

### Leader seeks storm info

The *Leader* is seeking information about area residents who are still impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

The newspaper has received multiple reports of local families that have been reluctant to come forward and seek government assistance for various reasons.

The *Leader* is attempting to organize a community effort to help such families in need make needed home repairs and address other pressing issues. The effort is not affiliated with any governmental organization.

The newspaper is particularly interested in hearing about families with children or seniors. Affected residents are asked to contact the *Leader* by calling 281-481-5656 or emailing mynews@southbeltleader.com.

### New Dobie coach named

Kevin Berneathy was named the new Dobie head football coach at a special called meeting of the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees on Wednesday, Feb. 7. See related information on Pages 4A and 1B.

### AARP offers free tax help

Volunteers from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will be available to answer questions and offer tax preparation at Parker Williams Public Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 16. This service is free and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bring Social Security cards or other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, 1099-R forms and other necessary forms to help the volunteer complete the return. For more information, visit [aarp.org/taxaide](http://aarp.org/taxaide).

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-518 to FM-517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Feb. 10. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed. At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from Fuqua to FM-528/West NASA Parkway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Feb. 9. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

### Frazier offers scholarships

Frazier is offering eight scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie who attended Frazier in third and fourth grades. Applications are available at the Dobie senior counselor's office and are due on Wednesday, March 7.

### Beltway 8 closures planned

At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Beamer to Blackhawk will be closed continuously until further notice.

Two alternate lanes on the both the eastbound and westbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Blackhawk to Highway 288 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Wednesday, Feb. 28.

At least one outside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Southdown Trace Trail to Conklin (just east of the Gulf Freeway) will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, Feb. 26.

The eastbound exit for Beamer Road on Beltway 8 will be closed from 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, through 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.

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

### Atkinson gives scholarships

Atkinson Elementary PTO is offering \$500 scholarships to two graduating seniors at Dobie High who attended Atkinson for at least two years, one being fourth grade. Applications and requirement information are available at the Dobie senior counselor's office. Applications must be received by noon Wednesday, March 7, to be considered.

### Toastmasters seek members

The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club will hold an open-house membership drive on Monday, Feb. 12, at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The organization is for anyone wanting to improve public speaking skills. For additional information, call 832-768-4352 or email [nategomez87@yahoo.com](mailto:nategomez87@yahoo.com).

### SPCIA to meet Feb. 15

The Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association (SPCIA) will hold a homeowners meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Road, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Items on the agenda for the meeting include proposed deed restriction changes, deed restriction violations, and community improvement issues and actions. This meeting is open for all Sagemont Park homeowners and residents.

# Elevation regulations cause mass confusion

There remains a great deal of confusion about the regulations that require some local residents to elevate their homes that were flooded during Hurricane Harvey.

Much of the confusion stems from the fact that the rules apply to only residents living within the Houston city limits. South Belt residents living in unincorporated parts of Harris County are not affected by the regulations. Additionally, the surrounding areas of Pearland, Friendswood, Pasadena and South Houston are also unaffected.

In the South Belt community, it is fairly com-

mon for some homes to be located within the city limits, while houses located across the street or one street over are not.

Adding to the confusion, not all affected residents have received a notification letter from the city, explaining the need to elevate.

To date, two batches of notification letters have been mailed to residents. A third and final batch of letters is expected to be mailed next month.

In all, 238 local homes should have received a notification letter. Of those, 114 were located in ZIP code 77089; 85 were located in ZIP code

77034; and 39 were located in ZIP code 77075.

The homes in question have been deemed "substantially damaged" by the city. For most residents, this will require raising structures by at least 12 inches above the base flood elevation in a 100-year flood plain or 18 inches if in a designated floodway.

A house is considered substantially damaged if the damage to the home is such that the total cost of restoring it to its pre-damage condition equals or exceeds 50 percent of the pre-damage market value of the structure only (i.e., not including the land value).

Residents wishing to check the status of their home should call the city's Floodplain Management Office at 832-394-8854.

Homeowners may contest their substantial-damage designation by submitting an appeal to the city at [www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/floodplain.html](http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/floodplain.html).

The *Leader* submitted an open records request with the city to determine which houses in the South Belt community are affected by the regulations. See next week's *Leader* for a list of homes by street/block that have been determined significantly damaged and in need of raising.

## Turner claims Quasar Award



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (second from right) was presented the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's prestigious Quasar Award at the organization's 25th annual gala on Friday, Jan. 26. Pictured above with Turner at the event are, left to right, South Belt resident and BAHEP President Bob Mitchell; San Jacinto College Chancellor Brenda Hellyer; and Clear Creek Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith.

## BAHEP honors Mayor Turner

On Friday, Jan. 26, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) celebrated a 25-year-old tradition by presenting its Silver Anniversary Quasar Award to Houston's 62nd mayor, Sylvester Turner. The highly regarded Quasar Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated sustained and significant leadership in support of the business foundations of the greater Bay Area Houston region.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell joined BAHEP in 2001 and has led the organization since January 2008. He took on arguably the most difficult task of the evening by asking the 700 guests to settle in their seats so that he could begin his welcoming comments. He remarked that BAHEP named Turner as the 2018 Quasar

Award honoree for his long service to the community and support of the ideals and initiatives of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Mitchell reported it was significant that Turner has championed the regional initiative to build a coastal spine system to protect the people, businesses and industries that face the threat of massive destruction from hurricanes.

He spoke of Turner's numerous accomplishments and mentioned how the mayor's mission trips promote the region's assets throughout the world. Mitchell noted, "BAHEP has definitely experienced this as it has, itself, become a growing international influence. BAHEP's reputation for stability and integrity is reflected in the increase-

Continued on Page 5A

## Meeting set on Sagemont project

A public meeting on the city project to make drainage and pavement improvements in the Sagemont subdivision will take place Thursday, Feb. 15, at Sagemont Church from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The event was originally scheduled for Jan. 16 but was rescheduled due to the hard freeze.

Part of the city's 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the Sagemont Drainage and Paving Improvement Project will provide storm drainage improvements throughout the community, including necessary concrete paving, curbs, sidewalks, driveways and underground utilities.

In all, eight area streets will be addressed. Impacted streets include Sageleyn (from Sagehollow to Sagedowne); Sagearbor (from

Sagehollow to Sagedowne); Sagedowne (from Sagearbor to Sagelane and from Sagehill to Sageheather); Sagehollow (from east and west of Sageleyn); Sageriver (from Sageleaf to Sageorchard); Sageorchard (from Sageriver to Beamer and from Sagepark to Sagewillow); Hall Road (from Sagewillow to Sagepark); and Sagepark (from Sageleaf to Hall Road).

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting, as the work is expected to affect school traffic, bus routes and through traffic during construction. Water and trash service may also be impacted.

Construction began in late December and is expected to continue through January 2019.

## Dobie Decathlon advances to state

J. Frank Dobie and Pasadena Memorial high schools recently advanced to the state competition of the Texas Academic Decathlon after ranking ninth and thirteenth in the state, respectively, after a strong showing at regionals.

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

There is a series of 10 events, including an interview in front of judges, a written essay, speeches, a written comprehensive exam in math, social science, economics, literature, art, music and the Super Quiz.

Both high school teams placed in the culminating event, the Super Quiz, with Dobie placing first and Memorial third.

Additionally, 43 Pasadena Independent School District students took home individual medals.

Dobie led the way with 30 students; Memorial followed with 11 students; and South Houston had two students bring home a medal.

- Fredy Orellana, Varsity Division: third place in speech; second place in music; third place in economics; first place in social science; second place in art; first place in science; third place in literature; and first place overall.

- Sarah Tyler, Scholastic Division: third place in essay; and first place in speech.

- Noelle Phan, Honors Division: third place in essay; second place in science; third place in literature; and third place overall.

- Ramon Hernandez, Scholastic Division: second place in mathematics; and second place in economics.

- Hoang Le, Honors Division: first place in mathematics; first place in science; and third place in literature.

- Madison Tobias, Varsity Division: third place in music; and third place in economics.

- Vicente Trevino, Scholastic Division: third place in music; third place in art; third place in science; first place in literature; and fourth place overall.

- Jennifer Nguyen, Honors Division: second place in art; first place in science; and third place in literature.

## H-E-B killers still at large

Houston police are still searching for two suspects wanted for the killing of That Huu Le on Saturday, Jan. 20, in the parking lot of H-E-B in the 9800 block of Blackhawk at Beltway 8.

According to police, the incident took place around 1:05 p.m. Le, 75, had reportedly been followed by two male suspects to the store from a nearby Wells Fargo Bank, where he had made a cash withdrawal.

As Le was exiting his vehicle, one of the suspects approached him, and an altercation ensued. During the dispute, the suspect fired multiple shots at Le.

The suspects then fled the scene in an older model gold Infiniti, four-door sedan. The vehicle was later recovered by investigators.

Le was transported to Clear Lake Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The cash withdrawal was reportedly still in Le's pocket when he was discovered.

The suspects are described as two black males in their early to mid-20s. Surveillance footage from the H-E-B shows the shooter wearing a gray hoodie and black pants with a white stripe running down the leg. Surveillance footage taken from the bank shows the driver wearing a long-sleeve gray Nike shirt, light-colored pants and white sneakers.

Investigators said the driver was seen waiting in line at the bank but did not make a transaction. He reportedly followed Le out of the building after he made his withdrawal.

Anyone with information on the identity of the suspects or this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## 2 arrested for area wheel thefts

Investigators from the Harris County precinct 2 Constable's office have filed felony theft charges on two suspects in connection to the recent wheel thefts in the South Belt area.

The names of the suspects are not being released at this time, as investigators believe they are part of a larger ring, and the investigation is still ongoing.

According to Precinct 2 officials, there have been at least 30 reported cases in the South Belt area in the past 14 months. It is estimated that at least \$50,000 worth of rims and tires have been stolen from this area alone.

The crooks have also targeted the surrounding areas of Houston, Pearland, Pasadena, La Porte and Deer Park, as well as other areas outside of Harris County.

Most of the wheels are stolen from Chevy or GMC trucks that are 2014 models or newer. The thefts usually take place in the early morning hours between 2 and 5 a.m.

Multiple other law enforcement agencies are assisting in the investigation, including the Texas Rangers.

Anyone with any information on the case is urged to call 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## Man murdered outside apartments

Jarrett Scales-LeGare of the Riverstone Ranch subdivision was fatally shot around 6:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, outside of the Clear Creek Landing apartments, located at 11717 Beamer at Hall Road.

Scales-LeGare was reportedly sitting inside his car in the parking lot at the time of the shoot-

ing. Investigators believe robbery was the motive. The case is being investigated as a capital murder.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit at 713-274-9100 or Crimestoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## South Belt woman killed in crash

A South Belt woman was killed in an automobile accident Thursday, Feb. 1, in the 8000 block of Beltway 8 near Telephone Road.

Chelcie Victoria Cloud, 25, of the Highland Meadow subdivision was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office, the incident took place around noon on the westbound side of the toll road. Cloud was reportedly rear-ended in her 2014 Chevrolet four-door car by a driver in a white 2017 Chevrolet van, as she sat parked at a toll booth.

Houston Fire Department units were called to

the scene to extricate Cloud from the wreckage, but she was found to already be deceased.

Members of the Precinct 8 Crash Team, as well as deputies assigned to the Harris County Toll Road Authority Incident Management, were assigned to investigate the crash. Forensic mapping of the scene was also conducted as part of this investigation. Their findings will ultimately be turned over to the Vehicular Crimes section of the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

The crash scene was cleared and the toll road reopened at approximately 2:30 p.m.

At press time, no charges had been filed. The investigation is ongoing.

## JFD Academic Decathlon excels



Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team recently advanced to the state competition following a strong performance at the regional tournament. Team members shown above are, left to right, (front row) Sarah Tyler, Madison Tobias, Jennifer Nguyen, Noelle Phan (captain), Fredy Orellana, (back row) Bob Daughtery, Ramon Hernandez, Vicente Trevino, Kennedy Ho and Hoang Le. See related Pasadena memorial photo on Page 2A. Photo submitted

# Publisher's Opinion

Vol. 43 No. 2 already!

Don't know how many of our readers notice the Vol. and No. as it is printed on the front page of our paper every week. It is found in the top right hand corner of each paper. The Vol. represents how many years we have printed the paper, and the No. is the number of weeks in that newspaper year. Usually I point this out at the begin-

ning of every new "South Belt Leader." That happens on Feb. 5, the anniversary of our first issue. Time slipped past me last week. Can't believe we are in our 43rd year. I want to thank the community for all their support over the years. It has been a great time and we are not done yet. Thanks again!  
**Marie Flickinger**  
 Publisher

## In My Opinion

### Randle concerned over medical caps

It's a crying shame that as of January 1st, older Americans and people with disabilities have been having to pay completely out-of-pocket for physical, occupational, and speech therapy as soon as a few weeks after a stroke or a fall.

Many older individuals may be forced to ration their care. There's no excuse for Congress to leave them out in the cold when they are struggling to cope with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, or other serious conditions.

Older Texans have worked hard and paid into Medicare their whole lives. We demand that our Texas members of Congress do everything possible to help fix this harmful policy so that they can get the rehabilitation services they need to stay independent.  
**Lawrence Randle**

### Carraway urges action before storms

We're 5 months out from our flood. Haven't seen any storm drain or ditch cleaning .... can't want to hide our heads

in the ground ... see lots of verbiage in the media ... may be time for some action. Southbelt isn't the upscale part of town, but we surely have suffered ... our Spring storms and a new hurricane season is on the way ... the clock is ticking ... contact 311 and District D and E Councilmen.  
**Rosemary Carraway**

### Will McDonald's on I-45 reopen?

I'm emailing the South Belt Leader concerning the McDonald's down the street from me. The address is 14270 Gulf Freeway Houston, Tx, 77034. There has been no construction to that. It's been sitting there for months after Hurricane Harvey. I pass by it all the time and I'm wondering when will work be done on it. Will be torn down and rebuilt? I can't get any straight answers. I'm very upset that there's been nothing done. Something needs to be done. Thanks.  
**Angela Leggett**

**Publisher's comment:** The owners of the property have applied for a permit, with the city of Houston. It has not yet been approved, but is expected any day. The building will be rebuilt.  
**Marie Flickinger**

### Local library events set

**Parker Williams Library**

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

Tax help is available in the library meeting room for adults on Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through tax season. There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, March 30. Volunteers from the AARP Foundation will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo ID, Social Security card and any other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements and other necessary forms.

Thursday, Feb. 8, 4 p.m. Community craft: Mardi Gras masks (all ages). In preparation for Mardi Gras on Feb. 13, meet in the library community room for a Fat Thursday celebration and make a Mardi Gras mask to be ready for the big day.

Friday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m. Teen DIY and a movie: The DUFF (rated PG-13) and Anti-Valentines, for ages 13 and older. Meet in the library community room for the movie and project.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Texas Superstars presented by Harris County Master Gardeners. Learn about Texas A&M AgriLife's Texas Superstar Plants program (texassuperstar.com). Plant-growing tips and other information is provided. Browse recommendations or search by category. Registration is requested.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunar New Year Celebration for all ages. The Parker Williams Branch Library in partnership with the Parker Williams Friends of the Library and the Vietnamese language learning community hosts the annual Lunar New Year celebration with a variety of activities including folklore of the origin of Lunar New Year, games, a craft and a variety of foods.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2 - 4 p.m. Magic: The Gathering gameplay, for ages 8 and older. This is a dueling card game incorporating strategy, mythical lore and competitive-community play. For those who would like to learn how to play, a staff member will be present for instruction. Special thanks go to Strike Zone for the generous donation of the cards.

Monday, Feb. 12, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Computer class: Microsoft Word. Learn how to use features of Microsoft Word for business or personal use. Classes are facilitated by a Microsoft Office user specialist. Class meets Mondays through Feb. 26, with each class building on the last. Registration requested.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m. Estate Planning and Probate is presented by attorney William Archer who will give an overview of the probate system, what to consider in an estate plan, tips on what to do when a loved one passes, how to avoid probate, how to utilize trusts and how to use Transfer on Death deeds. Registration is requested.

Below are the programs that occur every week:

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 years to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Basic computer class.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.

Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on any events, call the library at 281-484-2036. Library hours this week are: Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1 - 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Bracewell Branch Library**

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Saturday, Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class

Saturday, Feb. 10, 3 p.m. Citizenship class

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. Para los Niños

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, Feb. 14, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

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

## HCAD reports results of property value study

The Harris County Appraisal District has received the results of the Texas Comptroller's 2017 Property Value Study, which provides an unbiased review of the district's appraisal performance. "The study is the only truly independent measurement of how accurate and fair HCAD's work is, and

I'm pleased to report that the appraisal district passed with very good marks," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. The study found that overall, the district achieved a median level of appraisal of 98 percent. The target level is 100 percent. Almost 14,000 properties were reviewed for the study.

"This means our appraisals are extremely accurate and uniform, with almost 75 percent of the property sampled having appraisal ratios within 10 percent of the median," Altinger said. "Further it reflects that we treat all properties the same no matter what the value of those properties are."  
 Continued on Page 4A

## Leader checks out social media

**By Laura Benavides Scallan**

A member of the *people of sagemont* 2 Facebook group shared a post about the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide that offers free tax preparation. The post includes several locations with days and times of operation.

A member of the *Everything Sagemont* Facebook group shared a person's post with a photo of a dog found on Scarsdale by the Dairy Queen.

A white dog with a green collar was reported in Wood Meadow on the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group. The dog had no tags on the collar.

Another member of the same Facebook group shared a post from *Nextdoor* about a lost Rottweiler in the Oakbrook subdivision. The dog might make its way to the own-

er's former house off Chautaucom Dr. If seen, call 832-221-9175.

A gray cat with a white chest and paws has been found roaming around Coles Way and Patrick Palace. A photo has been shared on the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group.

Another member from the same Facebook group posted a photo of a black dog that came into their front yard. The dog has a collar.

There was a black dog reported running along the pond at Riverstone Ranch on the same Facebook group.

A member of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group shared a post about signing up one's dog for the annual Strut Your Mutt event. To sign up, visit the *South Belt Family Fun Fest & Strut Your Mutt*

Facebook Group. For more information, see related story on Page 5A.

A member of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group is looking for their blue and white Bully female with cropped ears. The dog was last seen in the Edgebrook/Freeway Manor/College area.

The administrator of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group shared information about people who are dog flipping. The administrator warns others to verify ownership of a pet before returning the pet and to also get pets microchipped.

Mojo, a 6-month-old male Old Brindle and White Boxer dog, was reported missing on the same Facebook group. The dog was last seen on Yost Road. If found, contact 281-686-0134 or 281-508-4319.

## Elected officials share their words

### Olson comments on Trump's State of the Union address

On Jan. 30, Rep. Pete Olson issued the following statement in response to President Trump's first State of the Union address:

"The state of our union is strong! As President Trump said, our economy is in good shape and getting better. With low unemployment, a strong stock market and positive growth in our business climate, these numbers will continue to improve as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is fully implemented.

"Americans will see more money in their paychecks, companies will continue to bring revenue back from overseas, our companies will be competitive in the global market and job growth will continue to soar.

"It was good to see the president acknowledge the heroic efforts of the Cajun Navy and so many heroes of Hurricane Harvey.

"While Texans have

made progress, much more must be done.

"The House acted before Christmas on a bill that included \$81 billion more for disaster recovery. The Senate went home doing nothing. The Senate MUST act as well.

"The president is right to address infrastructure, a critical need for the Houston region in the wake of our explosive growth. Harvey and three years of historic flood events.

"We must invest in the Port of Houston and critical flood control projects now to protect our neighbors before the next flood or hurricane hits.

"Making these investments now also protects the taxpayers from being forced to pay out billions when the next disaster hits because the federal government failed to act.

"As a Navy veteran, I'm thrilled our president

is taking decisive action to rebuild our military. After years of decline, our military needs a critical reboot. Sequestration has woefully underfunded our military at a time when we are asking more of them to defend America.

"President Trump has been a force for good in stepping up to support our military and demand that Congress ensure they are at top military readiness.

"With looming threats from North Korea, ISIS and Iran, and the continued war being waged in Afghanistan and Iraq, our military must be ready to train and win on the front lines of large-scale warfare.

"I look forward to working on these and other issues with our president and my colleagues.

"We have a duty to the American people to find meaningful solutions to the issues facing our nation."

### Texas House members urge Senate action on Harvey relief

Several members of the Texas delegation wrote a letter to the US Senate leadership urging quick action on passage of a third emergency supplemental spending bill.

"This third bill would provide critical relief to impacted areas and the people who have been living in temporary shelter in the state of Texas since Hurricane Harvey made landfall last August.

The House has acted to provide critical funds for

Texas and the other states and territories damaged by the devastating hurricane season of 2017. The Senate must do so as well.

A joint statement from Reps. Pete Olson, (South Belt's congressman) Sheila Jackson Lee, Randy Weber, Filemon Vela, Brian Babin, Gene Green, Blake Farenthold, Al Green, John Culberson, Michael McCaul, Ted Poe and Kevin Brady is below:

"The House has acted to provide critical funds to

continue the recovery process for the states and territories that were devastated by the vicious hurricane season last year.

"Yet, the Senate has failed to take the critical steps needed to keep the promise made by our government in August when the State of Texas was under water due to Hurricane Harvey.

"We have waited for the Senate to act, but our constituents cannot wait any longer."

### Coalition of churches, nonprofits offer Harvey disaster assistance

Houston Responds, a first of its kind organization focused on mobilizing strategic coalitions of churches and nonprofits to help Hurricane Harvey victims across 11 Houston area counties, launched its program on Monday, Feb. 5.

"Hurricane Harvey isn't in the news on a daily basis anymore but the sting of its devastation continues," said Tommy Rosson, founder and executive director of Houston Responds.

"Church communities have the desire to help but not necessarily the tools, training or partnerships to do so.

Houston Responds about bringing all of that together to walk thousands of Houston's impacted families through disaster and create a model for future disasters," Rosson said.

Rosson points to 2018 statistics showing that 258,000 requests for individual assistance for 11 Greater Houston counties have been approved by

FEMA.

At the same time, nearly 68,000 flood insurance claims have been submitted and 7,300 households are living in FEMA-funded hotels.

Given the magnitude of need, Houston Responds is working to unify, empower and mobilize a regional coalition of churches and nonprofit networks.

Their purpose is to help families who are still in the grips of one of the largest natural disasters in history.

It is committed to keeping area churches informed, engaged, equipped and motivated to handle the recovery movement needed for the upcoming years.

The Feb. 5 meeting brought together the various Houston area churches, city and nonprofit leaders to learn about Houston Responds and collaborate on how to assist families long term.

Chief executive officers from Habitat for Human-

ity and Rebuilding Houston will be featured panelists.

Other organizations represented at the event include the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Union Baptist Association, Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The Houston chapter of the nationwide Barnabas Group, an organization that matches the marketplace with ministries to facilitate business support, is hosting the event.

When asked if Houston Responds is a possible duplication of efforts with other organizations, Rosson commented, "We are harnessing the giving spirit of church communities in collaboration with other organizations to powerfully extend assistance and manpower where it is needed.

"There is so much need and we are honored to help our community for as long as it takes."

### Aileen Marian C. Schaefer



Aileen Marian C. Schaefer, surrounded by her family, died early Monday morning, Feb. 5, after a gradual decline of health. She was a longtime resident of the South Belt area.

Aileen was born and raised in Lott, Texas, to Oners and Linda Curry. She was the second oldest of five children: James, Cecil, Leonard, and Donald Curry. While attending nursing school in Waco, Texas, Aileen met the love of her life, Clarence A. Schaefer.

After two years of courting, spending many Saturday nights at dance halls and dancing to the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the two wed on April 19, 1951, in a

# Death

civil service in Houston. They were married for 20 years.

In 1960, they welcomed their son, Gregory P. Schaefer. In 1962, Aileen received her Bachelor of Science in nursing at Sacred Heart Dominican College and enjoyed 35 successful years of nursing at a VA hospital, tending to veterans.

Aileen was faithful to her Catholic religion, and enjoyed attending church every Sunday. She especially looked forward to Mother's Day or any other special holiday that fell on Sunday, when her son Greg would bring her a pink corsage to wear to church.

Aileen's hobbies included tending her roses and vegetable garden, going on cruises and traveling the world, shopping at Macy's and always finding a great deal, going to lunch with her friends and visiting with her "Caribbean friends" that have been by her side for more than 50 years.

Perhaps, her truest joy was the love that she had for her family. All were so very special and dear to her, but her son, grandchildren and sweet great-grandchildren were the center of her world. Not a day would go by without talking to them or needlessly worrying about them. She was a true example of

light, love and service and will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Aileen is preceded in death by her husband; parents; and her brothers James, Leonard and Cecil Curry.

Her life will be forever cherished in the lives of her son Greg Schaefer and wife Carolyn of Pasadena; granddaughter Jennifer (Schaefer) Young and husband Tyson and their children Tyson Jr., Trenton and Taliah, currently living overseas; granddaughter Kristen (Schaefer) Langdon and husband Sheldon and their children Oliver, Ellie and Emery of Sugarland; and granddaughter Mary Beth Goss and husband Avery and their son Lane of Pasadena. She is also survived by her brother Donald Curry and his wife Rose; many beloved nieces and nephews; and wonderful friends.

Visitation will be Thursday, Feb. 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. with the rosary and vigil from 5 to 6 p.m. at Niday Funeral Home - Beamer Chapel.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. A Rite of Committal will follow at South Park Cemetery in Pearland.

## Workshops offer help for business owners

The Harris County Appraisal District has begun the process of mailing personal property rendition forms to businesses known to have been operating in Harris County during 2017.

The appraisal district is offering free workshops to help business owners complete the required personal property rendition forms before the April 2 filing deadline. The deadline is usually April 1, but because that date falls on a Sunday this year, the deadline is extended until Monday, April 2.

If one owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, one must file a rendition with the Harris County Appraisal District by April 2. A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable personal property one owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year.

Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business such as furniture and fixtures, supplies, raw materials, and business vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

Eight rendition workshops to provide one-on-one help have been scheduled throughout the county. Appraisal district staff will not do a presentation and instead will provide individual help. Participants can attend at any time during the scheduled hours and typ-

ically will be able to complete the process in about an hour.

There is no charge to attend.

Workshops will be conducted at the following locations:

Thursday, Feb. 15, from 1 to 5 p.m., HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, 1st floor;

Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 1 to 5 p.m., HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, 1st floor;

Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m., Cleveland Ripley Neighborhood Center, 720 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena;

Wednesday, March 7, from 1 to 4 p.m., Alice M. Young Branch Library, 5107 Griggs Road;

Tuesday, March 13, from 1 to 4 p.m., Fallbrook Church, 12512 Walters Road;

Wednesday, March 21, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive;

Saturday, March 24, from 8 a.m. to noon, HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, 1st floor;

Wednesday, March 28, from 1 to 5 p.m., HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, 1st floor;

"Those who attend these workshops will consult individually with appraisal district staff who will explain

personal property taxation and rendition requirements, as well as answer questions about completing the rendition forms," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

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

All business owners are required to file renditions whether or not they have received notification. Businesses that fail to render or that render late are subject to a 10 percent tax penalty. Filing a fraudulent rendition carries a 50 percent penalty if found guilty.

State law permits business owners to obtain an automatic extension of the filing requirement by submitting a request in writing by the April 2 filing deadline. The extended deadline for such businesses would then be May 1.

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

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

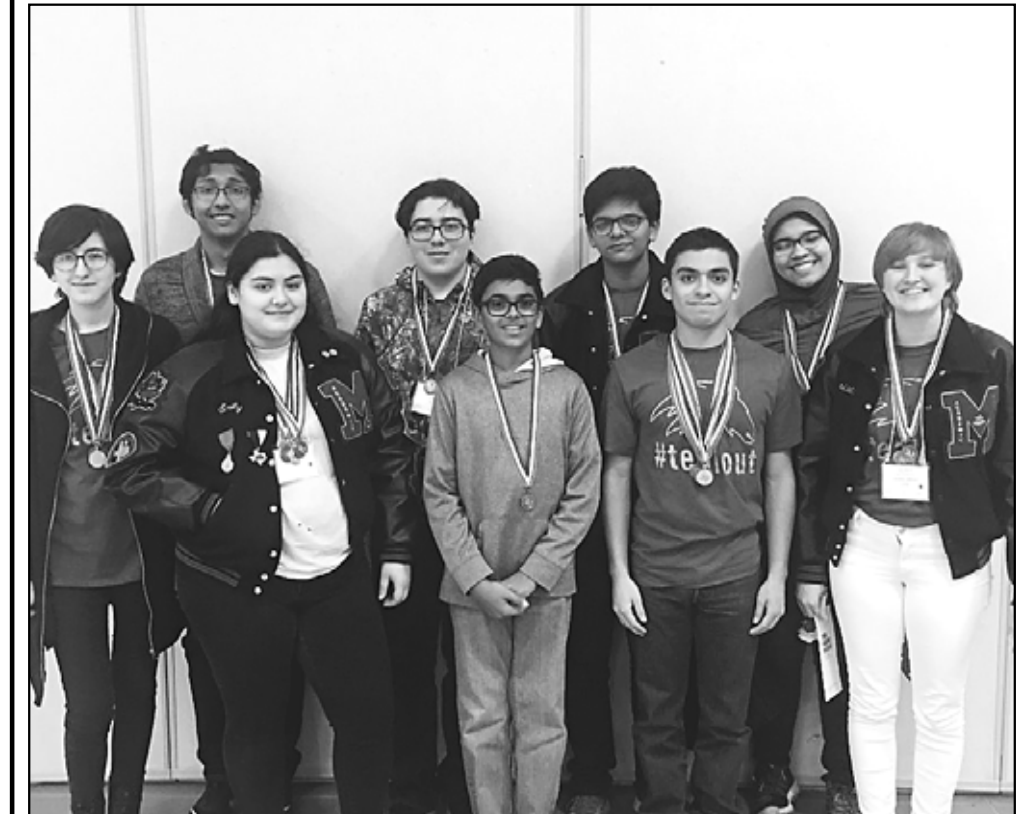
## Alvarado hopes to bring forward legislative reform

"Last week, I was pleased

to stand with the Greater Houston Coalition for Justice to launch a campaign urging Harris County's criminal court judges to settle the landmark federal lawsuit brought by indigent defendants and highlight the need for bail bond reform, said State Representative Carol Alvarado.

"When it comes to criminal justice in Harris County we cannot continue to use a fixed schedule to set bonds. I'd like to thank Sen. Whitmire and Commissioner Ellis for their years of hard work and commitment to criminal justice issues like this in the Texas Senate and I hope to bring forward legislative reform in the Texas House," said Alvarado.

## Memorial Decathlon excels



Pasadena Memorial High School's Academic Decathlon team recently advanced to the state competition following a strong performance at the regional tournament. Team members shown above are, left to right, (front row) Emma Cur-

ran, Emily Garza, Noah Peter, Brian Jasso, Christine Osborne (back row) Sean Ahmad, Ian Bauch, Anas Arakkal and Sarah Gullman. See related story and photo on Page 1A.

Photo submitted

## Leader obituary policy

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

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656  
 E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

# Community member cleans up South Belt

By Laura Benavides Scallan

The South Belt community has a local volunteer to thank for her service of cleaning up the community and preventing it from becoming "sign city."

Michele Albrecht has been going around the community picking up signs along Dixie Farm and Beamer Road from telephone poles, stop signs and along the sides of roads. Every morning after she finishes her workout, she stops on her way home, parks her car somewhere safe and walks four corners of a block to pick up between 30 to 50

signs. "So when I retired I thought, this is what the Lord blessed me with now I'm going to give back," said Albrecht.

After moving here from Saudi Arabia in 1978, she set roots in the South Belt community and raised her daughter as a single parent. She bought her home in 1983 and has been in the South Belt area since. Her daughter attended J. Frank Dobie High School and graduated in 1988. Albrecht worked as a credit manager for Rector-Seal. Now, she has been re-

tired for nearly 10 years, and she enjoys helping out the community and volunteering her time. Just to name a few, Albrecht mentors children, volunteers with Meals on Wheels, builds Braille books for the blind and is in the bells and choir at her church. She considers this the perfect area and thinks that everyone can help out and keep the community clean.

"That's my mission, since I'm retired, is to give back the blessings that have been given to me all these years," Albrecht said.

What started it all was Al-

brecht's view from her glass front door. It just so happens her view is the parking lot to the shopping center located on the corner of Scarsdale and Beamer Road and she would notice all the trash that would be scattered around the parking lot. She began to pick up bottles, trash, nails and sweep the lot as best she could. She was able to meet with the property manager, who explained that she didn't have to do that since the property pays a company to come clean the parking lot. Albrecht's response was it's her view from her front door, and she does not want to look at trash from her own door, so she cleans it.

"If everybody just did one thing in their area, how beautiful this place could be," Albrecht said. That's exactly what Albrecht did. After witnessing several signs all stating the exact same thing lined up along the road, she took them down. For signs located up high on telephone poles, Albrecht takes out her handy crowbar and pops them off the poles to collect. She has even made it a mission to scrape off the tape from all the stop signs and completed the mission, after two weeks, from Beamer and Scarsdale all the way to Blackhawk.

Not only does Albrecht want to keep the community looking nice, but she wants to emphasize that everyone needs to keep it clean. She picks up the trash and signs so they do not end up in the Beamer ditch as many others do. Albrecht stated that if people want to advertise, they should put an ad in the newspaper instead of posting up multiple identical signs all over the streets.

"With all the money that these people use, I don't know how much they cost, but they could put ads in your newspaper," Albrecht said. "There are so many other ways to advertise than besides trashing our neighborhood."

Even though the signs keep popping up every day, Albrecht states she will continue to clean up the community of trash and signs. She cares too much for the community and the environment, and will not stand by while others trash the community or riddle the roadways with signs.

"I always just wanted to make a difference," said Albrecht. "If nobody did anything, we would just be the community that time forgot."

# Beta Academy celebrates National School Choice Week



The students and staff at Beta Academy celebrated National School Choice Week Jan. 22-26 with their whole bodies as they boogied to "Better When I'm Dancin'." Students and staff celebrated and danced the whole week in the morning assemblies. The dancers would practice early in the morning before school started and then go down and help get the party started for the rest of the students in the assembly. Above left are, left to right, Melanie Marines, Sophia Leitch and Alex-

ia Nettles. The students made paper signs about why they loved their school. Above right, Lilly Cruz shows off her sign that reads "They love us and our flaws." Shown below are, left to right, (front row) Katie Simmons, Sarah Hutchinson, (second row) Kaylee Alvarez, Melanie Marines, Luke Gonzales, (back row) Soleil Villareal, Mima Gascon, Sophia Leitch and Isaia Quiros.

Photos by Lily Elsnor



Above, Michele Albrecht shows off her handy tools, a crowbar and scissors, for removing signs off telephone poles and street signs in the South Belt area. Below is a view of signs she collected around one block in her car. These signs were collected all in the same day. See related photo on Page 6A.

Photos by Laura Benavides Scallan and Michele Albrecht



# Student named national finalist in Regeneron Science Talent Search

Clear Brook High School student, Syamantak Payra, was named as one of 40 finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

The finalists are each awarded at least \$25,000 and the top 10 awards range

from \$40,000 to \$250,000. The top 10 Regeneron Science Talent Search 2018 winners will be announced

at a black-tie gala awards ceremony at the National Building Museum on March 13.



Shown are, left to right, Page Rander, Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees president; Syamantak Payra; and Mike Jenkins, director of judging for the CCISD Science and Engineering Fair.

# More than 600 women to attend Women in Industry Conference

San Jacinto College is set to welcome more than 600 women to learn more about careers and opportunities in the petrochemical industry at the third annual Women in Industry Conference on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Galveston's Moody Gardens Hotel.

The one-day conference, hosted by the Community College Petrochemical Industry, is for all women — the unemployed or underemployed, high school or college students and veterans. It will include a networking session hosted by BASF and workshops to provide information on petrochemical and industrial trade careers and the specific skills necessary to obtain a career in fields that were once dominated by men but now open to women.

"Because of an aging workforce, plant expansions, and new construction in a growing economy, there are plenty of challenging, well-paying career positions available in the Gulf Coast region—and refineries and contractors are looking for trained women to hire," said Dr. Sarah Janes in a recent release. Janes is the associate vice chancellor for Continuing and Professional Development at San Jacinto College.

Several major petrochemical manufacturing employers are also expected to attend the Women in Industry Conference, as well as Gulf Coast region community colleges to provide information on training program enrollment and financial aid.

CCPI-member colleges include Alvin Community College, Brazosport College, College of the Mainland, Galveston College, Houston Community College, Lee College, Lone Star College, San Jacinto College and

Wharton County Junior College. Corporate sponsors for the conference include Exxon-Mobil, Dow, Chevron Phillips, INEOS, LyondellBasell, NoTex, Jacobs, Educate Texas, BASF, Zachry and Freeport LNG Development.

To learn more about attending the Women in Industry Conference, or to become a corporate sponsor, contact Kelly Dando, CCPI grant coordinator, at 281-425-6221, or kdando@lee.edu.

Visit the CCPI website at EnergizeHouston.org to register.

# FCC approved life-saving enhancements to WEA

The Federal Communications Commission approved rule changes on Jan. 30 to the Wireless Emergency Alert system, including enhanced geo-targeting capabilities for messages. For years, local officials have collaborated with national public safety partners to advocate for these much needed changes. The rule changes require better geographic targeting of alerts to be in place by November 2019.

"The rule changes initiated by Chairman Pai set a much needed course to keep the nation's Wireless Emergency Alerts system a trusted life-saving tool for the public safety community, and is the single greatest improvement in years to the country's alerts and warnings infrastructure," said Francisco Sanchez, Dep-

uty Emergency Management Coordinator at the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. "The timeline to get better geographic targeting in place by November 2019 is critical and utilizing the built-in technology of the mobile device is the quickest way to meet this goal."

Public safety officials strongly agree that the GPS technology already in today's phones should also be used to tell an individual that they are in danger and what to do to stay safe. Using the intelligence and location of the device is the easiest and quickest path forward. The deadly hurricanes of 2017, the Las Vegas shooting, the attempted terror attack in New York City, and the cat-

astrophic California wildfires have highlighted the need for WEA to be revamped so it is in line with today's technology.

"The FCC's rule changes will empower local public safety officials with the tools necessary to keep WEA relevant and their communities safer," said Sanchez. "Equally as important, it will build trust in the system by citizens who rely on it for life-saving information. We look forward to working with the wireless industry to implement the new rules."

The rule changes require participating wireless providers to deliver WEA alerts to the target area specified by the alert originator with no more than a one-tenth of a mile overshoot. This en-

hanced geographic targeting requirement will go into effect on Nov. 30, 2019. The rules also require that alert messages remain available in a consumer accessible format on wireless devices for 24 hours which will enable the public to better review emergency information.

While public safety officials and the wireless industry have debated on the implementation timeline for WEA enhancements Ajit Pai, FCC chair, stated that the timeline was "just right," for all these changes to be implemented. Local officials strongly agree with Pai.

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn reemphasized the deadline for participating wireless providers to support Spanish-language messages and increase the length of alert messages from 90 to 360 characters by May 1, 2019. Clyburn also championed key consumer education measures related to the rule.

# 5,400 teachers earn National Board Certification; group includes four area CCISD teachers

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards celebrates 5,470 new National Board Certified Teachers and another 3,957 board-certified teachers who successfully renewed their certification. These teachers join a growing community of board-certified teachers, now more than 118,000 strong across all 50 states. Each of these accomplished educators earned the profession's highest mark of achievement through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-review process, demonstrating their proven impact on student learning and achievement.

"I'm so proud to celebrate our new National Board Certified Teachers. This is a great personal accomplishment, but it's more than that — this accomplishment is reason to celebrate the impact board-certified teachers have on millions of students nationwide and on the teaching profession at-large. School principals, superintendents and other system leaders from across the country regularly tell me that NBCTs are making a difference in their students' learning, strengthening their schools and their communities," said Peggy Brookins, NBCT, president and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Clear Creek Independent School District is celebrating four new National Board Certified Teachers. Congratulations to Angela Vong of Clear Brook

High School, Sue Gutierrez and Cynthia Bazan of Weber Elementary, and Ruth Baxter of Westbrook Intermediate for earning their National Board Certification.

These new National Board Certified Teachers represent only 0.27 percent of all teachers in the state of Texas who are National Board Certified. This brings the total to 11 National Board Certified Teachers in CCISD.

Highlights from this year's class of new board-certified teachers:

- Widening reach: There are new NBCTs in 3,727 schools in 1,145 districts across 48 states
- Growing concentrations in schools, districts, and states:
- 370 schools have three

- 119 districts have 10 or more new NBCTs
- 15 states have more than 100 new NBCTs, with 5 states having more than 300 new NBCTs
- Washington, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Nevada, Hawaii, New Mexico and Colorado increased their total NBCTs by more than 10 percent
- Increasing diversity and equity: National Board Certification is reaching a broader swath of teachers and students than ever before
- In Los Angeles, the district with the largest class of new NBCTs with 166, 92 teachers of color achieved National Board Certification
- More than 20 of the new NBCTs teach in Bureau

- of Indian Education-affiliated schools. BIE-affiliated schools more than quadrupled the number of NBCTs in their system since 2014 and have hundreds of teachers working toward certification
- 48 percent of new NBCTs work in Title I (high needs) schools.

Reflecting on the changes to the certification process, Renee Moore, NBCT, the 2001 Mississippi Teacher of the Year and former member of the NBPTS Board of Directors and Certification Council said, "The new National Board certification process has put the opportunity to become a certified, highly accomplished teacher within reach for more of today's teachers across an ever-widening field. National Board Certification advances our profession by focusing on students' learning and teachers' performance along the range of our professional work. The predominantly performance-based certification process itself honors the complexity and humanity of teachers and students."



Clear Creek Independent School District has announced four new National Board Certified Teachers. Shown are, left to right, Cynthia Bazan, Ruth Baxter, Susan Gutierrez and Angela Vong.

During the week of Jan. 8, educators across the country celebrated all board-certified teachers with #TeamNBCT week. The activities included in-person and online recognition of their contributions and a Twitter chat done in conjunction with the Hope Street Group's Arizona fellows.

# Stuchbery announces honor, merit rolls

Stuchbery Elementary announced its honor and merit rolls for the second nine-weeks.

nedá, Natalie Rangel, Ana Reyes, Nevayah Sanchez, John Tran and Alberto Villanueva.

**Honor Roll**  
**Third Grade**  
 Tyler Albert, Alexander Castillo, Chelsea Hua, Anh Le, Thong Luong, Nathaniel Padilla, Jonathan Rounds, Ashlyn Terry and Anne Tran.  
**Fourth Grade**  
 Blessing Akinloye, Barbara Chapa, James Constance, Anthony De Leon, Anthony Flores, Abdal Helal, Sydney Hile and Edgardo Mateo.  
 Isaac Mendez, Jazmin Pi-

**Merit Roll**  
**Third Grade**  
 Mariah Davis, De Moses, Andrew Posey and Emmanuel Vasquez.  
**Fourth Grade**  
 Desiree Correa, Aiden Diaz, Cheyenne Evans, Lexi Galindo, Christian Glaspie, Roger Livingston, Jada Moore, Angie Muñoz, Robyn Oba, Matthew Perez, Jorgen Rodriguez, James Saenz and Nicholas Sepulveda.

# UHCL releases calendar briefs

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has announced its recent calendar briefs.

**Registration for Art School for Children and Young Adults**

Students can express their creativity while learning about culture, history and science in these interactive art classes at University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Elementary-age classes will focus on creating original artwork using clay, paint, pastels, markers and crayons for "The Art of Space." Advanced students in grades four through six will create pixel origami sculpture, trading cards, game pieces and game boards for their own game. Students in grades six through 12 can choose to work with mixed media or 2-D drawing and painting.

Register for classes, which take place at various times and locations, through April 5. Spots are available for students, ages 3½ to high school. Fees range from \$100 to \$130. Contact the Art School for Children and Young Adults at 281-283-3344 for more information.

**Cyber security institute: Introduction to networking technology**

Students in University of Houston's cyber security institute's current course will learn the foundations of networking at layers one through three of the OSI model in hands-on labs. "Introduction to Networking Technology," is the third part of the four-session Network Management and Security certificate program. The course takes place Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 and March 3 and 4 in the Delta building, room 201 at UH-Clear Lake. The course fee is \$1,300 and includes instructional materials. For more information, visit the UHCL Cyber Security Institute at [www.uhcl.edu/cyber-security-institute](http://www.uhcl.edu/cyber-security-institute).

**5K run benefits children**

Texas Oral and Facial Surgery will present the fifth annual Ima's Home for Children 5K run/walk on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Campus of Life Church, located at 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd., beginning at 8 a.m. The event will also feature a children's 1K run/walk.

Located just northwest of Manila, Philippines, Ima's Home for Children became the vision of lead Pastor Jim Kilgore after riding through Manila and seeing a portion of the 400,000 hungry and homeless street children. His passion led to the creation of the facility named for his mother, Imogene Kilgore.

In its fifth year of operation, the center houses more than 78 children who are clothed, educated and cared for medically. Cost is \$35 for the 5K run and \$20 for the 1K run. Ima's Home for Children is a nonprofit organization and is 100 percent funded by private donations.

To register for the run, visit [www.life.cc](http://www.life.cc). For additional information on Ima's Home for Children, visit [www.imashomeforchildren.com](http://www.imashomeforchildren.com).

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

## DOUBLE BIRTHDAY WISHES

Bobby and Kenneth Griffin send birthday wishes to two family members enjoying a birthday on Feb. 8. Grandson **Kenney Griffin**, son of **Angela and David Griffin** of Plain City, Utah, turns 26. On that same day, son-in-law **Jim Giles** of Kirkwood South celebrates a birthday. His wife, **Tracy**, and children **Aaron, Cody** and **Kristen**, join in sending birthday wishes.

## CHRIS ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

**Chris Clark** marks a birthday Saturday, Feb. 10. Happy birthday greetings are sent to **Chris** from wife **Mary** and "babies" **Zelda** and **Maude**. Special birthday wishes are sent from the *Leader* staff as well as a big thank-you for all he does for the community.

## HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY, LILY!

Special happy birthday wishes are sent to **Lilian (Lily) Margaret Scarberry** who celebrates her first birthday Monday, Feb. 12, from dad **Austin**, wife **Tiffany** and big sister **Jade Scarberry**; grandparents **Jannie** and **Robert Scarberry** of South Belt; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Stacey Flowers**; uncles **Stephen Flowers**, **Joey Hayes** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno**, and **Kennedy**, **Owen** and **Evie Flowers**.

## SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 8 through Feb. 14.

## Meador Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles for **Maria Gonzalez** Feb. 8. **Sandra Richey** is sent birthday greetings on Feb. 10. Light the birthday candles Feb. 12 for **Erika Nava**. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Yolanda Arebalo** Feb. 13.

## South Belt Elementary

Marking a birthday Feb. 12 is **Melissa Cerda**. **Meillito Middle School**

The day for some birthday fun for **Dawn Tomlinson** is Feb. 9. Join in the birthday fun Feb. 12 with **Alma Paredes**. Enjoying a double-layer cake on Feb. 14 are **Gabrielle Weber** and **Natalie Young**.

## Roberts Middle School

Celebrating a birthday Feb. 10 is **Lonnie Tanner**. Sing a happy birthday song Feb. 11 to **Elsa Chachio**. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 13 is **Esmeralda Rodriguez**.

## Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send birthday wishes Feb. 8 to **Maria Umazor**. Celebrating a birthday Feb. 10 is **Tina Garza**. Feb. 11 is the day to wish **Ronnie Thomas** a happy birthday. Sing a happy birthday song with **Yesinia Ramirez** Feb. 12.

## Thompson Intermediate

The day for a party for **Bill Kirchman** is Feb. 10. **Katilyn Underwood** celebrates a birthday Feb. 13.

## Dobie High

**Derek Beckham** and **Erin Richardson** share a birthday on Feb. 8. Celebrating a

## Friends Celebrate Birthdays

The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to friends who celebrate a birthday this week: Thursday, Feb. 8: **Amy Gabbard**, **Kim Scott**, and **Mark Stanley**; Friday, Feb. 9: **Erica Rodriguez**, **Amanda Bergeron**, **Tracy Matthieu**, **Anita Nickelson** and **Tammy Schweigert**; Saturday, Feb. 10: **Kathy Ramirez**, **Morgan Wingo**, **Angie Baucum**, **Jesse Chavez**, **Efrain Padua**, **Christina Parasco** and **Mike Huffman**; Sunday, Feb. 11: **Cesar Ramirez**, **Ron Martinez** and **Jennifer Zanders**; Monday, Feb. 12: **Greg Banhart**, **C.J. Jareo III**, **Chris Smith**, **Melinda Poplawski**, **Cynthia Tavera**, **Clyde Jones**, **Lisa Jones**, **Jacqueline Preston**, **Alex Lerma** and **Robert Barbosa**; Tuesday, Feb. 13: **Celeste Beaty**, **Trisha Waguespack**, **Cristi Skerrett** and **Randy Harms**; and Wednesday, Feb. 14: **Cathi Brockman** and **Jon Baker**.

## LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line.

Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

## Israeli Folk Dancing dates set

Few people really enjoy cardiovascular exercises per se, but it doesn't have to be a chore. Dancing is an excellent way to exercise while having fun. Israeli folk dancing sessions are conducted at Congregation Shaar Hashalom and are not built on one another; so anyone can start any time.

The dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on Mondays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. February dates are 12, 19 and 26. March dates are 5, 12, 19 and 26. The cost is \$4 per session or \$35 for 10 sessions for CSH members and \$5 per session or \$45 for 10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome to join the group, even if one hasn't attended before. Congregation Shaar Hashalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at [csh@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:csh@shaarhashalom.org).

## BAGS sets meeting, dance

Bay Area Genealogical Society February general meeting is one week early on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive. Nick Cimino, BAGS president and professional genealogist, will present *The Genealogy of Hidden Figures*, exploring family history of three female African-American mathematicians, Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan, who worked at the NASA Langley Center in Virginia and were featured in the highly-acclaimed December 2016 film *Hidden Figures*. For more information, go to [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) or call Kim Zrubek at 281-992-2636.

## Re-election fundraiser set

Save the date for the re-election fundraising reception sponsored by the host committee honoring Rep. Garnet F. Coleman. The fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Brennan's of Houston, located at 3300 Smith St.

The host committee levels start at \$250 and go up to \$10,000. To RSVP or become a host, call Angie Gomez at 713-522-8634 or email [garnet.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:garnet.coleman@gmail.com).

## Judaism classes offered

Classes introducing participants to Judaism gives them an opportunity to ask any and all questions regarding Judaism or the Jewish community.

Examined are Judaism's beliefs regarding sin, sacrifice, atonement, heaven/hell/the afterlife, devil/Satan, monotheism, the Messiah and other topics.

The class goes through a vocabulary of Jewish life, holidays and holy days, life cycle events and Judaism's view of the controversial issues of the day. The class is mandatory for anyone looking to convert to Judaism.

Cost is \$72 for a semester or \$144 for the year and covers the cost of all handouts used in class. This class meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Congregation Shaar Hashalom, and is conducted by Rabbi Stuart Federow.

The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For more information, visit [www.shaarhashalom.org](http://www.shaarhashalom.org) or contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at [csh@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:csh@shaarhashalom.org).

## Sullivan welcomes new coach



The Pasadena Independent School District has hired a new head football coach for J. Frank Dobie High School. Shown are, left to right, Nelda Sullivan, PISD board member; and Kevin Berneathy, head football coach for Dobie High School. See related story on Page 1B. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Bay Area Singles Club announce dance

The Bay Area Singles Club Monthly Dance is Feb. 17 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, 5204 Highway 3, in Dickinson, Post # 6378. Guests are encouraged to bring party snacks to share. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. For more information, call 832-483-3257 or 832-477-6778.

## PARC hosts Souper Saturday

Everyone is invited to the annual world famous "Souper" Saturday fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., in Pearland. Meet the Republican candidates who are preparing for the 2018 primary election. Enjoy homemade soups, cornbread and desserts, as well as fun silent auction bidding. The ticket donation is \$15. For more information, call Pat Smajstrla at 281-435-3097 or Cindy Simpson at 713-501-4123.

# Remember When

## 40 years ago (1978)

An arrest and a charge of attempted murder was filed against Carlos Mercado in the shooting of Edward O'Brien.

The Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association was in the process of taking a Sagemont Park resident to court for deed restriction violations, and planned to do the same with other who were not complying with the stated regulations.

## 35 years ago (1983)

Residents of Sageglen and Wood Meadow were asked to sign a petition asking the Burger King Corporation to reconsider putting up a 42-foot sign on Scarsdale Boulevard.

Three cars were stripped of the tires in the Sagemeadow subdivision.

Tod Lay and Victor Helguero, both Dobie students, were injured in a car accident in South Houston at approximately 2:30 a.m. Officers believed Lay fell asleep at the wheel.

## 30 years ago (1988)

The Pasadena Independent School District's emphasis on safety was paying off in monetary- and health-related dividends, according to Deputy Superintendent Eugene Tegeler.

The Dobie High School Academic Decathlon team was on its way to the state competition after a good showing at regionals.

## 25 years ago (1993)

The new H-E-B grocery

store on Beamer at Kirkfair opened.

The Clear Brook High School Texaco Star Challenge Team won \$12,500 as second place winners in a tournament.

Sageglen residents Uma Bharathi and daughter Silpa Kosuri as well as Dobie senior Leana Ahmed were planning to travel to India to film a movie.

## 20 years ago (1998)

Chris Clark, chairman of the Government Affairs Committee of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, urged the chamber board to pass a resolution to help put an end to bandit signs.

Filming of the movie *Arlington Road* began in the Dixie Woods subdivision.

## 15 years ago (2003)

Two area children, Carlos, 10, and Alex Chapa, 6, were taken away in their SUV when a wrecker mistakenly repossessed their vehicle in front of their home.

Sagemont Church honored all armed forces personnel serving the country with special services titled "Praying Them Through" and a wall of honor.

## 10 years ago (2008)

The Bank of America in the 9800 block of Blackhawk was robbed. Two men wearing masks entered the bank brandishing semiautomatic pistols and forced the customers to the ground. They proceeded to jump over

the counter and demanded the tellers to open the cash drawers. After stuffing the money into a bag, the men ran outside where an older-model white Chevrolet Suburban was waiting on them. This was reportedly the fourth time the bank has been robbed since opening.

A storm drainage system near the intersection of Kirkwyn and Newton was repaired by city contractors thanks to the work of long-time Kirkwood resident Wade Hudson. Hudson had battled local officials for more than a decade to get the necessary repair work done.

Several apartments at The Pointe Windmill Lakes caught fire. The blaze, caused by an electrical malfunction, was ruled accidental. A total of 10 units were damaged by fire, smoke and/or water.

Longtime South Belt resident John Hoover was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus from his alma mater, Denison High School in northern Texas.

The Clear Creek Independent School District pulled Westland Meat products after the United States Department of Agriculture issued an administrative hold on a series of lot numbers. None of the affected lot numbers made it to the cafeteria lines or was consumed by students or staff of CCISD.

## 5 years ago (2013)

Judge John Dietz ruled that Texas' education fund-

ing was inadequate and inequitable across the state. In his ruling, Dietz specifically called on the state to provide the resources necessary to give all students a real opportunity to graduate from high school ready for college or a career, provide equitable funding to bring all Texas school districts up to the funding levels necessary to meet Texas' high standards and provide local communities with meaningful discretion to provide local enrichment above state requirements. The Pasadena Independent School District and the Clear Creek Independent School District were among 600 school districts to file suit against the state when the Legislature cut \$5.4 billion from public education in 2011. This reduction occurred at a time when the state increased unfunded requirements for school districts and testing requirements.

Sagemeadow resident Javier Rene Ortiz III, 30, died in an explosion at the Air Liquide facility in La Porte. The explosion happened in a lab that was used to mix industrial gases, such as nitrogen and hydrogen, which are used to process food, beverages and electronics. Ortiz was initially reported as missing following the incident. His body, however, was discovered later that evening.

## 1 year ago (2017)

Dobie sophomore Ally

# SJC sets calendar

San Jacinto College has announced its calendar of events.

**Spring 2018 registration**  
 Registration for the spring 2018 semester is open. Payment is due upon registration. For more information on steps to register, visit [sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration](http://sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration).

**Softball spring tournament**  
 The SJC softball team will host its annual spring tournament on Friday, Feb. 9, and Saturday, Feb. 10, beginning at noon, at the Pasadena Girls Softball Association fields in Burke Crenshaw Park, located at 4950 Burke Road in Pasadena. Friday, Feb. 9, SJC will face McLennan Community College at noon; Murray State University at 2:30 p.m.; and Ranger College at 7:30 p.m.

All SJC Feb. 9 tournament games will be played on Field 1. Saturday, Feb. 10, SJC will play Ranger College at 10 a.m.; Murray State University at noon; and Temple College at 3 p.m. All San Jac Feb. 10 tournament games will be played on Field 1. For a complete schedule, visit [www.sanjacsports.com](http://www.sanjacsports.com).

**Baseball Tournament of Champions**  
 The SJC baseball team will host its annual Tournament of Champions Friday, Feb. 9, through Sunday, Feb. 11. On Friday, Feb. 9, San Jac will face Chipola College at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, will serve as the Legends Game with the team taking on Northwest Florida State at 2:30 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 11, the team will play Howard College at 9 a.m.

**UHCL representatives at the University Center**  
 Representatives from the University of Houston - Clear Lake will be on onsite to provide transfer advising at the SJC Central Campus University Center in the Interactive Learning Center, Building 1, room 129 (C1.129) on Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Women's basketball vs. Angelina College**  
 SJC women's basketball will take on Angelina College on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 5:30 p.m. All home games are played at the SJC North campus in Nichols Gymnasium (Building 16) and are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit [www.sanjacsports.com](http://www.sanjacsports.com).

**Men's basketball vs. Lee College**  
 The SJC men's basketball team will face Lee College on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Home games are played at the Central campus in Anders Gymnasium (Building 18) and are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit [www.sanjacsports.com](http://www.sanjacsports.com).

**Community Education Center events**  
 The SJC Central Campus Community Education Center is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena in Building 1, room C-1.108. The SJC North Campus Community Education Center is located at 5800 Uvalde Rd. in Houston in building 2, room N-2.112.

The Community Education centers will host the following February workshops that are free and open to the public. To register, call 281-478-2786 or email [communityeducation@sjcd.edu](mailto:communityeducation@sjcd.edu).

**Central campus, Stretching and Relaxation**, Feb. 9, noon to 1 p.m.  
**ESL Information Session**, Feb. 12, 3 to 4 p.m.

# Comptroller evaluates HCAD property value

**Continued from Page 2A**  
 The property value study is an extensive and independent review of the appraisal district's appraisal performance by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

The goal of the audit is to allow the state to reach an independent conclusion as to whether the district has complied with the professional standards of appraisal and state law.

The comptroller also determines whether values in each school district meet appropriate levels of accuracy. The results of the study are used to ensure equitable distribution of state funding for public education.

# Free legal clinic for veterans

Veterans who need legal advice or legal assistance can visit a free legal clinic on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 9 a.m. until noon, at the Texas City VA Outpatient Clinic, 9300 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Suite 206, Texas City. The clinic is a public service of the Galveston County Bar Association and the Houston Bar Foundation's Veterans Legal Initiative, a coalition of local bar associations that provide pro bono legal services to U.S. veterans in 18 counties in Texas.

No appointment is necessary. Any veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran, can receive one-on-one advice and counsel from a volunteer attorney in any area of law, including family, wills and probate, consumer, real estate, and tax law, as well as disability and veterans benefits. Veterans who need ongoing legal representation and who qualify for legal aid may be assigned a pro bono attorney to handle their case.

For more information on the clinic and other services for veterans, contact the Veterans Legal Initiative at 713-759-1133 or visit [www.hba.org](http://www.hba.org).

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# Mayor Sylvester Turner honored with Quasar

**Continued from Page 1A**  
 ing number of foreign delegations that contact our organization to meet with BAHEP staff in order that they can obtain an overview of the industries in the region and discuss possible collaborations.”  
 Mitchell further commented on Turner’s leadership saying, “Additionally, his work to ensure a fiscally sound City of Houston will be a lasting testament to his outstanding leadership for decades to come. Mayor Turner’s foresight has contributed immeasurably to the economic strength of Bay Area Houston.” He concluded his remarks about the mayor saying, “Mayor Turner, on behalf of all the BAHEP members and our Board of Directors, let me say that it has been our pleasure to work so closely with you over the past two years. We are honored to have you with us tonight, especially since you had to cut short your trip to the winter Conference of Mayors to be here. Thank you so much.”

Mitchell then acknowledged the 60 elected officials in attendance and other leaders who add significantly to the economy and quality of life in the region. After Mitchell’s remarks, Shari Wilkins sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem followed by the invocation given by the Rev. William H. King III, Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and council member, city of Dickinson.  
**Smith says ‘BAHEP has our backs’**  
 Following a delicious

dinner presented by Executive Chef Roland Kyburz and his team at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center, Dr. Greg Smith, superintendent of schools, Clear Creek Independent School District, and outgoing chair of the BAHEP board, remarked in part, “If the following fact wasn’t already clear to me before I served as chairman, it is crystal clear now: The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has our backs. We are here to celebrate that fact this evening and applaud each of your contributions to successes achieved over the past year. As a member-driven organization, BAHEP has nothing to celebrate without the tactical contributions of its investor companies, our local governments and educational institutions that power the partnership. BAHEP and its members protect and advance our region’s interests on land, at sea, in the skies and in space.”

He spoke of many of BAHEP’s initiatives during 2017 and, in regard to one of BAHEP’s highest priorities, stated emphatically, “The completion of the coastal spine is a moral imperative.” He concluded saying, “Last night, I want to take a moment to thank Bob Mitchell for his steady leadership, the Board of Directors and the expert staff at BAHEP for their support and friendship this past year. It truly has been a privilege to serve you and this organization. I look forward to continuing the work of BAHEP and pledge my full support to Dr. Hellyer

this year who I know will do a phenomenal job in her role as chairwoman. Congratulations, Dr. Hellyer.”

## Turner captivates banquet attendees

Smith then introduced a tribute film honoring Turner that was excellently produced by Space City Films. It was the second of two films shown that evening with the first being a congratulatory message from Sen. John Cornyn. Turner then took the stage to begin his remarks and was greeted by a standing ovation and heartfelt applause. With a big smile on his face, Turner began, “I have been so looking forward to this night. I am so especially appreciative. To be very candid, you never know how people are perceiving your leadership. You just don’t know. Tonight and the recognition and the honor in many ways are an affirmation, at least, that we are moving in the right direction.”

“I will quickly tell you this evening that I will share the Quasar Award with a number of other people, a number of whom are in this room. I want to thank Council Member Dave Martin, who represents this area. I know that Council Member David Robinson is here, as well as Council Members Jack Christie, Mike Kubosh, and Amanda Edwards. I learned years ago that you cannot do very much by yourself. It’s a team effort. It takes collaboration, and you have to be able to work with people who have different views and even party affiliations in order to get things done.”

“In the city of Houston,

we only ask one question and that is, ‘What is in the best interests of our city?’ I want to thank those who are here and those who are not. Pension reform, infrastructure, the things that have been achieved – it took a lot of different people working together. Even on Hurricane Harvey – I have to give a great deal of credit to some exceptional first responders, exceptional people who came together during Hurricane Harvey.”

“A few hours ago I was in D.C. attending the United States Conference of Mayors where I had the privilege of being on a panel that discussed lessons learned after horrific events like Hurricane Harvey. I sat next to the deputy secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Elaine Duke, who spoke first. I spoke second, and I reminded her and the others that if you simply provide funding to our region to put us back where we were before Harvey, you’ve not done enough. You’re only providing us funding for failure. So, it’s not about putting us back where we were, it’s about denying us necessary funding to make us stronger and more resilient.”

“I wanted them to bear in mind that if that hurricane had come down Galveston Bay, and the storm surge had come in, the damages not to just Texas or our region would have been horrific. The entire country would have been impacted, and that is a Homeland Security issue. From the lessons learned, it’s important for us to put forth mitigation strategies before there is a disaster. Funding the coastal spine now is smart not just for Texas but is smart for the United States of America.”

## Houston must solidify its relationships

“It can’t just be Houston by itself. Houston has to solidify its relationships with our partners, with other cities from within our region. Let me just say to all of the mayors and members of city council who are here from our region, we have to do a much better job of solidifying our own relationships getting as strong as we can be, because we have to put forth a united front. When our coastal line is strong and we’re operating on the same page, I think it would be difficult for the State of Texas to ignore us, and quite frankly, I think it would be difficult for the country to ignore us. As goes this region, so will go our state and so will go our country.”

“When we were in China in December, one of the places they asked about – the mayors of the cities where we were and their economic development teams – was the Johnson Space Center. They wanted to come to Houston, but they wanted to be taken to the Johnson Space Center. Their focus was on aeronautics and the technology that exists. This area is vital. There is a wonderful relationship that is taking place between aeronautics and the medical industry through the Pumps and Pipes initiative at the Methodist Hospital. The city is now focusing on startup technology and innovation.”

“This area is critical. If we do not invest in this area, and if we do not grow collaboratively, Houston won’t be as competitive. The reality is that Houston does not stop at 610. Houston does not stop at the Beltway. Houston consists of 640 square miles, and this area is vitally important to the growth and competitiveness of our city. We cannot win on bids like Amazon

and other things that will come along if the city does not invest heavily in this particular area.”

“This has been a wonderful evening for me. Thank you so very much. Let’s do what needs to be done together.”

## Resolution from the Senate of Texas

State Sen. Larry Taylor served for many years with Turner in the Texas legislature when they were both state representatives. Before presenting the mayor with a resolution from the Senate of Texas that recognized his leadership and contributions to the economy of the greater Bay Area Houston and its communities, Taylor spoke of Turner as a man of integrity and character who always got people’s attention when he spoke on the House floor during his 27 years as a state representative. Joining Taylor on stage to present the resolution were Representatives Dr. Greg Bonnen, Wayne Faircloth, Dennis Paul, Mary Ann Perez, and Ed Thompson, as well as Mitchell.

## Hellyer speaks on storm surge, Ellington Spaceport

To close out the evening, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College System, and incoming chair of the BAHEP board, spoke. She thanked Smith for his leadership, congratulated Turner on receiving the much-deserved Quasar Award, and said to Mitchell, “Bob – let me thank you and your team for never shying away from that important work and goals that benefit our region. If you will indulge me, let me briefly discuss two of those goals.”

“First, one of the key areas that BAHEP has been leading in our region for the last several years regards the Coastal Storm Surge Suppression System. The proposed coastal barrier concept for storm surge protection is estimated to cost between \$12 and \$15 billion for the entire three-part system. The middle section, which would protect the Bay Area Houston region, including the industries along the Houston Ship Channel, would cost \$5.6 billion. Over the nine years since Hurricane Ike, BAHEP has been successful in garnering support for and securing a unified voice for the coastal spine. Our step this year is to seek funding through the federal government to protect our national assets.”

“The second goal I will mention this evening is the development of the Ellington Spaceport. In an effort to meet the demands of the aerospace community, BAHEP, San Jacinto College, Rice University, and the Houston Airport System at Ellington Airport / Spaceport, have created an exploratory committee to determine what fields of emerging technology will provide a strong foundation on which to grow the economy of the Bay Area Houston region. The goal of the exploratory committee is to recommend a vision that will incorporate research, development, production, and implementation of emerging technologies that will strengthen the economy of the area by attracting companies to expand and/or build their foundation at Ellington Airport.”

“While there are plenty of other highlights I could give you about what’s next in 2018, the bottom line is that BAHEP is a leader at the regional, state and national levels. We need and want your involvement on this work! I look forward to working with all of you and with BAHEP through the next year.”

# Former, current Dobie staff enjoy meal



Former J. Frank Dobie High School staff and teachers eat out together once a week. Shown are, left to right, Robert Scarberry, retired Dobie collision repair teacher; Jim Sawyer, retired Dobie Co-Op teacher and golf coach; Johnny Lee, retired Dobie assistant principal; Cathy Lee, Johnny’s wife; Mike LaTouche, former

Dobie assistant principal and retired Dickinson High School principal; Bill Ashby, retired Dobie science teacher; Steve Jamail, retired Dobie principal; and Franklin Moses, current Dobie principal. The group enjoyed a meal at The Garage Bar & Grill in Alvin. Photo submitted

# SSC discusses disaster reappraisal, TIRZ

The Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform met at Houston Community College’s Alief campus to discuss disaster reappraisal as well as Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones, two Hurricane Harvey interim charges assigned by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. Sens. Brandon Creighton, Kelly Hancock, Charles Perry and Van Taylor were all in attendance. The committee is chaired by Sen. Paul Bettencourt.

“This really is a tale of two cities,” said Bettencourt. “You have those who have flooded and those who did not. I commend the taxing jurisdictions that have triggered disaster reappraisal and continue my call on other taxing entities to do the right thing for taxpayers and give these homeowners a break.”

Several taxing entities have triggered disaster reappraisal, such as Montgomery County, Fort Bend County, Spring Branch ISD, Katy ISD, and several smaller taxing jurisdictions. Major taxing entities that have not called for this relief are the city of Houston, Harris County and Houston ISD.  
 Cheryl Johnson, Galveston

County tax assessor collector stated, “People feel abandoned...they feel like government doesn’t care.”

One back and forth came when Fort Bend Commissioner Andy Meyers spoke.

Bettencourt lauded the fact that nearly every taxing jurisdiction in Fort Bend has triggered disaster reappraisal. “They are the good guys,” said Bettencourt.

Commissioner Meyers highlighted the argument that property taxes are increasing because the share of state funding of education has been falling and unfunded mandates are being pushed on to local jurisdictions. Sen. Perry noted that the numbers being discussed are wrong and that “the real number (of state funding) is between 48-52 percent when you compare apples to apples” as the calculation many groups use includes I&S funding, despite the state never funding the I&S portion and local districts in many cases not wanting the state involved in this area. Sen. Hancock added that he had proposed legislation to eliminate mandates on school districts from the state, however a majority

of education groups opposed the legislation and “many mandates were put in place because local districts asked for, and lobbied for, them to begin with.”

The committee also took testimony regarding the possible use of TIRZ funds to help offset the costs associated with disaster recovery in response to storms like Hurricane Harvey. One witness estimated that there is roughly \$100,000,000 that is diverted into the TIRZ accounts rather than the city of Houston’s general fund. Harris County Treasurer Orlando Sanchez referred to TIRZ’s accounts as “enclaves of opulence.” “The city really needs the ability to control the TIRZ money a little more than we can,” added Houston City Council Member Mike Knox.

“When we hear that people need more police officers, which is a local decision, everyone needs to face up to the fact that about 18 percent of Houston’s tax roll is now in a TIRZ,” concluded Bettencourt.

The committee plans to hold additional hearings throughout the year on a wide range of property tax issues.

# Annual Family Fun Fest date set

Mark the calendar for Saturday, March 24 from 3 to 8 p.m. for the Third Annual Family Fun Fest at Clear Brook City Park.

The event, hosted by Clear Brook City M.U.D and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will once again feature the Strut Your Mutt doggie competition, the Twilight 1K/5K Run Fest and Operation Kidsafe fingerprinting.

New to the festival is Touch a Truck South Belt. Inflatables, games, contests, concessions, Easter egg hunt and more are planned for an afternoon of family fun. The festival and all events are stroller and pet friendly.  
 Strut Your Mutt begins at 4 p.m. with a parade through the festival. Registered mutts will lead their handlers around the park, ending at the judging location. Judges will be awarding prizes for smallest, largest, diva, macho, ugliest, best trick, best costume and best mutt and handler costume. All registered mutts will receive a bandanna. Handlers will receive a free participant wrist band.  
 The Twilight 1K and 5K

will kick off at 5:30 p.m. following the playing of the National Anthem by Riverstone Ranch resident Eddie Seaman with Acme DJ. The 1K course will lead participants out and back along Blackhawk Boulevard. The 5K race will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and the course will follow the course of the 1K race but will wind through the South Belt Hike and Bike Trail returning to Blackhawk for the final 1K of the race.

Water stations will be available on the course and at the finish line. All registered participants will receive an event T-shirt and wristband. Medals will be awarded to all 1K finishers. Awards will be given to the overall male and female finishers and to 10-year age division winners of the 5K race. Seniors 65 and older and members of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will receive a discounted entry fee.

Operation Kidsafe fingerprinting will be offered free to all children. Using the latest all digital systems fingerprints of each hand along with a full digital head and shoulder photograph will

be taken. The information will be printed on hard copy and handed to a parent for safe-keeping.

The information is invaluable should the child become lost or missing. Safety tips provided by Operation Kidsafe can provide parents with talking points to discuss with their children and be used to start a family safety action plan.

New in 2018 is Touch a Truck South Belt. Kids can see and climb on different kinds of trucks of all sizes. If one would like to volunteer a truck for the event, contact Kay Barbour at 281-481-5516.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber is seeking exhibitors and sponsors for the event. There is no charge to be an exhibitor. Sponsorships for the event begin as low as \$100. Participation in activities will require a wristband. The cost of wristbands is \$5. Concessions including drinks, cotton candy, snow cones, pickles, etc. will be \$1 each. Nacho Nachos and Predator & Prey food trucks will be serving to the public.

# Free legal clinic held for veterans

Veterans who need legal advice or legal assistance can visit a free legal clinic on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 9 a.m. until noon, at the Texas City VA Outpatient Clinic, 9300 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Suite 206, Texas City.

The clinic is a public service of the Galveston County Bar Association and the Houston Bar Foundation’s Veterans Legal Initiative, a

coalition of local bar associations that provide pro bono legal services to U.S. veterans in 18 counties in Texas.

No appointment is necessary for the clinic. Any veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran, can receive one-on-one advice and counsel from a volunteer attorney in any area of law, including family, wills and probate, consumer, real estate, and tax law, as well

as disability and veterans benefits.

Veterans who need ongoing legal representation and who qualify for legal aid may be assigned a pro bono attorney to handle their case.

For more information on the clinic and other services for veterans, contact the Veterans Legal Initiative at 713-759-1133 or visit www.hba.org.

# CCISD releases fiscal year, audit findings

The Clear Creek Independent School District released the financial statement audit and federal single audit findings for the 2017 fiscal year. CCISD was given an “unmodified opinion,” which is the highest level of assurance that can be given on a set of financial statements.

“We were pleased to hear the District audit was clean, transparent and with no finding of error,” said Paul McLarty, deputy superintendent of business and support services. “In Clear Creek ISD, we pride ourselves on financial transparency and

accountability and the financial services department, directed by Jeff Kohlenberg, is committed to these important principles every day.”

The district’s financial statements were audited by Whitley Penn, LLP, a firm of licensed certified public accountants. The goal of the independent audit is to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the district for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, are fairly presented in conformity with government auditing standards. The independent audit of the financial statements is part

of a broader, federally-mandated “Single Audit” designed to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing Single Audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on the audited government’s internal controls and compliance with legal requirements, with special emphasis on internal controls and legal requirements involving the administration of federal awards.

The audit was conducted in accordance with government auditing standards.

# Melillo announces spelling bee winners



Melillo Middle School announced the winners of the 2017-2018 campus spelling bee. The winner of the campus spelling bee will participate in the Pasadena Independent School District Secondary Spelling Bee on Feb.

27 at South Houston High School. Shown are, left to right, Chris Bui, assistant principal; Jimmy Tran, first runner-up; Angelina Cao, winner; and Diane Wheeler, principal. Photo by Debra Yocum

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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
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# SB students recognized at Pasadena Independent School District Secondary STEAM Fair

Beverly Hills and Thompson Intermediate students gathered recently at San Jacinto College South to showcase their projects at the Pasadena Independent School District Secondary STEAM Fair.

The fair featured a wide variety of work in science, technology, engineering, art as design and mathematics.

"We wanted to expand the way our students think about science, allowing students to show off a final product that demonstrates how science, technology, engineering, art, and math are connected," said Holly Yoes, Pasadena ISD curriculum and instruction specialist.

Students from Beverly Hills and Thompson received awards in engineering/physics, medicine/health sciences, plant sciences, STEM art and team projects.

Judges were comprised of science teachers, administra-

tors, college professors and community members.

The highest scoring science projects qualified for advancement to the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston, scheduled for late February.

The fair took place alongside the STEM Expo at San Jacinto College South.

"We really believe in the potential of each student here and we are excited to help foster that potential," said Dr. Alexander Okwana, San Jacinto College South dean of natural sciences and health sciences.

**Science fair category winners**  
**Chemistry - eight total projects**  
 Second place went to Phil Rivera from Thompson and third place went to Jennifer Ben-Smith from Beverly Hills.  
**Engineering/Physics - six total projects**  
 First place went to Ashley Phan from Beverly Hills.

**Medicine/Health sciences - nine total projects**  
 First place went to Kelly Nguyen from Beverly Hills.  
**Plant sciences**

**- six total projects**  
 Second place went to Thalia Le from Thompson.  
**Team - 18 total projects**  
 First place went to Kath-

leen Nguyen and Kailey Tsikis from Beverly Hills.  
 Second place went to Tina Pham and Jasmine Chew from Beverly Hills.

Third place went to Anthony Benavides and Jazmyne Backman from Beverly Hills.  
**STEM art - special awards**  
**best 2D art - STEM poster**

John Anthony Amos from Beverly Hills.  
**Best 3D art - sculpture**  
 Alicia Galvan, Vanessa Garcia and Brandon Lopez

from Beverly Hills.  
**Science Fair - special awards**  
**Third Best of Show**  
 Team Project by Kathleen

Nguyen and Kailey Tsikis from Beverly Hills.  
**Second Best of Show**  
 Kelly Nguyen from Beverly Hills.



Jennifer Ben-Smith from Beverly Hills placed third in chemistry.



Ashley Phan, from Beverly Hills, placed first in engineering and physics.



Shown above, left to right, are Kailey Tsikis and Kathleen Nguyen, from Beverly Hills, who placed third in Best of Show in the science fair.

## CCART sets meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its February meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The program will be provided by the Bay Area Houston Ballet and Theatre.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering and coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. At the close of the meeting, the annual Valentine Fried Chicken/Potluck Luncheon will be held.

Members are asked to bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert to share. CCART will provide the chicken.

All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited to the event. The annual dues are \$50.

## Cleaning up the community



Michele Albrecht is shown cleaning up the corner of Beamer Road and Dixie Farm. Albrecht uses a crowbar to remove signs off telephone poles that are out of her reach. See related story on Page 3A. Photo by Laura Benavides Scallan



John Anthony Amos, from Beverly Hills, won STEM art best 2D art poster.



Shown above is Thalia Le from Thompson who placed second in plant sciences.



Shown above is Kelly Nguyen who placed first in medicine and health sciences and won second place in Best of Show in the science fair from Beverly Hills.



Above, the Beverly Hills Intermediate school winning teams are shown, left to right, first-place winners Kathleen Nguyen and Kailey Tsikis; second-place winners Tina Pham and Jasmine Chew; and third-place winners Jazmyne Backman and Anthony Benavides.



Shown above are, left to right, Alicia Galvan, Brandon Lopez and Vanessa Garcia. The students won STEM Art best 3D art sculpture. All three students are from Beverly Hills. All STEM photos by Dwight Henson

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Boys fall at Deer Park

## JFD girls' hoops repeat as 22-6A champs

Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Shane Brown did not want to flip a coin this year. He preferred to let the players decide the final outcome on the hardwood.

Well, his Lady Long-

horns took care of their business, defeating rival Deer Park 40-29 Feb. 6, at Dobie, securing the team's second straight District 22-6A crown.

With the win, Dobie is now set to take on fourth-place North Shore out of District 21-6A in the bidistrict round. That matchup is set for Monday, Feb. 12, at Sam Rayburn High School. The Dobie/North Shore winner will then take on either Clear Lake or Alief Hastings in the area round.

What a remarkable run

for the Dobie girls this season. Dobie went 13-1 a season ago and then defeated Kingwood in the first round before an area-round loss to Clear Creek.

With essentially just three regulars back from that team, Brown and his players went back to work this season. Frequently frustrated early on by inconsistent play, the Lady Longhorns found their groove when district began.

After a loss to West Brook Dec. 19, the Lady

Longhorns strung together 11 straight wins to win the league title. The girls' basketball program at Dobie had not won back-to-back titles since 2002-2004.

"I'm extremely proud of these young ladies for what they have accomplished," Brown said. "It's special to see the kids rewarded for their hard work, effort and hustle."

"We've also heard from others outside the program who have said great things about our hard work and the way we play. The players are seeing the benefits

of it all."

The loss to West Brook could have pushed the Lady Longhorns into a battle to even make the postseason. Instead, Dobie rebounded with win after win.

"We took everybody's best shot in district play and came out on top," Brown said. "We got everything every team had to give and won."

And so the playoff will commence. In a 21-6A alignment where Atascocita went unbeaten, North  
**Continued on Page 3B**

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Newly-named Dobie varsity football head coach and campus athletic coordinator Kevin Berneathy (center) was welcomed by a Pasadena ISD and Dobie High School contingent that included, left to right,

Dobie principal Franklin Moses, PISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell, PISD Director of Athletics Rupert Jaso and Dobie Ninth Grade Center principal Mike Van Essen. Photo by Jade Wise, PISD

## Berneathy named new Dobie HFC

By Jade Wise, PISD & John Bechtle, Leader

Kevin Berneathy was named the new Dobie High School varsity football head coach during a specially-called meeting of the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees Feb. 7.

Berneathy served as the offensive coordinator at Angleton High School for the last three years, where he helped lead the Wildcats to a 13-1 record and a 5A Division I Region 4

Championship in 2017. With more than 10 years of coaching experience, he has also previously served as offensive coordinator at La Marque High School, a defensive line coach at Dickinson High School and an offensive line coach at La Porte High School.

Berneathy graduated with a bachelor's degree from Southern Arkansas University in 2006 and earned his master's degree

in 2009 from Lamar University.

"Coach Berneathy has a great pedigree in coaching," said PISD Director of Athletics Rupert Jaso. "We are really excited about the vision and brand of football he is bringing to PISD and Dobie."

As head football coach of the Longhorns, Berneathy will also serve as the campus athletic coordinator and work with all of Dobie's coaches to en-

sure success in all athletic programs.

Moses, who made the final decision to choose Berneathy, is excited about the coach's arrival.

**Continued on Page 6B**

## UIL delivers Humble ISD; CCISD gets Gators, Alvin

In one click of the return key, competing for a playoff berth in most team sports became much more difficult for the five Pasadena ISD high schools.

The University Interscholastic League released its biannual athletics realignment Feb. 1, sending shockwaves in a variety of directions.

Perhaps no deeper was the reverberation felt than within Pasadena ISD. In a nutshell, Deer Park, La Porte and West Brook (in all sports but football) will be jettisoned from 22-6A beginning in 2018-2019 and continuing through 2019-2020.

That's fine, but the new reality is a tough one to

take.

The five PISD high schools, including Dobie, will now compete in 22-6A along with Humble ISD's four high schools, which include Atascocita, Humble, Kingwood and Summer Creek.

No matter the sport of choice, the Humble ISD schools and their student-athletes have to feel good about what has transpired.

Whereas those associated with PISD programs might have shown a frown or two, the Clear Creek ISD programs, including Clear Brook, appear to have caught a break.

Current Class 6A program Friendswood will

drop to Class 5A based on student enrollment numbers when the new realignment begins in the 2018-2019 school year.

That will leave the CCISD schools along with Dickinson and Alvin moving forward in District 24-6A.

In short, two CCISD programs will be guaranteed to qualify for the playoffs in all team sports. However, the realignment could not have provided a more challenging route to the postseason for the PISD programs.

The optimists will say  
**Continued on Page 2B**

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# Sports Calendar

## BASKETBALL

**Friday, Feb. 9**

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

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

## SOCCER

**Friday, Feb. 9**

Dobie varsity girls vs. Rayburn, Veterans, 6:00  
 Brook girls at Clear Springs, Challenger, 7:30  
 Dobie varsity boys vs. Rayburn, Veterans, 8:00  
 Dobie JV girls host Rayburn, Auxiliary, 8:00  
 Dobie JV boys vs. Rayburn, Auxiliary, 6:00  
 Brook JV girls at Clear Springs, Challenger, 5:30

**Monday, Feb. 12**

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

Brook varsity girls at Alvin, 7:30  
 Brook varsity boys host Alvin, 7:30  
 Brook JV girls at Alvin, 5:30  
 Brook JV boys host Alvin, 5:30

## TENNIS

**Friday, Feb. 9**

Dobie varsity hosts Franklin/Kramer tourn., TBA

## SOFTBALL

**Friday, Feb. 9**

Brook varsity at G.C. Mem. scrimmage, 6:30  
 Brook JV at G.C. Mem. scrimmage, 5:00

**Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10**

San Jacinto College hosts Coyote Invitational, See 1B

**Monday, Feb. 12**

Dobie varsity at Dawson, 6:30  
 Dobie JV at Dawson, 5:00

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

Brook varsity hosts Manvel, 6:30  
 Brook JV hosts Manvel, 5:00

**Saturday, Feb. 17**

San Jacinto College at Temple (2), 3:00

**Thursday, Feb. 15 through Saturday, Feb. 17**

Dobie varsity at Bryan tourn., TBA  
 Brook varsity at Brenham tourn., TBA

## TRACK AND FIELD

**Friday, Feb. 9**

Brook varsity girls host Wolverine Relays, 2:30  
 Brook varsity boys host Wolverine Relays, 2:30  
 Dobie varsity boys at Kethan Relays, Deer Park, TBA  
 Dobie varsity girls at Kethan Relays, Deer Park, TBA

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

PISD intermediate girls' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

**Wednesday, Feb. 14**

PISD intermediate boys' meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

## BASEBALL

**Friday, Feb. 9**

Brook varsity hosts Pas. Memorial scrimmage, 4:00  
 Dobie varsity at Bay. Sterling scrimmage, 4:00  
 Brook JV at Pas. Memorial scrimmage, 6:00  
 Brook sophomores at Pas. Memorial scrimm., 4:00

**Monday, Feb. 12**

Brook varsity at Santa Fe scrimmage, 4:00  
 Brook JV hosts Santa Fe scrimmage, 6:00  
 Brook sophomores host Santa Fe scrimmage, 4:00

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

Dobie varsity at Crosby scrimmage, 5:00

**Friday, Feb. 16**

Brook varsity hosts Manvel scrimmage, 4:00  
 Dobie varsity at North Shore scrimmage, 3:30  
 Brook JV at Manvel scrimmage, 6:00  
 Brook sophomores at Manvel scrimmage, 4:00

# Realignment pairs PISD, Humble

Continued from Page 1B they welcome the competition, which is a terrific way to view all things in life. But there are other factors in play as well, one being PISD's rising fuel bill for multiple trips to Humble. The Dobie football

program will open the 2018 season against Santa Fe and will also take on the Bellaire Cardinals in nondistrict play before 22-6A action begins. Clear Brook, meanwhile, has scheduled Friendswood, La Porte,

Angleton and C.E. King before District 24-6A action begins. Most coaches will simply pass on the thought that you just play who you play, and the rest will take care of itself. That's true enough, as it's

about to get real in 22-6A. In 24-6A, the path to the postseason could get a bit easier for all programs involved. Friendswood has enjoyed a very successful run in Class 6A but will now make the move back to 5A.

## Dobie 2018-2019 Football

### List of Opponents

**Santa Fe Indians**

**Bellaire Cardinals**

**\*District 22-6A Play**

**Summer Creek Bulldogs**

**Humble Wildcats**

**Atascocita Eagles**

**Kingwood Mustangs**

**Pasadena Eagles**

**South Houston Trojans**

**Memorial Mavericks**

**Sam Rayburn Texans**

**\*Order of play, locale to come later**

## Brook 2018-2019 Football

### List of Opponents

**La Porte Bulldogs**

**Friendswood Mustangs**

**Angleton Wildcats**

**C.E. King Panthers**

**\*District 24-6A Play**

**Alvin Yellowjackets**

**Clear Creek**

**Clear Falls**

**Clear Lake**

**Clear Springs**

**Dickinson Gators**

**\*Order of play, locale to come later**

# Dobie, Dawson to meet to begin varsity softball season

By John Bechtle Sports Editor  
 Offense has never played a bigger role in the game of softball, with more and more of today's young hitters capable of driving the ball out of the ballpark.

Yet that in no way means that the craft of pitching has taken a back seat. It's quite the opposite actually, and the Dobie Lady Longhorns are preparing to see how their newly-built pitching staff can handle the rigors of a full season.

Dobie head coach Robin Rackley knew this time would come. It always does. She's been tasked with replacing many standout pitchers at Dobie. Former four-year starter Michelle Kristoff earned her first collegiate win last weekend for San Jacinto College.

So as Dobie prepares to open the 2018 regular season Monday, Feb. 12,

at Dawson, just who will step into the circle in the bottom of the first inning? Who will see a great deal

The Dobie baseball booster club will hold its annual barbecue fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Longhorn Field located within El Franco Lee Park.

Booster club members will sell combo plates for \$10 each, and Dobie fans will also have the chance to watch the school's sophomore baseball team scrimmage against Baytown Sterling at 1 p.m.

The Dobie baseball program is still involved in scrimmage action prior to the start of the regular season.

The Longhorns' varsity team will be in League City, Tuesday, Feb. 20, to open things against Clear Creek.

of action just days later when Dobie competes in the Bryan event Feb. 15-17?

In a string of scrimmage games, Dobie has used Miquela Guajardo, Alana Ortega, Celeste Salazar and Lexanie Rodriguez in no particular order. Offensively, Dobie has had to replace a couple of

up and produce plenty of runs, and Jacqueline Garcia returns for a third season at third base.

## Feb. 10 fundraisers at Dobie

The Dobie softball program will host a series of scrimmage games Feb. 10 at Dobie and El Franco Lee Park.

The Dobie softball booster club will host a fundraiser of its own that day.

Supporters simply walk up to the softball concession stand at El Franco Lee Park Feb. 10.

The \$7 combination plates will include a hamburger, either chips or beans, a beverage and a dessert.

Following the season opener at Dawson, the Dobie varsity softball team will head to Bryan for the annual Bryan/College Station Invitational Feb. 15-17.

### Dobie Softball Round Robin

**Saturday, Feb. 10**

**9 a.m. – Dobie varsity vs. Pearland, Field 1; Dobie JV Orange vs. F-wood, Field 3**

**10:30 a.m. – Dobie JV White vs. Clear Springs JV, Field 4**

**noon – Dobie varsity vs. Cy-Lakes, Field 1**

**1:30 p.m. – Dobie varsity vs. F-wood, Field 1; Dobie JV Orange vs. Pearland JV, Field 3**

**3 p.m. – Dobie JV White vs. Pearland sophs, Field 4**

**4:30 p.m. – Dobie JV White vs. Cl. Falls, Field 2; Dobie JV Orange vs. Cy-Lakes JV, Field 3**

## Dobie tracksters to get running

A new era is about to dawn within the Dobie boys' and girls' track and field teams, with both groups under new leadership heading into the season.

Halee Edwards is the head girls' track coach entering this season, having taken over for Mo Hickman, who remains the school's head girls' cross-country coach.

Following the graduation of several of the top performers from the girls' team, Edwards will welcome some newcomers as well as a few top returnees from 2017.

"With it being early in the season, we have real-

ly pushed speed development," Edwards said.

"My biggest concern this off-season was power development and speed production along with form.

"At our practice meet, the speed was there, so I am ready to see what it looks like with another week of practice under our belts and some (outside) competition."

While Edwards is in her first season with the Lady Longhorns, the Dobie boys' tracksters also have a new leader in charge.

Following the retirement of longtime head coach David Chollette at the holiday break, long-

time assistant Irvin Theodile is now heading up the boys' program.

Both the Dobie varsity boys' and girls' teams will begin the season at the Feb. 9 Jim Kethan Relays, hosted by the Deer Park High School program.

The following week, the Longhorns will be in action at one of the city's longest-running meets, the Brown Relays at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena. That meet is set for Friday, Feb. 16.

The Clear Brook varsity boys' and girls' programs are ready to begin their season hosting the Wolverine Relays Feb. 9 at Clear Brook.

## 2018 Season Opener Dobie at Dawson, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12



Already a three-year starter at shortstop, Dobie junior Taylor Pleasants enters 2018 as one of the top offensive performers in the Region III ranks.

Photo by John Bechtle

## Lajaunie memorial tennis coming April 27-29

The 2018 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will return to the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena April 27-29.

The DLTSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are in the planning and sponsorship gathering stages for its seventh annual memorial tennis tournament.

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

entry fees to play in the tournament in his honor.

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

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

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

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

Opening ceremonies, including a scholarship awards dinner and silent auction, will be held Friday, April 27.

There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets will soon be available for purchase.

Opening night special activities this year include HTTC hosting a complimentary cardio tennis clinic for adults, and a children's clinic full of fun tennis

games for ages 12 and under. There will also be plenty of giveaway prizes.

Tickets may be purchased at the HTTC or on the DLTSF website at the end of March. In May, the 2018 Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships at the school. Entry fee for the tournament is \$35 for singles and \$22.50 per player for doubles.

Players may also register at www.seteo.com. Registration deadline is April 13.

The tournament will begin Saturday, April 28, at 8 a.m. and finish the next afternoon, with trophy presentations at the conclusion of each division of play.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund website at www.DLTennis

scholarships.com includes pictures from the 2017 tournament and information on this year's tournament, sponsorship opportunities, scholarship details and more.

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

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

**Franklin/Kramer tennis coming; Dobie High School is a host site**

Dobie High School is one of the host sites as the annual Bobby Kramer/Jerry Franklin Invitational plays out Feb. 9 at 13 different tennis sites across the area. Kramer, the longtime Longhorn tennis head coach and Dobie Hall of Honor member, is honored annually along with Franklin, who for many years coached the netters at Sam Rayburn High School. Dobie is one of seven hosts sites of the Burnt Orange division, which will welcome 23 schools. Another 24 teams will compete at six sites, including the legendary Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena. At right, Dobie's Luis Neira will be one of the hundreds of players in action over the course of the day. Play at Dobie High School begins at 8:30 a.m. The Longhorns won the team championship at the Lamar University Ron Westbrooks Invitational Feb. 2. Sebastian Delgado won first place in the boys' B singles, "Little" Tommy Nguyen teamed with Adrian Tamez for second in boys' A doubles, Leilani Vargas placed second in girls' A singles, Julia Bui won the girls' B singles title, Tina Ha and Ann Truong won the girls' A doubles consolation crown and Bao Nguyen and Emily Nguyen placed second in the girls' B doubles.

Photo by John Bechtle



**SJC softball hosts tourney**

The San Jacinto College softball team returns closer to home Feb. 9-10, hosting the Coyote Invitational Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9-10 at the Pasadena Girls Softball Association facility. The Coyotes, coming off an up-and-down showing at the Galveston College Invitational Feb. 2-3, will go against the likes of McLennan, Ranger, Murray State and Temple over the course of two days. At the Galveston Invitational, Dobie graduate Michelle Kristoff earned her first collegiate win in the circle as San Jacinto defeated Navarro 9-1. Kristoff struck out seven while going the distance, allowing just two walks and an earned run. Offensively, Taylor McHenry carried the load, going 3 for 5 with three runs scored and a pair of runs batted in. Macey Brown doubled twice, scored a run and drove in three. Allison Bravo, also a Dobie graduate, doubled among her three hits and knocked in a run. Madison Neal had a pair of hits, two of the 15 the locals had in the game. Baylee Malone had two hits for San Jacinto, but Seminole State (Oklahoma) cruised to an 11-3 win in the next tournament game. Kilgore then scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat San Jacinto 3-2. Brown had two hits, and Neal had two more. Dominique Garcia took the loss in relief, issuing a pair of walks. In the final game of the tournament, San Jacinto found itself down 9-0 in the third inning before rain halted play.

**San Jacinto Invitational**  
 Feb. 9 – SJC vs. McLennan, noon; SJC vs. Murray State, 2:30 p.m.; SJC vs. Ranger, 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 10 – SJC vs. Ranger, 10 a.m.; SJC vs. Murray State, 12:30 p.m.; SJC vs. Temple, 3 p.m.  
 All games at Pasadena Girls' Softball Assoc. fields

**San Jacinto College baseball program to honor 2018 Legends class Feb. 10**

By Amanda Fenwick  
**San Jac Marketing**  
 The San Jacinto College baseball team will honor former student-athletes at the 2018 Legends game on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 2:30 p.m. This year's Legends include Greg Runser (1999), Donnie Elliott (1988), Randy Brown (1988-89), D.J. Wilson (1995-97, player; 1997-2014, coach), David Evans (1989) and Anthony Banda (2012). Runser played one season at San Jac, helping the team finish as the national runner-up in 1999. Following his playing time at San Jac, he played one season at the University of Houston. Runser was drafted by the Texas Rangers and wound up playing five seasons in the minor leagues for the Rangers and San Diego Padres. A graduate of The Woodlands High School, Runser went 3-3 with six saves and a 1.12 ERA in 21 relief appearances in 2000 – his first in the minor leagues – for the Pulaski Rangers. "I am really appreciative of the experience I had at San Jacinto College," said Runser, who for the last nine years has been a scout with the Minnesota Twins. "Being a Gator let me know that everyone's journey is a little different, and it got me back on track. I had a blast playing for a national title and experiencing Grand Junction (Colorado, home of the Junior College World Series)." Elliott played for San Jacinto in 1988 under legendary head coach Wayne Graham, now skipper of the Rice University Owls. Elliott helped that team win a national title before beginning his professional career. He played 10 years in the minors and spent two seasons in the major leagues with San Diego. In 31 games with the Padres, Elliott was 0-1 with a 3.60 ERA. Brown spent two seasons at San Jac, also under Graham, during the 1988 and 1989 seasons – both national championship seasons. He chose San Jac because of its reputation, the reputation of Graham and to help enhance his amateur draft status in baseball. Brown was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 28th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. He played 10 seasons in the minor leagues for Pittsburgh and Seattle and is currently a coach with Twelve Baseball and is working with former San Jac teammate Dan Robinson (1987-89) on an online sports training program called Year Round Athlete. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two daughters. "This is truly an honor to be a San Jac Legend," said Brown. "So many great legends come out of San Jac. It's a program that is rich in tradition." Wilson has spent most of his baseball career at San Jac. He played two seasons at San Jac before spending 18 seasons as a Gator assistant coach. Wilson was a part of 12 national tournament teams, including six that played for a national title, as well as 11 conference champions as a coach. Following his San Jacinto College playing career, Wilson transferred to the University of Houston, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts. He also holds a Master of Education from the University of Texas at Tyler. He and his wife, Alisha, have three daughters. Wilson is the varsity baseball head coach at Summer Creek High School within Humble ISD. David Evans was the 1989 Junior College Player of the Year as a pitcher for Graham's national championship team. He holds the school record for wins in a season (18 in 1989) and strikeouts (145 in 1989) and ranks among the top five in winning percentage and innings pitched. Evans was a third-round pick of the Seattle Mariners and spent 14 years in professional baseball with the Mariners, Houston Astros, Arizona Diamondbacks, Pittsburgh Pirates and Baltimore Orioles organizations. He is currently a coach with Premiere Baseball of Texas Sports Complex. Banda was a third-team all-American during his one year at San Jacinto College in 2012, when he helped San Jac finish as the national runner-up. He was drafted in the 10th round by the Milwaukee Brewers and made his major league debut on July 22, 2017 for the Arizona Diamondbacks. In 2016, Banda was named Arizona's organizational Pitcher of the Year after combining to go 10-6 with a 2.88 ERA with 152 strikeouts in 26 starts between Double-A Mobile and Triple-A Reno. He was also selected that year to play with Team USA in the MLB All-Star Futures Game at Petco Park. Banda is Arizona's No. 4 ranked prospect for 2018. "We are excited to have these former players come back to be honored and celebrated as Legends," said San Jacinto College head coach Tom Arrington. "This event is held in conjunction with the Tournament of Champions, so we invite everyone to come out and enjoy some great baseball as we recognize our Legends." The Legends will be honored prior to the start of the San Jac baseball game versus Northwest Florida State on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2:30 p.m. All baseball home games are played at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the San Jacinto College North campus. All home games are free and open to the public. For more information, visit sanjacsports.com.

**Hoops – Dobie boys hanging on, Brook teams out**

**Continued from Page 1B**  
 Shore was fourth. As he does on a game-by-game basis, Brown also cautioned his players as to what to prepare for against North Shore, which dominated 21-6A every season prior to this one. "North Shore is obviously skilled, athletic and pressure-oriented," Brown said. "But we have to guard against seeing that name on the jersey and not playing our game. North Shore has great tradition, but so does Dobie. "You have to play a full 32 minutes and may-

be more against North Shore. For them to go 8-6 for fourth place in that district tells you how good (21-6A) is, but we are the champions of our district and have earned the right to be here, too." While the Dobie varsity girls' team is headed to the postseason as the District 22-6A champion for the second straight season, the Longhorn boys' team is aiming to hang onto at least a piece of the fourth and final playoff seed. The Longhorns' loss at Deer Park Feb. 6 was costly, but given that Sam Rayburn also lost at home to first-place West Brook, no ground was lost or gained. So with two games to go in the regular season, it may come down to strength of schedule for Dobie and Sam Rayburn, who are both 5-7. The Longhorns will head to La Porte Feb. 9 to face the Bulldogs and then close out the regular season Feb. 13 at home against Memorial. The Texans, meanwhile, will play at South Houston Feb. 9 and then host La Porte Feb. 13. While Dobie struggled at Deer Park Feb. 6 in the

heart-breaking one-point loss, the Longhorns came up clutch Feb. 2, scoring a 50-48 win over last-place Pasadena. The Longhorns led 28-17 at halftime but then watched as the Eagles climbed closer and closer. In the end, Erville Mackey's huge game helped the Longhorns get the win. Making eight of nine shots from the field, Mackey had 20 points in the game to go with seven rebounds and a pair of blocked shots. It was obviously the kind of night the Longhorns needed at the right time. Brook boys eliminated With back-to-back losses to Clear Lake and Clear Springs, the Clear Brook Wolverines have been eliminated from playoff contention in the District 24-6A boys' race. Springs, which qualified for the playoffs with the 65-58 victory, came up big in the second half to claim the victory. Once again, it's the overall strength of the district at the top that has made the difference this season. With two games to go in district play, Dickinson, Clear Lake, Clear Creek and Clear Springs have all secured a playoff spot. The only question is just where the dominoes will fall at this point in terms of seeding. Dickinson, Clear Lake and Clear Creek were already assured of playoff berths, and Springs' win over Brook sealed up the chase for playoff seeding. As for Clear Brook, a solid season will come to a close as the Wolverines look to finish at .500 or better. Clear Creek and Dickinson are the Wolverines' final two opponents of the regular season. In earlier action, the Wolverines dropped a 91-64 game to Clear Lake Feb. 2 at Krueger Field House, all but ending the locals' chance at a playoff push. Similarly, the Clear Brook varsity girls' team endured a losing streak to end the regular season at 5-9. Brook lost its finale to undefeated Clear Springs as Brook starters NaKayla Bell, Taylor Balque and Celeste Clement closed out their careers.

**24-6A Varsity Girls' Hoops (Final Standings)**

Teams	W	L
Clear Springs	14	0
Clear Lake	12	2
Clear Creek	8	6
Alvin	8	6
Clear Falls	6	8
Clear Brook	6	8
Friendswood	2	12
Dickinson	0	14

**22-6A Varsity Boys' Hoops (As of Feb. 6)**

Teams	W	L
West Brook	12	0
Deer Park	10	2
South Houston	9	3
Dobie	5	7
Rayburn	5	7
La Porte	3	9
Memorial	3	9
Pasadena	1	11

**24-6A Varsity Boys' Hoops (As of Feb. 6)**

Teams	W	L
Dickinson	10	2
Clear Lake	10	2
Clear Creek	9	3
Clear Springs	9	3
Clear Brook	5	7
Clear Falls	3	9
Friendswood	2	10
Alvin	0	12

**22-6A Varsity Girls' Hoops (Final Standings)**

Teams	W	L
Dobie	13	1
West Brook	12	2
Memorial	8	6
Rayburn	8	6
Deer Park	7	7
La Porte	2	12
Pasadena	2	12
South Houston	0	14

**Gator baseball squad remains undefeated**

The San Jacinto College baseball team will head into Legends Weekend undefeated after sweeping Bossier Parish 6-3 and 6-1 Feb. 2-3 at Andy Pettitte Park at John Ray Harrison Field in Houston. As was the case on opening weekend, the big news came from the San Jacinto College pitching staff. After striking out 29 batters over 18 innings Jan. 25-26, Gator hurlers came up with 28 more in the sweep over Bossier Parish. Staff ace Jacob Cantleberry overcame shaky control in the first game, a 6-3 win, fanning five over four innings to get the victory. Lucas Veinbergs, Trey Dillard, Rylan Kaufman and Aaron George (save) followed out of the bullpen, combining to strike out 10 while allowing just a hit over the final four frames. Jordan Myrow paced the offense with a two-run double. In the second game, Jacob Mathey had a two-run triple, Sergio Macias added a two-run double and Devon Roedahl allowed a hit over four innings with seven strikeouts for the win. Overall, Gator pitching struck out 13 in the game. San Jacinto, which advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I World Series in 2017, will take on defending champion Chipola (Florida) Friday, Feb. 9 at the University of Houston. First pitch is at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Gators will host Southwest Florida State as part of Legends Weekend at Pettitte. The ceremony is at 2:30 p.m., with live game action at 3:30 p.m. SJC will head back to the University of Houston Sunday, Feb. 11, for a 9 a.m. game against Howard. The team will then travel to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, where it will face Weatherford at 6 p.m. to close out a busy weekend.

He holds the school record for wins in a season (18 in 1989) and strikeouts (145 in 1989) and ranks among the top five in winning percentage and innings pitched. Evans was a third-round pick of the Seattle Mariners and spent 14 years in professional baseball with the Mariners, Houston Astros, Arizona Diamondbacks, Pittsburgh Pirates and Baltimore Orioles organizations. He is currently a coach with Premiere Baseball of Texas Sports Complex. Banda was a third-team all-American during his one year at San Jacinto College in 2012, when he helped San Jac finish as the national runner-up. He was drafted in the 10th round by the Milwaukee Brewers and made his major league debut on July 22, 2017 for the Arizona Diamondbacks. In 2016, Banda was named Arizona's organizational Pitcher of the Year after combining to go 10-6 with a 2.88 ERA with 152 strikeouts in 26 starts between Double-A Mobile and Triple-A Reno. He was also selected that year to play with Team USA in the MLB All-Star Futures Game at Petco Park. Banda is Arizona's No. 4 ranked prospect for 2018. "We are excited to have these former players come back to be honored and celebrated as Legends," said San Jacinto College head coach Tom Arrington. "This event is held in conjunction with the Tournament of Champions, so we invite everyone to come out and enjoy some great baseball as we recognize our Legends." The Legends will be honored prior to the start of the San Jac baseball game versus Northwest Florida State on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2:30 p.m. All baseball home games are played at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the San Jacinto College North campus. All home games are free and open to the public. For more information, visit sanjacsports.com.

**CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
 7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.  
 9:30 a.m.  
**NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** – Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971.  
 10 a.m.  
**Fun Bunch** – for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call Ronn Canon at 281-610-8999 or the chamber at 281-481-5516.  
 10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.  
 11:30 a.m.  
**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** – American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
**Hometown Heroes Park** – has dance lessons Thursdays, following the senior luncheon. Lewis and

Betty Whistler teach lessons in two-step, triple two-step, west coast swing and night club two-step at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.  
 6:30 p.m.  
**Pearland Area Republican's Club** – meets monthly on the second Thursday (except December, June and July) at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd. in Pearland. For more information, call Gary at 281-993-8335.  
 7 p.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom's** – Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
 7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" each Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or just drop in.  
 10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.

Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.  
 8 p.m.  
**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
 7:30 a.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
 10 a.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.  
 11 a.m.  
**Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** – For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
 1 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.  
 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads

UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
 1 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.  
 2 p.m.  
**Grief Support Group** – For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.  
**Scleroderma Support Group** – Do you know someone with scleroderma? Join a support group on the second Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital in Humble. Bring a friend. Call Jacob Davila at 281-706-6232, or email jdavila@scleroderma.org.  
 5:30 p.m.  
**Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step Program. Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.  
 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.  
**Continued on Page 4B**

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**ESTATE SALE**

10610 SAGETREE DR. (off Sabo) Fri, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat & Sun, Feb. 10 & 11, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For Sale: 4 bedroom

sets, 2 living room sets, dining room set, lift-top coffee table, stackable washer & dryer, framed artwork (4 by Larry Dyke), frost-free freezer, 4 flat screen TVs, recumbent bike, tools, gas grill, bookcases, wrought iron patio furniture, china, silverware sets, small kitchen appliances, Tupperware, Corning Ware, and many more household items, knickknacks and furniture. 2-8

9918 SAGEGATE DR. Fri & Sat, Feb. 9 & 10, 7 a.m. - noon. Moving sale. 2-8

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**FOR SALE:** 2-door refrigerator/freezer \$150. Gas dryer \$85. Both clean, excellent working condition. 713-557-9348 2-22

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

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR LEASE:** 9850 Sagebud Ln. Must See to Believe! No FLOODING. 3/2/2. <http://www.ibuy-housesdirect.com/Sagebud.htm> 713-412-7967 2-22

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

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## CALENDAR

**Continued from Page 3B**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

10 a.m.

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

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.

11:30 a.m.

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

Noon

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

3:15 p.m.

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

6-8 p.m.

**CrossRoads UMC** - Mercy Hearts meets on the second and fourth Mondays, 6 to 8 p.m., at CrossRoads UMC located at 10030 Scarsdale. The focus of the new Mercy Hearts is support for families of inmates and ex-offenders. The program will provide a complimentary meal, group Bible study and discussion. Child care is provided. This is a confidential ministry and information will be treated accordingly. For details, contact C. Talbot at 281-245-7072 or Chucktal@msn.com.

6 p.m.

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

6 p.m.

**Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group** - A national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families meets the second Monday at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. For information, call 281-538-4648.

**Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting** - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit [www.oahouston.org](http://www.oahouston.org).

7 p.m.

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

**Sagemont Civic Club** - Meetings are held the second Monday, 7 p.m., Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.

7:30 p.m.

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

7 a.m.

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

9:30 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.

Noon

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

1 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

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

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

8 p.m.

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

7 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com for details.

Noon

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

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

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has dance lessons Thursdays, following the senior luncheon. Lewis and Betty Whistler teach lessons in two-step, triple two-step, west coast swing and night club two-step at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.

6:30 p.m.

**Harris County Master Gardeners** - presents *Spring Vegetable Gardening* on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. For details, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubGreenThumb.aspx> or call 713-274-0950.

7 p.m.

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

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

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9:30 a.m.

**CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$35.

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

10 a.m.

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

10:30 a.m.

**Tri-County Republican Women** - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Exact cash or a check requested. For reservations, call Susan Hooper at 832-723-7671.

Noon

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

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

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has beginner ballroom lessons taught by Eileen Bauerlein on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 following the senior luncheon at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.

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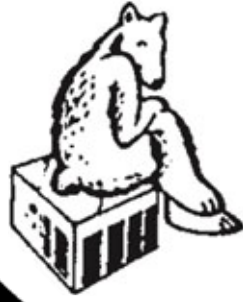
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# Dobie swimmers excel at regionals; set records

The 2017-2018 swimming season has concluded at Dobie High School, but what memories several of the team's competitors made this season.

Having become the school's new record-holder in the 100-yard fly at the District 22-6A Championships, senior Allie Parker then grabbed another school record at regionals. With Parker, David Lukner and others excelling at the Region VI Championships, the Longhorns finished 13th as a

team with 84 points. As for Parker, she earned a time of 1 minute, 6.39 seconds in the 100-yard backstroke preliminaries, setting a new school record in the final competitive high school meet of her tremendous career.

Lukner, a sophomore, delivered the best overall finish for Dobie at regionals. Coming in at 4:40.67, Lukner was fourth in the

500-yard freestyle. His brother, Joseph Lukner, was 11th in a time of 5:02.47.

In the 400-yard freestyle relay, the Longhorn boys were eighth overall, clocking in at 3:22.02 behind the effort of David Lukner, Samuel Parker, Joshua Woernley and Joseph Lukner.

At 22:39, Woernley was ninth in the 50-yard freestyle, and Joseph Lukner's

time of 1:53.32 was 12th in the 200-yard freestyle event.

Dobie also fared well for itself in the 200-yard freestyle relay in both divisions.

Joseph Lukner, Parker, Victor Nguyen and Woernley teamed in the boys' 200-free, placing 11th in a time of 1:35.14.

The Lady Longhorns' 200-yard freestyle relay, featuring Madison Cabal-

lero, Parker, Sophia Colmenares and Bella Woernley, placed 15th at 1:52.90.

At 1:46.74, the Dobie boys' 200-yard medley relay squad placed 12th at 1:46.74 as David Lukner, Parker, Woernley and Nguyen represented the locals.

Kingwood, which will join the District 22-6A ranks next school year, won the boys' and girls' regional crowns.

## Berneathy lands Dobie coaching gig

**Continued from Page 1B**  
"Coach Kevin Berneathy's passion, energy and knowledge of the game is impressive, along with his desire to develop our players into excellent student-athletes and outstanding young men," said Dobie principal Franklin Moses. "We are excited about the future of Longhorn football."

In his cover letter sent to PISD officials along with

his resume, Berneathy cited the importance for all of Dobie's student-athletes to not only succeed in the number of wins collected but also to be successful in the classroom and the community.

Moses previously told the *Leader* he and the head coach search committee received more than 90 resumes from those seeking to become just Dobie's 10th-ever head football

coach since the school opened in 1968.

Those involved in the process understand the importance of a turnaround on the gridiron at Dobie.

After a string of six straight playoff berths from 2010 to 2015, the varsity team missed the postseason in 2016 and 2017.

Certainly there will be a shake-up within the JFD football coaching staff,

with coordinators Anthony Evans and Donald Randle expected to exit. Evans could head to La Marque, where his brother is now the head coach.

The coach, who is expected on campus Feb. 13 for his first full day, will surely evaluate the remainder of the staff.

Berneathy also has pending nuptials on his mind. He is reportedly set to be married soon.

## JFD soccer teams unbeaten

Four games. Four relatively easy wins to start District 22-6A varsity soccer play.

The Dobie boys, looking to win a fourth consecutive league title, are out of the gate at 2-0 for six points after beating both Beaumont West Brook and South Houston by 3-1 counts.

The defending Region III champions, Dobie is now off to an 8-2-2 start to the 2018 regular season.

The Lady Longhorns are also a perfect 2-0 to start the 22-6A race. First came a 4-2 win over West Brook

at home, followed by a 3-0 blanking of South Houston. The Dobie teams return to action Friday, Feb. 9, at Vet-


erans Stadium in Pasadena, against Pasadena. The boys' game is at 6 p.m., followed by the girls' game at 8 p.m.

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Dobie senior Allie Parker (right) celebrates with Longhorn swimming coach Brad Nguyen after she bettered her school record in the 100-yard backstroke, coming in at 1:06.39 in the event. Parker was also joined by Madison Caballero, Sophia Colmenares and Bella Woernley in the 200-yard freestyle relay for 15th place.



Sophomore David Lukner was a star for the Dobie swim team at the regional meet, capturing fourth place in the 500-yard freestyle event. He posted a time of 4 minutes, 50.67 seconds in the final to better his own school record in the event. Lukner was also a key contributor in two relay events for the Longhorns at the Region XI championships in Pearland.



The Dobie boys' 4x100-yard freestyle relay team completed a successful run at regionals, placing eighth overall in the event at the Pearland Natatorium. The group included, from left, Joshua Woernley, Samuel Parker, David Lukner and Joseph Lukner. The Dobie team came to the wall in a time of 3:32.02.

Submitted photos

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