

Junk waste pickup set

Junk waste will be picked up Thursday, Feb. 24, for city of Houston residents living south of Beltway 8. For information, call 3-1-1.

Library schedules events

The following events are scheduled for the week of Feb. 24 through March 2 at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

A family-friendly movie will be presented Thursday, Feb. 24, at 4 p.m. Contact the library for more information.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, Vietnamese storytime will include Reading Club at 9 a.m., followed by intermediate storytime at 11 a.m. and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.

The monthly Friends Of the Parker Williams Library book sale will also be on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Friends of the Parker Williams Library will have their monthly meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 28.

AARP representatives will provide income tax preparation assistance on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This program is free. Bring all tax documents and a copy of last year's income tax return.

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

Burglary suspect nabbed

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office arrested one suspect and are searching for two others following a break-in on Monday, Feb. 21, in the 8800 block of Chelsea Brook.

A resident of the house phoned police after seeing three suspects leave her property by jumping over her back fence. Deputies Vance Britt and Juan Contreras responded to the call and located three males a few blocks away.

The resident positively identified one of the men, Jeremy Karnes, as one of the intruders. Karnes, 18, was arrested and charged with burglary of a habitation. The other two suspects are described as 18-year-old black males – one light-skinned and one dark-complected. They were traveling in a white Toyota Tundra pickup truck. Anyone with information on this case is urged to call Precinct 2 Sgt. Zerick Guinn at 281-481-9189.

PTO scholarships available

Atkinson Elementary

The Atkinson Elementary PTO will give \$500 scholarships to two graduating Dobie High School seniors who attended Atkinson at least two years, one being fourth grade. Applications and requirement information are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office. The application must be received by Feb. 25 at noon in order to be considered.

Moore Elementary

The Moore Elementary PTO will offer scholarships to four graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Moore in fourth and fifth grades. Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Monday, March 28, to be considered. The scholarships will be awarded at the May PTO meeting.

Frazier Elementary

Frazier Elementary will offer scholarships (\$500 to \$1,000) to six graduating seniors at Dobie High School. The students must have attended Frazier in fourth and fifth grades and must be good citizens. Applications are available in the senior counselor's office at Dobie High School. The completed application must be turned in to the counselor's office at Dobie by Friday, March 25, to be considered.

Girl Scouts recruit March 9

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, South Point Service Unit, will hold a spring recruitment event on March 9, at Beverly Hills Park Community Center from 6 to 8 p.m. All parents who would like to know more about Girl Scouting are invited. Membership fees will not need to be paid that night. For information, call Myriam Hudson at 713-292-0287.

GAT dance meetings set

The Thompson Eighth-Grade Dance Committee will meet at the Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 8 and March 22. For information, call Anna Flores at 281-221-5602.

Leagues host parade

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League and the South Belt Girls Softball Association will host a parade and festival Saturday, March 5, at El Franco Lee Park, beginning at 10 a.m. For more details about the event, see Page 6B.

Upward Soccer sign-up

Easthaven Baptist Church, 13100 Beamer Road, is accepting registration for the 2011 Upward Soccer League season. Boys and girls age 4 through those attending the fourth grade are eligible. There will be a separate league for children with autism. To register, call 281-922-5520. For more details, see Page 1B.

Dobie band parents meet

The Dobie Band Parent Organization will meet Monday, March 7, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All band parents are encouraged to attend.

South Houston to dedicate Hall of Honor

Three South Belt residents among 54 inductees

A former assistant attorney general of the United States, a renowned physicist, a Himalayan adventurer, an opera singer and a major-league catcher are among a group of 54 esteemed South Houston High School alumni who will be inducted into the school's new Hall of Honor at a campus ceremony on March 3.



Emory Gadd

The Hall of Honor will feature a display of inductee plaques on a 30-foot wall adjacent to the Reinartz Center just beyond the front entrance to the school. Nearly \$3,000 – much of it provided by alumni donations – has been invested in the project.

The first group of 54 honored alumni, three of whom are South Belt residents, coincides with the 54th anniversary of the school's opening in 1957.

"This Hall of Honor will be a constant reminder of the impact that our alumni have had upon the community, the nation, and the world," said Dr. Steve Fullen, South Houston's principal.

"Our job is to prepare our students to move on to bigger and better things. With the dedication of the Hall of Honor, our students will have visible examples of just what 'bigger and better' means."

Most of the initial honorees graduated during the school's first two decades. Five of the 54 plaques will honor servicemen who gave their lives in combat operations – three in Vietnam and one each in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The inductees were selected by the school's baccalaureate committee, a group of faculty members who are also charged with selecting an honored alumnus and an honored former faculty member each spring for the school's baccalaureate ceremony.

The committee spent nearly a year consulting with alumni groups, checking records and screening candidates before settling on an inaugural Hall of Honor class of 54.

Committee bylaws call for the selection of one to five additional honorees each year. The committee will meet in late spring to consider new inductees.

All 47 surviving members of the first group of inductees – as well as family members of seven deceased honorees – have been invited to attend the Hall of Honor dedication ceremony on March 3 in the Reinartz Center. PISD officials, members of the PISD Education Foundation and



Cheryl Bolen

other school and community officials are expected to attend.

The ceremony will conclude with the formal unveiling of the plaque display.

"Our students will now feel a connection with the past," Fullen said, "and they will see how they have the same opportunity to shape the world. At the same time, it is my hope that those chosen to be members of the Hall of Honor will feel connected to our current students and experience a desire to renew their involvement with South Houston High School."

The inaugural class includes individuals highly accomplished in such fields as medicine, education, religion, entertainment and the law.

The list includes Richard Willard (Class of 1965), who served as assistant attorney general of the United States under President Ronald Reagan. It includes the late Dr. Nathan Isgur (1964), a Presidential Scholar as a South Houston senior who went on to become one of the world's foremost theoretical physicists.

Isgur's brother Marvin (1970), a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge in Houston, will also be inducted.

Five inductees have previously been honored by the PISD for their career achievements.

James R. Smith (1960), a longtime teacher and administrator in the district, was named the district's Distinguished Alumnus in 2008. The

late Dr. Paul Zanowiak (1965), a prominent dentist and Himalayan adventurer, was selected as Distinguished Alumnus in 2004. Local businessman Herman Williams (1964) was selected as the district's Distinguished Citizen in 2007. Emory Gadd (1965), youth minister at Sagemont Church and one of three South Belt inductees, was

honored as Distinguished Citizen in 2005. Local businessman Terry Brotherton (1969) was chosen as Distinguished Citizen in 2009.

Entertainment notables include Mary Bowen (1991), a mezzo soprano with the New York City Opera; Donella Coffey (1970), a Hollywood production assistant with credits that include the hit TV show *Ally McBeal*, and Susan Cobb Duff (1971), the mother/manager of acting and singing celebrities Hilary and Haylie Duff.

Athletes include Chris Tremie (1988), a former major-league catcher for four teams, including the Houston Astros; and Wes Hebert (1976), regarded as one of the best offensive linemen ever to play for the Texas Longhorns.

Two reporters for Channel 13 News – Deborah Wrigley (1969) and Cynthia Cisneros (1978) – will also be inducted.

The South Houston High School Class of 1970 contributed nearly \$1,100 to the project with funds collected during its 40th reunion celebration.

Continued on Page 2A

Sagemont Church auctions feature over 1,200 items

As part of its ongoing Living Proof Project, Sagemont Church will hold two separate auctions on Saturday, Feb. 26, at its main campus located at 11300 S. Sam Houston Parkway E.

The first will be a silent auction from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by a live auction at 4 p.m. The live auction will feature many items not available at the silent auction.

The auctions are to benefit the building of a new worship and discipleship facility on the church property. The church operates on a debt-free basis, and an estimated \$21.7 million has already been given toward the \$26.5 million goal.

At press time, church members had already donated more than 1,200 items, including antiques, apparel, art, automotive, bicycles, china and crystal, coins, electronics, event tickets,

furniture, health and fitness, home and garden, hunting and fishing, jewelry, memorabilia, motorcycles, musical instruments, photography, real estate, services, sporting goods and travel.

Donated items include a 2003 100th Anniversary Harley-Davidson FXSTD Softtail Deuce, a framed, limited edition (685/1200) *It Doesn't Get Much Better* painting on canvas by Thomas Kinkade and an 18-karat, white gold five-carat black and white diamond panda bear pendant with moveable arms and legs on an 18-karat white gold, 18-inch chain with eight round diamonds.

The auction site will be open for a preview on Friday, Feb. 25, from 4 to 9 p.m. for anyone interested.

More information, as well as an online preview, is available at www.sagemontauction.org.

Lewis: Good Friday classes unavoidable for this year

Many Pasadena Independent School District parents are upset that school officials are making up the canceled "snow day" that took place Friday, Feb. 4, by having class on Good Friday, April 22.

According to PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis, this proposed makeup day was voted on a year ago and will not be changed. Lewis said the only other alternatives would be Memorial Day or the teacher work day that falls at the end of the school year, both of which would be equally problematic for the district.

The superintendent, however, said that officials would excuse absences on Good Friday on a case-by-case basis due to religious beliefs.

Lewis further said the problem would not occur again in the future.

"In retrospect, I recognize it probably wasn't the best idea," Lewis said. "It won't happen again."

The Clear Creek Independent School District will not hold class April 22, as it already made up the canceled day on President's Day. See related letter on Page 2A.

1 injured in 3-vehicle crash



A three-car pileup took place the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Beamer. According to Houston Fire Department officials, the accident occurred when a driver ran a red light while going north on Beamer, causing a collision with two vehicles that were traveling east on the beltway feeder road. One driver was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. The intersection was blocked for roughly 30 minutes. Photo by David Flickinger

Church donations accumulate



Donations are quickly accumulating for a pair of auctions that are to be held at Sagemont Church Saturday, Feb. 26. More than 1,200 items had been donated by church members at press time. The Rev. John Morgan, senior pastor at Sagemont, is shown above on a 100th anniversary Harley-Davidson motorcycle that is to be auctioned off.

Local game room shut down

Following a roughly 10-day investigation, vice officers from the Harris County Sheriff's office raided the Lucky 7 game room near the intersection of Blackhawk and Kirkville on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

According to authorities, the establishment was in violation of the Texas Penal Code in regard to local gambling laws.

Sheriff deputies seized three eight-liner machines and confiscated the motherboards of 37 additional machines. The game room reportedly had 96 total gaming machines. Deputies also seized a small amount of cash.

The establishment had drawn the ire of many residents due to its proximity to area schools. The facility is located in a strip center less than half a mile away from both Dobie High School and Moore Elementary. Melillo Middle School and South Belt Elementary are both located roughly one mile from the game room.

This is not the first time a local game room has caught the eye of authorities.

In November 2008, agents from the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service executed search warrants on six related gaming establishments in Harris and Galveston counties, including the Coffee Shop located on Scarsdale.

The reported ringleader, 33-year-old Thanh V. (Tommy) Bui of Clear Lake, was sentenced this past June to 12 months in federal prison for conspiracy to launder funds and operating an illegal gambling business.

Bui was also fined \$114,000, and agents seized \$184,000 in cash, as well as a 2007 Mer-

cedes Benz S550 and a 1991 Acura NSX.

The FBI estimates the illegal game rooms generated more than \$1 million a year between 2004 and 2008.

This past July, two other South Belt game rooms were raided by authorities.

Club 45, located at 12505 Gulf Freeway at Fuqua, and the G-Spot, located at 15255 Gulf Freeway at Dixie Farm Road, were the targets of the raids.

Conducted by the Multi-Agency Gang Task Force and the Violent Crimes Task Force, including undercover FBI agents and deputies from the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the raids netted 14 arrests. All 14 suspects are said to have worked at the establishments and were charged with engaging in organized crime with an underlying offense of promoting gambling, a state jail felony.

In past years, officials said part of the problem with prosecuting local offenders was a lack of physical space to store the confiscated eight-liner machines.

Steps were taken this past legislative session to aid in this area. Law enforcement agencies may now remove just the motherboard from the machines, rather than the entire machine.

Many, however, see the only way of eradicating the illegal operations is to legalize gambling in Texas.

According to Rep. Ken Legler, 80 percent of his constituents who responded to a mailed survey this past election cycle supported such a measure.

Readers' Opinions

SoHo Hall of Honor . . .

Carter against Good Friday makeup day

I am a parent with children attending Pasadena Independent Schools. Recently, school was closed due to bad weather. The district rescheduled a makeup day for this and have scheduled a full day of school for students and teachers on April 22, Good Friday. I naturally assumed this was an error and called the administration office. I was informed that Yes we are attending school that day, that the calendar was planned a year ago with April 22 as a proposed makeup day.

So this is where I have a problem and need help. As a last resort I will simply just keep my children home from school that day in observance of the holiday. I was told that on this day they will be counted as an excused absent due to religious beliefs.

Every parent who I have spoken to, also plans to keep their children home that day. We are talking about a lot of absents that day, meaning a huge financial loss for the district.

I do not want to see my district lose money and I do not want to see my beloved teachers being forced to work on this holiday and miss time of worship and fellowship with their families.

I would like to see the district reschedule this makeup day to the next proposed makeup day or any other day for that matter.

I have been asked by teachers and parents to spread the word about how we feel about attending school on this holiday. So I am asking all parents who plan not to attend school on Good Friday, send an email or a phone call to your principal, your administration building, let them know of your planned absents that day. Maybe, just maybe with enough

voices we can fix this mistake. We all make mistakes, however this one is pretty big in my Book and I can not be quiet and do nothing. **Rebecca Carter**

Edgebrook flooding info from Muecke

The Freeway Manor subdivision and the Edgebrook corridor has had major flooding issues for over 40 years. A little over five years ago we started an effort to finally resolve flooding by contacting HCFCD, then Precinct 2 Commissioner Garcia and then state Representative Rick Noriega. With their help we have made some progress: Edgebrook has been rebuilt with new street drains, one ditch concrete lined and others cleaned.

The problem ditch, HCFCD C-106-03, nick named the Bastard ditch, has many issues that are difficult to resolve. Some work was started on the ditch in the 1980's, but ended when issues came up that were not easily resolved due to the terrain and location of the ditch. Harris County Commissioners court on June 23, 2009 authorized LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc. to do a study of the entire Berry Bayou Flood Plain. This area includes some of Hobby Airport, the city of South Houston, the Edgebrook corridor and several other sub divisions. With this study, we will get a better picture of what all needs to be done. Resolving flooding in one area could cause flooding in another area. The study has taken longer than planned, but they are about to complete the study and turn the findings over to HCFCD.

With the City of Houston implementing the Prop 1 proposal, now called Rebuild Houston, which involves city flood control, it is now more important than ever to move forward with rebuilding ditch C-106-03. We are looking forward,

in the near future, to have a sit down meeting with HCFCD where they will present their plans on how to improve the handling of run off water from this neighborhood. **James E. Muecke**

Shafer urges area improvements

What is the likelihood of getting Hughes road fixed?

The road is so bumpy and uneven from the Beltway to Sageyork and is getting worse. Getting the car aligned frequently is not the best option. Also, the awnings at the strip center on Hughes Road by Donut Heaven have needed painting for months. A nice paint job would definitely beautify the community. Lastly, the turn lanes at the Beltway at Sabo/Hughes & the Beltway & Beamer are confusing for some people. If I recall, the first light at Sabo/Hughes has only one legal left turn signal but the 2nd light has two. Wouldn't it be a good idea to have both lights with the same rule? I see people cutting over at the last minute or worse, turning from the wrong lane which I'm sure some of them may have gotten confused as to which is which. Of course, some don't even care.

Nancy Shafer

Johansen writes on radical right

The radical right wing Republicans now in control of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Wisconsin capitol are hell-bent on dragging our nation back thru the ditch at the end of George W. Bush's era and further back to faulty philosophies of yesteryear. In their partnership with big business and special interests, they destroyed the US economy and now call for budget reductions designed to cripple recovery efforts that actually saved our nation.

Worse yet, like their hero, Tom DeLay in 1995, the GOP is picking and choosing to attack budgets of government activities that are adverse to their corporate special interests, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, health care, aid to children and poor mothers and even NASA. Our local congressional representative, Pete Olson, is on the

radical conservative bandwagon and votes consistently against the interests of suburban families. In fact, he voted for last Friday's Republican budget bill with its budget cuts for NASA.

The craziness in Wisconsin is another example of politicians exaggerating their mandate so much they end up believing their own rhetorical half-truths. The state employees in Wisconsin get paid less than employees of other nearby states and far less than federal employees. This isn't really about economics considering the Wisconsin governor just gave a huge tax cut to big business, it is about reducing government, in spite of government meeting needs of the people, such as EPA and clean air.

The unholy alliance of the extremist tea partiers and the radical right Republican party suggest outrage at our government regardless of important roles it plays in the lives of rich, middle class and poor. The GOP, including our local representative, appear to want nothing more than to shut down the federal government just as Newt Gingrich and Tom DeLay did over 15 years ago.

Sadly, it is hard, perhaps even impossible, to change to a more ethical approach to politics when the GOP insists on the politics of destruction... insisting this time on the destruction of our government. Those in the middle class should not fall for tea party rhetoric cast by a tiny minority to profit a select group that rants about seceding from our nation. Perhaps they should love it or leave it. The American system has made us the strongest most powerful nation in history, period. We succeed through good times and bad times, and we have succeeded by working for the common good, without attacking selected groups in our country.

Like the new democracy springing up in the Middle East, America needs a new democracy based on interests of the broad majority of the people rather than big businesses and its corrupt financial system. It is surely time that, we the people, the broad majority of those in the middle, set aside our hobbies and pastimes, come out of our homes, gather together and take action to refocus our country's efforts to benefit people rather than corrupt institutions.

Pete Johansen

Continued from Page 1A
 ebration in Galveston last summer.

Event organizers expect most of the inductees to attend the dedication. RSVPs have already been received from as far away as Los Angeles and Key West.

"When South Houston opened its doors over 50 years ago, those first students were proud to be Trojans," Dr. Fullen said. "They worked diligently to develop rich traditions that live on today. Today's students share those same values, customs, and traditions, and their chests still swell with the same pride as those very first Trojans with whom they share a common identity."

South Belt inductees Emory Gadd

A 1965 graduate of the area school, Emory Gadd has devoted much of his time to his alma mater, PISD and the community as a whole.

Gadd has served on the staff of Sagemont Church for roughly 40 years, acting as minister to students and in his current position of associate pastor.

The former South Houston student attended Houston Baptist University, where he received a bachelor's degree in Christianity and sociology in 1977.

Gadd serves on the board of directors of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, and in 1993, he was named the chamber's Citizen of the Year.

The pastor actively volunteers for PISD through mentoring programs and other efforts. He has served on the campus improvement team and as campus chaplain at Dobie High School. Gadd has additionally served on the PISD Health Advisory Council and the emergency response teams for Stuchbery

Elementary and Dobie High School and is the team statistician for the Dobie football coaching staff.

He has further served as a board member of the PISD Education Foundation and in 2005, was named a Distinguished Citizen of the school district.

Gadd was instrumental in getting PISD bonds passed in both 2000 and 2004 and also lends his support to many San Jacinto College initiatives.

The longtime South Belt resident was named PISD's Distinguished Alumnus in May 2009. The night of Gadd's honoring marked the 44th anniversary of his high school graduation and of his first date with his wife, Susan (Wells) Gadd, also a South Houston graduate. The couple have two adult sons, John and Jim Gadd, and one grandchild.

Cheryl Bolen

A 1964 South Houston graduate, Cheryl (Williams) Bolen has served as a journalist, teacher and romance novelist.

Following graduation, Bolen attended San Jacinto College, where she earned an associate degree in 1966, before attending the University of Texas, where she earned a bachelor's in journalism in 1970. Bolen went on to get a Master of Science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1979.

Bolen served as news editor for the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* from 1979 to 1985 and again from 1991 to 1997 (she taught English at Jamison Middle School in Pearland from 1985 to 1991). During her tenure at the newspaper, Bolen won two second-place awards from the Texas Community Newspaper Association, including series writing and feature writing. She also won three awards from the Houston Press Club, including first prize in series writing and a second-place prize in both headline writing and spot news reporting.

The SoHo alumna published her first of nine historical novels (eight of which are set in England) in 1998. That year, she was named Notable New Author by the Ohio Valley Romance Writers of America. In 2006, Bolen won the HOLT Medallion for Best Historical Novel. Many of her other books have been named finalist for the Daphne Du Maurier, Texas Gold and Holt Medallion awards.

Bolen is married to longtime San Jacinto College professor John Bolen. The couple currently reside in Green Tee. They have two adult sons, John and James "Bo" Bolen, both of whom attended Dobie High School. John is a practicing attorney, while James works as a reporter for the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

Norton White

A graduate of the 1962 class, Norton White is a retired businessman, who served as longtime executor of the South Houston High School Scholarship for the Class of 1962.

While in high school, White was captain of the football and track teams and was named Mr. South Houston and Most Handsome.

Following high school, White studied engineering at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where he went on to raise his family. White moved back to Sagemont in 1988 after working 32 years for Certainteed Corp., a company that manufactures roofing, siding, piping and insulation.

Roughly 15 years ago, White, along with fellow 1962 South Houston graduate Genia Ripley who is also an inductee, started the South Houston High School Scholarship for the Class of 1962. The program emphasizes assisting midrange South Houston students attend college.

White is a longtime member of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church and used to head the St. Vincent De Paul Society, which feeds the hungry.

The South Houston alumna now works part time at Bass Pro Shops and also enjoys beekeeping.

White was married 41 years to Winnifred "Winnie" White, who died a few years ago. The couple had two children, Norton "Tre" White III and Kellie Gareri. Tre White is a restaurant manager, while Gareri is a math teacher in Pearland.

Al Carter

While not officially on the list of inductees, the *Leader* staff wanted to also honor former longtime South Belt resident Al Carter.

A 1970 graduate, Carter has more than 35 years experience in the journalism industry, primarily as a sports writer. He currently works as a communications specialist for PISD and is in large part responsible for compiling the list of Hall of Honor induct-

ees. Following graduation, Carter continued his education at San Jacinto College and the University of Texas at Austin, where he received degrees in journalism. He has done extensive graduate work at the University of Houston-Clear Lake in the field of history and taught the subject at South Houston High School from 2008 to 2010 before taking his current position.

Carter's interest in sports writing began his senior year at South Houston when he wrote for the school's newspaper the *Torch*. His professional career has taken him throughout the South working as either a sports writer, a sports columnist or a sport editor for the *Savannah Morning News*, the *Corpus Christi Caller*, the *Daily Oklahoman*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Houston Post*, the *Dallas Morning News* and the *San Antonio Express-News*.

Despite his extensive travels, Carter would invariably return to the South Belt community, moving back to the area numerous times over the years.

During his lengthy career as a journalist, Carter has covered several major sporting events, including five Super Bowls, eight Final Fours, a dozen Cotton Bowls and a half-dozen Big 12 football championship games.

Carter has received many awards and honors, including 1980 Oklahoma Sports Writer of the Year, 1986 Texas Sports Writer of the Year, Texas Sports Hall of Fame selection committee member, Heisman Trophy elector and San Jacinto College Distinguished Alumnus.

While working in Corpus Christi, Carter met his wife, Mary (Cox) Carter. A longtime Pasadena Independent School District teacher, she recently began teaching sixth-grade language arts at the newly opened Dixie Melillo Middle School.

Together, the couple have three children, Jonathan, Jessica (Swenson) and Ben.

Jonathan is a lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he recently began duties as the first representative from the branch to serve in the President's Emergency Operations Center in the East Wing of the White House.

Swenson is the journalism sponsor at Dobie, and Ben is a senior manager for Deloitte & Touche.

Jonathan played baseball at San Houston State University, while Jessica and Ben both graduated from Texas A&M University. All three graduated from Dobie, where Jessica was head cheerleader and both boys earned all-state recognition in baseball.

The Carters currently reside in Friendswood and are longtime members of St. Luke the Evangelist Church.

Other inductees

Other South Houston High School Hall of Honor inductees include (graduation class in parentheses): Donald Meador (1959), Dr. Ron Rucker (1960), James R. Smith (1960), Larry Crow (1962), Dr. Harriet Durr Romo (1962), Genia Long Ripley (1962), Timothy Shaunty (1962), R. Joel Swanson (1963), Dr. Nathan Isgur (1964), Herman Williams (1964), Bob Allen (1965), Richard Willard (1965), Dr. Paul Zanowiak (1965), Cynthia Bryant (1966), Lois Williams (1966), Wayne Adams (1967), Suzanne Covington (1967), Dr. Darrell Harris (1967), Dr. Janie Hickerson Thielemann-Downs (1968), Wayne Lutz (1968), Herman Munster III (1968), Dr. Marvin Baza (1969), Terry Brotherton (1969), Michael Lindsey (1969), Dr. Karen Sherman Dorris (1969), Deborah Wrigley (1969), Donella Coffey (1970), Marvin Isgur (1970), Dr. Mary Lund (1970), Gary Moss (1970), Ken Vanway (1970), Susan Cobb Duff (1971), Lupita Palos (1971), Dr. Gregory Fuller (1972), Susan Spurlock Keiser (1972), James Carter Hall (1976), Wes Hubert (1976), Cynthia Cisneros (1978), John Davis (1978), John O. Harris (1978), Dr. Ann Lutz Pearson (1981), Dana Johnson Philibert (1985), Chris Tremie (1988), Mary Bowen (1991), Jason Joliff (1992), Dr. Justin Regner (1993), Austin William Haverkamp (1962), Douglas Robert French (1965), Gerald Edward Blalock (1969), Zarian Andre Wood (1999) and Armando Soriano (2002).

Leader Obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

PISD wrestles with \$20 million shortage

With the Pasadena Independent School District projecting at least a \$20 million budget shortfall for each of the next two years – the result of deep funding cuts by the state – Superintendent Dr. Kirk Lewis announced the framework of a plan for balancing the district's budget for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

Lewis said the reduction in state funding amounts to an "earthquake" for Texas public schools. Still, he said, "However that road shifts beneath us, we're going to get it back on track."

He said the district cannot address the projected shortfall without implementing personnel reductions, increasing workloads for some teaching positions and increasing the size of some classes.

Because payroll makes up about 85 percent of the district's total budget, money allotted to non-payroll items cannot begin to seriously address a \$20 million annual budget shortfall.

"The bulk of the cuts," Lewis said, "will, by necessity, come from personnel."

Lewis said the number of positions lost districtwide could exceed 300. He said any payroll cuts would come across the board – in areas of administration, support and

teaching positions.

To accommodate plans to deal with the shortfall, the Pasadena ISD has declared a state of financial exigency, allowing the district to take certain actions – such as personnel reductions, if needed – to help deal with the crisis.

Lewis said policies enacted by state lawmakers over the past five years are solely to blame for the crisis. Five years ago, the state legislature changed the school financing system. Those changes included a reduction of the residential tax rate. Subsequent budgets included deficits that contributed to a current state budget shortfall estimated to be as low as \$15 billion and as high as \$26.8 billion.

To deal with that shortfall, legislators are proposing public education cuts of between \$4 billion and \$5 billion per year. For the Pasadena ISD, the reduction in state funding is expected to be between \$20 million and \$21 million per year.

Lewis cautioned that the state budget figures are still being discussed. Some estimates project a state budget shortfall that could run the revenue shortfall to the district as high as \$50 million.

"This is not something our district caused," Lewis said. "This was caused by those in Austin who have passed public policy that has created a shortfall in the budget."

The state's current budget plans already eliminate many grants and funding for many established programs.

"We're a long way from finalizing the budget," Lewis said, "and a long way from knowing what the state's going to do."

He lamented what he called "confusing" messages from lawmakers in Austin. "They will tell us how much they value public education, and how they think we're doing a great job," Lewis said. "And then in the next breath, they're talking about cutting \$10 billion [statewide over two years] out of the program."

Still, he said, "Whatever happens in Austin, we will address here in a very positive way."

Lewis said the district has already reduced its budget by \$30 million over the past four

years by reducing funding for less critical programs and directing those available funds toward teacher salaries and programs that were more mission-focused.

Lewis said the district will work on ways to increase revenue, such as through federal funding and private grants.

But, he said, "They will be minimal. There's just not a lot out there."

He said the district has already identified ways to trim \$3 million out of non-payroll expenses. Principals, he said, have already been told to expect a 10 percent reduction in district funding for school materials next year.

But, Lewis said, many of the non-payroll expenses, such as utilities, are essential to operations and cannot be reduced.

That leaves payroll costs, he said, although he added, "We are going to try to mitigate personnel reductions. We will do as much as we can to protect as many classroom positions as possible."

Current fund balances, he said, will likely be applied to some payroll costs in an effort to reduce the number of job cuts.

"This will be a tough year – a tough two years, really," Lewis said. "The state is not going to provide any assistance for us this year. We're really kind of on our own."

Still, Lewis expressed confidence in the ability of district teachers and staff to make the best of the situation.

"If there is any group of people who can weather this storm together, who can find creative solutions and think outside the box," he said, "it's the group of people we have here in Pasadena."

Members of the community are encouraged to write their state legislators with their concerns. A list of area legislators can be found at the district website at www.pasadenaisd.org.

Click on the "Community" button on the left side and look down the left side of the "Community" page for "State Legislators."

The district is also seeking input from the public on budget-cutting ideas. Comments and suggestions can be sent to Lewis at KLewis@pasadenaisd.org.

CB Debate ends regular competition season

The Clear Brook High School Debate Team wrapped up its regular competitive season on Saturday, Feb. 19, with a trip to Texas City where the team returned with the following awards:

Eric Chaney placed sixth in foreign extemp speaking, followed by Rishi Suresh and Kelly Hogg who placed second and first, respectively, in this same event.

LD quarter-finalists Neil Patel and Hunter Bodiford received recognition for their accomplishments, as did Rishi Suresh who placed third overall in this event. Impromptu speaking also saw awards brought home by Kelly Hogg and Adriel Rivera who placed fourth and sixth, respectively.

Rounding out the awards for the weekend, and the regular season, was Hunter Bodiford who received the second-place speaking award for LD debate.

Thirteen members of the team will head to Flower Mound, Texas, on Wednesday, March 9, to compete in the annual Texas Forensics Association tournament.



Clear Brook High School Debate Team members earning awards at a recent tournament in Texas City were, left to right, Eric Chaney, Rishi Suresh, Hunter Bodiford, Kelly Hogg, Neil Patel and Adriel Rivera. Photo submitted

San Jac receives Texas historical marker

The Texas Historical Commission has approved San Jacinto College's application for a historical marker, which will be placed on the Central campus, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

The metal marker will measure 27 inches by 42 inches and will display text that chronicles some of the notable milestones of the three-campus college that, for 50 years, has served East Harris County. The date of installation, and exact location on the Central campus, is still in the works.

"I am truly excited and honored for San Jacinto College to be chosen to receive a Texas historical marker," said Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "This is a true testament of our commitment to our community and region to provide a high quality, low cost education that makes a difference in the lives of our citizens."

The official unveiling of the historical marker will be one highlight of many during the 2011-2012 academic year, as San Jacinto College celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The groundbreaking ceremony at the original Central campus was held on Aug. 10, 1961, and the college officially opened on Sept. 18, 1961, at temporary quarters in downtown Pasadena.

Longtime Pasadena resident and former San Jac employee Anne Thomas helped draft the SJCH historical marker application.

She said the college deserves the Texas Historical Institution designation, and that it's fitting the approval comes when the college begins celebration of its 50th anniversary.

In 2008 after serving as a teacher and administrator at SJCH for 32 years. "It has offered the education needed for technical jobs and the basics for academic careers; it has developed world-class athletes, journalists, and musicians; it has trained

skilled workers in the medical professions. It has met the needs of its students with flexible schedules, childcare, and small classes. Its focus has always been the student."

The marker will be only the fifth in the city of

Pasadena. The other four are the City of Pasadena, Pasadena Independent School District, Allen Ranch, and Crown Hill Cemetery.

Pomeroy Homestead and the James and Jesse West Mansion are on the National Register listing.

Deaths

Holly Michelle Guerra



Holly Michelle Guerra, 48, former South Belt resident, died on Friday, Feb. 11, 2011.

She is survived by her father, Mack Vance; mother Jackie Tiller; son Drew Vance; daughters, Brandi Phillips and Casey Knapps; fiancé Artie Ray Mayhain; sisters, Tiffany Allen and husband Jason, and Kim Tiller; grandchildren, Alia Anderson, Albert Ayala Jr. and Nicholas Phillips-Maldonado; as well as a host of other family and friends.

Guerra had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She had a very strong faith in God and enjoyed reading the Bible. She was a very dedicated, hard worker and enjoyed her job.

Affectionately known as "Gam Ma" to her grandchild-

dren, Guerra relished the opportunities she had to be with her family and enjoyed cooking for everyone.

A visitation for Guerra was held Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, at Clayton Funeral Home.

Hildred Gerber

Hildred Gerber, 100, of South Belt, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2011. She was born Oct. 5, 1910.

Gerber is preceded in death by her husband, Taylor Gerber, and her firstborn grandchild, Gerald Lee Bates, son of Jerry and Jennie Bates.

She is survived by her three children: Carl Gerber, Jennie Bates and Nancy Vickers; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service will be held.

Christine M. Villaseñor

Christine Martinez Villaseñor, age 76, resident of Kirkwood subdivision, died Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011. She was born Aug. 26, 1934 in Houston.

She was preceded in death by her parents Graciano Martinez and Eustolia Martinez; sisters Alice Perez, Minerva (Minnie) Trevino and Santa Vara; brothers Phillip Martinez and Carlitos Martinez.



She is survived by her husband of 56 years Gilbert Reuben Villaseñor; children Gilbert Anthony Villaseñor Sr., Debbie "Debita" Villaseñor, Brenda Villaseñor-Lester (David Lester) and Roland Reuben Villaseñor; grandchildren Lisa Michelle Villaseñor (John Cervantes), Gilbert Anthony Villaseñor Jr., Christopher Charles Villaseñor, Gregory Mark Villaseñor, Haley Renee Villaseñor and Ryan Anthony Villaseñor; great-granddaughter Macie Michelle Cervantes; sister Lupe Cisneros; brothers Gilbert Martinez, Tony Martinez, David Martinez; numerous nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers will be Edmund Trevino, Frankie Trevino, Ricky Trevino, Rudy Vara, Ralph Cisneros and Michael Cisneros.

For details on services, visit nidayfunerals.com.

Scout Sunday observed by #692



On Sunday, Feb. 6, the Scouts of Troop 692 attended morning Mass at St. Luke's Catholic Church to observe Scout Sunday and recognize the contributions of youth and adults to Scouting. The Scouts expressed appreciation for the continued support of the Sagemont community and St. Luke's as their chartered organization. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Ricky Trevino, Robert Mora, Matthew Malone, Moses Ramos,

Nicholas Guerin, (second row) Jake Wohleb, Nathan Bennett, Joel More, Marcus Hernandez, (third row) Armondo Medrano, Toni Izzarelli, Jeremy Tajonera, Brandon Eifert, Benito Garcia, Isai Arenas, Roberto Rayos, Marcel Guerin, (back row) Robert Mendoza, Joe Bennett, Fred Trevino, Adrian Guerin, Kyle Mamitag, the Rev. James Burkart and Darryl Malone.

Photo submitted

Brook Jr. ROTC plant 1,600 seedlings at Harris County Flood Control District's Tree Nursery

Seventeen Jr. ROTC students from Clear Creek Independent School District's Clear Brook High School braved frigid temperatures and rolled up their sleeves to plant 1,600 tree seedlings at the Harris County Flood Control District's eighth annual volunteer tree seedling potting event at the District's South Service Center Tree Nursery, 5301 Alameda Genoa Road.

For economic reasons, the Flood Control District recently purchased 3,600 tree seedlings with no soil around the roots, which are delicate and subject to drying out if they are not potted soon after they are delivered to the tree nursery. The race was on Saturday to transfer as many of the seedlings as possible into pots.

Staff from the district's infrastructure department potted the remainder of the seedlings.

The tree seedlings are now a viable part of the stock at the Flood Control District's tree nursery, which provides trees for the district's tree planting program. The district plants trees because of their aesthetic value, and, once they mature, trees greatly reduce the cost of maintaining bayous, streams and detention basins. Trees also help reduce the risk of erosion because their weblike root systems help anchor soil and protect the banks of channels and detention basins.

Karen Comeaux, the Flood Control District's Community Services Section leader, said the students' potting efforts were phenomenal.

Comeaux said the Clear Brook Jr. ROTC group has participated in previous tree seedling potting events, and their repeat performances have lent them expertise.

"I believe it was their experience that enabled them to get the job done, even in frigid weather conditions," Comeaux said. "Last year, some of the same students planted 1,100 seedlings. This year, the group planted 1,600 seedlings with the same number of students."

"The students were organized, energized and knew what to do," she said.

The district held its inaugural tree seedling potting



Clear Brook High School Jr. ROTC students celebrate a job well done after volunteering time and muscle power to plant 1,600 tree seedlings at the Harris County Flood Control District's Tree Nursery. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Ryan Bell (sophomore), Jordan Kerfoot (freshman), Chac Lopez (junior), (middle row, seated) Jacob Nickell (freshman), Sultan Jaouhari (junior), Domonique Gibson (senior), Christian Daniels (freshman), Eric Moreno (sophomore), Josef Richard (freshman), (back row, standing) Cheyenne Joiner (senior), Chase Graves (junior), Ricardo Falcon (junior), Barney Barbier (sophomore), Coty Turner (freshman), Gurbin Billatoros (sophomore), Travis Cyprien (sophomore) and Jessica McClory (sophomore).



Clear Brook High School Jr. ROTC students dig into the job of potting 1,600 tree seedlings at the Harris County Flood Control District's Tree Nursery. Pictured are, left to right, Ryan Bell (sophomore), Chac Lopez (junior), Sultan Jaouhari (junior) and Christian Daniels (freshman).

Photos submitted

event in January 2004, and since then, more than 500 area high school students have helped plant an average of 3,000 seedlings per year.

This event offers mutually beneficial rewards. Students

learn how to safely and efficiently handle seedlings and have an opportunity to participate in an event that promotes trees in Harris County. The students' volunteer efforts also help to replenish

the seedling stock at the Flood Control District's tree nursery. The potted seedlings will grow there throughout the summer, and new tree plantings will occur during planting season (typically

October through March) on project sites throughout Harris County.

On average, the district plants about 20,000 trees every year, making it the No. 2 tree-planting government agency in Harris County.

About the Harris County Flood Control District's tree planting program:

The Flood Control District started planting trees on project sites in 2001.

As the tree planting program gained momentum, the district exhausted its local tree seedling supply. The solution was the creation of a tree nursery at the South Service Center in 2003. Currently, there are about 6,000 trees in various stages of growth, many of which are hard to find, including bald cypress and water tupelo - water-loving trees that can thrive in wet conditions.

The district regularly partners with individuals and organizations to plant trees in appropriate places on district right of way. For more information on organizing a voluntary tree planting, contact the Community Services Section of the Property Management Department or go to <http://www.hcfd.org/trees.html>.

The Flood Control District also regularly works to rescue trees that otherwise would be disrupted by bayou widening and stormwater detention projects by relocating them to other rights of way along bayous and detention basins.

In recognition of these efforts, Trees for Houston presented the district with a 2010 Arbor Day Award.

The Harris County Flood Control District builds projects that reduce flooding risks and damages while considering the values of the community and the environment.

The Flood Control District oversees more than 2,500 miles of bayous and streams (about the distance from Los Angeles to New York City) and routinely performs maintenance projects to repair bayous and stormwater detention basins that have experienced erosion, slope failure and sediment buildup.

To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit hcfd.org.

Dr. Mike McKinney named PISD 2011 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Mike McKinney, a Sam Rayburn High graduate who went from country doctor to the highest tiers of state government, to chancellor of one of the world's largest university systems, has been named Pasadena Independent School District's Distinguished Alumnus for 2011.

McKinney, who graduated from Sam Rayburn in 1969, has served as chancellor of the Texas A&M University system since 2006. He formerly served as chief of staff to Gov. Rick Perry and as a legislator in the Texas House of Representatives.

He will be honored by Pasadena ISD in a ceremony on March 8 at the administration building.

McKinney oversees a university system comprising 11



universities, seven state agencies and a health science center. During his four-year tenure, the A&M system has added two new universities: Texas A&M-Central Texas and Texas A&M-San Antonio. The 11 universities in the

A&M system provide advanced educational opportunities for more than 120,000 students and last year produced 24,000 graduates.

When appointed by Perry in 2006 to lead the A&M system, McKinney was serving as senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Those positions came on the heels of a noted career in state government.

During 2001 and 2002, he served as Perry's chief of staff. He earlier served four terms in the Texas House.

His public profile includes the raising of three children, two of whom, Steve McKinney and Seth McKinney, were football standouts at Texas A&M and then in the National Football League. His youngest son, Sean, is a member of the Texas A&M Class of 2012.

McKinney attended Gardens, Golden Acres and Bailey elementaries and Southmore Intermediate. At Sam Rayburn, he earned multiple letters in football, basketball and baseball. He served as president of the National Honor Society and was a recipient of the prestigious Jesse H. Jones Scholarship for academics.

He graduated from the University of Houston in 1973 and earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1976.

McKinney established a home for his young family in Centerville, Texas, and practiced medicine there for 16 years. In 1984, he was elected to the Texas House as representative for Leon, Madison, Grimes, Houston and Montgomery counties. He served as speaker pro-tempore of the House from 1989 to 1990.

In 1995, during George W. Bush's first term as governor, McKinney was appointed by Bush as commissioner for the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. In that role, he oversaw 11 state agencies, a staff of 64,000 and a budget of \$24 billion.

After serving as Perry's chief of staff, he accepted

leadership positions within the UT Health Science system, including vice chancellor for health affairs and acting dean of the UT Medical School in Houston. He became senior executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Health Science Center in September of 2003. Just over three years later, in November of 2006, he was named chancellor of the A&M University System.

In 2006, McKinney received the Physician's Recognition Award from the American Medical Association and the Presidential Award of Merit for Exemplary Service from the Texas Academy of Family Practice.

As a state representative, he was selected as one of the 10 best legislators by both *Texas Monthly* magazine and *The Dallas Morning News*. The Texas Medical Association and the Texas Department of Commerce also recognized him for work in the legislature.

In 2009, McKinney was awarded the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UT Medical Branch, the highest alumni honor bestowed by the university's School of Medicine Alumni Association.

Previous Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients include: 2010 - Rick Schriever, Sam Rayburn, 1973; 2009 - Dr. Byron Tapley, Pasadena High, 1951; 2008 - James R. Smith, South Houston, 1960; 2007 - Dr. Carlton Horbelt, Pasadena High, 1973; 2006 - Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox, Dobie, 1976; 2005 - J. Michael Solar, Sam Rayburn, 1971; 2004 - Dr. Paul Zanowiak, South Houston, 1965; 2003 - Martin Cominsky, Pasadena High, 1976; 2002 - Dr. Bill Allen, Pasadena High, 1951; 2001 - Bill Shock, Pasadena High, 1954; 2000 - Ben Meador, Pasadena High, 1957; 1999 - Bill McMillin, Pasadena High, 1958; 1998 - Robert Smith, Pasadena High, 1971; 1997 - Larry Forehand, Pasadena High, 1962; and 1996 - Jonah Boyd, Pasadena High, 1955.

UHCL open house set

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will hold its open house Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Bayou Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The public is welcome to meet with university advisers, faculty and staff, and

take a tour of the campus situated within a 524-acre wildlife preserve.

For more information, call Assistant Director of Admissions Lori Lopez at 281-283-2515, e-mail lopezLR@uhcl.edu or visit www.uhcl.edu.

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Miller top reader



Lexee Miller, fourth-grader at Burnett Elementary, read books and raised \$234 for the March of Dimes through the Reading Champions program. She was the top fundraiser for the school and was presented a plaque and gold medal.

Photo submitted

Over The Back Fence by Jan



WELCOME TO THE WORLD McCOY!

Longtime Sagemont residents grandma Linda and grandpa Bill Botkin are happy to announce the birth of a new grandson, McCoy Freeland Botkin. He was born on Jan. 20 and weighed 7 lbs. Proud parents are Pearl and residents Lance and Lori Botkin. Big sisters Bailey and Macey and big brother Bryce welcome him to the family. McCoy was named after his great-grandfathers Freeland Charles Botkin and Mack McCoy.

HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY BRAYDEN

Brayden Espinosa will turn 9 years old Tuesday, March 1. Lots of wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent from proud grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry of South Belt; mom Jenny and sister Baylee; uncle Tyler; aunt Stacey, uncle Stephen and cousins Kennedy and Owen Flowers; uncle Joey and aunt Nyssa Hayes; and uncle Austin, aunt Nicole and cousin Jade Scarberry. Brayden's mom is a 1997 Dobie High School grad.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 24 through March 2.

Burnett Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Frances Rivera Feb. 24.

Moore Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to Leah Laredo Feb. 25. Feb. 28 is the day for a party for Adriana Ramirez. Priscilla Nguyen-Vu has a birthday Feb. 29.

Meillio Middle School
The day for a cake for Rosa Salinas is Feb. 25.

Morris Middle School
Sharing a birthday Feb. 26 are Regina Richardson and Anna Willis. Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Irma Garcia Feb. 27. On March 2, Mary Garcia enjoys a birthday.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Double birthday greetings are sent to Michael Arroyo and Gary Warner Feb. 25.

Blow out the birthday candles for Rodney Martin Feb. 26. Shay Woodruff has a birthday Feb. 28. Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Cynthia Lozano March 2.

Thompson Intermediate
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 24 is Carol Thacker. The day for a cake for John Fowler is Feb. 25. March 1 is the day for a party for Katina Kirk.

Dobie High
Three cheers for a happy birthday are sent to Donna Hawkins, Wendy Sharpless and Tamalar Whiting Feb. 24. Blow out the birthday candles for Bradley Nguyen Feb. 25. David Chollett and Zoila Salazar are wished a happy birthday Feb. 28. March 1 is the day for a double birthday surprise for Jason Roth and Ozmel Tovas.

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

Former South Belter looks for possible son

By Matt Griesmyer

A man who moved away from his hometown years ago only to return later in his life finds out that he has a son. That might sound like the plot to a Hollywood movie, but it is something that is happening in real life for Edward Holmes.

Holmes, who prefers to go by Sherman, moved away from the South Belt area when it was still young, now lives on the north side of Houston. About a year ago, Holmes received a call from an intermediary trying to reach him.

"When I was contacted, I was told that I had a son who was born at St. Joseph's Hospital and that he wanted to contact me, and they wanted to know if I would agree to it," Holmes said. "I asked the agency to give me a call in about a week to give me time to think about it. In the meantime I was sent pictures and a general information sheet telling me what I heard over the phone. I found out that his mother gave him up for adoption, and he was adopted by a family who raised him."

The information that Holmes received was surprising to him. Until that point, he had not known of his son. At that time, he made the decision to not allow contact.

"I thought that he has a family that adopted him, loved and raised him, and I didn't want to cause any problems in their lives," Holmes said. "I may be the biological father, but they were his parents." Holmes eventually changed his mind over the course of a year after his call from the intermediary. When he came to the changed conclusion, though, he realized that he did not have a way of getting back in contact with the intermediary. He did not have a return address, name of the person he spoke to, the agency he was with or even a last name for his son.

"I went down to St. Joseph's Hospital and tried to get any information that might help," Holmes said. "The records were private though and they couldn't give any information out." All Holmes has to go on is a comment that the intermediary gave him and names on the photographs. He was told that his son lived in the Sagemont area, and the names on the photographs were Kyle, Brandon and Diane. With only three first names, no last name, no name of parents, information on his address or any other identifying facts, Holmes is seeking any and all help that might assist in his effort.

If someone has any information, contact him at 713-447-2325.

Brown honored at UHCL

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Office of the Dean of Students Staff Assistant Kay Brown was named Support Staff Association Employee of the Quarter. Brown has been with the university for 11 years. Selected employees receive a \$50 cash prize.

"It is always a good feeling to be recognized for the work we do," said Brown.

For more information about UHCL's Support Staff Association, visit <http://www.uhcl.edu/ssa>.



Lariaettes select Royal Court

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes recently held their annual Royal Ball at Brady's Landing. Each year, the girls nominate teammates for the Royal Ball Court. At left, the following girls were crowned in each of their respective classes as the top 2011 Royal Ball Court recipients - sophomore Duchess Samantha Green, junior Princess Kameko Bryant and senior Queen Aracely Perez. Below are, left to right, sophomore Amanda Palacios, sophomore Samantha Green, sophomore Denise Ma, junior Karen Duran, junior Alaina Burns, junior Kameko Bryant, senior Aracely Perez, senior Angie Guevara and senior Jon'tay Warner.

Photos submitted



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Remember When

30 years ago (1981)
Three local law enforcement agencies joined forces to arrest five men and one woman ranging in age from 21 to 37 in connection with the kidnapping of 19-year-old Kirkmond resident Troy Milton McDonald.

Ralph David Brown was killed with a shotgun blast by the resident of a Sycamore Valley home he was apparently breaking into.

25 years ago (1986)
The five-member Texas Water Commission voted unanimously to approve formation of Municipal Utility District 192 to be developed by Ayrshire Corporation.

Three brothers, all South Belt area residents, were charged with a total of 34 counts of theft resulting from alleged schemes to receive compensation from insurance companies based on phony illnesses.

20 years ago (1991)
The Dobie High School Academic Decathlon team won second place in state competition, losing out to the first-place winner by only 500 points.

South Belt resident Sandra Sanchez delivered young Jack Anthony while dad Keith Sanchez coached and listened over the telephone from the desert of Saudi Arabia.

15 years ago (1996)
Sycamore Valley homes began automated trash pickup.

Former San Jacinto College Board of Regents member Charles Ray Ogden

rejoined the board filling the unexpired term of F.G. "Frenchie" Anders who resigned.

10 years ago (2001)
At approximately 1 a.m., in a CCISD board meeting that started at 6 p.m., Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees agreed to "pursue a school in the South Belt area to replace the Weber school."

The Leader held an open house to celebrate 25 years in business.

Pearland City Council officially adopted the recent road study that recommended the connection of Yost and Scarsdale boulevards.

Drill James "DJ" Purifoy, 18, was killed in a Galveston hit-and-run accident after attending Mardi Gras festivities.

5 years ago (2006)
Boundaries for two new PISD schools were ready to be announced. Laura Bush Elementary would relieve overcrowding at Jessup Elementary. Rick Schneider Middle School, specifically designed for fifth- and sixth-graders, would accommodate fifth-graders from Jessup, Freeman, Matthys and South Houston intermediates.

Houston City Councilmember Addie Wiseman discussed several projects affecting the South Belt in the annual Capital Improvement Plan meeting. Among the projects was the completion of the Sagemont Pool (which opened Memorial Day weekend in 2006).

Improvements to Sabo, Hughes and Monroe roads and improvements to Blackhawk Park and a replacement facility for Bracewell Library were announced.

Houston police were investigating the death of Marcus Hosea, who was found dead on Kingspoint near Fuqua. A witness reported hearing a gunshot, and when police arrived, they found Hosea on top of his bicycle in the roadway.

1 year ago (2010)
Police arrested a suspect at the Scarsdale Park Apartments in the 11800 block of Algonquin for the killing of Texas City resident Teresa Marie Wright. Gifford "JJ" Johnson III, a 35-year-old La Marque resident, was reportedly dating Wright at the time of the incident. Texas City police reported that Wright was strangled to death in her home while her three children were asleep. Wright's body was discovered the following morning at roughly 11 a.m. by her 15-year-old daughter.

Police initially found no evidence of foul play, but the Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office concluded her death was a homicide after finding evidence of strangulation. There were no signs of forced entry, prompting police to suspect she knew her attacker. Wright, 33, was enrolled in the Police Academy at College of the Mainland in Texas City and was set to graduate in May.

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HCMGA events set for March

Green Thumb Gardening Series
 Dr. Carol Brouwer, Harris County extension agent for horticulture, and Karen Brennan, Harris County Master Gardener, will present the program, *Great Plants for Houston*. The program will be held Tuesday, March 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the meeting room at Clear Lake Park (on the lake side), 5001 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. These lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the website at <http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort/greenthumb.htm>.

Master Gardener Lecture Series
 Gaye Hammond, past president of the Houston Rose Society, will speak on *The Rose - America's True Native*. The journey will take attendees from the American roses of prehistoric times through the impact of roses on the lives of American Indians, the first explorers and early settlers. They will see some of the first fossils of prehistoric roses and learn and see in photos the wild roses native to America. This lecture is free and open to the public.

It will be held Wednesday, March 16, at 10 a.m. in the Meeting Room at Clear Lake Park (on the lakeside), 5001 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. For more information, visit <http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort>.

Open Garden Day
 The public is invited to tour the working and demonstration gardens maintained by the Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. This is a good chance to see how the garden is recovering after the harsh winter. There's always something new happening in the garden.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions during this free event. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Open Garden Day is set for Monday, March 21, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff in Houston.

For more information, visit the HCMGA website at <http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort>.

BHI, Thompson students perform in Region XIX Orchestra Concert

Recently, students from Beverly Hills and Thompson intermediate schools performed in the Texas Music Educators Association Region XIX Orchestra Concert.

This region consists of all orchestra students in grades 6-8 of Pasadena, Deer Park, Humble and La Porte independent school districts, as well as any private schools in the area; about 20 eligible schools. The region orchestra is an all-star group of the best players from these schools, rehearsed and conducted in a performance by nationally recognized conductors.

These students auditioned along with thousands of other students who play in their respective school orchestras. Thompson's students set a new record of 23 students passing the audition. Beverly Hills had 28 string players and six wind players.

The students' introduction to the audition music started in May of the previous school year. Students were expected to practice the region etudes over the summer, and students rehearsed with the director for two hours each week until the beginning of the school year.

Since August, students met before or after school for eight weeks, once a week for 50 minutes, in one of five section rehearsals on their respective instruments. Their expectation was to practice 30 minutes per day, six days per week or more, until their audition music was mastered.

The students are directed by Ana Payne and Sandra Shaffer (Beverly Hills), Mark Varian (Thompson) in orchestra, and Albert Lo and Wes Hardy (Beverly Hills), Deborah Hirsch (Thompson) in band.

Angela Badon and James Smith of Melillo Middle School, and Michelle Ham, Alice McCoy and Paul Busby instilled the habit of excellence in these students since fifth- and sixth-grade.



Orchestra and band members of Region XIX Orchestra from Beverly Hills and Thompson intermediates are, left to right, (front row) Albert Luu (BHI), Marcela Reina (BHI), Heidi Tran (BHI), Jessica Cortez (BHI), Allen Flores (BHI), (second row) Israel Martinez (GAT), Taylor Nguyen (GAT), Adolfo Gracia (BHI), Angelica de Jesus (BHI), Angela Rosales (BHI), (third row) Charish Williams (GAT), Phuong Pham (GAT), Elissa Nguyen (BHI), Alexis Rodriguez (BHI), Catherine Thai (BHI), (fourth row) Nancy Nguyen (GAT), Wesley Dawson (GAT), Princess Villanueva (BHI), Nhu Nguyen (BHI), (fifth row) Michelle Hoang (GAT), Nicollette Lopez (BHI), Abigail Benavides (BHI), Jocelyn Pena (BHI), (sixth row) Jordan Moreno (GAT), Andres Delgado (BHI), Isaiiah Monzales (BHI), (seventh row) Ben Coronado (GAT), Celeste Briones (GAT), (eighth row) Celina Rabe (GAT), Giaan Nguyen (GAT), Tyson Salinas (BHI), Carlos Borri (BHI), (ninth row) Alondra Arriaga (BHI), Taylor Bainter (BHI), (tenth row) David Cruz (GAT), Jordan Jimenez (GAT), Victoria Blackmon (BHI), Carlos Rodriguez (BHI), (eleventh row) Cristian Ascencio (GAT), Alan Phan (GAT), Kiyah Brooks (BHI), Alyssa Sandoval (BHI), (back row) Vinh Tran (GAT), Kevin Nguyen (GAT), Ruben Vargas (BHI), Isaias Gonzalez (BHI) and Vincent Gonzales (BHI).

Photo submitted

Bradley graduates



E-2 Emerson Rogers Bradley recently graduated from basic training in the U.S. Navy at Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois. Bradley, 19, is currently receiving specialized training at the Dam Neck Fleet Training Center in Virginia Beach. He attended Meador Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate. He is a 2009 graduate of Dobie High School, where he was a member of the academic decathlon team, FFA, and was voted Class Favorite. He is the son of Tiana Rogers of South Belt.

Photo submitted

AARP elects officers for 2011



AARP Chapter 4341 recently elected its 2011 officers. They are, left to right, Betty Kinnison, treasurer; Jack Kestler, president; Terry Fechner, secretary; and Barbara Dillon, vice-president.

Photo submitted

Concert scheduled in memory of late SJC professor Wilkins

In memory of longtime San Jacinto College music professor Noel Wilkins, a scholarship concert will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27, at First Presbyterian Church in Pasadena.

The concert begins at 3 p.m. and will feature the combined choirs of SJC Central under the direction of Dr. Paul Busselberg, the brass ensemble under the direction of Karen Marston, Noel Wilkins Scholarship student Zach Golden, the Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church under the direction of Marilyn Wilkins, and the

Joyful Ringers, also of First Presbyterian under the direction of Dr. Martha Braswell.

Wilkins served as a professor at SJC Central for 35 years, teaching various subjects within the music department, including piano, organ, music literature, and fundamentals of music.

After his death in 2006, a memorial scholarship was set up through the San Jacinto

College Foundation in Wilkins' honor to support music majors at the Central campus.

The Noel Wilkins Scholarship Concert is free to the public; audience members will have an opportunity to donate to the scholarship fund.

First Presbyterian Church is located at 4647 Preston Ave. in Pasadena.

Hobby Lions Club to meet

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club will meet Wednesday, March 2, at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45. For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

Eagerly awaiting checkups



Stuchbery Elementary students wait to have their ears and eyes checked by the school nurse, a routine procedure for all students. Pictured are, left to right, (front) Phil Rivera, (second row) Jalen Thomas, Adrian Longoria, (third row) Cameron Darjean, Ivan Mariscal, Nurse Anita Guerrero, and (back row) Raul Reyes. The boys are all students in Susan Hall's kindergarten class.

Photo submitted

Wedding and engagement policies

Wedding writeups must be run in the newspaper, not submitted, in the time outlined: From wedding date to six weeks - photo and full article; Six weeks to three months - photo and limited info. After three months from wedding date - will not be run. Engagement and wedding announcements are published free of charge on a first come, first served basis. Information must be submitted by Friday to be considered for the next issue.

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Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.		
Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Misa en Espanol	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.	
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.	
Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated			
Thursday	6 to 7 p.m.	Saturday	4 to 5 p.m.

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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	
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Pasadena ISD, HARC, Ignite Solar mark startup of solar rooftop project

The Houston Advanced Research Center, in partnership with the Pasadena Independent School District and Ignite Solar, LLC, recently announced that construction is complete for three solar installations totaling approximately 145 kilowatts of energy at Sam Rayburn and South Houston high schools.

The installed systems are expected to save the district approximately \$15,000 annually in energy usage and will serve as a real-world laboratory showcasing solar energy for students.

The Pasadena ISD Solar Initiative, formally the East Harris County Solar Pilot Program, began as a two-year project managed by HARC, demonstrating the viability and efficiency of solar electric systems used to produce electricity in the Houston area.

As part of the initiative, students at the two high schools will work alongside engineers

and scientists, gaining firsthand knowledge about the function and benefits of three unique, innovative solar technologies.

Funding for the solar initiative was made pursuant to the settlement of a Clean Air Act enforcement suit brought by Environment Texas and the Sierra Club. Sam Rayburn High School later received funding from the State Energy Conservation Office to demonstrate two additional solar technologies.

To celebrate the construction completion of the first Phase of the project, HARC, PISD and Ignite Solar hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference Tuesday, Feb. 15, at Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena. Speakers included Dr. Richard Haut, senior research scientist at HARC; Dr. Kirk Lewis, PISD superintendent; and Peter Mathey, CEO and president of Ignite Solar.

Guest speakers from the funding organizations included Luke Metzger, director of Environment Texas, and Ken Kramer, director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Guests viewed a short solar project highlights video and visited information booths about the technologies, education and outreach, project partners, and sponsors. The event concluded with tours of the solar awning, inverter room and education kiosk.

"We are excited to be part of this multi-faceted project and look forward to sharing all aspects with the community as we continue to develop educational and outreach activities," said Lizabeth Price, research associate at HARC and project manager for the installation.

HARC contracted with Ignite Solar, LLC, a Houston-based company that specializes in the design of commercial and large-scale solar photovoltaic projects, to provide the comprehensive turnkey solar system and Broadus & Associates to provide construction-site management services.

Ignite Solar subcontracted with Houston-based American Electric Technologies, Inc. for power distribution, converter systems and coordination and implementation of the web-based interaction for students, as well as Tecta Solar and CEI Roofing for the solar module and racking installation.

"We designed the system with students in mind, maximizing learning opportunities, and providing meaningful examples to assist in the promotion of solar development in the Houston environment," Mathey said. "This project is unmatched in terms of technological diversity, reporting capabilities, and deployment complexity."

The Moser Baer multi-crystalline, Uni-Solar amorphous thin-film, and Solyntra cylindrical tube solar technologies that comprise the system will introduce students and the community to technologies installed for the first time in this region.

Kiosks and portable demonstration units at each campus will further strengthen the system's educational value. In addition to providing solar expertise, Ignite Solar and the project team of subcontractor and module partners have donated approximately \$30,000 in materials and services to PISD.

PISD administration and staff are incorporating the solar technology education into their curriculum. Lewis noted that "the knowledge and skills students will gain through these experiences will lead to more career pathways and provide more advanced learning opportunities. These lessons will help them succeed in today's global society."

Grace Blasingame, science content specialist, said, "This project allows our students and community to learn about solar energy and how it can be

used to sustain our fragile environment. Our students will perform real world experiments with the data that we collect from the solar arrays. I know of no other district that is providing this type of experience."

About HARC
Founded in 1983, the Houston Advanced Research Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit institution located in The Woodlands, Texas. HARC's founder George P. Mitchell has been a leading advocate of sustainable development, the philosophy that seeks balance between human well-being and the preservation of earth's natural systems for the future.

About PISD
With a growing enrollment of more than 52,000 students, Pasadena ISD is an exceptional district with 18 schools receiving exemplary ratings from the Texas Education Agency and 17 attaining recognized status for their performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test. Since the first classes began in 1898, PISD's vision has been to create an environment that fosters learning to prepare students for future success.

About Ignite Solar
Ignite Solar, LLC, develops medium- to large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) projects and manufactures tracking and fixed mounting systems. Ignite Solar is based in Houston and promotes PV educational outreach and sustainability through dynamic, technology forward projects and initiatives.

San Jac to offer mammography course

With approximately 12,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer in Texas reported each year by the American Cancer Society, the demand increases for specialized technologists trained in mammography.

Registered radiologic technologists, who are interested in specializing in breast imaging, may now enroll in the new mammography for continuing education course offered at San Jacinto College.

This course provides registered technologists with 48 hours of continuing education and 160 hours of clinical experience, which makes them eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist, mammography exam. Participants who successfully complete the exam will add registered mammographer to their credentials.

Former medical radiography student Janet Garcia said both professional and personal reasons played a role when considering this particular area of study. Witnessing a family member's experience with breast cancer affirmed her decision to pursue the mammography course this semester.

"Unfortunately I do know people that have been affected by breast cancer," said Garcia. "My aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. I can't say this completely influenced my decision to enroll in the course because it's something I had already thought about, but it did make the decision that much easier. I strongly believe early detection is key."

Like many students in the course, Garcia already works as a radiologic technologist at Bayshore Medical Center. Her classmate, Stacey Sikes, works at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and said she has been waiting for an opportunity to return to school for mammography certification.

"I have been waiting for a long time to see if they were going to create a course for this modality," said Sikes. "I'm really excited San Jacinto College decided to start this certification."

Those with knowledge of more than one diagnostic imaging procedure, such as mammography, will have the best employment opportunities, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment of radiologic



Liza Velasquez (center), San Jacinto College mammography coordinator, demonstrates the use of mammography equipment for students Janet Garcia (left) and Stacey Sikes (right). Both Garcia and Sikes are registered radiologic technologists who went back to school to complete the college's new mammography for continuing education course.

Photo by Jeannie Peng-Armao

technologists is expected to increase by about 17 percent by 2018, faster than the average for all occupations.

"Employment opportunities will increase for these individuals," said Liza Velasquez, SJC mammography coordinator. "This course is

competitive and valued in the health care community." Velasquez said the 16-week course covers the history of mammography, role of a mammographer, anatomy and physiology, positioning of the breast and specialized views, equip-

ment and quality assurance, technique and image evaluation, pathology, and special procedures of breast imaging.

Students will also be assigned to various hospitals in the Houston area for their clinical rotations.

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Cabaret at San Jac South March 9-13

The San Jacinto College South Fine Arts Department will present *Cabaret* - book

by Joe Masteroff, lyrics by Fred Ebb and music by John Kander - Wednesday through

Sunday, March 9 through March 13. Liz Lacy will be directing.

It's the end of the Roaring '20s. An aspiring writer named Cliff Bradshaw has traveled to Berlin in search of inspiration when he happens upon Sally Bowles at the Kit Kat Klub - a cabaret, where the master of ceremonies welcomes the audience through painted lips and assures them that, whatever their troubles, they will forget them at the

cabaret.

Memorable songs such as *Willkommen*, *Don't Tell Mama*, and *Money* provide wry commentary on the flotsam and jetsam of a doomed society. As Cliff and Sally start up a passionate affair, Cliff struggles to write of the tumultuous and heartbreaking era leading up to the Third Reich. This multiple Tony award-winning musical is a must-see classic.

Curtain times for the show

are 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, through Saturday, March 12, with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 13. Doors open 30 minutes prior to curtain. This production is located in the proscenium theatre of the Marie Flickinger Fine Arts Building.

Adult tickets are \$10, and student/senior tickets are \$8. To ensure tickets, e-mail mark.robbins@sjcd.edu or call 281-922-3497.

Cody the Coyote visits Moore



San Jacinto College South's Cody the Coyote made a visit to Moore Elementary recently to spread spirit at the school's annual Jump Rope for Heart event. Cody was also joined by Junction Jack from the Houston Astros, Buddy and Redi Clinic Runny Nose from H-E-B, and Louie the Longhorn and the Dobie High School cheerleaders.

Photo by Andrea Vasquez



Amanda Castaneda as Sally (left) and Andres Greaber as Cliff start up a passionate affair in the upcoming performance of *Cabaret* in the proscenium theatre of the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building at San Jacinto College South campus March 9-13.

The Community Profile is Back in 2011!

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is pleased to announce the return of the annual pull-out Special Community Profile Edition featuring local businesses and community information. By participating in this edition, you get more bang for your buck as area residents often keep this issue to refer back to the ads and important information it contains.

Any regular *Leader*-sized ad can be placed in this edition, however, by placing at least a 27-column inch advertisement, you have the choice to include either a photograph or a story about your experience as a business here in South Belt. If you choose to place a quarter page ad, you get to include both a photo and a story.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

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Dobie baseball wins opener 8-4 over F-wood

Clear Brook falls 6-3 at Morton Ranch

Basing the potential success or failure of an athletic season on the outcome of one game is fool's gold, but it's hard for the Dobie Longhorns' varsity baseball team not to feel good about itself.

Banging out eight runs on 12 hits, making a couple of great defensive plays and getting a steady pitching performance, the Longhorns downed Friendswood 8-4 Feb. 21 at Dobie.

However, the Clear Brook Wolverines did not enjoy such a successful debut for first-year coach Gene Flores.

The Wolverines, taking on Morton Ranch Feb. 21, fell 6-3 on the road.

Dobie tops F-wood
Friendswood came into the season with much more hype, having been given the preseason Class 4A No. 2 ranking in the Houston area.

Instead, it was the Longhorns' work at the plate that stole the show.

Senior shortstop Al Gonzalez led the hit parade with an RBI single in the first inning and a solo homer to left-center field in the fourth.

First baseman Xavier Johnson had three singles, and Marcelo Martinez and Tory Tapper had two hits each.

Justin Eckols, beginning his third season behind the plate, had a two-run single to give Dobie a 3-0 lead in

the second inning. Troy Tapper, starting the season in center field, had a pair of singles. Zach Long had an RBI triple in the second inning and also threw

out a Friendswood runner at second base from his spot in right field.

Along the way, the Longhorns got a solid outing from junior right-hander

Emmitt Pitts.

And Long came on in relief, his first pitching performance since 2009, and got two big outs to end a Friendswood rally.

Overall, it was simply a good, but not great, all-

around performance for the team needing to get out of the gate quickly.

It was also a big win considering that starting third baseman Edward Peabody, the team's top offensive player from 2010, has yet to join the team while playing basketball.

Although he allowed

baserunners in each of his five innings, Pitts managed to avoid trouble each frame with the exception of the top of the third inning.

Continued on Page 6B



Senior shortstop Al Gonzalez powered Dobie's offense on opening day against Friendswood, going 2 for 3 with two RBIs, including a solo homer to left-center field in the bottom of the fourth inning. The Longhorns won 8-4 at Dobie in a game halted in the bottom of the fifth inning because of darkness.

Boys' hoops playoffs

Glass cleaning effort lifts PAM over Longhorns

In what has become a seemingly annual varsity boys' basketball bidistrict battle, Port Arthur Memorial advanced the series at two games apiece.

More importantly, however, is that Dobie will now have to wait until next year or beyond to get a chance at the upper hand again.

Enjoying a 43-25 edge in rebounding, Port Arthur Memorial defeated Dobie 65-54 at the Carl Parker Center on the campus of Lamar State-Port Arthur College.

Memorial advances to take on Fort Bend Travis in the area round, while Dobie's season is done at 20-

12 overall.

Memorial built an early seven-point lead, but Dobie's smothering defensive effort forced 10 turnovers the rest of the way, allowing the Longhorns to close within 27-24 at the half.

But Memorial jumped out of halftime on an 8-2 run, essentially taking control of the contest.

Up 11 to start the final eight minutes, Memorial could afford to trade baskets with Dobie.

The two teams did just that, with both scoring 20 points. In the end, Memorial's advantage on the backboards was too much to overcome.

Despite turning the ball over as often as they did, the Titans simply were able to get too many second-chance scoring opportunities because of the rebounding edge.

BAFL's Southbelt Dolphins seek drill, cheer, mascots

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will host a meeting for returning and potential new members of the team's mascot, cheer and drill squads for the 2011 season.

Youth ages 5 through 13 as of Sept. 1, 2011 are invited to join the programs.

Dating back to the 2006-2007 season, Dobie has now met Port Arthur Memorial four times in five seasons to open the playoffs.

The Longhorns used two

Continued on Page 6B

Dobie's 4x100 relay unit sets school record



Dobie High School's 4x100-meter relay team established a new school record at the South Houston High School Invitational Feb. 18, posting a time of 43.1 seconds for the record. Teammates, from left, DeMarcus Boyd, Andrew Robinson, Devonte Boyd

and Davion Hurst, delivered the performance at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena. Dobie will continue its track and field season Feb. 25 at the Brown Relays at Auxiliary Stadium. See story on Page 6B.

Photo by Anita Porsche-Garcia

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Bears holding prestigious cup lead

Defending Pasadena Independent School District Cup champion Beverly Hills is holding a slim lead over its nine competitors as the spring athletics season commences.

According to Cup rules, schools are awarded points based on team finish in each of the team sports.

With the football, girls' volleyball and boys' and girls' basketball seasons complete, the Bears lead Thompson by 23 points and third-place Bondy by nearly 30.

PISD athletic department officials will wait for the cross country and track and field seasons to end before determining a champion for the 2010-2011 school year.

PISD Cup

Intermediate School Standings

Beverly Hills	135.3
Thompson	112.3
Bondy	106.8
Southmore	103.3
Queens	91
San Jacinto	90
Miller	87.75
Park View	79.75
South Houston	48.75
Jackson	29.25

Sports included: football, volleyball and boys' and girls' basketball.

Sports news, notes

Rising Stars track sign up

The Rising Stars youth track and field club will host a final registration Saturday, Feb. 26, from noon to 2 p.m. at Dobie High School. A practice will also be held in conjunction with the registration session. The season will get under way soon. For more information about the Rising Stars' program, contact head coach Ivory Kimble at 832-561-1248, assistant coach Erica Davis at 832-830-5029 or assistant coach Donald Walker at 832-283-7945. Those interested in other team information may also visit the team website at www.sportata.com/risingstars.

9U-12U select baseball tryouts

The Nightmare Amateur Sports 9-12-under select baseball program will host tryouts for its team this month. The team will compete in the United States Specialty Sports Association, Nations, Amateur Athletic Union, open division and Global Sports tournaments. The Nightmare will have a partial sponsorship, which will keep player tournament fees low. To set an appointment for a tryout, contact coach Terrance Small at 832-212-3543.

BAFL Dolphins host sign-up

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will host registration for returning players Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at El Franco Lee Park near the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League facility. A \$75 deposit will be required in order for the returning players to secure their spot for the 2011 season. Those who register will be fitted for their uniform during the session.

BAFL Rams to barbecue

The Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League will host a fundraiser barbecue Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Discount Tire location at 10250 Alameda-Genoa Road. Members of the Rams' board of directors and the coaching staff will prepare plates for purchase, and donations are welcome. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Funds raised will be used to cover team costs for the upcoming 2011 season.

Sports Calendar

Soccer

Thursday, Feb. 24

Dobie JV White boys hosts South Houston, Dobie, 4:00
Dobie JV (B) girls at Deer Park, 4:00

Friday, Feb. 25

Brook varsity girls host Alvin, 7:00
Brook varsity boys at Alvin, 7:00
Dobie varsity boys at Deer Park, Abshire, 7:00
Brook JV girls host Alvin, 5:00
Brook JV boys at Alvin, 5:00
Dobie JV boys at Deer Park, Abshire, 5:00

Saturday, Feb. 26

Dobie varsity girls host Deer Park, Newcomb, 10 a.m.
Dobie JV boys White hosts North Shore, Dobie, 10 a.m.
Dobie JV (A) girls host Deer Park, Auxiliary, 10 a.m.
Dobie JV (B) girls at Pearland, 10 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity boys vs. Pasadena, Newcomb, 4:00
Dobie varsity girls vs. Pasadena, Auxiliary, 4:00

Tuesday, March 1

Brook varsity boys host Clear Creek, 7:00
Brook varsity girls at Clear Creek, 7:00
Brook JV boys host Clear Creek, 5:00
Brook JV girls at Clear Creek, 5:00

Softball

Thursday, Feb. 24

Brook varsity hosts Santa Fe, 11 a.m.
Dobie varsity vs. Santa Fe, at Clear Brook, 1:00
Dobie varsity vs. Columbia, at Clear Brook, 3:00
Brook varsity hosts Columbia, 5:00

Friday, Feb. 25

Brook varsity hosts La Porte, 11 a.m.
Dobie varsity vs. College Park, at Clear Springs, 1:00
Dobie varsity vs. Clear Springs, at Clear Springs, 3:00
Brook varsity hosts Texas City, 3:00

Saturday, Feb. 26

Brook varsity hosts College Park, 11 a.m.
Dobie varsity vs. Goose Creek, at Clear Brook, 1:00

Tuesday, March 1

Brook varsity hosts St. Agnes, 6:00
Dobie varsity at Clear Lake, 6:30
Brook JV hosts St. Agnes, 4:30
Dobie JV at Clear Lake, 5:00

Baseball

Thursday, Feb. 24

Dobie varsity vs. Livingston, at Humble, 10 a.m.
Brook varsity at La Porte, 2:30
Dobie varsity at Kingwood Park, 3:00
Brook varsity vs. Boerne Champion, at La Porte, 7:30

Friday, Feb. 25

Brook vs. Manvel, at La Porte, 9:30 a.m.
Dobie varsity vs. Baytown Memorial, at Humble, 10 a.m.
Dobie varsity vs. Caney Creek, at Kingwood Park, 3:00

Saturday, Feb. 26

Brook vs. Texas City, at La Porte, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 28

Dobie varsity hosts Dickinson, Dobie, 4:00

Tuesday, March 1

Brook varsity at Port Neches-Groves, 6:00
Brook JV at Fort Bend Bush, 6:00
Brook sophomores at Fort Bend Bush, 4:00

Varsity hoops – Brook boys, Dobie girls eliminated

The local high school basketball season came two steps closer to completion after the varsity boys' team at Clear Brook and the Dobie varsity girls' squad were eliminated from the postsea-

son. Clear Brook's journey through the playoffs actually ended before it began. The Wolverines finished in a fourth-place tie in District 24-5A with Clear Lake after both teams ended the

season at 8-6. To decide the district's fourth playoff seed, Clear Brook and Clear Lake went head-to-head Feb. 18, at Clear Creek. Clear Lake emerged from the game with a 41-36 vic-

tory, ending the Wolverines' season. The game was tight the entire way. Fred Richardson led the Wolverines with 17 points, and Spencer Bowman had 10 points in his final high school game. For its win, Clear Lake

then went against Fort Bend Travis in the bidistrict round of the playoffs, losing 66-62.

Clear Brook head coach Jason Pillow watched as seven of his players took part in their final game.

However, Richardson and Chris Campbell, the team's top two leading scorers from this season, will be back to lead the way for 2011-2012.

The Dobie varsity girls' team is also finished for the season after suffering a 64-48 loss to Fort Bend Elkins.

Dobie, which defeated La Porte in the first round of the playoffs, battled 21-5A champion Elkins to a draw in the first half as the Knights led 33-31 at the half.

But the beginning of the end for Dobie came in the third quarter as Elkins outscored the Lady Longhorns 19-8 in the quarter to lead 52-39 entering the final eight minutes.

Dobie has now advanced to the area playoff round in each of the past two seasons. The Lady Longhorns defeated La Porte 42-41 in this season's first round of the playoffs.

Like the Clear Brook boys, the Dobie girls will also lose seven seniors from this year's squad, including Darien Price, Derika Thomas, Chelsea Rodriguez, Aduago Aaron, Carissa Buentello, Melissa Knight and Alyssa Rodriguez.

However, head coach Shane Brown has building blocks in place for next season, including Gaston, the team's leading scorer, and Jazmin Guerrero.

The team will also return Kate Inchun, Danielle Crawford and Nyla



Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball coach Jason Pillow guided his team to a four-game winning streak to close the regular season, but the Wolverines missed the playoffs after dropping a fourth-place play-in game, 41-36 to Clear Lake.



Shanequa Gaston scored 13 points for Dobie's varsity girls' basketball team, but a 19-8 third-quarter push by Elkins allowed the Knights to take a 64-48 victory in an area round playoff game Feb. 18 at Clear Brook.

Photos by John Bechtel

PISD youth tennis to teach net skills

The Pasadena Independent School District is slated to begin its Scoop It Up Quick Start youth tennis program across the area.

Students attending the second through sixth grades are eligible to take part in the program.

The program, designed to help get the district's young students involved in the game of tennis at an early age, will be taught by a variety of qualified instructors at each of the district's five high schools as well as Beverly Hills Intermediate. Students may pick up an

entry form from their physical education instructor at school. Cost of the program is \$25, which includes a racket, T-shirt and water bottle along with the lessons.

Student pick-up packet date is Saturday, April 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.

The lesson dates include April 3, April 10, April 17 and May 1. Each of the lessons will run from 1 to 2:15 p.m. For additional information, call Joey Pena at 832-788-4040.

San Jacinto softball drops three of four



San Jacinto College sophomore softball player Landyn Myers (above), head coach Kelly Saenz (right) and the rest of the Coyotes are looking to get back on track after dropping three of four games at the McLennan tournament in Waco Feb. 19-20. San Jacinto defeated Texarkana 9-2 but then scored just six runs in losses to host McLennan and Temple, twice. At 9-4 overall, the Coyotes played Navarro Feb. 23, after press time. The team travels to the Temple tournament Feb. 25-26.



PISD cross country Lady Bears, Thompson run well

The Pasadena Independent School District's intermediate level cross country season began Feb. 16, at Sam Rayburn High School.

Bondy captured both girls' divisions to highlight the events over the two-mile course.

Locally, the Beverly Hills and Thompson seventh- and eighth-grade teams both ran well.

BHI 8s run fifth

Behind Mariah Escobar's fourth-place finish at 13 minutes, 36.73 seconds, the Lady Bears claimed fifth in the meet.

Erica Romero was 14th for the Lady Bears, earning a time of 14:38.68. The team's other scorers included Alondra Arriaga (30th at 15:16.27), Jacquelyn Villarreal (44th at 15:48.16) and

Mercedys Olguin (54th at 16:11.69).

The Lady Bears' other finishers included Jaclyn Oden-Peace (55th at 16:13.49), Kianna Zermeno (60th at 16:22.11), Clarissa Moreno (68th at 16:29.56), Lyly Nguyen (69th at 16:30.07), Tina Nguyen (82nd at 17:10.70), Tanya Ho (83rd at 17:16.47), Christen Dryden (87th at 17:30.95), Virginia Soto (17:42.70), and Malyn Nunez (115th at 22:06.51).

Thompson 8s go 8th

The Lady Lions' eighth-grade team eventually finished eighth in the first meet of the season.

In the 27th spot, Emily Wolfe was the team's top runner as she posted a time of 15:12.56.

Valerie Colunga also

scored for the Lady Lions as she was 31st in a time of 15:21.67.

Desiree Johnson placed 64th in a time of 16:27.61, and Raquel DelaGarza was 81st in a time of 17:05.91.

Thompson's fifth scorer was A'yuna Bradford, who was 89th in a time of 17:43.04.

Others who competed for the Lady Lions in the opening meet of the season were Michelle SanMiguel (97th at 18:18.21), Cybelle Cerda (100th at 18:50.89), Ashley McDonald (103rd at 19:29.91), Maria Mejia-Ortiz (104th at 19:29.91), Alexis Corpus (106th at 19:33.88), Adriana Resendez (107th at 19:39.43), Sahari Gomez (108th at 19:42.16) and Alyssa Gonzales (110th at 20:19.68).

Beverly Hills, Thompson open cross country running season

The Pasadena Independent School District's intermediate level cross country season began Feb. 16, at Sam Rayburn High School.

San Jacinto won both of the boys' team competitions, and Bondy captured both girls' divisions. Along the way, the respective teams from Beverly Hills and Thompson competed well.

BHI boys 7th is third

The Beverly Hills' seventh-grade boys' team made a successful debut, taking third place in the two-mile event. San Jacinto won the meet, and the Bears were third among 10 teams.

D'Vaughn Pennamon was the Bears' top finisher, taking the 10th spot at 12 minutes, 35 seconds.

Beverly Hills next had three runners take the 16-17-18 spots as Johnny Gallardo was 16th at 12:46, Jordan Lyons was 17th at 12:47 and Edwin Luna placed 18th in a time of 12:48.

The Bears' fifth finisher was Damon Countee, whose time of 13:25 was 31st.

Other finishers for the Bears included Dennis Lopez (36th at 13:32), Logan Walker (40th at 13:40), Justin Rodriguez (44th at 13:46), Mark Cruz (52nd at 13:54), Daniel Harder (53rd at 13:55), Josh Varela (56th at 14:02), Daniel Escobedo (67th at 14:17), Josh Simmons (70th at 14:21) and Isaac Rodriguez (79th at

14:37).

Lions' 7s are 6th

Thompson's seventh-grade boys' team wound up sixth overall as a team as Tyson Thompson captured third overall (12:17) to lead the way.

After Thompson, the Lions' next-best finisher was Christian Sosa, whose time of 13:10 placed him 25th. Tyler Giron's time of 13:23 landed him 29th, and Oliver Francisco was 63rd at 14:09.

The Lions' fifth scorer was Kevin Cortez, who was 66th at 14:12. Thompson's other finishers included Josh Dishongh (75th at 14:31), Isaiiah Brooks (89th at 14:56), Javier Guerra (90th at 14:58), Adam Vasquez (91st at 14:59), Juan Perez (92nd at 15:00), Jonathan Ramirez (100th at 15:28), Cody Murray (103rd at 15:32), Zishan Kibir (110th at 15:58), David Mendiola (116th at 16:39) and Orlando Logan (122nd at 17:03).

Thompson 8s are 5th

The Lions' eighth-grade boys' team was in the middle of the pack, placing fifth.

Robert Saenz paved the way for the Lions as his time of 12:24 placed him 17th. Jacob Cardenas was 28th in a time of 12:50, and Jordan Jimenez was 34th at 12:56.

Ty Lozano ran his way to a 39th-place finish in a time of 13:01, and Jimmy Neva-

rez was 43rd at 13:05.

At 45th, Carlos Martinez and his time of 13:07 led the other Lions' finishers. Others included Alex Martinez (53rd at 13:21), Zach Blue (55th at 13:23), Tyler Scott (57th at 13:26), Jeff Tyler (70th at 13:45), Joe Lopez (104th at 14:52), Renato Valdez (113th at 15:14), Augustine Oguamanom (120th at 16:13), Austin Morales (121st at 16:15) and Austin Perkins (126th at 16:50).

Bears' 8s are ninth
The Beverly Hills eighth-grade boys' team got off to a bit of a sluggish start to the season, placing ninth overall.

The Bears' best finisher was Rodolpho Jimenez, who was 16th at 12:19. Adrian Rivera was 51st in a time of 13:16, and Fabian Osorio was 54th at 13:22.

After that, several Bears ran in a group to the finish line. Those runners included Joseph Gutierrez (76th at 13:52), Brandon Carrington (77th at 13:53), Isaiiah Perez (78th at 13:54), Nick Reicheldeffer (80th at 14:00) and Nixon Urrutia (82nd at 14:04).

The Bears' other finishers included Jason Reyes (85th at 14:14), Aaron Jordan (88th at 14:20), Robert Barrera (95th at 14:27), McKay Sumra (99th at 14:26), Alvaro Sanchez (100th at 14:37), Jeremy Reyna (103rd at 14:51) and Trevor Serenil (106th at 14:54).

Clear Brook's Stewart picks Central Christian



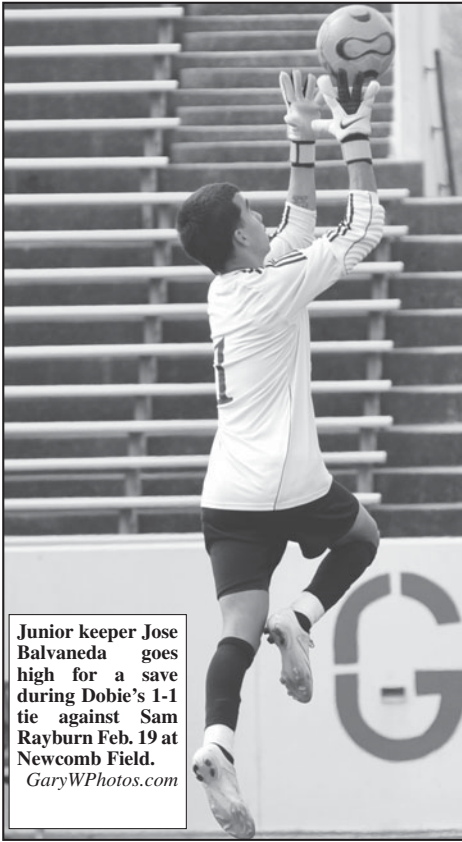
Clear Brook senior Jordan Stewart (seated center) will continue her education and softball career at Central Christian College in McPherson, Kan., after signing a letter of intent. Those with her at the signing included, left to right, (seated) Dina Stewart (mother), Richard Alcala (grandfather), (standing) Joey Thomas (Brook associate principal), Adrienne Shanklin-Miles (Brook assistant principal), Don Doss (select coach), Jimmy Brown (select coach), Brad Stewart (father) and Joe Rutherford (select coach).

Brook players honor former teammate Evans

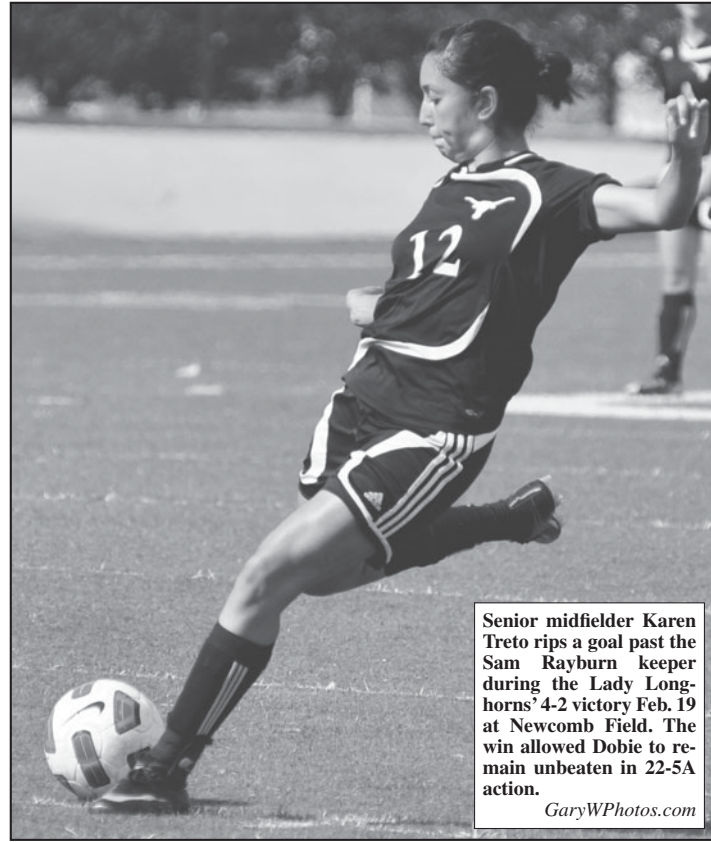


Clear Brook varsity boys' soccer players Giovanni Menendez (18), Jake Stercula (15), Andrew Lee (3) and Austin Fuller (6) and the rest of their teammates recognized a moment of silence during a pre-game ceremony in honor of former teammate Bryan Evans, who died last June due to complications from juvenile diabetes. Each of the players wears a warm-up T-shirt with Evans' nickname, "Chuy," embossed on the back. The Wolverines went on to fall 3-1 to Pearland in the game.

ans, who died last June due to complications from juvenile diabetes. Each of the players wears a warm-up T-shirt with Evans' nickname, "Chuy," embossed on the back. The Wolverines went on to fall 3-1 to Pearland in the game.



Junior keeper Jose Balvaneda goes high for a save during Dobie's 1-1 tie against Sam Rayburn Feb. 19 at Newcomb Field. GaryWPhotos.com



Senior midfielder Karen Tretro rips a goal past the Sam Rayburn keeper during the Lady Longhorns' 4-2 victory Feb. 19 at Newcomb Field. The win allowed Dobie to remain unbeaten in 22-5A action. GaryWPhotos.com

Playoff contenders begin to emerge in district 22-5A, 24-5A varsity soccer races

As the high school varsity soccer season reaches its midway point, the playoff contenders are beginning to assert themselves in the various Region III districts.

That's good news for some, and not so good for others as the action continues. Both of the varsity teams at Dobie High School are

looking good in the standings with one more game to be played in the first half of district play.

The Dobie boys are looking to tighten their grip on first place after going 3-0-1 through the first four games.

Despite a 1-1 tie against Sam Rayburn Feb. 18, the Longhorns bounced back strong with a 4-2 victory over South Houston Feb. 22.

With 10 points through four games, the Longhorns are in first place in the 22-5A standings.

A victory over Deer Park Friday, Feb. 25, at Abshire Stadium in Deer Park will leave the Longhorns sitting pretty in the 22-5A mix as no other team has emerged as a stiff challenger.

The Pioneer Trojans have also done their part in taking care of business in District 22-5A. On Saturday, Feb. 26, the Lady Longhorns will take on Deer Park for first place in the 22-5A field. The big game will begin at 10 a.m. at Newcomb Field in Pasadena.

At 4-0, both Dobie and Deer Park have jumped ahead of the field. On Feb. 18, the Lady Longhorns bounced Sam Rayburn 4-2 as sophomore Brittany Hernandez was the most valuable player of the game, netting two goals and an assist. Tanya Palomares and Karen Tretro also scored for Dobie.

Lutheran South Academy honors top boys' soccer players

Lutheran South Academy recognized some of its top varsity boys' soccer players during the team's season-ending banquet Feb. 23.

The Pioneers, who were led by former Clear Brook High School coach Rick Sickmiller, finished the season at 7-11, earning two

more wins than in the previous 2009-2010 campaign. LSA's overall Most Valuable Player was Tommy Pace, a senior center midfielder who was also a first team, all-district selection.

Senior forward Zach Lunz, who led the team in goals scored with nine, shared the Offensive Player of the Year Award with freshman center midfielder Jaime Arteaga.

The team's Defensive Player of the Year was Taylor Canada, and Cody Pratt, a senior wing, was the Pioneers' Most Improved Player.

Nick Espinoza, a senior defender, was given the Pioneers' Leadership Award, and Mike Roberson, a senior forward, shared LSA's Pioneer Award with senior defender/forward Jacob Choate.

Sickmiller said the team reached his personal goal of winning more games than the previous season despite facing a tough district lineup.

In the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, five teams from each district may qualify for the playoffs.

The Pioneers were in the mix for that fifth spot heading into the final game of the season.

Dobie powerlifting remains on the rise

The Dobie High School powerlifting teams stood tall again at a meet at Santa Fe High School and are continuing a fine season.

The Lady Longhorns' varsity team stepped up and claimed the overall team title at Santa Fe, impressing coach Kenneth Foster along the way.

"These young ladies are performing at a very high level," Foster said. "I am very proud of their work ethic and dedication."

As expected, team veterans Dorothy Tran and Faith Roberts are showing the way for many of the others.

"Faith is really doing a great job, splitting her time between softball and powerlifting," Foster said.

The two newest members of the team, Bree Smith and Brittney Bates, are holding their own. They are scoring big points and bringing home medals.

Foster also singled out the fine effort of the other Lady Longhorns, including Madelyn Garcia, Brianna Jamison, Megan Snyder and Christina Dorantes.

"These young ladies have brought home medals from every meet and just doing a terrific job for us."

Foster said that despite facing stiff competition from several schools, the

Upcoming soccer games

Friday, Feb. 25

Brook boys at Alvin, 7 p.m.

Dobie boys at Deer Park, Abshire, 7 p.m.

Brook girls host Alvin, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 26

Dobie girls host Deer Park, Newcomb, 10 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 28

Dobie boys vs. Pasadena, Newcomb 4 p.m.

Dobie girls vs. Pasadena, Auxiliary, 4 p.m.

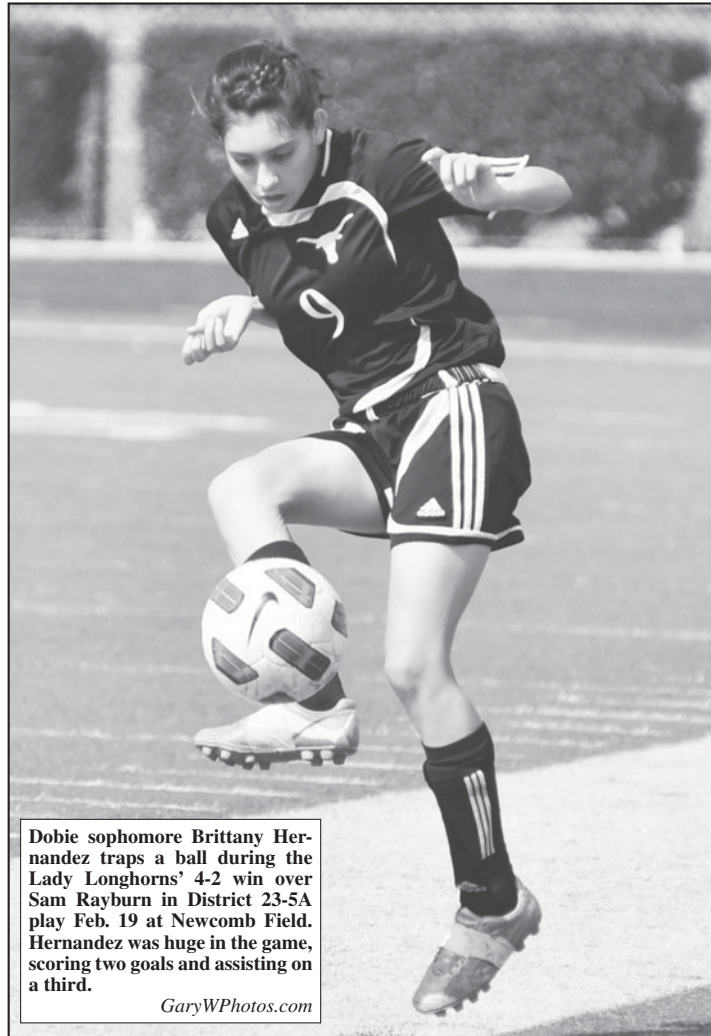
Tuesday, March 1

Brook boys host Clear Creek, 7 p.m.

Brook girls at Clear Creek, 7 p.m.



Dobie senior Pedro Mares (10) fights for ball control against Sam Rayburn's Hector Carranza during the Longhorns' 1-1 tie against the Texans Feb. 19, at Newcomb Field. After the tie, the Longhorns rebounded to defeat the South Houston Trojans 4-2 Feb. 22, pushing their record to 4-0-1. GaryWPhotos.com



Dobie sophomore Brittany Hernandez traps a ball during the Lady Longhorns' 4-2 win over Sam Rayburn in District 23-5A play Feb. 19 at Newcomb Field. Hernandez was huge in the game, scoring two goals and assisting on a third. GaryWPhotos.com

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

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

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

Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.

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

Pasadena Gulf Coast Art Society - Monthly meetings held the last Thursday of each month in the Community Room at Pasadena Town Square Mall.

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 25

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

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

Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets the last Friday of each month at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive in Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

Frontier Squares - Meets to square dance at the Westminster Academy at 670 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or visit www.frontiersquares.com.

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

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

MONDAY, FEB. 28

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

Friends of Parker Williams Library - Meetings are held at the Parker Williams Branch Library on the fourth Monday of each month at 9 a.m. except for January, April, July and October, when

they are held at 7 p.m. to accommodate members who work during the day. There will be no meeting in December.

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

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

New Directions Singles Club - The New Directions Singles Club has moved its time and location from St. Paul's Catholic Church, Nassau Bay, to Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 West NASA Parkway in Webster. Meetings are held every Monday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. This organization was created as a social support outlet for 50+ widowed, divorced and never married individuals. In addition to the regular meeting, a potluck dinner is held on the first and third Mondays. Call 713-340-2354 for information.

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

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

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

Local NARFE Meeting - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets the first Tuesday of each

month in the Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Parkway. A meal will be available for \$6. For more information, call Bob Mitchell at 281-333-2881.

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

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main. For information, call 713-946-6049.

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

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

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Due to Sagemont Recreation Center closing for remodeling, TOPS will meet at the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint. For information, call Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 25

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

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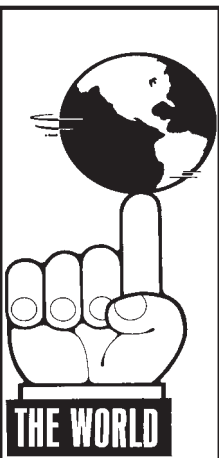
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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
11:30 a.m.
Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway (Fuqua and I-45). For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.
4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise held from 4 to 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
6 p.m.
Alzheimer's Support Group - The free group meets the first Wednesday of each month in the third floor classrooms 3 and 4 of Bayshore Medical Center, 4000 Spencer Hwy. in Pasadena. For more information, call 713-944-4782 or 713-266-6400.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Domestic violence support group for male survivors meets each Wednesday at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway. Call 281-338-7600 for information. Participants may join at any time as this is an open group.
7 p.m.
Survivors of Suicide Support Group - The Southeast Houston group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. The group offers support and coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adult individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. For information on registration or to obtain a physical address for a location, call 713-533-4500 or visit www.crisishotline.org.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Confidential domestic violence support group for women meets every week. For information, call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com. BAPT is located at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway between Interstate 45 South and Highway 3. The 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
Noon
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise from noon to 1 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.
6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.
Diabetes Support Group - A support group for young adults with diabetes. All subjects are open for discussion: new technologies, research advances, fears, phobias, dating and other personal matters. Meets the first Thursday of each month at 1315 St. Joseph Parkway #1705, Medical Place One. Contact Dan Steiner, CDE, at 713-756-8536 for more information.
7 p.m.
The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble at Bay Area Boulevard and the Gulf Freeway. Newcomers are welcome.
8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

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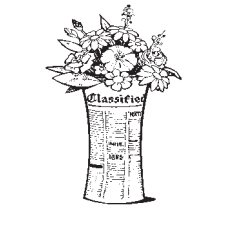
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Horns' baseball gets opening victory, Humble tourney next

Continued from Page 1B

With Dobie up 5-0, Pitts surrendered four runs on four hits in the third inning.

Beyond that bump in the road, Pitts fanned six hitters over his 4 1/3 innings on the mound.

"Emmitt was effective when he had to be," Torres said. "He allowed some guys to reach base but was able to come up with the big pitches when they were needed."

After Gonzalez's blast to left field in the bottom of the fourth inning gave Dobie a 6-4 edge, Pitts retired the first hitter of the fifth inning before giving up a single and a walk.

Long entered the game

and coaxed a pop-up to shortstop and then fanned another hitter to end the inning.

"Zach also did a great job of getting us out of the fifth when Friendswood had runners at second and third," Torres said. "If they would have scored those, the game would have been tied again."

With darkness settling in, the umpires elected to continue the game in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Sophomore Jose Cabrera, pinch-hitting for Gonzalez in the fifth inning, came through with a run-scoring single.

Johnson banged an RBI single to left field for an 8-4

Dobie lead before the umpires stopped play.

"It was a good win over a Friendswood team that is always pretty talented," Torres said.

"But our guys understand that this is just one game, and we have probably 29 more or so that are going to be just as important."

And with 11 seniors on the roster, Torres is already seeing the benefit of a veteran group.

"These guys are worried only about the W's," Torres said. "It's all about coming out on top and doing the things we need to do as a team to win. Hopefully, we can keep it rolling."

Dobie's season will con-

tinue at the Humble ISD tournament Feb. 24-26, and the team will then host Dickinson Feb. 28, at Dobie High School.

For right now, all things are good in the Dobie varsity baseball world. One word of caution, however. It's early in the season.

Boosters to meet March 2
The Dobie Diamond Club, the Longhorns' baseball booster organization, will host a parent meeting Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the athletics media room.

For more information, call president Gloria Sanchez at 713-303-9157 or Lisa Manriquez at 713-516-7539.



Emmitt Pitts, drawing the opening day start against Friendswood, was the winning pitcher for Dobie as he went 4 1/3 innings, striking out six along the way. The Longhorns' offense gave the junior hurler plenty of run support, banging their way to an 8-4 victory at Dobie.

At right, Dobie senior catcher Justin Eckols (left) and head coach Miguel Torres discuss an upcoming at bat during the Longhorns' season-opening 8-4 victory over Friendswood Feb. 21. Eckols, entering his third varsity season behind the plate, helped his team defeat the Mustangs with his glove and his bat. Eckols threw out a Friendswood runner attempting to steal third base to end the top of the first inning and then drove in two runs with a single in the bottom of the second inning. Dobie got a good pitching effort from Emmitt Pitts, and there were a couple of good defensive plays in the mix. But it was Dobie's offensive with 12 hits and eight runs scored that made the difference in the game.



La Porte ISD tourney
Thursday, Feb. 24: Brook vs. La Porte, 2:30 p.m.; Brook vs. Boerne Champion, 7:30 p.m. Both at La Porte
Friday, Feb. 25: Brook vs. Manvel, 9:30 a.m., at La Porte
Saturday, Feb. 26: Brook vs. Texas City, 1:30 p.m., at La Porte

Humble-Kingwood Invite
Thursday, Feb. 24: Dobie vs. Livingston, at Humble, 10 a.m.; Dobie vs. Kingwood Park, at Kingwood Park, 3 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 25: Dobie vs. Baytown Memorial, at Humble, 10 a.m.; Dobie vs. Caney Creek, at Kingwood Park, 3 p.m.



Dobie senior outfielder Xavier Hernandez slides past Friendswood catcher Gunner Holle to score the Longhorns' third run of the game in the second inning. The Longhorns built a 5-0 lead and went on to defeat

Friendswood 8-4 in a game shortened to five innings because of darkness. Dobie will try to keep its momentum going during an appearance at the Humble ISD tournament Feb. 24-26.

Photos by John Bechtle

Dobie, Brook softball squads complete first tournaments

Two softball teams playing at the varsity level with younger, less experienced players are thus far heading in two different directions.

Heading into the Clear Creek Independent School District tournament, where both Clear Brook and Dobie will be in action, the respective teams will be looking to pile up wins for different reasons.

Clear Brook, 2-4 to this point after a 5-4 loss at home to Deer Park Feb. 22, is looking to get back on track after losing four of its last five games.

Dobie, despite a 6-2 loss to Brazoswood Feb. 22, is seeking to keep its momentum going after winning five of eight games to begin

the season.

Brook goes 2-3 at Bryan
After defeating Friendswood 2-0 to open the regular season, Clear Brook lost three of its five games at the Bryan-College Station tournament.

Freshman Laura Napoli has settled into her role as the team's primary pitcher, but the offense has yet to develop a level of consistency.

Head coach Ashley Pillow hopes hosting four opponents on the Lady Wolverines' home field will provide a turning point.

Dobie places sixth at BCS
Winning three straight games to start play at the Bryan-College Station tournament, Dobie wound

up with a 4-2 record at the event and finished sixth overall.

Dobie hammered Lockhart 12-4 as sophomore pitcher Katie Lee got the win in the team's first game.

Facing Tomball, ranked No. 2 in the preseason state poll, Dobie came away with a 4-2 win in eight innings via the use of the international tie-breaker.

Junior pitcher Shannon O'Connor, the Lady Longhorns' ace, got the win but later missed the majority of the rest of the event with a minor foot injury.

Against Austin Bowie, Dobie squeezed out a 9-8 win, again through the international tie-breaker route.

Freshman pitcher Stephanie Buentello and Lee both saw action in that game.

"Those are the best three softball games I have seen this program play in several seasons," head coach Robin Rackley said.

"The caliber of teams up there was unbelievable. The offensive numbers were huge. Moving the pitching rubber back to 43 feet has made a big difference."

Dobie was beaten 10-0 by a very good Plano team but then came back to down Kempner 8-6. Taking on Belton for fifth place, Dobie was on the short end of an 8-6 score.

"Defensively, we still have to step up and make more plays," Rackley said. "But offensively, we have shown the ability to score runs in bunches."

"We're not a team that is going to smack six or seven home runs over the course of a weekend, but we can manufacture runs in a variety of ways."

Early on, Rackley said one of the big keys offensively has been the ability of lead-off hitter Kellen Gomez and No. 2 hitter Amie Gallant to get on base consistently.

Dobie's middle-of-the-

lineup package is strong, and having runs on base often has been big for Dobie so far.

The one setback at the tournament came as senior third baseman Ceci Gonzalez suffered a knee injury on a play at the bag.

Although the extent of her injury has yet to be determined, the Lady Longhorns are likely to be without one of their leaders for

an extended period of time.

Her teammates seemingly had their minds on their teammate as Brazoswood pitcher Cassidy Droste struck out 14, but Rackley believes a turnaround will come soon.

"We just didn't have a good mindset against Brazoswood," Rackley said.

"We'll bounce back. I have already seen what we can do."

Clear Creek ISD tourney
Thursday, Feb. 24: Brook vs. Santa Fe, at Clear Brook, 11 a.m.; Dobie vs. Santa Fe, at Clear Brook, 1 p.m.; Dobie vs. Columbia, at Clear Brook, 3 p.m.; Brook vs. Columbia, at Clear Brook, 5 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 25: Brook hosts Manvel, 9:30 a.m.; Dobie vs. College Park, at Clear Springs, 1 p.m.; Dobie vs. Clear Springs, at Clear Springs, 3 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26: Brook vs. College Park, at Clear Brook, 11 a.m.; Dobie vs. Goose Creek Memorial, at Clear Brook, 1 p.m.



Katie Bischof, Clear Brook's starting catcher, socked a triple Feb. 22 against Deer Park, but it wasn't enough as the Lady Wolverines fell 5-4 at home. Now at 2-4 overall this season, Clear Brook is scheduled to play games in three days during the annual Clear Creek Independent School District tournament.

PAM boys defeat JFD hoops

Continued from Page 1B
overtimes in 2009-2010 to outlast the Titans, but this year Memorial evened the score and will advance.

Dobie head coach Kevin Cross said the Titans' rebounding tenacity was a big key, as was Dobie's poor shooting struggles inside and from the free throw line. Essentially, the Longhorns' defensive effort was plenty good enough to secure a win, but the other aspects of the game suffered.

"In a playoff game, you cannot afford to let your opponent get second and third opportunities to score," Cross said. "I thought our defense played well on the outside. We created turnovers just as we have done

all year long.

"Three parts of our game led to the loss: losing the rebounding battle, shooting poorly inside the paint, and shooting poorly from the free throw line. I thought our kids played hard throughout the game. It is disappointing to lose anytime but really hard in the playoffs."

So another season has come to a close, and with it has come the end of the line for eight seniors.

"I would like to thank my seniors Dominique Simon, Edward Peabody, Mauri Mark, Jonathan Vargas, Walter Garrett, Devonte Rennie, Corey Spiller and Zach Fondal for such a good year," said Cross.

"We reached some of our goals this year, to win at least 20 games and make the playoffs, but we fell short of our goals to win district and make a playoff run.

As is always the case at the high school level, the Longhorns will regroup in the offseason and come back for 2011-2012 with renewed optimism.

"We have seven young men returning to the varsity level next season, as well as potential first-year players coming from our junior varsity and sophomore teams that won district titles," Cross said.

"We have built a winning tradition for our program, and we want that to continue."

Parade, carnival

March 5 at EFL

SBHLL opening ceremonies, too

Sagamont-Beverly Hills Little League and South Belt Girls Softball Association officials are gearing up for opening ceremonies, which will be the final highlight of a host of family-friendly activities set for Saturday, March 5, at El Franco Lee Park.

The day will begin with a parade, beginning at Weber Elementary (11955 Blackhawk Blvd.) at 10 a.m. The parade will eventually end at El Franco Lee Park.

Following the parade, a carnival will commence at El Franco Lee Park, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of fun activities, including a rockwall, trackless train, bungee run, dualslide, moonwalks, obstacle course, zoo play land, 4-way bungee trampoline and more.

There are a few remaining booths available for rental.

For more information, direct e-mail to sbhll@hotmail.com.

There will also be plenty of food and cold beverages available for purchase.

Prior to the event, youths will be able to purchase wristbands \$15 each, which will allow for unlimited access to the carnival events.

Without wristbands,

participants will be able to purchase single ride and activity tickets for \$.50 each.

SBHLL officials will pre-sell the wristbands on Tuesday, March 1, and Thursday, March 3, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the concession stand area at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park.

The finale of the big day is the Sagamont-Beverly Hills Little League opening ceremonies, from 5 to 7 p.m., on the Junior division field at El Franco Lee Park.

Each of the league's teams will be led onto the playing field, and officials also have a fun-filled list of activities planned.

Concessions meeting set
The Sagamont-Beverly Hills Little League's concession stand directors will host a mandatory meeting Wednesday, March 2, for those wishing to work in the concession stand during the spring season.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the league's concession stand located at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road.

The league is seeking teens at least 16 years old to work the concession windows and those 18 or older for concession windows and/or frying.

For more information, direct e-mail to the SBHLL website at sbhll@hotmail.com

PISD's Brown Relays to Auxiliary Feb. 25

The Pasadena Independent School District's annual Brown Relays will be held Friday, Feb. 25, as several of the area's top track and field teams and individual performers will be in action.

The action will begin around 4 p.m., with the field events to be followed by the running events.

Dobie is one of the host schools involved, and the

Longhorn boys are coming off an outstanding performance at the South Houston Invitational Feb. 18.

There, the Longhorns' 4x100-meter relay team established a school record of 43.1 seconds.

Dobie's record-setting 4x1 relay foursome included siblings DeMarcus Boyd and Devonte Boyd along with Andrew Robinson and Davion Hurst.



Spring 2011
"UPWARD SOCCER LEAGUE"

WHO: Boys & girls age 4 - 4th Grade PLUS special team for children with autism
WHERE: Easthaven Baptist Church
13100 Beamer Rd. Corner of Beamer and Astoria
WHEN: Evaluations - Sat., Feb. 26 9-noon
First week of practice begins March 7

UPWARD PROMOTES CHARACTER & SELF-ESTEEM IN EVERY CHILD BY PROVIDING:

- A substitution system that promotes equal playing time for each player
- An evaluation process to provide equal teams and equal opportunity for improvement

Early registration under way (deadline is March 13)
Call 281-922-5520 or visit www.easthavenchurch.org for more information.
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