Clear Brook City MUD, and local schools on local community projects in which we participate and sponsor. I am proud to have several

Deputies on staff that live in the South Belt area.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I am currently serving my first term as Constable of Precinct 2 and have been in this position since January 2013, after winning the 2012 election.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I do hold a TCOLE Commission for 6 years. Upon taking office we became a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and Standards Training Provider which provides training for not only Pct. Deputies but also provides training for Law Enforcement Officers across Texas.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

As the current Constable, I have directed the office toward a community oriented department. We developed partnerships with business, community and educational leaders and elected officials at all levels of government. The department's budget has increased from est. \$6 million to almost \$8 million in three years. Most of the monies received have been designated for additional deputies, vehicles and equipment to ensure that they have adequate resources to do their job as efficiently as possible. My office implemented the first ever Citizens Police Academy in precinct 2 and we have formed joint task forces with other law enforcement agencies.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (100 words or less)

I am honored to have received endorsements from: COPS, MASO, Houston Metro FOP, Area 5 Democrats, Houston Apartment Association, Insulators Local 22, AFL-CIO, CWA, Harris County Tejano Democrats, Congressman Gene Green, State Senators Sylvia Garcia and John Whitmire, Representatives Carol Alvarado, Ana Hernandez, Harold Dutton, Armando Walle and Garnet Coleman, Mayors Sylvester Turner, Ana Diaz, Esmeralda Moya, Joe Soto, Council Member Robert Gallegos, Constables Ken Jones, Alan Rosen and May Walker, HCC Trustees Eva Loredo and Dr. Adriana Tamez, San Jacinto College Chairman Dan Mims, PISD Trustee Kenny Fernandez, GPISD Trustee Ramon Garza and Joe Stephens.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Our challenges in the South Belt are due to growth in the area. As such, this growth puts a strain on our infrastructure, our educational system and our quality of life. We are fortunate that we continue to see expansion in housing, such as planned communities, retail and business. However this growth also brings increased traffic we need to have a regional plan to address these needs so we can continue to prosper in our precinct. We must be prepared to address the crime which often times affects our progress and growth.

What improvements to service in the South Belt area would you like to see? How would that be achieved? (100 words or less)

I would like to expand our contract services to address the growth in population in this area. As more neighborhoods are developed we would need additional resources and manpower to provide police services. In order to achieve this we would need to add additional deputies to our staff as demand for services increase. I would continue to work with other law enforcement agencies to have better response times when our citizens call upon us for law enforcement.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the total precinct? (100 words or less)

Our biggest challenge in Pct. 2 is the same as what we are seeing in the South Belt. Due to population increase we have need for more law enforcement across the precinct. This hinders our ability to address the needs of our constituency in a timely and efficient manner. The population explosion in our region is growing faster than we can accommodate. To address this need I will continue to work with our Harris County Commissioners and other elected officials to keep up with the growing need for resources in our area.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

Continue with the Citizens Police Academy, expand our reserve deputy division, and continue to add and train deputies to our department, secure grants to assist our officers and employees. It is extremely important that we reach out to the entire population to confirm that the agency is and will always be a servant of this community by providing Town Hall Meetings, regular speaking engagements in the Precinct, and add community outreach programs. I believe Communi-

cation is the key to success. I will also continue to be a good steward of the tax payer's dollars.

In what ways would you work with community members? (100 words or less)

Since taking office in 2013 I have been able to work with many of the community members and its leaders in various programs. I take pride in helping the community in any way possible. In the future I would like to increase community outreach programs. Not only will my staff and I be attending monthly community meeting and take part in the events, we would also like to host several more Town Halls and youth events to foster Community and Law Enforcement relations.

Republicans

Joe Alanis



NAME: Joe Alanis
AGE: 55
OCCUPATION: Small Business Owner
EDUCATION: Master Peace Officer with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
MARITAL STATUS/CHILDREN: Married/2 Children
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what subdivision and for how long? (50 words or less)

25 Years in Precinct 2 and 12 Years in River Stone Ranch.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

My family and I are residents in the South Belt community.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, Harris County Constable Office for 21 Years.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license?

Yes

PISD earns award

Continued from Page 1A School Board with contributions from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

When it comes to SATs, the numbers also tell a success story. The number of Pasadena ISD students sitting for SATs has increased from 1,179 in 2011 to 1,669 in 2015.

"We couldn't have achieved this success without the support of our school board, superintendent and deputy superintendent Karen Hickman," Pat Sernas, director of advanced academics said. "We are very grateful for everyone who spends countless hours after school and weekends preparing our students for exams and SATs. This recognition validates that hard work."

The success of college

Principals honored

Continued from Page 1A dez and associate superintendents of campus development surprised Howard with the good news.

"To have worked in this district for 32 years and seen the excellence achieved at all levels, especially with my peers, I am speechless," Howard said. "I come to work each day ready to be a servant leader and believe that each of our students can learn - and they do. I am incredibly fortunate to work with a dedicated staff who also believe in our students and who are daily problem solvers doing whatever it takes for student success."

Fullen has made a positive impact in the lives of PISD students for 21 years. He began as a fifth-grade bilingual teacher at Kruse in 1995, then a peer facilitator at Pomeroy and later a bilingual and ESL facilitator for the Alternative Certification Program. In 2002, Fullen

If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, since 1994.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

My 20+ years in law enforcement with the Harris County Constables Office and being an active resident in the community.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (100 words or less)

Not at this time.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Crime and Juvenile Truancy, and homeless on the streets.

What improvements to service in the South Belt area would you like to see? How would that be achieved? (100 words or less)

No answer submitted.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the total precinct? (100 words or less)

More Officers on the street to provide a safer environment for our neighborhood and communities.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

I will build a better relationship between the Police and the community, I also will increase the boots on the ground and active patrols in our neighborhoods. Crime is on an upward climb in Precinct 2 and the citizens of this Precinct deserve to feel safe in their neighborhoods, homes, workplaces, and schools. I will also build a stronger relationship with the local schools and have officers in classrooms working with our youth. I will develop a competent and ethical training program within Precinct 2 to keep our Deputies well trained and also properly screened prior to employment.

In what ways would you work with community members? (100 words or less)

If elected Constable, I will ensure that officers are very active and attend civic meetings and that the department is active in the community. I will develop strong neighborhood watch programs as well as a program designed to keep an eye on the senior citizens and take a proactive approach to ensuring their safety. My Department will also have an open door policy and the citizens of Precinct 2 will know they can count on the Constables office to be proactive, to listen, and to take the action needed to change the quality of life.

Baker continues service



Ed Baker of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department continues to work for the organization after serving 44 years. A founding member of the department, Baker was one of roughly 60 firefighters to graduate from the inaugural fire training class of what was then known as the Sagemont Fire Department in 1972. Baker has served as chief twice and has been the president of the board of directors for the past 20 years. The longtime firefighter said he plans to serve as long as he is breathing.

Photos submitted

Baker continues SVFD service

Continued from Page 1A

Every Thursday, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department offers training at the Scarsdale location. One Thursday, the firefighters went to a park and were told to go through the children's playground sets.

"The firemen were in full clothing with air packs, masks and were blindfolded for realistic training," said Baker.

The fire department also has a training area inside its fire station, along with a classroom with visual equipment.

SVFD also offers training for medics. The medical director, who is the head of the emergency room at Memorial Her-

mann Southeast, goes once a month to conduct the training. The fire department also has the latest EMS equipment, including a device that does CPR.

Most of the calls today are EMS.

"About 95 percent of our calls are EMS," Baker said. "We're getting a lot of calls to lift assist. When the population gets older, you get more EMS calls."

Since 1972, Baker has been chief twice and has been the president of the board of directors for the past 20 years.

In 1992, Baker opened a sign company in Pearland. He retired from the business three years ago and is

now active in the Pearland Lions Club and handles the business affairs for the fire department.

Even though Baker did not want to become a firefighter, he plans on staying at the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department for as long as he is breathing.

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department is always needing volunteers, particularly volunteers who live in the neighborhood. No experience is needed. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

If interested, stop by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department on Scarsdale on Thursdays, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.southeastvfd.com or call 281-922-5556.

Martin holds CIP meeting

Continued from Page 1A forthcoming task."

Martin has also invited Steven David, a representative from the Mayor's Economic Development Division, to give an overview of Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs), as much discussion has revolved around the potential of creating a TIRZ in the Clear Lake Area. Additionally, Bob

Mitchell from the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, who has worked closely with the city on the issue of storm surge protection, has been asked to present an update on the coastal barrier concept that has been designed and is currently being studied to protect the region's coastline and residents in Houston's Bay Area from storm surge.

The city's Planning Department additionally will address the audience regarding the Planning Masterplan and will give an update on the city's Bike Plan, a 12-month planning effort to update the city's Comprehensive Bikeway Plan originally adopted in 1993.

For more information, contact Martin's office at 832-393-3008.

Early primary voting underway

Early voting for the March 1 primary elections is currently underway and will continue through Friday, Feb. 26.

Local early voting polling locations include the Harris County Courthouse Annex No. 25 at 7330 Spencer Highway and the

Freeman Branch Library at 16616 Diana Lane. While the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall on Allen Ge-noa has served as an early voting location in past years, it is not one this election.

Polling hours are 8

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Oct. 23; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 24; 1 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 25; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 26 through Oct. 30.

For more information or to see a complete list of polling locations, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

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VOTE

San Jac announces upcoming events

San Jacinto College recently released its upcoming Calendar of Events. The San Jacinto College South campus is located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston; the Central campus is at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena; and the North campus is at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston.

Nursing Information Session
The First Steps Into Nursing Information Session will be held on Friday, Feb. 19, at 1:30 p.m. at the San Jacinto College South campus in the Science and Allied Health Building (Building 1) in Room S1.113. For more information, email vocational.nursing@sjcd.edu.

Men's basketball games
The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will host its annual Youth Night game against Lamar State College-Port Arthur on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m. All local recreation leagues and schools are invited to Youth Night, and the first 100 basketball fans to arrive, ages 18 and younger, will receive a free mini basketball.

On Saturday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., the team will face Lee College. All home games are played at the Central campus in the Anders Gymnasium and are free and open to the public. For a full season schedule, visit sanjacports.com.

Music Scholarship Auditions
The Central campus music department will host music scholarship auditions on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Monte Blue Music Building. For more information, contact Geneva Fort at geneva.fort@sjcd.edu.

Financial Aid Sunday
The San Jacinto College financial aid department will host its annual Financial Aid Sunday event on Sunday, Feb. 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at each campus.

Financial aid staff will be available to answer general financial aid questions and help students fill out FAFSA applications.

Students should bring a form of ID, all W-2 forms, all other tax-related information, as well as parents' tax information if applicable.

The event is free and open to the public. San Jacinto

College Financial Aid Sunday campus locations will be: Central Campus Interactive Learning Center (Building 1) open computer lab; North Campus Welcome Center (Building 6) Room N6.104; and South Campus Welcome Center (Building 6) Room S6.150.

Rashomon theater production
San Jacinto College will present the stage adaptation of *Rashomon*, regarded as one of the greatest films ever made. The play will be staged at the Powell Arena Theatre, located on the Central campus, and will run Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, with 7:30 p.m. curtains Wednesday through Saturday, and a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

Woodwind ensemble concerts
The San Jacinto College Central campus woodwind ensemble will host concerts on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Monte Blue Music Building.

Women's basketball Play 4K game
The San Jacinto College women's basketball team will host Panola College on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 5:30 p.m. All home games are played at Nichols Gym on the North campus. Admission is free and open to the public. For a full season schedule, visit sanjacports.com.

Black History Month events
To commemorate Black History Month, San Jacinto College has various activities scheduled for the remainder of February:

- Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m., Central campus library Grand Hall - *W.E.B. Du Bois and the Black Freedom Struggle in Texas*, Keynote Speaker: Dr. Phillip Luke Sinitiere

- Feb. 29, 11:30 a.m., North campus student center-Bingo and Trivia

GCIC Martial Arts Workshop

The Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium will host a martial arts workshop at the San Jacinto College Central campus in the student center ballroom on Friday, Feb. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop is open to the public. No experience is necessary. For more information, contact Trenton Denton at 281-998-3265.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY, JADE!
Special happy birthday wishes are sent to **Jade Elizabeth Scarberry** who turns 8 years old Thursday, Feb. 18. Hugs and kisses are sent to her from dad **Austin** and wife **Tiffany Scarberry**, mom **Nicole Scarberry**, grandparents **Jannie and Robert Scarberry** of South Belt; aunts **Jenny Espinosa** and **Stacey Flowers**; uncles **Stephen Flowers**, **Joey Hayes**, **Tyler Scarberry** and **Benny Moreno**; and cousins **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Livvy Moreno**, and **Kennedy, Owen** and **Evie Flowers**. Jade's parents are both Dobie High School graduates.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 18 through Feb. 24.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Norma DeLaRosa** Feb. 21.

Bush Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for **Aide Buenrostro** is Feb. 18. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Martha Gomez** Feb. 23.

Meador Elementary

Light the birthday candles for **Virginia Fortson** Feb. 19.

Moore Elementary
The day for a party for **Ashley Evans** is Feb. 18.

Melillo Middle School
The day for a cake for **Stacy Paxton** is Feb. 20. Feb. 21 is the day for **Wanda Soto** to celebrate a birthday.

Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 23 is **Tincy Varghese**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Light the birthday candles on a double-layer cake Feb. 23 for **Joseph Fee** and **Quan Nguyen**.

Thompson Intermediate
Yolanda Robinson celebrates a birthday Feb. 19.

Dobie High
Laura Ramos celebrates a birthday Feb. 18. **Dendy Farrar** and **Veronica Gonzales** share a double-layer cake Feb. 20. Send a birthday card to **Nicholous Johnson** Feb. 21. On Feb. 22, birthday wishes are sent to **Lori Sims**. **Jesse Goodwin** is wished a happy birthday Feb. 23. Sharing a double birthday celebration Feb. 24 are **Wendy Sharpless** and **Tamalar Whiting**.

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

Thursday, Feb. 18: **Sonja Britt**, **Jason Jaeger**, **Leslie Barr**, **Sterling Washington**, **Rose Pena**, **Tianne Bernal**, **LeRoy Peters**, **Shana Kiser**, **Daer Platt**, **Valerie Chavez** and **Troy Taormina**; Friday, Feb. 19: **Jason Minck**, **Dalaina Rounsavall-Harris**, **Patricia Doran** and **Ryan Mint**; Saturday, Feb. 20: **Paul Brantly**, **Heidi Samford**, **Judy Lucadou-Dooly** and **Jamie Baggett**; Sunday, Feb. 21: **Michael Gabbard**, **Vonda Byars**, **Kellie Nelson** and **Richard Salinas**; Monday, Feb. 22: **Gerald Maduzia**; Tuesday, Feb. 23: **Mark Roberts**, **David Adkins**, **Brian Groff**, **Tonya Abel**, **Angie Abel**, **Charlese Richard**, **James Spence** and **Liz Cantu**; and Wednesday, Feb. 24: **Wendy Sharpless**, **Andrew Belmarez**, **Ken Moore**, **L.A. Dalton**, **Michael Brown** and **Rebecca Cappello**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Water quality monitoring explained in workshop

Dive in to water quality monitoring with a public workshop March 14-17 from the Environmental Institute of Houston at University of Houston-Clear Lake. The two-part course, *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Training*, is available as a one-day partial course on Monday, March 14, or a four-day complete course March 14-17. The partial course will cover water quality and hydrological monitoring, and the additional three days of the full course will add biological and physical habitat monitoring instruction. Both parts include classroom and field-based instruction regarding the theory and methods of monitoring procedures. The cost of the partial course is \$200 by March 1, and the full course is \$700 by March 1. For more information, call 281-283-3950 or visit <http://www.eih.uhcl.edu/training>.

Cardiologist offers heart healthy advice

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States, killing more than 370,000 people each year. February is National Heart Month and a time to raise awareness of heart disease and the steps that can be taken to prevent it. Heart disease is a term used to describe a number of conditions involving narrowed or blocked blood vessels that can lead to a heart attack, chest pain or stroke. Many forms of heart disease can be prevented or treated with healthy lifestyle choices. "Preventing the first heart attack is important to lowering the risk for heart disease," says Dr. Marlos Fernandes, M.D., cardiovascular disease specialist, affiliated with Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. "Many of the risk factors associated with heart disease can be controlled by getting plenty of exercise and eating a healthy, low sodium and low fat diet."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 7 in every 10 people having their first heart attack have high blood pressure. "Hypertension is the number one cause of stroke and heart attack in this country," says Fernandes. "If left untreated it can also lead to congestive heart failure, where the pumping function of the heart gradually deteriorates." High cholesterol is another risk factor for heart attacks. "Excess cholesterol over time leads to plaque buildup in arteries, which can directly lead to heart attack or stroke," says Fernandes. Fernandes offers these simple tips to improving your heart health:

- Avoid smoking
- Be physically active
- Eat a heart-healthy diet
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Monitor blood pressure
- Watch cholesterol levels
- Reduce the amount of sugar in one's diet

Fernandes recommends an annual physical to help monitor the risk factors for heart disease. "With quick laboratory work, physical exam and history we can accurately predict the risk of cardiac events during the following 10 years and plan ahead to prevent it," says Fernandes. Learn more about Memorial Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute by visiting heart.memorialhermann.org.

Care Partners meet Feb. 19

Interfaith Care Partners Ministry group at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St. (near Almeda Mall), a gathering for persons with Alzheimer's, dementia or memory loss, meets the third Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Gatherings consist of a continental breakfast, arts and crafts, exercises, entertainment, a singalong, a devotional break, lunch, and ends with a game. Those who have a family member or know of someone with these challenges, are welcome to attend. All services are provided free of charge. An initial interview must be conducted by Interfaith Care Partners staff to welcome new participants into this program. The next gathering will be in the Mother Cabrini Center at the church on Friday, Feb. 19. For more information or to register a loved one, call Interfaith Care Partners at 713-682-5995 or visit the website at www.interfaithcarepartners.org.

Moore receives \$29,000 donation for playground build

Moore Elementary recently received a donation of \$29,000 for a new playground thanks in large part to the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and the Rugged Race. The donation came to fruition after a long journey to gain sponsorships, started by Moore Elementary Principal Jill Lacamu and Pasadena Memorial High School Coach Kasie Fernandez.

"We've never had a playground at Moore, but we started a running club to keep the kids active in January of last year," Lacamu said. "We would run twice a week after school. With the students and parents support we signed up as a team for the Pasadena Rugged Race. The organizers saw that our group had the largest turnout from any school and they decided to help us get a playground."

As one of the founders of the Rugged Race and an employee of the district, Coach Fernandez decided she would write a mini-grant to be considered for the fall 2015 Pasadena ISD Education Foundation Prize Parade, but the grant was not fulfilled.

"When we didn't get the mini-grant, we thought OK back to the drawing board," Lacamu said. "But that's when the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

stepped in." Every year, the chamber holds an event called Taste of the Town. As part of the evening guests are given the opportunity to bid on live auction items. One of these auction items is traditionally a mini-grant project that was unfunded by the education foundation, but the chamber deems as a worthy cause. This year that mini-grant was for the Moore playground.

"We were able to stand in front of the group of donors and tell our story," Lacamu said. "People started bidding and there was \$1,000 here and a few hundred there. Before we knew it the total had reached \$29,000. We were floored." At the end of the evening, there were 14 donors who generously raised the money to give to the campus.

"We were proud to partner with the Rugged Race and Kasie Fernandez to take our relationship with the education foundation to the next level," said Cristina Womack, president and CEO of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. "Through the Rugged Race we were able to choose a school that was active in that event and needed a playground. To our surprise, our donors gave very generously."

One of the donors, Shayla Northcutt from Northcutt Travel Agency, felt compelled to give after the project struck a chord with her. "I was born and raised in Pasadena," Northcutt said. "I think it's important to give back to your community, where you live and work, by giving back to the kids. I just want to give these kids the opportunity to have some memories of playing on a playground like I have. That's the best gift we can give."

Lacamu hopes to have a completed playground at Moore by September of this year. Thanks to donors B.J. Dorsett, Dorsett Brothers Concrete Supply, Inc.; Corkey Turner, Casa Ole-Deer Park; Robin Howington; Liz Olivarez, State Farm Insurance; Dusty and Cindy Davis, Lon-estar Promo Products; Kevin Jeter, Miles Service Corporation; Kenny Fernandez, North American Shipping Agencies; Shayla Northcutt, Northcutt Travel Agency; Gloria Gallegos and Jack Bailey, Pasadena ISD; Roger Despres, Power-Mark Resources; Shelley Squires; Richard Smith; and Sue Maceiras.



Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Moore students Isabella Alvarez, Carter Burback, Jade Scott, Noah Obregon and Trinity Dang, (back row) Cindy Parmer, executive director of Pasadena ISD community relations; Dixie Thompson, Cheryl Ivens and Shelby Willis, Moore teachers; Shayla Northcutt, Northcutt Travel Agency; Kenny Fernandez, Pasadena ISD board member; Kasie Fernandez, Rugged Race founder; Cristina Womack, president and CEO for the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce; Kevin Jeter and Gabe Cassell, Miles Service Corporation; and Jill Lacamu, Moore principal. Photo submitted

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Remember When

35 years ago (1976)
Barbara Taylor won the 1976 United States Twirling Association title of Miss Texas at a competition held in Houston. A lone armed robber escaped with \$115, a pair of gloves, and a quart of orange juice in the robbery of the 7-11 store located at Hall and Beamer Road in Kirkwood South.

35 years ago (1981)
Six-year-old Brian Warwick was killed when a pick-up truck collided with the Big Wheel he was riding on his block. Two Dobie students were arrested in connection with a burglary at the school. Approximately \$15,000 in equipment, including 16 IBM typewriters, a computer, a microwave oven and coins taken from the library Xerox machine and the school's candy and soft drink machines, was taken from the school.

30 years ago (1986)
As a precaution against possible contamination of its water supply by the nearby Brio toxic waste site, the South Bend Utility District made an agreement with Municipal Utility District 13 to purchase water for a period of up to one year. A bomb scare sent Stuchbery Elementary's 460 students out of the building prior to dismissal.

25 years ago (1991)
Harris County and the utility districts Southbend and M.U.D. 13 and H.E.L.P. filed additional motions claiming EPA improperly allowed the handling of the information on Brio to be done by the Brio Task Force, rather than EPA. Frazier fifth-grader Delia Dozler read all 20 library books from the Texas Bluebonnet Award Reading Program for the second year in

row. **20 years ago (1996)**
Dobie Lady Longhorn supporters and softball players met Chuck Norris at a restaurant while at a tournament in Brenham. Susan Eason assumed the role of San Jacinto College South registrar.

15 years ago (2001)
A three-car accident on the feeder road of South Belt and I-45 left 11 victims recovering. Hobby and Ellington airports undergo major improvements. Fund-raisers for 10-year-old Lindsay Simpson's heart surgery totaled over \$31,000. Frazier teachers promised to wear pajamas to school if they reached a goal of \$5,000. Park View Intermediate principal Rob Hasson dressed like a woman due to the \$1,700 students raised. Three high schools made "love links" to decorate the trees and fences around the playground. Various elementary, intermediate and high schools participated in the fundraising event.

10 years ago (2006)
Houston police were investigating the alleged attempted abduction of a Frazier Elementary fourth-grader as he was on his way home. The male student reported that he had been grabbed by an unknown man near the corner of Hughes and Sageburrow. The boy was not harmed and returned to school the following day. A South Belt resident who found some money was seeking the owner so it could be returned. The Good Samaritan used the *Leader* as a point of contact and several persons called to claim the money. None, however, were able to accurately describe that amount of money nor the location where it was found. The money was eventually donated to the Good Samaritan's church.

5 years ago (2011)
Hundreds of South Belt's faithful attended a City of Houston meeting to voice their opposition to Mayor Annise Parker about churches being assessed a mandated drainage fee under the Rebuild Houston program. Sagemont Church's executive pastor, the Rev. Chuck Schneider and Grace Community Church's pastor, the Rev. Garrett Booth, as well as Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis spoke at the event. A fatal shooting took place at 11045 Fuqua. The victim, David Davila, 27, suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Davila was inside Joe's Texas Club, an after-hours club, when he and two men began arguing. The argument escalated into a physical altercation, which then moved to the sidewalk out-

side. During the fight, one of the men produced a pistol and fired one time, fatally striking Davila. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2015)
A homeless man was arrested for starting a Feb. 13 fire that destroyed a storage building at the Quba Islamic Institute on Dixie Farm Road. Darryl Ferguson, 55, was charged with first-degree felony arson. The incident garnered national media attention, as many suspected it to be a hate crime. Ferguson, however, said the fire was unintentional.

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Concerts to showcase students, guest artists

San Jacinto College will host concerts in February and March that will showcase performances by music students, as well as noted guest artists. All concerts are free, open to the public, and will be held at the Dr. Monte Blue Music Building, located at the Central campus, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

• On Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., a faculty concert will feature the music of Antonio Carlos Jobim, a Brazilian songwriter, composer, arranger, singer, and pianist/guitarist. Jobim was a primary force in creating the Bossa Nova style, and his songs have been performed inter-

nationally. A brief discussion will be presented about the composer and his music. Songs will include *The Girl From Ipanema*, *One Note Samba*, *How Insensitive*, *Corcovado*, *Desafinado*, and *Chega De Saudade*.

Performing music professors will include Jeffrey Adams (flute and saxophone), Jeremy Garcia (guitar), Eric Late (bass), and Michael Mizma (percussion).

• On Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m., a jazz concert under the direction of music professor Jeffrey Adams will feature the college's student jazz ensemble performing standard selections such as *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*,

Secret Love, *Yardbird Suite*, and *Doctor Blues*. Several students will perform solo improvisations.

Guest artist at the concert will be Dr. Aric Schneller, Sam Houston State University director of jazz studies, who will perform an original song, *Beefy's Baby Blues*, and other selections. Schneller will be accompanied by a faculty quintet, and the student jazz ensemble will join Schneller to conclude the concert in the performance of *Caravan*. "This fast and lively arrangement was the same one that was performed in the movie *Whiplash*," commented Adams. "Music lovers are welcome and en-

couraged to come and hear a wonderful performance of live jazz." Schneller is nationally renowned as a clinician, soloist, conductor, master teacher, producer, composer, and arranger.

• On Thursday, March 31, at 7 p.m., clarinet and saxophone students, under the direction of Adams, will perform masterwork solo literature accompanied by piano professor Dr. Sarah Spencer. The students will present a lively woodwind quartet to conclude the concert.

San Jacinto College offers music degrees and courses, as well as private music lessons at the North and Central campuses.

Science students react with chemical reactions



Assistant Principal Travis Teichelman (former science teacher) enjoys watching the temperature change with Eddy Gonzalez and Karina Medina.

Thompson eighth-grade science students completed a chemical reactions lab recently in class. The purpose was for students to determine if a chemical reaction occurred and, if so, what type of reaction: endothermic or exothermic. Students combined bromophenol blue with calcium chloride and used Vernier LabQuest temperature probes to record the temperature change. After the temperature increasing, students then added sodium bicarbonate to the current solution and were surprised when the temperature decreased rapidly. As students cycled through the lab station over three days, they started to see who can have the highest and lowest temperatures. "It was neat to see how students created this competitive atmosphere on their own," Carol Waters, the eighth-grade pre-AP science teacher stated. The highest temperature recorded was 42.5 degrees Celsius by sixth-period students Naomi Rodriguez and Ailyn Balderas, and the lowest was 9.3 degrees Celsius recorded by fourth-period students Reid Ball and Raul Del Valle.

Photos submitted

UHCL to add recreation, wellness center

University of Houston-Clear Lake students have voted in favor of the addition of a new Recreation and Wellness Center. Following the student referendum, University of Houston System Board of Regents approved the addition of the new building, slated to open summer 2018.

The building is one of three buildings in the line-up for UH-Clear Lake after the 84th Texas Legislature approved House Bill 100, which authorized capital construction funding for the addition of two new buildings. UHCL Pearland Campus will add the Health Sciences and Classroom Building on schedule to open in fall 2018, while UHCL will add a STEM and Classroom Building also in 2018.

"As I often remind everyone, UHCL is a student-centered, community-minded, partnership-oriented university," said UHCL President William A. Staples. "When a project like this that will impact the students is presented to students and students respond, we listen."

The next step will be selecting an architect and a contractor. Ward Martindale, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management and Construction, said the design and construction process will incorporate input from not only students, but also faculty and staff.

"We're going to have a key, core group who can make decisions and get input

from the departments, their constituents," he said.

The core advisory group will rely on "subject matter experts" who can provide guidance on specific aspects of the building, Martindale said. For example, when designing fitness and human performance labs, the team will work with faculty who will teach in those labs for feedback.

Martindale also noted that members of the team will regularly present to the Facilities and Support Services Committee, which in turn reports back to governing bodies such as UHCL's Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, Professional and Administrative Staff Association, and Support Staff Association.

Future tenants of the Recreation and Wellness Center, which will house recreational space, the Fitness and Human Performance undergraduate program and the Exercise and Health Sciences graduate program, look forward to the ways community services, research and teaching will expand.

Bill Amonette, Exercise and Health Sciences Program Director, said the program currently uses a single room as both classroom and lab space, which requires frequent reconfiguration. Amonette has seen record expansion in the program, particularly among students preparing for careers in physical therapy, occupational therapy, exercise

physiology and other allied health sciences.

"There is a growth projected in these fields because of the changing dynamics of healthcare and our increased understanding of the impact of exercise on health," he said, noting that an aging population will continue to create demand for exercise professionals.

Research in the program focuses on improving health and performance, with ongoing studies in a variety of populations including athletes, people with multiple sclerosis and people who use wheel chairs or prosthetic limbs. Amonette said that the new facility will also offer more opportunities for the greater Clear Lake area.

"We have an opportunity to include our community as a partner in research and make a meaningful impact on the health of our students and the people of Clear Lake," he said.

The majority of the new building will be dedicated to recreation, including basketball courts, multi-purpose rooms, an indoor running track and an expanded weight room. "Group fitness classes are also often requested by students," said Jacob Crawford, campus recreation coordinator, "and the Recreation and Wellness Center would be able to accommodate them."

Another goal is to expand the university's intramural sports. Most outdoor intramural activities are limited to single-day tournaments at the

mercy of fickle Texas weather. With access to dedicated indoor courts, Crawford plans to create leagues of sports teams, such as basketball, soccer and badminton.

"I'd love to see the Recreation Center used not just for classrooms, but in all different aspects," he said. "There is something for everybody in there."

Geology graduate student James Kabanek, a student employee and avid user of the university's current Campus Recreation Fitness Room, said the new building will draw students both to the university and to each other.

"It feels like a more tightly knit university," he said of campuses with dedicated recreation buildings. "If you're going to expand the university, the Rec Center is one of those things that draws students."

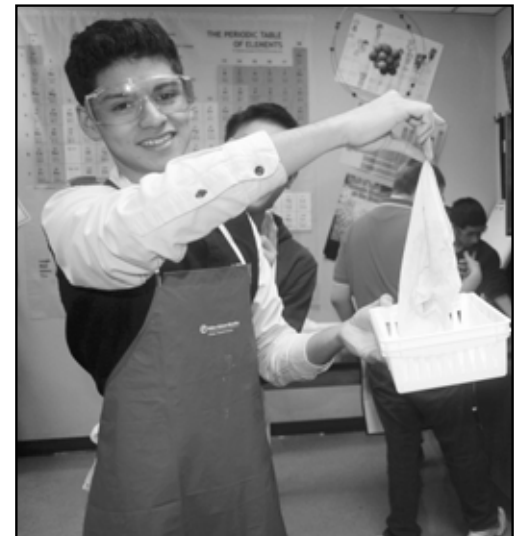
On the current timeline, design of the Recreation and Wellness Center begins this month, with construction starting in 2017.

The Recreation and Wellness Center will be paid with a combination of student fees and money from the Texas Higher Education Fund. The new student fee was approved by 68.69 percent of voters in a student referendum in fall 2015, and it will cover the recreation portions of the building. The classrooms, offices and labs will be funded by the Texas Higher Education Fund.

For more information about UH-Clear Lake, visit <http://www.uhcl.edu>.



Carla Lopez, Vicki Le, Irene Kim, and Cammy Vo complete their lab analysis.



Leo Perez enjoys seeing all the color changes (green, blue, and finally yellow!) that took place in the chemical reaction.

College prep program recognized as education leader

The College Preparatory program at San Jacinto College was recently awarded the 2016 John Champaign Memorial Award as an Outstanding Developmental Education Program. This award is given by the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE), and serves to recognize a college prep program's quality by peers and campus administration, quality service to students, and effectiveness through achievement of objective criteria.

College preparatory education at San Jacinto College

includes a multitude of academic and special programs to serve a variety of student learning styles. These programs - many award winning - include Acceleration in Mathematics, Integrated Reading and Writing, the mandatory College Student Success course, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Intentional Connections, Learning Communities, Fast Track Classes, Summer PASS Programs, and Non-Course Based Options.

"The professionals who serve our College Preparatory program have created

a dynamic organization that promotes course success, persistence, and completion of meaningful credentials," said Dr. Rebecca Goosen, past president of NADE who now serves on the NADE Emeritus Cabinet, and is a Council of Learning Assistance and Development Education Associations (CLADEA) Fellow. "They are trailblazers for innovations and curricular transformation not only in Texas but also across the nation."

San Jacinto College also works to share successful student college prep initiatives with fellow NADE community colleges across the nation.

The College will receive its annual NADE Conference in award at the upcoming 2016 Anaheim, Calif.

Library hosts session on construction training opportunities at college

While parts of Houston's economy struggle due to low oil prices, construction jobs such as welding, pipefitting and industrial electrician are

in demand because of new plants to be built east of the city.

Dr. J.D. Taliaferro Jr., local community director of Ap-

plied Technologies & Trades at San Jacinto College, will speak at the Parker Williams Branch Library on Monday, Feb. 29, at 6:30 p.m., about classes available in construction and related fields, funding to cover class costs and job placement.

This presentation is part of a grant funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to offer NC-CER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) trainee guides at the Parker Williams Branch as well as presentations on opportunities and advancement in construction careers. NC-CER trainee guides help construction employees with experience in their field prepare for their journey-level written test.

The Parker Williams Branch Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. at the intersection with Beamer Road. For more information about the trainee guides or to register for the presentation on Feb. 29, call the Parker Williams Branch Library at 281-484-2036.



Library customer Francis Solano prepares for his written test in the electrical craft area.

Photo submitted

Meador teachers hard at work



Third-grade teachers at Meador Elementary attended staff development sessions on Presidents' Day. These teachers, along with other teachers throughout the district, attended Math Focus training in preparation for the fourth nine-weeks. Pictured are, left to right, Corin Culpepper, Maria Gonzalez, Sarah Flores, Janet Flores, Rithy Vouen and Margo Sanchez. The staff development at Meador was presented by Peer Facilitator Connie Daumas.

Photo submitted

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Moore visits Channel 2 TV station

The Moore Mighty Hawk News Team recently visited the Channel 2 studio for a firsthand look behind the scenes.

At right are, left to right, (front row) John Moya, Ayesha Hasan, Jordan Leahman, (middle row) Andy Nagle, Eric Huynh, Arianna Rivera, Hannah Zamora, Emily Salinas, Julia Hernandez, (back row) Reading PF Melissa Hickman, Gael Ramos, Channel 2 Meteorologist Britta Merwin, and Technology Liaison Marie Alanis.

Photos submitted



At the Channel 2 studio desk are, left to right, (front row) Andy Nagle, Jordan Leahman, Arianna Rivera, Hannah Zamora, Ayesha Hasan, Emily Salinas, (back row) Technology Liaison Marie Alanis, Julia Hernandez, Reading PF Melissa Hickman, Gael Ramos, Eric Huynh and John Moya.

Vietnamese Lunar New Year at Stuchbery



Stuchbery Elementary teachers and students celebrate Vietnamese Lunar New Year by wearing traditional clothing and having a parade through the hallways of the school. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Sophie Nguyen, Y Tran, Chelsea Hua, Dylan Richter, LeHang Nguyen, (second row) Diana Nguyen, Julie Trinh, (third row) Huong Nguyen, Vivian Nguyen, Sienna Le, (back row) Thuy Le, Kalyna Tran, Nancy Le and Tiffany Nguyen.

Photos submitted



Teachers pictured are, left to right, (front row) Le- Hang Nguyen, Anita Guerrero, Jessica Reed, Dylan Richter, Jessica Reed, (middle row) Cheryl Fox, Sheri Graham, Linda Reyes, Charyl Lyons, Lourdes Guenard, Tina Jo Flotten, (back row) Kayla Ogden and Celia Joy Williams.

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San Jac program endorsed by North American Process Technology Alliance

The process technology program at San Jacinto College has received its endorsement by the North American Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA).

NAPTA is an organization of the Process Technology (PTEC) education providers and their business, industry, and community advisors. It is the standard-bearer of the PTEC curriculum. The San

Jacinto College process technology program, which ranks second in the nation for associate degree graduates, has been endorsed by NAPTA for the last three years. The program underwent thorough auditing in the summer of 2015 by registrars for endorsement consideration.

"For local industry, this means they can be assured that our graduates have met

strict guidelines in order to make them knowledgeable of the petrochemical industry, which in turn, they can be trusted to be valuable employees," said Joseph Zwiercan, department chair of petrochemical/energy at San Jacinto College. "For our students, it means that they have received the best education and training possible to prepare them to be successful in the petrochemical industry."

Elements considered for the NAPTA endorsement include standardized testing, facilities and equipment adequate for proper education; qualifications of instructors; and instructor opportunities for professional development. The college seeking endorsement must also have established an active industry-based advisory committee that provides input to the school's program. The committee must be industry-led and/or meet state or accrediting body requirements for advisory committees.

The San Jacinto College

process technology program has an advisory committee and strong industry partners that provide students with internship opportunities. As a result, the program boasts a high job placement rate for graduates entering the workforce.

"Being NAPTA approved indicates that our program stands out among the leaders in the nation regarding process technology," said Kevin Adams, San Jacinto College process technology program director.

The San Jacinto College process technology program was initially recognized by the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance before it changed to NAPTA, as the program not only included the Gulf Coast but North America. The Texas Skills Standard Board (TSSB) also recognizes the program.

San Jacinto College offers an associate degree and certificate of technology in process technology. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/career/process-technology.

Dynamic Women luncheon set

Find out how to find peace in these crazy times at the next Dynamic Women Luncheon and Networking Event.

The luncheon will be held Thursday, Feb. 25, at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will feature guest speaker, Kimberly Boone, who will speak about finding peace in an out-of-control world.

Doors will open at 10 a.m. when guests can shop and network with area vendors who feature home décor, fashion accessories, jewelry, health and beauty, and business and professional services.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., and the event ends at 1 p.m.

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

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

For reservations, email Sandee Ellis at sandeeellis@comcast.net.

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Moore celebrates 100th day



Moore Elementary students were asked to either dress as a 100-year-old version of themselves or create a 100th day shirt for the school's 100th day of school this year. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) kindergarten students Valery Casillas, Ava Lopez and Jade Tagle, (back row) kindergarten teacher Shelby Willis, kindergarten students Shea Lominac, Emmery Lynn and Juan Alonso, and kindergarten teacher Elizabeth Leimbach.

Photo submitted

Chris DIAZ
 Constable Chris Diaz making a difference in Precinct 2

Early Voting begins February 16
 Election Day is March 1

Constable Chris Diaz making a difference in Precinct 2

- Statewide commendation for National Night Out
- Member of the Regional Task Force on Liquor Code Violations, DWIs and Human Trafficking
- Regional Law Enforcement Training provider for the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement
- Member of the Joint Task Force on Gambling, Narcotics and Prostitution
- Supervises the Toll Road Incident Management Division through a partnership with the Toll Road Authority and Commissioners Court
- Partner with the Regional Intelligence Center (RIC)
- Worked with state legislators to pass legislation to provide silver alerts for missing seniors
- Conducts two Citizens Police Academies annually - Precinct 2 currently has over 120 academy-trained alumni.
- Publishes a monthly Constable's Corner blog to provide safety tips
- Regularly speaks at Town Hall and Community meetings
- Provides Senior Citizen and Vacation Watch Services
- Maintains a Reserve Deputy Division in which volunteers give of their time to protect the citizens of Precinct 2

Prior to being elected Constable in 2012, Chris Diaz served as Mayor of Jacinto City, taught at San Jacinto College and owned a small business.

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Brown Relays set at Auxiliary

Pasadena ISD and its respective varsity boys' and girls' track and field programs will host the 2016 Brown Relays Friday, Feb. 19, at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

The Dobie boys' team will be making its second appearance of the season after debuting Feb. 12 with a third-place finish at the Jim Kethan Relays in Deer Park.

Meanwhile, the Lady Longhorns' varsity squad will also be opening its season at the Brown Relays. The field events will begin at 2:30 p.m., and the running events commence at 6 p.m.

JFD's solid start
Dobie looks to be in shape for a great season after getting out of the gate third at the Kethan Relays in the boys' division.

Memorial, one of Dobie's true rivals in District 22-6A, walked away with a 115-114 win over Clear Falls for the team championship. Dobie was third with 97, edging Clear

Continued on Page 2B

Longhorns, Wolverines headed to hoops playoffs

Anyone had enough of this Dobie versus North Shore thing?

The Dobie varsity football team has gone up against the Mustangs in the first round of the playoffs in each of the last five seasons, with North Shore winning each time.

Now, the Longhorns' varsity boys' basketball team is set to go up against North Shore for the second straight season, again in the first round.

Last season, North Shore jumped out to a 28-14 first-quarter lead, but then the Longhorns played things evenly.

In the fourth quarter, North Shore's Kerwin

Roach, now at the University of Texas, took over a key stretch of the game on both ends of the floor to help the Mustangs eventually win 79-57. Roach led North Shore with 27 points.

This time around, Dobie's win over Memorial in the regular season finale secured the fourth and final playoff seed for the Longhorns at 10-6.

Manvel, also 10-6 after beating Pearland in its final regular season game, landed third place based on its strength of victory (over playoff qualifiers) percentage over the Longhorns.

North Shore has

Boys' Basketball Playoffs

Dobie Longhorns vs. North Shore Mustangs
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.
Pasadena Memorial High School

Clear Brook Wolverines vs. Fort Bend Travis Tigers
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m.
Dawson High School

claimed the District 21-6A championship and thus has earned the right to face the Longhorns – again.

And the two teams will meet at a familiar location, agreeing to again compete at Pasadena Memorial High School. The game is set for Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m.

The Clear Brook Wolverines are also headed to the playoffs, having won three of their last four games to grab the fourth

seed out of District 24-6A.

Like the Dobie Longhorns, Clear Brook faces a difficult challenge in the first round of the playoffs, with District 23-6A champion Fort Bend Travis next up. Travis tied Hightower at 15-1 in league play but advanced as the top seed.

Dobie finishes Memorial

A big second half run allowed Dobie to pull away from Pasadena Memorial in the regular season

Continued on Page 3B



Dobie varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres will lead the Longhorns into action as the first pitch of the 2016 regular season is delivered Tuesday, Feb. 23. The Longhorns will take on the Pearland Oilers in what is also the District 22-6A opener for both teams. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. For more baseball, see Page 2B.

Photo by John Bechtel

Pearland pitching duo no-hits Lady Horns

Two Pearland varsity softball pitchers combined on a five-inning no-hitter, helping the Lady Oilers defeat Dobie 9-0 in the District 22-6A and regular season opener for both teams Feb. 16, at Pearland. The Lady Oilers scored four runs in the second inning and added five more in the fourth to close out the run-rule game. Dobie now heads to the Brenham ISD tournament Feb. 18-20, where the locals will face Clear Creek, Lamar, Judson, East Central, host Brenham and Hendrickson over the three days. Dobie returns to 22-6A play Feb. 23, hosting Manvel at the Pasadena ISD complex at 6:30 p.m. At right, Dobie third baseman Jackie Garcia (2) has quite the audience as she fires a strike over to first base.

See more on Page 6B.

Photo by John Bechtel



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High school soccer teams shine

Fans of local high school soccer programs should be getting very excited, what with their favorite teams playing exceptionally right now.

Whether it's the Dobie or Clear Brook varsity boys' programs or that of the Dobie varsity girls, there's some fun being had out there on the field.

Pound the softball, or else be pounded on. It's not the best description of a junior college softball game at all, but it must be the way the San Jacinto College program is feeling these days.

At 9-7 overall after dropping three of five games at its own invitational Feb. 13-14 at the Pasadena Girls Softball Association complex, San Jacinto has both slugged away at opposing teams

The Dobie boys, defending District 22-6A champions, are facing the biggest match of their season Friday, Feb. 19, at Manvel High School.

A 5-1 win over Pearland to start the second half of league play moved the Longhorns to 7-0-2 in District 22-6A play, good for 23 points.

Meanwhile, Manvel is at 7-0-1 but has one more match left to play than the Longhorns.

Manvel earned 23 of 24 possible points in the standings through the first half of league action, playing Dobie to a tie the first time around but winning the shootout to gain two points to Dobie's one.

Given the flow of the district race to this point, Dobie likely needs to defeat Manvel outright Feb. 19 in order to keep its league title hopes alive.

Otherwise, a fight for second place with Memorial could wind up being Dobie's best option for the postseason.

Continued on Page 6B

San Jacinto College softball goes 2-3

– a game in which freshman starting pitcher Niki Gonzalez struck out 19 over seven innings – some of these games are resembling football scores.

After downing Meridian, San Jacinto went up against unbeaten Tyler, eventually losing 14-4 as the Apaches scored four times in the first inning and seven more runs in the fourth inning.

Tyler went on to win each of its five games in the tournament and now stands at 16-0 this season. Unranked to open the regular season, the Apaches have surely caught the attention of national poll voters within the National



Freshman Niki Gonzalez pitched San Jac to a 3-1 win over Meridian in the opener for both teams at the San Jacinto College Invitational. She fanned 19 batters over seven innings. See more on Page 3B.

Photo by John Bechtel

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Continued on Page 3B

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Local news, notes

Dolphin cheer, drill, etc.

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will accept registration for cheer/drill/mascot members (age 4 through 13 as of Aug. 1, 2016) beginning Feb. 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Armadillo Lanes, 10055 Fuqua.

Dolphin staff members will host a registration March 12, at the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League facility at El Franco Lee Park, also from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Additional registration dates will include March 24, April 22 and May 26, all at Armadillo Lanes, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For additional information, direct email to Tiffany Scimmons at SBD Drill@yahoo.com.

SJC hoop hosts youth night

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will host local recreation leagues and school programs at Youth Night on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m., during the Ravens' game against Lamar State College-Port Arthur. The game is at Anders Gymnasium on the Central campus.

Local youth basketball players are encouraged to attend the game free of charge. The first 100 basketball fans to arrive, ages 18 and younger, will receive a free miniature basketball.

"We're asking all local youth basketball groups to come out and watch us play," said SJC head coach Scott R. Gernander. "This will give them an opportunity to see a higher level of basketball and to meet some of the guys for autographs after the game. It's fun for us but, hopefully, even more fun for them."

The San Jacinto College Central campus is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

Rams to register

The Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League will host registration for returning players and also sign up new drill team, cheerleading and mascot candidates Thursday, Feb. 25, at Gabby's Hall, 8510 Blackhawk, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Cowboys to sign up

The Sagemont Cowboys/Cowgirls will be hosting registration for returning football players and for returning and new drill members Saturday, Feb. 27, at Denny Wranich Sr. Field, located at El Franco Lee Park, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a \$100 non-refundable deposit due at the time of registration.

Dobie boys' track opens at DP; Longhorns, Brook now to Browns

Continued from Page 1B

Creek by a point. The Longhorns' Jucory Shelvin scored a big win in the 100-meter dash as he came to the finish line at 11.66. Teammate A.J. Owens was fourth with a time of 11.91.

Dobie also finished first in the 4x100-meter relay at 43.86. That competitive foursome included Shelvin, Trey Johnson, Ke'montre Lowe and freshman Kris Morris.

The Longhorns' 4x400-meter team raced to a third-place finish of 3:40.52 in the event.

That foursome was made up of Gyron Gittens, Jeremiah Hernandez, Dan-

iel Williams and Lowe.

In the triple jump, the Longhorns' Williams was first at 43 feet, 4 inches, with teammate Earl Newton second at 39' 1 1/2".

Williams also scored six points for third place in the 110-meter hurdles as he clocked in at 16.32.

At 23.91, the Longhorns' Jeremiah Franklin was third in the 200-meter dash, and Newton placed third in the 300-meter hurdles with a finish of 43.18.

Dedrick Simpson's best throw of 117'8" was good for third place in the discus, and Morris placed fourth in the long jump after making his way to the 19'5" mark. In the same

event, Johnson earned a point for a sixth-place leap of 19' 1/2".

Dobie's 4x200-meter relay also showed some speed, taking fifth place with a time of 1:36.06 in the event.

Longhorn track and field coach David Chollett grouped Breon Simmons and Johnson with Hernandez and Lowe in that event.

Elsewhere for the Longhorns in the meet, Simmons' time of 24.86 was seventh in the 200-meter dash.

In the 400-meter dash, Jacoby Davis (58.75) and David Garcia (59.55) placed ninth and 10th, re-

spectively, in the event.

Newton's long jump of 17'9 1/2" was 10th best, and Brandon Flores threw the discus 110'11" for 12th place.

With a third-place finish, the Longhorns are off to a solid start, and the Brown Relays offer another chance for more success.

CB invited

The Clear Brook boys' and girls' teams will be among those vying for supremacy at the Brown Relays. In the first week of the season at the Clear Brook Winter Relays, only a small number of athletes from the host school competed.

For coach Aaron Troyer's boys' team, Jamael Farooq was third in the triple jump with an effort of 43'0".

In the 4x1,600-meter relay, the Wolverines were fourth in a time of 20:04.00 as Ryan Brasseur, Jacob Reznik, Austin Kanjirathingal and Eric Kanjirathingal represented the Wolverines.

Clear Brook was fifth in the spring medley relay as Braelton Hill, Jarrett Smith, Kenneth Pree and Sterling Stephens combined for a time of 1:37.7.

Alexandra Phillips-Sanfilippo led the way for the Lady Wolverines as she was fourth in the shot put

with a top throw of 32'2".

Brook's 4x800-meter relay squad of Katy Pyle, Nevaeh Llamas, Laysia Parker and Chelsea Joseph placed sixth with a time of 11:13.653.

The Wolverines are expected to be out in force at

the Brown Relays.

Sprinter Brandon Taylor, who has already made his mark this season on the indoor circuit, will compete in the 100-meter dash and is also likely to join the Wolverines in the sprint relays.

**Pasadena ISD
Brown Relays
Friday, Feb. 19, Auxiliary Stadium**

**2:30 p.m. – Field events
6 p.m. – Running events**

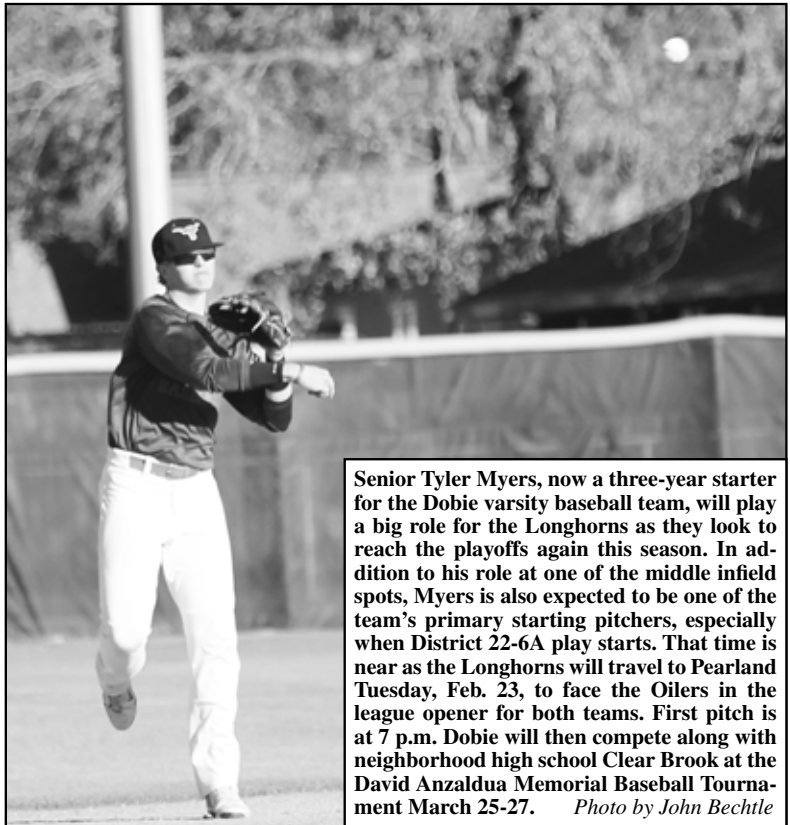
San Jacinto College baseball programs honors past star performers

The San Jacinto College baseball program recognized some of the stars of the past during the college's annual Legends weekend. Some of those past players and coaches in attendance included, left to right, Nick Stavino-ha (Sugar Land Skeeters), Rusty Pendergrass (major league baseball scout), Brandon Belt (San Francisco Giants), Matt Albers (Chicago White Sox), Tom Arrington (current San Jacinto college head baseball coach), Chris Rupp (former SJC head baseball coach and current Deer Park High School head baseball coach), Donald Wright (owner of Just Wright Sports), David Rollins (Seattle Mariners), and Larry Wilson (San Jacinto College board of trustees vice chairman).

Photo by Rob Vanya



Baseball season openers: Dobie gets Pearland; Brook hosts Katy Taylor



Senior Tyler Myers, now a three-year starter for the Dobie varsity baseball team, will play a big role for the Longhorns as they look to reach the playoffs again this season. In addition to his role at one of the middle infield spots, Myers is also expected to be one of the team's primary starting pitchers, especially when District 22-6A play starts. That time is near as the Longhorns will travel to Pearland Tuesday, Feb. 23, to face the Oilers in the league opener for both teams. First pitch is at 7 p.m. Dobie will then compete along with neighborhood high school Clear Brook at the David Anzaldua Memorial Baseball Tournament March 25-27. Photo by John Bechtel

Exactly one week after the start of the high school softball regular season comes the varsity baseball openers.

Dobie, the fourth-place team in District 22-6A a season ago, must once again ramp up its effort on opening day.

For the second straight season, Dobie opens both the regular season and the District 22-6A race by facing Region III power Pearland right out of the gate.

Last season, Pearland won that first game 10-1 and went on to claim the league title. Dobie bounced back to claim a playoff spot but was swept in two games by Deer Park in the first round.

This time, it all begins at Pearland Tuesday, Feb. 23, as the Longhorns and Oilers square off to get things going.

This much is known

about Dobie. The team has two senior starting pitchers in the forms of Tyler Myers and Jesse Paredes. Jeremy Green is likely to handle the bulk of the catching, and Paredes (first base) and Myers (shortstop or second base) double as middle infielders.

In the outfield, JoJo Castaneda in left field and Euro Diaz in center field appear set, and third-year senior Isaiah Myers also factors in somewhere, particularly at the plate.

Wolverines upbeat
Clear Brook is set to open the regular season Tuesday, Feb. 23, at home against Katy Taylor.

Starting pitcher Bryce Hill, an Abilene Christian University signee, will clearly be a key on the mound for the Wolverines. And right fielder Tywon Mackey, a four-year letterman, is also back to lead

the way offensively.

Otherwise, head coach Gene Flores has a host of juniors who will be expected to take the next step, particularly at the plate. The Wolverines will have to compete with the likes of Clear Springs, Friendswood and Clear Creek for eventual playoff contention in 24-6A play, but Flores believes the Wolverines can pull things together provided the offense continues to develop.

Citing the return of just six overall players, Flores said, "We are still considered young on paper, but we're playing okay (in scrimmages) and pitching the ball pretty good with some of the young guys."

"I think if we can get our offense rolling, we have a little more speed on the bases and hopefully, that speed will allow us to put up some more runs

this season. I expect good things from this group."

Headed to La Porte

Invitational play starts for both Dobie and Clear Brook at the 16th Annual David Anzaldua Memorial Tournament, hosted by La Porte High School but also including Jim Kethan Field at Deer Park High School and Bob Cobb Field at Clear Lake High School.

The Wolverines will play five games, including those against Texas City, Port Neches-Groves, Deer Park, Conroe and Barbers Hill.

Dobie is scheduled to go up against Clear Lake, Galveston Ball, Barbers Hill, La Porte and Deer Park.

The Dobie-Deer Park game will feature a rematch of the two programs that met in the bidistrict round of the playoffs last season.



Senior first baseman Jesse Paredes, now a three-year starter, will be important to Dobie's success on the varsity baseball field both at first base and on the mound.

Walker wins again, Zuniga second



The South Belt area was proudly represented at the City of Pasadena Youth Basketball League's annual free throw shooting contest. Zaire Walker of the Ballers' team (left) made 13 of 15 tries to win first place for the second straight year, this time in the 11-12-year-old category. Valerie Zuniga of the Lady Ballers was second overall in the 9-10-year-old category after winning the 7-8-year-old division last season.

16th Annual David Anzaldua Memorial Baseball Tournament

| Thursday, Feb. 25 at La Porte High School | Thursday, Feb. 25 at Deer Park High School | Thursday, Feb. 25 at Clear Lake High School |
|--|---|--|
| 10 a.m. – Clear Brook vs. Texas City | 10 a.m. – Deer Park vs. Conroe | 12:30 p.m. – Clear Lake vs. Dobie |
| 12:30 p.m. – La Porte vs. Texas City | 12:30 p.m. – Conroe vs. S. Houston | 3 p.m. – Dobie vs. G. Ball |
| 3 p.m. – Clear Brook vs. PN-Groves | 3 p.m. – Barbers Hill vs. S. Houston | 5:30 p.m. – Clear Lake vs. G. Ball |
| 5:30 p.m. – La Porte vs. PN-Groves | 5:30 p.m. – S. Houston vs. Texas City | |
| Friday, Feb. 26 at La Porte High School | Friday, Feb. 26 at Deer Park High School | Friday, Feb. 26 at Clear Lake High School |
| 10 a.m. – Barbers Hill vs. G. Ball | 10 a.m. – Deer Park vs. Clear Brook | 12:30 p.m. – Clear Lake vs. S.. Houston |
| 12:30 p.m. – La Porte vs. G. Ball | 12:30 p.m. – PN-Groves vs. Texas City | 3 p.m. – Clear Brook vs. Conroe |
| 3 p.m. – Barbers Hill vs. Dobie | 3 p.m. – PN-Groves vs. Deer Park | 5:30 p.m. – Clear Lake vs. Conroe |
| 5:30 p.m. – La Porte vs. Dobie | 5:30 p.m. – Deer Park vs. Barbers Hill | |
| Saturday, Feb. 26 at La Porte High School | Saturday, Feb. 26 at Deer Park High School | |
| 10 a.m. – Clear Brook vs. Barbers Hill | 10 a.m. – Texas City vs. Clear Lake | |
| 12:30 p.m. – PN-Groves vs. G. Ball | 12:30 p.m. – Deer Park vs. Dobie | |
| 3 p.m. – La Porte vs. Conroe | | |

SJC softball looking to find consistency through 15-plus games

Continued from Page 1B
Junior College Athletic Association.

Wallace State then scored 12 runs over its last three offensive innings to

route the locals 17-4.

Gonzalez fanned 11 more but was the hard luck losing pitcher in an eight-inning 2-1 loss to No. 1 Temple. Hernandez

homered for San Jacinto's lone run in the game. Hernandez then socked another home run and doubled as San Jacinto slugged its way past Iowa

Western 17-13 in the final game of the tournament for both teams. It was a great way for San Jacinto to close out the tournament, what with

the results of three of the other four games.

Offensively, Gabby Gonzalez, Kerl, Hernandez, Dani Damian and others have carried the load.

In the circle, Niki Gonzalez, a freshman from Baytown Sterling, has been the most consistent of the four who have seen action for the team.

San Jacinto College will compete in the Temple College tournament Feb. 19-20 before heading to Waco to face McLennan Feb. 24.



Missy Hernandez enjoyed a terrific San Jacinto College Invitational at the plate, slugging a pair of home runs to go with a double. SJC went on to win two of

its five games played and now stands at 9-7 overall this season.

Photos by John Bechtle



Sophomore catcher Gabby Gonzalez frames a strike call during the tournament opener against Meridian, a 3-1 win for San Jacinto College in which her sister, freshman pitcher Niki Gonzalez struck out 19 batters over seven innings.



San Jacinto College shortstop Katlin Kerl continued her hot offensive start during the locals' own invitational, slamming a pair of homers over the five games. In a loss to Wallace State, Kerl went 3 for 4 at the plate, one of those a home run.

Boys' hoops teams off to playoffs

Continued from Page 1B
son finale for both teams Feb 16, at Memorial.

Dobie led by five points at the half but eventually locked up the fourth seed with that big second-half push to win 70-47. The Longhorns got sev-

eral players involved in what turned out to be an easy win.

Jeremy Williams and Jonathan Cooper had 12 points each, and Travores Gilbert and Tyler Giron added 11 apiece. Jason Lester and Royce Hunter

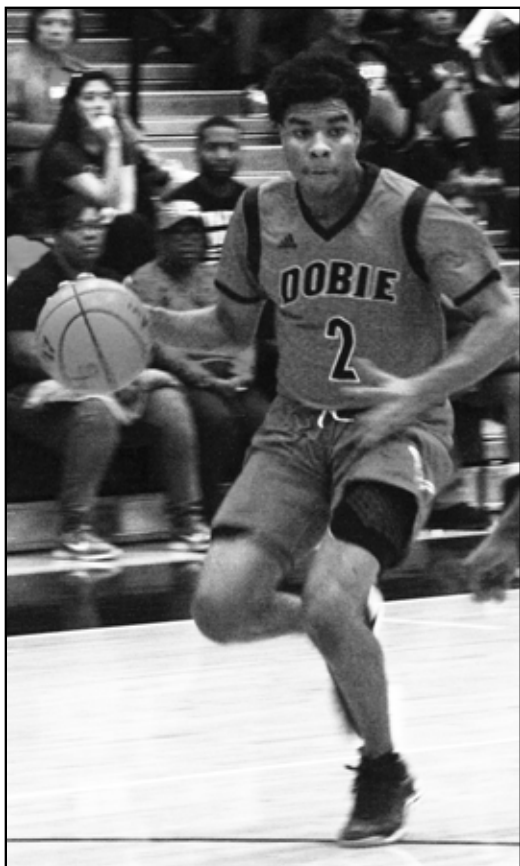
had nine points apiece.

Brook advanced to the playoffs despite a 55-51 loss to Friendswood to end the regular season.

The Wolverines were in contention for the third seed and could have faced Hightower instead of Tra-

vis, but the loss to Friendswood changed that.

David Azore led the Wolverines with 17 points in the game. Clear Brook finished the regular season with an 8-6 record. Dickinson won the 24-6A championship.



Jonathan Cooper (2) and his Dobie teammates are destined to get another chance at North Shore after losing in the first round a season ago.



Junior David Azore (22) was one of the area's most consistent scorers while leading Clear Brook back to the postseason.

Darren Lajaunie memorial tennis plans in works

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund along with the Bay Area Racquet Club in Houston will host the 5th Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament Friday through Sunday, April 22 through April 24. The Bay Area Racquet Club is located on Kings Park Lane, off Nasa Parkway.

The Sponsorship Drive and tournament preparations are under way for the tournament, which will award members of the Bay Area Racquet Club's junior tennis players both youth camp and college scholarships.

College scholarships will also be awarded to two tennis playing seniors (one boy and one girl) at Dobie High School.

Lajaunie began his tennis career playing at Dobie High School and graduated co-valedictorian in 1984. The Lajaunie family have been members of BARC since 2009. Last year DLTSF raised \$19,000 for the scholarships from sponsorships, donations, silent auction, dinner raffle and proceeds from Texas Land and Cattle night for DLTSF.

Unfortunately, Lajaunie lost his battle with melanoma on May 3, 2011. This scholarship

fund and tournament is a way to honor his memory by helping junior tennis players enjoy tennis and by assisting with their education in college.

Lajaunie was an electrical engineer graduate from the University of Texas in Austin, and a pillar of the community while working at the Johnson Space Center. He was dedicated and passionate for his favorite past time of playing tennis.

All registered players will receive a tournament T-shirt and hat, and enjoy complimentary Saturday morning breakfast snacks.

A complimentary lunch will also be available for players, which will be donated by the Lajaunie family. Free popcorn and snow cones will also be available throughout the tournament for all players.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are busy seeking donors, and silent auction items. On April 22, the event will "Kick-off" with a silent auction with the BARC scholarship awards dinner at the racquet club.

There will be six camp scholarships and two college scholarships awarded to BARC junior tennis players.

This year, a new camp category for BARC junior tennis players has been added, called the Base-

line Camp Scholarship for those age 7-10.

This is an addition to the Ace camp Scholarship, the Center Court camp scholarship and the Grand Slam college scholarship for BARC Junior tennis players.

Members of the Dobie Tennis team will be allowed to play in the tournament free of charge. Dobie players should check the tournament website for all details related to the scholarships.

Last year, the DLTSF awarded five camp scholarships to BARC junior tennis players and awarded four BARC high school seniors scholarships for college.

On the Dobie side, 25 members of the tennis team were awarded entry to play in the tournament, and four Dobie seniors were awarded scholarships for college.

Dinner tickets will go on sale April 1.

This year, the kick-off party attendees will be treated to a barbecue dinner, which will include sliced brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad, all of the fixings and iced tea.

Kroger will again donate dessert for the dinner and fruit and bottled water for players during the tournament.

Dinner tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 10-and-under.

Lajaunie Memorial Tennis

April 22-24, Houston

Bay Area Racquet Club

www.DLtennisscholarships.com

Tickets may be purchased at the Bay Area Racquet Club or on the DLTSF website.

After dinner, the BARC camp and college scholarships will be awarded to the junior tennis players.

The Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships in May at the school during a special ceremony.

The silent auction will begin April 22 at 4 p.m., and finish April 23 at 3 p.m. Silent auction items include an autographed shirt from auto racing legend Mario Andretti and his grandson, Marco Andretti, an autographed T-shirt from Los Lobos and dance lessons from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Clear Lake or Pearland.

The tournament will begin April 23 at 8 a.m. and finish April 24, with a trophy presentation at the conclusion of each division of play.

Interested participants should check the scholarship website for tournament details or the BARC website.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund website at www.DLtennisscholarships.com includes pictures from last year's tournament and information on this year's tournament, sponsorships, scholarships and more.

Those who would like to donate or perhaps become a sponsor may do so by following guidelines on the website.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a non-profit corporation, and all donations are tax deductible.

Donation may now be made via the website with a credit card, or checks or money orders may be mailed to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, Texas, 77059.

Those interested may direct email to Camille Lajaunie, committee chairperson, at cjlajaunie@gmail.com with any questions.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

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

4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise for individuals with Parkinson's disease, 4 to 5 p.m., Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital Clear Lake, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Call 713-313-1652 or visit www.hapsonline.org for a list of all services.

6 p.m.
Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - A social group interested in the culture, music, heritage and language of German immigrants in Texas. Meets monthly on the third Thursday, 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Call 281-481-1238 for information.

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

Al-Anon (English Speaking) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway,

Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.
Alateen - Provides support for teenage children, friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.
Interfaith Care Partners - ministry at Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St., near Alameda Mall. The gathering, for those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, strokes, etc. and their caretakers, meets the third Friday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It consists of a continental-type breakfast, arts, crafts, exercises, entertainment, devotional break, lunch, and bingo game. Family members or acquaintances with these challenges are invited. For information, call the church at 713-946-5768; Claudia Rojas, Interfaith Care Partners, at 713-682-5995; or visit www.interfaithcarepartners.org.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group of Al-

coholics Anonymous, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Road 39, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., room 215, First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., (Hwy 35), Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., (Hwy 35), Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

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

1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - Produces a bluegrass music show and jam session the third Saturday of

each month, August and December are exceptions. Stage show begins at 7 p.m., but pickers may bring instruments and come earlier. Free. Johnny Aroflo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For information, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

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

5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., Chapel of the Educational Building at Life Church in Houston, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for information or to RSVP for child care.

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4B

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 www.lutheransouth.org
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SOUTHBELT - Data-Systems - Hard Drive Data Recovery - Linux Installation. 10909 Sabo, Suite 120, 281-922-4160. E-mail: sds@walkerlaw.com TF

GARAGE SALE
 2306 EAST CAPRI (Bella Vita) Sat, Feb 20, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Estate Sale. China, misc items. 2-18

11407 FRUITWOOD DR. (1st street off Scarsdale, behind the Valero.) Sat & Sun, Feb 20 & 21, 7 a.m. Lots of great stuff. 2-18

11006 LINDEN GATE DR. Sat, Feb 20, 8 a.m. Some furniture and misc. house items. No early birds please. 2-18

HELP WANTED
 PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER needed. Must have computer knowledge. Call Ed Camp at 713-947-0544. 3-3

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 FOR SALE: Solid wood table, 4 chairs \$500. Ashley Reclining Loveseat \$600. Both excellent condition. 281-412-4170. Craigslist: 5427919405, 5427892941 3-3

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281-481-5656
 Visit us online at www.southbeltleader.com

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park – Mondays 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

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

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For more information, call 713-856-1611.

3:30 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free exercise and speech therapy from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. For adults with Parkinson's disease only.

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 – Meets Mondays at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua, 6 p.m. Come and improve crossword game playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for information.

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

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

7 p.m.
Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group – Group meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the staff meeting room. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Betty Bielat at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.

7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – New AA meeting, Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery Program, open meeting meets every Monday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building, 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For more information, call Russell Garcia at 832-483-6715.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or drop in.

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

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club – Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

Rotary Club of Pearland – Meets weekly, Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive, Pearland. Lunch is served for \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit [nalix@texascitizensbank.com](http://www.nalix@texascitizensbank.com).

1 p.m.
Ballroom Dance Practice – Tuesdays, Hometown Heroes Park, League City. Come and enjoy free ballroom dancing, 1 to 3 p.m., on a beautiful 3,630 sq. ft. floating hardwood floor. Dancers practice to a large variety of ballroom music. Instructor available to assist people with new moves. Everyone is welcome! For questions, call 281-554-1180. 1001 East League City Pkwy.

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

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) – Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

Houston Space City Lions Club – Meets the second and fourth Tuesday monthly, 7 p.m., at Golden Corral (12500 Gulf Frwy.) or various restaurants. For information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or drop in.

9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Club – Meets the second and fourth week of each month (except November and December) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Nellie Galney at 713-991-3517 for information.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

1 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park – invites dancers to the Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance rhythms from 1 to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. Eileen Bauerlein is available to assist those needing help learning dance moves. For details, call the park office at 281-554-1180 or Neva Schroder at 832-864-2721.

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) – Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center – Confidential domestic violence support group for women, 7 p.m., 210 S. Walnut off NASA Pkwy. between I-45 South and Highway 3. Call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com for information. 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, in the Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact Dr. Dave Glandorf, bridge instructor, at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6 per game or \$15 per lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

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

4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free water exercise for individuals with Parkinson's disease, 4 to 5 p.m., Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital Clear Lake, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Call 713-313-1652 or visit www.hapsonline.org for a list of all services.

6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Park and Recreation Center on Hughes Road. For more information call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads Support Group – Those who are the husband, wife or partner of a chronically ill/disabled person may join Well Spouse support group. Meets the last Thursday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale. Free childcare provided. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For information, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Women's Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, at the First Presbyterian Church (youth building) on the Westminster side. For information, call 713-856-1611.

Al-Anon (English Speaking) – Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Alateen – Provides support for teenage children, friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

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

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Pearland softball blanks JFD; Brook gets opening night win

Pearland struck first in the District 22-6A varsity softball race, handing Dobie an abbreviated 9-0 loss Feb. 16, at Lady Oiler Field.

Alyssa Denham and Adrianna Chavarria combined on a five-inning no-hitter, and Denham started two different scoring rallies with hits as the Lady Oilers rolled to the win. Pearlman got things going in the bottom of the

second inning. Denham slashed a one-out double down the right field line. Courtesy runner Lauren Shepherd entered the game and quickly stole third base before Sara Clements was hit by a pitch. With runners at first and third, Clements attempted a steal of second base. Dobie catcher Marissa Longoria's throw went through into center field as Shepherd scored and Clements

moved to third base. Natalie Romero, the No. 9 hitter for Pearlman, singled to center field for a 2-0 lead. Lindsey Stewart, who had four hits in the game out of the lead-off spot, singled in Romero for a 3-0 lead, and Madison Clements singled in another run as Dobie trailed 4-0. Denham, who went four innings in the circle for Pearlman, struck out eight

in the game. She fanned the side in both the second and fourth innings. The Lady Oilers put the game away in the bottom of the fifth inning, plating five runs to end the game by run-rule. Starting pitcher Michelle Kristoff took the loss for Dobie, which also committed three errors in the game. Dobie will now look to bounce back with a Feb. 18-20 trip to Brenham. The Lady Longhorns will face Clear Creek, Arlington Lamar, Converse Judson, East Central, Brenham and Hendrickson in the three-day event.

Brook bests MR 8-4
Looking for bigger and better things this season, the Clear Brook varsity softball team came up with a big win Feb. 16, at Morton Ranch in the season opener for both squads. Morton Ranch led 3-1 as she helped the locals come from behind to win the game. Defensively, Clear Brook second baseman Janessa Calles made several big defensive plays to thwart possible Morton Ranch rallies. Meanwhile, the offense banged out 14 hits in the game, led by Alexis Barton's four-hit night. Persi Gallegos added three hits, and Alyson

Kuhr had two more as coach Noah Cardenas' team began the season with a win. Clear Brook is now headed to the Galena Park ISD tournament, set for Feb. 18-20. The Lady Wolverines will play games against MacArthur and South Houston on the first day of the event. On Feb. 19, Clear Brook continues action

against C.E. King and Galena Park. The final day – Saturday, Feb. 20 – is reserved for trophy round action. The following week, Clear Brook is one of the host schools for the Clear Creek ISD Invitational Feb. 25-27. Meanwhile, Dobie will play in the Haynie Invitational at Pearland High School, scheduled for Feb. 25-27.

The Wolverines will close out the first half of District 24-6A play with another big game, this time at Henry Winston Stadium in Friendswood. Brook faces the Mustangs Friday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.

Soccer teams enjoy fun times down the stretch run in league play

Continued from Page 1B
Despite the strong play of Manvel and Dobie to this point, Dobie head coach Justo Manrique still believes the championship race will go down to the final game. He would love nothing more than to see his Longhorns down Manvel and therefore assume sole possession of first place for a bit. But win, lose or tie, Manrique is keeping things in focus. "Manvel is a big game for us, but the race will

still be on no matter what happens," Manrique said. "Manvel and Memorial are keeping up the pace, so I think it will all go down to the last week of games. Pasadena is more than capable of beating all three of the teams above them, and the other five teams are always hard to beat." Grabbing first place in the 22-6A ranks could prove especially crucial when it comes down to playoff time and the way the bracket lays out, but it's not a win-or-else situ-

ation just yet for the defending 22-6A champions. Manrique remembers taking over the program before the 2014 season. It wasn't a smooth or easy transition, but now Dobie is unbeaten in district play since that season. It's about the players buying in, believing and putting in the hard work each day to get things done as a team. "For my part, I am very proud of our boys' achievements," Manrique said. "This is our second year to challenge for the district title after a very tough start in 2014. Our boys don't forget the struggles of 2014, and we carry it as a badge of honor. For 12 of the 26 players, it is their third year of varsity play with me, and we have 16 seniors on the team. This group has developed the standard for what I envisioned this program to be. Our younger players are learning from them, and they will carry on the tradition. At this point, everything is a reward for 2 1/2 years of hard work. We are

hoping to win district, but most importantly, we want to improve in every one of these last matches before the playoffs. "I believe we will peak at playoff time. All of our players have helped us get here, and everyone has contributed in games. As for Manvel, we are going to go give them everything we have. No regrets." **Dobie girls move up**
There had to be plenty of frustration early on in the 22-6A race for the Dobie Lady Longhorns. Despite playing fairly well overall and certainly defending confidently, the team couldn't find wins against those teams above them (Alvin, Manvel, Pearlman and Pasadena) for playoff positioning. Well, things have changed, if just a bit. Leslie Garcia had a hat trick, and Alex Magana scored another goal as the Lady Longhorns defeated Memorial 4-2 Feb. 12, to get back into the top four in the standings. Despite a 4-1 loss to Pearlman Feb. 16, at The Rig in Pearlman, the Lady Longhorns certainly fig-

ure to be in the mix for a playoff spot the rest of the way – provided they stay the course. With goals hard to come by, head coach Bryan McDonald made a few changes with the hope of creating a few more opportunities around the net. Naturally, it's taken some time for those changes to become commonplace and for the Lady Longhorns to get comfortable, but times are better. "I still wouldn't say we have played our best soccer, but I think we are headed in that direction," McDonald said before the loss to Pearlman. "The key will be scoring key points against the teams in front of us, and finding a way to take down Pasadena. We just didn't play well at all against them in the first round. We haven't peaked, but I think we are improv-

ing with every game. For us, it's about avoiding silly mistakes. If we can beat Alvin, Manvel and Pasadena or at least earn a point for a tie or two for a shootout win, then we have something going. We've played just about everybody close, so I think we really have a chance down the stretch."

Brook ties B-wood
Devan Desilva scored for the Wolverines' goal as Clear Brook played Brazoswood to a 1-1 tie in District 24-6A action Feb. 16,

now 3-1-2.

Photo by John Bechtle



Dobie's Isabella Tamayo (11) plays a header forward during the team's 4-2 win over Memorial. Despite one-goal deficits twice, the Lady Longhorns persevered for the victory. Photo by Nick Tamayo

District 22-6A Standings
Varsity Boys' Soccer
(Through Feb. 16 play)

| Teams | W | L | T | Pts. |
|---------------|---|---|---|------|
| Dobie | 7 | 0 | 2 | 23 |
| Manvel | 7 | 0 | 1 | 23 |
| Memorial | 5 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Pasadena | 4 | 3 | 2 | 15 |
| Rayburn | 3 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| Pearland | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| South Houston | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| Dawson | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Alvin | 2 | 7 | 0 | 6 |

District 22-6A Standings
Varsity Girls' Soccer
(Through Feb. 16 play)

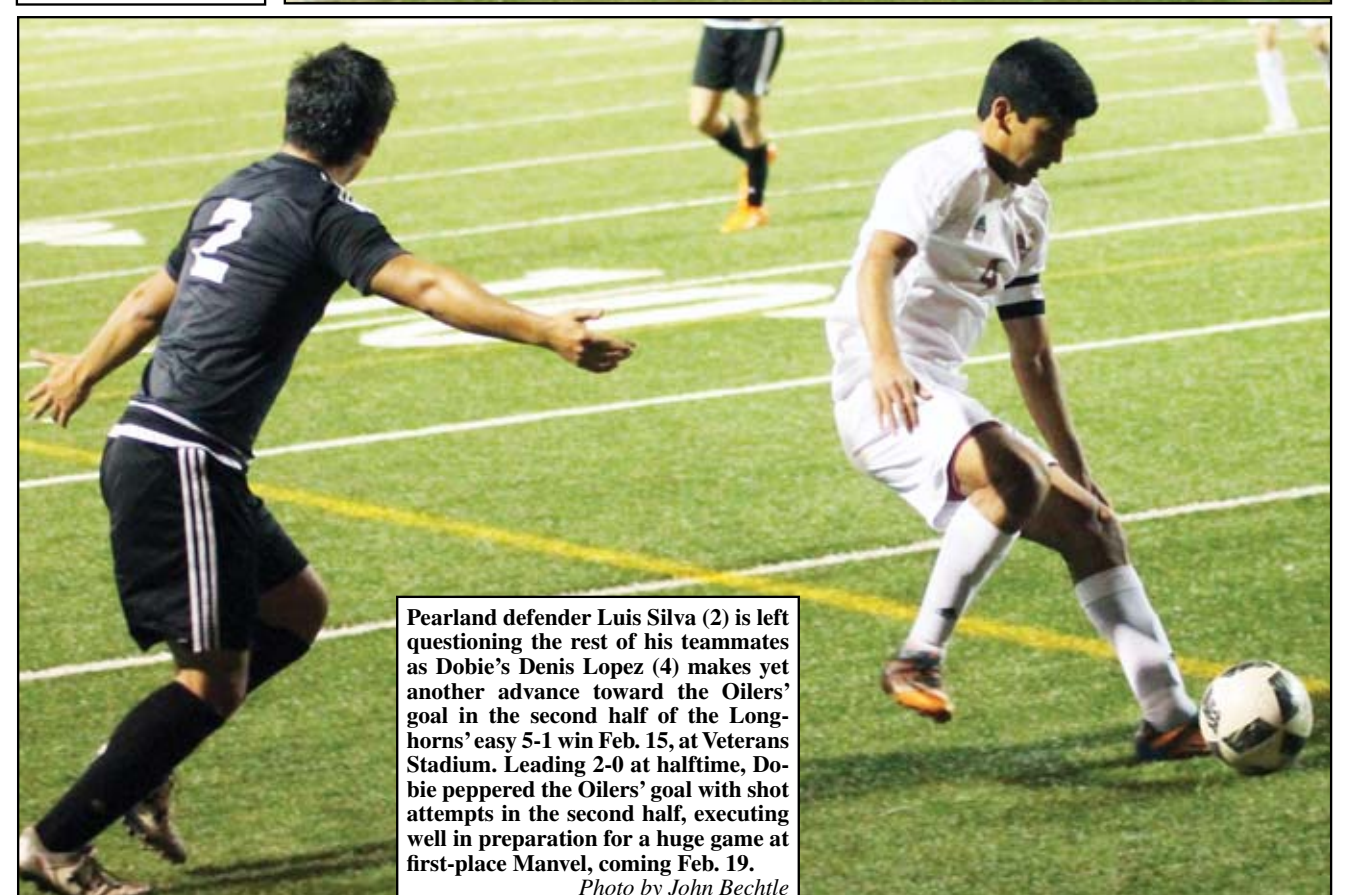
| Teams | W | L | T | Pts. |
|---------------|---|---|---|------|
| Alvin | 7 | 0 | 2 | 23 |
| Dawson | 7 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| Pearland | 7 | 2 | 0 | 21 |
| Pasadena | 4 | 3 | 1 | 14 |
| Dobie | 4 | 4 | 1 | 13 |
| Memorial | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| Manvel | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| South Houston | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Rayburn | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |

Boys' game
Dobie (7-0-2) at Manvel (7-0-1)
Friday, Feb. 19
Alvin ISD Stadium, 7 p.m.

Girls' game
Dobie (4-4-1) at Manvel (2-5-1)
Friday, Feb. 19
Veterans Stadium, 5 p.m.

At right, Dobie's Josue Villalta (9) looks to get past Pearlman's Mason Daniel (4) during the second half of the Longhorns' 5-1 win Feb. 15, at Veterans Stadium. Now, the Longhorns head to Manvel to take on the Mavericks in what will be a battle for first place. Both teams have 23 points in the standings, but Dobie has played one more full game than has Manvel. In girls' action, the Lady Longhorns are looking to get past second-place Manvel in a big district contest. Photo by John Bechtle

At right, physicality was the name of the game as Pearlman hosted Dobie in a key 22-6A game Feb. 16, at The Rig. Dobie's Alex Magana goes down after making contact with Pearlman's Ariel Hernandez(2). At left is Dobie's Zithlaly Medrano. The Lady Oilers won the game 4-1. Photo by John Bechtle



Pearland defender Luis Silva (2) is left questioning the rest of his teammates as Dobie's Denis Lopez (4) makes yet another advance toward the Oilers' goal in the second half of the Longhorns' easy 5-1 win Feb. 15, at Veterans Stadium. Leading 2-0 at halftime, Dobie peppered the Oilers' goal with shot attempts in the second half, executing well in preparation for a huge game at first-place Manvel, coming Feb. 19. Photo by John Bechtle



Hilda Rodriguez (7) of the Lady Longhorns' varsity soccer team defends against a Pasadena Memorial offensive player during Dobie's big 4-2 victory over the Lady Mavericks Feb. 12, at Veterans Stadium. Leslie Garcia's three goals provided Dobie a big lift in the win. Photo by Nick Tamayo

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