

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

[www.southbeltleader.com](http://www.southbeltleader.com)

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### JFD dual credit meeting set

A parent meeting for Dobie students interested in participating in dual credit through San Jacinto College will be on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Students who are currently in 10th or 11th grade are eligible to participate in the enrollment process. Representatives from San Jacinto College will be present. For more information, contact Jennifer Johnson, coordinator for College Now, at 713-740-0370.

### CrossRoads dance Feb. 11

The youth group of CrossRoads UMC on Scarsdale will be hosting a Valentine's Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 11. The evening will feature games and prizes, a silent auction, dinner and dancing. Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread and dessert will be served. Tickets are \$10 for adults. \$6 children's tickets include complimentary childcare for young children of parents attending the dinner. For more info and to purchase tickets, email [events@crossroads-umc.org](mailto:events@crossroads-umc.org). Proceeds of the event will help fund summer camp and missions trips.

### Cook-off date announced

The 21st annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off will be held Thursday, April 27, through Saturday, April 29, at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road. See future editions of the *Leader* for additional information.

### Free self-defense offered

The American Society of Karate will offer free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, on Fridays through May 26, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Under the direction of fifth-degree black-belt instructor Michael Alonzo, the class is not only geared toward the aspiring martial artist; the self-defense portion will be structured so that someone participating for only one class will have a simple yet effective strategy against potential attackers. For more information, email [Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com](mailto:Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com) or call 281-788-5930.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and southbound main lane and frontage lanes on I-45 from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will close daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Feb. 4. Alternate exit and entrance ramps will be closed. At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Feb. 4. Alternate exit and entrance ramps will be closed.

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

### Quilt guild plans meetings

The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship begins at 6:30 p.m., with the general meeting at 7 p.m. February's guest speaker will be Bonnie Hunter, award-winning quilter and bestselling author.

Her program on Tuesday, Feb. 7, is titled *Scraps and Shirrtails*. Guests are welcome. For additional information, contact Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 or visit [bayareaquiltguild.org](http://bayareaquiltguild.org).

### Kirkmont 1 to meet

The Kirkmont 1 HOA will hold a board meeting Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., at the MUD Building located at 10102 Blackhawk. All homeowners are encouraged and invited to attend. Homeowners living near an easement lot are strongly encouraged to attend. Discussions will include, but are not limited to, easement and other homeowners' needs.

### Highland meadow to meet

The 2017 annual meeting of Highland Meadow Homeowners Association will be on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Parker Williams Library, located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Two positions on the board will be elected at this meeting. Questions prior to the meeting may be directed to Sherrida Williams with C.I.A. Services Inc., at 713-981-9000 or [CustomerCare@ciaservices.com](mailto:CustomerCare@ciaservices.com).

### Beltway closures planned

At least one inside lane on the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Beamer to Pearl and Parkway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thursday, March 9.

At least one inside lane on the eastbound and westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads at Pearl and Parkway will be closed daily (excluding Sundays) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 24.

The closures are associated with the widening of Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288 from two to four lanes in each direction.

## Dobie Hall of Honor inductees announced

By Reesha Brown  
Pasadena ISD Communications

Four Dobie High School alumni with four diverse career backgrounds are among five individuals who will make history next month when they are inducted into the Longhorns' Hall of Honor.

Alumni selected for induction are Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox, class of 1977; Commander Jonathan Carter, class of 1995; Gersson Rosas, class of 1996; and David Buehrer, class of 2002.

Rounding out the inductee list is this year's lone faculty inductee: former tennis coach Bobby Kramer, the architect of the Longhorns' surge to regional tennis prominence in both boys' and girls' competition three decades ago.

An induction ceremony to honor the new inductees has been set for Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Dobie auditorium. A reception will follow in the food court. The event is open to the public.

The new group of inductees will bring the total number of alumni, former faculty members

and community volunteers who have been selected for the Hall of Honor to 40. The Dobie Hall of Honor program was launched in 2013.

Inductees are selected each fall by a committee of faculty and staff members at the school.

Taylor-Cox, a longtime Houston pediatrician, is an expert on child-rearing issues. Her affiliations include Texas Children's Hospital, the Women's Hospital of Texas, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Memorial Herman in the Medical District and West Houston Medical

Center, where she served as chief of pediatrics.

Carter, a 17-year Coast Guard veteran, is currently the skipper of the 270-foot cutter U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Legare*, based out of Portsmouth, Va. A decade ago, he captained a U.S. Coast Guard cutter during a 14-month deployment in the Persian Gulf. Later, he became the first Coast Guardsman ever named to the President's Emergency Operation Center in the White House.

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## Rizer reveals new sign



After 75 years of being known as Easthaven Church, the local place of worship, located at 13100 Beamer, recently changed its name to South Belt Church. According to the Rev. Kevin J. Rizer, head pastor at South Belt Church, the new name better reflects the community that it serves. Rizer is shown above posing in front of the church's new sign. Photo submitted

## Easthaven now South Belt Church

After 75 years, Easthaven Church, 13100 Beamer, has officially changed its name to South Belt Church.

"We haven't changed," Rizer said. "The staff's the same. Our theology's the same. Our goal is to represent Christ in the community."

Other than the name, Rizer said everything else about the church will remain the same.

"We haven't changed," Rizer said. "The staff's the same. Our theology's the same. Our goal is to represent Christ in the community."

Begun as a mission of First Baptist Church of South Houston, then-Easthaven Baptist Church had its first gathering on Easter 1941 in the home of Herman Head, who would later also donate property on Edgebrook to house the new church.

The church was incorporated in September 1941 and called on Fred Sanderlin to serve as its first pastor. At that time, the church also agreed to partner with other churches in the city and became a contributing member to the Union Baptist Association - a relationship that continues to this day.

Additional pastors over the years included R.H. McCroskey; J.P. Graham; W.C. Koonce; Buford E. Cain; Michael Collins; Dr. Bruce Prescott; and Rizer.

Cain was the longest tenured pastor (29 years) serving from 1952 to 1981.

"He was a man of vision," said Rizer. "And under his leadership, the church had its greatest community influence."

Under Cain's direction, the church started Easthaven Baptist School and Daycare; built two sanctuaries; constructed multiple expansions of education and cafeteria space; built a gymnasium; and drew plans for a nursing home to be built on the church property.

With the new millennium came new challenges for the church, and in 2000, the decision was made to relocate. In March 2001, Rizer became pastor. The current property was purchased in 2002, and construction of the relocated facility was completed in October 2004.

Rizer noted the church has grown far more diverse over the years, particularly since relocating.

"We understand there's great diversity in the community," Rizer said. "We recognize that, and we wanted to embrace that, and I think the new name identifies that better."

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 5, South Belt's contemporary service will begin at 10 a.m., rather than 9:45 a.m.

For more information about South Belt Church, visit [www.southbeltchurch.org](http://www.southbeltchurch.org).

## Dobie Decathlon advances to state

Pasadena Independent School District's Dobie and Memorial High School's Academic Decathlon teams have advanced to the state meet after earning top 40 spots in the Region 5 competition.

Competing in the large school district division, Dobie's team ranked No. 5 in the state, with a combined total score of 4,623. Memorial's team placed 20th in the regional competition with a total score of 3,421.

The teams' top scorers have earned them a trip to the state meet in San Antonio, Feb. 23-26.

"They have brought great honor to our school district," said Pat Sermas, PISD director of advanced academics. "It has been a pleasure to work with them to prepare for the competition."

Dobie has continuously advanced to the state meet since the team's coach Steven Higginbotham began coaching the team in 2006, as well as before under the leadership of former coach Richard Golenko, who led the team to multiple state and national championships.

This year will mark the second consecutive time that Memorial's decathlon team has claimed a spot in the state competition, earning a

fifth place with at regionals last school year.

The Academic Decathlon promotes student achievement and learning by challenging students in various academic subjects. Teams are comprised of up to nine students who represent different grade point divisions.

The group studies decathlon curricula and competes against other schools. There is a series of 10 events, including an interview in front of judges, a written essay, speeches, a written comprehensive exam in math, social science, economics, literature, art, music and the Super Quiz.

The two students with the top scores in each of the three Academic Decathlon levels - varsity, scholastic and honors - determines each team's final score.

Top Dobie performers include: Bill Huynh (Honors Division: 3rd place highest scoring student, 3rd place economics, 3rd place language, 3rd place social science, 1st place art, 2nd place music and 2nd place science); Steve Nguyen (Honors Division: 1st place economics); Noelle Phan (Honors Division: 3rd place music, 3rd

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## San Jac election set for May 6

The San Jacinto Community College District will hold an election for two positions on its Board of Trustees on Saturday, May 6.

Filing began on Wednesday, Jan. 18, and will continue through 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.

Filing will take place at 4624 Fairmont Parkway in Pasadena Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Board of Trustees Positions 1 and 2 will be filled in the May election. Each position is for a six-year term. Position 1 is currently held by Brad Hance, and Position 2 is currently held by Dr. Ruelder Wheeler.

Those who wish to run for election to the San Jacinto Community College District Board of

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## First Convenience Bank robbed

The First Convenience Bank, located inside the Kroger grocery store at 11701 S. Sam Houston Parkway E., was robbed at gunpoint on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 31.

According to police, a man entered the store at approximately 9:45 a.m., approached a bank teller, brandished a pistol from under his waistband and then demanded money.

The man then fled the store on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

The suspect is described as a black male, standing around 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing roughly 160 pounds. He was wearing a brown hoodie and camouflage pants.

Anyone with any information on this case is urged to contact the FBI's Bank Robbery Task Force at 713-693-5000 or the Crime Stoppers of Houston tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Crime Stoppers of Houston is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of this bank robber. Crime Stoppers tips may also be submitted online at [www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org) or by text message. Text TIP610 plus crime tip to CRIMES (274637) or visit [www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org). Tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers through the

Crime Stoppers of Houston app which can be downloaded at the app store for both iPhone and Android devices.

All tipsters remain anonymous.

The First Convenience Bank has been targeted for robbery multiple times before, with the last incident taking place Aug. 1, 2016. No weapon was used in that crime, however.

Additionally, the Sam Houston Parkway Kroger location has become a hot spot for crimes in recent months, with several car burglaries and purse snatchings being reported.

The most recent incident involved a purse being stolen from a vehicle on the same day as the aforementioned bank robbery. Contrary to multiple social media reports online, however, the crime was not an armed robbery. This marked the second time in just two weeks that social media reports have greatly exaggerated such crimes at the area store.

To address growing concerns with the ongoing crime issue, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce has arranged a meeting with Kroger officials and other area store managers.

See future editions of the *Leader* for additional information.

## PISD joins peers to fight A-F rating

The Pasadena Independent School District joins school districts statewide in voting on repeal of A-F grading system. The PISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously last week on a resolution that will call on the Texas Legislature to repeal the newly adopted A-F accountability rating system. The district has joined more than 300 districts across Texas, including Clear Creek ISD, that have also passed such resolutions.

The new A-F school rating system, passed by the State Legislature in 2015, as part of House

Bill 2804, is heavily based on the state's standardized test, STAAR, and set to go into effect for the 2017-18 school year.

Through the resolution, PISD trustees have asked lawmakers to develop a community-based accountability system that would allow school districts to design their own systems of assessment, empowering them to customize the curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of their students.

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## Ellis to speak at chamber banquet

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will hold its 33rd annual installation banquet Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Golfcrest Country Club, located at 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland, from 6 to 10 p.m.

The guest speaker at the event will be newly elected Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

Born and reared in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood, Ellis has dedicated most of his life to public service.

Prior to being elected commissioner, Ellis served as a state senator for more than 25 years, representing Texas' Senate District 13. During his tenure in the Senate, Ellis sat on the Senate State Affairs, Transportation, and Business and Commerce committees and chaired the Senate Finance, Jurisprudence, Government Organization, Intergovernmental Relations and Open Government committees.

Before joining the Texas Senate in 1990, Ellis served three terms on Houston City Council and as chief of staff to the late U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland.

Ellis chairs the board of directors for the Inno-

cence Project and co-chairs the National Conference of State Legislatures Task Force on International Relations. He also serves on the National Conference of State Legislatures Executive committee, the LBJ Foundation Board of Trustees and the Council on Foreign Relations.

A financial adviser by trade, Ellis holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Ellis also studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and the London School of Economics.

The event will also feature the official swearing-in of the 2017 chamber president and board members. The chamber member of the year and volunteer of the year will also be recognized at the function.

This year's banquet will have a Mardi Gras theme.

Individual tickets are \$50 each. Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$600 to \$1,000.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Kay Barbour, chamber president, at 281-481-5516 or [info@southbeltchamber.com](mailto:info@southbeltchamber.com).

## Barrientos meets Cruz

Dobie High School junior Garrett Barrientos (right) recently got to meet Sen. Ted Cruz at the Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Gala during President Donald Trump's inauguration in Washington. An oboe player for the Dobie Longhorn Wind Ensemble band, Barrientos performed as part of the Virtuosi of Houston group, a local youth symphony. Barrientos was one of three Pasadena Independent School District students to perform during the event. PISD drill team members Aylene Espinoza and Karla Hernandez, from South Houston and Sam Rayburn high schools, respectively, also performed at the gala.

Photo submitted



## Publisher speaks out

### Leader begins 42nd year

This week's front page of the *Leader* show Volume 42 Number 1. This indicates that the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* has been published for the last 41 years, and we are beginning our 42nd year.

What changes we have seen in newspapers during that time. Our first papers were typeset on linotype machines like you see in the old black-and-white western movies. Hot lead made the letters. One thing has not changed. In our very first paper we declared

that this was the paper of our readers in the South Belt community. That is still true today. Our readers pretty much control our content.

We are still, as we declared the first week, the voice of community minded people.

That was printed on our masthead the first issue, and you will find it on this week's paper, and all previous papers.

We are your voice, and I, for one, still love my job. Thanks for all your support.

Marie Flickinger, Publisher

## In My Opinion

### Ghormley: encourage citizen contribution

Thank you for your balanced coverage of the 2016 elections. We have a new President in Donald J. Trump and he deserves a chance to help our country thrive again.

Now, it's our turn to contribute. We can start by applying ourselves with more diligence on behalf of our families, our jobs and our communities; by being more

ecumenical to our neighbors, to be more respectful and encouraging to those in need and even more courteous and civil in traffic.

Our country can make a quantum leap forward if the president can succeed in his plan. It will be nothing short of a miracle.

Someone once said, "He who does not believe in miracles is not a realist." Respectfully submitted,

Cecil D. Ghormley

### Local library events set

#### Parker Williams Library

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

Thursday, Feb. 2, 4 p.m. Movie Madness. Feature presentation is *A Ballerina's Life*, a feature documentary on Misty Copeland.

TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Feb. 3 through April 18. There will no assistance on Good Friday, April 14. Volunteers from AARP TaxAide will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo-ID, social security card 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 other necessary forms.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be at the library on Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Feb. 4 - April 8. VITA offers free tax assistance for those earning \$54,000 or less annually, persons with disabilities and taxpayers with limited English vocabulary. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Computer classes will be offered on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. Information and registration details are available at the reference desk or phone the library at 281-484-2036.

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Preregistration required. For information on this program, speak with Loc Bui.

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

#### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. Spanish Computer Class

Saturday, Feb. 4, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. English Learning; 12:30 p.m. Lego Playtime

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Manga/Anime Club

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. Para los Niños

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, Feb. 8: Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580.

All events are free and open to the public.

Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday, noon - 8 p.m., Friday, 1 - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## San Jac recipient of retail grant

The League for Innovation in the Community College has announced a \$2.9 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to develop a three-part credentialing program for retail workers. San Jac is one of 12 community colleges across the country selected to participate in the program, Brighter Futures 3.0, which will build on the success of the Western Association of Food Chains' Retail Management Certificate (RMC). Over the 2.5-year period of the grant, the selected colleges will work with retail employers who are committed to the RMC as the credential for the advancement of their existing workforce. It is anticipated that more than 1,200 incumbent retail workers will be enrolled in the program, which seeks to break the RMC into three portable and stackable certificate programs, allowing workers a more flexible and manageable way to earn the full certificate. The League for Innovation and the WAFC will disseminate the best practices

from the project to other community colleges throughout the country.

In announcing the grants, League President and CEO Dr. Rufus Glasper expressed confidence that the Walmart Brighter Futures project will have a positive impact beyond the selected colleges. "The Walmart Brighter Futures 3.0 project will lead to best practices that will expand the capacity of community colleges to enhance job training opportunities for incumbent workers. The League will be delighted to share the work of the participating colleges with colleges around the country," said Glasper.

The project aims to scale the retail management certificate that is offered at more than 150 community colleges in cooperation with the Western Association of Food Chains. Participating colleges will offer the credit certificate to incumbent workers at local and regional retail employers.

In addition to San Jacinto

College, nine other community colleges have been funded for the training program, and two more are expected to be named in the future. The selected community colleges will receive up to \$100,000 over the duration of the grant to support the colleges' plans to provide services for retail employees. Additionally, the colleges will leverage instructional stipends to support participant enrollment in courses leading to the retail management certificate.

"We are excited to be selected to participate in this project," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "We recognize and appreciate the generosity of the Walmart Foundation and the leadership of the League for Innovation in making this work possible. We look forward to working with our national partners and our local retail employers to offer a nationally-recognized credential to retail employees right here in our community."

## Elected officials speak out

Rep. Pete Olson this week acted to protect taxpayers and the unborn by voting in support of House Resolution (H.R.) 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act.

This bill would create a permanent, government-wide prohibition against using federal dollars to fund abortifacient procedures. A recent Marist poll confirmed that a majority of Americans (61%) oppose the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion.

The House passed H.R. 7 by a vote of 238-183. The bill now heads to the Senate for

consideration.

"The federal government has worked for 40 years to protect the American taxpayer from being forced to pay for life-ending procedures with the Hyde Amendment, but that is a short-term solution in need of a permanent one," Rep. Pete Olson said. "I'm thrilled to have a new administration that is eager to work with Congress to protect the American taxpayers and the most vulnerable in our society. I urge the Senate to move quickly to help us make the Hyde Amendment permanent law."

H.R. 7 prohibits the use of

federal funds for abortion or health plans that cover abortion, except in cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the mother is in danger.

The bill prohibits abortions at facilities owned or operated by the federal government, and prevents federal employees from performing abortions within the scope of their employment.

It does not prohibit the use of federal funds to treat complications that arise from or are exacerbated by an abortion, regardless of whether the abortion was performed legally.

## Sen. Bettencourt: Parents deserve to choose best school for children

Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) filed Senate Bill 542, a companion bill to House Bill 1184 by Representative Dwayne Bohac (R-Houston), which would create a \$100 million school choice tax credit scholarship pilot program to help defray educational costs so parents can choose the best academic option for their children, in both private and public schools.

The bill would allow corporations to invest in their future workforce by receiving an insurance premium tax credit from their state tax bill when they contribute to nonprofit agencies that award K-12 scholarships to students with financial and academic need.

Bettencourt also attended the National School Choice Week rally at the Capitol, an event that shines a light on effective educational options for children.

"Tax credit scholarships can help the neediest kids get the education they deserve in Texas," Bettencourt said. "SB 542 does exactly that, while

allowing private donations to help fund both public and private school scholarships. This is true public and private school choice," he added.

"The tax credit scholarship amounts are for significantly less than what the state currently spends on education per student, so there is an overall savings to the state," Bettencourt added. "In addition to the state savings, local school districts will have fewer children to educate as an estimated 15,000 to 18,000 students could participate in the program."

"This cost-savings program would be a win-win for students, teachers and Texas taxpayers alike," Bettencourt said. Other key points of SB 542 include:

- Private donations are made to community nonprofits that give scholarships to eligible families based on financial and academic need.

- The program is capped at \$100 million. Previous bills with a similar structure have consistently resulted in positive fiscal notes with hundreds of millions of dollars in sav-

## Sen. Bettencourt on Bahorich

Sen. Paul Bettencourt issued the following statement of congratulations to Donna Bahorich after Gov. Greg Abbott reappointed her to chair the State Board of Education (SBOE):

"I have followed Donna's career on the State Board of Education with great interest as she has shown exceptional leadership skills on the State Board of Education," Bettencourt said. "During her initial term as SBOE Chair, Donna led the board's astute oversight of the Texas Permanent School Fund, improved accountability, and increased student opportunities in high-demand fields like software engineering. Donna's dedication to a strong public education system across the state will continue to guide her leadership on the board."

Bahorich, a Houston Republican, was elected to the state board as the District 6 representative in November

2012 and 2016. Gov. Abbott named her chair of the SBOE on June 18, 2015.

"I am deeply honored to earn the trust of Gov. Abbott in my reappointment," said Bahorich. "Advancing a strong education for every child is my singular mission."

Highlights of Bahorich's initial term as SBOE Chair included:

- Launching a series of community conversations and a large online survey (in excess of 27,000 responders) to involve educators, parents and business leaders all over Texas by providing public feedback to help shape the future of state testing and school accountability;

- Ensuring that curriculum standards are online to review and evaluate during the revision process to involve educators and the public across the state in helping shape the essential knowledge expectations used to teach Texas

children, crucial to achieving better standards, more buy-in and greater effectiveness in teaching Texas standards in the classroom;

- Initiating a series of roundtables to discuss critical issues in Texas education, bringing together national and state experts and practitioners to inform and support policy makers and education leadership; and

- Spearheading efforts now in SBOE rule to require Texas school districts provide the opportunity for all high school students to take courses in computer coding, encouraging Texas students to seek in-demand jobs in an increasingly tech-oriented economy.

"Donna Bahorich's commitment to the Texas education system is admirable, and the State will be well-served by her continuing to chair the State Board of Education," Bettencourt said.

## Death

### Robert Marvin Phillips

Robert (Bob) Marvin Phillips, 81, died Dec. 8, 2016, in Angleton, Texas, after a bout with cancer. He was born July 6, 1935, in Industry, Texas, to Robert S. Phillips and Leona A. Phillips.

He is preceded in death by his wife Alice Phillips and his parents. He is survived by his son Michael Phillips.

Bob had been a longtime resident of the South Belt area since 1968 and owned an auto repair shop. In his earlier days, he had joined the Navy and was in the Pa-

cific as part of "Operation Castle."

Throughout his life, Bob fought several occurrences with cancer, finally succumbing to the disease. Since he was cremated, his son, Michael, plans to carry out his father's wish to have his ashes spread at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

## Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

A member of *Ashley Pointe Subdivision* Facebook page reported on the night of Friday, Jan. 27, a car on Patrick's Palace was broken into and a neighbor's car was stolen. Based on the surveillance film, the thieves were not in a vehicle before the robbery.

For information on the robbery, visit the *Ashley Pointe Subdivision* Facebook page.

The Kirkwood Civic Club community meeting is held the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sagemont Park

Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road.

For information on meetings, visit the *Kirkwood Civic Club* Facebook page or contact Ericka at 281-989-9990.

Member of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page, Tracie Sjogren offers to pick up and deliver donations to the Pasadena Animal Shelter for those who are not able.

The shelter is in need of dog food, cat food, cat litter and newspaper. For more information on donating, contact Tracie Sjogren at tsjogren68@sb

cglobal.net or on the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

Members of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page continue the search for a boxer-pug mix dog named Dozer. He is white with one brown patched eye and dark brown ears. Dozer was last seen in the local area of the owners on Sagevale and has been missing since New Year's Eve.

For more information on Dozer, visit the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

**Late Bulletin:** First Convenience Bank inside Kroger had a robbery Jan. 31. See Page 1A.

## Radiation flights held over area

On Jan. 30 through 31, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) conducted low-altitude helicopter flights around Houston to measure naturally occurring background radiation in support of Super Bowl LI.

The program is considered a pilot because it is capped at \$100 million, roughly 15,000 to 18,000 students.

"School choice has consistently been a priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and is so again in the current legislative session. Senate Education Committee Chair Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) will once again lead the Senate Education Committee in passing common sense legislation in this issue area," Bettencourt said.

Public school students are offered \$750 scholarships for academic support programs.

The program is considered a pilot because it is capped at \$100 million, roughly 15,000 to 18,000 students.

"School choice has consistently been a priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and is so again in the current legislative session. Senate Education Committee Chair Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) will once again lead the Senate Education Committee in passing common sense legislation in this issue area," Bettencourt said.

The helicopter will fly in a grid pattern over the areas at 150 feet (or higher) above ground surface, at a speed of approximately 80 miles per hour.

Flyovers will occur only during daylight hours and it is estimated to take about three hours to complete per area.

The measurement of naturally occurring radiation to establish baseline levels is a normal part of security and emergency preparedness. NNSA is making the public aware of the coming flights so that citizens who see the low-flying aircraft are not alarmed.

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-au-

tonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science.

NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear explosive testing; works to reduce global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Visit [www.nnsa.energy.gov](http://www.nnsa.energy.gov) for more information.

## Atkinson Spelling Bee winners



Atkinson Elementary held its Spelling Bee on Jan. 11 and announced its top spellers. From left to right, champion Diana Pena, fourth grade; and runner up Hailey Lazo, fourth grade. The winning word was "daunted." Pena will advance to the Pasadena Independent School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 7.

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## Health care spending report released

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar recently issued a report examining health care-related spending by 68 state agencies and higher education institutions from fiscal 2011 through 2015.

The report includes an analysis of all state government health care spending and an in-depth look at the five state agencies reporting the largest share of that spending — the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (59.1 percent), the Department of Aging and Disability Services (11 percent), the Department of State Health Services (4.9 percent), the Employees Retirement System (4.4 percent) and the Teacher Retirement System (3.1 percent).

Together, these agencies accounted for 82.5 percent of

all state health care spending in fiscal 2015.

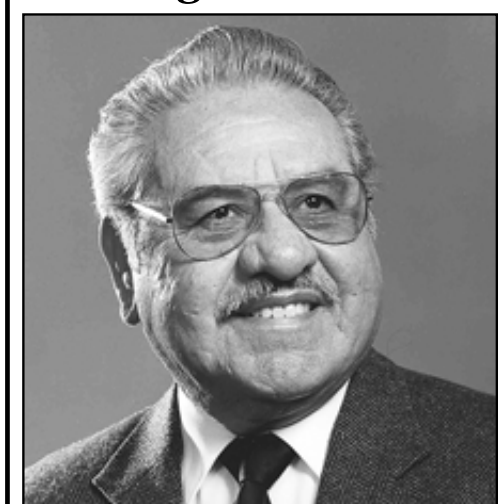
The report also features a section on health care spending by counties, which play an important role in health care delivery and have also seen escalating costs. Among the report's findings:

- In fiscal 2015, Texas spent \$42.9 billion on health care, representing 43.1 percent of all state appropriations.
- From fiscal 2011 to fiscal 2015, state health care expenditures rose by 19.7 percent, a rate exceeding the growth of both inflation and the Texas population in the same time period.

In Texas, health care spending represents about 12 percent of gross state product.

"As the Legislature begins to examine state spending,

## Dominguez honored



Joe R. Dominguez recently received special recognition for his performance as an agent with Catholic Life Insurance. His professional achievements in life insurance and related financial planning earned him the prestigious "12 Apostles" Award.

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## Sheriff Edward Gonzalez visits Atkinson



Students at Atkinson Elementary had the opportunity to listen to Harris County Sheriff Edward Gonzalez (back row) speak during Career Week. Gonzalez spoke about his career and what it takes to become sheriff. He talked about the importance of education and how careers can change. Gonzalez stressed that all careers are important, if it is what a student chooses. Gonzalez has been a longtime speaker for Atkinson. He was

a Houston City Council member when he last spoke to the students as a guest speaker during Career Week. Shown with Gonzalez are, left to right, (first row) Keano Gonzalez, Madelyn Hinojosa, Lizbeth Serrano, (second row) Jamare Philbert, Samantha Truong, Leo Alvarez, Jacqueline Gonzalez, Jaylan Page, (back row) Katelyn Watkins, Eryal Rosett and Hailey Lazo.

Photo by Karen O'Connor

## Melillo MS being recognized for excellence

When it comes to excellence in education, Melillo Middle is a Texas School to Watch.

For the first time since the school opened its doors in 2008, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform has designated the campus as a Texas Schools to Watch for its academic excellence, responsiveness to the developmental needs of adolescents, helping students of all learning abilities achieve at high levels and collaboration with community members.

"We are glad that the Texas Schools to Watch representatives witnessed the excellence we see on a daily basis," Diane Wheeler, Melillo principal said. "We like to have fun at our school, but most importantly, there is a high level of commitment from students and parents and that results in educational achievements across the board. Everyone involved, puts their hearts into education."

Selection was based on a

rigorous application process that asked schools to demonstrate their merit in the following categories: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational support and processes.

The application was written by Principal Wheeler and Assistant Principals Chris Bui and Adriana Saavedra and involved face-to-face interviews with campus stakeholders.

Recognition as a School to Watch means that Melillo earned high marks in every category.

**Academic Excellence**  
Over the years, Melillo has notably achieved a State Accountability rating of Met Standard as well as Distinction Designations for performing in the Top 25% in Student Progress and Closing Performance Gaps. In addition, the school continues to be at or above the state average for STAAR Testing.

While these accomplishments have given the campus reasons to celebrate,

faculty members continue to find new approaches to teaching that meet the needs of students.

In fact, after each STAAR assessment, teachers use accountability data to target problem areas on testing and provide instruction intervention that helps students master core subjects before entering the next grade level.

To close performance gaps, students work in small groups and participate in hands-on activities and computer-based programs to ensure a deeper level of learning.

Students who do well on assessments have the opportunity to sharpen their skills in core subject areas by participating in enrichment activities and lessons during Melillo's altered schedule, an incentive program that makes learning fun and engaging.

The altered schedule, which happens on Fridays, allows students to switch between academic and club days. On academic days,

students participate in project-based learning to meet their instructional needs. Club days give students a chance to select from a variety of activities like musical performance, fitness, creative writing and baking.

According to the application, "these clubs give teachers an opportunity to share with students their interests and hobbies."

**Developmental Responsiveness**

Melillo students start thinking about college and career readiness at an early age. On the first Friday of each month, the school hosts College Awareness Day, where students don their favorite college t-shirts and listen to college fight songs. Sixth graders also get to experience college life on their field trip to a major university.

The application highlights the positive relationship between the school and community members within the Pasadena and South Belt area.

From family movie nights to school dances and fundraisers, parents regularly participate in various activities that raise awareness about the school culture.

In October, for instance, Melillo hosts an annual Susan G. Komen Foundation fundraiser for its Komen Race for the Cure drive. Through community participation, the school has raised over \$80,700, the highest amount obtained by a campus in Pasadena ISD. At the end of the fundraiser, the students have a chance to turn administrative staff into ice-cream sundaes.

"We presented these programs to Texas Schools to Watch representatives to showcase how we put the fun back into school," Wheeler said. "It keeps students wanting to come back."

Melillo has been invited to represent Pasadena ISD as they present at the National Schools to Watch conference in Arlington, VA, June 21-24.

## PISD joins peers to reject A-F system

Continued from Page 1A

While 16 states have adopted similar letter grade rating systems, "... there is no definitive research that suggests these ratings have improved student or school performance," the resolution states.

The new grading system requires the Texas Education Agency to assign letter grades for schools and districts based on overall performance, along with five domains and indicators to determine a single grade. Letters A through C are considered passing, while letters D and F are not.

The five performance domains (indicators) measure: Student achievement on all subjects on state assessments;

How well campuses and school district close performance gaps between low-income and high-income students;

Graduation rates, post-secondary and career readiness; and

Community engagement.

According to the resolution, the Texas Education Agency's proposed rating system "creates a false impression about students, ignores the unique strengths of each school and unfairly reduces each student's worth to the school's assigned grade."

The resolution states that 55 percent of the A through F grades are based on STAAR testing, and fails to take into account school districts with a high percentage of low-income students. In Pasadena ISD, for instance, 80 percent of students are considered low-income.

"The A through F grading system is not an accurate representation of

the school district and our talented students, many of whom come from diverse backgrounds," Dr. DeAnn Powell, PISD school superintendent said. "Our ultimate goal as educators is to equip students with the knowledge and skills to reach their highest potential and become productive members of society. The grading system pulls focus from these goals and puts pressure on students and staff to achieve high scores on standardized tests, preventing students from reaching their full potential."



## Moore Elementary Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo art winners

There were 15 pieces of art submitted from Moore Elementary to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Four were finalists, seven took first place, three won second place and one received third place. Shown, left, is second-grader Dalila Chapa in front of her art. Shown, bottom left, is second-grader Reina Estrada posing with Guadalupe Hudson (art teacher). Shown, below, is kindergarten Valery Casillas displaying her artwork.

The colors of the ribbons shown each have a special significance. Blue ribbons are for first place, red ribbons represent second place and white ribbons designate third place. There is also a teal ribbon for students that placed higher than first place who were considered as finalists for the district.

Photos submitted



Dixie Melillo Middle School administrators celebrate being named one of the Texas Schools to Watch. Pictured are, left to right, Adriana Saavedra (5th-grade assistant principal), Chris Bui (6th-grade assistant principal) and Diane Wheeler (principal).

## Robb's home featured in national magazine

By Jonathan Chapa

The Sagemont home belonging to Sandy Robb and her daughter Stacey Waugh was featured in the January edition of the national magazine *Country Sampler* in an article titled *In the Heart of Texas*.

Refined country is the style Robb always liked for her home.

"When I was growing up I was influenced by the country and primitive pieces that were in my mother and grandmother's homes. They had formal things, and I never cared for those. It is just a style that I like from the time I was growing up," Robb said.

In the past Robb went to antique shops, flea markets and auctions to find the country pieces that she preferred. Robb has a philosophy, do what you like,

and she does not go by the current trends.

Most of the features in Robb's house like the shutters and the brick patio were given a country look by Robb herself.

After Robb's house was flooded in 2001, she put the beadboard paneling in. Most of the furniture Robb was able to save, as the water did not damage the furniture since it was solid wood.

The landscape around Robb's home has gardens that are visible from the rooms to enjoy scenic views of flowers, window boxes, birdhouses and found objects.

In the living room, Robb has a reproduction cabinet where Waugh keeps her assortment of lighted New England and Amish ceramic holiday villages.

The den has a neutral camelback sofa along with a pair of wing chairs covered in red-and-ivory checks. In the den, Robb has a coffee table, which was originally an old farmer's table with legs that were cut.

As an upgrade to how the kitchen was originally built, Robb replaced the original flooring with old-fashioned wide planked floors. The kitchen cabinets were painted red, and Robb had the countertop replaced with a wood surface. Red has always been Robb's color of choice.

The dining room in Robb's home features family heirlooms like her grandmother's vintage fruit print and her mother's doll.

Robb honors the sentiment "home is where the

heart is."

"I'm basically a home body and so is my daughter. I would rather entertain informally," Robb said.

In her spare time, Robb is involved in her civic club and the annual *South Belt-Ellington Leader* toy drive and enjoys working in her gardens.

Robb frequents an antique shop in Stafford called Gatherings for the Home. Bill Mathews, a photographer for *Country Sampler* called Gatherings for the names of people who had homes that would be appropriate for their magazine. Robb was one of the people listed for Mathews, and he called to ask her to send pictures of her house for the magazine.

Marie Flickinger, owner of the *South Belt-Ellington*

took pictures of Robb's home in April 2016, which were sent to Mathews. The photos were then sent to the editor, who approved to have Robb's home featured in the winter issue of *Country Sampler* and have photos taken of the house.

The only props that were brought in for the magazine photo shoot at Robb's home were flowers, since no furniture was brought in.

Robb was very excited when her home was featured in *Country Sampler* magazine. With the appearance of her home in the magazine, Robb believes it is a very nice thing for her neighborhood.

"It shows you do not have to live in a very exclusive neighborhood to have a nice home," Robb said.

## National magazine honors Robb's home



The home of Sagemont residents Sandy Robb, left, and daughter Stacey Waugh, right, is featured in the January 2017 edition of the national magazine *Country Sampler* in an article titled *In the Heart of Texas*. Photo by Jonathan Chapa

# Beverly Hills honor roll announced

The following honor roll for Beverly Hills Intermediate has been released for the third six weeks. Students on the honor roll are:

## Seventh Grade

Angelica Corazon Acac, Eris Felipe Acosta, Jaidyn Brianna Almaguer, Naydelin Almaguer, Julio Cesar Alonso, Emily Amezcua, Jeffrey Steven Argueta, Paul Ariel Arias, Matthew Paul Arnesen, Jared Barrera, Nayleen Batista, Raul Xavier Belman and Anthony Paul Benavides.

Riani Tania Benton, Logan Christopher Blair, Bryana Sarai Borjas, Jaizayah Yordany Brito, Savannah Marie Brookland, Jahna Richard Burke, Jose Gualupe Cardenas, Fernando Carrera, Anthony Luis Cedenio, Colton Ray Chahayed and Jasmine Giselle Chew.

Idalia Contreras, Aidan Anthony Cortez, Malia Alexandria Curry, Trajan Mylles Davis, Demetria Delgado, William Andres Devenes, Miguel Angel Diosdado, Kenny Nguyen Duong, Analaura Elizarraras, Heron Espinoza, Jordan Christian Ewing, Jocelyn Abril Flores Sanchez, Sarahi Flores and Sydney Adwoa Forde-Richins.

Aaron Frias, Evan Nicolas Fuentes, Celeste Eloisa Galardo, Noe Rodriguez Gamez, Aracely Nataly Garcia, Ramiro Simitrio Garcia, Rubie Ann Garcia, Tiana Marie Garcia, Annabelle Garza, Darielys Danhay Gil Villavicencio, Briana Michelle Gomez Portillo and Zinaya Lynn Gonzales Muniz.

Gloria Minerva Gonzales, Andrea Marley Gonzalez, Isaac Abel Gonzalez, Ivan Gonzalez, Jennefer Suzzeth Gonzalez, Jesus Enim Gonzalez, Samantha Gonzalez, Christopher Earl Goudeau, Serena N'jae'ean Graham, Daniel Eduardo Grajales, Delia Michelle Grantham and Desean Trevion Gray-Biggs.

Damaris Lavon Groves, Mariah Marie Guerrero, Briana Gutierrez, Carolina Marie Gutierrez, Zoe Mychell Guy, Taylor Quoc Viet Ha, Kyla Marie Hart, Andres Sebastian Hernan-

dez, Phuc Nguyen Thien Hoang, Sarrionna Karina Hobbs, Erriel Cimone Hollis, Madelyn Huerta, Jaquan Xavier Hughes, Andrew Khoa Huynh and Thuat Nhu Huynh.

Tina Huynh, Emily Alexa Iglesias, Andrew Milton Ingram, Camron Robert Luis Jackson, Remi Elon Jackson, Nicole Jasso, Trevon Morquel Johnson, Aidan Allen Kain-er, Keely Nicole King, Henry Jovany Lavergne, Christofer Laygo, Thong Minh Le, Zamira Hunter Lewis, Marcus Joseph Lind and Celeste Amunet Lopez.

Alexandra Luna, Nhung Xuan Phuong Mai, David Corgan Maldonado, Xavier Van Buren Malone, Payton Elise Manuel, Brianna Naomi Marroquin, Astrid Yoquebed Martinez, Juanangel Martinez, Lael David Martinez, Mariella Mykayla Michael Matthews, Jose Reginald Matthew Maxwell, Boston Simone McAfee and Brynn Margaret Riley McHugh.

Emma Reese McKenzie, Aala Osama Mohamad, Anaura Adonai Montano, Angel De Jesus Morales, Yair Moreno Rodriguez, Edwin Moreno, Shayla Janae Morrison, Elizabeth Ann-Marie Mullins, T'Jasa Ariyana Murray and Hoang-Ky John Ngo.

Brandon Nhat Nguyen, Chi Thi Linh Nguyen, Jaclyn Uyen Nguyen, Jeenny Nguyen, Kathleen Nguyen, Lilly Thanh Nguyen, Natalie Thao-Han Nguyen, Thien Phuc Thi Tran Nguyen, Thu Ngoc Anh Nguyen, Tung Quang Nguyen, Victoria Diep Nguyen, Andrea Sofia Nunez and Justin Ochoa.

Nicholas Oscar Ochoa, Damaris Anjanae Oder, Anwar Sadat Ozeene, Angel Gabriel Oliva Lopez, Caroline Itzel Orta, Patrick Alexis Ortega, Luis Ortiz, Martha Lizzette Pacheco, Christian Elias Padua, Heather Nikole Patterson, Alejandra Perez Chavez, Fernando Perez and Steven Dominique Perez.

Amy Pham, Ashley Hung Pham, Emily Quynh Huong Pham, Kieu Kaylana Diem Pham, Kristyn Thanh Pham, Thuy Cassidy Diem Pham, Tina Mai Pham, Tommy

Minh Pham, Kaitlyn Triny Shandory Posada, Skylah Marie Pringle, Aiden O'neal Provost, Marilee Quiroga, Victoria Elizabeth Ramirez, Angela Valerie Ramon and Christopher Reyes.

Jahir Eduardo Reyes, Miriam Alyssa Reyna, Aidan Marco Rincon, Laura Rios, Jasmine Annette Romero, Angelica Rubio, Angel Fabian Saenz, Paris Nicole Sal-darriaga, Luis Fernando Salinas, Izabel Alya Sanchez, Santos Davila Sanchez, Sebastian Renee Sanchez, Jessica Ivette Santana and Aaron Jamil Sargent.

Kelly Torrie Saucedo, Maya Treshae Scott, Jazmine Elizabeth Segovia, Cristian Xavier Sepulveda, Roselin Serrano, Amira N'kkole Shephard, Darius Terrell Shorter, Travis Bethea Small-Jones, Chelsey Xitalyah Sosa, Kevin Duy Su, Brayah Am-anie Thornton Vann, Rosmery Torres Lara, Briana Jamilet Torres and Brissa Jasmine Torres.

Dominic Melcio Torres, Iliana Denae Torres, Jose Alejandro Torres, Vanessa Elizabeth Torres, Eric Quy Tran, Tracy Tram Tran, Vanessa Van Thanh Tran, Violet Tuong Vy Tran, Alejandro Trevino, Kailey Jianne Tsikis, Nicholas Esteban Vasquez, Daniela Vazquez and Gabriel Xavier Velasquez.

Thaly Angela Vences, Kamila Villarreal, Jimmy Vo, Melanie-Tu Thi Vo, Hailey Hien Vu, Kathleen Quynh Vu, Ngan Thi Kim Vu, Ojany Markel Walters, Aalycia Lelani-Qui Warren, Amber Joslyn Webster, Auloun James Xouphonphackdy, Michael Alejandro Zamb-rano and Natalie Jalene Zeldon.

**Eighth Grade**  
Bryan Albarran, Jesse Logan Anguiano, Jayla Marie Arenas, Jaqueline Arredondo, Janie Eyenid Ayala, Johnathan Keith Baldwin, Jonathan Banda, Kristen Alise Barba, Briana Guadalupe Benavides, Elizabeth My Hong Bui, Julia Thao Bui, Madeleine Ngoc Tuyet Bui, Tony Mai Bui and Danielle Marie Bulman.

Jazlyn Arella Byron, Evan Emanuel Cadena, Ernesto Calvillo, Esmeralda Calvillo, Rayden Xavier Canales, Jhancarlos Carpio, Deanna Edilia Castellano, Zenaida Castillo, Alisha Marshaee Coleman, John Bernard Cruz, Mark Jackson D'cruze, Yelizavet Renay De La Cerda, Geriah Amiree Derouen and Di Kha Do.

Celene Le Duong, Brett Xavier Einspahr, Guadalupe Escalera, Francisco Estrada, Lizbeth Flores, Annabell Celeste Gamez, Damian Garcia, Emily Nichole Garcia, Janie Isabel Garcia, Karsten Alexander Garcia, Andrea Garibay, Natalie Marie-Elena Garza, Zachary Anthony Glover, Alyssa Renee Gomez and Daisy Gonzalez.

David Jesus Gonzalez,

Anthony Raphael Gracias, Darren Javon Groves, Briana Kshal Haywood, Penelope Hernandez Mendoza, Emily Alexis Hernandez, Sarah Celeste Hernandez, Joseph Sebastian Hinojosa, Ylisse Anna Hinojosa, Anthony Loc Ho, Jennifer Nguyen Ho, Amy Anh Hoang, Kelly Hoang, Quang Hoang, Cindy Trinh Huynh and Jaylon Ju-won Jackson-Curvey.

Briana Zulem Jamaica, Synseara Rose Johnson, Briana Isabelle Keim, Kassandra Victoria Keller, Christi Kieu Le, Ha My Thi Le, Andrea Leon, Jesus Jael Leon, Alan Daniel Lopez Garza, Truc Thanh Luu, Faaziah Maleehah, Nashmi Usman Mariwa, Nohemy Marquez, Lailah Martinez, Cadie Colleen Masterson and Cynthia Consuelo Mata.

Patricia Medina, Nawal Saleh Mehdawi, Sakinah Nogodion Yasmine Meite, Kevin Ismael Mendez, Angela Isabel Menindez, Ashley Sofia Miranda, Carolina Sarai Miranda, Christopher Rey Morales, Francisco Abel Morales, Lissette Moreno, Zo Dena Mottu, Sashiana Milagro Munoz, Mia Faith Alyssa Myers, Thien Ngoc Ngo, Andrew Ngoc Nguyen, Dang Tran Hai Nguyen, Diana Nguyen and Huy Mai Nguyen.

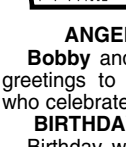
Jason Hoang Nguyen, Tom Minh Tam Nguyen, Tri Thuan Tran Nguyen, Trung Quang Nguyen, Viet The Nguyen, Xavier Christopher Olivarez, Tristan Juan Pedraza, Yessenia Lizbeth Pena, Alejandra Perez, Tony Minh Pham, Ky Ky Duong Phan, Thao Tinh Nhu Phan, Destiny Pichardo, Alyssa Nicole Pina, Lizbeth Alejandra Pineda, Vivian Aaliyah Postel, Lessly Ramirez, Amya Tyranea Ray, Francesca Paola Reyes, Isaiiah Xavier Reyes and Devin Denise Richard.

Israel Manuel Rico, Lauren Ashley Robinson, Benito Gabriel Rodriguez, Tatiana Mia Rodriguez, David Alan Roman, Sandy Ruiz, Jocelyn Salazar, June Delilah Santillanes, Elias Uriel Saracho, Amari Deon Singleton, Kloe-y Lanette Smith, Kaleigh Grace Sommerfelt, Dylan Thanh-Trung Ta, Wazha Tapela Tapela, Deja Nychol Thomas, Kourtlyn Denise Thornton, Jose Rafael Tolentino, Gerardo Torres and Anh Hoang Tran.

Deborah Thy Tran, Kathy Mai-Trang Tran, Deean-gel Trinh, Julie Ngoc Trinh, Jaeden Zachary Tyler, Marisol Isabel Valadez, Sergio Valdez, Gia Merie Vargas Diaz and Marina Carrillo Vasquez.

Diep Thi Ngoc Vo, Quan Tuan Vo, Thuc Uyen Vo, Christopher Michael Walker, Celine Shanel Webster, Alvin Markeith Williams, Alejandra Nicole Abascal, Gema Isabel Alanis, Ashley Lizbeth Amaro, Tamecia Nicole Anderson and Elian Adal.

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis



**ANGELA ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY**  
Bobby and Kenneth Griffin send birthday greetings to daughter-in-law Angela Griffin, who celebrates a birthday Feb. 2.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR KARMA**  
Birthday wishes are sent Feb. 2 to Karma Wright, former Leader staffer, from her family, friends and staff at the Leader.

**OWEN CELEBRATES 8 YEARS!**  
Owen Michael Flowers celebrates his 8th birthday on Friday, Feb. 3. Best wishes and lots of love, hugs and kisses are sent to Owen from big sister Kennedy, little sister Evie, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry of South Belt and Mike and Karen Flowers of Dickinson; uncles Tyler, Austin, Joey, Wesley and Travis; aunts Jenny, Christine and Michelle; and cousins Brayden, Baylee, Olivia, Jade, Sierra, Ryker, Connor, Jesse, Christopher and Mason. Owen's mom is a 2005 Dobie High School graduate.

**OLIVIA TURNS 4!**  
Olivia Moreno celebrates her fourth birthday Feb. 5. Wishing her a wonderful birthday with lots of love, hugs and kisses are her mom Jenny Hayes of Spring; big brother Brayden; big sister Baylee; proud grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry of South Belt, and Mike and Doris Hayes of Ada, Okla.; aunt Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; uncles Joseph Hayes, Austin Scarberry and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers and Jade Scarberry. Mom Jenny is a 1997 Dobie High grad.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DANA!**  
Dana Lizik enjoys a birthday Feb. 6. Special birthday wishes are sent to Dana from her family, friends and former co-workers at the Leader.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AL!**  
Special birthday wishes are in order for the Jan. 30 birthday of Al Martinez, known as Al, Dad, Pop, Grandpa and GG Al from Marlene Martinez, AC and Cindi Volper, Ronnie and Deloris Martinez, all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren who send their love forever and know he is gone, but never forgotten!

**STUDENTS NAMED ON DEAN'S LIST**  
Congratulations to the Stephen F. Austin State University students who were named to the Dean's list for the 2016 fall semester, having a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours. The South Belt students being honored are: Alexis Mercado (accounting), Camron Miller (computer science) and Imani Sautler (psychology).

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 2 through Feb. 8.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Blow out the candles on a double-layer cake Feb. 7 for Terry Hernandez.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Send a birthday wish Feb. 4 to Lisa Baumann. On Feb. 7, Keonne McClain enjoys a birthday.

**Bush Elementary**  
On Feb. 4, birthday greetings are sent to

Maria Palacios. On Feb. 5, sing a happy birthday song to Ixida Quintero.

**Meador Elementary**  
Feb. 5 is the day for a birthday celebration for Felipe Saucedo. Blow out the birthday candles for Maria Gonzalez Feb. 8.

**Moore Elementary**  
Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Debbie Pampell Feb. 4. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 6 are Angelica Perez and Jerry Watkins.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Birthday greetings are sent to Jessica Arnold Feb. 3. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 7 is Audrea Taylor.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
A birthday celebration is in order for Flor Alanis on Feb. 4.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Sing a happy birthday song for Cynthia Wright Feb. 2. Send birthday wishes Feb. 8 to Maria Umazor.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Blow out the candles on a birthday cake Feb. 5 for Mark Varian.

**Dobie High**  
Sharing a birthday Feb. 3 are Vanessa Buentello, Garland Ganter, Denise Ontiveros Valencia and Veronica Oyervides. Light the birthday candles Feb. 4 for Chastity Hall, Shannon Howard, Shaquan Scott, Kristi Vance and Sandra Villarreal. On Feb. 5, give three birthday cheers for Roy Grant, Nichole Kemp and Michael Vanessen. Derek Beckham, Ammie Govers and Erin Richardson share a birthday on Feb. 8.

## CCISD superintendent wins grand prize



On Jan. 13, Dr. Greg Smith (right) was announced as Gulf Coast Educators FCU's grand prize winner for its "Swipe. Sign. Shop!" promotion and was presented with a check by Adam Smith (left), GCEFCU branch manager. Smith is a long time credit union member as well as the superintendent for Clear Creek ISD schools. Upon receiving the prize, Smith stated that he planned to use the money to pay it forward with random acts of kindness to employees in his district. The promotion, which lasted from Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2016, enticed members to use their debit and credit cards in the form of credit to be put into a drawing to win a \$1,000 shopping spree. Each credit transaction counted as one entry into the drawing. Along with the grand prize, there were also 10 other \$100 winners, one for each week of the sweepstakes. About Gulf Coast Educators FCU: In 1948, eleven Pasadena ISD educators got together and formed what today remains a credit union dedicated to serving the financial needs of school employees in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties. The credit union offers its member-owners a full line of banking services, but through a cooperative ownership structure.

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## Remember When

**40 years ago (1977)**  
A petition was secured to require Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz to call an election to determine the establishment of a Houston municipal school district.

**35 years ago (1982)**  
Channel 8's Scott Arthur discussed flooding with Sagemont's Roberta Hicks and Harris County Flood Control Director Jim Green on the station's Houston Weekly program.

**30 years ago (1987)**  
The Dobie Academic Decathlon team won first place in the Region VII competition held at Pasadena High School. Dobie earned a total of 39,130 points, 430 ahead of second place.

**25 years ago (1992)**  
Dobie's Academic Decathlon team earned the highest score in the state at regional competition. This was the second consecutive year Dobie's team earned the highest score in the 12-state region.

**15 years ago (2002)**  
After considering 13 competitive sealed proposals submitted by several construction companies, the San Jacinto College Board of Regents approved J.E. Dunn of Texas as the builder of the new SJC South technology learning center and fine arts building.

**10 years ago (2007)**  
The Clear Creek Independent School District received a \$600,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency to support the district's Early College High School. The program would allow CCISD students to

take courses at San Jacinto College South and graduate from high school with an associate degree.

A town hall meeting that included state Sen. Mike Jackson and Reps. Robert Talton and John Davis was held at the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center. This was the first time that the three South Belt area representatives held such a meeting.

Indications of new housing developments within the boundaries of PISD prompted the board of trustees to approve the hiring of a demographer to study future enrollment growth.

Dobie senior Stephanie Coon was a 1600 on the SAT test, the highest score possible.

Marvin Corley, the head coach for the J. Frank Dobie boy's varsity soccer team, was arrested for sexual assault of a child.

Overall, South Belt students scored above district and state averages on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills tests.

Performance of PISD Superintendent Larry

Vaughn was planned during a closed-door meeting of trustees.

A 14-year-old male Thompson student was suspended for the remainder of the school year for bringing a gun onto campus.

South Belt resident and community leader Dr. Parker Williams was sworn in as the first female regent of the San Jacinto College system.

The United States Coast Guard broke ground on its new command center at the Ellington Joint Reserve Base. The facility will replace the current Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston headquarters located on Clinton Drive in Galena Park. The structure will be four stories in height and encompass 117,000 square feet of office/work space. When the command center becomes operational in June 2013, it is expected that the number of military personnel assigned to the Ellington Joint Reserve Base will be approximately 7,000.

Plans were underway for the 16th annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, the sole fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display held at El Franco Lee Park. This marked the second year that the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department would organize the event.

A federal court rejected a redistricting proposal presented by Texas Attorney

General Gregg Abbott, that would likely push the state's primaries back a second time.

In an effort to maintain the current primary date, Abbott had announced that a compromise had been reached between the state and some of the minority groups that had legally challenged the initial boundaries drawn by the GOP-led Legislature. Under the proposal, Hispanics stood to gain control of two of the four new congressional seats Texas was awarded following the 2010 census.

**1 year ago (2016)**  
Leader founder and publisher Marie Flickinger was honored as the 2015 Pasadena Independent School District Distinguished Citizen of the Year. Through her work with the newspaper, Flickinger has served as an active supporter of PISD and its partner, San Jacinto College, where she sits on the board of trustees. Flickinger has backed several PISD initiatives, such as the expansion of the district's dual-credit and career and technical programs and was instrumental in passing the district's 2014 school bond measure. Flickinger also serves on the board of directors for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, which works closely with the school district. In 2015, she was inducted into Dobie High School's Hall of Honor as a community volunteer.

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# Thompson honor roll named

The following honor roll for Thompson Intermediate has been released for the third six weeks. Students on the honor roll are:

**Seventh Grade**  
Victoria Elizabeth Acosta, Montserrat Xitlalic Alba, Eric Ivan Alvarez, Dayyani Belisa Arboleda, Rafael Antonio Argueta, John Kevin Armenta, Jasmine Lizbette Arredondo, Ublester Arroyo Espinoza, Keegan Neal Ashworth and Alexa Sakeena Avila.

Andre A Barrientos, Catherine Marie Berkstresser, Aqib Irfahim Bhatti, Keelan Carmello Brannon, Ashley Summer Brown-Klawuhn, Thomas Lucas Bustamante, Alayna Nicole Bustamante and Gabriella Campo.

Jacqueline Alazaye Canales, Amy Thuy Cao, Ricky Cao, Sean Anthony Carmouche, Joshua George Raymond Carter, Ashley Castellanos, William Alexander Castillo, Alani Eloisa Chapa, Alyssa Brianna Chapman and Joe Kevin Chicas.

Lydia Alena Chicas, Dataysia Elaine Cisneros, Matthew Christopher Collins, Benson Carter Cubos, Thomas Duke Cybert, Lucinda Sunflower Davis, Karina Del Villar, Melina Phuong Mai Dongsi, Nayely Yissel Faz Urias and Ana Camila Flore.

Jessica Vanessa Flores, Sierra Yvonne Frost, Selena Abigail Galicia, Alexis Julia Garcia, Steven Edenilson Garcia, Michael Andrew Garza, Sherlyn Alexandra Gavidia and Timothy Quoc Giang.

Adrianna Michelle Golden, Alyssa Darlet Gonzalez, Jacqueline Abigail Gonzalez, Mario Alberto Gonzalez, Yaslin Alize Gonzalez, Kaylee Gabrielle Goodrum, Melody Jade Guerrero, Hassan Alejandro Gutierrez, Hailey Beth Henderson and Alexis Henriquez.

Clarissa Yvette Hernandez, David Alex Hernandez, Elijah Zavier Hernandez, Katelyn Renee Hernandez, Niklas Ricardo Hernandez, Pedro Angel Herrera, Kendra Denise Hopkins and Mia Alejandra Horton.

Elijah Ja'na Jackson, Kiera Diane Jackson, Kyrina Nadine Jackson, Damian Isiah Jenkins, Joshua Ray Jimenez, Alexis Amina Kamal, Jaidyn Grayce Kelley, Anh Nhat Ky, Angelina Truc Lam, Diego Javier Leanos, Emily Legaspi and Laci Michelle Leija.

Kevin Charles Lewis, Brandon Armand Liccaga, Kimberly Lizardopuebla, Elissa Joely Lopez, Larry Anthony Lopez, Natalie Escobar Lopez, Gabriela Nicole Lozano, Keena Magana, Trixie Amanda Marquez, Adrian Matthew Maruffo and Lexi Martinez.

Yaire Gerys and Martinez, Celina Mata, Ashlyne Celest Medina, Jessica Suzanne Medina, Kadence Venus Medina, Ezequiel Isai Mejia Blanco, Crystal Mejia, Diego Mateo Melchor, Lauren Michelle Mendez, Matthew Thomas Mendiola, Katelyn Mendoza, Crystal M. Morales, Luis Diego Morales and Avry Gail Munoz.

Karime Murguia, Ashley Michelle Napper, Albert Alexis Ngo, Brian Thai Nguyen, Grace Nicole My Hanh Nguyen, Kelly Han Ngoc Nguyen, Kim Nguyen, Linh Ha My Nguyen, Tommy Tang Nguyen, Anthony Kevin Ochoa, Natalie Onozie, Abigail Alicia Ortiz and Celeen Andrea Ortiz.

Diego Osuna, Audrey Elizabeth Owens, Isabella Elida Padilla, Jeremiah La'don Paige, Jeremiah

Neil Rabang Palma, Levani Tsothe Pelaez, Gilberto Joel Perez, Jason Pham, Valerie Phi Yen Phonxayalinhkam and Javon Allen Portis.

Alejandro Ramos, Alexandra Ramos, Zachary Edward Reimer, Miranda Camille Resendez, Asher Elijah Ridge, Adrian Eden Rios, Joseph Rios, Elijah Alexander Robinson, Vanessa Jannet Rocha, Alyssa Sanez Rodriguez and Isabel Alazae Rodriguez.

Lisette Briseidi Rodriguez, Megan Alani Rodriguez, Nikolas Alexander Rodriguez, Issys Annabel Romero, Ashley Latrice Ross, Christopher Steve Salinas, Haley Dassel Salinas, Emily Gissel Sanchez and Bryan Santacruz.

Nicholas Ignacio Santibanez, Ryan Keith Saxton, Ricky James Schreier, Kennedy Janae Scimmons, Noah Arthur Scott, Kal El Self, Valeria Nohemi Serpas, Jaelan Donae Sherman, Wyatt James Sherwood, Metzli Jamile Silva, Kenzie Ida Snook and Kielee Ashell Snook.

Gerardo Solis, Jasmin Janet Sosa, Kyle Christopher Stokes, Natalie Anah Suarez, Arielle Victoria Terrazas, Brooklyn Renee Thompson, Brianna Elise Toro, Brandon Anthony Torres, Diego Alexis Torres, Pheobe Alejandra Torres, Laisha Torres-Padilla and Annette Phuonganh Tran.

Thu Minh Tran, Trinity Marie Tucker, Melanie Ariana Velazquez, Enrique Villanueva, Emilio Villarreal, Michael Wotonwo Vouffo, Huy Thanh Vu and Paul Hoang Vu.

Cyrae Kristen Washington, Sophia Cassandra Wence, London Gabrielle Curtis Wiggins, Luke Peter Wittenberg, Aspen Sierra Woods and Nicole Zamudio.

**Eighth Grade**  
Gail Kathleen Afalo, Zariah Jacelle Aguilar, Maliha Akhter, Ingrid Tatiana Alaniz Quintanilla, Anna Gabriela Allen, Mya Chanel Amanfor, Anabella Sophia Amaro, Breleana Marie Anderson, Layla Soraiya Arredondo, Maritza Marlene Arreola and Alejandra Abigail Ayala.

Debra Julia Ayala, Maryam Maytham Badr, Jeremiah Cedric Ballard, Aliyah Barreiro, Annaya Brielle Belton, Jasmin Adamaris Benitez, Kaitlyn Marie Bess, Jason Betancourt, Tierra Nicole Unique Bickems, Melissa Nohemy Bonilla, Maxine Coyle Brown, Jose Alberto Cabrera and Renata Bo-Beth Cadena.

Khadrany A Lyssa Caldwell, Matthew Alexander Campos, Matthew Jacob Campuzano, Kiana Lissbeth Casco, Grace Brianna Castaneda, Alexia Lashay Castex, Ariel Evelyn Castro, Abigail Leigh Chiovaro, David Adrian Corte, Emily Colleen Cortez, Alisha Monique Countee and Gerson Marcelo Cruz.

Jacob Angel Cruz, Erik Isai Cubos, Nicolas Emanuel Cuya, Marshall Khang Dang, Tyler Dang, Amaya Dastiana Daniels, Katicia Janai Davis, Alyssa Faith Day, Leah Alexandria De Hoyos, Jacob Alexander De La Rosa, Desiree Elizabeth Delara, Isabella Rosario Delgado, Tucker Beau Demo and Laura Marcela Diaz.

Daniel Dinh, Jared Alexander Dorantesadame, Dieu Xuan Duong, Abby Duron, Drake Elias Escobedo, Gavin Scott Aidan Feeley, Christian Jacob Flores, Jacob Alexander Flores, Andres Gallegos Molina, Joshua Mark Gamez, Braden Dewayne Gant, Alexander

Joshua Garcia, Argelia Garcia, Joseph Aaron Garcia, Jakayla Monae Gary and Alyssa Marie Garza.

Brissa Marie Garza, Savannah Rae Garza, Madison Taylor Gates, Megan Jane Godeke, Wesley Paul Godwin, David Alejandro Gomez, Roy Alexander Gomez, Fernando Alejandro Gonzales, Alayna Noel Gonzalez, Emily Daniella Gonzalez and Ramses Ivan Gonzalez.

Gabriel Alejandro Granados, Aixa Guerra Gomez, Erica Kim Hay, Christopher Hernandez, Cindy Hernandez, Francisco Hernandez, Karisa Irene Hernandez, Thomas Feliciano Herrera, Douglas Morgan Hill, Jaylne Pryce Humphrey, Tyson Thanh Huynh, Diarra Lashaye Hypolite and Chloe Amanda Jackson.

Deaira Devious Jackson, Mauricio Alberto Jasso, Ambreon My'isha Jones, Casey Voncile Junkin, Makayla Marie Karkosky, Danae Eugenia Kostikoglou, Mikayla Denise Lagos, Thao Phuong Lam, Vanessa Marie Lam, Victoria Marie Lazo, Tony Le, Evelyn Anh Lien and Chanel Laraine Lofton.

Cheralyn Latrice Lofton, Nathan Lopez, Xavier Stephen Lowtan, Sandy Nhi Lu, Jimmy Duong Luong, Kenny Congkhanh Ly, Adrian Martinez, Gerardo Yahir Martinez, Joscelin Nicole Martinez, Jose Luis Martinez, Erin Paige Maslonka, Kyle William McDonald, Malcolm Elijah McGee, Gavin William McMurry, Nathaly Marie Mejia, Desiree Renee Miller, Robert Alipio Montano, Alyssa Malaine Montes, Daniela Montoya and Nicholas Valentine Morales.

Rhiannon Marie Morris, Janah Naser, Jonathan Neira, Alan Thanh Nguyen, Albert Truong Nguyen, Bruce Vinh Nguyen, Duy Bao Nguyen, Harrison Nguyen, Henry Huy Nguyen, Hieu Xuantrung Nguyen, Lucas Uy Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Tammy Luong Nguyen, Thao Phuong Nguyen, Trishita Quynh Nguyen, Sarah Nneamaka Oba and Celeste Stephanie Ortiz.

Maria Fernanda Paez Lopez, Phung Tieu Pang, Jacob Nicholas Perez, Helene Uyen Pham, Kevin Minh

## SEEN-ABWA meets Feb. 9

South East Express Network of the American Business Women's Association welcomes Amy Hart who helps businesses, large and small as she presents "Speaking the Client's Language."

Hart specializes in helping to build stronger connections between employers and employees and to improve relationships between co-workers and clients through her leadership and professional development programs. Hart's wealth of experience as a marketer and training director in the insurance and financial services industries has served as the building blocks for the 2011 opening of her business Hart Training Connection. During the educational presentation, Hart will provide tips on building a strong client relationship. Professionals throughout the community are invited to attend.

The presentation is Thursday, Feb. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque (private meeting room), 9005 Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. The cost is \$20 and covers the meal and meeting fee. RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 7, at www.SEEN-ABWA.org.

Pham, Mary Tuyet Pham, Eva Crystal Pineda, Neyna Cherrene Portis, Jordan Raymond Promise, Yahir Puente, Morgan Blaine Pytko, Marc Anthony Ramirez, Norberto Ramirez, McKenzie Paige Rankins, Austin Matthew Rhoden, Mia Alexandria Ridge, Ivan Moises Rivera, Aaron Rodriguez and Denise Alexandra Rodriguez.

Evan Valeris Rodriguez, Isabella Renee Rodriguez, Jacob Daniel Rodriguez, Joseph Ryan Roppolo, Marissa Deanna Roy, Marcus Isaac Saenz, Arturo Salazar, Celeste Rose Salazar, Isaac Santiago Salazar, Yasmin Salinas-Roman, Jada Shakira Sawyer and Madeline Marie Schwausch.

Lillian May Simons, Joel Furquawn Smith, Marisa Michelle Soto, Kendall Fay Spafford, Gillyanne Helena Spencer, Madelyn Gabriele Spray, Ellena Leelyn Stevenson, Christina Danielle Suarez, Elyssa Reane Sulak, Jared Jarrel Tate, Eric P To, Alyssa Giselle Toro, Giselle Torres, Jose Antonio Torres, Natalia Camille Townes, Kevin Nhatkhanh Tran, Lili Ann Tran and Jeiny Shakty Valenzuela.

Josue Vazquez, Justus Rene Vela, Madylin Alexis Vela, Hilda Anahi Venegas, Serena Rayne Villarreal, Tiffany Angel Villarreal, Michael Tuan Vo, Anh Que Nguyen Vu, Mark Sameh William, Alise Yvette Williams, Razzmon Jamariya Williams, Damayanti Asha Wilson, Enlai Derrick Yui, Jannatun Nahar Zaman and Axel Jared Zapata.

**Genealogy meets at PWL**  
The Parker Williams Genealogy Group will meet Feb. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library at Scarsdale and Beamer.

This group meets the first and third Mondays to discuss genealogy research. Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in tracing family history.

# Lt. J.G. Saxon visits Moore Elementary students



Lt. J.G. Stacy Saxon is an officer in the United States Navy Jag Corps. She is the older sister of Sara Saxon, a second-grade teacher at Moore Elementary. Lt. J.G. Saxon is from Seabrook and attended Clear Lake High School. She then attended Texas A&M University and received a Bachelor of Science degree. After that she attended the South Texas College of Law and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. Lt. J.G. Saxon and her sister have always had a passion for working with children. Lt. J.G. Saxon was excited when she received letters from a Veterans Day assignment in which her sister's class participated. She wanted to go to Moore and meet the students who wrote her the letters and answer questions they had. On Friday, (see photo below) Jan. 6 she read, *Navy Service Pals: Travel Around the World* by Johnathan Edmonds and illustrated by Adam Schartup and answered questions that the students had about her life in the Navy. Lt. J.G. Saxon has returned to San Diego to continue her work in the United States Navy Jag Corps. Photo left, on the floor, left to right, Linkin Dinh, Payton Hernandez, (back row) Elijah Garza, Alanah Anderson, Lt. J.G. Saxon, Katie Tran and Sara Saxon, second-grade teacher.

Photos by Patty and Sara Saxon.



# Clear Creek ISD announces 2017 Livestock Show & Auction results

Months of hard work, dedication and lots of talent were celebrated at the 35th Annual Clear Creek ISD Livestock Show and Auction where \$180,000 was raised for the CCISD Future Farmers of America (FFA) program and students.

The Jan. 26 event, held at the West Agriculture Barn, attracted a large crowd of proud parents, district administrators and community supporters.

The program could not exist without the dedicated support of those who come out every year and raise their bid paddles to purchase the students' animals. The mon-

ey raised goes directly to the students and they use it to put toward their college education, said Dana Morgan, Director of Career and Technical Education.

The Grand Champion Steer was raised by Kylie Starks, a junior at Clear Creek High School.

Listed below are the top student winners: (listed by award, student, school, buyer and sale amount)

Grand Champion Steer, Kylie Starks, Clear Creek, MaximGroup, \$10,500;  
Grand Champion Swine, Cade Wokaty, Clear Springs, Norman Frede Chevrolet, \$4,000;

Grand Champion Lamb, Rebecca Low, Clear Creek, A Cut Above Consulting, \$3,000;  
Grand Champion Goat, Morgan Randecker, Clear Creek, PBK, \$3,000;

Grand Champion Turkey, Hannah Kapfer, Clear Creek, MaximGroup, \$2,000;  
Grand Champion Broilers, Madelyn Lawrence, Clear Creek, The Jackson Family, \$2,200;

Grand Champion Rabbits, Shea Smith, Clear Springs, Wells Fargo Public Finance, \$2,200;

Best of Show Auto Mech, Logan Sammons, Clear Creek, Earnest Enterprise Inc., \$1,600;  
Best of Show Horticulture, April Nance, Clear Falls, League City Lions Club, Inc., \$1,200;

Best of Show Floral Design, Katie Smith, Clear Brook, The Sign Shop, \$700;  
Best of Show Visual Arts, Reagan Krengle, Clear Brook, Engle Family, \$700;

Best of Show Food Science, Barbara Brocard, Clear Creek, The DeMasi Family, \$900;  
Reserve Champion Steer, Kara Belt, Clear Lake, Roy D. Mease, Attorney at Law, \$25,000;

Reserve Champion Swine, Alton Hodges, Clear Creek, Little Daddy's Gumbo Bar, \$2,500;

Piper Jaffray, \$1,000;  
Reserve Champion Turkey, Chloe Jackson, Clear Falls, The Jackson Family, \$2,200;

Reserve Champion Goat, Alyssa Hyland, Clear Falls, \$2,200;

Reserve Champion Broiler, Grace Garcia, Clear Creek, SIS Tech, \$2,500; and Reserve Champion Rabbits, Jennifer Robinson, Clear Springs, Dawn Gibbs, \$1,000.

Reserve Champion Turkey, Hannah Kapfer, Clear Creek, MaximGroup, \$2,000;

Reserve Champion Broilers, Madelyn Lawrence, Clear Creek, The Jackson Family, \$2,200;

Reserve Champion Rabbits, Shea Smith, Clear Springs, Wells Fargo Public Finance, \$2,200;

Best of Show Auto Mech, Logan Sammons, Clear Creek, Earnest Enterprise Inc., \$1,600;

Best of Show Horticulture, April Nance, Clear Falls, League City Lions Club, Inc., \$1,200;

Best of Show Floral Design, Katie Smith, Clear Brook, The Sign Shop, \$700;

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Best of Show Food Science, Barbara Brocard, Clear Creek, The DeMasi Family, \$900;

Reserve Champion Steer, Kara Belt, Clear Lake, Roy D. Mease, Attorney at Law, \$25,000;

Reserve Champion Swine, Alton Hodges, Clear Creek, Little Daddy's Gumbo Bar, \$2,500;

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0 Allendale Rd., Pasadena, 77502	0752120000205
720 Center St., Pasadena, 77506	0691100000022
1113 Randall St., Pasadena, 77506	0650930010003
1509 Thomas Ave., Pasadena, 77506	0710260180022
709 Garrett St., Pasadena, 77506	0710260190051
942 Coleman Ave., Pasadena, 77506	0741030080025
3519 Mattye Mae, Pasadena, 7503	09020800000394
3219 Sinclair St., Pasadena, 77505	0981490000001
612 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, 77505	0800300000012
0 Shaver, Pasadena, 77506	0281770000068
604 Fresa, Pasadena, 77502	0610860000064
9600 Carmalee St., Houston, 77075	0834590000001
10811 Ritow St., Houston, 77089	0920520000019
11034 Sageview Dr., Houston, 77089	0985220000009
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# J. Frank Dobie High Hall of Honor names recipients

Continued from Page 1A

As executive vice president of the Houston Rockets, Rosas is the No. 2 person in charge of the team's personnel matters. He has been a key player in trade acquisition of all-star James Harden and helped recruit NBA standout Dwight Howard. In 2013, he served briefly as general manager of the Dallas Mavericks, becoming the first Columbian G.M. in NBA history.

Buehrer, a Houston restaurant and coffee shop entrepreneur, has developed a reputation locally as the consummate barista. He is co-owner of Greenway Coffee Company and has opened Blacksmith in the Montrose district and Morningstar, in the Heights. Buehrer is the co-founder and vice president of the OKRA Charity Bar, a downtown establishment from which all profits go to various Houston charities.

**Barbara Taylor-Cox**  
Class of 1977

If there's something that Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox doesn't know about children's health or the problems of parents, it can only be because the ailment—or the problem—hasn't been discovered yet.

Bullying. How to safely ride a bike. How to raise twins. Which insects kids need to avoid and why. A pediatrician for the past 28 years, Dr. Taylor-Cox is a well-known expert on all aspects of child-raising—A to Z.

A popular speaker with the Ovation talent group, Taylor-Cox covers dozens of topics with keen insight and humor. "Childhood Obesity," is one of her speech topics. The title continues: "They Aren't Driving Themselves to the Driving Through."

Her four years at Dobie were marked by high academic achievement and contributions to her school. She served as head twirler as a senior, was selected as homecoming queen and elected student body president. She was named Outstanding Senior Girl and was chosen a Dobie Trailblazer.

After graduation, she earned her undergraduate degree from Houston Baptist University and then her doctorate from the University of Texas-Houston Medical School. In 1988, Taylor-Cox completed her residency at both Memorial Hermann and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Cen-

ter, where she was named outstanding senior resident. While in training, she served as a Life Flight pediatric physician.

That done, she pursued her first love in the medical field—pediatrics—an opportunity, as she saw it, to maintain an ongoing relationship with children and their parents over two decades or more.

Forty years after graduating from high school, Taylor-Cox is at the top of her profession. She is the founder and owner of Personal Pediatrics of Houston and maintains affiliations with Texas Children's Hospital, the Women's Hospital of Texas, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Memorial Herman in the Medical Center and West Houston Medical Center, where she served as chief of pediatrics.

Taylor-Cox doubles as a podcast host on Houston-based Radio Brave for a program titled "Healthy Kids / Happy Kids." Her podcasts are also available on iTunes.

Board certified, she is a fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is consistently voted one of Houston's top pediatricians by H (Houston) Magazine.

And, yes, she does have some parental experience on the subject of parenting. Taylor-Cox and her husband, Ray Cox, a property tax attorney, are the parents of twin boys, Tyler and Colton, both juniors at Rice University.

**Jonathan Carter**  
Class of 1995

Chatter isn't unusual on the baseball field. Unless it's the umpire who's doing most of the talking.

Jonathan Carter, then a first baseman for Sam Houston State, thought it strange that much of the diamond dialogue was coming from the man in blue. Between balls and strikes or between outs, the ump had his own pitch to deliver, one that was hard to ignore.

It started one day, in the middle of a game, with a question—"What do you plan to do after graduation?" Carter hadn't given it a lot of thought, but somewhere in his response he mentioned the Coast Guard.

"Well," said the ump, "I just happen to be a Coast Guard recruiter. We're looking for guys like you. You ought to come see me."

Several games later the ump was still chattering, so Carter

greeted him with a promotion to Officer Candidate School and was accepted. Nearly two decades later, that college first baseman is Cmdr. Jonathan Carter, captain of one of the U.S. Coast Guard's largest cutters, and a war veteran with service tours at the Pentagon and the White House.

In 2008, after 13 months in command of a ship in the Iraq War zone, he became the first Coast Guardsman ever appointed to the President's Emergency Operations Center in the White House. He served there during the final year of the George W. Bush administration and the first 18 months of the Barack Obama administration.

Two years later, he was chosen to attend the Naval War College, where he graduated with a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Policy. Next up were two liaison officer assignments, the second at the Pentagon, where he served in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Then it was back to the open water.

Last July, Carter took command of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Legare*, a 270-foot medium endurance vessel stationed out of Portsmouth, Va., and manned by a crew of 110. *Legare's* first patrol included a transit of the Panama Canal and resulted in seizures of cocaine with a wholesale value of nearly \$60 million.

On the same patrol, *Legare* intercepted two unseaworthy vessels in the Florida Straits, saving the lives of 16 Cuban migrants.

Carter earned three varsity baseball letters at Dobie and was named All-Greater Houston his senior season after contributing to the Longhorns' playoff sprint to the regional finals. He also lettered two years as a wide receiver in football, earning all-district honors his senior year as a punter.

Carter's first ship command was aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Aquidneck*, which was assigned to protect coalition assets in the Persian Gulf during the Iraq War. After returning home, he took command of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Pea Island*.

Carter and his wife, the former Amy Michalczak, make their home in Stafford, Va., along with two daughters, Alison and Katelynn; and a son, Matthew. When not on duty, he helps coach a teenage girls' softball team and commands the third-base coaching box—where he chatters a lot.

**Gersson Rosas**  
Class of 1996

Compared with the company he keeps in the National Basketball Association, Gersson Rosas doesn't sky above the rim all that well. Unless you take into account the career ladder he's used to soar to the heights of NBA management.

In just 13 seasons with the Houston Rockets, Rosas has gone from intern all the way up to the Rockets' Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations, which makes him the No. 2 person in charge of team player personnel matters—right behind the team's general manager, Daryl Morey.

Rosas is widely considered one of the brightest young minds in professional basketball. In 2013, at the tender age of 35, Rosas was named general manager of the Dallas Mavericks, the first Columbian G.M. in the history of the league. The job wasn't the fit for which Rosas was looking. After three months, he resigned and returned to the Rockets, who

greeted him with a promotion to his current role.

Although an early bloomer in NBA management circles, Rosas was a late-comer to basketball. He emigrated to the U.S. from Colombia, graduated from Dobie and only then—with his enrollment at the University of Houston—did he fall under the spell of big-time hoops. He earned a degree in marketing, graduating cum laude in 2000.

For the next four years, he fattened his resume with a variety of basketball jobs: coordinator for the Venezuelan Basketball Federation, an assistant coach for Westbury Christian High's 2003 state championship team and as a graduate assistant for the UH basketball squad.

Rosas joined the Rockets as an intern in 2004 and was soon assigned to the team's scouting department as video coordinator. In 2008, he was named the Rockets' personnel director and just two years later the vice president of player personnel.

He has been at the center of several major roster developments over the past decade. In 2013, he played a key behind-the-scenes role in the trade acquisition of all-star James Harden and helped recruit free-agent Dwight Howard, another of the NBA's top talents. Harden and Howard were instrumental in leading the Rockets to the Western Conference finals in 2015.

Rosas continues to take on assignments related to his player development insights. Formerly the general manager of the Rockets' NBA Development League affiliate in the Rio Grande Valley—where he built two championship teams—he now serves as International Player Personnel Scout for USA Basketball's men's national team.

He remains a participant in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders program and currently serves as director of the organization's Americas Camp program.

He is married to the former Susana Howard, also a 1996 Dobie Graduate. The couple has two children, twins Grayson and Giana.

**David Buehrer**  
Class of 2002

Somewhere around the time he arrived at Dobie with several hundred other insecure freshmen, David Buehrer realized he had a passion for working. With work, he soon realized, came coffee breaks.

Now Buehrer's life is one endless coffee break. But don't assume that to be grounds for inactivity.

Folks who live in and around Midtown know Buehrer as the consummate barista—an expert in coffee beans, blends and all the beverages that derive from them. The derivatives of Buehrer's obsession with coffee are a part of Houston's eclectic culture and they continue to multiply.

In 2008, just six years out of high school, Buehrer and a partner opened Greenway Coffee Company and went about introducing artisan coffee (that is, coffee produced as is fine wine: nurtured rather than manufactured) to Houston customers. Five years later, he opened Blacksmith, a coffee and tea shop with breakfast and lunch selections, in the Montrose district.

Career-wise, it seems as if Buehrer has just set down his first cup and barged out the door. Last May, he opened a third coffeehouse, Morningstar, in the Heights. Coffee, of course, is the attraction, along with donuts—made naturally,



Gersson Rosas, Class of 1996



David Buehrer, Class of 2002

with all natural ingredients. Buehrer also serves as culinary curator for TEDxHouston, which promotes local art and technology events. He's a project collaborator with the Yuketan shoe and accessories company. And he's the co-founder and vice president of the OKRA Charity Bar, a downtown establishment from which all profits go to various Houston charities. OKRA donations are already closing in on the \$1 million mark.

Buehrer has never known a slow pace. At age 14, he cashed his first paycheck—from his job as a paraoptometric, the youngest in Texas. He worked at a shoe store. He delivered lost bags for Southwest Airlines. Most significantly, at age 16, he went to work at Shakespeare's Coffee Bar on Sabo Road.

He loved the comradery with customers, loved being a part of the daily routine of the community. He also delighted in the

Vietnamese cuisine offered in the South Belt community. His future, he decided, was in gourmet coffee, wholesome food and community involvement.

Buehrer's mind continues to percolate with new ideas—including a plan to convert part of the 100-year-old Maxwell House plant in the East End into a food court and museum.

"Good to the last drop." That time-worn slogan seems to be exactly what Buehrer has in mind as his career goal.

**JFD Faculty**

**Bobby Kramer**  
Dobie Tennis Coach  
1977-1995

Always eager to heap generous praise on his players for their hard work—and on their parents for their commitment—Bobby Kramer produced tennis teams that dominated District 23-5A in the mid-1980s and put Dobie on the state tennis map.

Within a half-dozen years after taking over the tennis program, Kramer began to glean championship players from a community not blessed with country-club talent or any kind of well-developed youth program. At its peak, Kramer's teams earned Top 10 state rankings with a run of district championships.

Starting in 1983, his girls captured five straight team tennis titles. Starting in 1985, his combined boys and girls team won three straight district titles. The 1985 and 1987 squads reached the region semifinals. In 1986, the Longhorns reached the region final, falling just one step short of state. That squad won 59 of 63 matches in district play and swept the district field in head-to-head competition, 7-0.

In the spring of 1986, the Dobie doubles duo of Bobby Burton and Steve Scarbrough qualified for the state tournament. Burton and Scarbrough reached the quarter-finals before bowing to a tandem from Amarillo Tascosa.

The roll of standout players developed by Kramer also includes Jennifer Jordan, who earned the distinction of playing on district championship teams in each of her four years at Dobie.

Burton, now a successful sports recruiting entrepreneur and a 2013 inductee into the Dobie's Alumni Hall of Honor, recalls the endless hours he and his teammates spent on tennis courts around the South Belt area—and the frequency with which their high school coach showed up to observe.

"Just about every day, we'd see Coach Kramer drive by to check on us," Burton says. "He'd park and just sit there and watch. Sometimes, he'd throw a can of balls out to us. He knew we'd hit the other ones so much that they didn't have any bounce in them."

When it came to providing for his players' needs, Bobby Kramer was generous to a fault.

## Dobie, Memorial qualify for state Academic Decathlon



The Dobie Decathlon team recently advanced to the state tournament in San Antonio. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Adrián De Los Santos, Noelle Phan, Jennifer Nguyen, Christine Perry, Coach Todd Gerles, (back row) Coach Bob Daugherty, Coach Steven Higginbotham, Jay Do, Bill Huynh, Steven Nguyen, Gus Rodriguez, Everett Moreno and Coach Thomas Etienne. Photo submitted



The Memorial High School Decathlon team recently advanced to the state tournament in San Antonio. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Emily Garza, Andrew Mendoza, Christine Osborne, Ian Bauch, (back row) Sherwin Phillip, Nahely Cardiel, Anas Arakkal and Blake Hinesley. Photo submitted



Barbara Taylor-Cox, Class of 1977

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Jonathan Carter, Class of 1995

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## Dobie AD advances

Continued from Page 1A

place science and 2nd place economics); Jay Do (Scholastic Division: 3rd place highest scoring student, 3rd place math and 1st place social science); Gus Rodriguez (Scholastic Division: 3rd place music, 1st place economics, 2nd place music and 2nd place social science); Christine Perry (Varsity Division: 3rd place art, 3rd place music, 3rd place social science and 1st place language); Adrian De Los Santos (Varsity Division: 2nd place highest scoring student, 3rd place economics, 3rd place science, 1st place art, 1st place social science, 2nd place language and 2nd place music).

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# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

## Baseball scrimmages to get started Feb. 7

The high school baseball season is set to get going Thursday, Feb. 23, and the Clear Brook and Dobie programs are about to begin scrimmage game action.

At Clear Brook, head coach Gene Flores' team is looking to get off to a strong start in hopes of reaching the playoffs yet again.

The Wolverines will begin scrimmage action Monday, Feb. 6, at home against the La Porte Bulldogs. Varsity action is at 4 p.m.

Moving ahead to Feb. 10, the Wolverines will scrimmage at Pasadena Memorial, beginning at 3 p.m. The Wolverines will host Santa Fe Feb. 13, at 4 p.m. On Feb. 17, the Wolverines will scrimmage at Manvel, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Clear Brook then begins the regular season Feb. 23-25 at the La Porte varsity tournament.

At Dobie, the Longhorns will scrimmage Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Alvin, beginning at 3 p.m.

On Feb. 10, Dobie will scrimmage at Baytown Sterling (3:30 p.m.), and a scrimmage trip to Crosby comes Feb. 14. Dobie also scrimmages at North Shore Feb. 17.

At press time, the Longhorns were still seeking a tournament opening for the Feb. 23-25 slot.

## Irma's Home 5K Run coming to area Feb. 25

The fourth annual Irma's Home for Children 5K Run/Walk and Kids' 1K, will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, beginning at 8 a.m. on the Campus of Life Church at 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd.

This series of events represents the primary fundraiser for Irma's Home for Children in Angeles City, Philippines.

Irma's Home became the vision of Jim Kilgore, senior pastor of Life Church, after he traveled through Manila, seeing just a portion of the 400,000 street children who were hungry and homeless.

His passion and burden led to the creation of this incredible facility.

Irma's Home is in its fourth year of operation and currently houses more than 75 children who are housed, clothed, educated and medical care provided for by a professional staff.

Officials are currently in Phase Two of their building program, which will provide room for another 50 to 75 children.

To register for the 5K run, go to [www.life.cc](http://www.life.cc). Registration is \$35, and the Kids' 1K is \$20.

For those who cannot participate but are willing to make a donation, simply visit [www.life.cc](http://www.life.cc).

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## Dobie soccer teams win two to start 22-6A

The District 22-6A varsity soccer playoff chase could not have gotten off to a better start for the Dobie boys' and girls' teams.

The recent history of the Dobie boys' program is well-documented. The Longhorns have controlled the pace of action since the beginning of 2015 with back-to-back district championships, both of which included unbeaten records in 2015 and 2016.

So far in 2017, the Longhorns are looking every bit the part of the team to beat once more.

But head coach Justo Manrique warns that looks can be deceiving. He still loves his team's chances moving forward but knows every game could

be a battle to the end.

Opening the 22-6A campaign Jan. 28 at home against district newcomer Beaumont West Brook, the Longhorns won 8-0 on the scoreboard in a game Manrique said simply wasn't as easily controlled as it appeared.

"West Brook held us scoreless until about 25 minutes in, when we scored (a penalty kick) to take the lead," Manrique said.

"It was 2-0 at the half and we got two more in the first few minutes of the second half. I pulled the starters, but those subs were hungry to show what they can do."

"I tried to pull back a little bit, but we did end up winning 8-0. Probably

should have been closer to 5-0.

Fast forward to Jan. 31, and the Longhorns closed quickly against South Houston, turning a tight 2-1 lead into a 4-1 victory to start league play at 2-0.

But once again, the Trojans kept things close until roughly 25 minutes into play. Standout player Sabino Lozano then netted two goals in the span of a minute.

However, South Houston tied the game at 2-2 with 15 minutes left.

Dobie earned a penalty kick that Edwin Saldivar netted, and he then blasted one in from deep for the final 4-2 margin.

"This district is so tough," Manrique said. "I'm not saying we are

going to get beaten any time soon, but every game is going to be tough. Last season, there we a couple of gimme games in league play, but not this year.

"Deer Park is very good, and Rayburn is as good or better than South Houston. Pasadena has improved. We just have to keep battling."

Continued on Page 6B

## Basketball races set to go down to the wire

Sometimes in high school sports, the outcome of games and, therefore, playoff races, become a little predictable, especially as the season progresses.

That's certainly been

the case locally. Another week has passed, yet not much has changed.

In the 22-6A varsity

girls' race, the Dobie Lady Longhorns are putting together their finest regular season record in more than a decade yet still may have to settle for second place.

That's how two-sided the playoff chase has become, with first-place Deer Park and Dobie controlling the action.

The same can be said for the District 22-6A varsity boys' race.

South Houston, which has become the first Pasadena ISD varsity boys' basketball program to qualify for the playoffs seven straight years, is likely set to win its second league title over that seven-year span, with Dobie all but assured second place.

In the 24-6A boys' race, Dickinson has stayed undefeated, with Clear Brook



Dobie leading scorer and fourth-year starter Jade Giron launches a 3-point try near the top of the key while the South Houston defense closes in Jan. 28 at Scott Talton Court. The Lady Longhorns rolled to an easy win to clinch a playoff berth and remain in second place in 22-6A.

Photo by Nick Tamayo

## San Jacinto softball wins pair to open 2017

It was a good but not great start for the San Jacinto College women's softball team, which won two of its five games at the season-opening Galveston College Invitational.

Kaitlin Rivera pitched a two-hit shutout over seven innings as San Jacinto opened the tournament with a 1-0 win over Baton Rouge. From that point on, the locals mustered a 9-7 victory over UH-Victoria after plating a pair of runs in the top of the seventh inning.

San Jac also endured a 9-1 loss to Chipola, a 7-3 loss to Tyler and a 7-4 defeat against Wallace State. In those games, the Coyotes' pitching simply could not get enough big outs.

Opening the season ranked ninth in the preseason poll by the National Junior College Athletic Association, the Coyotes will now play four straight home games on the South campus, including Feb. 3 and Feb. 4 doubleheaders against Odessa and Howard, respectively.

San Jacinto will then compete in a string of tournaments, including the Coyote Invitational Feb. 10-12, before buckling down for the all-important Region XIV conference race. Clearly, San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz is looking for more

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## Brook boys' soccer gets win, tie to open

The District 24-6A soccer race will truly be a nightly battle, and the Clear Brook Wolverine boys' team expects to be standing in a playoff spot in the end.

To this point, the Wolverines are more than handling their own.

The locals came from behind Jan. 27 to defeat Clear Falls by a 3-2 count.

Going against Clear Creek Jan. 31, the Wolverines salvaged a 3-3 tie to score a fourth point in the standings.

Against Clear Falls, the Wolverines watched as the Knights took a 2-1 lead.

But Kevin Vargas, who scored a pair of goals, assisted on Gareth Cupples' eventual game-winner as the Wolverines got the win.

Amin Mizyed scored twice against Clear Creek in the 3-3 tie, with Vargas adding the other goal.

equipment manager Anthony Porcarello had a dream.

How special would it be to have Houston Astros' star player Jeff Bagwell to attend opening ceremonies that following March prior to the 1992 season?

The internet had made its debut on Aug. 6, 1991, but few people had access

Continued on Page 2B

## Remember 25 years ago? Hall of Famer Bagwell once visited SBHLL

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

It was October of 1991, and then Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League

How special would it be to have Houston Astros'

Continued on Page 2B

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# Sports Calendar

## BASKETBALL

### Friday, Feb. 3

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

### Tuesday, Feb. 7

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

### Friday, Feb. 10

Brook varsity boys host Alvin, 7:00  
 Dobie varsity boys host La Porte, 7:00  
 Dobie JV boys host La Porte, 5:30  
 Brook JV boys host Alvin, 5:30  
 Dobie sophomore boys host La Porte, 5:30  
 Brook sophomore boys host Alvin, 5:30  
 Dobie freshman A boys host La Porte, 4:00  
 Brook freshman A boys host Alvin, 4:00  
 Dobie freshman B boys host La Porte, 4:00  
 Brook freshman B boys host Alvin, 4:00

### Tuesday, Feb. 14

Brook varsity boys at Dickinson, 7:00  
 Dobie varsity boys at Memorial, 7:00  
 Brook JV boys at Dickinson, 5:30  
 Dobie JV boys at Memorial, 5:30  
 Brook sophomore boys at Dickinson, 5:30  
 Dobie sophomore boys at Memorial, 5:30  
 Brook freshman A boys at Dickinson, 4:00  
 Dobie freshman A boys at Memorial, 4:00  
 Brook freshman B boys at Dickinson, 4:00  
 Dobie freshman B boys at Memorial, 4:00

## SOCCER

### Friday, Feb. 3

Dobie varsity girls host Rayburn, Veterans, 8:00  
 Dobie varsity boys host Rayburn, Veterans, 6:00  
 Brook varsity boys host Friendswood, 7:00  
 Brook varsity girls at Friendswood, Winston, 7:00  
 Dobie JV girls host Rayburn, Auxiliary, 6:00  
 Dobie JV boys host Rayburn, Auxiliary, 8:00  
 Brook JV boys host Friendswood, 5:00  
 Brook JV girls at Friendswood, Winston, 5:00

### Monday, Feb. 6

Dobie varsity girls vs. Pasadena, Veterans, 7:00  
 Dobie varsity boys vs. Pasadena, Veterans, 5:00  
 Dobie JV boys vs. Pasadena, Auxiliary, 7:00  
 Dobie JV girls vs. Pasadena, Auxiliary, 5:00

### Tuesday, Feb. 7

Brook varsity boys vs. Clear Lake, Challenger, 7:00  
 Brook varsity girls host Clear Lake, 7:00  
 Brook JV boys vs. Clear Lake, Challenger, 5:00  
 Brook JV girls host Clear Lake, 5:00

### Friday, Feb. 10

Dobie varsity girls at Deer Park, Abshire, 8 p.m.  
 Dobie JV girls at Deer Park, Abshire, 6:00

### Saturday, Feb. 11

Dobie varsity boys host Deer Park, Veterans, 10 a.m.  
 Dobie JV boys host Deer Park, Veterans, noon

## TENNIS

### Friday, Feb. 3

Dobie varsity tennis at Westbrooks invit., Beaumont, TBA

## SOFTBALL

### Friday, Feb. 3

Dobie varsity at Friendswood scrimmage, TBA

### Saturday, Feb. 4

Dobie varsity hosts alumni game, Dobie, 10 a.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 7

Dobie varsity hosts Clear Creek scrimm., PISD, 6:00  
 Dobie JV hosts Clear Creek scrimm., PISD, 4:30

## TRACK AND FIELD

### Thursday, Feb. 9

Dobie JV girls at La Porte Invitational, TBA

### Friday, Feb. 17

Dobie all teams at Brown Relays, Auxiliary, 2:30



The Southbelt Dolphins' 12-under tournament football team celebrated in a big way after outscoring three opponents by a combined 79-6 to win the championship at the Southern Battle in Corpus Christi. Members of the Dolphins' contingent included, left to right, (front row) Nathan Mena, Andrew Cabralles, Teague Sedtal, Antonio Hernandez, Kevin Taulton, Walter Ward, Kennedy Lewis, Isaac Sanchez, Gabriel Barbosa Jr., head coach Deuce Dixon, (back row) assistant coach Daniel Ramirez, Zach-

ary Ramirez, Santos Sanchez, Demonte Seymour, assistant coach Damon Dixon, Dreshon Downey, Erik Hernandez, Dominic Serna, Devin Cabellero, Alexander Garcia, assistant coach Lionel Lewis, Anthony Lee, Matthew Castillo, Dylan Dixson, Jason Saldana, Jaydon Perkins, Edwin Lara, Deshun Minnifield, assistant coach Santos Sanchez, Nicholas Ayana, Matthew Arnesen and assistant coach Amando Mena.

## Locals outscore three foes 79-6

# Dolphins' 12-U football wins title at Southern Battle

Traveling all the way to Corpus Christi to send a message that winning football resides in Houston, the Southbelt Dolphins' 12-under tournament football team dominated the competition at the Southern Battle, winning three games over two days and a huge trophy to boot.

The Dolphins, which include a majority of players from the Bay Area Football League's fall season team, outscored three opponents by a combined 79-6 to capture top honors in Corpus Christi.

Dominic Serna scored multiple offensive touchdowns and also scored on defense and special teams. Teague Sedtal threw three touchdown passes, and other standouts for the Dolphins included Alexander Garcia, Dylan Dixson, Isaac Sanchez, Jacob Caballero, Matthew Castillo, Demonte Seymour, Edward Lara and Dreshon Downey.

At the Southern Battle in Corpus Christi, the tournament also included teams from Yokum, San Antonio, Abilene and San Marcos.

Games were of 40 minutes in duration but included a continuously-running clock to keep players fresh over the two-day event.

The team was led by head coach Deuce Dixon, a 2014 Dobie High School graduate who has been a coach in the Southbelt Dolphins' program for several seasons.

Dixon put this team together back in December, also finding players from the Pearland Hurricanes, Beverly Hills Intermediate, Deer Park Junior High School, Clear Lake Intermediate, etc.

Dixon, who also credited Dolphins' president Cheryl Arnesen and athletic director Raoul Garza with helping him sift through some of the off-field dealings, said all of the credit belongs to the players.

"These guys went out there and got the job done," said Dixon, whose father, Damon Dixon Sr., has spent more than 15 years coaching youth football in the area.

His middle brother, Dejuan, is a junior linebacker at Dobie. Dylan, the youngest sibling, is at Thompson Intermediate.

At right, Southbelt Dolphins' 12-under tournament team head coach Deuce Dixon (left) shows off the Corpus Christi Southern Battle tournament championship trophy with his brother, player Dylan Dixson and their father, Damon Dixon Sr. The Dolphins outscored three opponents by a combined 79-6 to claim the top spot.

"We went out there and played three great games. We played well in all phases, and that's all you can ask for."

This same core group of players also competed in the Bay Area Football League's King of the Gridiron tournament Jan.

14-15, going 2-2 over two days at Dawson High School.

Dixon said the current team may play a tournament in San Antonio next month. There are also plans to compete in 7-on-7 events later this spring.

While he's in the early stages of his coaching career, Dixon says, "I'm just following in the footsteps of my dad. I just would rather see these guys out on the football field than out on the streets. We'll do anything to make a difference with these kids out on the field."



# Bagwell attends 1992 opening ceremonies

Continued from Page 1B to it or knew how to best utilize it.

If something had to be done, the United States Postal service and good ole' Ma Bell were the ways to go. And that's just what Porcarello did.

Porcarello proposed a plan of grandiose proportions. While it was certainly nice to have then city councilman Frank Mancuso deliver the league's First Pitch, as he had customarily done for several seasons, wouldn't it be nice to have a Houston Astro perform the duty?

And not just any Houston Astro. No. Porcarello aimed at the stars.

He wanted Astros' first baseman Bagwell, who just days earlier in 1991 had won the National League Rookie of the Year honors.

It was a stretch to have Bagwell come out to Sagemont for opening ceremonies. Even Porcarello was of the mind that few fellow board members thought he could pull it off.

It all started with a call to the Houston Astros. Porcarello needed the name of Bagwell's agent. He subsequently phoned that agent - Joe Salvi - battled the red tape to get Salvi on the line - and de-

tailed his plan to Salvi. Believe it or not, Salvi got back with Porcarello within a couple of weeks.

Unless there was a drastic change in Bagwell's schedule, the Houston Astros' star would be in attendance.

Porcarello had asked that Bagwell sign as many autographs as possible - as many as 600 - and then throw out the first pitch and briefly speak to the teams on the field that day.

Even if Bagwell signed 200 autographs and then left the scene, Porcarello figured it was a win-win for everybody involved.

Back then, the Houston Astros organization would send out 4x6 black-and-white photos of players as part of Astros Buddies packages. Porcarello obtained one of those photos of Bagwell and received permission to reprint 600 of them.

Distributing 20 photos to each team mom prior to opening day, Porcarello simply hoped for the best. He, and the rest of the league, received the best and more.

"He signed an autograph for every player in the league," Porcarello said.

"He went above and beyond what we could have

even hoped for. First of all, to even agree to attend opening ceremonies was a special thing.

"For him to take the time to sign an autograph for every player was truly amazing.

"It's just great timing that 25 years after that day at Sagemont-Beverly Hills, he gets elected to the baseball Hall of Fame," Porcarello said. "I just wanted everybody to know what a special type of person and what tremendous character he

showed that day.

"We had phenomenal weather that day, and it was just all in all everything we could have hoped for.

"I just kind of look back at it all and am in awe. That was the last time we won the state title at Sagemont-Beverly Hills, and it was just a great year.

"It all began with Jeff Bagwell coming to visit our league. It's not every day that something like that happens. I'm still not sure how I did it and how

it all came together. But I don't want the credit.

"I just want to be able to remember Bagwell, a Hall of Famer, doing something special for our league. It was a great day."

As mentioned earlier, the SBHLL's major league division team won the state title for the final time that 1992 season, and perhaps Bagwell had something to do with it.

With Bagwell now headed to the Hall of Fame later this summer, it's fun to think that he did.

"For him to take the time to sign an autograph for every player was truly amazing. It's just great timing that 25 years after that day at Sagemont-Beverly Hills, he gets elected to the baseball Hall of Fame," Porcarello said. "I just wanted everybody to know what a special type of person and what tremendous character he showed that day. "We had phenomenal weather that day, and it was just all in all everything we could have hoped for. I just want to be able to remember Jeff Bagwell, a Hall of Famer, doing something special for our league. It was a great day." - Anthony Porcarello

## Brook Lady Wolverines 2017 Track and Field Schedule

### Varsity Division

Date	Location
Feb. 10	Wolverine Relays (3 p.m.) (Clear Brook High School)
Feb. 17	Nederland Relays (noon)
Feb. 23	Porter Relays (3 p.m.) (Porter High School)
March 3	Santa Fe Invit. (noon) (Santa Fe High School)
March 10	Donaldson Relays
March 25	Seguin Relays (8:30 a.m.)
March 31	Rockhold Relays (2 p.m.) (Stallworth Stadium)
April 10, 12	24-6A Championships (Challenger Stadium)
April 21	23-6A/24-6A Area (To be announced)
April 28-29	Region III Champs. (Challenger Stadium)
May 11-13	State Championships (Austin, all classes)

## Brook Wolverines 2017 Track and Field Schedule

### Varsity Division

Date	Location
Feb. 10	Wolverine Relays (3 p.m.) (Clear Brook High School)
Feb. 17	Brown Relays (2:30 p.m.) (Pasadena Auxiliary)
Feb. 24	Clear Falls Relays (2:30 p.m.) (Falls High School)
March 3	Santa Fe Invit. (noon) (Santa Fe High School)
March 9	Bayshore Olympics (1 p.m.) (La Porte High School)
March 23-25	Lopez Classic (TBA)
March 31	Rockhold Relays (2:30 p.m.) (Stallworth Stadium)
April 10, 12	24-6A Championships (Challenger Stadium)
April 21	23/24-6A/22-6A Area (To be announced)
April 28-29	Region III Champs. (Challenger Stadium)
May 11-13	State Championships

## Southbelt Dolphins 12-U Football Roster

- 2 - Anthony Lee
- 2 - Demonte Seymour
- 5 - Isaac Sanchez
- 6 - Dreshon Downey
- 7 - Teague Sedtal
- 9 - Kennedy Lewis
- 12 - Gabriel Barbosa Jr.
- 15 - Dominic Serna
- 16 - Dylan Dixson
- 17 - Santos Sanchez
- 22 - Kevin Taulton
- 23 - Alexander Garcia
- 28 - Devin Jacob Caballero
- 33 - Walter Ward
- 35 - Erik Hernandez
- 42 - Deshun Minnifield
- 43 - Jaydon Perkins
- 44 - Jason Saldana
- 48 - Andrew Cabrales
- 51 - Zachary Ramirez
- Kyron Williams-56
- 60 - Nicholas Ayana
- 66 - Nathan Mena
- 89 - Edward Lara
- 90 - Matthew Castillo
- 99 - Antonio Hernandez

# No. 2 San Jacinto opens with wins

A vastly-new set of characters, yet the San Jacinto College baseball team keeps rolling. The Gators, who opened the regular season Jan. 27 at No. 2 in the National Junior College Athletic Association's preseason poll, cruised to a pair of wins on opening weekend at Tyler Junior College. Sergio Macias went 3 for 3 with a grand slam and six runs driven in, and Mario Morales homered twice as San Jac got out of the gate in 2017 with a 22-1 win over Centenary College at Tyler. A day later, the Gators dropped defending Division III national champion

5-3, using a three-run first inning as the springboard to victory. Nick Perez had a solo homer in the game, and three pitchers combined to hold the Apache offense largely in check. The Gators are seeking a return to the national tournament after reaching the championship game in 2016. Seven players were selected in the major league baseball first-year player draft, including Aaron Bond. Six others signed professional contracts, and Bond has returned as one of just two players (Tanner Shuetz) who played in that 2016 title game.

# SJC men's hoops unbeaten at 21-0

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team is putting together quite a memorable season to this point. At 21-0 heading into action Feb. 1, after press time, the Ravens are ranked No. 4 in the nation, with top-ranked South Plains having held the top spot for the previous eight weeks. Days before the season began, those associated with the program found out the men's basketball program will end at the college following the completion of the 2017-2018 season. Since that time, the Ravens have been on one of the best runs in program history. Jordan Duffy leads the way at 18.3 points per game, with teammate Corey Davis at 17.3. Tay Hardy averages 12.7 points per game.

# San Jacinto College baseball unveils new indoor training facility at North campus



The San Jacinto College baseball program, which opened the 2017 regular season as the No. 2 ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association's preseason poll, now has a new indoor training facility. The official ribbon cutting was held last month as the team carried out its preseason workouts. The facility was made possible by the contributions of many, including Major League Baseball players and San Jacinto College alums Andy Pettitte, Matt Albers, Lucas Luetge, Jesse Crain and their families. Those present at the ribbon cutting included, left to right, San Jacinto College baseball head coach Tom Arrington, Manuel E. Solis P.C., San Jacinto College Board of Trustees secretary John Moon Jr., San Jacinto College Board of Trustees chairman Dan Mims, San Jacinto College chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Pettitte, Luetge, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director Ruth Keenan and Randy Weaver.

Photo by Andrea Vasquez, SJC marketing

# Dobie baseball alumni game coming Feb. 11

At right, 2014 District 22-6A Most Valuable Player Michael Munoz of Dobie is among the players eligible to compete in the Longhorns' alumni game Saturday, Feb. 11, at Longhorn Field. First pitch is set for 10 a.m. Any former Longhorn baseball player is invited to participate, and a barbecue lunch will follow the game. Those interested in competing may direct email to Dobie varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres at mitorres@pasadenaisd.org.



# Locals ranked ninth Coyotes go 2-3 in Galveston

Continued from Page 1B consistency and execution from her team in the season-opening tournament. But entire seasons are never declared a success or failure in the first week. This team has the players

San Jacinto, coming away with a 9-1 win. Dani Damian had a sacrifice fly for the lone run of the game for San Jacinto. Gonzalez, who won 25 games a season ago, went four innings and took the

errors in the contest, allowing UH-Victoria to get back in to contention. Of note, UH-V is led by head coach Lindsey (Ferguson) Ortiz, a Dobie High School graduate who played at Galveston Col-

# San Jacinto Softball Debuts at Home

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3-4

Feb. 3 – vs. Odessa College (2), 2/4 p.m.

Feb. 4 – vs. Howard College (2), noon/2 p.m.

in the mix to win more games against solid programs. It'll come in time. **San Jacinto 1 Baton Rouge 0** Rivera drew the start in the season opener against Baton Rouge as top returning starting pitcher Niki Gonzalez was held back to go against Chipola. With the two-hit shut-out, Rivera came up with San Jacinto's best pitching effort of the tournament. McKenzie Kotrla doubled and eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by Shelbi Doherty for the lone run of the game. Rivera took care of the rest. **Chipola 9 San Jacinto 1** Having played in the NJCAA Division I championship game last season, Chipola played like it in its 2017 opener against

loss. But Gonzalez surrendered just two earned runs while the San Jac defense committed six errors in the game. **San Jacinto 9 UH-Victoria 7** San Jacinto's offense came alive against UH-Victoria in an eventual 9-7 victory. The locals led 7-0 after two innings but had to recover late for the win. Taylor McHenry was 3 for 4 with two runs batted in, and Taylor Office also had a pair of hits and two runs batted in. Natalie Hoyt gave up a walk and a hit to UH-V in the bottom of the seventh inning but Rivera saved the win with a 1-2-3 frame from there. Doherty was on base three times with a hit and a pair of walks. But the defense made three more

le as a pitcher. She has led UH-V to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Tournament twice, and the Jaguars opened the 2017 season ranked 18th in the country. **Tyler 7 San Jacinto 3** Rivera started for San Jacinto and allowed 10 hits and five walks in the game. Damian and Tori Ramirez homered for San Jacinto to lead the way offensively. **Wallace State 7 San Jacinto 4** Missy Hernandez had three of San Jacinto's 11 hits, but those hits could not muster much beyond a single four-run inning as Wallace State took a 7-4 victory in the tournament finale for both teams. Wallace State also went 2-3.

# Area sports, news

## Dobie alumni softball Feb. 4

The Dobie High School softball program is celebrating the start of its season Saturday, Feb. 4, by hosting an alumni game at Lady Longhorn Field. Any former players interested in competing in the game may direct email to Lady Longhorns' head coach Robin Rackley at rackley@pasadenaisd.org.

## SBHLL seeks vendors

The Sagement-Beverly Hills Little League is seeking crafts, food and merchandise vendors to participate in the league's opening day carnival on Saturday, March 4, at El Franco Lee Park. The cost per vendor spot is \$100. Those interested in participating or learning more information about the day-long event may direct email to league officials at sbhll@hotmail.com.

## Rising Stars track registering

The Rising Stars Track Club, led by head coach Ivory Kimble, is now hosting registration and practice sessions at the Dobie High School track. Staff members will be on hand to register new and returning athletes each Friday beginning at 4:30 p.m., each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and each Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. Practice sessions are held each Tuesday and Friday, from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Those ages 5 to 18 are eligible to compete in the Rising Stars Track program, which has qualified dozens of athletes for national competition over the last few summers. For more information, call Kimble at 281-561-1248.

## Youth Soccer Club online sign up

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is now accepting online registration for the spring 2017 season. Practices will begin soon, with the season set to begin later this month. The registration fees are as follows: U-5 through U-8 (4, 5, 6, 7) is \$75, which includes uniform. U-9 and U-10 (8, 9) is \$85, and uniform fee is an additional cost. The U-11 and older (10 to 18) is \$95, and uniform fee is an additional cost. Only credit cards and debit cards will be accepted as forms of payment. A late registration fee of \$10 will be assessed after Feb. 15. To register, visit the league's website at www.southbeltsoccer.org.

# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.  
10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.  
Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
6 - 8 p.m.  
**CrossRoads UMC** – Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.  
7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
**Al-Anon (English)** – Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
**Alateen** – Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
**The Bay Area Writers League** – Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St.

Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
**Aglow International** – is sponsoring a conference on spiritual challenges for the next generation, March 3 - 4, in College Station. Aglow deadline is Feb. 3 for Holiday Inn reservations or Feb. 17 for Baymont Inn and Suites in College station. Email chrissege@gmail.com for conference information and details.  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.  
10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.  
Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
6 p.m.  
**Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish)** – Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.  
8 p.m.  
**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

7:30 a.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
10 a.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.  
11 a.m.  
**Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** – For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
1 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.  
8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
11:15 a.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – Presents *Line by Line with the Prophets*, sessions by Rabbi Stuart Federow, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at 16020 El Camino Real, 77062, the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. Everyone is welcome. Previous classes are not required. Visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.  
1 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.  
2 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class** – Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or

classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.  
**Grief Support Group** – For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.  
5:30 p.m.  
**Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.  
6:30 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – Candlelight Meeting, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.  
7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.  
8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
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 details, or drop in.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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Continued on Page 4B

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## The Southeast VFD needs you!

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: [www.southeastvfd.com](http://www.southeastvfd.com) to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

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FOR SALE: \$2500 - 2005 Nissan Frontier King Cab SE, \$1200 under Blue Book for minor body damage. Runs excellent, recently new tires, 104k miles, current tags. 713-505-5209 2-9

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**SOUTHBELT** - Data Systems - Hard Drive Data Recovery - Linux Installation. 10909 Sabo, Suite 120, 281-481-0909. E-mail: sds@walkerlaw.com TF

**FOUND**  
FOUND: 1-2 years old, Brindle Pit Bull, spayed, potty trained, crate trained and good with kids. Have tried to find owners. Free to a good and loving home or foster! Please contact Karol 281-928-7788. 2-9

**FOUND: BIKE** at Clear Brook City Park. Please call 281-484-1562 to identify and claim. TF

**HELP WANTED**  
ELECTRICIAN NEEDED. Licensed journeyman. Email resume to lightningrds@gmail.com or call 713-202-3063. 2-9

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
FOREST PARK EAST CEMETERY: Three spaces, choice location Section 206, lot 89, spaces 7, 8, 9. Call 281-487-7932 TF

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# CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 2 p.m.

**Genealogy Group** - Parker Williams Genealogy Group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. on first and third Monday at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Public is invited. For details, email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net. 3:15 p.m.

**Houston Area Parkinson Society** - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit [www.hapsonline.org](http://www.hapsonline.org) for details. 6 p.m.

**New Directions Singles** - Age 60 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

**Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. 6:30 p.m.

**ESL at CrossRoads UMC** - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. **Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting** - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit [www.oahouston.org](http://www.oahouston.org). 7 p.m.

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group** - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit [www.crisishotline.org](http://www.crisishotline.org). 7:30 p.m.

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

**Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group** - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565. 10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 11:30 a.m.

**Local NARFE Meeting** - National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets the first Tuesday at Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Pkwy. Lunch is \$6. For information, call Bob Mitchell at 281-333-2881.

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

**Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email [nalix@texas-citizensbank.com](mailto:nalix@texas-citizensbank.com). 1 p.m.

**Trailmixers** - Meets the first Tuesday at Luby's, 11595 Fuqua. Former and current employees of J. Frank Dobie High School are welcome. 1:30 p.m.

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class** - Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at [drglandorf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drglandorf@sbcglobal.net) or 281-488-6318. 6 p.m.

**Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish)** - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787. 6:30 p.m.

**Bay Area Quilt Guild** - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program begins at 7 p.m. Visit [www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild](http://www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild).

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

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**Young at Heart Club** - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for details. 10 a.m.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 1 p.m.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ball-room dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204. 6 p.m.

**Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish)** - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in. 6:30 p.m.

**ESL at CrossRoads UMC** - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 7 p.m.

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

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

**Bay Area New Democrats** - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit [www.bayareanewdemocrats.org](http://www.bayareanewdemocrats.org). 8 p.m.

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

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. Public welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971. 10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call 281-480-1911 for details. 11:30 a.m.

**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and the cost of \$20 includes networking, lunch and program. February's guest speaker Amy Hart presents "Speaking the Client's Language." Women of all ages/occupations are invited. RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 7, at [www.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org). Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 6 - 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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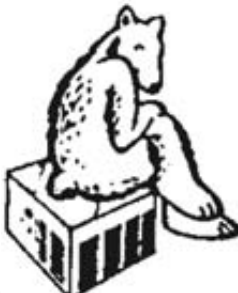
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# Soccer teams get victories



Things could not have started better for Dobie goalkeeper Analise Garza and the rest of the Lady Longhorns, who have jumped out of the gate at 2-0 in District 22-6A play, thanks to wins over Beaumont West Brook and South Houston.

Photo by Nick Tamayo

Continued from Page 1B

As for the Dobie varsity girls, they, too, are feeling good about themselves.

The Lady Longhorns made the tricky road trip to Beaumont Jan. 27 for a night game against the Lady Bruins.

No worries. Dobie came away with a 4-0 victory in the game, getting the kind of victory that can lead to bigger and better things down the line.

Returning to play quickly Jan. 30 against South Houston at Veterans Stadium, the Lady Longhorns fought through some adversity to get past the Lady Trojans 2-1.

Finishing fourth a season ago and therefore forced to go up against District 21-6A champion Deer Park in the first round of the playoffs, the Lady Longhorns are looking to avoid that this time around.

So far, the Lady Longhorns are playing much better than that of a fourth-place team.

In 24-6A boys' play, the Clear Brook Wolverines know the schedule will deliver a challenge each and every night. That was indeed the case on opening night Jan. 27, but the Wolverines fought from behind to get past a scrappy Clear Falls team by a 3-2 count.

There are still plenty of tough games on the horizon for all of the local teams involved, but so far things have come out well for each.

Alex Magana and Lauren Escobar scored two goals

each, and Analise Garza earned the shutout with a couple of solid saves as the Lady Longhorns went on to win 4-0.

Dobie head coach Bryan McDonald said Garza might have played arguably her finest game as a Lady Longhorn in the win.

"Beaumont West Brook was not a bad team at all," McDonald said. "We made mistakes but covered them up with big plays. They made mistakes, and we capitalized on two of them (with scores)."

"We scored three in the first half on set pieces. We got another one in the second half, but actually played much better in the second half."

Against South Houston Jan. 31, the Lady Longhorns perhaps suffered from a bit of a letdown while playing the Lady Trojans, but managed to respond with the win.

South Houston actually took a 1-0 lead against the Lady Longhorns, but the locals came back to get back on top.

"We got off to a slow start, just came out flat," McDonald said. "They got a goal up on us and then we woke up. It actually might have been good for us."

Lesly Garcia scored for Dobie, and Magana notched the other goal on a through ball from Emily Hernandez.

So it's all good in the Dobie soccer world for now, and the tough games will continue to come as time goes by.

## Lady Longhorn alumni softball game Feb. 4



Above, Chezni Critchfield last played in the middle infield for Dobie as a senior in 2013. Perhaps she will make an appearance at the Lady Longhorn alumni game Feb. 4. The game is set to start at 11 a.m.

At right, Stephanie Buenrostro (left) and Alyssa Lerma were Dobie varsity softball teammates in 2013, when Buenrostro was a junior and Lerma a senior. Both players are eligible to compete in the alumni game as well. The current Dobie team is preparing for the regular season opener Feb. 13.



# Dobie girls clinch playoff berth; JFD, Brook boys close in

Continued from Page 1B  
now holding the second seed all alone. Clear Lake is third, and the rest of the field trails by a wide margin.

**Lady Longhorns cruising**  
The playoffs and at least the second seed are in hand for the Lady Longhorns of Dobie. That's all well and good, but the locals sure would like a share of the District 22-6A championship.

Victoria Onozie had 18 points and 16 rebounds as the Lady Longhorns moved to 11-1 with an easy 61-40 victory over Sam Rayburn Jan. 31.

The Lady Longhorns still have to dispatch Pasadena Feb. 3 at Dobie, but all signs point to the locals heading to Deer Park Feb. 9 for a chance to share the district crown.

Deer Park is now 12-0, complete with a 57-47 victory over the Lady Longhorns back on Jan. 13.

The story of that game was told at the free throw

line as the Lady Deer made 20 of 25 of their tries from the charity stripe, with Dobie going just eight of 17.

Prior to the season, Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Shane Brown showered the rest of the district's teams with praise. Rightfully so in good sportsmanship, but the reality is his Lady Longhorn team now deserves plenty of credit in its own right.

Regardless of what happens against Deer Park to end the season, Dobie is set to finish with its best district record in more than a decade.

What's more, the Lady Longhorns and Deer Park will avoid having to face District 21-6A leader North Shore, which currently stands at 11-0 with University of Texas commit Chasity Patterson leading the way.

**Clear Brook boys second**  
Dickinson entered the regular season with a state-ranking, and certainly rightfully so.

The Gators are atop District 24-5A as the clock ticks away on the 24-6A varsity boys' race.

But the Clear Brook Wolverines deserve plenty of credit as well.

Granted, the Wolverines returned three-year starters David Azore and Spencer Schneider this season, but nothing is guaranteed in 24-6A at any point and time.

And for the most part, the Wolverines have more than held their own en route to second place at 8-2 with four games remaining.

On Jan. 31, the Wolverines crushed Friendswood 69-51 to ensure second place as the schedule tightens. Now comes the final four-pack of games.

In those final four games, the Wolverines will host Clear Lake, which is tied for second place. Then there is the issue of a Feb. 14 regular season finale at Dickinson.

The Wolverines thus have plenty of work to do to finish the job.

At best, it appears second place will have to do for Clear Brook, but that would mean likely winning 10 or more games in league play, and that is never easy to do.

And if another team can find a way to trip Dickinson down the stretch, the Wolverines still have a slim chance at the 24-6A crown.

**Dobie boys now 8-2**  
There have been close calls along the way, but for the most part, South Houston has owned the District 22-6A varsity boys' race and is likely headed to the podium as champion.

Four games remain, and

the Trojans are undefeated at 10-0.

South Houston leads Dobie by two games but also owns the tiebreaker in case of a tie by virtue of two wins over the Longhorns.

The Longhorns did get back on track Jan. 31, getting 24 points from Royce Hunter in a 70-60 victory over the Sam Rayburn Texans.

Joshua Cooper added 15 points, and Jeremy Davis had 12 rebounds in the game as the Longhorns got back on track after the loss to South Houston.

Dobie may have in fact missed its chance at a

league title this season, but it will matter little if the locals can replicate anything close to the run displayed in 2016, which ended with a trip to the Region III semifinals.

It's hard to capture lightning in a bottle twice, but the Longhorns have managed to take care of business against any team not named South Houston to this point.

The way the league race played out in the first half of the 22-6A chase, Dobie was likely going to have to take care of business on its own against the Trojans. It just didn't happen.

The Trojans instead stayed unbeaten in 22-6A action, leaving the second-place Longhorns two games back with now four to play. Dralyn Brown led all scorers with 22 points in the win.

The Trojans broke a first-quarter tie and extended things the rest of the way. Up 50-37 heading into the final eight minutes, the Trojans dropped the hammer the rest of the way.

With five schools in the Pasadena ISD ranks for many years now, the old adage has been that the top-performing PISD program in a given sport is in good

shape for a playoff berth. In varsity boys' basketball, that program has been South Houston.

In 2013, Dobie and South Houston split a win apiece in league action.

Since that time, the Trojans have won seven of eight in district play.

A season ago, the Trojans went 14-2 in 22-6A but had to settle for second place after Dawson went 15-1 to win the title.

The previous facts are not meant to pose as an indictment against Dobie, but

moreover simply represents the success South Houston has been able to have since head coach Patrick McCoy took over.

Now in his seventh season, the Trojans are aiming for their second crown and yet another playoff berth.

As for the Longhorns, all is good. Dobie still controls its own destiny and are a good bet to avoid a No. 3 or No. 4 playoff seed. But this is crunch time for all teams, meaning the victories are that much harder to come by.

## District 24-6A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball

(As of Feb. 1)

Teams	W	L
Dickinson	10	0
Clear Brook	8	2
Clear Lake	7	3
Clear Springs	4	6
Friendswood	4	6
Alvin	4	6
Clear Creek	3	7
Clear Falls	0	10

## District 22-6A Standings Varsity Girls' Basketball

(As of Feb. 1)

Teams	W	L
Deer Park	12	0
Dobie	11	1
West Brook	8	4
Memorial	5	7
South Houston	5	7
Sam Rayburn	4	8
La Porte	2	10
Pasadena	0	12

## District 22-6A Standings Varsity Boys' Basketball

(As of Feb. 1)

Teams	W	L
South Houston	10	0
Dobie	8	2
La Porte	5	5
Sam Rayburn	5	5
Pasadena	4	6
Deer Park	3	7
Memorial	3	7
West Brook	2	8



Dobie's Breanna Smith (35) battles down low against members of the South Houston defense during the first half of the Lady Longhorns easy 56-27 victory Jan. 27, at Scott Talton Court. Dobie led 28-4 en route to the easy win, which came with a playoff berth for the Lady Longhorns. With two games remaining, the Lady Longhorns remain in the 22-6A title hunt.



Victoria Onozie of Dobie (far right) fires a pass out on the win while challenging a double team from the South Houston defense Jan. 27 at Scott Talton Court. Onozie and the Lady Longhorns now stand

at 11-1 in District 22-6A play and could very well be headed into a championship battle against Deer Park Feb. 7, at Deer Park High School.

Photos by Nick Tamayo

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