

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 42, No. 6

Time to spring forward

Once again, it's time for South Belter to spring forward, as daylight saving time officially begins Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m. Residents are reminded to turn their clocks forward one hour to gain an extra hour of daylight at the end of each day. Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5.

Beltway 8 closures set

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

The U-turn lanes on the Beltway 8 frontage road at Beamer and at Pearland Parkway will both be closed continuously until midnight, Friday, March 10.

Both the Blackhawk exit and Monroe entrance on Beltway 8 will be closed continuously from Saturday, March 11, through Saturday, July 8.

Library seeks donations

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

Free self-defense offered

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

Dobie 40th reunion set

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 10.

At least two northbound and two southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, March 10.

Alternate exit/entrance ramps will be closed.

Two northbound outside main lanes from Bay Area Boulevard to El Dorado Boulevard will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, March 11.

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

Scouts offer Venturing

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

Participants must be between 14 years of age (or 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade) and 21 years of age. To learn more about Venturing, visit St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Room 5, on Friday, March 10, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, call Robert Mendoza at 281-481-4246.

Gulphaven opens food bank

Gulphaven Church, located at 10716 Sabo Road, is opening a food bank each Wednesday for the first three weeks of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The food pantry will be open the fourth Thursday of the month from 2 to 7 p.m. For those in need of food subsidy, come by on one of the above scheduled days and time. Bring personal documentation to register. For additional information, contact 713-562-4580 or gulphavenchurch@txsda.org.

Chamber seeks fun seniors

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Fun Bunch meeting is open to residents age 55 and older. Meetings are held monthly at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, located at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. The next meeting is Thursday, March 9, at 10 a.m.

Latino PAC focuses on Pasadena elections

A local political action committee is seeking to transform the political landscape of both the Pasadena Independent School District and the City of Pasadena to better reflect the community's Hispanic population.

Formed by a group of Houstonians in 2015, Latino Texas PAC contends that Hispanics, who make up approximately 48 percent of Pasadena, are underrepresented in political office.

According to the group's website, "We work so that Latinas and Latinos are represented in elected positions and so those in elected office are accountable to the Latino community at large regardless of their political party affiliation. We assume that our community is at its best when we work together to seek opportunities and overcome challenges collectively. Our vision is to

establish ourselves as an institutional force that is present in every election cycle until our representation reaches parity with our population. Working together this vision will be realized."

To help achieve this goal, the PAC has recruited Hispanic candidates to challenge all incumbents on the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees.

In the May 6 PISD school board election, Position 1 incumbent Fred Roberts is being challenged by Roel Saldivar; Position 2 incumbent Mariselle Quijano is being challenged by Maria Vilma Duran; Position 3 incumbent Nelda R. Sullivan is being challenged by former PISD board member Larry Savala; and Position 4 incumbent Jack Bailey is being challenged by José A. Cázares. (Ironically, Savala was appointed to

the PISD board, following the resignation of Jerry Speer.)

Three of the four challengers filed shortly before the Feb. 17 filing deadline.

Quijano said she was approached by the group for a possible endorsement but refused when she was asked to sign a form saying she wouldn't publicly disparage any of the other PAC-supported candidates.

The group also recruited candidates to run for the position of Pasadena mayor and two Pasadena City Council seats.

In the race to replace term-limited Pasadena Mayor Johnny Isbell, the PAC has thrown its support behind candidate Gloria Gallegos, ironically a current PISD administrator. Others vying for the mayoral position include Pasadena City

Council members Pat Van Houte and Jeff Wagner, former state representatives Gilbert Pena and Robert Talton, banker and San Jacinto College board member John "JR" Moon and construction company owner David Flores.

Latino Texas is supporting Steve Halvorson for the Pasadena District B City Council position and Oscar Del Toro for the District G position. Halvorson will challenge incumbent Bruce Leamon, while Del Toro will challenge current District E City Council Member Cary Bass and former South Belt resident Allen Munz.

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Pasadena ISD recognizes CTHS's Fleming



Lewis Career Technical High School Principal Steve Fleming (third from right) recently got a surprise visit from Pasadena Independent School District administrators for being chosen as Secondary Principal of the Year. Shown above with Fleming are, left to right, Chad Phillips, CTHS assistant principal; Dr. Karen Hickman, deputy superintendent of academic achievement; Jessica McCoy, CTHS assistant principal; Dr. DeeAnn Powell, PISD superintendent of schools; Fleming, Dr. Steve Fullen, associate superintendent of campus development; and Kristi White, CTHS assistant principal. Photo submitted

Pasadena ISD names principals of the year

Lomax Middle School Principal Norma Penny and Lewis Career and Technical High School Principal Steve Fleming were selected as the 2017 Elementary/Middle and Secondary Principal of the Year, respectively, by the Pasadena Independent School District.

PISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeeAnn Powell and several district administrators delivered the news Monday, March 6, by surprising the honorees at their campuses. The winners were selected by district and campus administrators for their excellence in leadership.

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

Penny has been at Pasadena ISD for more than 20 years, serving first as a teacher and then a counselor at Miller Intermediate. In 2003, she

took a position as an assistant principal of Thompson Intermediate before ultimately taking her current role as principal of Carter Lomax in 2007.

"As a principal, I love having the opportunity to serve our students, teachers and community at Carter Lomax," Penny said. "I work with an amazing school family, and together, we have created a school culture where children feel safe, are inspired and become self-directed learners."

Fleming has been making an impact on the students of Pasadena ISD since 1989. He began his career as a science teacher at Pasadena High and took an administrative role as an instructional specialist in 2000. Fleming changed roles again when he became an assistant principal at Pasadena Memorial from 2003-2011. In 2011, he took on his current position, becoming the first principal of Pasadena ISD's career and technical high school, Lewis CTHS.

"Being a principal gives me so many opportu-

nities to invest in and impact the lives of students and staff every day," Fleming said. "I am blessed and honored to serve with the wonderful, caring staff at CTHS who love their students and want the best for them."

Penny and Fleming will be officially recognized at the 2016-2017 Region 4 Education Service Center Principal Recognition Ceremony April 5 at Hotel ZaZa.

See related photo on Page 5A.

Liquor store robbed at gunpoint

Houston police are searching for a suspect accused of robbing a liquor store at gunpoint Monday, March 6, in the 11600 block of Beltway 8 at Sabo Road.

According to police, the suspect entered the store around 8:20 p.m., produced a pistol and demanded cash from the register.

As the crook was leaving the establishment with an undisclosed amount of money, the liquor store owner followed him outside and attempted to take his photo with a cell phone.

At this point, the suspect turned around and fired his weapon at the store owner. The owner was not struck by the gunshot, but the shooter's

bullet shattered the window of the adjacent business, Great Clips hair salon.

The shooter is described merely as a male wearing all black with his face covered. Anyone with any information about this case is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crimestoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

The strip center in which the robbery occurred, which also houses the local Kroger grocery store, has become a hot spot for criminal activity in recent months. Local law enforcement agencies have taken significant measures to combat such activity.



Steven Higginbotham

Competing in the Academic Decathlon is all too familiar for Coach Steven Higginbotham, a Dobie graduate who returned to his alma mater to coach his teams to victory.

Under his direction, Dobie's academic decathlon teams have earned spots in the top ten at state nearly every year. Also notably, the team captured a

first-place win in the Super Quiz at nationals in 2011.

His achievements have not gone unnoticed. During the state meet held in San Antonio Feb. 24-26, Higginbotham was named the Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year for the state of Texas.

"I'm very honored to receive such a prestigious award," Higginbotham said. "As a former student in the Academic Decathlon program at Dobie, I understand very well how much of a positive impact the program can have on students. It was the best part of my high school experience and I'm glad to continue the program as a coach today."

Under former coach Richard Golenko, another Coach of the Year award recipient, Dobie's Academic Decathlon teams were crowned national champions in 1992 and 1996. As a student, Higginbotham's team earned second place at nationals.

He admits that he was not a "high achiever" in school, but the academic decathlon made his

Continued on Page 3A

BOPA waste collection dates set

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin and the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management department will hold two spring batteries, oil, paint (latex only) and antifreeze (BOPA) recycling collection events in the coming weeks. Martin invites District E residents to save the following dates:

The local event will be held at Ellington Airport Neighborhood Recycling Center on Highway 3 at Brantly Avenue on Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A similar event will be held in Martin's Kingwood district Saturday, April 29, at the King-

wood METRO Park & Ride on 3210 W. Lake Houston Parkway from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The events are free and open to all city residents and will be held rain or shine. A valid Texas driver's license or other proof of residency, such as a water bill, will be required.

In addition to BOPA items, residents may drop off scrap metal and large appliances. Large appliances include stoves, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.

Many common household materials are considered hazardous and need special disposal.

Continued on Page 2A

Phan named Citizen of the Year

Dr. Victor Van Phan grew up in the South Belt area and is a Dobie High School graduate.

But his childhood was anything but normal for a youngster growing up in this South Belt community.

He was honored recently at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce annual banquet as the Citizen of the Year - a long journey for the young doctor who fled his homeland at age 4 to make a new life in the United States.

Van Phan's personal history had prepared him early for adapting and persevering, having lost both parents by the time he graduated from high school at Dobie.

Born in Vietnam, he is the youngest of 12 children and his journey to the U.S. began in the last days of the Vietnam War.

"I always joked that I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth, I had wooden chopsticks," he said.

With most of his family, including his father, having already settled in the U.S., Van Phan was

four years old when he and his older sister departed amid the chaos of the fall of Saigon, a memory still seared in his mind.

"The one memory I have is running from checkpoint to checkpoint, and at every checkpoint my sister would give money to that person," he said.

"I realize now that she was bribing the check guard to go to the next checkpoint."

His mother and another sister had stayed behind to be with Van Phan's brother, a Vietnamese soldier, while Van Phan, his siblings, and father settled in Missouri before moving to Houston in 1982.

When Van Phan was eight years old, his mother was stabbed to death by Viet Cong soldiers while trying to stow away on a boat to the United States.

"I remember my sister sobbing, and she looked at me and then all of a sudden she started shaking me really hard, saying 'This is why you

Continued on Page 4A

Chamber honors MSHH's Phan



Dr. Victor Van Phan (second from right) was recently named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year at the organization's annual banquet. A 1988 Dobie graduate, Phan now serves as an orthopedic surgeon at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. Shown above with Phan are, left to right, MSHH CEO Kyle Preston, chamber President Kay Barbour and MSHH Director of Physician Resources Rebecca Lilley. Photo by Lori Rodriguez, MSHH

In My Opinion

Jackson: Sessions can redeem himself

Marie, thank you, and those who work with you, for being a large part of the media that are NOT an enemy of the people. Ed Jackson

I hope by the time this letter is published it is a moot point and Attorney General Jeff Sessions has resigned. Not because he may -or may not- have had contact with a Russian official as claimed by the New York Times. Nor because he may -or may not- have discussed topics he should -or should not- have. Nor because he may -or may not- have informed his [to be] Commander-in-Chief. Rather he should resign because he testified under oath to Congress -and thus us, the American people- that he, as the very highest level of the justice system, is above the law when it serves his personal ambitions.

At the very least he should recuse himself from any and all investigations regarding who did and did not have contact with any Russian official during the time in question.

If his admitted contact and conversations were legal and above question, then he should be happy to have this cleansing of the record and the end of inuendo.

If, however, the bipartisan inquiry proves something criminal then he should be judged and punished accordingly.

Regardless of the outcome of the bipartisan investigation he should resign for lying (or offering "alternative facts") under oath.

I can remember when men of high character held the same office were chal-

lenged to impinge their personal integrity and the trust of the people in the system they represented. When ordered to do something they, and later history, have shown to be wrong, resigned.

I am referring to AG Elliot Richardson, and his deputy AG William Ruckelshaus, for defying President Richard Nixon's order to assist in the Watergate cover up by firing Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Now is a chance for Attorney General to redeem himself and also resign from his office.

Ed Jackson

Rotary program makes difference

I want to say a robust 'thank you' to the *South Belt Leader* for the tremendous coverage given the Gulfway Hobby Airport Rotary Club during the recent visit of the Rotary International President. It was such an honor to have him come to Houston and especially honor Beta Academy during his visit. Beta Academy is one of the few schools in the area to have an Early Knights Program.

This program is in its second year and I am told it is already making a huge difference in the lives of the students, both at school and at home.

The Gulfway Hobby Airport Rotary is in its 62nd year. We meet every Thursday at noon at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel across from Hobby Airport.

We are always looking for new members so if you are a business man or woman, and think Rotary might be for you, come visit us.

Service above Self, **Gordon Berg**
President

Not too early to prepare for kindergarten roundup

With the approach of kindergarten roundup in school districts across Texas, parents of children entering school for the first time may order a certified birth certificate via the Texas.gov Online Vital Records Application.

This official service, offered in conjunction with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), provides easy-to-follow instructions in English or Spanish for a secure and convenient experience.

The price of an online birth certificate is \$22 per record, the same as a walk-in or mail order, and is generally less expensive than other third-party online sources. DSHS fulfills all online vital record orders, and most orders are processed within 10 to 15 business days.

Marriage and divorce verifications, as well as certified death certificates, may also be ordered through this online service.

The response from those

who have already used the online vital records application has been very positive with comments such as, "Just want to say thank you to DSHS for making ordering a birth certificate for my son an easy process," and "I cannot think of a single improvement to the online birth certificate ordering process. It was simple and straightforward."

"Thank you for keeping the process from being cumbersome!"

For a demonstration on how to order a vital record online, visit the Texas.gov YouTube channel where you can watch a short video with step-by-step instructions.

Texas.gov is a great place to complete many other government services online, pay CHIP enrollment fees, renew a vehicle registration or driver's license, order driving records and much more.

With more than 1,000 online services, secure payment processing, and friendly 24/7 customer service, it is convenient to utilize the online website of Texas.gov.

Consumer alert: To safely take care of government business online, beware of unofficial, look-alike websites operated by private organizations that may charge unnecessary fees for services or information.

Instead, make sure the website being accessed is the state's official website, <http://www.texas.gov> or an official state agency website prior to completing an online transaction.

To access an official website, enter the URL in the address bar at the top of an Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, etc.) instead of entering the address in a search engine bar (Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc.).

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Publisher's Opinion

PISD voters, time to pay attention

Pasadena Independent School District voters will have quite a choice to make in the upcoming school district election. (See related story Page 1A.)

While most parents and taxpayers believe the district is headed in the right direction, a Houston based group which claims to have national connections is out to change things.

The Latinos Texas PAC has been recruiting candidates for PISD and Pasadena's city race. Members of the group tout the connection of having worked for Al Gore and John Kerry.

At a recent meeting of the group, which was held at a North Loop location, the agenda was totally centered on PISD and the Pasadena city election.

Even Mariselle Quijano, an extremely hardworking and effective member of the Pasadena ISD board is not "Latino" enough for the group. If their motives

were pure, they would be working hard to keep her on the board, not defeat her.

Their meeting was filled with contradictions. While their top-of-the-ticket candidate, Gloria Gallegos praised PISD for a job well done, the group's goal is to take over PISD as PISD is doing a bad, racist job.

One of the candidates, who as a Hispanic youth attended PISD and earned a "free ride" to Harvard, continually knocks the job PISD is doing. Well, PISD apparently did very well for him.

Doesn't make much sense to me!
It appears this is an effort to take over, just to take over. How many of these candidates have even attended three or four (or even one) PISD board meeting? Do they even know what they are running for?

This is an important election. Become informed and involved. Our district depends on it!
-Marie Flickinger

San Jac hosts "out of world" events

San Jacinto College is hosting three events this spring that are sure to be out of this world while also down to Earth.

The public is invited to the College's Mind Trekkers Family Night, Space Day and Earth Day events.

Mind Trekkers Family Night returns this year on March 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. Families are invited to join in the fun and participate in approximately 100 experiments related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Last year's event featured musical fruit, magnets in mid-air, DNA extraction, fire tornadoes and skewered balloons. Mind Trekkers Family Night will take place inside the Anders Gymnasium, Building C-17,

on the San Jacinto College Central campus.

During the day, the College will host nearly 6,000 sixth-graders from local schools to participate in the activities.

Space Day will take place on March 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the science building, Building C-19, on the Central campus. This San Jacinto College Aerospace Academy event will connect students interested in the STEM fields to representatives from NASA and workforce industry leaders. Information will be provided on internships and scholarships, and networking opportunities will be available.

There will be food and door prizes. Displays will include lunar samples, robotics, virtual reality, rocketry, Orion-Mars and planetary science.

The San Jacinto College South campus will host an Earth Day celebration on April 20, featuring members from the wildlife world. In previous years, this event has featured exhibits with snakes and lizards, along with other displays geared toward biology and environmental science.

This event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the science and allied health building, Building S-1.

All STEM-related events at San Jacinto College are supported by the San Jacinto College STEM Council. For information about all STEM events and news, visit sanjac.edu/stem-council.

Elected officials share their words

Committee passes misconduct bill

The Senate Education Committee last week voted 9-0 unanimously to approve Senate Bill 7 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, which will strengthen and enhance educator misconduct laws in Texas. Bettencourt said, "Teacher misconduct reports are being filed all over Texas, with a 43 percent increase in the number of cases the Texas Education Agency has opened this fiscal year. Educator misconduct has become a statewide epidemic, and the Senate Committee on Education today unanimously approved common sense legislation to stop it. I look forward to bringing this bill to the Texas Senate," he added.

SB 7 has firm support from educator groups, school board groups and the education community. Key bill points include:
Expanding the Texas Education Agency's investigative authority from intradistrict to interdistrict relationships;

Expanding reporting requirements to include not only superintendents, but principals as well, with penalties for failing to report; and
Automatic revocation of teaching certificate if offender receives deferred adjudication for an educator misconduct offense or any offense that would require them to register as a sex offender.

Bettencourt will add an amendment along with Sen. Van Taylor (R-Plano) and Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas) on the floor that will strengthen SB 7 based on ideas presented during public testimony.

"Lt. Governor Dan Patrick has named protecting students from predatory teachers one of his top 10 legislative priorities, and Governor Greg Abbott discussed it during his State of the State Address," Bettencourt continued. "When teachers and students engage in this behavior their lives are irrevocably altered, and it is important that we no longer turn a blind eye and engage everyone in stamping out this problem!"

Garcia files Women's History bill

In recognition of the start of Women's History Month, Sen. Sylvia Garcia has filed SB 1160 to increase pay equity amongst all workers. SB 1160 seeks to shrink the wage gap by prohibiting an employer from asking about an applicant's wage history, whether through a question on an employment form, or by requesting that information from a previous employer. Basing a compensation offer off an applicant's previous salary has the unintended effect of recycling wage disparities, historically experienced by women and people of color, throughout a person's entire career. Academic research demonstrates that pay inequity not only negatively affects the individual, but the economy as a whole. An analysis by the Institute for Women's Policy Research showed that closing the gender wage gap would lower the poverty rates in every state. As such, SB 1160 will help every single job applicant in Texas, not just women.

"Salaries should be based on the requirements of the job and not how much an applicant previously earned. By asking for previous salary information, employers are likely to perpetuate past inequities. This bill seeks to make the negotiation of salaries about qualifications and the demands of a position," stated Garcia.

Campus Sexual Assault Bill Supported

On Wednesday, March 1, Senator Sylvia Garcia hosted a student-led press conference announcing SB 962. The bill will require all Texas public colleges and universities to establish online reporting systems for survivors of sexual assault. Importantly, it would create minimum standards to ensure that these systems are survivor-centered and trauma-informed. These standards are the result of input from student leaders from colleges and universities across the state. SB 962 would empower survivors to securely record time-stamped and uneditable details and evidence about what happened to them in whatever manner they see fit - videos, photos, in writing, etc. These minimum requirements also ensure that survivors are the primary owners of these documents. Student leaders from University of Houston, Texas State University, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University have confirmed attendance at the press conference.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, for residents and business owners in the Sagemont community to discuss local concerns.

For additional information on the local meetings, visit the *Sagemont Civic Club* Facebook page or

sagemontcc.org.

A young woman ran to the home of a member of the *South belt & Sagemont area crime alert* Facebook page and allegedly banged on the homeowner's door asking for help on Friday, March 3, around 11:30 p.m. at Atkinson Elementary School, 9605 Kingspoint Road. The homeowner asked the young woman to step away from the door as he dialed 911.

Laura Bush to hold dual language meetings

Laura Bush Elementary will have two informational meetings for parents who will have children enrolling in kindergarten for the 2017 - 2018 school year and are interested in the dual language program.

The meetings will be held Tuesday, March 21, at 10

When the homeowner stated that the police were on the way, the woman stepped back from the door and ran away.

The homeowner described the female to be about 5 feet tall, light-skinned with light-colored hair and weighing approximately 140 pounds.

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

A member of the People of Sagemont Facebook page has reported that the Liquor Depot, 11623 S Sam Houston Parkway, a store next to Kroger near the intersection of Sabo and Beltway 8, had been robbed and shots were fired.

For more information, visit the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page. See Page 1A.

Death

Zeno (Robby) Goss Robertson



South Belt resident Zeno (Robby) Goss Robertson Jr. died on March 4, 2017, and was greeted by family and friends who preceded him, including his mother and father. He was born on Nov. 30, 1947 to Zeno Goss Robertson Sr. and June Alley Robertson in Houston.

Robby loved life and lived it to the fullest. He graduated from Austin High School in Houston and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force shortly after graduation.

He spent his entire career in aviation, the majority of time spent traveling with his family in the military and at Hobby and Ellington Airports.

His military career brought him to various places around the world where he was fortunate enough to visit and live with his family including Iceland, Arizona, Paris, Spain, and California.

He loved being around airplanes, he had a passion from a very young age for Harley Davidson motorcycles, playing his guitar and enjoyed time with family and friends.

Robby was blessed with a very large and loving family. He is survived by Sandra Robertson and their five children, Tina Robertson-McLaughlin, Terry Robertson, Gene Robertson, Debra Behler and Brenda Robertson; sons-in-law, who were like sons to him, James McLaughlin, Greg Behler and James Davis; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Samantha Minter and Christian Showalter, Travis Robertson, Jackson Behler, Ashley Robertson, Brittany Robertson, Sophia Tamayo and Oliver Robertson; and extended family and many friends.

The service celebrating Robby's life was held at Niday Funeral Home March 8, 2017.

Interment followed at South Park Cemetery.

Maria G. Falcon



Maria Granado Falcon, 79, died peacefully on March 2, 2017. She was a longtime South Belt resident. She was surrounded by her loving legacy, her family, at her home in Houston.

Born on Sept. 7, 1937, to José and Anita Granado, Mary grew up in Pecos and graduated from Pecos High School where she was an A+ student and member of the pep squad. She loved to write stories and sing songs, but above all, she loved to dance. She met her loving husband, Gilbert Falcon Sr., when she was 13 years old and they became great friends and were married on Dec. 18, 1957. They would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

She will be remembered for her beautiful movie-star smile, sweet kindness and loving patience.

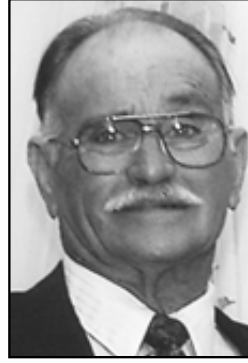
Her sense of humor was brilliant, her laugh, infectious, and her hugs were unmatched. Maria had a special gift of listening when someone needed to talk. She could remove sadness from anyone's heart by making them laugh at the silliest things. She loved caring for others and always put everyone else first.

Maria is survived by her husband; her daughter Annette DeCuba and her three

children Andre, Chloe and Jon DeCuba; sons Gilbert Jr. and Mark Falcon; daughter Sandy Enoch and husband Bart and their son Dylan; daughter Angela Traub and husband the Rev. Andrew Taub and their four children Christopher Traub (Alexis), Clarissa Traub Spite (Austin), Tim Traub and Victoria Traub; brothers Mario Granado (Stella) and Arturo (Kate); great-grandchildren, Ross, Francesca and Octavia Traub; and nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Sunday, March 5, and was followed by burial at the Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home.

Sam (Buddy) Pitts



Sam (Buddy) Pitts died March 4, 2017, following a lengthy illness. Sam was born to Alfred and Bessie Pitts on July 27, 1928, in McAlester, Okla., where he lived until moving to Houston in his late teens. He was a longtime South Belt resident.

At the age of 17 Sam joined the U.S. Navy as World War II was winding down. Following discharge and a year at Feather & Feather Art School he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps. Sam finished boot camp just in time to join in the first battles in Korea, making the Inchon Landing and fighting in the infamous Chosin Reservoir where he was injured and ultimately discharged after receiving numerous medals, among which were two Purple Hearts. He then determined to pursue a college degree at the University of Houston where he studied radio television production and education, majoring in history and speech. He was a charter member of the radio-TV honorary fraternity AEP and graduated with a BFA in 1958.

Sam met the love of his life Joy King in 1953 and on May 30, 1954, they were united in marriage at the Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church in Trinity, Texas. On Father's Day of that year Sam accepted Jesus Christ as his savior and has lived a life committed to serving and honoring Him, teaching junior boys, leading Royal Ambassadors, serving as a deacon and most recently directing the Lightbearers' department at Sagemont Church.

In 1961, Sam decided to launch out into manufacturing and established Industrial Lumber and Box Company which continues in operation by his son following his reluctant "retirement." He believed and practiced the principle of Matthew 25:35-45 "...inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me," practicing compassion and belief in individuals even receiving recognition from the state of Texas for hiring the handicapped. He ministered and spoke to recovering addicts through the pulpit in the Shadows/The Shoulder and served on the Mission Centers of Houston Board while serving faithfully in his

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The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 9, 2017, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. Interment to follow at Forest Park East Cemetery.

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Items not accepted are: alkaline batteries, electronic waste, oil-based paint, paint without labels, household hazardous waste/chemicals, business waste, medical waste, radioactive waste, PCB's, dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, household trash or tires.

There is no need to bring empty latex paint cans or those that have hardened. These can be discarded with household garbage.

Residents may call 3-1-1, the City of Houston's customer service hotline, for information or visit www.houstonolidwaste.org. More information on the Solid Waste Management department and its services is also available on Facebook and Twitter.

Accepted items are rechargeable lead acid, NiCad and lithium ion batteries; used motor and cooking oil (15 gallon limit each); anti-freeze (15 gallon limit); latex paint (15 gallon limit); and appliances and scrap metal including refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.

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alkaline batteries, electronic waste, oil-based paint, paint without labels, household hazardous waste/chemicals, business waste, medical waste, radioactive waste, PCB's, dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, household trash or tires.

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church.

"Interesting" and "curious" could be applied to Sam's many hobbies and activities since he enjoyed RVing; creating "knot heads" from discarded lumber; scouting flea markets for treasures; and collecting paintings and multiple other works of art as well as a multitude of friends.

Sam is preceded in death by his parents, step-mother Ester Pitts and sisters Ruby Logan and Virginia Adams.

Surviving Sam are his wife of 62 years, two children, daughter Brenda Wendorf and husband Jay and son Sam and wife Valerie; and five grandchildren, Madison Pitts, Sam Elza Pitts, Emmitt Pitts, Jacob Wendorf and Nicole Wendorf. Also surviving are his sister Betty Patrick and husband O.D. brother-in-law Homer Adams, numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

The service honoring Sam's life will be Friday, March 10, 3 p.m. at Niday Funeral Home, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Phillip Barrera



South Belt resident Phillip Barrera, 75, of Houston, Texas, died Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017.

He was born in Hearne, Texas, on Feb. 19, 1942, to Jesus and Josefa Barrera. He was married to Tammy Barrera for 46 years.

Phillip pursued a career in telecommunications for Southwestern Bell and AT&T.

Phillip loved his family very much. He was an avid lover of the game of golf since he was a young boy. In September one could find him rooting for his cowboys, Dallas Cowboys that is. He was also very proud of his country.

Phillip is preceded in death by his parents; brothers Seferino Barrera, Cruz Barrera, Peter Barrera and Chris Bentzie; sisters Anna Barrera, Natividad Barrera and Augustina Barrera.

He is survived by his wife; son Phillip Paul Barrera and wife Carrie; grandson Taylor Barrera; granddaughter Kaitlyn Barrera; brothers Tony and Louis Barrera and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family received friends Wednesday, March 8, with a rosary recited at Forest Park East Funeral Home, 21620 Gulf Freeway in Webster.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 9, 2017, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. Interment to follow at Forest Park East Cemetery.

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Pearland GOP meet March 21

The community is invited to the Pearland Area Republican Club's meeting on Tuesday, March 21.

The guest is Pearland

Dobie Latin Club scores first place in competition



The Dobie Latin Club competed at the Houston Area Latin Competition on Saturday, Feb. 25. The students competed in the academic, art and speaking categories. Dobie won first place overall based on total award points. Shown are, left to right, (first row) Thuyen Vu, Heidi Tran, Lisa Barrett, Annie Tran, Esther Kim, Kevin Phan, Kat Villanueva, Justin Vu, Mary Doan, Idania Guzman, Kelly Tran, Shawn Krivik, Trey Meyers, (second row) Jasmine Pham, Catherine Le, Sandy Huynh, Johari Weaver, Taylor Nguyen, Stephanie Bonilla, Sean Le, Rebecca Shaffer, Erika Ragasa, Ashley Nguyen, Amber Nguyen, Jade Nanez, Cecilia Torres, (back row) Victor Nguyen, Christiana

Nnabuife, Stephanie Martinez, Andy Nguyen, Alexis Tran, Courtney Chung, Vincent Ta, Felicity Soto, Jose Trujillo, Thuy Dinh, Jessica Vu, Nico Macedo, Michelle Nguyen, Tiffany Duong, Dalila Nguyen, Vnam Tran, Samantha Merrill, Patrick Tran, Hy Tran, Jennifer Nguyen, (back row) Tina Ha, Jason Le, Jacob Nguyen, Tony Tran, Hughes Pham, Preston Chung, Cayla Pena, Kennedy Ho, Minh To, Julian Sanchez, Jason Sabal, Alejandro Montejano, Christian Laurila, Ben Tran, Sami Yu, Alex Tran, Victoria Dao and Kay Duong.

Photo by Jeffrey Bell

PISD crowns spelling bee winners

After two months of preparation, Leyna Pham, an eighth grader from Miller Intermediate, was crowned the district's queen Spelling Bee champion Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The winning word was *pterodactyl*. Marilyn Espino of Beverly Hills Intermediate captured the second place trophy.

Pham is a confident spell-er. After spending countless hours reading, writing and memorizing hundreds of words, she knew she was de-

termined to be in the top 10 in the district-wide competition, "but never be the winner," Pham said.

"It doesn't even feel real," Pham said. Both Pham and Espino competed against more than 20 students who swarmed to South Houston High School Tuesday night from two elementary campuses, along with some middle and intermediate schools.

What does it take to sharpen one's memory for a spelling competition?

"Repetition," Pham said. "I wrote each word down 10 times and asked my sisters to quiz me."

Both students will represent Pasadena ISD as they advance to the regional Houston Public Media Spelling Bee, April 1, at the University of Houston. The competition will be live-streamed at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. for the final round. The top two spellers of this bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

PISD names spelling bee winners



Shown are, left to right, district spelling bee champion Leyna Pham, eighth-grader at Miller Intermediate; and runner-up Marilyn Espino, eighth-grader at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

Photo submitted

Thomas Hancock hosts Parent STREAM Night

Thomas Hancock Elementary hosted the Parent STREAM Night on Feb. 23. Parents and students had the opportunity to learn about science, technology, reading, engineering and mathematics. Shown below, Joaquin Ramirez and his mom Martha Ramirez explore tiny bots.



Shown above, Savannah Gomez hugs Bruno the Bison.

Shown right, Efrain Acosta and his mom Tiare Ruiz learn about coding in technology lab.

Photos by Hancock staff members



Ivy Gray is learning engineering with her dad Esteban Gray and her teacher Ashley Faciane.



Leyla Torres and her parents Rafael Torres and Crystal Zavala learn about mixing water and oil in the science lab.



Dobie Lassos bring home Silver Sweepstakes



The Dobie High School Lassos were very successful at the Crowd Pleasers Dance Contest held on Feb. 25 at Clear Springs High School. After competing with two routines, a pom routine and a kick routine, they took home a Silver Sweepstakes award for receiving 85s or higher on both routines. In addition, the girls won best in class for both routines. Shown are, left to right, (first row) Hallie Nelms, Naomi Rodriguez, Tammy Dang, Evamaria Perla, Jasmine Olivares, Brianna Gomez,

Osayi Edigin, Angela Vu, (second row) Alissa Vara, Kianna Groves, Allison Neira, Jolany Chevez, Granyeli Feliciano, Jocelyn Garcia, Sidney Torres, Brooke Morales, (back row) Erin Woodard, Yanelly Garza, Lauren Deramus, Ariel Stabler, Tamecia Anderson, Kiareliz Ramos, Chardieral Terrell, Aliyah Salas, Charlize Tamayo, Lian Yui, Destiny Davila, Valerie Garibay, Thy Huynh and Dezelynn Villarreal.

Photo by Diana Morales

CCISD parents get help

The Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) recognizes that parents and guardians are seeking only the best when it comes to their children.

As the district strives to partner with parents in this pursuit, the Parent Assistance Center has launched several initiatives to support families through some of today's common challenges.

Children are more likely to thrive and succeed when their parents are engaged and equipped to guide them through the challenges that arise along the journey from childhood to adulthood.

Tony Davila, director of the CCISD Parent Assistance Center, is hosting an interactive workshop on Tuesday, March 28, at CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium Fieldhouse Community Room, 1955 W. NASA Blvd. in Webster.

The workshop is designed to provide practical tips for parents on how to navigate through their child's difficulties, from bullying and anxiety to common behavioral issues.

These sessions are open to CCISD parents of students in grades pre-K through 12.

The workshop is titled *Help for Parents with the A, B, C's: Anxiety, Bullying and Compliance*.

Parents may choose from two sessions:

Session 1: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Session 2: 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

To RSVP for the workshop, CCISD parents may visit www.ccisd.net/parentworkshop. Space is limited.

Thompson names honor roll for 4th 6 weeks

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

Seventh Grade

Victoria Elizabeth Acosta, Nadine Ajmeere Ahmed, Montserrat Xitlalic Alba, Lizbeth Marie Aranda, Dayyani Belisa Arboleda, Rafael Antonio Argueta, Jasmine Lizette Arredondo, Jorge Luis Arredondo, and Ublester Arroyo Espinoza.

Keegan Neal Ashworth, Alexa Sakeena Avila, Andre A. Barrientos, Caitlyn Rae Berkstresser, Catherine Marie Berkstresser, and Ashley Summer Brown-Klawuhn.

Thomas Lucas Bustamante, Alayna Nicole Calvillo, Gabriella Campo, Jacqueline Alazaye Canales, Amy Thuy Cao and Ricky Cao. Joshua George Raymond Carter, Ashley Castellanos, William Alexander Castillo, Anthony Rey Castro, Alani Eloisa Chapa, Alyssa Brianna Chapman, Lydia Alena Chicas, Matthew Christopher Collins, Angel Alejandro Corea, Diego Sebastian Cortez, Benson Carter Cubos, Thomas Duke Cypert, Lucinda Sunflower Davis, Karina Del Villar, Kaden Hooks Fernandez and Ana Camila Flores.

Jessica Vanessa Flores, Sierra Yvonne Frost, Carlos Antonio Funez, Selena Abigail Galicia, Steven Edenislon Garcia, Sherlyn Alexandra Gavidia, Timothy Quoc Giang and Jaqueline Abigail Gonzalez. Lazarus Gonzalez, Kaylee Gabrielle Goodrum, Hassan

Alejandro Gutierrez, Hailey Beth Henderson, Alexis Henriquez, Clarissa Yvette Hernandez, David Alex Hernandez, Elijah Zavier Hernandez and Emily Brianna Hernandez. Katelyn Renee Hernandez, Niklas Ricardo Hernandez, Pedro Angel Herrera, Mia Alejandra Horton, Kiera Diane Jackson, Kyra Nadine Jackson, Joshua Ray Jimenez, Alexis Amina Kamal and Jaidyn Grayce Kelley.

Anh Nhat Ky, Angelina Truc Lam, Diego Javier Leanos, Kimberly Lizardopuebla, Elissa Joely

Lopez, Gabriela Nicole Lozano, Keena Magana, Jasmine Marie Maldonado and Trixie Amanda Marquez. Valeria Nicole Martinez, Celina Mata, Ashlyne Celest Medina, Crystal Mejia, Lauren Michelle Mendez, Matthew Thomas Mendiola, Katelyn Mendoza, Valerie Josephine Molina and Crystal M. Morales.

Avry Gail Munoz, Karime Murguia, Xavier Ray Musquiz, Albert Alexis Ngo, Brian Thai Nguyen, Grace Nicole My Hanh Nguyen, Kelly Han Ngoc Nguyen, Kim Nguyen, Linh Ha My

Nguyen, Tommy Tang Nguyen and Natalie Onozie. Abigail Alicia Ortiz, Diego Osuna, Audrey Elizabeth Owens, Isabella Elida Padilla, Jeremiah La'don Paige, Jeremiah Neil Rabang Palma, Levani Tsothe Pelaez, Gilberto Joel Perez, Jason Pham, Nguyen Chan Pham, Vale-rie Phi Yen Phon-Xayalinkham, Javon Allen Portis, Kori Germaine Pounds, Alexandra Ramos, Zachary Edward Reimer, Miranda Camille Resendez, Arianna Lexi Reyna, Adrian Eden Rios, Joseph Rios, Vanessa

Continued on Page 5A

Bridge has openings

The Clear Lake Bridge Club, located at 16614 Sea Lark Road, will have regular open and novice games during March. Regular open games are Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.

There is also an open game at 1 p.m. on Saturday and on Thursday at 2 p.m. Games more suited to beginning duplicate bridge players are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m., and Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

There are also bridge lab games on Sunday at 2 p.m. and Tuesday at 2 p.m. These games include directors that will help the players with their bidding.

Every Sunday at 1 p.m. there is a team game at the club.

Classes in various levels of bridge play are just getting underway.

For information on the classes contact Dave Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobe.com, or call the club at 281-480-1911.

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Strut Your Mutt at Family Fun Fest

Clear Brook City MUD and South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will present the Strut Your Mutt competition at the Family Fun Fest on April 8. (See related entrance form, Page 6A.)

The Family Fun Fest will be held at Clear Brook City Park, at the corner of Blackhawk and Scarsdale boulevards and will run from 4 to 8 p.m.

The Strut Your Mutt competition will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Registration starts at 4 p.m. on the day of the event. Early registration forms can be picked up at the Clear Brook City MUD Office located at 11911 Blackhawk Blvd. or at the South Belt - Ellington Chamber of Commerce Office, at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd.

Competition categories include Prettiest Dog, Ugliest Dog, Biggest Dog, Smallest Dog, Diva Dog, Macho Dog, Best Trick, Best Costume and Best Owner and Dog Costume.

A wristband will be required to participate in this event.

Phan recognized Citizen of the Year

Continued from Page 1A

go to school, you have to get an education, you can never depend on me because you never know when I'm going to leave." She was telling me that I had to be self-sufficient."

His family moved from Missouri to Texas, where he grew up in South Belt. He was a freshman at Dobie, when his father died of liver failure.

Phan had spent much of the summer in the hospital at his father's bedside to help translate. His father sent him home July 3. The next morning, he died. "I knew he was going to pass away," Phan said. "He didn't want me to be there. That was rough."

At 14, he had to lie to get work.

"Right after my dad died, I got a job here working at a Kroger, at Sabo," he said. There he learned to assess and place food items in a bag in seconds, and Phan would go on to earn the title of "Fastest Sacker in the Houston Tri Area."

He worked two jobs through high school and three through college. That's when he had a bad car accident.

Afterwards, he couldn't feel his leg. A doctor told him it was unclear if he would be paralyzed. He was 19 and angry at God.

"How much more do you need to test me? I don't get it," he recalls asking.

He lost a year of college at the University of Houston while rehabbing — regaining his mobility and gaining a new direction in medicine.

He rented a cheap room next door to a drug house off Telephone Road.

He recalls one day when a stray bullet flew into his room. He didn't have money to move, so he reinforced walls with plywood, joking he couldn't afford Kevlar.

"I just studied on the

ground," he said.

At a Wendy's near downtown, he says he would buy the 99-cent chili. "I would divide it in half because I had to make it last two days."

At the nearby Fiesta, he bought tuna — four cans for \$1.

He regards his prudence as motivation to succeed, saying "I will not go back there. It gives you drive."

He says he hates canned tuna now.

In 1984, as Phan was starting high school, he saw a sign get posted: Future Home of Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital.

Two years later, he would become a volunteer at the new hospital, spending time in the ER and running miscellaneous errands.

He became a successful orthopedic surgeon affiliated with Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. He says he is a better doctor because of his own pain.

He married his Beverly Hills Intermediate sixth-grade sweetheart, Anh, and had two daughters. Surely, the worst of his journey was behind him.

Then his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer.

On the morning of her mastectomy, the Phans learned they were pregnant. He says that was his darkest hour.

The Phans now have three beautiful daughters and live in a beautiful West University home, where they teach their children their hard-learned lesson: all things can give you strength.

In the family kitchen, Phan says to his daughters, "It's not how hard you fall. It's how fast you get up."

Phan does not know where his life's journey will take him next, but he does know what he would say to God now.

"I get it," he says with a smile.

greeted with a birthday cake on March 15.

Light the birthday candles March 14 for Aimee Reeves.

Melillo Middle School
Blow out the birthday candles for Diane Wheeler March 10. The day to celebrate with a cake for Troy Ralls is March 14.

Roberts Middle School
Marking a birthday March 12 is Alexandra Lavelle. Celebrating a special birthday March 14 is Crystal Polo.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Share in the birthday celebration for Christina Serna March 11. Send a birthday greeting March 12 to Caleb Pickrell. Enjoy a birthday celebration with Christopher Monita March 15.

Thompson Intermediate

Light the birthday candles March 9 for Hong Doan and Maria Ruiz on March 15.

Bush Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting to **Jayan Fender** March 12. Enjoy a birthday cake on March 13 with **Lindsey Pelton**. Join in the birthday fun with **Mayra Tapia** on March 14.

Frazier Elementary
Blow out the candles March 15 for **Mirtha Hernandez.**

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday March 11 is **Dora Barnett**. March 13 is the day for a double-layer cake for **Laura Vazquez** and **Jennifer Dowling**. **Myriam Garcia** enjoys a birthday March 14.

Moore Elementary
The day for a party for **Guadalupe Hudson** is March 9. Send a happy birthday greeting March 11 to **Yonia Garcia**. Celebrate with a birthday cake March 15 for **Esmeralda Munoz.**

Stuchbery Elementary
Light the birthday candles March 14 for **Aimee Reeves.**

Light the birthday candles March 9 for Alexandra Alvarado. Send a birthday greeting to Elida Torres March 12.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles for **Jennifer Haynes** on March 10. Shared birthday greetings are sent to **Adrian Amador** and **Sandra Rodriguez** on March 12. On March 14, double birthday wishes are sent to **Elizabeth Cross** and **Robert McGuill.**

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

Thursday, March 9: **Sheri Akanji, Cheryl Stell, Rudy Rivera, Leah Lister, Lance Botkin, Susan Zientek, Monte Long and Bo Richards;** Friday, March 10: **Jim Daigle, Sheila Dill and Kizzy Moore-Christie;** Saturday, March 11: **Raquel Loya, Michael Martinez, Jesus Romero, Marcelo DeLeon III and Irma Manriquez;** Sunday, March 12: **Debbie Clark, Maria Riojas, Debbie Johnson and Heather Murphy Burris;** Monday, March 13: **Matthew Hanks, Heidi Delk, Shane Terry, Samuel Pitts, Sharon Jobe, Max Hernandez and Becky Gilley;** Tuesday, March 14: **Allison Weatherly, Chris Williams, Curtis Scope, Ron Shafer and Angelique Garcia;** and Wednesday, March 15: **Teri Posey, John Dies, Renee Guillot-Rodriguez, Jeanne Cook, Christopher Lozano and Melissa Robinson.**

EVIE TURNS THREE!
Stacey and Stephen Flowers of League City celebrate the third birthday of their daughter, **Evelyn "Evie" Faith Flowers**, on Saturday, March 11. Proud grandparents are **Jannie and Robert Scarberry** of South Belt and **Karen and Mike Flowers** of Dickinson. Sharing in the celebration are big sister **Kennedy**; big brother **Owen**; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Tiffany Scarberry**; uncles **Joseph Hayes, Austin and Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno, Jade and Lily Scarberry, and Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers.**

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 9 through March 15.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song March 15 to **Manuela Juarez.**

Burnett Elementary

Light the birthday candles March 9 for Hong Doan and Maria Ruiz on March 15.

Bush Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting to **Jayan Fender** March 12. Enjoy a birthday cake on March 13 with **Lindsey Pelton**. Join in the birthday fun with **Mayra Tapia** on March 14.

Frazier Elementary
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Roberts Middle School
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Beverly Hills Intermediate
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Thompson Intermediate

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Melillo Middle School
Blow out the birthday candles for Diane Wheeler March 10. The day to celebrate with a cake for Troy Ralls is March 14.

Roberts Middle School
Marking a birthday March 12 is Alexandra Lavelle. Celebrating a special birthday March 14 is Crystal Polo.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Share in the birthday celebration for Christina Serna March 11. Send a birthday greeting March 12 to Caleb Pickrell. Enjoy a birthday celebration with Christopher Monita March 15.

Thompson Intermediate

Light the birthday candles March 9 for Hong Doan and Maria Ruiz on March 15.

Bush Elementary
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Frazier Elementary
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Stuchbery Elementary
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Thompson Intermediate

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DIDDY!
Diddy Clark celebrates a birthday Thursday, March 9. Best wishes are sent for a wonderful day from her family, friends and co-workers at the Leader.

ROBERT ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Robert Scarberry, retired longtime Dobie auto collision repair teacher, celebrates his birthday Thursday, March 9. Birthday wishes are sent from wife **Jannie**; children **Jenny Hayes, Joseph Hayes, Stacey (Hayes) Flowers** and husband **Stephen, Austin Scarberry** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and grandchildren **Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno, Jade and Lily Scarberry, and Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers.**

EVIE TURNS THREE!
Stacey and Stephen Flowers of League City celebrate the third birthday of their daughter, **Evelyn "Evie" Faith Flowers**, on Saturday, March 11. Proud grandparents are **Jannie and Robert Scarberry** of South Belt and **Karen and Mike Flowers** of Dickinson. Sharing in the celebration are big sister **Kennedy**; big brother **Owen**; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Tiffany Scarberry**; uncles **Joseph Hayes, Austin and Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno, Jade and Lily Scarberry, and Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers.**

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 9 through March 15.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song March 15 to **Manuela Juarez.**

Burnett Elementary

Light the birthday candles March 9 for Hong Doan and Maria Ruiz on March 15.

Bush Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting to **Jayan Fender** March 12. Enjoy a birthday cake on March 13 with **Lindsey Pelton**. Join in the birthday fun with **Mayra Tapia** on March 14.

Frazier Elementary
Blow out the candles March 15 for **Mirtha Hernandez.**

Meador Elementary
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Beverly Hills Intermediate
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Thompson Intermediate

Light the birthday candles March 9 for Alexandra Alvarado. Send a birthday greeting to Elida Torres March 12.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles for **Jennifer Haynes** on March 10. Shared birthday greetings are sent to **Adrian Amador** and **Sandra Rodriguez** on March 12. On March 14, double birthday wishes are sent to **Elizabeth Cross** and **Robert McGuill.**

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

Thursday, March 9: **Sheri Akanji, Cheryl Stell, Rudy Rivera, Leah Lister, Lance Botkin, Susan Zientek, Monte Long and Bo Richards;** Friday, March 10: **Jim Daigle, Sheila Dill and Kizzy Moore-Christie;** Saturday, March 11: **Raquel Loya, Michael Martinez, Jesus Romero, Marcelo DeLeon III and Irma Manriquez;** Sunday, March 12: **Debbie Clark, Maria Riojas, Debbie Johnson and Heather Murphy Burris;** Monday, March 13: **Matthew Hanks, Heidi Delk, Shane Terry, Samuel Pitts, Sharon Jobe, Max Hernandez and Becky Gilley;** Tuesday, March 14: **Allison Weatherly, Chris Williams, Curtis Scope, Ron Shafer and Angelique Garcia;** and Wednesday, March 15: **Teri Posey, John Dies, Renee Guillot-Rodriguez, Jeanne Cook, Christopher Lozano and Melissa Robinson.**

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

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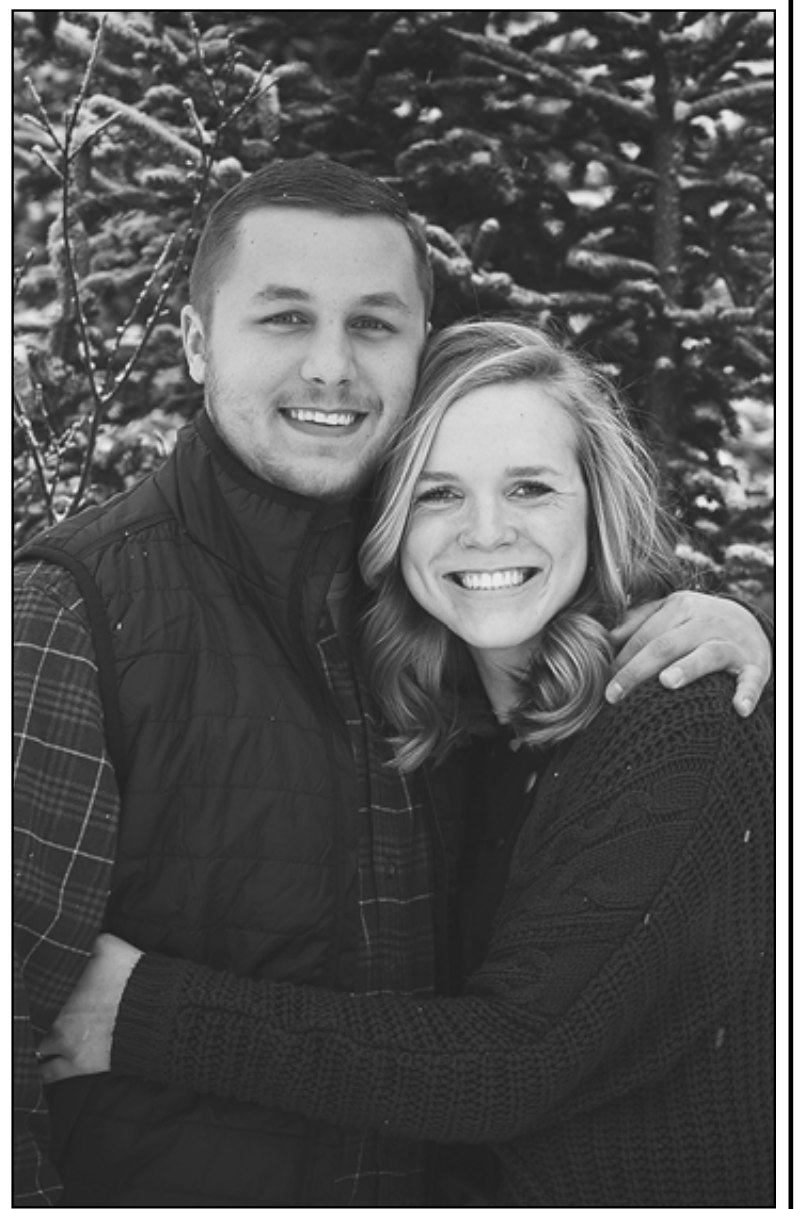
Pasadena ISD recognizes Lomax's Penny



Lomax Middle School Principal Norma Penny (third from left) was recently honored as the Pasadena Independent School District's Elementary/Middle School Principal of the Year during a surprise visit from PISD administrators at her campus. Shown above with Penny are, left to right, Dr. Steve Fullen, associate superintendent of campus development; Lela Mills, Lomax Middle School assistant principal; Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent of PISD schools; Dr. Karen Hickman, deputy superintendent of academic achievement; and Jay Forrest, Lomax assistant principal. (See related story on Page 1A.) Photo by Troy McCarley

Garner, Haynes plan winter wedding

Buddy and Betty Garner, former longtime South Belt area residents have announced the engagement of their daughter, Bailey Garner, to Kyle Haynes, son of Scott Haynes and grandson of Janice Priddy. The bride is a 2014 graduate of Pearland High School. She graduated from Blinn College in 2016 where she danced on the Blinn Treasures dance team. Currently, she resides in Homer, Alaska where she teaches dance and facilitates distance learning. She plans to attend Texas State University in the fall. The groom graduated from Spring High School in 2013. He attended Texas A&M University three years and is currently attending Texas State University. Bailey's maternal grandparents Leon and Faye Bianche are also longtime former South Belt residents. A winter wedding is planned.



Perry Homes makes donation to SJC Foundation



Danielle Earles, left, human resource specialist with Perry Homes, presents the San Jacinto College Foundation with a check in support of student scholarships. Shown with Earles is Ruth Keenan, San Jac Foundation executive director. Photo by Amanda Fenwick

Perry Homes has made a \$30,000 donation to the San Jacinto College Foundation in support of student scholarships.

To date, Perry Homes has donated \$132,500 to the Foundation to help students fund their higher education.

"Their commitment to helping our students, their families and our community truly reflects their mission and who they are as a company," said Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College

Foundation. "We appreciate the longstanding partnership we have with Perry Homes, and their continued support of our students."

Funds from this donation will go into the Perry Homes Endowed Scholarship with the San Jacinto College Foundation. Scholarships are awarded to students in the technical fields who have a preference for construction management and drafting.

The Rose introduces 3D mammography machine

The Rose now offers the latest in breast imaging: digital breast tomosynthesis 3D mammography, adding a new level of

care to its breast health services. This unique early-detection technology is another step in The Rose's larger efforts to broaden

access to care, eliminate disparities and increase the availability of quality breast cancer services to all women.

"We are proud to add 3D mammography to our screening services," said Dorothy Gibbons, CEO and co-founder of The Rose.

"True to our mission, we are ensuring all of the women we serve, insured and uninsured, have access to this powerful tool in the detection of early stage breast cancer. We know that breast cancer is 98 percent curable when detected early and our entire focus is saving lives."

Gibbons added, "The Rose serves a younger population and we are excited since 3D mammography has proven especially beneficial to younger women whose breast tissue tends to be denser. This technology has the ability to narrow the focus of examination down to precise one millimeter sections allowing the physician greater visibility."

After years of studies and FDA approval, 3D technology has earned its place as an indispensable tool for detecting the first signs of breast cancer. It can mean earlier detection with some studies reporting a 40 percent increase in cancer detection rate. Most studies also support that callbacks are reduced due to the increased level of visibility.

The Rose has long fought to place their services at the forefront of technological advances. Driven by the belief that all women, despite their ability to pay, should be able to access quality breast healthcare, The Rose strives to advance all facets of the breast healthcare process: from advanced technology to recently achieving the prestigious Breast Imaging Center of Excellence designation to receiving national recognition of its patient navigation program.

For additional information, or to donate or volunteer, visit www.therose.org.

Thompson names honor roll for 4th 6 weeks

Continued from Page 3A

Jannet Rocha, Alyssa Sance Rodriguez, Isabel Alazae Rodriguez, Lisette Briseidi Rodriguez, Megan Alani Rodriguez, Issys Annabel Romero, Haley Danae Salinas, Emily Gissel Sanchez, Nicholas Ignacio Santibanez, Ryan Keith Saxton, Kennedy Janae, Scimmons and Kal El Self.

Valeria Nohemi Serpas, Jaelan Donae Sherman, Wyatt James Sherwood, Metzi Jamile Silva, Kenzie Ida Snook, Kielee Ashell Snook, Gerardo Solis, Jasmin Janet Sosa, Natalie Anahi Suarez, Arielle Victoria Terrazas, Brianna Elise Toro and Brandon Anthony Torres. Annette Phuonganh Tran, Thu Minh Tran, Trinity Marie Tucker, Ricardo Antonio Valadez, Genessis Elektra Valtierra, Melanie Ariana Velazquez, Emilio Villarreal, Michael Wotonwo Vouffo, Huy Thanh Vu and Paul Hoang Vu.

Cyrae Kristen Washington, Sophia Cassandra Wence, Abby Michelle Whitley, London Gabrielle Curtis Wiggins, Aspen Sierra Woods and Nicole Zamudio.

Eighth Grade
Gail Kathleen Aflalo, Zariah Jacelle Aguilar, Maliha Akhter, Ingrid Tatiana Alaniz Quintanilla, Anna Gabriela Allen, Anabella Sophia Amaro, Breleana Marie Anderson, Kevin Antonio Andrade, Layla Soraiya Arredondo, Maritza Marlene Areola and Alexandra Abigail Ayala.

Maryam Maytham Badr, Aliyah Barreiro, Annaya Brielle Belton, Kaitlyn Marie Bess and Jason Betancourt. Tierra Nicole Unique

Bickems, Ayanna Nicole Brooks, Maxine Coyle Brown, Jose Alberto Cabrera, Renata Bo-beth Cadena, Matthew Alexander Campos, Matthew Jacob Campuzano, Jaiden Anthony Canales, Emily Sofia Carvajal and Noemi Yaressi Casas.

Kiana Lissbeth Casco, Grace Brianna Castaneda, Luke Ryan Castillo, Ariel Evelyn Castro, Abigail Leigh Chiovaro, David Adrian Corte, Emily Colleen Cortez, Alisha Monique Countee, Gerson Marcelo Cruz, Jacob Angel Cruz and Tyler Dang.

Amaya Dasiana Daniels, Alyssa Faith Day, Leah Alexandria De Hoyos, Jacob Alexander De La Rosa, Desiree Elizabeth Delara, Isabella Rosario Delgado, Tucker Beau Demo, Laura Marcela Diaz, Vinh Thethanh Diep and Jared Alexander Dorantesadame.

Dieu Xuan Duong, Abby Duron, Drake Elias Escobedo, Jacob Alexander Flores, Krystal Rose Flores, Andres Gallegos Molina, Gloria Nayeli Galvan, Aaron Mathew Garcia, Alexander Joshua Garcia, Argelia Garcia, Brianna Moemi Garcia, Joseph Aaron Garcia, Alyssa Marie Garza, Brissa Marie Garza and Savannah Rae Garza.

Madison Taylor Gates, Megan Jane Godeke, Wesley Paul Godwin, David Alejandro Gomez, Roy Alexander Gomez, Alayna Noel Gonzalez, Andrea Gonzalez, Emily Daniella Gonzalez, Gabriel Alejandro Gonzales and Aixa Guerra Gomez.

Erica Kim Hay, Christopher Hernandez, Ethan Daniel Hernandez,

Francisco Hernandez, Joshua Felipe Hernandez, Karisa Irene Hernandez, Douglas Morgan Hill, Jayline Pryce Humphrey and Tyson Thanh Huynh.

Deaira Deovious Jackson, Jonathan Jacobi Jean, Max Shawn Johnson, Ambreon My'isha Jones, Casey Voncile Junkin, Makayla Marie Karkosky and Danae Eugenia Kostikoglou.

Mikayla Denise Lagos, Taylor Bella Lakota, Thao Phuong Lam, Vanessa Marie Lam, Victoria Marie Lazo, Lewis Le, Tony Le, Evelyn Anh Lien and Chanel Laraine Lofton.

Cheralyn Latrice Lofton, Brandon Lopez, Nathan Lopez, Cristo Salvador Lopez-Escobar, Xavier Stephen Lowtan, Sandy Nhi Lu, Kenny Congkhanh Ly, Adrian Martinez, Gerardo Yahir Martinez, Jose Luis Martinez, Jose Luis Martinez, Nerina Isabel Martinez, Erin Paige Maslonka and Valistasia Jelena Briana Maxwell.

Kyle William McDonald, Gavin William McMurphy, Nathaly Marie Mejia, Alejandro Israel Melendez, Desiree Renee Miller, Alyssa Malaine Montes, Nicholas Valentine Morales, Rhiannon Marie Morris, Janah Naser, Joshua Hay Nath, Jonathan Neira, Alan Thanh Nguyen, Albert Truong Nguyen and Duy Bao Nguyen.

Harrison Nguyen, Henry Huy Nguyen, Hieu Xuantrung Nguyen, Lucas Uy Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Tammy Luong Nguyen, Thao Phuong Nguyen, Trishta Quynh Nguyen, Sarah Nneamaka Oba, Kyana Anne Oliver and Celeste Stephanie

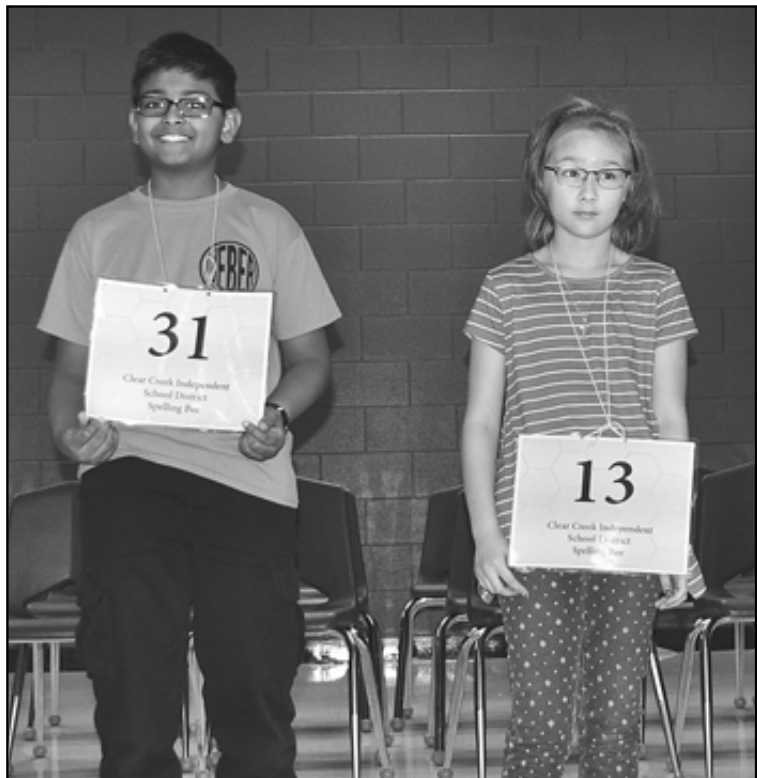
CCISD names spelling bee champ

Clear Creek Independent School District has named the 2017 District Spelling Bee champion. Fourth grader Amelia Young of Goforth Elementary won the first place trophy on Feb. 4. The District Spelling Bee took place at Mossman Elementary with participants representing all 36 elementary and intermediate schools in CCISD in attendance.

Young was crowned in the 15th round of the competition after being the only contestant of the final three contestants to spell two words correctly in a row. The runner-up, fourth-grader Fadhil Mohammed of Weber Elementa-

ry, was then named in the 16th and final round.

The next round of competition for Young will be at the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee which will be televised live on April 1. The Houston Public Media Spelling Bee is the second largest in the country, with more than 1,000 schools from 42 Texas counties competing to be one of the top two spellers to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the nation's long-standing educational competition since 1925. The top two spellers will win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to represent Houston in May 2017.



Shown above, from left to right, runner-up Fadhil Mohammed, fourth-grader, at Weber Elementary and spelling champion Amelia Young, fourth-grader, from Goforth Elementary. Photo by Monica Barba

Beverly Hills honor rolls . . .

Continued from Page 4A
Vu, Ngan Thi Kim Vu, Aalycia Lelani-Qui Warren, Michael Alejandro Zambrano and Natalie Jalene Zeledon.

Eighth Grade
James Darrin Abramski, Jacob Daniel Acevedo, Bryan Albarran, Saul Alejo, Jayla Marie Arenas, Jaqueline Arredondo, Hailey Jane Avant, Kristen Alise Barba, Aleyda Benavides, Briana Guadalupe Benavides, Noy Botello and Kameron Jay Brinkley.

Elizabeth My Hong Bui, Julia Thao Bui, Madeleine Ngoc Tuyet Bui, Tony Mai Bui, Danielle Marie Bulman, Avery Marsalis D'ante Burton, Jazlyn Arella Byron, Ernesto Calvillo, Esmeralda

Calvillo, Alberto Josue Campa and Yarlina Carolina Campos.

Rayden Xavier Canales, Gizelle Irene Cardona, Samantha Marie Carrillo, Deanna Edilia Castellano, Carson Diego Cervantes, Alissa Marshae Coleman, Nicholas Antonio Covarrubias, John Bernard Cruz and Yelizavet Renay De La Cerda.

Geriah Amiree Derouen, Quan Hoang Dinh, Di Kha Do, Celene Le Duong, Brett Xavier Einspahr, Guadalupe Escalera, Erick Fernando Escobar, Francisco Estrada, Lizbeth Flores, Alaysia Marie Foster, Annabell Celeste Gamez and Damian Garcia.

Emily Nichole Garcia, Karsten Alexander Garcia, Zachary Anthony Glover, Alyssa Renee Gomez, Martha Guadalupe Gomezramirez, Daisy Gonzalez, David Jesus Gonzalez and Benjamin Garrett Griffin.

Darren Javon Groves, Linley Victoria Hawkins, Briana Kshal Haywood, Penelope Hernandez Mendoza, Emily Alexis Hernandez, Sarah Celeste Hernandez, Carlos Steve Hernandez-Chavarria and Joseph Sebastian Hinojosa.

Anthony Loc Ho, Jennifer Nguyen Ho, Amy Anh Hoang, Kelly Hoang, Quang Hong, Cindy Trinh Huynh, **Continued on Page 6A**

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Higginbotham leads Dobie Decathlon team to fourth in state




The Dobie Academic Decathlon team recently excelled at the state competition held in San Antonio Feb. 23-26, taking home fourth place overall in the tournament. The team also placed second in Super Quiz, correctly answering 34 of 36 questions. Steven Higginbotham, Dobie coach, (second from right) was named the Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year for the state of Texas at the event. Shown above with Higginbotham at the com-

petition are, left to right, Coach Todd Gerles, Adrian De Los Santos (Varsity Division), Jennifer Nguyen (Honors Division), Bill Huynh (Honors Division), Jay Do (Scholastic Division), Steven Nguyen (Honors Division), Christine Perry (Varsity Division), Gus Rodriguez (Scholastic Division), Everett Moreno (Scholastic Division) and Noelle Phan (Honors Division). Photo submitted

Dobie Decathlon excels at state contest

The Dobie Academic Decathlon team recently excelled at the state competition, held in San Antonio from Feb. 23-26. The Longhorn team took home fourth place overall in the tournament and second place in Super Quiz, answering 34 of 36 questions correctly. Individual medal winners from Dobie include Christine Perry (Varsity Division: first place in literature and third place in essay), Adrian De Los Santos (Varsity Division: third place in literature and third place in art), Bill Huynh (Honors Division: second place in social science and third place in literature) and Jay Do (Scholastic Division: first place in interview). De Los Santos was awarded fourth place overall individual in the Varsity Division, earning him a \$1,500 scholarship. Dobie Coach Steven Higginbotham was named the Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year for the state of Texas at the event. See related story and photo on Page 1A. Dobie has continuously advanced to the state meet since the team's Higginbotham began coaching the team in 2006, as well as before under the leadership of former coach Richard Golenko, who led the team to multiple state and national championships. Other Dobie team members include Jennifer Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Gus Rodriguez, Everett Moreno and Noelle Phan. This year also marked the second consecutive year that Memorial High School's Academic Decathlon team advanced to the state competition, coming in 20th place at the regional tournament held last month. While the Memorial team did not win any medals at the state competition, it again placed 20th in a field of 40 teams.




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AARP offers free tax preparation

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will be offering free tax preparation through April 18 to anyone of any age. This service especially caters to people who are 50 years of age or older or cannot afford paid tax preparation.

The following are the local sites listed by name, location, day and time:

- Alvin Library, 105 S. Gordon St., Alvin; Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Pasadena Public Library, 1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Drive, Pasadena; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Pearland Public Library, located at 3522 Liberty Drive, Pearland; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Carver Center, 6615 Park Ave., Texas City; Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Webster Recreation Building, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Webster; Mondays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays, noon to 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy St., Galveston; Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Mission Milby Community Development Corporation, 2220 Broadway St., Houston; Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This location will offer Spanish services.
- Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Houston; Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide or for other locations, visit aarp.org.

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Frazier celebrates Dr. Seuss



Frazier Elementary students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on Thursday, March 2, with numerous activities. The day's events included wearing Dr. Seuss shirts and hats, enjoying guest readers and participating in a read-a-thon. Frazier students read a total of 24,169 minutes that surpassed the schoolwide goal of 20,000 minutes. Shown, from left to right, Jeilyn Rodriguez, Naomi Castellanos, and Alfredo Ramirez showcase the achievement of the reading goal.

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BHI honor roll named

Continued from Page 5A

Briana Zulem Jamaica, Briana Isabelle Keim, Hayden Jay Lazo, Christi Kieu Le, Ha My Thi Le, Andrea Leon and Jesus Jael Leon.

Aaliyah Marie Loosa, Joseph Paul Lukner, Truc Thanh Luu, Jesse Manuel Maldonado, Faaizah Maleehah, Emilio Gaetano Marin Novoa, Nashmi Usman Mariwa, Nohemy Marquez, Lailah Martinez, Cadie Colleen Masterson, Cynthia Consuelo Mata, Jasmine Alexa Matute and Patricia Medin.

Sakinah Nogodion Yasmine Meite, Kevin Ismael Mendez, Angela Isabel Menendez, Ashley Sofia Miranda, Elias Alexander Montez, Christopher Rey Morales, Francisco Abel Morales, Zoe Dena Mottu, Josue Munoz and Mia Faith Alyssa Myers.

Thien Ngoc Ngo, Augustin Hoang Nguyen, Dang Tran hai Nguyen, David Phi Hoang Nguyen, Diana Nguyen, Huy Mai Nguyen, Jason Hoang Nguyen, Kiet Tuan Nguyen, Tom Minh Tam Nguyen, Tri Thuan Tran Nguyen, Victor Thien Hao Nguyen and Da'ryues Daquan Nickelson.

Precious Ifeamaka Oko, Xavier Christopher Olivarez, Jada Breshae Oneil marris, Tristan Juan Pedraza, Alejandra Perez, Tony Minh Pham, Ky Ky Duong Phan, Thao Tinh Nhu Phan, Destiny Grace Sommerfelt, Dylan Pichardo, Lizbeth Alejandra Pineda and Vivian Aaliyah Postel.

Chloe Emma Ramirez, Lessly Ramirez, Amya Tyranea Ray, Francesca Paola Reyes, Devin Denise Richard, Lauren Ashley Robinson, Benito Gabriel Rodriguez, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, David Alan Roman, Sandy Ruiz and Jocelyn Salazar.

Adamari Celeste Sanchez, Alexis Janae Sanders, June Delilah Santillanes, Amari Deon Singleton, Kloe Lanette Smith, Kaleigh Grace Sommerfelt, Dylan Thanh-Trung Ta, Wazlyn Tapela Tapela, Kourtlyn Denise Thornton, Gerardo Torres and Deborah Thy Tran.

Kathy Mai-Trang Tran, Decangel Trinh, Julie Ngoc Trinh, Jaeden Zachary Tyler, Marisol Isabel Valadez, Sergio Valdez, Trinity Lynn Vanek, Marina Carrillo Vasquez, Diep Thi Ngoc Vo, Quan Tuan Vo, Thuc Uyen Vo and Son Hoang Vuong.



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Registration starts at 4:00 PM on the day of the event.

Featuring: Contests, Pet Information, Demonstrations, Food Trucks, Bouncy Houses, & More.

Second Annual Clear Brook City MUD & South Belt – Ellington Chamber of Commerce Strut Your Mutt Registration Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Dog's Name: _____

Sex: _____ Breed: _____

Contest Categories: (Please Circle)

Prettiest Dog	Ugliest Dog	Biggest Dog
Smallest Dog	Diva Dog	Macho Dog
Best Trick	Best Costume	Best Owner and Dog Costume

I assume all risks in participating in the Strut Your Mutt event. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of accepting my entry, I and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Clear Brook City MUD and the South Belt- Ellington Chamber of Commerce, all event volunteers and all sponsors, their representatives, employees and successors from any claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event or carelessness of the persons named in the waiver. Further, I grant all of the foregoing the right to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for legitimate purposes.

I have read and agree to the above terms.

Signature _____ Date _____

SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

SB Dolphins set registration

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League has set upcoming registration dates for the 2017 season, with practices starting in July. The registration dates include a Saturday, March 25, session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont Community Center, in addition to April 22, May 20, and June 24, also from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont Community Center. Games begin in August, and the regular season runs into November.

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Dobie girls vs. La Porte for second

JFD boys' soccer wins district, again

For the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team, it's all about making a deep post-season run.

The Longhorns simply have this regular season stuff down pat, having won their third consecutive District 22-6A title courtesy of a 1-1 tie at Deer Park March 7 that ensured the locals enough points to win the crown.

Dobie's varsity girls' team is also headed to the playoffs but is looking to avoid the danger zone moving forward.

Deer Park is undefeated and will win the District 22-6A title. The Lady Deer stayed unbeaten with a 2-0 victory over Dobie March 7, at Veterans Stadium to move to 12-0 in league play.

La Porte (9-2-1) is currently in second place, just in front of Dobie. But the two teams go head-to-head March 10 at Veterans Stadium. A La Porte win locks Dobie into third place and a likely bidistrict matchup with an Atascocita team that is currently 9-1-1 in District.

If Dobie (9-3) can take out La Porte, there exists a chance to reach the No. 2 seed, where a matchup against either Goose Creek Memorial or Summer Creek exists.

After facing La Porte March 10, Dobie will close the regular season March 13 at home against Memorial in a noon game.

The Dobie girls have now lost three district games by a combined 4-0 count. Obviously, converting every possible scoring chance would be ideal, yet unrealistic. But Dobie varsity girls' soccer head coach Bryan McDonald is pleased with where his team is and what possibilities lie ahead.

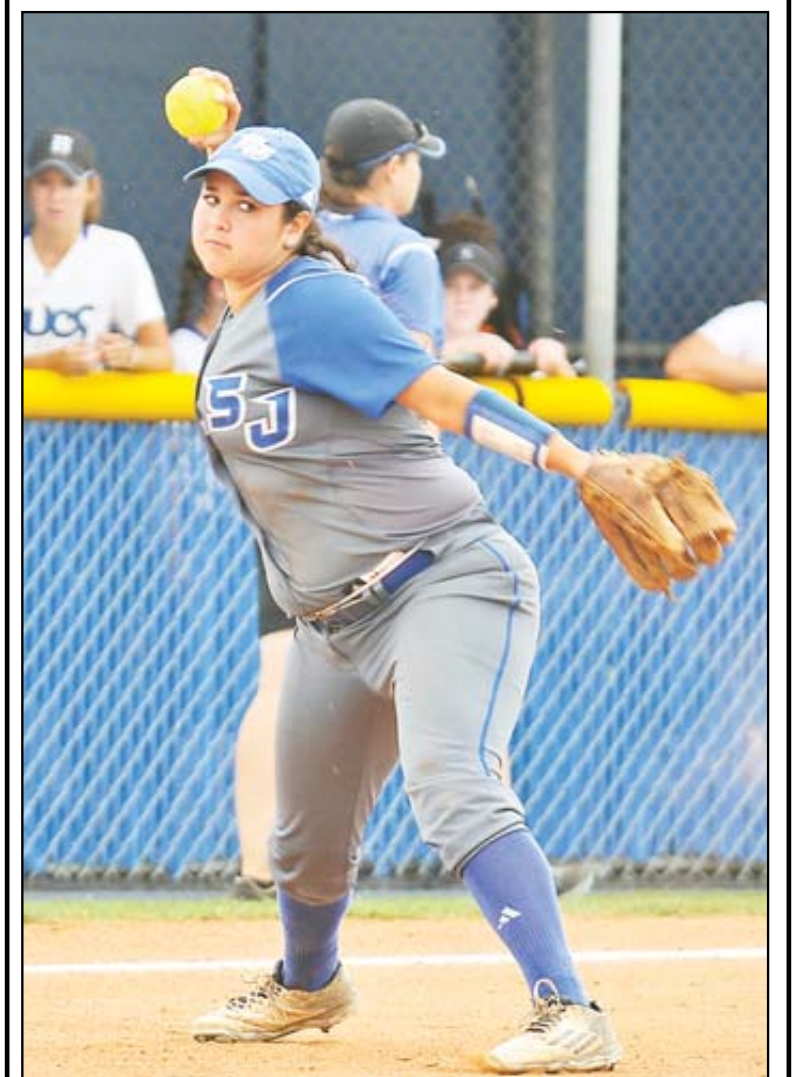
"We know we have to beat La Porte, but the girls are ready for the opportunity and know what is at stake," McDonald said. "We have been really solid in the midfield and back on defense, so if we can convert some scoring chances, we should put ourselves in a good position to win."

McDonald added that the Lady Longhorns will likely have to win both against La Porte and then also against Memorial to ensure second place.

But with nine wins already and a chance to win 11 league games, this just may be the season. "It'd be great to finish with two wins and get second place," he said.



SJC softball wins four conference tilts



San Jacinto College sophomore third baseman Dani Damian had three hits and four runs batted in as the Coyotes defeated Laredo 8-0 March 4 to complete a 4-0 start in Region XIV action. The locals are now set to play on the road for much of the next month. For more, see Page 2B.

Giron is Defensive Player of the Year



At left, Dobie varsity girls' basketball star guard Jade Giron was named the Defensive Player of the Year in District 22-6A after leading the Lady Longhorns to the co-championship in the league. For more on the all-district selections, see Page 2B.

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Onozie lands Newcomer/Year

22-6A varsity girls' hoops lauds Dobie's fine season

Statistically speaking, several key players as well as their head coach, received the recognition they deserve as the 22-6A All-District Selections were released. Senior and four-year starter Jade Giron, also the Lady Longhorns' lead-

ing scorer, was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year, and junior Victoria Onozie's strong season was plenty good enough to land her Newcomer of the Year accolades.

Dobie's Shane Brown was recognized as the Coach of the Year after leading his team to 21 wins, including a bidistrict playoff victory over Kingwood.

The Lady Longhorns also had two players elected to the 22-6A First Team, including forward Alexis Oses and shooting guard Shanyce Cabrales, who was one of the top 3-point shooters in the area.

The district's overall Most Valuable Player was Jade George of Deer Park, who edged out Giron for that honor.

Dobie's Taja Tillman, who completed a three-year career at the varsity level with a strong season at guard, was a second-team selection.

Of the selectees, only Onozie will return, but she will get help from two honorable mention selections.



Above, Dobie junior forward Alexis Oses (15) was a solid inside presence for the Lady Longhorns all season, giving the team what it needed in the paint. A junior, Oses was a 22-6A first-team selection and will be a key returnee for 2017-2018.

At right, junior Victoria Onozie burst onto the scene for the Lady Longhorns and made a huge difference on both ends of the floor. Getting her first season of consistent varsity action, Onozie was named Newcomer of the Year in recognition of her terrific season.

Photos by John Bechtle



At left, Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Shane Brown was named Coach of the Year in District 22-6A after leading the Lady Longhorns to the league's co-championship at 13-1. Dobie went on to win a playoff game for the first time since 2011 and won 21 games overall.

Below, senior shooting guard Shanyce Cabrales was one of the top three-point shooters in the District 22-6A ranks this season, making her an easy choice as an all-district first teamer. For the season, Cabrales made many three-point field goals.

Photos by John Bechtle



Varsity Girls' Hoops

All-District 22-5A Selections

Most Valuable Player

Jaya George, Deer Park, Sr.

Defensive Player/Year

Jade Giron, Dobie, Sr.

Newcomer/Year

Victoria Onozie, Dobie, Jr.

Coach/Year

Shane Brown, Dobie

First Team Selections

Jordan Ochoa, La Porte, Sr.

Serenity Williams, West Brook, Jr.

Faith Cathouse, Rayburn, Jr.

Robyn Onuorah, West Brook, Sr.

Alexis Oses, Dobie, Jr.

Taylor Sheppard, Deer Park, Sr.

Jordyn White, Memorial, Jr.

Vanessa Perez, S. Houston, Sr.

Shanyce Cabrales, Dobie, Sr.

Miranda Romero, Deer Park, Sr.

Second Team Selections

Hope Hawthorne, Deer Park, Soph.

Taja Tillman, Dobie, Sr.

Adalene Castillo, Pasadena, Soph.

Rebekah Atilano, La Porte, Soph.

Bianca Silva, Memorial, Jr.

Crystal Rodriguez, Memorial, Jr.

Ariana Williams, West Brook, Jr.

Galilea Pompa, Pasadena, Jr.

Abigail Samson, Memorial, Fr.

April Garcia, Deer Park, Sr.

Honorable Mention – Dobie

Jada Bridges, Sr.

Breanna Smith, Jr.

Zaria Thomas, Sr.

Lions' 8s repeat as Pasadena ISD T&F champs

Gearing up for a run at the district championship, the Thompson Lions' eighth-grade boys' track and field team captured top team honors for the second straight week, dominating the competition March 2 at Auxiliary Stadium.

The Lions collected 177 points to claim first place easily, while the Beverly Hills Bears were fourth with 69 points.

In the seventh-grade division, Bondy cruised to the championship with 208 points, while second-place Beverly Hills was at 131. Thompson scored 44 points for sixth place.

GAT 8s are tops, again

Jayson Turner of Thompson was once again the best athlete at the eighth-grade meet, winning an individual event and playing a role in two more relay victories. He was also fourth in the high jump.

Devin Caballero also starred for the Lions, winning a pair of distance runs.

Thompson also took the top three slots in the discus event, putting together a complete performance to win the team title.

Turner got his first win in the 100-meter dash, coming in at 11.52 seconds for the win.

As for Caballero, he was the winner of the 1,600-meter run in a time of 5 minutes, 24.35 seconds, and then came up with the victory in the 2,400-meter run with a winning time of 8:24.97.

The Lions bagged 20 big team points for a pair of relay victories.

Traylon Ansley, Brandon Salinas and Razmon Williams for the win at 48.51. The Lions' Braden Gant joined the mix for the 4x200-meter relay as he, Turner, Salinas and Williams landed the win in a time of 1:43.66.

In that discus event, the Lions controlled the field, with Demo Tucker winning with a best throw of 117 feet, 3 inches. Teammate Austin Rhoden was second at 106'6 1/2", and Josue Vasquez was third for the bronze medal at 106'5".

Nicolas Esparza came up with a throw of 36'1 1/2" for sixth place in the event.

The Lions did plenty well in the other events to tally key points in the team competition.

In the 200-meter dash, the Lions' Salinas was second in a time of 25.43, with Gant sixth in a time of 26.00.

In the 400-meter run, the Lions went 4-5, with Jonathan Jean at 1:02.06 for fourth place, and Jared Tate fifth in a time of 1:02.21.

Bryson Phillips stepped up big for Thompson in a couple of events. At 16.04, Bryson Phillips wound up second in the 100-meter hurdles, with teammate Gant fourth in a time of 16.79.

Phillips also grabbed second place in the 300-meter hurdles with a great time of 46.49, and teammate Jeremiah Ballard took third place at 46.55.

At 5'2", Ballard placed third in the high jump, and Turner also reached that height on more tries for fourth place.

The Lions claimed fifth place in the 4x400-meter

relay in a time of 4:15.37 as Jean, Tate and Ballard joined Jacob Perez in the event.

Darius Pamplin was fourth in the pole vault after he cleared 8'6", and Ballard placed third in the long jump after he made his way to 16'5".

Others who competed for the Lions included Tristen Soria, Marcus Saenz and Fidel Rueda.

Second for BHI 7s

While Bondy was the clear-cut winner in the seventh-grade division for the third straight week, the Bears' seventh-grade team was second with 131 points.

Dakaray Ramsay won the discus and shot put events for the Bears, and the school also won the 4x100- and 4x200-meter relays, while placing second in the 4x400-meter relay for a total of 56 points in the those events.

Ramsay, one of the district's stars of the field events to this point, won the discus at a distance of 92' 11 1/2", while teammate Antonio Lopez was at 92'2" for fourth place.

In the shot put, Ramsay was again the winner, this time with an effort of 38'8".

As for those relay wins, Treylyn Burrell, Damonte Seymour, Trevon Johnson and Brendann Williams teamed in the 4x100-meter event for a time of 50.40.

Trajan Davis joined Johnson, Burrell and Williams for the victory in the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1:48.23.

Elsewhere, the Bears' Burrell (25.68) and Williams (26.21) went 2-3 in the 200-meter dash, and Alex Garza finished at 1:04.04 for fourth place in the 400-meter dash.

Beverly Hills excelled in the hurdles, with Isaac Lopez second in the 100-meter hurdles at 17.81, with teammate Darren Ortiz third at 18.05.

Lopez also led the way for the Bears in the 300-meter hurdles as he was third with a clocking of 51.43. Teammate Emmanuel Drain's time of 52.34 was sixth-best.

Williams cleared 4'10" for third place in the high jump, and Ortiz (fourth at 15'2") and Johnson (fifth at 15'0") scored well for the Bears in the long jump.

Bears' 8s net fourth

The Beverly Hills eighth-grade team put together 69 points for fourth place in the meet.

The Bears' Keon Thompson tied for second in the 100-meter dash to

get things started with his time of 11.97.

At 25.93, the Bears' Brandon Mack took fifth place in the 200-meter dash.

Manuel Hernandez and Mack were in on the fun for the Bears in the 400-meter run, with Hernandez's time of 1:00.73 giving him second place. Mack's clocking of 1:01.20 was third best in the event.

Taizhon McKinney was fifth-best in the 800-meter run at 2:26.42, and Ronaldo Gonzalez was sixth in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:38.13.

Damien Garcia scored for the Bears in the 2,400-meter run as his time of 8:51.95 was sixth.

At 16.31, Adrian Baragan placed third in the 100-meter hurdles, and his time of 47.91 was fifth-best at the 300-meter hurdle distance.

Beverly Hills' best relay finish came in the 4x100-meter event as

Thompson, Grady Dixon, Trevion Williams and Chezhiah Lynch combined for a time of 49.46.

In the 4x200-meter relay, the Bears were fourth in a time of 1:46.48 as Guerrero and Dixon were joined by Hernandez and Lynch.

The Bears were also fourth in the 4x400-meter relay as Hernandez, Guerrero, Michael Ramirez and Barragan teamed for a time of 4:10.53.

GAT 7s are sixth

Taking a bit of a break before the district championships, a short-handed Thompson seventh-grade team logged 44 points for sixth place in the seventh-grade division.

Distance runner Zaire Walker, for example, did not compete for the Lions but is a big favorite in the distance runs. And Conlie Christmas, also sat out some of his top events.

Sebastian Cruz came up with a second-place finish in the high jump as he

cleared 4'10".

Cruz medaled in the triple jump with his best effort of 31'10", and Calvin Jeans was second in the shot put at 37'6", with teammate Kegan Ashworth fourth with a throw of 34'1".

The Lions were fifth in the 4x200-meter relay in a time of 1:57.29 as Conlie Christmas, Jefferson Ford, Ke'mauri Millender and Terrand Booker combined for a time of 1:57.29.

In the 4x100-meter relay, the Lions placed sixth in a time of 59.41, with Booker, Larry Lopez, Cameron Gray and Ryan Saxton teaming.

At 2:32.79, Isaac Cortez was fourth in the 800-meter run, Cortez was also fourth in the 1,600-meter run in a time of 5:47.99.

Jonathan Torres came in at 1:05.49 for sixth place in the 400-meter dash, and he was also sixth in the 2,400-meter run in an outstanding time of 10:35.43.

Brook baseball wins three at CCISD

The Clear Brook varsity baseball program is certainly holding its own while going up against tough competition in tournament play over the opening two weeks of the season.

At the David Anzaldua Memorial Invitational at La Porte in week one, the Wolverines went 2-3 but had a chance to win all five games.

This time around - March 2-4 at the Clear Creek ISD Invitational, the Wolverines won three of five games, squaring its record at 3-3 heading into play at the March 9-11 Alvin Invitational.

Brook opened the CCISD event against La Porte, finding itself down 4-1 heading into the bottom of the sixth.

At that point, the Wolverines put together a four-run rally to take the lead in the game. The locals eventually held on for a 5-4 victory.

Sabastian Pichardo pitched five innings for the Wolverines, and Reggie McCallister and Jerick Paquinto banded out two hits apiece as the Wolverines scored a nice come-from-behind victory.

In the nightcap game of the first day of play, North Shore built a 7-1 lead

through three innings and went on to win 7-2. Clear Brook had just three hits in the game.

Moving ahead to March 3, the Wolverines trailed Pearlard 7-4 but came back with five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and went on to win 9-7.

Madison Delgado led the way with three hits, and also drove in three runs as the Wolverines scored a big win.

Kyle Knoblock went five innings against Second Baptist, and the Wolverines scored a 6-5 victory in the finale of the second day.

Knoblock struck out six in his second straight strong start this season.

The Wolverines then went up against a solid Kingwood team in the last game of the tournament for both teams, with the Mustangs taking a 5-2 victory.

Damian Falcon and Machado had two hits apiece for the Wolverines, but the locals could not come up with the big run-scoring hit.

Following the Alvin varsity tournament, the Wolverines will then focus on District 24-6A action for much of the remainder of the season.

Area sports, news

Lajaunie tennis coming

The 2017 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will now be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena formerly known as Strawberry Park, April 28-30. The 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 finalizing plans for its 6th annual memorial tennis tournament, set to make its first appearance at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

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

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

He was an electrical engineer graduate from the University of Texas in Austin, and a pillar of the community while working at the Johnson Space Center. Lajaunie was also dedicated and passionate for his favorite 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 28. There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets are now on sale and are \$15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Those who would like to donate may also do so on the website. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit corporation, and all donations are tax deductible. Donations may now be made via the website with a credit card or one may mail a check or money order to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, Texas, 77059, or contact Camille Lajaunie, committee chairperson at cjlajau nie@gmail.com with any questions.

Team now 19-11 overall

SJC softball off to hot start within Region XIV

The hits and runs are coming in bunches, which means Region XIV softball action must be in full force, and the San Jacinto College women are on a roll.

Opening conference play at home, San Jacinto swept Coastal Bend and Laredo in a pair of double-headers, quickly getting off to a 4-0 start to the most important stretch of

games. **San Jac 9 Coastal Bend 1** Scoring four runs in the bottom of the first inning and two more in the third, San Jacinto cruised out to a 6-0 lead in the opener against Coastal Bend before winning 9-1 in five innings.

Six players had at least two hits for the winners, who banged out 15 hits

in the game. Missy Hernandez was 3 for 3 with a double and three runs driven in, and Mackenzie Kotrla, Riley Bullen, Katlin Rivera, Taylor McHenry and Shelbi Doherty had two hits each.

Bullen and McHenry had triples, and Doherty doubled for San Jac. Niki Gonzalez went the five innings in the circle, allowing three hits and a run

San Jacinto College at Lamar State-PA March 10, 3/5 p.m.

while fanning six.

San Jac 7 Coastal Bend 5 Scoring five times in the bottom of the sixth inning, San Jacinto was able to fend off Coastal Bend 7-5 for a sweep of the Region XIV opening series.

Kaitlin Kerl was 2 for 2 with two runs scored and three runs driven in, and McHenry had three hits and a pair of runs scored.

Doherty, Kotrla and Hernandez had two hits each for San Jac, which smacked out another 11 hits in this one. Gonzalez, the third of three pitchers in the game, earned the win in relief.

San Jac 9 Laredo 4

Laredo entered play at just 4-14, and San Jac didn't make life any easier in a 9-4 victory to close out the opener of the doubleheader.

San Jacinto scored nine runs in the bottom of the

first inning to coast to the victory as Alexis Deleon had three hits and two runs scored.

Hernandez was 2 for 2 with 2 runs batted in, and Kotrla and Kerl both drove in a pair of runs. Gonzalez went the distance over seven innings, allowing just two earned runs while fanning eight.

San Jac 8 Laredo 0

Dani Damian went 3 for 3 with four runs batted in to lead the way as San Jacinto closed out an 8-0 win over Laredo. Deleon and Hernandez also had a pair of hits.

Natalie Hoyt went the route in this one for San Jacinto in the circle, closing out a nice four-game stretch for the locals.

San Jacinto now plays 12 of its next 16 conference games on the road before finishing at home for the majority of the remainder of the season.

Locals ranked fourth

San Jacinto men's basketball heads to Region XIV tourney

Poised with the fourth-best ever regular-season record in program history, the San Jacinto College men's basketball team is set to tip off the postseason Thursday, March 9, at the Region XIV tournament at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas.

The Ravens closed out the regular season at 29-1, including an 18-1 Region XIV record and entered the postseason as the top seed regionally.

San Jacinto won a national championship in 1985-86 with a perfect 37-0 record, and the 1986-1987 and 1996-1997 teams both finished at 36-1.

The Ravens are currently ranked fourth nationally, with South Plains, Texas, having held the No. 1 ranking all season.

Hutchinson, Kan. is at No. 2, with Southwest Florida State at No. 3. At the Region XIV

tournament, San Jac has a bye in the opening round and then will face either Lamar State-Port Arthur or Blinn in a quarterfinal game March 9, at 1 p.m.

The Region XIV tournament runs through March 11 in Jacksonville. San Jacinto is looking to reach the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I National Championships, which plays out March 20-25 in Hutchinson, Kan.

GAT, BHI star at PISD track

Heading into the Pasadena ISD's intermediate track and field championships that began March 8 after press time, the Bondy Lady Patriots were the ones to beat.

In the third and final regular-season meet, the Patriots again won both divisions. At the seventh-grade level, Bondy collected an amazing 209 points for the team championship.

Beverly Hills wound up fourth with 58 points, and Thompson took fifth place, just three points back at 55.

BHI 7s place fourth

KeAsia Robinson was a winner for the Lady Bears as her clocking of 18.18 easily won the 100-meter hurdling event.

Robinson was also the champion of the high jump, clearing 5'0" for the victory in the event. Teammate Forde was at 4'4" for third place.

Wrapping up her afternoon, Robinson placed sixth in the long jump at a distance of 11'10 1/2".

Riani Benton placed fourth in the 100-meter dash with a clocking of 14.37, and the Lady Bears' Maya Scott was next, fifth at 14.48.

Forde made her way to the 24'8" mark for sixth place in the triple jump, and Demetria Delgado threw the shot put 24'11" for fourth place.

In the 100-meter dash, the Lady Bears' Riani Benton took fourth overall at 14.37, with teammate Scott fifth at 14.48.

Beverly Hills also scored well in the 300-meter hurdles, with Robinson

again pacing the way for the team.

At 56.01, Robinson was second in the event, and teammate Jennifer Ibe placed third with a time of 57.37.

The Lady Bears were unable to make up much ground in the relays. In the 4x100-meter event, Beverly Hills placed fifth in a time of 58.75 as Nikole Welcome and Maya Scott teamed with Ibe and Sydney Ford.

Disqualified in the 4x200-meter relay, the Lady Bears placed sixth in the 4x400-meter relay in a time of 5:23.18 as Valery Baez was joined by Leilani Zara, Robinson and Victoria Ramirez.

GAT 7s earn fifth

Kendall Brown earned herself a bronze medal in the 400-meter dash for third place at 1:13.05.

In the 100-meter dash, the Lady Lions' Taelyn Ansley was sixth with her time of 14.64. At 14.02, Jada Sawyer was sixth in the 200-meter dash.

Moving to the 100-meter hurdles, the Lady Lions scored well as Natalie Onozie (10.90) placed fourth, with teammate Larissa Kirkwood fifth (20.24).

At 1:00.68, the Lady Lions' Montserrat Alba was sixth to score for her team in the 300-meter hurdles.

The Lady Lions were also fourth in a pair of relays and sixth in another.

One of those fourth-place finishes came in the 4x200-meter event in a time of 2:08.22 as Natalie Onozie, Kori Pounds, Sidney Puerto and Ash-

lyn Ross competed for the Lady Lions.

Makayle Yeilding, Puerto, Ross and Brown joined forces for fourth place in the 4x400-meter relay in 5:09.36.

In the 4x100-meter event, Thompson wound up sixth in a time of 59.65 as that foursome included Onozie, Alayna Calvillo, Pounds and Ross.

Brown also came up big in the field events. At 27'0", she was second in the triple jump, and her best high jump of 4'2" was fifth-best districtwide.

Melody Guerrero led the Lady Lions in the shot put with a throw of 25'11", and teammate Nevaeh Zermeno placed fifth at 22'8 1/2". Guerrero was fifth in the discus with a top throw of 59'7".

GAT 8s are second

Bondy's victory in the 4x400-meter relay and an overall sweep of the relays was enough to secure the team title, with the Lady Patriots tallying 172 points to 155 for second-place Thompson.

Four different athletes took home top honors in individual events to lead the way for the Lady Lions.

Thompson's Diarra Hypolite scored one of those wins as she cruised to the easy win in the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 17.23, with teammate Ambreon Jones fifth at 18.74.

The Lady Lions kept the points coming in the 300-meter hurdles as Kenya Horton's time of 55.62 was the best of the event, with teammates Hypolite (58.84) and Isabella Delgado (59.24) fourth and

fifth, respectively.

The Lady Lions kept the team scoring close with a pair of second-place finishes in relays, as well as a third.

One of those seconds came in the 4x200-meter event as Deaira Jackson was joined by Jones, Jordyn Ridge and Janelle Mooney for a time of 1:56.09.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the Lady Lions also wound up second in a time of 4:50.08 as Jasmine Benitez, Desiree Miller, Karissa Hernandez and Grace Castaneda teamed.

Thompson was third in the 4x100-meter relay event as Raven Finister, Jackson, Jones and Mooney teamed for a time of 57.50.

The Lady Lions led the way in the pole vault, with Benitez winning at 6'6", a foot better than that of second-place teammate Ridge, who cleared 5'6".

Also, Jada Sawyer placed sixth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.02.

Jones challenged for the win in the triple jump but came in second with her top effort of 29'0".

In the two weight throws, the Lady Lions continued to stockpile the key points.

Marissa Soto was the winner of the shot put with a heave of 30'0". At 29'4", the Lady Lions' Victoria Thomas placed second, with teammate Ayanna Stanley-Knights third at 28'6".

Third place went to Soto at 68'10" in the discus, and Stanley-Knights was just behind her, fourth

at 65'6 1/2". The Lady Lions' Andriy Lee placed sixth with a throw of 65'1/2".

Ridge came away with second place in the 200-meter dash at 29.07, and Mooney's time of 29.16 was third.

Castaneda completed the 400-meter run in a time of 1:10.66 for third place.

BHI 8s take fourth

The Lady Bears scored 61 points for fourth place, with several individuals standing out.

Amya Ray was the winner of the 100-meter dash in a time of 13.52, and Amari Singleton was also a winner for the Lady Bears as her clocking of 2:39.65 easily won the 800-meter run.

At 6:31.02, Singleton finished third in the 1,600-meter run, and she topped her individual day off with second place in the 2,400-meter run at 10:08.91.

Beverly Hills landed 16 team points for second place in the 4x100-meter relay as Nikayla McIntyre, Ray, Mykayla Cross and Breana Haywood finished at 55.87.

Precious Oko came up with a second-place finish in the discus as her best throw went 69'0".

In other events, Devin Richard placed sixth in the 100-meter hurdles at 18.84.

The Lady Bears were sixth in the 4x400-meter relay in a time of 5:25.53.

That foursome included Taleisha Smith, Leslie Longoria, Nehelia Torres and Esmeralda Calvillo.

Boys net team crown

Brook tracksters coast at Santa Fe

With the midway portion of the varsity track and field season already quickly-approaching, the Clear Brook squads stepped up their games at the Santa Fe Invitational March 4, at Indian Stadium.

Sweeping the relays for 60 team points, the Wolverine boys went on to win the division with 128 points, with Mark Milton also delivering 25 of his own.

Clear Creek won the girls' division with 114 points, and 96 points netted Pasadena Memorial second place. Clear Brook was third with 85 points.

Kennedy Crutchfield won the 100-meter dash for the second week in a row to lead the Lady Wolverines, and Milton was a double individual winner on the boys' side.

The sweep of the relays was the big key for the Wolverines on the boys' side.

It all began in the 4x100-meter relay as Jarrett Smith, Caleb Chapman, Jaizac Garcia and Milton gathered for the win at 43.49.

Shifting to the 4x200-meter relay, Kenneth Pree, Loranzo Thompson, Tyler Garcia and Chapman came in at 1:29.90 for the victory.

To close out the meet and the team win, Clear Brook came up with a time of 3:27.18 in the 4x400-meter relay as Braelon Hill teamed with Tyler Garcia, Thompson

and Pree. With Milton leading the way, the Wolverines actually went 1-2-3 in the 100-meter dash.

Milton's time of 11.17 was good enough for the win, with Smith second at 11.66. Hill's time of 11.67 gave the Wolverines the medal sweep.

A time of 22.97 netted Thompson the win in the 200-meter dash, with Hill's time of 23.39 winding up third best. The Wolverines' Caleb Nettles placed sixth at 24.04.

The Wolverines' fun continued in the 400-meter run, with Milton winning in a time of 52.19, and teammate William Mouton second in a time of 52.96.

In a time of 40.49, Tyler Garcia captured top honors in the 300-meter hurdles, and Pree was second in both the long jump (21' 91/2") and the triple jump (41'4").

A leap of 20'8 1/2 placed Thompson fourth in the long jump, and teammate Jake Allison placed fourth in the discus with a great throw of 119'4".

George Burrell of Clear Brook went fifth in the 800-meter run at 2:06.76, with Mouton seventh in a time of 2:10.49.

At 40'5", the Wolverines' John'te Horace was fifth in the triple jump, with teammate Christopher Ogden seventh in the pole vault at 9'6".

Jacob Ackerman's top throw of 41'2" was sixth in the shot put, and Austin Kanjirathinga's time of 10:51.40 in the 3,200-meter

run was eighth. **Girls score big** Several Lady Wolverines stood out at Santa Fe as the team easily delivered its best overall performance.

Kennedy Crutchfield won the 100-meter dash for the second week in a row to lead the Lady Wolverines.

At 13.04 seconds, Crutchfield won the 100-meter dash after going 12.57 a week ago at the Porter Relays for the win.

Ayanna Mason made it even better for Clear Brook as she was third in the same event, coming to the finish line at 13.42.

Keiara Connor placed sixth in the 100-meter dash in a time of 13.47 as Brook scored big in the event.

Mason came up with the winning leap in the long jump, going 16 feet, 2 inches for the gold medal. At 15'9", Crutchfield was third, with Maya Farooq fourth at 15'5".

The Lady Wolverines went 1-2 in the 100-meter hurdles as Kayla King won at 17.33, with teammate Riley Halter second in a time of 18.25.

Katy Pyle led the way in the 400-meter run, taking second in a time of 1 minute, 00.50 seconds, and Chelsea Joseph of Clear Brook was fourth at 1:03.14.

The Lady Wolverines' Nevaeh Llamas placed fifth in a time of 2:44.80 in the 800-meter run, with teammate Regan Dunlap fifth at 13:08.80 in the 3,200-meter run.

Connor placed sixth in the long jump with a solid

effort of 30'5", and Dunlap's time of 5:57.32 placed her seventh in the 1,600-meter run.

Alexis Williams was ninth in the shot put (27'4") and 10th in the discus (63'4").

The Lady Wolverines also placed second in the 4x400-meter relay, as well as fourth in the 4x200-meter relay.

In the 4x400-meter event, Farooq teamed with Halter, King and Pyle for the runner-up time at 4:17.37.

Clearly, Clear Brook varsity boys' coach Aaron Troyer was excited about his team's performance. Right now, the Wolverines are where they want to be.

"Being at the midpoint of the season, we feel really good about where we are," Troyer said.

"We will use this week in La Porte (Bayshore Olympics March 10) as an opportunity to move some people around and see what they can do in some different events.

"We will then use the spring break week to work out and get our legs underneath us as we move closer to the district meet. We need to get all the various participants healthy and ready to go down the final stretch."

After the Santa Fe effort, Brook appears to be on course.

Bond approval required

CCISD's playground safety to be addressed

Walking up to Hyde Elementary's playground, it's clear one thing is missing: the wooden bridge that once connected the two main play structures.

It's been removed for safety reasons because after more than 10 years of wear, tear and being exposed to humid Texas weather, it was no longer safe for students to walk across.

Today, the structure that once served as one large, completely connected playground is now two smaller structures, and the openings that once led to the bridge have been boarded off with plywood to keep children safe from falling.

Replacing the playground has been a mission of the school's PTA for the last year, but because some playgrounds can cost on the upwards of \$100,000, fundraising could take a while.

To date, the PTA has raised about \$30,000 toward their efforts.

If voters approve a \$487 million bond in May, replacing and improving Clear Creek ISD's playgrounds would be just a small portion of the \$20.8 million in safety improvements district officials are planning to make.

The proposed bond would result in a \$0.035 tax rate increase. This would equate to a \$5.47 per month increase for a homeowner of a media home valued at \$223,635.

If the bond were to pass, the district would fund \$2.65 million in playground equipment replacement.

Of that, \$1.5 million would be allotted for adding new playgrounds and \$1.15 million would be put toward making what has been termed critical repairs.

The program would repair all of the current structures that have been declared as critical and then move to a cycle of maintenance and maintaining the other structures, Miller said.

Those campuses with playgrounds in major disrepair are Armand Bayou Elementary, Clear Lake City Elementary, Hyde Elementary and Landolt Elementary, he said.

Currently, there are 72 play structures/components across Clear Creek ISD.

"That's from something as simple as a pull-up bar, all the way to a big playground," Miller said.

Besides replacing and repairing all of the structures, the playground replacement and repair program would remove the financial burden from the school's PTA, which would allow them to allocate their fundraising efforts back into the classrooms, he said.

Because Hyde Elementary's PTA has already raised \$30,000 for a new playground, in order to maintain the organization's integrity,

grounds ADA accessible, adding swings, slides, and other engaging, interactive play equipment.

"It's important that kids get out and move," said Holly Hughes, assistant superintendent of elementary education. "We want kids to learn more through interaction."

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Alyssa Kelley, the school's PTA president, said the organization still plans to use the funds towards further improving the school's outdoor space.

"We are planning to put the money toward other playground enhancements like sun shades and more seating," Kelley said.

The PTA has also talked about using the money to find ways to educate students on play so that the new playground and outdoor areas are utilized to their full capacity.

"Because of the limited activity available on our current playground, we find out kids are not engaging in play to the highest potential," Hyde principal Kelly Chapman said. "They're just running around."

But once those funds are spent, any new PTA funds will go directly into the classrooms, Chapman said.

Shifting the full responsibility of playgrounds to the district rather than PTAs would also include the annual maintenance, Miller said. That means the district will also take on the annual inspections and repairs, he said.

The cost of future repairs to playgrounds will be included in the district's maintenance department's budget.

"Safety improvements go back to the students 100 percent," Hughes said. "It's the best investment we can make."

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
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. Public welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.
11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. 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.
6 - 8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.
7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is

the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Al-Anon (English) - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alateen - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-204-2481.
FRIDAY, MARCH 10
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 for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA,

open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays,

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, MARCH 13

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

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 for details.

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.

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

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

7 p.m.
Sagemont Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday, 7 p.m., Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.
Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365.

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

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 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.
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. Must have exact cash or a check. For reservations, call Laura Morgan at 281-484-8083.

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.

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

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

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

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.

Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Luby's (11595 Fuqua). For details, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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.

9:30 a.m.
The Community Club - meets the third Wednesday of the month at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. Social time is 9:30 a.m.; meeting is at 10 a.m. The club is a charitable organization of women that helps the Salvation Army feed and care for homebound elderly and disabled people, children and the homeless, and provides a scholarship for a Bridge Over Troubled Water client. Day trips may be scheduled, after which will be a guest speaker/program with fellowship and lunch. New members and guests are invited. For information, email jmopry@yahoo.com.

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

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

1 p.m.
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.

5:30 p.m.
StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter - informational monthly meeting about the link of teen sleep deprivation to depression and low academic performance. Public is welcome, 5:30 p.m., on the third Wednesday, Parker Williams Library, Room F, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., 77089. For details, call 281-229-1409.

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

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

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

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

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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

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

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

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

6 - 8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.

6 p.m.
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.

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.

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

Alateen - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

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Singleton wins pair

Longhorn tracksters sixth at Clear Lake

Senior and Stephen F. Austin University commit Camille Singleton led the way for the Dobie varsity girls' track and field team as entrants battled wet conditions at the Falcon Invitational at Clear Lake High School March 4.

Singleton championed both the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter run, and was part of the Lady Longhorns' 4x200-meter relay unit that placed third.

In the 200-meter dash, Singleton's time of 25.057 got her to the finish line first, and she then won the 400-meter run with a clocking of 57.643.

In the 4x200-meter relay, Dobie was third in a time of 1 minute, 49.30 seconds as that foursome included Camryn Ridge, Erin Fleming, Jade Giron and Ladayjah Cook.

The Lady Longhorns wound up fifth in the 4x100-meter relay, where Ridge, Rachel Smith, Fleming and Jakara Henry teamed for a clocking of 52.176.

Dobie, which placed sixth with 61 points, also performed well in the field events.

Jamesetta Seals was second overall in the discus with a throw of 95 feet, 9 inches, and her best shot put effort of 31'8 1/2" was good enough for fourth place.

Victoria Onozie placed sixth at 31'6". Fleming cleared 16'7 3/4" in the long jump for third place, and Cook made her way over the 5'0" mark for third in the high jump.

The Dobie boys' team

was led by Jeremy Davis, who won the shot put event with a solid effort of 48'8 1/2". Davis also picked up third place in the discus with a sling of 146'5".

Jacoby Davis, meanwhile, was fourth in both the triple jump and high jump events. Davis went 40'7 3/4" in the triple jump and cleared 5'8" in the high jump.

Daniel Williams, who claimed second place in both the 110-meter hurdles as well as the 300-meter hurdles, was also a standout for Dobie, which placed sixth with 65 points.

A time of 15.64 landed Williams second at the 110-distance, and he was in at 40.07 in the 300-meter hurdles for second as well.

Earl Newton and Mason Douglas also competed for the Longhorns in the hurdles. Newton placed fourth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 42.07.

Douglas, at 16.17, was fifth in the 110-hurdles, and his clocking of 43.19 was sixth in the 300-meter hurdles.

In the distance medley relay, the Longhorns placed fourth in a time of 11:30.00 as Jacob Salas and Jordy Reyes were joined by Mike Nwokolo and Alford Sears.

The Longhorns' Mark Brent, Ke'montre Lowe-Ali, Jeremy Hernandez and Segdrick Romar teamed in the 4x100-meter relay for fifth place in a time of 44.473.

Local SBAST Sharks seeking coaching staff

The South Belt Area Swim Team Sharks program is seeking coaches for the upcoming 2017 season.

For those interested in assisting the area's long-standing youth swimming program, an application can be found at www.sbast.org.

The completed application is then to be emailed to andreatparker@att.net by March 20.

Applicants must be at least 18 yrs. of age, possess previous swimming or coaching experience and have certification in lifeguard/CPR/AED and water safety training.

Applicants are required to be available to the team beginning April 24 through July 7 for practices, meets and other team activities.

For more information about the Sharks, visit the team's website at www.sbast.org.

Whaley stays hot Dawson softball team avenges early JFD loss

Dobie's varsity softball game against South Houston scheduled for March 7 was cancelled due to rain, and was slated to be played March 8 after press time. The Lady Longhorns are also set to take on Sam Rayburn March 10 and Pasadena March 11 (special 11:30 a.m. start time) before a bit of a break in the action.

Dawson downs JFD
The Lady Longhorns ran into a bit of a buzz saw March 3, at Dawson, with the Lady Eagles scoring six runs in the third inning en route to a 9-2 victory over the Lady Longhorns.

Dobie defeated Dawson 6-4 on opening night on the strength of Taylor Pleasants' grand slam, but Dawson pitcher Courtney Day was in control this time around, scattering five hits and striking out seven in a complete-game effort.

Dobie's Yvonne Whaley continues to be one of the Houston area's leaders in batting average after collecting three more hits against the Eagles.

The Lady Longhorns will now solely focus on District 22-6A play from this point forward.

At 1-0 currently, Dobie is looking to build some momentum before facing state-ranked Deer Park later this month in the first round of District 22-6A play.

LSA 14 Alief Elsik 0
Senior Corey Flanagan had another strong performance on the mound, posting 11 strikeouts in five innings of work.

Johnson, Allen, Hall and Tyler Wheelless each had two hits. K.B. Roebelen, McDonald, Thomas Modica, and Christian Doxakis each got in the hit column as well.

LSA 7 Fort Bend Elkins 4
Junior Kolby Johnson pitched four solid innings giving up only four hits and striking out six in wet, dreary conditions.

Junior Ethan McDonald earned the save in three hitless innings of work, striking out three. Johnson helped his

Clear Brook student athletic training program receives NATA recognition



Clear Brook High School is the recipient of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School award for its athletic training program. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes, and reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment. The student athletic training program at Clear Brook was honored while receiving first-team recognition from NATA, and those associated with the program remain committed to keeping the school's student athletes safe during athletic practices and games. "Our goal is to continue to provide the highest safety standards for all the student athletes at Clear Brook High School and its feeding intermediate schools," said Clear Brook head boys' athletic trainer Steve Tran. Members of the Wolverines' student athletic program include, left to right, (front row) Mandy Jones, Marissa Elizardo, Elissa Chotas, Lexi Adams, Mandy Tran, Brianna Cowans, (back row) Katherine Picado, Victoria Huynh, Kassidy Denton, Payton Gale, Keilewa Bullard (Brook girls' head athletics trainer), Steve Tran (Brook boys' head athletics trainer), Malijah Morris, Karina Suarez, Nohely Chavez, Roselle Espe and Carla Abousaab.

Longhorn boys' soccer will its way to third straight crown

Continued from Page 1B 45 consecutive games

Dobie varsity boys' head coach Justo Manrique admits that if someone had suggested prior to the 2015 season that his Longhorns would go 45 consecutive games without a loss, he would have begun to laugh.

It has nothing to do with not believing in his kids. Rather, it's a feat that is simply rare.

The Longhorns won their final district game of 2014 but then lost a bidistrict playoff game to Deer Park by a 2-1 count.

The Longhorns went 16 matches in both 2015 and 2016 without a loss and now have 12 in a row this season.

"It's all about the kids believing in you and the system, and getting past

the doubters and the critics that may suggest that it's not going to happen from year to year because of this or that. I'm just so proud of this group. 45 is a terrific number."

The Longhorns reached 45 by scoring in the final three minutes against Deer Park to forge a 1-1 tie. Manrique said the Longhorns simply did not perform well in the shootout, which has to change, but it was a tie nonetheless in the standings.

Manrique, who self-promoted the fact that the streak had reached 40 on Twitter, says the streak has become annoying.

By no means does Dobie plan to lose either of its remaining league games against La Porte or Memorial, but there are bigger goals ahead.

"We are certainly going to be fair to the competition and represent ourselves proudly, but if a starter is banged up or maybe has issues with yellow cards, maybe a break is in order."

"This season has been grueling. Last year we had 16 seniors but started this season with just seven, and two of those went out with injuries and haven't played for most of the season."

"We've also played games without key seniors (Sabino Lozano and Edwin Saldivar did not play against Deer Park), but we have managed to come through. Sore ankles and other nagging injuries, we have had them all. Through it all, we have kept it going."

"We have sort of had

an 'us versus the world' mentality, but it works in our favor. Whatever it has taken to get the job done, these kids have stepped up and done it."

Regardless of what shakes out over the final week, Dobie is likely headed into a bidistrict playoff battle with either Goose Creek Memorial or Atascocita, says Manrique.

After that, the road simply gets tougher, with the Longhorns eyeing a potential third-round rematch with a North Shore team that has now beaten Dobie two straight matches.

"We want the chance to get back at North Shore, but we have a lot of soccer ahead of us before that," Manrique said. "I said before district that this race was going to be tighter than any of the others, and it has been."

"There are also plenty of teams out there who think they have a chance at making it to the regional tournament. It's all about staying focused and getting it done on game night."



Dobie senior Sabino Lozano is one of the captains who has been a part of three straight varsity boys' soccer district championship for the Longhorns' program.

Longhorn baseball wins three games

Shaking off the disappointment of a 2-1 loss to Fort Bend Elkins in the Pasadena ISD tournament, the Dobie varsity baseball team closed out the event with three straight wins and now stands at 5-3-1 through the first two weekends of the season.

The Knights led 2-0 through three innings in that opener March 2 and managed to hang on for the victory despite an outstanding pitching performance from the Longhorns, who got four innings from Euro Diaz before Dejuan Dixon went the final three. Jeremy Green Jr. led the way offensively for the Longhorns with a pair of hits.

Later in the day, Dobie pounded its way past Al-dine 10-2 as Jacob Sulak led things on the offensive side with three hits. Green

and Daniel Garza had two apiece as the Longhorns logged 14 in the game.

On the mound, Garza was the standout, going six innings and allowing just three hits while fanning six.

On March 3, the Longhorns earned another lopsided win, this one coming in 16-2 fashion over Westbury.

Evan Hausler came up big with a trio of hits, and Green had two hits while driving in three runs. Matthew Morales and Andrew Hinojosa drove in two runs each, and Julian Flores went a solid four innings on the mound for the victory.

Owen Castillo went five innings for the win over Mayde Creek as the Longhorns prevailed in a 4-2 contest at Dobie. Damian Lopez fired the final

two innings for the save. Offensively, Diaz collected a pair of hits.

The Longhorns are now headed to Crosby March

9-11 for the last of three tournaments before the start of district play, which opens March 14, at Beaumont West Brook.

Crosby Invitational

JFD vs. Clear Creek, 9 a.m.

JFD vs. Dekaney, 2 p.m.

Thursday, March 9

JFD vs. Friendswood, 9 a.m.

Friday, March 10

JFD vs. Heights, 9 a.m.

JFD vs. Friendswood, 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 11

All games at Dobie High School

LSA baseball wins PISD invite; Pioneers now standing at 10-1

The Lutheran South Academy Pioneer varsity baseball team swept the field at the Pasadena ISD Invitational, scoring 59 runs and surrendering just six, eventually winning the championship with a 7-4 decision over Fort Bend Elkins.

LSA 7 Fort Bend Elkins 4
Junior Kolby Johnson pitched four solid innings giving up only four hits and striking out six in wet, dreary conditions.

Junior Ethan McDonald earned the save in three hitless innings of work, striking out three. Johnson helped his

cause with a hit and an RBI, and Chad Allen, Michael Smith and Louis Hall added hits to the game.

Drew Svek (two RBIs) and Ethan McDonald (RBI) added solid at-bats for the Pio's.

LSA 18 Senior Corey Flanagan had another strong performance on the mound, posting 11 strikeouts in five innings of work.

Johnson, Allen, Hall and Tyler Wheelless each had two hits. K.B. Roebelen, McDonald, Thomas Modica, and Christian Doxakis each got in the hit column as well.

LSA 14 Sam Rayburn 1
Smith, another senior pioneer pitcher, came up with a great effort, allowing just one run while fanning seven over 5 2/3 innings of work.

Modica came on in relief and closed out the game. Smith also led all batters with three hits and two runs batted in, while Owen Hill, Allen, McDonald, Svek, Hall, and Doxakis also added to their hit totals.

LSA 6 Mayde Creek 1
Senior Jake Thomas pitched 5 1/3 innings, striking out six as part of another strong nondistrict outing for LSA.

Tyler Wheelless came in for the save and got the final five outs, fanning a pair.

Hill led the way with four hits, driving in three along the way. Allen, Doxakis, Jake Cabler, and Hall also added hits as the Pioneers swept pool play.

The Pioneers have now gone 10-1 over the early portion of the season and will now play in the Father Wilson Invitational March 9-11 before heading to Panama City, Fla., for an exclusive tournament over spring break.

No matter if here or in Florida, the goal is to keep winning games.

Dobie grad Flores leads Cy-Falls hoops

At a glance, it may seem as though Cypress Falls' Region III varsity boys' basketball championship is little more than a ho-hum event in the South Belt community.



Richard Flores

But it is interesting to note that 1993 Dobie High School graduate Richard Flores is the Eagles' head coach.

In his third year as head coach at Cy-Falls, Flores has been at the school since the 2009-2010 school year. And what a roll he has the Eagles on this season.

Heading into the state tournament at 33-3, Cy-Falls is set to take on Region II champion Dallas Skyline (34-1) March 10, at 7 p.m. The tournament is to be held at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

The Cy-Falls/Skyline winner will face either San Antonio Wagner or Keller for the Class 6A boys' state championship March 11.

The Eagles have truly passed the test at every turn in the playoffs, beating a very good Lamar team to get started and then taking out Fort Bend Travis, 2016 Region III champion Sam Houston, 2016 Region II champion Atascocita and Fort Bend Bush to win the Region III title.

Now headed to San Antonio for the big tournament, Flores knows what is ahead.

He knew back in November that the Eagles could be very good, but winning the Region III title is simply not an easy feat.

Now that it's been done, Flores will look to ensure the Eagles chance very little no matter how

big the stage gets. "I always tell these guys that tonight is our most important game," Flores said.

"It really started in that first-round game against Lamar," Flores said. "They weren't your usual fourth-place team because some injuries and so forth had set them back. We beat a very good basketball team that night and have kept it going."

"It's a cliché that you can only win one at a time, but you only play one game a day in the playoffs. Just embrace the moment and play for each other the way we have all season."

And as he stands court-side in San Antonio, Flores is likely to remember his

days at Dobie, playing for legendary head coach Scott Talton, who died in 2007.

"Coach Talton has played a key role in my success," Flores said.

"We didn't always have the most talent, but he had us as prepared to be as competitive as possible on a nightly basis. Selling candy to go to tournaments. He taught us to do whatever it takes to succeed."

The lessons paid off. Flores' Eagles are doing whatever it takes to succeed.

Two more wins, and the proud Dobie alum will have his first state championship, something that can never be taken away from the program.