

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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PISD names new AD

The Pasadena ISD has found its next generation of leaders within the athletic department, as the board of director's officially approved Rupert Jaso as incoming athletic director. The board also approved Donna Branch of Dobie High School as the district's assistant athletic director.

Jaso, once the varsity baseball head coach at Clear Lake High School, is an assistant principal at Clear Creek High School. In turn, Branch has been an assistant principal at Dobie High School since the 2003-2004 school year.

With Tom Ed Gooden currently in house as interim athletic director within Pasadena ISD, there is no timetable for just when Jaso or Branch will assume their new roles. For more information, see Page 1B.

SB Dolphins set sign-ups

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League has set upcoming registration dates for the 2017 season, with practices starting in July. The registration dates include a Saturday, March 4 session from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League's facility during opening day festivities, in addition to April 22, May 20 and June 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont Community Center.

JFD has percussion concert

The J. Frank Dobie Band will have an all-percussion concert Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. It is free to the public; however, donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit Dobie percussion.

Scouts offer Venturing

The Boy Scouts of America are searching for young males and females interested in joining its Venturing program. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults, with an emphasis in adventure, leadership, personal growth and service.

Participants must be between 14 years of age (or 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade) and 21 years of age. To learn more about Venturing, visit St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Room 5, on Friday, Feb. 24, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, call Robert Mendoza at 281-481-4246.

Library seeks donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale, is currently seeking donations of gently used fiction and nonfiction books. There is a particular need for adult soft-backs (pocketbooks) and all children's books. CDs and DVDs are also being sought.

Free self-defense offered

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes, on Fridays through May 26, beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Crohn's group to meet

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Bay Area support group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the State Farm Insurance office, located at 12941 Gulf Freeway, Suite 101. Patients and caregivers are invited to attend. Meetings are free.

Dobie 40th reunion set

The J. Frank Dobie High School Class of 1977 40th reunion has been set. This will be a two-day event, starting Friday evening, Sept. 15, and ending with the main event Saturday night, Sept. 16. A Friday night mixer will be at South Shore Harbor from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday's main event will be at the Green Event Center, 2000 W. Parkwood Ave. in Friendswood, from 7 p.m. to midnight. For more information, visit www.jfrankdobie1977.com or www.facebook.com/jfd1977.

CrossRoads to host feast

CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale, will host a free Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. Sometimes called Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday or pancake day, Shrove Tuesday is traditionally the last day of indulgent eating before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Luke's sells barbecue

The Youth of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community will hold a barbecue sale Saturday, Feb. 25, from noon to 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (or until they sell out) in the social hall and church parking lot, weather permitting.

Large barbecue sandwiches with chips and a drink will be \$7 each. Proceeds will go toward the youth group's summer retreats.

Beamer @ BW8 to close this weekend



There will be a complete closure of both the northbound and southbound lanes of Beamer Road under the Beltway 8 overpass from 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, through 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27. Contractors are concerned that work on the overpass, similar to that shown

above, will cause debris to fall on vehicles and pedestrians below. At least one inside lane on the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Beamer to Pearland Parkway will also be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thursday, March 9. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Intersection closure set

Beamer Road will be completely closed at Beltway 8 from 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, through 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27.

This will be a full closure of the northbound and southbound lanes of Beamer under the beltway. Both U-turn lanes will also remain closed.

The measure is to ensure driver safety, as work on the beltway overpass is expected to cause debris to fall down on the Beamer thoroughfare below.

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

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

Kirkway apartments dropped

Houston City Council announced Wednesday, Feb. 22, it withdrew its support for the proposed development of The Kirkway, a subsidized apartment complex on the north side of Beltway 8 between Beamer and Sabo that would cater to seniors 55 and over, if approved.

The move came one week after an earlier vote on the measure had been postponed following multiple concerns expressed by South Belt community leaders.

Critics of the proposed development stressed they are not opposed to all subsidized senior facilities in the South Belt community and are actually supportive of a second proposed development that would be located roughly one mile away.

If approved, Stonebrook Manor would be located at the southeast corner of the Gulf Freeway

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Martin meeting addresses panhandlers, other issues

Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin hosted a town hall meeting Thursday, Feb. 16, in which he and invited guests spoke about ongoing capital improvement plan (CIP) projects and other community-related issues.

In all, roughly \$1.3 billion will be spent on CIP projects between 2017 and 2021.

"I know \$1.3 billion over five years sounds like a lot of money, but it's really just the tip of the iceberg for what really needs to be done," said Houston Public Works and Engineering Department Deputy Director Carol Haddock.

Of the 26 CIP projects planned for District E, only six are planned for the South Belt area, and

five of those are focused on the Edgebrook area.

Four separate drainage and paving projects are planned for the Arlington Heights, Gulfway Terrace and Freeway Manor neighborhoods. The two Arlington Heights projects are expected to be complete in 2018, while the remaining three projects are scheduled for a 2019 completion date.

Additionally, a moat at Wilson Park that has been deemed unsafe is scheduled to be removed by 2018.

Longtime South Belt resident and community activist Jim Muecke commended Martin for addressing these issues.

"I want to thank you," Muecke said. "Previous

Continued on Page 2A

Deputies respond to area crime

Deputies from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office have kept busy as of late responding to numerous calls and making multiple arrests.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, deputies responded to a criminal mischief call around 9 p.m. where a resident had witnessed someone smashing in a window at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of Highland Meadow Village Drive.

Deputies were able to track down the described vehicle, a white Dodge Charger with a female and two males, and the witness positively identified them as being the suspects.

A search of the suspects' vehicle yielded multiple pieces of stolen property, including laptop computers, cell phones, DVD players, a ring display with jewelry, multiple Social Security cards and a sizable amount of yen currency.

Chelsea Thomas, 23, was arrested for having multiple open warrants in Harris County; Lance Minnieweather, 26, was arrested and charged with felony possession of stolen articles; and Jacobie Jackson, 23, was arrested on charges of criminal mischief.

According to Precinct 2 Sgt. Robert Sanchez, some of the stolen items were traced back to a burglary of a habitation the Houston Police Department was investigating.

Additional charges are expected to be filed, Sanchez said.

Deputies responded to multiple calls that were similar in nature on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 21, when two break-ins and one home invasion were all reported within just a few blocks of each other.

The break-ins occurred on Pigeonwood and Gullwood, while the home invasion took place on Waxwood.

In the Pigeonwood incident, several items were taken from the house. A dog at the Gull-

wood residence reportedly scared off the crooks before anything could be taken.

A woman was showering at the home on Waxwood when the crooks broke in. Again, nothing was taken from the home, as the crooks were scared off when the woman shouted for her husband.

Investigators believe all three incidents are related.

Surveillance footage shows the suspects driving an older model white Toyota, possibly a Corolla or a Camry. The suspects are described as three black males, with one of the men wearing a gray hoodie.

Anyone with any information about this case is urged to contact the Precinct 2 Constable's office at 281-481-9189.

Deputies are also searching for a suspect(s) wanted for breaking into St. Luke's Catholic Church in the 11000 block of Hall Road.

Investigators said the break-in took place between 10 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, and 6:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 20.

The church's worship center, parish hall and administration building were all broken into.

According to investigators, the suspect(s) gained entry through an interior window of the administration building in the church's courtyard.

Nothing was reported missing as a result of the break-ins. Deputies said they found multiple empty money bags in an administration office, but the money they once contained had already been safely placed in the church's safe.

There were signs that the crook(s) had attempted to break into the church's safe, but they were unsuccessful, investigators said.

Anyone with any information about this case is urged to contact the Precinct 2 Constable's office at 281-481-9189.

Time changes for Dobie ceremony

The time and location of Dobie High School's fifth annual Hall of Honor induction ceremony, set to take place at the campus Friday, Feb. 24, have changed. The function will now begin at 6:15 p.m., rather than 7 p.m., and it has been moved from the school's auditorium to its front foyer.

A reception for the inductees and their families will begin at 5 p.m. in the foyer.

Honorees include four Dobie alumni and one

faculty member.

Distinguished alumni include pediatrician, Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox (Class of 1977), U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Commander Jonathan Carter (Class of 1995), Houston Rockets executive, Gersson Rosas (Class of 1996) and coffee shop entrepreneur, David Buehrer (Class of 2002).

Former Dobie tennis coach Bobby Kramer is the sole faculty member to be honored.

The event is free and open to the public.

Challengers file for school elections

Several candidates filed at the last minute Friday, Feb. 17, to run in the upcoming Pasadena Independent School District and San Jacinto College school board elections.

In the PISD election, voters will decide who will fill the Position 1, Position 2, Position 3 and Position 4 seats. All seats are at-large positions.

Position 1 incumbent Fred Roberts is being challenged by Roel Saldivar; Position 2 incumbent Mariselle Quijano is being challenged by Maria Vilma Duran; Position 3 incumbent Nelda R. Sullivan is being challenged by former PISD board member Larry Savala; and Position 4 incumbent Jack Bailey is being challenged by José

A. Cázares.

In the San Jacinto College election, voters will decide who will fill the Position 1 and Position 2 seats. All seats are at-large positions. Each position is for a six-year term.

Vying for Position 1 are Rick Guerrero, Erica Davis Rouse and Richard Serna. Longtime board member Brad Hance was forced to forfeit the position after filing to run for another office.

Position 2 incumbent Dr. Ruede Wheeler is running unopposed.

The elections will be held Saturday, May 6. Early voting will begin Monday, April 24, and continue through Tuesday, May 2.

Rabid bat discovered at Weber

A bat, later determined to be rabid, was discovered in the Weber Elementary gymnasium on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

The animal was spotted by a fifth-grade female student during physical education class. The student reportedly touched the bat but was not bitten.

Once aware of the incident, Weber coaches quickly cleared the area and notified animal control, which did a sweep of the entire campus. Animal control officials believe the bat entered through the exterior gym door.

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, test results from the Harris County Public Health (HCPH) department determined the bat was infected with the rabies virus. The student was examined by both county and independent physicians and determined to be free from infection. The student will continue to be monitored for several weeks, school district officials said.

Weber Principal Cheryl Chaney sent out two messages to parents notifying them of the incident — one immediately after the bat's discovery and a second, lengthier one after the animal tested positive for rabies.

"As standard protocol, the campus will be monitored for a two-week watch period by trained school district personnel who will inspect the interior and exterior of the facility for any signs of bats," the letter read in part. "School officials will take the appropriate actions and notify you if any more bats are found. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our children. Inspections to keep the campus free of pests are conducted throughout the year."

Following the incident, county experts visited the school to educate the students about the possible dangers of bats and the rabies virus.

"I asked Dr. (Yvonne) Chu from the Harris County Health Department to talk to our fifth-grade students, who were in the gym yesterday, about what happened and what to do if you ever see a bat," Chaney said. "Our district lead nurses, Jerri Stepp and Pam Alford, and I were present during today's discussion. It was informative and gave students good information about safety precautions."

Chaney urges parents to also discuss the issue with their children.

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Kroger security increased



There's been a marked increase in police and security presence at the shopping center at Beltway 8 and Sabo that houses the Kroger, following a recent meeting hosted by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce to address growing crime at the intersection. Above, two police units and a security guard are shown in the center's parking lot. Speed bumps have also been installed to deter thieves. Photo courtesy of Facebook member Sherry N Curtis

Publisher's Opinion

Thanks to Houston city officials

For our readers who keep up with issues and concerns in the South Belt area, you will be interested to know that the city officials have agreed with us regarding a proposed apartment complex to be built on the Beltway feeder road between Sabo and Beamer near Kirkway (See related story Page 1A.)

Chamber members and adjoining civic club officials agreed that the location would not be in the best interest of the community or the intended residents.

Safety was one of the main concerns. A secondary concern was ability to use transportation.

The Beamer Beltway 8 intersection

was named as the 66th in the top dangerous intersections in the state of Texas in a 2015 study!

It is believed that the city will replace this complex with one to be located on the Gulf Freeway adjacent to Metro on the northbound side of the freeway.

Special thanks to city councilmen Dwight Boykins and Dave Martin for their help. Special thanks to Mayor Turner and the housing director, Tom McCasland, who came to South Belt so he could have the correct information for the best decision. How refreshing to see the government working for the people.

Marie Flickinger, publisher

In My Opinion

Lela: values upside down, backwards

So now the liberal "geniuses" running the NFL have issued a thinly veiled warning to Texas about passing laws which those "geniuses" might deem "discriminatory." This after the NFL warned Georgia not to pass a religious freedom law. Hopefully Texas will tell the bullying NFL what it can do with its threat.

Liberal values are so upside-down and backwards that many pro-LGBT people actually believe it is okay to ignore the feelings of decent moral people who don't want their children to share bathrooms with adult sexually confused transgenders. In other words, many liberals place the disordered feelings of transgenders

(and heterophobic homosexuals) above the feelings of normal people. Truly bizarre.

Trump beat Clinton in part because a lot of decent moral people are getting really fed up with liberal judgmentalism, liberal self-righteousness, liberal name-calling, liberal violence and hate, liberal intolerance, and liberal bullying.

One of the biggest problems with liberals is they don't seem to understand there is a difference between the words "legal" and "illegal." For example, legal immigration is fine, generally speaking. Illegal immigration is not fine. Pretty simple, but it's apparently still too complicated for a lot of liberals. Many people who voted for Trump are fed up with people who have little respect for our laws.

Wayne Lela

SJC set upcoming events

San Jacinto College has announced its upcoming events.

Clear Horizons Early College High School 10-year Celebration. CHECHS will host a 10-year celebration event on Friday, Feb. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m., in the student center (building 11) at the San Jacinto College South Campus. The event will include a silent auction beginning at 6 p.m.; guest speakers at 6:15 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m.; and a live auction at 7 p.m., with the silent auction concluding at 8 p.m. Payment for the silent and live auctions will be credit card or cash only. Tickets for the dinner are available online at chechs.ccsid.net, but are not required.

Baseball vs. Laredo Community College and Wharton County Junior College. The San Jacinto College baseball team will face Laredo Community College on Friday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 25 at noon. They will take on Wharton County Junior College on Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. All home games are played at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the San Jacinto College North Campus and are free and open to the public.

Women's Basketball vs. Tyler Junior College. The San Jacinto College women's basketball team will host Tyler Junior College on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. All home games are played in Nichols Gymnasium (building N16) at the San Jacinto College North Campus and are free and open to the public.

Men's Basketball vs. Lamar State College Port Arthur. The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will host Lamar State College Port Arthur on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. All home games are played in

Anders Gymnasium (building C18) at the San Jacinto College Central Campus and are free and open to the public.

Community Education Center Events. The Community Education Center, located in the Interactive Learning Center (building 1) room 108 on the Central Campus, is hosting free workshops throughout February. Upcoming events include: CPD Applied Technology and Trades Seminar on educational and scholarship opportunities-Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register for an event, call 281-478-2786.

Jazz Ensemble Concert. The San Jacinto College jazz ensemble will host a concert on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Monte Blue Music Building (C5).

Dr. Henry Darragh will direct the concert.

The event is free and open to the public.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Houston, 77089.

TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through April 18. There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, April 14, since the library will be closed. Volunteers from AARP TaxAide will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns. The service is free 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. to 4 p.m., through April 8. VITA offers free tax 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.

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. Make a hypertufa pot. Recommended for adults.

Thursday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m. STEM Time. Focus will be on the different contributions of African American inventors and engineers.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. Transforming Your Life Through Meditation

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m. Book discussion on Tomlinson Hill, by Chris Tomlinson.

Wednesday, March 1, 2:30 p.m., Computer Basics

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, call the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. Knitting and crochet

Saturday, Feb. 25, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class

Saturday, Feb. 25, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. English learning

Saturday, Feb. 25, 12:30 p.m. Lego playtime

Saturday, Feb. 25, 12:30 p.m. Citizenship class

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. Baby storytime; 10:30 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, March 1, 10:30 a.m. Polliwog club: Live animals

Wednesday, March 1: Computer courses:

2 p.m. Computer Basics - Course covers the main parts of a computer. Common computer terminology is defined and features of different computers and types of productivity, communications, educational, and entertainment programs are explained.

3:15 p.m. Internet Basics - Course explains the purpose of the Internet, what is needed to connect to it and important terms. Learn how to use web browsers and search engines.

4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint - Students learn basic functions of this program to create presentations, including adding graphics and multimedia. Students learn to identify the printing options for presentations.

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

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

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Martin holds area meeting

Continued from Page 1A
Council members have ignored this." Muecke then presented a large bag of homegrown pecans to Martin and his staff as a sign of gratitude.

The sixth local District E CIP project involves installing security upgrades at the Ellington Recycling Center. That project is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

Haddock conceded that some of the projects might get messy (particularly the drainage projects around Edgebrook) but assured those in attendance the end results would be worth it.

"Construction is not fun for anybody," Haddock said. "But when it's all said and done, you'll be happy we did it."

A large portion of the meeting was dedicated to addressing the issue of homelessness and panhandling in the South Sector of District E.

Houston Police Department Capt. Jerome Stevens stressed the need for new rules and regulations, saying current statutes severely limit how law enforcement can respond to such instances.

"Our hands are tied," Stevens said. "We're doing our best, but it's an uphill battle."

According to Stevens, officers are generally able to initiate a citation or arrest only if the individual in question has either littered or is blocking the roadway.

"These panhandlers are very wise," Stevens said. "They know what they're doing."

The captain further advised residents to not give panhandlers any money.

"If the funds dry up, they'll move along," Stevens said.

This point was reiterated by Martin. "Don't give them a penny," Martin said.

The Council member also took time out to praise Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and lauded him for reaching across the aisle on various city projects.

"Mayor Turner, he gets it," Martin said. "No offense to the previous mayor, but a lot of this stuff used to fall on deaf ears. Now, it doesn't. He listens and responds in a pragmatic manner."

Elected officials share their words

Bettencourt insists on protection to stop registration, title thefts

Six county Tax Assessor-Collectors arrested in Texas recently for defrauding TxDMV and the public

At the Senate Finance Committee hearing chaired by Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) questioned Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Executive Director Whitney Brewster on the status of actual fraud detection software and systems in the state's Registration and Title System (RTS). At least 10 county tax offices and state regional centers have been affected by these thefts over the last two years per the testimony of Brewster.

"Having six tax assessor-collectors arrested for registration and title fraud across the state in the last year is appalling to say the least," Senator Bettencourt said.

"Now that the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles has upgraded and modernized the old Registration and Title System (RTS) mainframe to a modern server system, fraud detection tools must be developed to stop elected tax assessors and/or their employees from stealing and defrauding public monies from the state and counties," he added.

In testimony tax assessor-collectors in Austin, Cameron, Starr, Milam, Leon and Van Zandt were arrested in the last year

and other state and county offices have had employees arrested as well.

"It's an epidemic. There is just too much money changing hands at window counters all across the state on titles and registrations to ignore this problem any longer," Bettencourt added. "A lot of these are cash transactions that can be canceled by the lack of RTS fraud tools, and it has to stop."

As a tax assessor-collector in Harris County for a decade, Bettencourt directed his Harris County tax office executive director and office staff at the time to develop fraud detection software programs to be "bolted onto" the RTS system that is still in service 15 years later to prevent similar theft in RTS.

"It is time that the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles adopt similar tools to prevent this epidemic of thefts at tax offices around the state," he requested of the TxDMV executive director during testimony.

In response, Brewster said this development of anti-fraud tools is being done in the base budget request of the department. Bettencourt expects to follow this software development closely in the legislative session.

SJC signs Grambling agreement

San Jacinto College recently signed an articulation agreement with Grambling State University at the College's January board of trustees meeting.

The agreement allows San Jacinto College students who complete an Associate of Arts, an Associate of Arts in Teaching, an Associate of Science or an Associate of Science in Engineering Science with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater guaranteed admission to Grambling State University.

A maximum of 66 semester credit hours earned at San Jacinto College with a grade of C or better will be accepted and applied to a designated/appropriate Grambling State University degree plan.

"This is an opportunity for our students to transfer to a recognized four-year institution and pursue degrees in either business, computer science or criminal justice," said

Dr. Catherine O'Brien, San Jacinto College associate vice chancellor for learning.

This articulation agreement is the newest edition to the list of numerous transfer agreements the College has established with four-year universities including Baylor University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Woman's University, University of Houston and University of Texas Medical Branch. Articulation agreements, also known as transfer agreements, allow students to seamlessly transfer completed course credit hours that will apply toward a partnering university's bachelor degree requirements. Transferring to a four-year institution under an articulation agreement helps students to be able to start their junior and senior-level university courses upon entering their first semester.

"We are extremely pleased

City drops apartment support

Continued from Page 1A and Kurland Drive near Fuqua. It would also cater specifically to those 55 and over.

City officials have stated that only one of the two projects will gain approval, and opponents of The Kirkway complex contend the Stonebrook Manor is much more suited for senior living.

"We are family- and senior-friendly," said Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at a meeting with city officials last week. "We see and understand the need for more affordable housing, especially for our aging population. Please understand that we are for affordable senior housing in our area but not in this case at this proposed location."

This sentiment was also shared by Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at the meeting.

"Collectively, we have almost 200 years of firsthand knowledge about our community," said Barbour, who also serves as president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, which also opposes The Kirkway project. "Because we live and work in the South Belt, we believe

that we have a clearer understanding of what is best for our community and why building The Kirkway is not the best location for a senior apartment complex from not only the perspective of our community but also for the future residents of The Kirkway, if our efforts are unsuccessful, and the complex is built."

Concerns regarding The Kirkway include added traffic at an already crowded intersection, insufficient utilities and poor access to public transportation.

Regarding the last concern, the proposed Stonebrook Manor development would be located immediately adjacent to the METRO South Point Park & Ride on Kurland, while potential residents at The Kirkway would have to walk along Beltway 8 for more than half a mile to catch a bus.

Local civic groups also said they were not properly notified of the proposed projects in advance by city officials. Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association President Wayne Hanks noted the city's rules regarding him notifying residents to not park in their yards are comparatively far more

Deaths

Jo Ann Mason Carr



Jo Ann Mason Carr, 77, a long time resident of Sagemont died Jan. 17, 2017 at her home in Houston. She was born on April 30, 1939, the only daughter of the late Gould and Oline Mason.

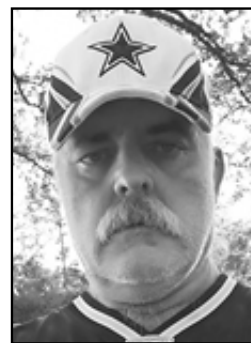
Jo Ann graduated from Genoa Central High School and moved to Houston soon after. It was there that she met and married her loving husband of more than fifty years, Gary Carr.

She enjoyed a variety of jobs including sixteen years at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Jo Ann is survived by her husband Gary and her three children and their families: Teresa Cory and husband Mark of West Palm Beach, Florida; Sharon Hogg and husband Cliff of Houston; Joseph Carr of Centerburg, Ohio; grandchildren David and Stephen Cory, Kelly and Daniel Hogg, and Dillon, Demi and Tristan Carr; brother and sisters-in-law Sam and Shirley Mason, Steve and Kathy Mason; nephews Scott, Coy and Blake Mason and their families. JoAnn is preceded in death by her beloved grandson Dakota Carr.

Graveside services officiated by the Rev. Dale Vickers, were held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at Holly Springs Methodist Church and Cemetery in Miller County Arkansas.

Robby Mitchell Little



Robby Mitchell Little, age 57, died on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017 at his home in Trinity, Texas.

He was born, April 7, 1959 in Crosbyton, Texas. He attended first grade in Lorenzo, Texas. His father and mother moved the family to Houston in 1969.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert "Bob" and Patsy Ruth Little.

Rob attended Genoa Elementary, Beverly Hills Inter-

mediate and graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 1977.

Rob then joined the army and met his first wife, Janet Syslo of Omaha, the mother of their son, Robert Michael. He later remarried to Stacy Williams, in San Antonio, and helped raise her children David Little, Wendy Reyes, Charity Ros, and Adam Ros. Rob "aka Rapid Rob" was an iron worker and a body man. He could put back together the most wrecked-up cars. Rob was a diehard Dallas Cowboy fan. He loved Motocross, NASCAR, the Texas Longhorns, Star Trek, Star Wars and all movies. Rob could quote the best lines in movies.

He is survived by his sister Jayna Lynne Little of LaPorte; first ex-wife Janet Syslo; second ex-wife Stacy Williams; sons Robert Michael and wife Peggy Hannan of Omaha; David Little and wife, Yvonne of San Antonio; stepchildren Wendy Reyes and Charity Ros of San Antonio and Adam Ros of Houston; and six grandchildren to whom he loved being Papa; aunt Frances Hunter of Lovington, N.M.; and many cousins.

Family and friends whose lives Rob touched are invited to celebrate his life at a memorial service Saturday, Feb. 25, 1 p.m., at Rio Bravo Motocross Park, 11610 N. Lake Houston Parkway, Houston, Texas, 77044. See Facebook page Robby "Rapid Rob" Little Memorial for tribute.

Jack's older brother Ronald is deaf. The memories of the two debating in sign language on a golf course was a site that witnesses could never forget. Jack enjoyed shooting with his mother, golfing with his brother and dad, caddying for his dad during amateur events, camping for long periods along the wild uninhabited Texas coast, fishing whenever and wherever, and endless hours with his nephews Trey and Andy and niece Romy.

Jack was a vocal fan at Tonya's basketball games, and was the cook and center of entertainment at all backyard "get-togethers" at his parent's pool parties. His many friends considered him an extension of their families and he cared deeply for all of them.

In 1988 Jack and his father completed a 62 day and night journey on a small sailboat traveling from West Virginia to Houston along the Kanawha, Ohio, Mississippi rivers, through the Atchafalaya swamp, across the Gulf of Mexico and up Galveston Bay. Jack was 12 when he departed and 13 when he returned home. He always viewed that journey as a special time. In later years Jack would apply those skills as a survivalist and had built "bugout" kits for all of the family members - always making plans and taking responsibility for whom he loved and cared.

Jack was preceded in death by his grandparents Michael and Imogene Karr, R.C. and Betty Ingram, uncle Jack Ingram and aunts Nancy Ingram Thacker and Rae Ellen Ingram Pendleton.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at Forest Park East Funeral Home, 21620 Gulf Freeway in Webster on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, at 6 p.m.

Graveside services will be held at a later date at Clover Hill Church, near Quitman, Texas in Wood County. Jack is descended from early Texas settlers and will rest with the many generations of his ancestors at Clover Hill.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to www.GoFundMe.com, Jack Ingram.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

Members of the *South belt & Sagemont area crime alert* Facebook page warn residents of the South Belt area to be cautious of a serial dog thief that is stealing pets from residents' backyards to resell on the *Pasadena Garage Sales* Facebook page. The thief has been caught attempting to resell a stolen Siberian husky.

For additional information, visit the *South belt & Sagemont area crime alert* Facebook page.

The Dobie High School Orchestra will hold a Pre-UIL concert Thursday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. The concert is open to the public who would like to watch the orchestra perform selections chosen for its UIL competition which will be held on Thursday, March 9, and Friday, March 10.

For additional information, visit dobieorchestra.org or contact head orchestra director Angela Badon at abadon@pasadenaisd.org.

A member of the *South-belt This & That* Facebook page has warned residents to be cautious and diligent with any animals or pets seen outdoors since a bat was discovered on the gym floor at Weber Elementary School, 11955 Blackhawk Blvd. Subse-

quently, the bat was tested positive for rabies. Letters were sent immediately to inform the parents of the students of the situation.

Bay Area Genealogical meets

Genealogy enthusiasts welcome! Bay Area Genealogical Society meeting and potluck dinner will be held Friday, Feb. 24.

Guest speaker is former astronaut Retired USAF Col. Jerry L. Ross.

He will discuss transcribing, researching and organizing historical diaries to create and publish a book.

Dinner (bring a side or dessert to share) starts at 6:30 p.m. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston.

For more information visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org or call Kim Zrubek at 281-992-2636.

**St. Luke the Evangelist
Early Childhood
Center**

NOW ENROLLING!

We are currently admitting children from 3 months to 5 years of age (birthdays after September 1st). Our program is standards-based and offers meaningful learning experiences within a Catholic setting. We aim to prepare your child for their elementary and Catholic school education.

We offer multiple extended care options to meet your scheduling needs including our Pre-K4 bridge to Kindergarten class and our after school care for students enrolled in neighboring elementary schools.

For more information, go to www.stlukesecc.com or contact the ECC directly at (281) 741-7497 email eccregistrar@stlukesecc.com

stlukesecc.com

Meador holds Family Fun Night

Meador Elementary held its annual Math and Literacy Family Fun Night on Feb. 2. Staff and families powered up their math and reading skills and were encouraged to dress in their favorite superhero attire. Almost 700 people attended and participated in math and reading games, karaoke, chess, art activities, and a book fair.



Shown, above, fourth grader Thomas Pollard poses as a superhero. Photo by Tara Merida

Shown right, from left to right, Kathryn Katsus, peer facilitator; Tara Merida, counselor; Beverly Bolton, principal; and Connie Daumas, peer facilitator, enjoy the superhero themed photo props. Photo by Alex Daumas



Shown above, from left to right, Catarina Hlozek, first grade teacher; Andres Garcia, first grader; James Waters, first grader; and Gabriel Garcia, first grader, all play a reading game together. Photo by Tara Merida



Harris County Appraisal District offers business personal property rendition aid

The Harris County Appraisal District has begun the process of mailing personal property rendition forms to businesses known to have been operating in Harris County during 2016.

The appraisal district is offering free workshops to help business owners complete the required personal

property rendition forms before the April 17 filing deadline.

The deadline is usually April 15, but because that date falls on a Saturday this year, the deadline is extended until Monday, April 17.

If one owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, they must

file a rendition with the Harris County Appraisal District by April 17.

A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable personal property one owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year.

Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business such

as furniture and fixtures, supplies, raw materials, and business vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

Six rendition workshops have been scheduled throughout the county.

Participants can attend at any time during the scheduled hours and typically will be able to complete the pro-

cess in about an hour.

There is no charge to attend.

Workshops will be conducted at the following locations:

- Wednesday, March 1, 1 to 5 p.m.; Galena Park ISD Administrative Building, 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston.

- Wednesday, March 22, 1 to 5 p.m.; Julia C. Hester House, 2020 Solo St. Houston.

- Wednesday, March 29, 1 to 5 p.m.; HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway sixth floor, Houston.

- Wednesday, April 5, 1 to 5 p.m.; Tom Bass Community Center, 15108 Cullen Blvd., Houston.

- Saturday, April 8, 8 a.m. to noon; HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway sixth floor, Houston.

- Wednesday, April 12, 1 to 5 p.m.; HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest sixth floor, Houston.

Those who attend will be able to consult individually with appraisal district staff who will explain personal property taxation and rendition requirements and will answer questions about completion of the rendition forms.

"These workshops are part of our continuing goal to educate business and property owners on the appraisal process."

"These sessions have been very successful in the past and have helped business owners complete their renditions on the spot," said HCAD Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger.

"These workshops are designed to help business owners easily understand the rendition and personal property taxation requirements."

All business owners are required to file renditions whether or not they have received notification.

Businesses that fail to render or that render late are subject to a 10 percent tax penalty. Filing a fraudulent rendition carries a 50 percent penalty if found guilty. State law permits business owners to obtain an automatic extension of the filing requirement by submitting a request in writing by the original April 15 deadline. The extended deadline for such businesses would then be May 15.

A rendition form is available on the appraisal district's website at www.hcad.org under the "Forms" tab along with information on the rules of the process.

Business owners with questions about the rendition requirements are encouraged to attend any of the workshop sessions or call the appraisal district's Information Center at 713-957-7800.

CCISD hosts community meetings

The Clear Creek Independent School District will host community meetings at the following campuses between February and April. The meetings are intended to inform the public of the elements of the proposed \$487 million bond, the tax impact the bond would have on property owners and answer questions.

The meetings are listed by date, time, location and address:

- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 5 p.m.; Stewart Elementary, 330 FM 2094, Kemah.

- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.; Clear View High School, 400 South Walnut, Webster.

- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.; Space Center Intermediate, 17400 Saturn Lane, Houston.

- Wednesday, March 1, 5:45 p.m.; Greene Elementary, 2903 Friendswood Link, Webster.

- Thursday, March 2, 5 p.m.; Hyde Elementary, 3700 FM 518, League City.

- Thursday, March 2, 5:30 p.m.; Ross Elementary, 2401 West Main St., League City.

- Thursday, March 2, 6 p.m.; Ward Elementary, 1440 Bouldercrest, Houston.

- Monday, March 6, 6 p.m.; Victory Lakes Intermediate, 2880 West Walker, League City.

- Monday, March 6, 6 p.m.; Wedgewood Elementary, 4000 Friendswood Link, Friendswood.

- Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.; Armand Bayou Elementary, 16000 Hickory Knoll, Houston.

- Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.; Westbrook Intermediate, 302 W. El Dorado Blvd., Friendswood.

- Wednesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m.; Clear Springs High School, 501 Palomino Lane, League City.

- Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.; Robison Elementary, 451 Kirby, Seabrook.

- Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.; Seabrook Intermediate, 2401 Meyer St., Seabrook.

- Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.; Brookwood Elementary, 16850 Middlebrook Drive, Houston.

- Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.; Mossman Elementary, 4050 Village Way in League City.

- Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.; Weber Elementary, 11955 Blackhawk, Houston.

- Thursday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.; Clear Lake Intermediate, 15545 El Camino Real, Houston.

- Tuesday, March 21, 6 p.m.; Ferguson Elementary, 1910 Compass Rose, League City.

- Thursday, March 23, 9 a.m.; Hall Elementary, 5931

- Meadowside, League City.

- Thursday, March 23, 5:15 p.m.; McWhirter Elementary, 300 Pennsylvania, Webster.

- Thursday, March 23, 5:30 p.m.; Clear Lake City Elementary, 1707 Fairwind Road, Houston.

- Thursday, March 23, 5:30 p.m.; League City Elementary, 709 East Wilkins, League City.

- Thursday, March 23, 6 p.m.; Clear Lake High School, 2929 Bay Area Blvd., Houston.

- Thursday, March 23, 6:15 p.m.; Buaerschlag Elementary, 2051 League City Parkway, League City.

- Thursday, March 23, 6:45 p.m.; Clear Creek Intermediate, 2451 East Main St., League City.

- Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.; Clear Brook High School, 4607 FM 2351, Friendswood.

- Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.; Landolt Elementary, 2104 Pilgrims Point, Friendswood.

- Wednesday, April 5, 8:15 a.m.; Brookside Intermediate, 3535 East FM 528, Friendswood.

- Thursday, April 6, 6:15 p.m.; Clear Creek High School, 2305 East Main St., League City.

- Tuesday, April 11, 6 p.m.; Goforth Elementary,

- 2610 Webster St., League City.

- Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.; Falcon Pass Elementary, 2465 Falcon Pass Drive, Houston.

- Thursday, April 13, 6 p.m.; Creekside Intermediate, 4320 West Main St., League City.

- Tuesday, April 18, 7 p.m.; Gilmore Elementary, 3552 League City Parkway, League City.

- Wednesday, April 19, 5:30 p.m.; North Pointe Elementary, 3200 Almond Creek Drive, Houston.

- Thursday, April 20, 6 p.m.; Whitcomb Elementary, 900 Reseda, Houston.

- Friday, April 21, 5:30 p.m.; White Elementary, 1708 Les Tally Drive, El Lago.

- Tuesday, April 25, 6 p.m.; Parr Elementary, 1315 Highway 3 South, League City.

- Thursday, April 27, 6 p.m.; Bayside Intermediate, 4430 Village Way, League City.

Virtual Meetings

- Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.; www.ccisd.net or Facebook Live.

- Thursday, March 23, 4 p.m.; www.ccisd.net or Facebook Live.

- Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.; www.ccisd.net or Facebook Live.

Frazier announces science fair winners



Frazier Elementary has announced its Science Fair winners. Shown, above, from left to right, (front row) Ray Solis, first place; Kaylie Bui, second place; Avery Owens, third place; Landon Kenney, fourth place; Donovan Harper, fifth place; and (back row) Patricia Singletary, science teacher. The students will represent Frazier in the Pasadena ISD Science Fair in March. Photo by Susan Blue

Meador celebrates 100th school day



Meador Elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb. 7. The kindergarten and pre-K students had a parade and proudly displayed their creative 100th day shirts. Shown, from left to right, are kindergarten students Jason Martinez, Jackson Cox and Savannah Garcia. Photo by Tara Merida

Investigation into man's I-45 death

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred at 8300 Gulf Freeway (South Interstate Highway 45) at about 2:10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18.

The identity of the male victim, 38, is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sgt. J. Dominguez and Officer S. Jimenez reported that HPD officers responded to a report of a traffic hazard on the Gulf Freeway and found the victim walking in traffic on the main lanes of the freeway near the HOV lane. The arriving officer

began speaking to the victim, determined he was in crisis and attempted to talk him out of traffic. While speaking with the officer, the male ran into the moving lanes of the freeway and was struck by a

vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the vehicle was questioned, determined not to be impaired and released.

As is customary when an individual dies in the presence of an HPD officer, the incident is considered an in-custody death and is being investigated by the HPD Homicide, Vehicular Crimes and Internal Affairs Divisions.

City Hall Farmers Market is back

Enjoy a variety of locally prepared food or pick up farm-fresh weekly groceries amidst Houston's dramatic downtown urban setting when the City Hall Farmers Market returns for the spring season on Wednesdays through June 28, from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Hermann Square.

More than 30 local farmers, food trucks and other vendors will be on hand outside City Hall with fresh produce, cheeses, breads, roasted coffees and a variety of prepared meals and packaged to-go foods available for purchase. Downtown dwellers and employees are encour-

aged to walk, take the Greenlink (the downtown shuttle) or ride a bike via Houston Bike Share.

For information, visit www.greenhoustontx.gov or follow Green Houston on Facebook www.facebook.com/greenhoustontx and Twitter www.twitter.com/greenhoustontx.

Education seminars set for families

The Clear Creek Independent School District has teamed up with the Partners Resource Network to offer seminars for parents of children and young adults with disabilities. The Partners Resource Network TEAM project offers parents, at no cost, workshops on important topics from a parent's view.

"In Clear Creek ISD, we continuously strive to improve the school-to-home connection through effective communication," said Dr. Cyndi Short, Executive Director of Special Services. "We are thrilled to bring this important resource to our families as we all work together to meet the needs of each child."

This is a program designed for parents by parents of children with special needs. Celia Ulloa, the organization's regional coordinator, said she better understood her daughter's learning disability and what support she could receive

from the school through the TEAM project many years ago and this is one important way of her giving back.

"That is what makes this program unique. I understand what parents go through because I was once there. It's truly an initiative designed from parents to parents of children who have a disability and this organization empowers parents through the process," Ulloa said.

The Partners Resource Network is funded by the U.S. Department of Education of Special Education Programs. It is not a parent advocate service. The group's mission and funding is tied to ensuring parents have access to information and training so that their children can achieve their fullest potential.

The parent curriculum, approved by the U.S. Department of Education, is designed to let parents know about the different special needs education programs and what their rights and responsibilities are once they find out their child would be receiving special education services.

As a starter, the Partners

Resource Network TEAM project will host two parent workshops on assertiveness on March 9 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m. at the McWhirter Elementary Professional Learning Center located at 300 Pennsylvania in Webster.

At the workshop, parents will learn about the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) Process and how to communicate opinions, thoughts, needs and feelings effectively in an appropriate manner during meetings to ensure their children are successful at school.

For those parents who cannot attend, the 3:30 p.m. session will be live stream.

TEAM stands for Together Everyone Achieves More. TEAM Project offers individual assistance over the phone and in-person, printed publications and online courses.

All services are offered at no cost. TEAM can be contacted directly for questions. There are bilingual personnel to assist in English and Spanish. For more information visit <http://prntexas.org/texas-vpnteam-project-2/>.

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

All Stars perform at Sagemont Church

By Jonathan Chapa
Sagemont Church's All Stars Youth Banjo Band will have its Banjos on Parade concert Friday, March 3, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 4, at 2 p.m. in the church's hall.

The All Stars band currently has 56 members, consisting of boys and girls ranging in age from 7 to 17 years, and many have graduated from the band over the past years.

The band has played more than 500 shows in more than 60 cities in six states.

Shows include two performances at Disney World in Florida, opening act for the Grand Old Opry Gatlin Brothers Legends Show, the National Jazz Banjo Festival in Guthrie, Okla., the

Banjo Bash in Punta Gordo, Fla., and a performance of the National Anthem for an MLB Houston Astros game.

One of the things for which the Banjos on Parade is known for is the band's great variety of music. The band plays music ranging from difficult to corny.

Buddy Griffin, Banjo Hall of Fame inductee, has been teaching banjo since 1982.

Griffin has played in every country in the world except India and Australia. One of the reasons he continues the band is to make sure the banjo instrument is preserved.

"Back in the turn of the century, a band had to have rhythm, so a banjo was like a guitar is today. There were not any electrical things so

you got to have a rhythm player," Griffin said.

Griffin does not charge for instruments and lessons. He loans the instruments to the kids. He feels the banjo is a dying art, so he believes that by teaching young people how to play, then he can instill hard work, devout lessons, honesty and teamwork.

The objective Griffin aims to achieve through his band is to teach his students godly lessons so that they can make good choices and be productive citizens.

Griffin had a rough childhood growing up, which encourages him to help guide children toward a better life.

"I want them to do the right thing on purpose, but it is hard because that is what life is about," Griffin

said.

Griffin hopes the lessons he's taught and the influences he bestows will help the students make good choices.

"The All Stars Youth Banjo Band will put a smile on your face, a song in your heart, a snap in your fingers and a tap in your toes," Griffin said.

Sagemont Church will offer free admission for both one-hour acts.

Concessions will be available for purchase on both days of the concert.

Former band members are invited and will be recognized at the Saturday matinee.

For questions about Banjos on Parade, contact Sagemont Church at 281-493-4993.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

DR. B.J. GARNER IS RELEASED!
Well wishes are sent to Dr. B.J. Garner, owner of Garner Vision Center, who was released by his doctor from the hospital. Until returning to his practice, Dr. Garner's daughter, Dr. Jennifer Garner Johnson, will be assisting at the office. She had previously worked in the office for many years and her name is still on the office sign in front of the business. The Leader staff and friends of Dr. Garner wish him a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JIM!
Special birthday greetings are sent Feb. 25 from family and friends to Jim Muecke, an Edgebrook area resident active with community volunteer work on road and drainage projects.

BRAYDEN TURNS 15!
Brayden Espinosa turns 15 years old March 1. Lots of hugs and best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from proud grandparents Jennie and Robert Scarberry; mom Jenny Hayes; sisters Baylee Espinosa and Olivia Moreno; uncle Tyler Scarberry; aunt Stacey Hayes, uncle Stephen and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers; uncle Joseph Hayes; and uncle Austin, aunt Tiffany and cousin Jade Scarberry.

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

Thursday, Feb. 23: Mark Roberts, David Adkins, Brian Groff, Tonya Abel, Angie Abel, Charlese Richard, James Spence and Liz Cantu; Friday, Feb. 24: Wendy Sharpless, Andrew Belmarez, Ken Moore, L.A. Dalton, Michael Brown and Rebecca Cappello; Saturday, Feb. 25: Frank Acosta, Carla Burback, Kayla Ferrell, Rene Hernandez, Kobo Ruiz-Estrada and Luciana Serrano; Sunday, Feb. 26: Jimi Cebulla, Leah Williamson and Mark West; Monday, Feb. 27: Sarah Tremont, Cindy Banhart, Miguel Villareal, Jared Layne and Beth Northrup; Tuesday, Feb. 28: Jessica Shannon, Rudy Peralez, Kim Brown and James Myers; and Wednesday, March 1: Jacquie Farrey.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 23 through March 1.

Bush Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for Kristi Emler is Feb. 27.

Frazier Elementary
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to Brooke DuPont and Maria Munoz Feb. 27.

Moore Elementary
The day for a party for Cindy Montemayor is Feb. 24. Blow out the birthday candles Feb. 25 for Leah Laredo. Celebrating a birthday Feb. 28 is Adriana Ramirez. Birthday greetings go to Priscilla Nguyen-Vu on Feb. 29.

Stuchbery Elementary
Light the birthday candles Feb. 28 for Alex Whited.

Meillio Middle School
Blow out the birthday candles for Andy Oquinn on Feb. 26. March 1 is the day for Iveth Santibanez to celebrate a birthday.

Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 23 are Tincy Varghese and Jessica Ray.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Light the birthday candles on a double-layer cake Feb. 23 for Joseph Fee and Quan Nguyen. Blow out the birthday candles Feb. 25 for Gary Warner.

Thompson Intermediate
Kristin Cortese enjoys a birthday Feb. 24. The day for a birthday celebration for Justin Duncan is Feb. 26. Send a warm birthday wish March 1 to Katina Morris.

Dobie High
Jesse Goodwin is wished a happy birthday Feb. 23. Sharing a double birthday celebration Feb. 24 are Wendy Sharpless

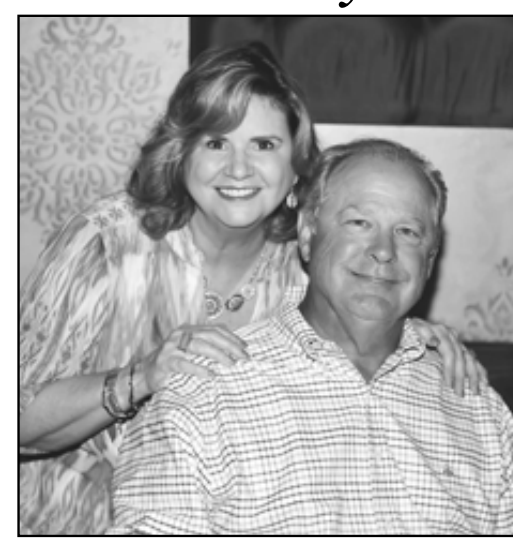
and Tamalar Whiting. Blow out the birthday candles Feb. 25 for Michael Arroyo and Derek Rochelle. Celebrating a birthday Feb. 27 are Nicolas Condon, Rachel Rodriguez and Christopher Rojas. David Cholleit, Zoila Salazar and Amanda Tetuyev share a birthday Feb. 28. On March 1, send birthday wishes to Andrea Boyken, Selene Reyes and Jason Roth.

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

CCISD underwriters continue support to Keep Kids in School Tourney

Since 2010, Janice and Rick Gornto and Laura and Chris Goldstraw have been underwriting the annual Keep Kids in School Golf Tournament, which benefits Communities In Schools-Bay Area. These tournaments have raised more than \$1 million and have impacted the lives of approximately 15,000 students in the Clear Creek and Dickinson Independent School Districts.

This year's tournament will be held on April 10 at Bay Oaks Country Club, located at 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd. in Houston.



Shown above, are Janice and Rick Gornto. Rick started the shamble golf tournament and has advised Community In Schools-Bay Area to make Keep Kids in School the premier Bay Area tourney. Rick also served as president of CIS-Bay Area board of directors.



Shown left, are Chris and Laura Goldstraw. Both Chris and Laura have served on the CIS-Bay Area board of directors.

Workshops to help identify tax exemptions

Mayor Sylvester Turner is kicking off a series of free workshops aimed at preserving home affordability by helping homeowners identify and, if eligible, apply for property tax exemptions.

The first of these workshops will take place on

Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Acres Homes Multi-Service Center located at 6719 West Montgomery Road from 6 to 8 p.m.

Houston is one of the nation's most affordable cities, yet there are still families at risk of losing their homes due to the rising cost of their

property taxes.

A homestead exemption could provide significant savings.

In Harris County, for example, the homestead exemption reduces the value used for calculating property taxes by 20 percent. This means a \$150,000 home would be taxed at a value of \$120,000, saving the homeowner, on average, more than \$650/year.

"Data show there are over 3,000 homeowners in Acres Homes alone who likely qualify for homestead exemptions, but don't have them," said Mayor Turners. "By helping homeowners stay in their homes, we are strengthening the communities they live in and ensuring Houston is affordable for all residents."

The free workshops will be held in Acres Homes, Near Northside, and Second and Third Wards, communities identified in the tax rolls as having large numbers of homeowners who potentially qualify for homestead exemptions.

Workshop participants will also learn about other possible tax exemptions such

as those for persons older than 65 or disabled.

"The workshops will potentially benefit thousands of low- and moderate-income homeowners who are not taking advantage of the tax exemptions," said Turner. "We want to help them sign up for these exemptions and save money on their taxes."

The City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department will be working in collaboration with Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) and community-based organizations to host the Sign Up and Save workshops.

For more information, contact HCAD at 713-957-7800.

The times, dates and locations for the workshops are:

- Feb. 28, 6 p.m.; Acres Homes Multi-Service Center, 6919 West Montgomery Road.
- March 9, 6 p.m.; Third Ward Multi-Service Center, 3611 Ennis St.
- March 28, 6 p.m.; Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive.
- March 29, 6 p.m.; Magnolia Multi-Service Center, 7037 Capitol St.

injuries.

Acevedo ran from the scene but was arrested a short while later. Lopez, 19, was charged with aggravated assault against a public servant and Acevedo, 32, with felony evading arrest.

A federal court in San Antonio issued new interim congressional and legislative maps pushing the primary elections to Tuesday, May 29. The redistricting debacle had already forced the primaries to be moved to April 3. The maps

Clear Creek ISD earns national recognition

The Clear Creek Independent School District has no shortage of schools, staff and students who are recognized regularly on a district, state and national level for their academic success inside and outside the classroom.

Another way the District is held accountable is how it spends its money.

For the 11th straight year, CCISD has been honored by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States (GFOA) and the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) for its superior financial management and budget practices.

The CCISD Financial Services Department, led by Jeff Kohlenberg, received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the District's 2015-2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. CCISD is one of only 49 school districts, out of more than 1,200 public and charter schools in Texas, to receive this award.

The CCISD Business Services Department, led by Alice Benzaia, received the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2015-2016 Budget document and is one of only 18 school districts to receive this award.

"I am very proud of our financial and business services departments," said Paul McLarty, deputy superintendent of business and support services. "For the past 11 years, Clear Creek ISD has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Meritorious Budget Award. These two awards represent the highest level of achievement in financial and budgetary reporting."

According to the ASBO, school districts who receive these awards have demonstrated excellence in budget presentation through understandable and clear budget guidelines and practices; short-and long-term goals; sound fiscal management practices; and professional growth for the school district's budget staff. The

awards are only given to deserving school districts after a rigorous review by professional auditors who review financial statements and analyze every aspect of a district's budget and planning process.

"These awards affirm that Clear Creek ISD is transparent in its operation and detailed in its approach to financial management," said McLarty.

"The efforts of Jeff Kohlenberg, Alice Benzaia and Executive Assistant Melody Hermes position our District to excel in this arena each year. These recognitions would not be possible without their hard work."

as those for persons older than 65 or disabled.

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Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
Bill Caraway, state representative, introduced House Bill 955 which set up a program to better acquaint high school students with state government.

The Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees held its regular meeting in which trustees discussed the boundaries for many elementary, intermediate and high schools. Among these schools were South Houston High School and Rayburn High School.

35 years ago (1982)
Four voting precincts in the South Belt area – those located at Frazier, Burnett, Thompson and Dobie schools – led the county in total votes cast in the \$425 million county bond election. Voters in those four precincts also soundly approved the sale of \$175 million bonds for flood control programs.

The five South Houston High School seniors that were selected as Beauties of Troy were Diana Beavers, Nina Copley, Danielle Pelfer, Karen Flint and Twila Lanier.

Due to an outbreak in influenza, absenteeism in PISD on one particular Friday was more than 10 percent, up from the average 5 to 6 percent.

30 years ago (1987)
Houston police officers confiscated approximately \$67,000 in property from the residence of Charles Gene Cortes. Fifty guns, including a 1921 Thompson machine gun, and several appliances were among the property seized. Police said many of the guns had been verified as stolen.

A motion to retain Dexter Joyner, the district's tax attorney, for three more years was passed unanimously by the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees.

25 years ago (1992)
Sageglen resident Roger Davis was elected president of the Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees.

PasadenaSD trustees approved borrowing \$6.8 million to buy computers for school classrooms.

20 years ago (1997)
The Brio Superfund site's Community Advisory Group asked the Environmental Protection Agency to take over the Brio site.

The Dobie Academic Decathlon team placed third in state competition.

A 52-year-old construction worker was killed while working on the Gulf Freeway at Beltway 8. He was working inside a steel reinforcement cage with a 70-foot support column when it collapsed.

15 years ago (2002)
A letter from County Commissioner El Franco Lee to Mayor Tom Reid of Pearland appeared to be the vehicle that broke loose a 10-year-long jam that had been preventing the connection of Scarsdale Boulevard to Yost Road.

Three students who worked as library assistants at Dobie High School were accused of tampering with government records by falsifying school-issued identification cards, which is a Class A misdemeanor.

10 years ago (2007)
Officials at Texas Equi-Search confirmed that William Anthony Gutierrez had been found. Citing family problems, Gutierrez fled to Mexico City, where he called the American Embassy to check in.

Officials from Kroger announced plans to close its longtime location at 10998

Fuqua.

Pre-construction for a new Pasadena Independent School District middle school on Hughes Road began.

Annexation meetings were held between the city of Houston and the Sage-meadow Municipal Utility District. At issue, were the regulation of fireworks and the collection of sales tax.

The appearance of two Harris County deputy sheriffs in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's court on Feb. 16 resulted in several people who had received traffic tickets changing their minds about pleading not guilty.

Deputies Tommy Wilks and Bilsen Espinosa were responsible for writing more than 700 tickets in four months, but Harris County District Attorney Jeremy Maldonado offered those who appeared to contest the tickets an option whereby the state would dismiss one of the charges if the defendant would plead no contest or guilty to the other charge and pay a fine and court costs.

5 years ago (2012)
A suspect who allegedly struck two off-duty Houston police officers with his vehicle was shot by one of them outside a nightclub at Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. According to police, the two officers were working as security at the El Rodeo when they were alerted a suspect was breaking into a vehicle in the parking lot. The two officers went to the area. The suspect, Hector Lopez Jr., and his passenger, Jaime Acevedo, were backed into a parking spot as the officers approached. The officers gave Lopez commands to exit the vehicle, but instead he allegedly revved the engine and left the parking space quickly, striking one of the officers. Lopez put the vehicle in reverse and backed up quickly and hit the second officer. At that time, both officers discharged their weapons and struck Lopez, who was then taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening

injuries.

Acevedo ran from the scene but was arrested a short while later. Lopez, 19, was charged with aggravated assault against a public servant and Acevedo, 32, with felony evading arrest.

A federal court in San Antonio issued new interim congressional and legislative maps pushing the primary elections to Tuesday, May 29. The redistricting debacle had already forced the primaries to be moved to April 3. The maps

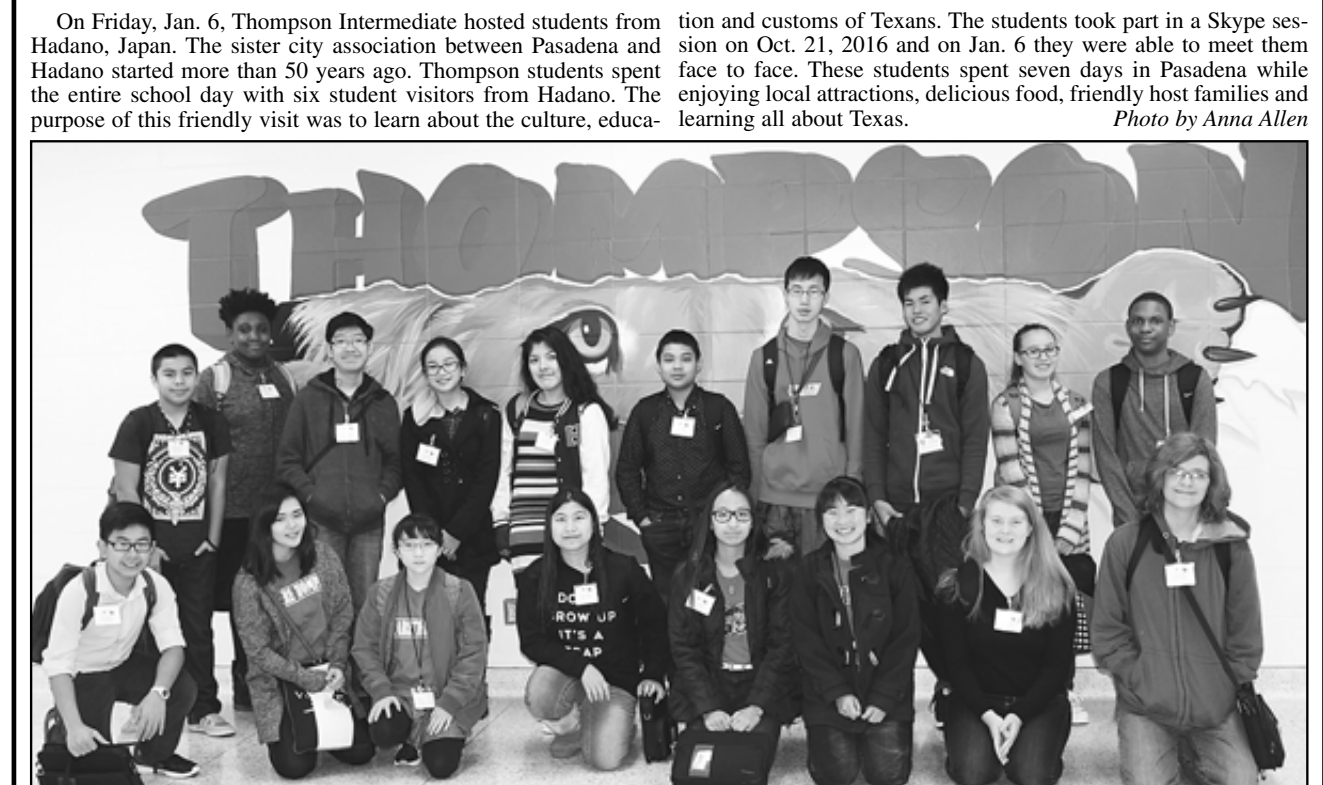
came after months of legal challenges from minority groups. At issue was whether the original boundaries drawn by the GOP-led Legislature violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act by failing to give minorities due representation.

1 year ago (2016)
The Dobie varsity boys' basketball program advanced to the Region III Final Four for the first time since the 1994-1995 season after a 59-56 quarterfinal victory over Hightower.

Thompson hosts students from Japan

On Friday, Jan. 6, Thompson Intermediate hosted students from Hadano, Japan. The sister city association between Pasadena and Hadano started more than 50 years ago. Thompson students spent the entire school day with six student visitors from Hadano. The purpose of this friendly visit was to learn about the culture, education and customs of Texans. The students took part in a Skype session on Oct. 21, 2016 and on Jan. 6 they were able to meet them face to face. These students spent seven days in Pasadena while enjoying local attractions, delicious food, friendly host families and learning all about Texas.

Photo by Anna Allen



Shown above are the Student Delegation and Friends of Hadano (FOH) Students, from left to right, (front row) Henry Nguyen, Kana Kuramoto, Kanda Nanami, Dieu Duong, Trishta Nguyen, Miu Sasaki, Madison Gates, Tristan Miller, (back row) Xavier Ramirez, Sarah Oba, Kenny Ly, Mary Pham, Tiffany Villarreall, Joshua Nath, Chisei Shimoda, Teipei Horiguchi, Kenzie Snook and Jayden Forges.

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Rotarians attend Knighting Ceremony



President of Rotary International John Germ (third from the left, respectively) attended the Knighting Ceremony of Early Act First Knight program Monday, Feb. 13, at Beta Academy along with members of Gulfway-Hobby Airport Rotary. Shown in the photo above are, left to right, (first row) Andy Smallwood, Judy Germ, President of Gulfway Hob-

by Airport Rotary Club Gordon Berg, Pat Berg, Becky Coulson, (second row) Anita Smallwood, past President of Gulfway Hobby Airport Rotary Club Barbara Sommers, Sir James, District Governor of Rotary District 5890 Eric Liu, Sandra Liu, Robert McCain and Attorney and Counselor at Law Mike Coulson. Photo by Jonathan Chapa

RI President Germ visits Beta Academy

By Jonathan Chapa
John Germ, Rotary International president, attended Beta Academy's knighting ceremony of its Early Act First Knight program Feb. 13.

Beta Academy was selected by Germ to be the school he would visit while in town.

Germ is not only the RI president for the United States but also the president all over the world for 166 countries.

Rotary International is the only non-government organization to have a seat at the United Nations.

The motto of Rotary International is "service above self" as everything they do is for service.

As RI President, Germ not only thinks about helping just one person, but he

helps millions of people around the world.

The Early Act First Knight program is a year-around character and service education program for elementary and middle schools. The program teaches and encourages students to become more civil, service-oriented people during their formative years.

The knighting ceremony is about the virtue "service." The virtue of service is to improve other people's lives, to make other people's lives better and it is not about what is thought or said but it is about what is accomplished.

At the ceremony, selected children will be awarded by their teachers with a medal for their acts of service that they have done at

Beta Academy.

Beta Academy's Early Act First Knight program was sponsored by Gulfway-Hobby Airport Rotary.

Gulfway-Hobby Airport Rotary is a community service organization made of business leaders in the community who support local and international service projects.

Barbara Somers, past President of Gulfway-Hobby Airport Rotary, made Early Act First Knight possible for Beta Academy.

"The Knighting Ceremonies have been a moving and extremely delightful experience for all who attend them," Somers said.

Beta Academy honors the four-way Rotary test, which is used by Rotarians as a moral code for personal and business relationships.

The test is as follows "is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

The test can be applied to almost any aspect of life. Germ congratulates every child at Beta Academy,

because their virtual actions will help the world today and tomorrow.

"Too many times, too often do we hear that our country, our world, is not in good shape, because the young people do not care about truth, the four-way test, their neighbors and they do not trust anyone.

"You're the ones who prove that totally wrong. You're the ones who are the leaders of this community, where you live. You're the future leaders of Rotary schools and that all the things you stand for is virtue, truth, confidence and loyalty," Germ said.

Jewish-flavored carnival for everyone

Is Purim the Jewish Halloween? The comparison is correct only in small part: Indeed, children and adults put on costumes, but that's where the similarity ends.

Purim celebrates saving the Jews from the evil Haman through the courage of their leaders, Queen Esther and her cousin, Mordechai. Purim, though is a relatively minor Jewish holiday.

It is one of the most

joyous holidays, and most beloved by all children. It is celebrated with eating special triangle-shaped pastries filled with jam or sweet poppy seed paste, called Hamantaschen (Oznei Haman in Hebrew); putting on costumes (especially those of the story characters); and reading the Megillah – the story of the Biblical Book of Esther. During the reading, every time Haman's name is mentioned, every-

body drowns it out with boisterous noise-making groggers (Ra'ashanim in Hebrew) and booing. The festival takes place each year on the 14th day of Adar, the sixth month of the Jewish calendar.

Helping the needy is a year-round Mitzvah (commandment), and in Purim Jews are specifically commanded to send food to those who do not have enough to eat.

Congregation Shaar Ha-

shalom, together with Temple Beth Tikvah, will celebrate Purim with the annual carnival on Sunday, March 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The carnival will feature carnival booths, face painting, food and more. It will take place at Shaar Hashalom. This year, it is sponsored by the Jewish Herald Voice and Dr. Clay Moliver.

Investment in a package that includes 60 game tickets and a meal ticket is \$18 if pre-ordered, and

\$23 at the door. For ticket packages and more information, call 281-488-5861 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom, the conservative synagogue of the Bay Area Houston, is located at 16020 El Camino Real.

The fundraising carnival is open to the entire community.

LSA participates in HAMUN 42



Lutheran South Academy's Model UN Team participated in the Houston Area Model United Nations 42 conference on Feb. 9 and 10. LSA's team brought back three awards. Morgan Bates won Honorable Mention in her Crisis Committee that role played the French and Indian War followed by the American Revolution. Evan Buisson won Honorable Mention for UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees) committee that represented China. Claire Marshall won Best Position Paper in her SPECOPOL (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) that represented the Bahamas. Shown, from left to right, (bottom row) Alexis Stahl, Elaine Soliman, Serena Everett, Alexandra DeVita, Mary Catherine Adams, Madison

Louvier, Annie Chouke, Archie Buchman, Alyssa Penney, (second row) Lauren Adams, Virginia Sabatini, Tara Ruth, Lily Fehst, Allison May, Alison Klein, Claire Marshall, Abi Beck, Kennedy Staples, Sony Tran, J.D. Leaverton, Evan Buisson, (third row) Connor Ruth, Rachel Bivens, Grace Psenick, Annebelle Clark, Bethany Andress, Halle Lin, Katie Barlow, Morgan Bates, Cooper Guidry, Alex Baldwin, (top row) Zach Giugliano, Bishoy Soliman, Jonah Garrabrant, Matthew Ghebranos, Josh Gohlke, Katarina Straub, Adam Zimmermann, Dylan Wood, Mark Giugliano, Avery Toomes, Madelyn Shutack, Victoria Venable, Alex Thompson and Samantha Burkett. Photo submitted by Susanne Franson

Moore represented at Big Shootout

Moore Elementary was represented by Grant Garcia, third grade; Luis Ibarra, fourth grade; and Tahllon Provost, fourth grade at the Pasadena Independent School District Big Shootout on Monday, Feb. 13, at Phillips Field House. All three contestants had beat out all the other students in their own grade level at Moore for a shot at the PISD Big Shootout. Below, Ibarra shows off his medal as he placed in second overall in his category.



Shown above, Tahllon Provost shows off her dribbling skills.



Shown above, Grant Garcia prepares himself to take a shot at the PISD Big Shootout.

Students go to State VASE

The Visual and Performing Arts Department in Clear Creek Independent School District announced that 31 students have received "superior" rating awards at both the regional and area Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) for their artwork, and will be advancing to the State VASE Competition.

Two students from Clear Falls High School, Jessie Chen and Kari Langford, each have two pieces of art advancing.

VASE is the only art event of its kind for academically eligible high school students in grades nine through 12 throughout Texas.

Students have the opportunity to bring artwork created at school to their regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work and tests their understanding of the art processes involved.

"VASE is a unique experience for our students because it is the only competition offered that allows the students direct interaction with the judges and immediate feedback," says Nina Makepeace, an art teacher at Clear Falls High School. "The students have to not only create a quality work of art, but also justify their artistic decisions in an interview. This is an extremely valuable experience for a young artist."

Jurors assess each work of art for originality of concept, technical expertise, understanding of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for visual art, and the interpretation of the student's stated intent.

Artists who receive a superior rating at region are juried again at the area competition. Area medalists advance to the state competition.

CCISD's area medalists will compete at the State VASE competition on April 28 and 29 in San Antonio. The complete list of qualifying students is below:

Clear Brook High School
Elena Michnovicz, Nathan Peterson, Gabriela Sanchez, Gianna Scillieri, Anzulie Sosa and Azam Syed.

Clear Creek High School
Timothy Brazzel, Jasmine Christensen, Kristal L. Dillehay, Jake Gonzales, Dominic Nguyen, Ieva Paslavaska and Angelina Yoon.

Clear Falls High School
Jessie Chen, Nallely Garza, Kari Langford, Kyra Morphis and Kelly Putnam.

Clear Horizons High School
Matthew Roberts and Caroline Upchurch.

Clear Lake High School
Ellie W. Salim.

Clear Springs High School
Emily Albritton, Eriane Austria, Shayla Bowen, Juliana Bozeman, Summer Elliott, Alyssa Fontanilla, Morgan Grice, Jessica Levy, Sanjida Lura and Han Vu.

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Nyack Dr 77089	0450990000077
Kingsflower Crk 77075	1150740010031
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Mardigras Mass: 6:00 pm Tuesday, Feb 28
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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
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Lariaettes compete in Houston Coastal Classic

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes Officers and Ensembles competed at the American Dance/Drill Team Houston Coastal Classic for the first time this season on Feb. 18. The Lariaettes walked away with many awards including: Solo Finalist - third runner up Col. Marissa Krustchinsky; Winner Best in Class Large Ensemble - Lyrical Ensemble; Super Sweepstakes with all routines scoring 90 or above; WOW Award (one of only three for the entire competition) for Officer Hip Hop; Judges Award for all three routines - Hip Hop, Jazz and Lyrical; Platinum Award for receiving outstanding scores in all four categories - Performance, Precision, Choreography and Technique; first runner up Super Division Best in Class Officers; and named third place overall Best of the Best Officers of the entire competition, regardless of division or team size.



Shown, above, with their awards, from left to right, Lt. Jazmin Guerrero, Maj. Julia Dasilva, Col. Marissa Krustchinsky, Lt. Col. Alayna Cano and Lt. Adela Alanis.



Shown, right, with their awards, from left to right, (front row) Lt. Jazmin Guerrero, Maj. Julia Dasilva, Col. Marissa Krustchinsky, Lt. Col. Alayna Cano, Lt. Adela Alanis, (second row) Co-Head Social Executive Gabriela Munoz, Faith Renteria, Ni Truong, Karina Gutierrez, Maritza Hernandez, Social Executive Syla Rocha, (back row) Sara Cortez, Gabby Gonzalez, Naya Cooper and Maria Pedroza.

Photos submitted by Lori Alexander

Rabid bat discovered at Weber Elementary

Continued from Page 1A

"It is very important for parents to talk to their children to find out if they have ever had contact with a bat or if a bat might have brushed up against them," Chaney said.

"If you think that your child may have touched a bat, please call HCPH Veterinary Public Health (VPH) at 832-

927-1143 as soon as possible. It is very important for HCPH to identify and talk to any student or adult who may have been exposed to the rabid bat."

Residents near Weber are encouraged to be cautious, as the deadly virus can spread to humans and animals in rare cases.

According to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention, while bats constitute around only 25 percent of reported cases of rabies in wild animals, their bites account for the vast majority of cases of the virus in humans.

Of the 36 cases of rabies reported in humans in the United States between 1995 and 2010, two were caused by dog bites, while the re-

mainder were caused by bat bites.

Rabies is fully preventable if the patient is vaccinated before the onset of symptoms. However, bat bites may go ignored or unnoticed and hence untreated. Many victims may not realize they have been bitten, because bats have very small teeth and do not always leave obvious marks.

The most severe threat to humans and domestic animals comes from sick, downed or dead bats, which typically have a very high infection rate. Since they may be clumsy, disoriented and unable to fly, these stricken bats are much more likely to come into contact with humans.

For information, visit www.cdc.gov/rabies/expo-sure/animals/bats.html.

Stuchbery Elementary celebrates Chinese New Year

On Jan. 27, students and staff at Stuchbery Elementary celebrated the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rooster. Students were allowed to dress and dance in honor of the beginning of the new year. Dancers performed during the HERO assembly which included half of the school in the audience and the other half watched by broadcast in their classrooms.

Photos by Julie Sanchez



Shown right, from left to right, Jenny Trinh, Kalyana Tran and Vivian Nguyen.

Shown below, from left to right, (front row) Le-Hang Nguyen (teacher), Kahlan Tran, Anh Le, Vivian Cai, Ashley Le, Michelle Nguyen, Jenny Lam, (back row) Sophie Nguyen, Tammy Tran, Linh Le, Victoria Hoang, Diana Nguyen and Cheryl Fox.



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.

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Brook, Dobie boys' hoops suffer bidistrict losses

After one rough night on the hardwood, the varsity boys' basketball play-offs are one-and-done for the senior-laden Clear Brook and Dobie squads. Pearlard, the District 23-6A co-champion, used a late 17-1 to close out Clear Brook 66-49 in the bidistrict round at Manvel High School.

Pearland led 24-16 at the half, only to see the Wolverines close to within three at the end of the third

quarter. The Wolverines got within a point midway through the fourth before the Oilers slowed the pace and forced the Wolverines into fouling. Pearlard then did much of its work from the free throw line to advance to the area round, where a matchup with Channelview awaits.

Channelview is in the area round thanks to a mild upset of District 22-6A champion South Houston in the opening round. The teams were tied late before the Falcons closed on a fourth-quarter run to win 66-62.

North Shore knocked Dobie out in the bidistrict round for the second time in three seasons. The action was tight for much of the way, with the Mustangs holding on for a 46-43 victory at Summer Creek High School.

Royce Hunter and Jeremy Williams led Dobie with 11 points each, but the Longhorns shot just 35 percent from the floor, including 28 percent on two-point tries. North Shore now moves on to face Dawson in the area round of the

Continued on Page 6B

Jaso, Branch to oversee PISD athletics

The Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees approved Ruperto Jaso and Donna Branch for the positions of district athletic director and assistant athletic director at its monthly meeting Feb. 21.

"I look forward to working with everyone at Pasadena ISD and continuing to build on the already great athletics program," Jaso said. Jaso brings an array of leadership experience to the district. He has served as an assistant principal at Clear Creek High School since 2013. From 1999 to 2012, he was an assistant basketball and football coach and was eventually promoted to head baseball coach at Clear Lake High School.

"Through his experience as an administrator in various capacities, he has garnered respect from the Clear Creek ISD community," said Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD superintendent of schools.

"His philosophy is in line with where we want the athletic department to go, and I look forward to seeing what he will bring to Pasadena ISD." Jaso holds a master's degree in educational administration from Lamar University, a bachelor's degree in physical education from Texas Southern University and an associate's degree in kinesiology from Laredo Junior College.

He has also earned certifications in all levels of physical education health (8 through 12) and as an assistant principal and as a member of various



Ruperto Jaso (left) and Donna Branch will now head up the Pasadena ISD athletic department as Jaso has been named athletic director, with Branch the assistant athletic director. Jaso has spent much of his career in Clear Creek ISD, while Branch is a Sam Rayburn graduate and longtime Dobie staff member.

JFD boys' soccer commands 22-6A; CB in mix

Forty straight wins in district play, and now 41.

Dobie varsity boys' soccer head coach Justo Manrique apparently has

no superstitions about posting the no-loss streak for all to see on Twitter, so let it be.

And with a 4-0 win over Beaumont West Brook Feb. 21 on the road, the Longhorns have now gone 41 straight matches without a defeat in District 22-6A play.

What really matters is the present, and the

standings for the Wolverines, but there is still work to do.

But a tie against Clear Falls Feb. 21 wasn't exactly what the Wolverines were looking for.

So with six games left in league play for Clear Brook, the locals trail the fourth and final playoff spot by three points, but just five points out of second place.

No stopping JFD

Prior to ending the first half of district play against Memorial, Manrique said the goal was to keep posting wins and let the rest of it take care of itself.

Ties are okay if need be, but wins are better.

The Longhorns then went out and defeated Memorial.

Continued on Page 6B

Haynie Spirit softball comes to Dobie

Having long since outgrown its original single-stop location, the Pearlard ISD Haynie Spirit Softball Invitational is using Dobie High School as one of its seven locations.

The big event will be held Feb. 23-25, at Pearlard, Dobie, Alvin,

Dawson, Manvel, Friendswood and Santa Fe high schools.

At Dobie, the Lady Longhorns will play six games over three days at the high school. On Feb. 23, opening day, Dobie hosts Katy at 9 a.m., then faces Cy-Fair at 1 p.m. The full schedule of Dobie games is listed on Page 6B.

State-ranked Deer Park and Pearlard head the field along with Dobie, Katy, Dawson and others.

Dobie was idle Feb. 21 and is looking to get back on track after three losses at the Bryan tournament Feb. 16-18. The Lady

Longhorns had started

Continued on Page 6B

Missed chances aside, hoops future is bright

Admittedly still getting over the sting of the end of the varsity girls' basketball season, head coach Shane Brown finds himself caught in between relishing the successes of 2016-2017 and looking toward the future.

The Lady Longhorns' season came to an end in the area round of the playoffs as Clear Creek advanced with a 53-40 victory over the Lady Longhorns Feb. 16, at Pearlard High School.

In the first round, Kingwood made just two field goals in the second half as the Lady Longhorns won their first playoff game since 2011.

Just days later, it was the Lady Longhorns who struggled. Dobie made just two field goals in the second quarter, trailed 22-12 at halftime and played in recovery-mode for much of the rest of the way.

The Lady Longhorns got within 43-40 in the final 2:27, but Clear Creek

closed on a 10-0 run to close out the win.

Brown said he believes it's the first time all season that his team had failed to make a 3-pointer.

The Lady Longhorns also struggled from the free throw line. In general, it seemed there was a lid on Dobie's bucket no matter the end of the floor.

"We have to give Clear Creek credit because they are one of the more physical teams we have faced all season, and they made it tough on us," Brown said.

Continued on Page 6B

Dobie baseballers to open '17 season

There will be plenty of fresh faces for Dobie varsity baseball fans to see when the Longhorns begin the 2017 season Feb. 23 in Laredo.

With the exception of center fielder Euro Diaz, catcher Jeremy Green Jr. and first baseman/designated hitter Isaiah Vasquez, the makeup of this year's team will be vastly different from that of the 2016 squad that ended the season with a 2-1 loss to Memorial.

In the offseason, probable outfield starter Jojo Castaneda suffered an injury in football and is likely to miss the entire baseball season.

Jacob Salas, who had varsity pitching experience, elected to forgo his senior baseball season

while focusing on track and field.

Matthew Morales and David Rojas were also on the varsity roster a season ago, and that's about the extent of it.

If one is talented and is looking for a great chance to earn a starting role, Dobie has roles available.

Make no mistake, veteran head coach Miguel Torres settles for nothing less than winning.

Dobie will play in three tournaments prior to the start of District 22-6A play. Torres estimates that if his team plays 12 games over those three tournament stops, he would like to go 12-0.

"Of course we would like to win them all, but the big key is making sure

Continued on Page 6B

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Jaso, Branch duo to head athletics

Continued from Page 1B
ous athletic organizations including the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association, the Texas High School Coaches Association and the Houston Area Coaches Association.

A Sam Rayburn graduate from the Class of 1975, Branch has served Pasadena ISD students for 35 years.

She started her educational career in 1981 at Dobie as a teacher and head varsity volleyball coach, where she achieved 10 district titles, with seven appearances in the regional quarterfinals and two appearances in the regional tournament.

Branch retired from coaching after the 2003-2004 school year with more than 300 wins and has been an assistant principal at Dobie since that time.

"I'm very excited and honored to take this new position," Branch said. "I'm looking forward

to getting out there, meeting principals and coaches and being a part of the competition again."

Branch status as a star volleyball player at Rayburn and volleyball coach at Dobie helped her make Pasadena ISD history as one of the first PISD Hall of Fame inductees (induction class of 2016) to be honored for both her successes as a student athlete and coach.

Branch holds a bachelor's degree in science, health and physical education from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in educational management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

"As a well-known and respected former student, athlete, role model, coach and administrator, Coach Branch brings a level of pride and tradition to Pasadena ISD as a whole," said Powell. "Her leadership skills add another level of expertise to our athletic program."

Atkinson Eagles honor Big Shootout winners

At right, the Atkinson Elementary physical education department recognized its 2017 Big Shootout winners following the school's competition, and the athletes went on to compete at the districtwide competition at Phillips Field House. The Atkinson winners included, left to right, Jadelynn Alvarez (fourth-grade girls' winner), Leo Alvarez (fourth-grade boys' winner), Audrey Volper (third-grade girls' winner) and Joseph Intgroen (third-grade boys' winner).



Houston Defenders win Space City Showcase hoops



The Houston Defenders eighth-grade basketball team captured top honors at the Space City Showcase, played at Dobie High School. The team went 4-0 in all, including a 53-40 win over Total Package in the championship game. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Harrison Black (Victory Lakes Intermediate), Landen Shaffer (Space Center Intermediate), Luke Giron (Southmore Intermediate), Braeden Shaffer (Space

Center Intermediate), Jeremiah Campbell (Space Center Intermediate), (back row) Jonathan Baldwin (Beverly Hills Intermediate), William Young (Nolan Ryan Junior High), coach Mike Rogers, Michael Purdom (Pearland Junior High West), Austin Sikes (League City Intermediate), JuJuan Robinson (Beverly Hills Intermediate), Bradon Gant (Thompson Intermediate) and Damian Garcia (Beverly Hills Intermediate).

Dobie track starts strong at Brown Relays

Continued from Page 1B
The Lady Longhorns also received a medal-winning effort from Atziri Galarza in the 800-meter run as her time of 2:39.25 placed her third.

In the 3,200-meter run, Andrea Perez wound up sixth in an excellent time of 13:16.28.

Hickman, of course, was very pleased with the performances of both Galarza and Perez.

"Atziri ran a personal best in the 800, and in doing so, I think also surprised herself," Hickman said.

"But she's gaining an understanding of what the splits really mean in a race and just having a good feel for the event."

"The same goes for Andrea. She did a great job for the first time out, and we're excited about what she can do in the future."

The school's 4x200-meter relay team placed fourth in a time of 1:49.76. Dobie was also fifth in the 4x100-meter relay.

It's important to note that Jade Giron, a regular member of the 4x100 and 4x200-meter relay teams moving forward, has yet to compete after completing the varsity girls' basketball season.

Also, Hickman is an assistant coach on the basketball staff and is still getting to know some of the faces on the varsity track and field team.

Hickman was on hand at the Brown Relays and was pleased with the way Dobie competed. She feels things can only get better.

At the Browns, the Lady Longhorns' 4x100-meter relay team that was fifth was made up of Ladayjah Cook, Camryn Ridge, Rachel Smith and Erin Fleming.

The Lady Longhorns' 4x200-meter relay squad

included Singleton, Ridge, Cook and Smith.

With Hickman now on the scene fulltime and more athletes joining the track and field program following the completion of the basketball season, Dobie should see increased depth and competition. That can only be a good thing.

The Lady Longhorns will now go to South Houston for another local meet. The plan is to ramp things up week by week and certainly be ready when the bigger and more important meets arrive.

As for the Dobie boys, Williams, a hurdling specialist, also turned in a couple of great performances as he led the way for his team.

In the 110-hurdles, Williams' time of 15.66 was second. At the 300-meter distance, Williams was also second, this time at 41.23.

In boys' events, the Longhorns' distance medley relay team was second in a time of 11:24.13. That foursome included Mike Nwokolo, Jordy Reyes, Alford Sears and Jacob Salas.

The Longhorns were fourth in the 4x400-meter relay behind the work of Jeremy Hernandez, Mike Nwokolo, Alford Sears and Williams.

As for the 4x100-meter relay event, Dobie was fifth in a time of 45.12. That foursome included Hernandez, Kris Morris, Segdrick Romar and Ke'Montre Lowe.

Salas also started strong for the season, posting a time of 2:03.87 in the 800-meter run for second place.

Earl Newton began his senior season well, taking sixth in the 300-meter hurdles (44.62) and eighth in the 110-meter hurdles (17.65).

Segdrick Romar placed fifth in the 200-meter dash in a time of 23.66, and teammate Kris Morris was just behind him, sixth at 24.10.

Jace Young sprinted his way to eighth place in the 100-meter dash, and Jalen Clark was ninth in the 400-meter run with a time of 55.74.

"Yes, the weather conditions were less than ideal," Dobie varsity boys' track and field coach David Chollet said.

"I'm proud of the way the team overcame those conditions. Daniel Williams was our 'high point' member."

"Our goal for the season is to show improvement each week and be ready to perform our best at the district meet in April.

The Dobie squad is also expected to welcome in several others, including twins Jacoby and Jeremy Davis.

San Jacinto basketball ranked third nationally

With three games remaining in the regular season, the San Jacinto College men's basketball team is positioning itself for what could be a memorable finish to the 2016-2017 campaign.

At 25-1 overall, the Ravens are ranked third in the nation, and are comfortably out in front of the pack in the Region XIV ranks.

The Ravens played at Coastal Bend in Beeville Feb. 23, after press time.

In the first round of Region XIV play, San Jacinto defeated Coastal Bend by a 124-96 count.

South Plains has been the top-ranked men's basketball team in the Division I ranks for the entire season, and San Jacinto reached the No. 2 spot before a loss to Angelina College back on Feb. 4.

At 14-1 in the South division of Region XIV play, the Ravens are four games ahead of Angelina (9-5) and need just one win to claim the top seed.

Trinity Valley and Tyler lead the North division at 13-3.

The Region XIV tournament is scheduled for March 7-11 in Jacksonville, Texas.

Area sports, news

SBHLL seeks vendors

The Sagemont-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 in conjunction with 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 \$85, which includes uniform; U-9 and U-10 (8, 9) is \$95, and uniform fee is an additional cost; and U-11 and older (10 to 18) is \$105, and uniform fee is an additional cost. Only credit cards and debit cards will be accepted as forms of payment. To register, visit the league's website at www.southbelt.soccer.org.

Lajaunie tennis coming

The 2017 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will now be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena formerly known as Strawberry Park, April 28-30. The DLTFSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are finalizing plans for its 6th annual memorial tennis tournament, set to make its first appearance at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

Darren Lajaunie began his tennis career playing tennis at Dobie High School and graduated co-valedictorian in 1984. Members of the Dobie tennis team will be awarded entry fees to play in the tournament in his honor.

Lajaunie lost his battle with melanoma May 3, 2011. This scholarship fund and tournament is a way to honor his memory by helping junior tennis players enjoy tennis and assist with their education in college.

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

All players will receive a tournament T-shirt, a luggage tag and enjoy a complimentary opening morning breakfast snack.

A free lunch will also be available for players and spectators, donated by the Lajaunie family. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are busy seeking donors and silent auction items.

Opening ceremonies, including a scholarship awards dinner and silent auction, will be held Friday, April 28. There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets will go on sale in March and are \$15.

Silent auction items this year include an autographed tournament T-shirt from the band Los Lobos, an autographed polo shirt from retired race car driver Mario Andretti and current Indy race car driver Marco Andretti (grandson), an autographed picture from the Houston Rockets, dance lessons from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Clear Lake and much more.

Opening night special activities this year include HTTC hosting a complimentary cardio tennis clinic for adults, and a children's clinic full of fun tennis games for ages 12 and under. There will also be plenty of giveaway prizes.

Tickets may be purchased at the HTTC or on the DLTFSF website at the end of March. In May, the Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships at the school. Entry fee for the tournament is: \$35 for singles; \$22.50 per player for doubles.

Players may also register at www.setteo.com. Registration deadline is April 14.

The tournament will begin Saturday, April 29, at 8 a.m. and finish the next afternoon, with trophy presentations at the conclusion of each division of play.

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

Those who would like to donate may also do so on the website. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit corporation, and all donations are tax deductible.

Donations may now be made via the website with a credit card or one may mail a check or money order to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, Texas, 77059, or contact Camille Lajaunie, committee chairperson at cjlajau nie@gmail.com with any questions.

Sports Calendar

SOCCER

Thursday, Feb. 23

Dobie JV (B) girls host Aldine, Dobie, 4:00

Friday, Feb. 24

Brook varsity boys at Clear Creek, 7:00

Brook JV boys at Clear Creek, 5:00

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dobie varsity girls vs. South Houston, Veterans, 10 a.m.

Dobie JV boys vs. South Houston, Auxiliary, noon

Dobie JV (B) girls at Pasadena, Pasadena H.S., 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity girls vs. Rayburn, Veterans, 5:00

Dobie JV girls vs. Rayburn, Auxiliary, 7:00

Thursday, March 2

Dobie JV (B) girls host Brazosport, Dobie, 4:00

Friday, March 3

Dobie varsity girls vs. Pasadena, Veterans, 8:00

Dobie JV girls vs. Pasadena, Auxiliary, 6:00

Saturday, March 4

Dobie JV (B) girls at Alvin, 10 a.m.

TENNIS

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25

Dobie varsity at Clear Brook Invitational, TBA

SOFTBALL

Thursday, Feb. 23

Dobie varsity at Pearland Invitational, Dobie, TBA

Friday, Feb. 24

Dobie varsity at Pearland Invitational, Dobie, TBA

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dobie varsity at Pearland Invitational, Dobie, TBA

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity hosts West Brook, Dobie, 4:00

Dobie JV hosts West Brook, PISD complex, 5:00

Thursday, March 2

Dobie JV at Pasadena Memorial tourn., TBA

Friday, March 3

Dobie varsity at Dawson, 6:00

Dobie JV at Dawson, 4:30

Saturday, March 4

Dobie JV at Pasadena Memorial tourn., TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, Feb. 23

Dobie JV girls at Deer Park Invit., Abshire, TBA

PISD intermediate boys' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

Friday, Feb. 24

Dobie varsity girls at S. Houston Invitational, TBA

BASEBALL

Thursday, Feb. 23

Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA

Dobie varsity at Laredo tourn., TBA

Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

Friday, Feb. 24

Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA

Dobie varsity at Laredo tourn., TBA

Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

Saturday, Feb. 25

Brook varsity at La Porte tourn., TBA

Dobie varsity at Laredo tourn., TBA

Brook JV at Clear Creek tourn., TBA

San Jacinto College softball now 12-6

The San Jacinto College softball team is gaining steam just in time for the Region XIV title chase to begin.

The locals scored three wins in four games – the second straight weekend to do so – in taking a big step forward with regional competition coming.

At 12-6 overall, the Coyotes appear ready to assert themselves in conference play, which began Feb. 22 after press time.

San Jacinto got rolling in its latest segment by taking down Northeast Texas 3-2 in the opener.

Katlin Rivera drew the start and pitched seven solid innings without giving up an earned run. Niki

Gonzalez came on in relief, fanning the side in the top of the eighth before San Jac scored a single run to win.

Riley Bullen was 2 for 3 with a run scored, and Alexis Deleon also had a hit and scored a run.

San Jac then went 11 innings to down Angelina 4-3. Gonzalez went the entire way in the circle, posting 17 strikeouts. The locals scored three times in the top of the 11th inning to lead 4-1, then had to hold on for the win.

Dani Damian had two hits and scored a run, and Mackenzie Kotrla was 1 for 1 with a run scored.

San Jac scored five runs in the top of the second

inning against Temple but then watched as Temple scored five times in its half of the third inning.

In the end, Temple escaped with an 8-7 victory despite home runs from Damian and Bullen.

Damian had three hits and drove in a pair, and Hernandez had two hits and drove in two.

In the final game of the tournament, San Jacinto defeated McLennan 6-4 as four pitchers combined for the effort in the circle.

Hernandez knocked in a pair of runs, and Deleon drove home another. Kaitlyn Kerl homered, drove in two runs and scored a pair. Shelbi Doherty and Taylor McHenry both had

a pair of hits and scored a run.

Tori Stoddard wound up getting the win for San

Jac, she being the last of four pitchers in the game for the locals.

Continued on Page 6B

SJC upcoming games

San Jacinto hosts

Coastal Bend (2)

Friday, March 3, 2 p.m.

San Jacinto hosts

Laredo (2)

Saturday, March 4, 2 p.m.

Dobie's Green Jr. headed to Ecclesia College baseball



Dobie High School senior catcher Jeremy Green Jr. (seated) will continue his education and playing career at Ecclesia Christian College in Springdale, Ark., after signing a letter of intent with the Royals. Those with Green at the signing included, left to right, Bobby Beynaerts (Dobie assistant coach),

Miguel Torres (Dobie varsity baseball head coach), Sam Moreno (little league, select coach), Robert Ayala (grandfather), Jeremy Green Sr. (father) and Kevin Schulba (Dobie varsity baseball pitching coach). Green is set to begin his senior season Feb. 23, as the Longhorns play in the Laredo Invitational.

LSA's Shelmire to Southern Nazarene football



Lutheran South Academy senior football stand-out Christian Shelmire (seated center) will continue his education and playing career at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., after signing a letter of intent with the Crimson Storm. Those with him at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Linda Neeley-Shelmire (mother) and Richard Stallings (LSA varsity football head coach). Shelmire rushed for more than 2,500

yards over three seasons with the Pioneers. As a senior, he was a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A Academic All-State selection and a second-team all-state performer on the field. He joins a Southern Nazarene 2017 recruiting class of nearly 60 players, as announced on national signing day. The Crimson Storm compete in the NCAA Division II ranks and are part of the Greater American Conference.

Bondy boys sweep

Lions, Bears compete at PISD track and field

The Bondy Patriots established the bar in both divisions at the first Pasadena ISD intermediate boys' track and field meet, holding off Thompson in each class.

Meanwhile, Beverly Hills' seventh-grade team was third, and the Bears' eighth-grade squad was fourth.

GAT 7s second
Bondy wound up with quite a solid margin of victory in the seventh-grade division, but the Lions did everything they could to keep it close.

Zaire Walker and Conlie Christmas scored individual wins, and the Lions also made their way to the finish line first in a pair of relays en route to 129 points.

Bondy won the team title with 187, and Beverly Hills was third at 102.

The top distance runner in the district during the cross-country season, Walker stepped up the pace in the 2,400-meter run at the opening track meet.

At 8 minutes, 24.47 seconds, Walker won the event by more than 24 seconds, with teammate Isaac Cortez taking third place in a time of 8:54.09.

At 16.48, Christmas was easily the winner of the 100-meter hurdles, and Christmas was also part of the Lions' two relay wins.

The Lions' 4x100-meter relay squad of Christmas, Ke'mauri Millender, Jefferson Ford and Terrand Booker combined for the win in a time of 50.81, just edging Bondy.

In the 4x200-meter event, it was Christmas joining Walker, Booker and Ford for the win at 1:48.46.

Bondy won the 4x400-

meter relay, but the Lions were second for 16 points as Millender, Walker, Deveon Moses and Cortez put together a time of 4:22.29.

In other events, Millender placed fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.81, and Michael Medina placed fourth in the 400-meter run with his clocking of 1:05.07.

Medina also chipped in for the Lions during the 1,600-meter run as he posted a time of 5:52.30 for fourth place.

Sebastian Cruz medaled for Thompson in the high jump, clearing 4 feet, 8 inches for third place on fewest tries.

At 33'5", Walker was the second-place winner in the triple jump, and Calvin Jeans of Thompson was also second for his top throw of 33'10" in the shot put.

Abraham Amaro was in at 81' 7 1/2" in the discus for third place.

BHI 7s place third
Bondy and Thompson set the pace in the seventh-grade division, but third-place Beverly Hills also reached triple digits with 102 points.

Dakarey Ramsay and Richard Gary earned individual wins for the Bears, with Ramsay taking the shot put with a great throw of 34'8".

Gary, whose throw of 31'9" was fifth-best in the shot put, heaved the discus 95'7" for the win, and Ramsay's best throw of 86' 1/2" was good for third place.

Treylyn Burrell placed third with a time of 12.74 in the 100-meter dash, and Damonte Seymour was fifth in the 100-meter event at 12.94.

The Bears also scored well in the 200-meter

dash, with Brendann Williams second at 26.59, and Trajan Davis fourth at 27.71.

Allen Gonzale posted a time of 1:05.92 for sixth place in the 400-meter run, and Emmanuel Drain placed third in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 52.28.

The Bears scored key points with a second and two third-place finishes in the respective relays.

The Bears' 4x200-meter relay team was second at 1:48.09, with Williams, Davis, Darren Ortiz and Burrell in the mix.

As for the 4x100-meter relay, the Bears were third-best with a time of 51.16 as Williams, Davis, Trevon Johnson and Burrell competed.

At the 4x400-meter distance, a time of 4:33.80 was third in the district for the Bears, who were represented by Joshua Rodriguez, Xavier Malone, Gonzale and Johnson. At 4'8", Williams claimed fourth in the high jump.

GAT 8s earn second
While Bondy also proved to be the team to beat in the eighth-grade division, the Lions made it close to the very end.

The Patriots scored 142 points to win, while the Lions were near with 132. Beverly Hills was fourth at 95.5.

Individually, Jayson Turner (5'8") bested teammate Jeremiah Ballard (5'6") as the two went 1-2 in the high jump.

The Lions also scored a relay win, taking the 4x100-meter event in a time of 48.62 behind the effort of Darius Hale, Razmon Williams, Brandon Lopez and Turner.

The rest of the way, the Lions used a team effort to collect points.

At 11.86, Turner wound up second in the 100-meter dash, and Lopez was third at 26.13 in the 200-meter dash.

Marcus Saenz placed fifth in the 2,400-meter run after delivering a time of 9:01.75, and Bryson Phillips was second in the 100-meter hurdles with a clocking of 16.48.

Ballard's time of 47.47 was good for third-best in the 300-meter hurdles, and Lopez, Hale, Williams and Darius Pamplin teamed for second place and a time of 1:45.21 in the 4x200-meter relay.

Thompson claimed sixth place and the final scoring spot in the 4x400-meter relay as Isaac Espinosa, Jacob Perez, Jared Tate and Ballard combined for a time of 4:18.97.

Pamplin pole vaulted his way over the 7'6" mark for third place, and the Lions collected key points in the long jump.

There, Ballard was third at 16'8", with Turner fourth at 15'8" and Williams sixth with his top effort of 15'7".

Perez did a fine job in the triple jump as he made his way to the 33'3 1/2" mark for second place, and Lopez's best jump at 30'3" placed him fifth.

Joshua Garcia was fourth in the shot put with a throw of 39'7 1/2", and teammate Demo Tucker was fifth at 38'11".

Tucker also helped out his team's cause in the discus, with his best throw going 110' 2 1/2" for second place. The Lions' Josue Vasquez placed third at 107'5".

BHI 8s capture fourth

The Bears' eighth-grade boys team turned in a solid opening-meet effort, placing fourth among the 10 teams in the mix.

Beverly Hills did a good bit of its scoring in the relays, including a 20-point gain for a victory in the 4x200-meter relay.

In that one, the Bears posted a time of 1:44.41 as Tommy Guerrero, Manuel Hernandez, Grady Dixon and Chezhiah Lynch combined as the foursome.

The Bears were also second in both the 4x100 and the 4x400-meter relays.

At the 4x100 distance, the Bears came in at 49.39 for second place, with Keon Thompson, Dixon, Trevion Williams and Lynch running.

A time of 4:07.21 earned the Bears second place in the 4x400-meter relay as Zachary Almazan and Brandon Mack were joined by Lynch and Adrian Barragan.

Guerrero was second in the 200-meter dash with a great time of 26.04, and Mack's time of 26.80 was sixth-best.

The Bears' Damien Garcia medaled in the 2,400-meter run, placing third in a time of 8:56.15.

Teammates Manuel Hernandez and Michael Ramirez handed the Bears a third-place tie in the 400-meter dash (1:00.97).

In other events, Taizhon McKinney was fourth in both the 800-meter run (2:25.02) and the 1,600-meter run (5:30.00), and Williams was sixth in the 100-meter dash at 12.31.

In the 100-meter hurdles, the Bears' Jajuan Robinson captured fourth with his time of 17.32, with teammate Jonathan Baldwin sixth at 17.49.

At the 300-meter hurdle distance, the Bears' Barragan was fourth at 47.56, with Robinson sixth in a time of 47.85.

Robinson pushed for the top spot in the 300-meter hurdles but was second at 19.46, and Ibe's time of 20.25 placed her fourth.

Lady Bear 7s are second
Bondy's better results in the relay events helped the Lady Patriots to win the seventh-grade team crown, but Beverly Hills still had plenty of steam to take second place with the 82 points.

Nikole Welcome was an individual winner for the Lady Bears as she captured top honors in the 200-meter dash at 30.32 seconds.

Teammates KeAsia Robinson and Jennifer Ibe went 1-2 in the 300-meter hurdles as the Lady Bears controlled the event.

Robinson was the easy winner at 57.95, while Ibe was next at 1 minute, 00.22 seconds.

The Lady Bears' Maya Scott nearly came up with the win in the 100-meter dash at 14.39, but settled for a tie with Samora Watson of Park View.

Doneya Porter (15.17) was fifth for Beverly Hills, with Ibe sixth at 15.18.

Analura Elizarraras was fifth in the 800-meter run at 2:55.24, and Victoria Gonzalez placed third in the 1,600-meter run following a solid time of 6:44.51. Gonzalez also completed the 2,400-meter run at 10:18.00 for fifth place.

The Lady Bears' 4x100-meter relay team placed fourth in the sprint event, coming in at 59.37 behind the team of Leilani Zara, Sydney Ford, Riani Benton and Scott.

Lilly Nguyen, Ford, Scott and Zara teamed in the 4x200-meter relay as the Lady Bears were fifth.

Beverly Hills was also fifth in the 4x400-meter relay as Nguyen teamed with Elizarraras, Kaylana Pham and Ideliya Sifuentes for a time of 5:19.27.

Lady Lions' 7s are seventh
Thompson's seventh-grade girls' squad debuted with a seventh-place finish, scoring 26 points.

Aliyah Barajas scored eight of those points as she was second overall in the 200-meter dash with a time of 30.83.

Kendall Brown scored eight more for Thompson as her time of 1:11.19 landed her second place in the 400-meter dash.

Fifth place in the 100-meter hurdles went to Natalie Onozie as she earned a time of 20.37.

The Lady Lions gained four additional points in the 4x100-meter relay for fifth place as Ashlyn Ross, Kyra Jackson, Kori Pounds and Barajas came up with a time of 1:01.02.

Sixth place in both the 4x200-meter relay and the

4x400-meter relay also went to the Lady Lions.

In the 4x200, Thompson had Ross, Pounds, Alayna Calvillo and Barajas involved for a time of 2:09.77.

As for the 4x400, Dalylza Cisneros and Sidney Puerto teamed with Calvillo and Brown for a time of 5:20.21.

BHI 8s are second
The Lady Bears' 70 points in the eighth-grade division weren't close to catching Bondy, but the locals held off Thompson for second place.

Kievia Carlisle and Breana Haywood had their speed on display early for the Lady Bears, taking the 2-3 spots in the 100-meter dash.

Carlisle's time of 13.81 just edged Haywood (13.92) for the second spot, but both medaled.

Carlisle came up with an individual win in the 300-meter hurdles, as her time of 56.03 was easily the best of the event.

Devin Richard came across the finish line third overall in the 100-meter hurdles at 19.46, and Amya Ray was fourth in the 200-meter dash at 29.26.

The Lady Bears won the 4x200-meter relay and took second in the 4x100-meter event.

In the 4x200, the Lady Bears delivered a time of 1:57.22 as Janya Hunt, Nikayla McIntyre, Ray and Haywood teamed for the

championship. As for the 4x100, McIntyre, Carlisle, Haywood and Hunt finished at 55.06 for second place.

GAT 8s take third
The Lady Lions' eighth-grade team came up with a fine effort in the opening meet of the season for third place.

Grace Castaneda and Ambreon Jones came up with individual event championships to lead the way for the Lady Lions.

In the 400-meter run, Castaneda's time of 1:10.20 was the district's best, and teammate Desiree Miller had a time of 1:14.09 for fifth place.

Jones and teammate Raven Finster went 1-2 in the 100-meter hurdles, with Jones winning at 17.96 and Finster in at 18.89.

Janelle Mooney was second in the 200-meter dash for the Lady Lions at 28.96, and Jordyn Ridge was third at 29.08.

Thompson's Abby Duron was fifth in the 800-meter run at 3:01.58, and Jada Sawyer also finished sixth in the 100-meter dash at 14.68.

The Lady Lions' 4x100-meter relay squad was third at 56.09 as Jones was joined by Deaira Jackson, Deja Shanklin and Finster.

Thompson also placed sixth in the 4x400 relay, with Janya Yielding, Miller, Emily Gonzalez and Castaneda in at 5:14.70.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

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

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

CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 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.

Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. For details, call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Well Spouse Support Group - meets the last Thursday at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, with the spouse of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare is free. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For details, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

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.

Bay Area Genealogical Society - meeting and potluck dinner is Friday, Feb. 24, at University Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. The special guest speaker is former astronaut retired U.S. Air Force Col. Jerry L. Ross who will discuss transcribing, researching, and organizing historical diaries in order to create and publish a book. Dinner (bring a side or dessert to share) is at 6:30 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org or call Kim Zrubek

at 281-992-2636.

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

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 25

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.

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

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.

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.

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 26

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.

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.

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.

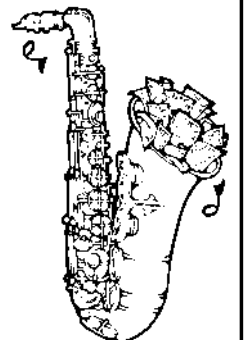
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

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.

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.

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



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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, MARCH 1

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

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

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets monthly, first and third Wednesday, noon, Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. December may be an exception. For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

American Business Women's Association Bay Area Vision Chapter - Meets at Bon Appetit Cafe, 18027 Point Lookout Dr., 77058, monthly, first Wednesday, noon to 1:30 p.m. Professional speaker often present. For details, contact Christie O'Rear at christieorear@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Alzheimer's Support Group - meets the first Wednesday, classrooms 3 and 4 (third floor), Bayshore Medical Center, 4000 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. For information, call 713-944-4782 or 713-266-6400. Free.

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.

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

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

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, MARCH 2

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

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

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

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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.

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Dobie football signees look toward collegiate futures



The Dobie varsity football team both celebrates the successes of the past and looks toward the future with excitement as 11 senior players signed national letters of intent on Feb. 1. The number of players signed that day represented the largest in program history, and varsity football head coach Mike Norman (fifth from left) said he expects to see a few more sign collegiately sometime this spring. Those signing included, left to right, Brandon Flores

(Garden City Community College), Jordan Shae (Alderson Broaddus), Westley Crooms (Hardin-Simmons University), Ke'Montre Lowe-Ali (Tarleton State University), Breon Simmons (Hardin-Simmons University), Jacoby Davis (Southern Missouri State University), Jeremy Davis (Southern Missouri State University), Keith Armstead (Missouri Southern State University) and Kyle Saunders (Nichols College).

Longhorn boys control 22-6A; Dobie girls gain

Continued from Page 1B
morial 1-0 on the strength of a goal from co-captain Edwin Saldivar and a terrific defensive performance.

In the first half of league play, there were 21 possible points up for grabs for each of the teams. Dobie secured 19 of those points, then grabbed an easy three more points with the win over West Brook.

Dobie returns to action Friday, Feb. 24, against South Houston. The game is set for 4 p.m. at Veterans Stadium.

Having come off a 3-2 win over Deer Park to grab a piece of a three-way tie for second place, the Trojans will no doubt be riding an emotional high coming into its big game against Dobie.

The Longhorns simply need to start fast and take care of its business.

At 7-0-1 in the standings, Dobie has 22 points and a seven-point lead over three teams for second place.

Deer Park, Memorial and South Houston are all tied for second place with 15 points but have much work to do before catching Dobie.

Obviously, the three second-place teams all could use a win over Dobie in this second half, but the Longhorns have a 41-match streak to protect. **Brook boys still in it**

Though running out of time, Clear Brook's varsity boys' team still has enough matches remaining to make a late playoff move in District 24-6A.

Friendswood has suddenly jumped to the front at 5-0-3 for 18 points. The Mustangs, clearly, are in great shape to reach the postseason with just six

matches remaining. From there, things certainly do get more interesting. While the Wolverines missed a chance to gain a big win last time out, the win over Dickinson surely helped things out.

Dickinson is now second with 14 points, and Clear Lake has 13 for third place. Clear Creek and Clear Springs are tied for the final spot with 12 points.

Clear Brook has nine points and needs a victory or more in a hurry. The Wolverines play at Clear Creek Feb. 24, and at Friendswood Feb. 28. Needless to say, a pair of wins would be huge.

Dobie girls look strong
Deer Park is controlling the District 22-6A standings, but the Dobie girls are very well in the mix with the schedule dwindling. The Lady

Longhorns secured a big 2-1 victory over Memorial to end the first half of league play and sit third in the standings behind Deer Park and La Porte.

Dobie closed out the first half of 22-6A action with a home match against Beaumont West Brook Feb. 22, after press time.

The Lady Longhorns will then face South Houston Saturday, Feb. 25, at Veterans Stadium, with match time at 10 a.m.

It may be hard for Dobie to catch Deer Park at this point, but the playoffs are a clear reality, and perhaps getting past La Porte and into second place can be achieved.

So it's down to the final half dozen games for the varsity soccer regular season. Both Dobie teams and the Clear Brook boys have come too far to let this opportunity pass by. It re-

quires one final push. For the Dobie boys, it's about staying atop the standings

to the finish. For the other two teams, it's about a strong finish.

JFD baseball opens at Laredo Border Olympics

Continued from Page 1B
we are ready to go and playing good baseball when District 22-6A play starts (March 14, at West Brook).

At any level of baseball, success starts on the pitching mound. The Longhorns graduated a pair of solid starters a season ago, so now a host of newcomers will get their chances.

Diaz is the team's starter in center field and will be asked to carry a big role offensively, and he is also likely to see his first extensive action on the mound.

Based on scrimmage performances this pre-season, Torres also listed Julien Flores, Wayne Lominac Jr., Damian Lopez, Daniel Garza, Owen Castillo and Zach Frias, in no special order, as pitching options.

The same is likely to hold true in the field. Opportunities are available, and the players who de-

liver and show the ability to consistently perform at the varsity level will play much of the time.

Torres is pleased to

be playing in the Laredo ISD Border Olympics, a 10-year tournament that has now grown to be the state's biggest at 60

teams. "It's an honor to be invited to this tournament, and I certainly jumped at the chance to get our program involved.

It's a reminder of the hard work and solid results we have produced over the last several years. Not just any teams get invited, but we also want to play well when we get there.

On the opening day of the event, Dobie will play Martin early in the day before a game comes against Brennan.

The Longhorns also have a scheduled game against Corpus Christi Moody Feb. 24, before trophy round play comes Feb. 25.

When District 22-6A play finally does come, the Longhorns are expected to have to contend with Deer

Park and La Porte as the frontrunners.

Beaumont West Brook has also historically fielded a solid team year in, year out. Torres knows the Pasadena ISD schools are always capable of beating one another an any given time.

"It was a scrimmage game, but we beat North Shore 8-6 in one of our last scrimmages, and North Shore is supposedly one of the top-10 teams in the Houston area," Torres said.

"That shows what we can do when we go out there and just play the game. When you do the little things correctly and don't let minor issues affect an inning, you can be very successful. That's what we want to do."

Brook, Dobie hoops out

Continued from Page 1B
playoffs, while the season concludes for Dobie, which went 18-14 overall this season.

There will be mass turnover in both the Dobie and Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball programs this offseason.

Seniors Royce Hunter, Joshua Cooper, Jeremy Williams and Trey Prater were all big contributors a season ago when the team made a run to the Region III semifinals. Another

senior, Jeremy Davis, averaged double-figure rebounds this season.

Of those who played regularly, only D.J. Garrett and Justin Thomas will return, as well as freshman Marquise Scott, who got a mid-season call-up.

Similarly at Clear Brook, the Wolverines are set to lose key seniors David Azore, Spencer Schneider, Caleb Lang and Onix Little, all three-year varsity performers in the program.

Creek downs Lady Longhorns in area round

Continued from Page 1B

"It's all about matchups in basketball, and we felt like if we could have gotten past Clear Creek then we certainly matched up well with Clear Falls in the quarterfinals. It just wasn't to be."

The matchup problem for Dobie against Creek, just as Brown had predicted pregame, was Kaitlin Burroway, who had 21 points in the Lady Wildcats' victory.

Burroway then scored just 10 points against Clear Falls and has now reached the Region III semifinals with Clear Creek. Clear Springs of CCISD is also in the mix.

Brown has been a basketball coach for much of his adult life and understands how it works in the postseason. But it still makes it no easier when a season comes to close.

"We're still getting over the sting (of the season ending)," Brown said.

"The tough thing about playoff basketball is the abrupt end, the dramatic finality to it all.

"We reached a lot of our goals. We won 21 games this season, and getting more than 20 is a big accomplishment.

"We also set out to win district. We shared that spot with a very good Deer Park team, but it sure would be nice to keep playing."

Now Dobie must deal with what has been lost and what remains in terms of talent.

Senior four-year starter Jade Giron will certainly gain some Most Valuable Player votes next week when the league's coaches convene for all-district selections.

Taja Tillman, a three-year letterwinner, will also be missed after playing very well over the course of her career.

Shanyce Cabrales, ar-

guably the district's best shooter from 3-point land, will also graduate, as will seniors Zaria Thomas, Zada Bridges and Kiara Wells.

"This group was really one of my favorites to coach in that they fought for each other and really wanted to do well as a team, and you have to have that to be successful," Brown said.

"They came in and worked hard every day to get better, and that's what you ask for as a coach. I'm

just really proud of the group as a whole."

Alexis Osos and Breanna Smith will return to bolster the inside for the Lady Longhorns next season, and Victoria Onozie will be another key returnee with scoring ability.

And Brown is also excited about the talent coming from a freshman A team that lost just once all season.

Vanessa Lam, currently at Thompson Intermediate, could also push for a spot at the upper levels of

Dobie's program.

"Coach (Ashley) Moore did a great job of developing those freshmen, and they went down to the wire before losing a game.

"They will be prepared, and we also have the returnees and some upper classmen.

"I'm really excited about the future. It's just that you are never pleased to see a great season like the one we had come to a close. It's just so final when you lose."



Dobie's Breanna Smith (35) was a solid contributor in the post for the Lady Longhorns, and she is due back in 2017-2018 as a senior on what could be a young varsity basketball team.

SJC's Hernandez scores NJCAA Player of the Week

Continued from Page 2B
In the end, Temple escaped with an 8-7 victory despite home runs from Damian and Bullen.

Damian had three hits and drove in a pair, and Hernandez had two hits and drove in two.

In the final game of the tournament, San Jacinto defeated McLennan 6-4 as four pitchers combined for the effort in the circle.

Hernandez knocked in a pair of runs, and Deleon drove home another. Kaitlyn Kerl homered, drove in two runs and scored a pair. Shelby Doherty and Taylor McHenry both had a pair of hits and scored a run.

Tori Stoddard wound up getting the win for San Jac, she being the last of four pitchers in the game for the locals. Missy Hernandez is just one of the top players responding offensively as the San Jacinto College softball team has begun to pick up steam.

Hernandez, a sophomore from Pasadena Memorial High School, was named the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Player of the Week for the second week of the regular sea-

son, and the honor was well-deserved.

Over a four-game span in games against Odessa and Howard, Hernandez hit .643 with nine runs batted in. At one point over two games, she had seven straight hits.

During that stretch, Hernandez was also named the Region XIV Player of the Week, helping San Jacinto get its ninth win against five losses.

Hernandez has picked up right where she left off after a strong freshman season. In 2016, she hit .341 over the campaign with 70 hits and 39 runs driven in. She had 12 doubles and four home runs to help San Jacinto reach the national tournament.

At right, San Jacinto College's Missy Hernandez was named the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I Player of the Week for the second week of the regular season after hitting .643 with nine runs batted in, helping the team to three wins in four games during that span.

Lady Longhorn softball team wins pair at Bryan tourney

Continued from Page 1B
four games of the season before a rough ending in Brenham.

Dobie won its first three games at the Bryan tournament to extend its win streak to four to begin the season, but then three consecutive losses followed.

In the tournament opener for both teams, Dobie handed Round Rock a 4-2 loss, leading 4-0 after three innings and holding on for the win.

Yvonne Whaley, Pleasants and Jacqueline Garcia all had a pair of hits in the win, while Michelle Kristoff took the victory with 3 1/3 innings in the circle. Alyssa Corpus got the final four outs for the save.

Dobie then scored four runs in the first inning and two more in the second to cruise past Fort Bend Christian 6-1.

Allison Bravo and Garcia drove in two runs each, and Kristoff allowed just one run over three innings, striking out six.

The Lady Longhorns jumped ahead of Alvin early on in its next game, then scored nine runs in the fifth inning to win the game 12-0.

Up 3-0, the Lady Longhorns got a bases-loaded walk from Kristoff in that big fifth inning. After a

passed ball made it 5-0, Bravo had an RBI single for a 6-0 lead.

Raylene Martinez added a two-run double for an 8-0 lead, and Dani Colunga scored on a passed ball.

Whaley came up with a two-run triple, and Garcia drove in the final run with a ground out.

At that point, Dobie was 4-0 and feeling good about itself. Then came some troubles. Deer Park,

the top-ranked team in the state, scored eight runs in the fifth to run away from Dobie 13-0 as Deer Park's Madison Nelson allowed just one hit.

Whaley had two hits against Santa Fe, but the Lady Indians went on to win 7-3.

In the final game of the tournament for both teams, Brazoswood edged Dobie 5-1. Pleasants, Deja Gaines and Whaley had two hits each.

Haynie Spirit Softball

Dobie hosts Katy

Friday, Feb. 24

Dobie High School, 9 a.m.

Dobie hosts Ridge Point

Friday, Feb. 24

Dobie High School, 3 p.m.

Dobie hosts Klein Collins

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dobie High School, 9 a.m.

Dobie hosts Alexandria

Saturday, Feb. 25

Dobie High School, 3 p.m.

See Dobie's Feb. 23 games on Page 1B

