

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 42 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, March 15, 2018 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 43, No. 7

### Pct. 2 begins CPA program

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz will host the sixth annual Citizens Police Academy at Sagemont Church, beginning Thursday, March 22.

The program, which will take place Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon for 10 weeks, is designed to give residents a working knowledge of the constable's office, including police procedures and protocol. Space is limited. For more information, contact Precinct 2 Sgt. Cindy Vara Leija at 713-477-2766 or Leija@cn2.hctx.net.

### Cook-off spots available

Multiple spots are still available for the 22nd annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, set for Thursday, April 26, through Saturday, April 28, at El Franco Lee Park, located at 9400 Hall Road. While cooking teams that participated in last year's event had first dibs on available spots, not all groups paid their deposits by the deadline last month.

This year's event will feature a total of 165 cooking spots (some teams pay for more than one spot). A 40-foot-by-40-foot spot costs \$195. Organized and operated by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the event is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks display, also held at the area park. In recent years, the event has also provided funds for local scholarships and various youth organizations. For more information, contact Linda Arnone at 281-484-4325.

### Highway 3 closure slated

At least one southbound lane on Highway 3/Old Galveston Road at Beltway 8 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, April 1.

### Knights hold fish fry

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a fish fry on Fridays through March 16 in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road, from 5 to 7 p.m. Each dinner includes a breaded catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea or lemonade. The cost is \$10, eat-in or take-out. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities. All proceeds will benefit community projects. All are invited and welcome.

### Beltway 8 closure planned

The eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes on Beltway 8 at Blackhawk will be closed continuously until 3 p.m. Friday, March 16. The eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes on Beltway 8 at Pearland Parkway will close daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 16. At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Blackhawk to SH 35/Telephone Road will be closed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, March 16.

### AARP offers free tax help

Volunteers from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will be available to answer questions and offer tax preparation at Parker Williams Public Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 16. This service is free and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring Social Security cards or other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, forms and other necessary forms to help the volunteer complete the return. For more information, visit aarp.org/taxaide.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from the IH-610 South Loop to Edgebrook/Clearwood will be closed daily (excluding weekends) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 30. 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.

### Library friends seek items

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale, is seeking donations of current, gently used fiction and nonfiction books, especially adult soft-backs, pocket books and children's books. CDs and DVDs will also be accepted. The items will be sold to fund summer programs and other expenses.

### Beverly Hills to meet

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will hold a meeting Thursday, March 29, at the Beverly Hills Community Center, located at 10201 Kingspoint, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. New officers will be elected at the function.

### Sheriff's Safety Forum set

The Sheriff's Safety Forum will be held March 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the MUD 55 Building Meeting Room, 2300 Pilgrims Point in Webster. The meeting is for the community members to come together with the Harris County Sheriff's patrol deputies to talk about community concerns and ask questions.

# Thousands of volunteers bring Harvey aid

Nearly 5,000 volunteers have traveled from around the world to help families impacted by Hurricane Harvey rebuild their storm-damaged homes.

The nonprofit groups Eight Days of Hope and the 4B Disaster Response Network have teamed up with various missionaries, local churches and individual volunteers to assist those who are still reeling from the effects of Harvey, particularly those who have not already received assistance from other sources, such as FEMA or insurance.

Scarsdale resident Robert McDonald is an example of such a recipient. Without insurance,

McDonald's home on Flushing Meadows was left with extensive damage following the storm. This week, a team of volunteers replaced his roof, refurbished two bedrooms and a bathroom and installed drywall in his garage.

"They helped in a major way," McDonald said. "They did everything that needed to be done. My family and I are forever in their debt. People came from across the country to help a complete stranger."

According to organizers, volunteers from 48 states and multiple countries, including China and Italy, are pitching in to help. Members from

approximately 500 churches – of all denominations – are taking part in the project. Volunteers meet each morning at Grace Community Church – a sponsoring organization – to eat breakfast and

plan the day's work schedule. The workers, who are both skilled and unskilled, meet again at Grace Church at the end of the day for dinner and fellowship.

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## Volunteers provide Harvey help



A team of volunteers is shown above cleaning the residence of Bob Breeden on Sagehollow and Sageleg. The volunteers are part of a massive worldwide network that have descended on the South Belt area to help those who are still in need following Hurricane Harvey. In all, there are nearly 5,000 volunteers representing approximately 500 churches taking part in the effort.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Multiple Easter egg hunts planned

Easter is around the corner, and there are multiple egg hunts planned for South Belt children.

### Kirkwood South

Kirkwood South Christian Church, located at 10811 Kirkfair, will hold its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The hunt is open to children ages 2 to 12. The event will also feature crafts and refreshments. The Easter egg hunt is free and open to the public.

For additional information, contact Loretta McReynolds at 281-481-1735 or lamreynolds@

sbcglobal.net.

### Family Fun Fest

An Easter egg hunt will be one of many attractions at the third annual Family Fun Fest, set to take place Saturday, March 24, at Clear Brook City Park, 11911 Blackhawk, from 3:30 to 8 p.m.

See related story on this page for additional information.

### Harris County

Harris County officials will hold their annual

Continued on Page 2A

## Hazardous waste collection event set

Houston District E City Council Member David Martin, along with the Solid Waste Management Department, will hold a batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze (BOPA) mobile collection event Saturday, March 24, Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event is free, open to all City of Houston

residents and will be held rain or shine. A valid Texas driver's license or other proof of residency will be required. Business waste will not be accepted.

Many common household materials are considered hazardous and need special disposal. When Household Hazardous Waste is

Continued on Page 4A

## Chamber to host Family Fun Fest

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber will host its annual Family Fun Fest Saturday, March 24, at Clear Brook City Park, located at 11911 Blackhawk, from 3:30 to 8 p.m.

Now in its third year, the event will include the Strut Your Mutt dog show, a Twilight 1K and 5K run, Operation Kidsafe fingerprinting, inflatables, games, contests, an Easter egg hunt, food trucks and concessions, demonstrations and exhibitions.

New to this year's festival is the Touch-A Truck, which will allow children to get up close

and personal with a wide variety of different trucks.

Sponsorship opportunities are available in multiple categories, ranging from \$100 to \$2,000.

To register for the Strut Your Mutt and 1K or 5K run/walk, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Houston/3rdAnnualStrutYourMuttFamilyFunFest>.

For additional information or to become a sponsor, contact chamber President Kay Barbour at 281-481-5516.

## JFD Latin excels at regionals



The Dobie High School Latin Club recently advanced to the state tournament, set to take place in Dallas April 13-14, after placing first overall at the regional competition. Club presidents shown above are, left to right, Samantha Merrill, Jason Sabal and Annie Tran who helped lead the team to first place at regionals.

Photo by Jade Wise

## Martin, Boykins hold CIP meetings

The City of Houston will hold two separate Capital Improvement Project (CIP) town hall meetings for area residents this next week.

### District E

Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin will host a CIP town hall meeting on Thursday, March 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Heritage Hangar at the Lone Star Flight Museum, located at 11551 Aerospace Avenue.

Residents are invited to attend to hear from city and community representatives about ongoing capital improvement projects, local issues and community news related to the Clear Lake and Southeast Houston areas of District E.

In addition to discussing CIP projects,

post-Harvey updates will be provided from various departments and local agencies.

For more information, contact Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or email at [districte@houstontx.gov](mailto:districte@houstontx.gov).

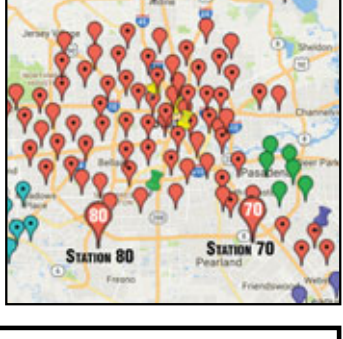
### District D

Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins will host a CIP town hall meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at Sterling High School, located at 11625 Martindale, beginning at 6 p.m. Additional city representatives are also expected to take part in the event.

For additional information, contact the District D office at 832-393-3001 or [districtd@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtd@houstontx.gov).

## Ambulance dispatching causes concern

The Leader has learned the Houston Fire Department's ambulance stored at Station 70 on Beamer near Beltway 8 has been routinely dispatched outside the South Belt area, most frequently to assist Station 80, which is located roughly 17 miles/25 minutes away. The move is counterintuitive to many, as there are approximately 10 other HFD stations located closer to Station 80 (see map). Alarming to many is the proximity of Station 70 to the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8, which in 2015, was named the 13th most dangerous crossing in Houston, according to statistics from the Texas Department of Transportation. (See related photo below.) City Council Member Dwight Boykins has pledged to look into the matter and reminds residents that Proposition B, passed by voters this past November, will provide \$159 million toward new HFD equipment and facilities.



## 3 cars crash at Beamer, beltway



Three female drivers got into an accident around 6 p.m. Monday, March 12, at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Beamer. One of the drivers reportedly claimed responsibility for the collision, saying she was blinded by the sun. Two of the drivers were transported to the hospital with minor injuries. Two young children, ages 2 and 4, (shown above) were also involved in the crash but were not injured.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Controversy continues over fill dirt

The debate on what to do with dirt excavated from the future South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin (to be located off Beamer near Dixie Farm Road) rages on, with multiple parties threatening litigation. A deal was approved in December 2017 to allow 100,000 cubic yards of excavated material to be disposed of at a private property in the 2800 block of Dixie Farm Road. The agreement was based on dated maps used by the City of Friendswood, which determined the property in question was not located in a floodplain. Working with more recent and restrictive maps, the Harris Coun-

ty Flood Control District retracted the agreement and made plans to dispose of the fill dirt in an area outside of the floodplain. Recently, however, James Wood, the owner of the private piece of property, threatened to sue the City of Friendswood, which in turn, refused to revoke his permit, essentially returning the agreement to its original terms. Contrary to other claims – particularly on social media – the issue does not concern the environmental quality of the excavated dirt, which has been tested by both governmental agencies and independent contractors.

## Local schools address violent threats

Local school districts are still dealing with the threat of violence on campus.

While the Pasadena Independent School District has experienced relative calm this past week (students are currently on spring break vacation), students who have been previously charged have begun making their first court appearances. Lewis Career and Technical Center student Tannor Willis, 18 – one of only two adults who has been apprehended – has officially been charged with exhibition of a firearm, a misdemeanor. The second adult,

Pasadena Memorial student Chris Mendez, 17, along with multiple unnamed juveniles, has been charged with making a terroristic threat, a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison.

PISD is far from alone in dealing with this trend, as the surrounding districts of Clear Creek and Pearland have had similar problems. On Friday, March 9, a 15-year-old student at Pearland High School was arrested for bringing a gun on campus. The incident was brought to school officials' attention after an anonymous tip was made to police.

## Dobie Latin Club advances to state

By Jade Wise, Pasadena ISD

The J. Frank Dobie High School Latin Club seized the day by placing first overall at the regional competition of the Texas State Junior Classical League and will advance to state on April 13-14 in Dallas. At the regionals, the team of 60+ members competed in several categories, including various tests, oratory presentations and dramatic interpretations of classic literature.

Based off Triumvirate, a Julius Caesar era style of Roman government, the Longhorn Latin Club is led by three seniors, Samantha Merrill, Annie Tran and Jason Sabal who split responsibilities and serve as co-presidents.

each other in classical language," said Sabal.

Merrill said she enjoyed seeing diversity at the competition among the competitors and how stereotypes are often wrong.

"You wouldn't think of Latin club students traditionally being involved in athletics or art competitions, but they are. They have a lot of hidden talents," said Merrill.

The three presidents said they are proud of the team for the strong showing at regionals and that they have high expectations for the team in Dallas.

"I wouldn't choose anyone else to be working with," said Tran. "Everyone on our team is so talented and smart." Sabal added, "We are very confident because we have a really strong team. Our goal at the state competition is a top-three finish."

# In My Opinion

## Muecke thanks Albrecht for service

We need to thank Michele for not only being a great citizen but an excellent and caring neighbor. Many would consider what she is doing is work but to her it means much more.

A much better and cleaner neighborhood in which to live. Most of you think, hey this is what I pay taxes for so let the city do this. Yes, the city does pick up trash and bandit signs, remember the city is very large, but you as a neighborhood home owner can help. Go out and take a walk for exercise, take a bag with you and pick up trash.

Just think how many empty plastic water bottles and plastic grocery bags you will find among other items. A pair of gloves will be helpful.

Now the bandit signs. They are illegal on public property/right of way AND VERY UNSIGHTLY. Those on telephone poles or staked with wire holders are illegal. Just be very careful while along the street and esplanade when doing this.

It would be great to use a pickup with flashers on while picking up the bandit signs along the road way, maybe once a week. Election time is here so many more of the bandit signs will appear. Still illegal. AND, after the election they fail to go around and take them down.

Also, remember the person putting them out is doing an illegal act and the replacement costs him money. When you trash the signs, he has to purchase more which is costly. He may soon give up and stop and as she said, advertise in the Leader. Thank you Ms. Flickinger for giving this great lady a well deserved pat on the back for a job well done. Now the rest of you, be a copycat and help her.

James E. Muecke

## Torres has warning: robbery at H-E-B

I am a 30yr resident of the Sagemont area this past Monday March 5th. My mother who is also a veteran resident of the area was robbed in the HEB parking lot around 18:30 pm. She had just finished shopping when 2 blk males driving a red/maroon chryssler 200-300 model approached her vehicle blocked her in opened her passenger side door reached in and grabbed her purse. They sped off without anyone able to see there descriptions.

This is an ongoing this that seems to be happening more and more at the HEB. HEB was really hesitate about calling the police due to all the incidents that have occurred there within the last 6 months. Its a 2010-2017 maroon chryssler 200-300 model with paper plates big shiny rims. I feel something needs to be done about this so that this wont happen again to someone else.

**Daniel Torres Publisher's note:** All one has to do is listen to the evening news on TV to tell we need to be alert at all times. Crime is bad everywhere. Please be careful.

Marie Flickinger

## Maj. Gen. Snow touts support for service

Unfortunately, the growing divide between the military and society was apparent last week when a teacher's inaccurate and misinformed statements about the quality of America's armed forces made national headlines.

As a U.S. Army officer for more than 30 years, I can tell you our nation's military services are among the most respected organizations in the world, and the individuals who choose to serve deserve the support of our nation's people.

About 50 percent of young Americans today admit they know little to nothing about our military. As a nation, we are failing them, and we are failing ourselves.

College graduates are averaging around

\$30,000 in student loan debt. I wish they had known they could have graduated debt free while contributing to something bigger than themselves. Having a skilled and educated force truly is a priority.

The Army alone spent \$162 million on tuition assistance last year, so current Soldiers could earn degrees. The U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps offers approximately \$300 million in scholarships each year for students at about 1,000 universities ranging from Harvard and Princeton to Berkley and Ohio State — the U.S. Army is the largest single provider of college scholarships in the nation.

In the health care field, the Army offers full scholarships for accredited medical, dental, veterinary, nurse practitioner and optometry programs.

Our nation is filled with underemployed workers who paid for degrees but can't get jobs because they don't have the necessary experience. I wish they had known they could choose from 150 different careers, gain technical experience and certifications, and get a degree in the U.S. Army.

As I travel the country, I find most people I meet believe the U.S. Army is only about combat. It's true our role is to fight and win our nation's wars, but it takes a team to support our warfighters. I wish our country knew our Soldiers are doctors, engineers, truck drivers, IT specialists, paralegals, logisticians and so much more. Almost every professional job in the private sector is also a job in the military.

The problem I see everywhere I visit is this — they don't know. They don't know because we haven't told them.

We need the young people in our country to have the opportunity to make an informed decision about their future. I am not interested in forcing anyone to enlist; however, youth deserve to understand what military service entails.

We need our educators to welcome military recruiters into schools. Our service members represent our country and should not have to recruit in the shadows.

We need parents and community influencers to encourage students who are considering military service. We need our veterans to help educate communities about how serving has positively impacted their lives.

Success is not always a four-year degree. It's finding the best path to gaining the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for a desired occupation.

Our Army is filled with technologically advanced equipment, but that means nothing without the talented soldiers who operate the equipment and make strategic decisions on its use. People are our greatest asset.

In reality, only 29 percent of youth today actually meet the qualifications to join. Our service members are highly trained, highly skilled and highly educated.

It's time we see military service for what it truly is — a competitive advantage in the workplace.

I am not asking for young Americans to be forced into choosing military service. I am asking for the opportunity to educate our nation. I want to ensure America's young people understand all of their options before they make a final decision about their future.

If it ever gets to the point when people stop wanting to raise their right hand to serve, it's not only a challenge for the military, but it's also a national security issue for the nation.

A societal paradigm shift is needed to protect the future of those who volunteer to protect us. Yes, Uncle Sam still needs us — all of us.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow

## Muse admires clean streets in South Belt

Going down Hughes Road to Blackhawk is so pleasant. The street is so nice and everything looks so clean! Good job Marie, City, and everyone!

Toni Muse

## Local library events set

### Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:  
 Thursday, March 15, 6 p.m. Book Club: *Before I Go to Sleep*  
 Saturday, March 17, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class  
 Tuesday, March 20, 10:30 a.m. Family storytime and playtime  
 Wednesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime and playtime  
 Wednesday, March 21, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint  
 Bracewell hours this week are: Thursday, noon – 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. this week:  
 Tax help is available Fridays and Mondays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through tax season from AARP Foundation volunteers. Bring appropriate documents. See related article on sidebar of Page 1A. There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, March 30.  
 Thursday, March 15, 3 p.m. Community Craft features beading bracelets for all ages. Meet in the library community room to learn basic beading techniques and construct beaded bracelets.  
 Friday, March 16, 2:30 p.m. Anime Club features Spring BingeFest! that will show Evangelion 1.11 and Evangelion 2.22 (TV-14) for ages 14 and older on the big screen. Meet in meeting room D for an activity during spring break.  
 Saturday, March 17, 10:30 a.m. *Prevent Colorectal Cancer* presented by the Memorial Hermann Community Benefit Corporation. Meet at the library for information on this preventable disease during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.  
 Monday, March 19, 2 – 4 p.m. The Parker Williams Genealogy Group is an informal group that meets the first and third Monday of each month (unless the library is closed) to discuss family history research (beginner to advanced). Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in tracing family history.  
 Monday, March 19, 6 p.m. Magic: The Gathering Gameplay, for ages 8 and older. A special thank you is given to Strike Zone for the generous donation of Magic: The Gathering cards. For more information, visit <http://www.hcpl.net/sites/default/files/feb-mtg-1.jpg>.  
 Monday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. Social Security 101 presented by Andrew Hardwick, a public affairs specialist for the Social Security Administration. Learn about the age of eligibility to receive retirement benefits; how early retirement affects benefits; qualifications for disability, survivor, and spouse benefits; the future of Social Security; when to file for Medicare; and how to use your Social Security online account. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount), create a Social Security account and print out a personal Social Security statement before attending the workshop. Registration at the library or online at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net) ->Locations->Parker Williams->Events Calendar->March 19 at 6:30 p.m. Click on the link for Social Security 101 and fill in the required information.  
 Wednesday, March 21, 5 p.m. Science Explorers: paint and color for age 5 and older. One of the best ways for beginning readers to learn about science is to explore the concepts by experience. Meet in the library community room for the first meeting of Science Explorers as kids learn and experience how different colors are made.  
 Below are the programs that occur every week:  
 Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.  
 Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.  
 Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.  
 For more information on any events, call the library at 281-484-2036. Library hours this week are: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1 – 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

## Outstanding students of February

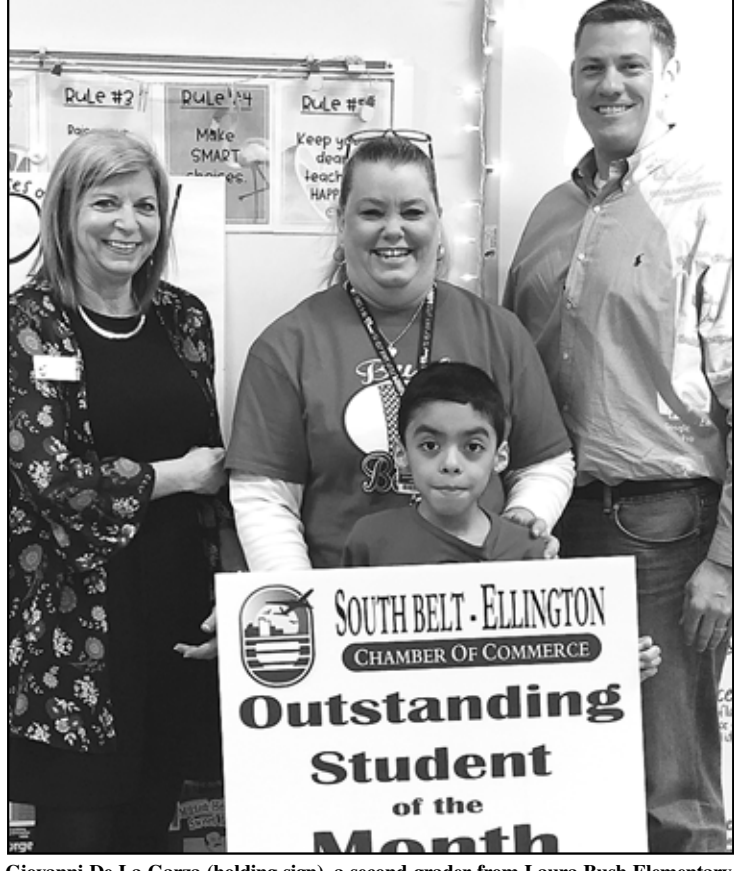
Working with administrators from local Pasadena Independent School District campuses, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce has begun recognizing outstanding area students each month. The group of students honored for the month of February are pictured below, along with a brief description. Also, see page 3A.



**Boston McAfee (holding sign), an eighth-grader at Beverly Hills Intermediate, is an all-around fantastic student; excelling in both academics and athletics. She comes to school each day prepared to work and always gives her all. When others do not understand concepts, McAfee is there to lend a hand and provide peer-to-peer tutorials. She is well-spoken and provides insight on global and local issues. McAfee does all this with a smile and a sunny disposition. She is truly an inspiration to students and teachers alike. These are reasons why McAfee is Beverly Hills' February Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown with her are, left to right, Judge JoAnn Delgado, South Belt chamber member; Jennifer Teichelman, BHI assistant principal; Stacey Barber, BHI principal; Dave Matthews, South Belt chamber member; and Toni Lopez, Pasadena Independent School District executive director.**



**Sandy Armenta (holding sign) is a third-grade Atkinson Elementary student who works very hard to achieve excellence in her schoolwork. Armenta has a very compassionate attitude and is always thoughtful of other students and staff and is quick to lend a helping hand. Armenta makes her teachers very proud with her positive behavior and she is very deserving of this award. That is why Armenta is Atkinson's February Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown with her are, left to right, Noble Alix, local businessman and chamber member; Lena Ortiz, principal; and Belva Alaniz, third-grade teacher.**



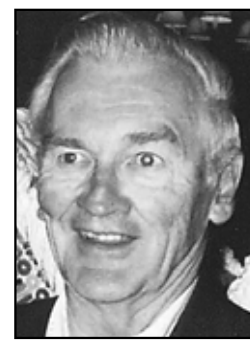
**Giovanni De La Garza (holding sign), a second-grader from Laura Bush Elementary, has worked very hard this year to be successful in school. De La Garza has not only worked to improve his skills in reading and math but also his skills as an overall student. For these reasons De La Garza was named Bush's February Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown with De La Garza are, left to right, Kay Barbour, chamber president; Stephanie Miller, principal; and Kenny Fernandez, PISD board member.**



**Ashlyn Terry (holding sign) is Stuchbery Elementary's Outstanding Student of the Month. Terry is a third-grade student with good conduct and grades who helps pre-K students during her lunch and exhibits characteristics of Stallion pride. Her awesome persona is contagious, spreading her joy to others whom she passes and greets each morning. For these reasons she was selected for the recognition. Shown with Terry, left to right, Dylan Richter, third-grade teacher; Jose Hernandez, Stuchbery principal; and Dave Matthews.**

# Death

## Daniel E. Spedden III



Daniel E. Spedden III, 84, died March 7, losing his battle for life after suffering a stroke this year.

He was born in Baltimore, Maryland on May 11, 1933.

He was predeceased by his father Daniel E Spedden II and his mother Clara Spedden; grandson Daniel Spedden V; brother Michael Spedden; and sister Patricia Spedden.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca Spedden; and step-daughter Rebecca Michelle Pyper and her husband Derrick Pyper and their children, Hannah Pyper, Kathleen Pyper and John Pyper. He is also survived by his sons Daniel Spedden, Timothy Spedden and Brett Spedden; their mother Adrienne Spedden; grandchildren Michael Spedden and Veronica Spedden; and his sister Sandra Chapoton.

Dan was a Marine veteran, guarding the president and training Navy SEALs. He graduated from UCLA with a math degree and went to work for Douglas Aircraft in California.

He worked for the next 50 years in the aerospace industry on projects such as Apollo, the space station and other civilian and military projects, settling in Houston with Boeing.

The family will receive friends Friday, March 16, at 4 p.m. at a memorial service at Niday – Beamer Funeral Home. A reception will follow at Club Bellavita, 1548 N. Riviera Circle, Pearland. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Samaritan's Purse—Operation Wounded Warriors.

## Area Easter activities set

**Continued from Page 1A**  
 Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 24, at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road, from 1 to 3 p.m. Now in its 28th year, the event will be hosted by County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Justice of the Peace

Jo Ann Delgado and Constable Chris Diaz. A longtime project of former Commissioner El Franco Lee's, this will mark the second time Ellis has participated in the event. Children from ages 2 to 10 are eligible to participate. A winner in each

age group will be awarded a prize.

Free hot dogs, snow cones and drinks will be available while supplies last. The actual egg hunt will begin at 2 p.m. Participants must bring their own Easter baskets.

## Elected officials share their words

## Olson invites students to apply

Rep. Pete Olson invites TX-22 high school juniors and seniors to apply to participate in his 2018-2019 Congressional Youth Advisory Council this fall. This advisory council provides insight into the youth perspective and Olson encourages them to work hard to accomplish their academic goals.

"Our high school students are our nation's future leaders," Olson said. "Participating in this Council gives students the opportunity to better understand the inner workings of government and

interact with local officials and leaders in industry. Hearing directly from these students also helps me better understand their priorities and get their input on the work we are doing in Congress. I encourage all TX-22 high school juniors and seniors to apply and look forward to meeting the 2018-2019 Council."

The CYAC is a select group of high school students that meet with Olson to discuss the issues most important to them. The council meets six times during the school

year and includes a roundtable discussion on current events, as well as learning the pivotal role of lawmakers, experts and citizens in a democracy. These high-achieving students are considered ambassadors for Olson and have the opportunity to provide feedback on legislation working its way through Congress. Completed applications are due to the Sugar Land or Pearland offices by June 1. For applications and more information, visit <https://olson.house.gov/services/student-services>.

## 8 Days of Hope visits South Belt

**Continued from Page 1A**  
 lowship. Out-of-state volunteers sleep on local church properties, including Sagemont Church.

Volunteers began local work efforts on Saturday, March 10, and will continue through Saturday, March 24.

Their goal is to repair 800 houses. Workers are also refurbishing local parks and youth sports facilities.

Curtis Conerly, an ambassador from Global Outreach out of Mississippi, is selflessly volunteering his time, along with his wife Belinda.

A former construction contractor, Conerly is now a full-time missionary.

"These people's lives have been turned upside down," Conerly said. "We're just trying to bring back a little normalcy. We're all here to help families in need."

## Leader checks out social media

**By Laura Benavides Scallan**

A member of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group reported seeing a gray pit bull on the morning of March 10 running around San Jacinto College. The dog had some white on its chest.

Another member of the same Facebook group found a female American bulldog that is white with light brown spots. The dog had on a pink collar. If owner, call 281-925-

9100. Proof of ownership will be required to claim dog.

A member of the same Facebook group is looking for their black cat named Meisha. The cat is small and is missing a patch of fur on its neck. The cat has been on medication and special food due to an allergy. Meisha is friendly so if found, contact the owner at 330-388-7992.

A male chow mix dog has been found and posted on the

*Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page. The dog is not micro-chipped, is approximately one year old and was found at Beverly Hills Park.

A cat named Gizmo was reported missing on the same Facebook group. Gizmo is a domestic short-haired cat, white with brown markings. He was wearing a blue collar. If seen in the area around Glenkirk Street, contact the owner through Facebook.

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

*The Voice of Community-Minded People*

**11555 Beamer 281-481-5656**

E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

*Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners*

**Join HCSO Patrol Deputies in northeast Harris County to talk community concerns in your area.**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

**MUD 55 Building Meeting Room**  
**2300 Pilgrims Point Dr.**  
**Webster, TX 77598**

**District III Sheriff's Safety Forum**

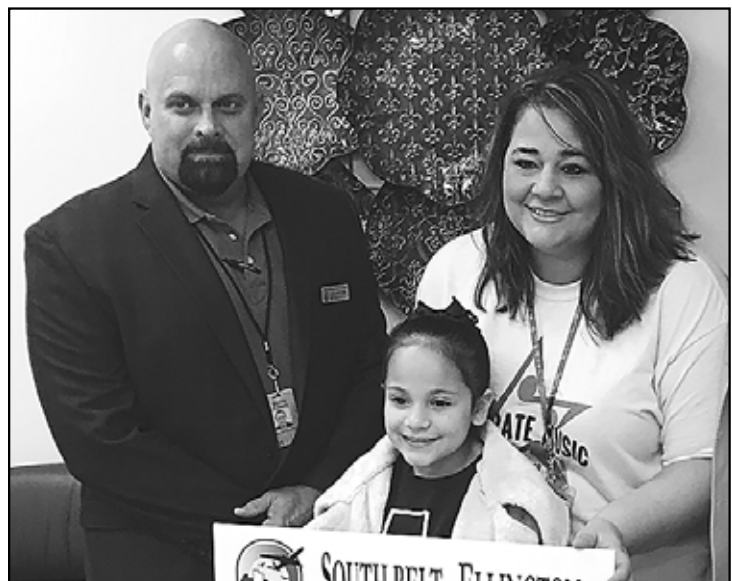
# South Belt chamber of commerce honors outstanding students for February



Amaya Vargas (front), a third-grader at Genoa Elementary who is extremely helpful to her peers, an honest friend and a truly outstanding student, was chosen as Genoa's February Student of the Month. Also shown are, left to right, Kenny Fernandez, PISD and chamber board member; Tiffany Bennett, Genoa principal; and Kay Barbour, chamber president.



Julie Machado (center), sixth-grader from Melillo Middle School, is a role model for her peers. She is organized, punctual and respectful. Machado participates regularly in class and always demonstrates a positive attitude. She maintains good grades and continues to complete her school planner. Machado communicates with her teachers and turns in her classwork and assignments on time. She works well with her peers and sets encouraging examples for them by making positive choices. Machado is an outstanding student and that is why she is Melillo's Outstanding Student of the Month for February. Shown are Jaqueline Carmona, Melillo counselor (left) and Diane Wheeler, Melillo principal.



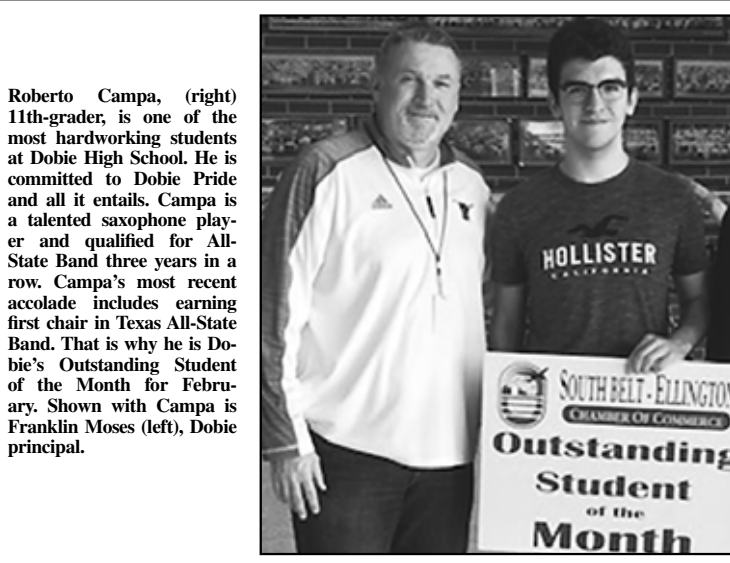
Phuc Nguyen (third from left), ninth-grader at Dobie9 High School, works hard in every class and makes sure that he understands everything that is going on. As an English language learner in an ESL class, he has improved not only his English skills, but also his confidence in himself. Struggling with missing his family in Vietnam, he was ready to quit working hard in school. Using his family back in Vietnam as a motivation instead of an obstacle, Nguyen truly blossomed into a hard-working student and a young gentleman. He truly cares about others and helps students whenever he can. With the extreme struggles of being an English learner in classes that are given in English, Nguyen makes it a priority to get the help he needs and goes the extra mile to take full advantage of his education. This is why Nguyen has been named Dobie9 Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Adriana Robinson; math instructional coach; Noble Alix; Nguyen; Amanda Noyes, English; Michael Vannessen and Alyta Harrell, Pasadena Independent School District associate superintendent.



Phuc Nguyen (third from left), ninth-grader at Dobie9 High School, works hard in every class and makes sure that he understands everything that is going on. As an English language learner in an ESL class, he has improved not only his English skills, but also his confidence in himself. Struggling with missing his family in Vietnam, he was ready to quit working hard in school. Using his family back in Vietnam as a motivation instead of an obstacle, Nguyen truly blossomed into a hard-working student and a young gentleman. He truly cares about others and helps students whenever he can. With the extreme struggles of being an English learner in classes that are given in English, Nguyen makes it a priority to get the help he needs and goes the extra mile to take full advantage of his education. This is why Nguyen has been named Dobie9 Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Adriana Robinson; math instructional coach; Noble Alix; Nguyen; Amanda Noyes, English; Michael Vannessen and Alyta Harrell, Pasadena Independent School District associate superintendent.



Makayla Ballard St. Romain (right) is a very quiet but quite conscientious fourth-grader at South Belt Elementary, and completes all of her work. She is a wonderful example to others in school, always choosing to do the right thing even when no one is watching. St. Romain has so much empathy for others, and helps both teachers and other students daily. She has worked in a kinder classroom for the majority of the year, helping the young students to learn to read and become great citizens. For these reasons she was selected as South Belt Elementary's Outstanding Student of the Month for February. Shown with St. Romain is Noble Alix, local businessman and South Belt Chamber of Commerce member.



Roberto Campa, (right) 11th-grader, is one of the most hardworking students at Dobie High School. He is committed to Dobie Pride and all it entails. Campa is a talented saxophone player and qualified for All-State Band three years in a row. Campa's most recent accolade includes earning first chair in Texas All-State Band. That is why he is Dobie's Outstanding Student of the Month for February. Shown with Campa is Franklin Moses (left), Dobie principal.



Italo Chavarria Mendez (second from left), fourth-grader from Burnett Elementary, is a great student. He strives to do his best on his work at all times. Chavarria Mendez is always willing to help his peers academically. He works well with others because he has an amicable personality. In the mornings, he volunteers to assist Eliezer Torres, the custodian, with the cafeteria. For these reasons, Chavarria Mendez has been named Burnett's Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Leticia Sanchez, counselor; Chavarria Mendez; Esmeralda Peredes, assistant principal; and Toni Lopez, Pasadena Independent School District executive director.



Phuc Nguyen (third from left), ninth-grader at Dobie9 High School, works hard in every class and makes sure that he understands everything that is going on. As an English language learner in an ESL class, he has improved not only his English skills, but also his confidence in himself. Struggling with missing his family in Vietnam, he was ready to quit working hard in school. Using his family back in Vietnam as a motivation instead of an obstacle, Nguyen truly blossomed into a hard-working student and a young gentleman. He truly cares about others and helps students whenever he can. With the extreme struggles of being an English learner in classes that are given in English, Nguyen makes it a priority to get the help he needs and goes the extra mile to take full advantage of his education. This is why Nguyen has been named Dobie9 Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Adriana Robinson; math instructional coach; Noble Alix; Nguyen; Amanda Noyes, English; Michael Vannessen and Alyta Harrell, Pasadena Independent School District associate superintendent.



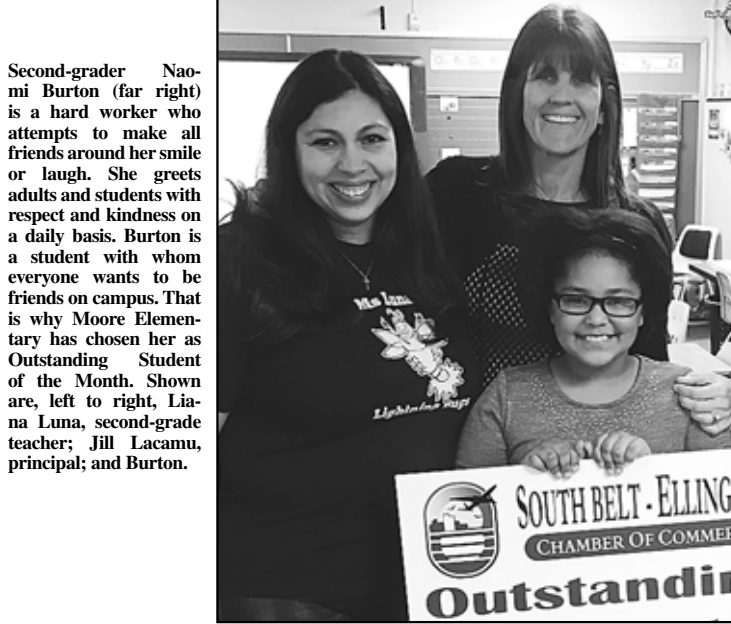
Kayden Gilbert (center) is a kindergartner in Annie Sargent's class who is a hard worker and a great leader. He is above average in math and reading. Gilbert was able to read all of his sight words by the end of October. He is a very dependable and responsible student. Gilbert is always willing to help any student who is in need academically or socially. He can always be counted on to lend a helping hand. Gilbert is a great role model for all students and he always excels on all tasks. Last month, Gilbert was identified as a gifted and talented student. That is why Gilbert has been named Jessup Elementary's Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Kay Barbour; Annie Sargent, kindergarten team leader; Gilbert; Valecia Noland, counselor; and Kevin Lankford, assistant principal.



Kevin Ly (far right) is completing his fourth year in the Pharmacy Technician pathway at Career Technical High School and will earn both the Pharmacy Technician and Sterile IV Products certifications. He is the treasurer for the National Honor Society, is ranked fifth in his senior class of 1050 students and has a 5.4516 GPA. He has been accepted to the University of Texas at Austin and plans to become a biomedical engineer. Ly is a National Merit Semifinalist with a PSAT score of 1500 of a possible 1520 and is a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. He volunteers in campus blood drives and has an externship at Walgreens Pharmacy. Ly would like to thank his parents Davis Ly and Mai Loan This Tran for always encouraging and supporting him. That is why Ly has been named CTHS student of the month. Shown are, left to right, Tom Le, twelfth grade principal; Steve Fleming, principal; JoAnn Delgado, judge; Noble Alix; and Ly.



Manny Vigil (right) is an outstanding second grade student. He is very caring and compassionate toward teachers, staff, and friends at Meador Elementary. He has a kind word for everyone. Vigil works hard each day to improve his reading and math skills. He keeps an awesome smile on his face and never gives up. Another reason Vigil is an outstanding student, is his leadership skills and his integrity. Vigil always "stands up" for what is right by being honest and true. He is a positive role model for his peers and demonstrates his exemplary behavior throughout campus. Shown with Vigil is Beverly Bolton, principal.



Second-grader Naomi Burton (far right) is a hard worker who attempts to make all friends around her smile or laugh. She greets adults and students with respect and kindness on a daily basis. Burton is a student with whom everyone wants to be friends on campus. That is why Moore Elementary has chosen her as Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Liana Luna, second-grade teacher; Jill Lacamu, principal; and Burton.



Joana Casas (center) is extremely responsible. She is someone who is always on top of her classwork. She is helpful before school and during class. She reads constantly and genuinely loves to do so and loves to help others. She is one of those students who comes in and does the right thing naturally. That is why fifth-grader Casas is Fred Roberts Middle School's Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Emily Cruz, counselor; Dave Matthews; Casas; JoAnn Delgado; and Jorly Thomas, principal.



Eighth-grader Kelly Nguyen (second from left) is a model student always willing to help others. She is extremely hard working and driven. Nguyen has the highest number of Accelerated Reading Points in the school while excelling in the Connect Program. For these reasons, she is Thompson Intermediate's Outstanding Student of the Month. Shown are, left to right, Melissa Allen, principal; Nguyen; Travis Teichelman, assistant principal; and Dave Matthews.



Davian Lozano (left), third-grader, excels academically and is currently top reader in his class. He is kind and willing to help and work with others, without being asked. He is self-motivated, sets goals and works hard to accomplish them. Thomas Hancock Elementary is lucky to have such a deserving young man to represent the school as the South Belt student of the month. Shown are, left to right, Lozano; Kenny Fernandez; and Angela Stallings, Pasadena Independent School District associate superintendent.

# Waste collection set for Ellington Field

**Continued from Page 1A**  
disposed of in the trash, it can contaminate landfills and subsequently the groundwater.

This event provides a free and safe alternative for residents to rid their homes of potentially dangerous materials.

Accepted items include household and automobile batteries, motor oil and filters, latex paint, antifreeze, large appliances and scrap metal.

Used motor oil will be limited to 15 gallons. All liquids are required to be in sealed, nonleaking containers that are labeled as to contents.

Items not accepted include business, medical and

agricultural waste; oil-based paints, solvents, flammables, pesticides, herbicides and other similar hazardous materials.

To get to the Ellington site from the Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8, drivers should take I-45 south toward Galveston and turn left onto FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road; go to Highway 3/Old Galveston Road and turn right; drive two blocks and turn left onto Brantly; go past a dock with signs to the right and turn left onto Loop Road/Broussard. The recycling center will then be on the left-hand side.

For more information, contact Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or district@houstonx.gov.

# Enrollment soars for OER courses

Open Educational Resources are creating an impact on higher education more than ever before. OERs are free, open-licensed, peer-reviewed digital classroom materials and textbooks that faculty can use and adapt to fit its course's student learning outcomes.

The ongoing rise of textbook costs is a constant barrier to student success and a key factor in low retention rates. Colleges and universities nationwide are increasing OER course options to help eliminate these textbook cost barriers thus increasing retention and enrollment.

The Open Education Consortium had designated March 5-9, as Open Education Week. The international awareness initiative was created to bring awareness to the growing OER movement in college classrooms and online courses and programs around the world. The consortium adds that it intends for Open Education Week to "highlight how open education can help people meet their goals in education, whether that's to develop skills and knowledge for work, supporting formal studies, learning something new for personal interest, or looking for additional teaching resources."

In spring 2017 San Jacinto College piloted 30 sections of OER courses, branded as "Open Books" courses, with 768 students enrolled. To date, there are now 307 course sections (a 923 percent increase) and 7,166 students enrolled in Open Books courses (an 833 percent increase) for the spring 2018 semester. Why have the numbers increased so quickly?

Students and faculty are honing in on the cost savings. Since spring 2017, San Jacinto College has saved students more than \$1.2 million. As part of its OER initiative, the college will host a number of Open Education Week events at its Central, North and South campuses providing students and faculty with information on the benefits of Open Books courses.

"I saved so much more money enrolling in an Open Books course compared to a traditional course that uses a physical textbook," said San Jacinto College accounting student Gloria Elsner. "Open Books makes it a lot easier than carrying around a heavy backpack. Anywhere that you have access to Wi-Fi you can access your digital textbook. The digital format is more user friendly, and it's easier to study with and ask

classmates questions since sometimes with textbooks someone may have a different version than the one you have. I really hope San Jacinto College continues to have more Open Books classes available."

One of the biggest draws for faculty aside from offering students low cost digital course materials is the flexibility OER offers for student learning outcomes.

Faculty can access the most current up-to-date materials with some being updated each semester. Online OER faculty communities also allow faculty to share best practices for adopting and adapting OER materials.

"As a faculty member, Open Books has allowed me to use the continuous academic freedom that our college has always promoted," said Tonja Conerly, San Jacinto College sociology professor and Open Books project director. "I am working with an endless number of peers literally throughout the world, sharing knowledge and different teaching techniques. Open Books really allows our faculty to enhance their pedagogy because they can tailor these unique resources to their courses. At the end of the day, we're providing our students with the same quality, peer-reviewed educational resources, but at no or minimal cost."

OER is steadily rising to the forefront of the national higher education stage. In 2012, California legislators voted to create 50 free OER digital textbooks for state university students.

In 2017, at least 70 OER-related bills were introduced in more than half of the country's state legislatures, including Texas, Colorado, Maryland, Washington and New York. In addition to the earlier passage of the Excelsior Scholarship program which allows free college tuition for qualifying New York students, its state leaders also appropriated \$8 million to aid in the development and use of OER.

As more state legislatures and faculty members throughout the U.S. join the OER movement, educational access will become more attainable for college students.

San Jacinto College estimates that by 2020 its students will save more than \$3.5 million. For more information on OER at San Jacinto College, visit [sanjac.edu/open-books](http://sanjac.edu/open-books).

## Master Gardeners plans event

On Thursday, April 12, Harris County Master Gardeners lecture series presents a talk by Jason Naivar, a forest ranger with Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center. Naivar's lecture will be *Coyotes in our Area* from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. This event is free and open to the public.

## AARP Chapter sets meeting

The AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes the public to a meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 20, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The chapter meets in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors. Every two months there is also a potluck lunch.

On Friday, April 20, Doug Peterson will speak on *Exploration Green, Clear Lake's New 200-Acre Flood Control, Conservation, and Recreation Area*. Peterson will explain how the repurposed Clear Lake golf course is serving the local communities to vastly decrease local flooding, protect the green space as a conserved nature area and provide a new public park space just steps away from tens of thousands of Clear Lake residents. The first phase has already protected hundreds of homes from flooding during Hurricane Harvey. He will speak at 10:30 a.m. after the chapter business meeting.

The AARP chapter also organizes day trips for AARP Chapter 199 members and guests by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next day trip will be Monday, May 7, to tour the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum and the Oleaner Garden in Galveston. Lunch will be at Mario's Seawall Italian Restaurant. The following day trip will be Tuesday, June 12, to tour Fernland Historical Park in Montgomery and the N. H. Davis Pioneer Complex and Museum. Lunch will be at Phil's Roadhouse and Grill.

If anyone is interested in joining, annual dues are \$6 per year per person. However, one must be a member of the national AARP to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact Earl Mallett at 281-484-2589 or [earlmallett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:earlmallett@sbcglobal.net).

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**LARRY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday March 17 are sent to local businessman **Larry Morgan** from his wife **Mary Ellen**, family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, B.J.**  
Longtime local optometrist **Dr. B.J. Garner** celebrates his birthday Tuesday, March 20. Best wishes are sent from wife **Laura**, family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

**Hernandez**. On March 20, **Bertila Guerrero** enjoys a birthday. Light the birthday candles on March 21 for **Maria Campos**.

**Meador Elementary**  
Celebrating a birthday March 22 is **Sheila Wilborn**.

**Moore Elementary**  
Join in the fun March 15 for **Esmeralda Munoz**. Marking a birthday March 20 is **Tram Kim**.

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

Thursday, March 15: **Teri Posey, John Dies, Renee Guillot-Rodriguez, Jeanne Cook, Christopher Lozano and Melissa Robinson**; Friday, March 16: **Brandy Pimental, Kelly Cobble, Nathan Lewis and Nikki Pullin**; Saturday, March 17: **Nickole Chapman, Yvonne Russell, Sherri Goughly and Larry Morgan**; Sunday, March 18: **Orenia Craven, Gina Rodriguez, Meredith Jones, Derek Jones, Jodi Johnston, Charlene Hardin, Alicia Rodriguez, Josh Nance, Tristan Soria, Andre Rohrman, Daniel Goeman and Andrea Charles**; Monday, March 19: **Tammie Little, Tonyka Smith, Cindy Dominguez, Shanna Young and Keith Pinchbeck**; Tuesday, March 20: **Roxanne Wheeler, Ken Dittrich, Martinez Joaquin, Carol Dawkins, Al Vanek, James Leslie, Martha Heinrich and Sheri Rose**; and Wednesday, March 21: **Suni Ballard, Jamacia Zabala-Gonzalez and Joseph Block**.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 15 through March 21.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song March 15 to **Manuela Juarez** and **Maria Zavala**. **Marissa Diaz** marks a birthday March 16. Join in the birthday fun March 21 with **Sidney Sobekli**.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Light the candles on a double-layer cake for **Hong Doan** and **Maria Ruiz** on March 15. Celebrating a special birthday March 20 is **Jae Lee**.

**Bush Elementary**  
Send a happy birthday greeting to **Maria Martinez** March 16.

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

**Melillo Middle School**  
Light the candles for a double celebration March 18 for **Kara Stroud**. The day for a party for **Veronica Brisenio** is March 19.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Enjoy a birthday celebration with **Christopher Monita** March 15. Light the birthday candles March 21 for **Berenice Mejia**.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Marking a birthday on March 19 is **Nita Boehm**.

**Dobie High**  
Blow out the birthday candles March 16 for **Clara Ullman**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Nancy Schwab** and **Karrie Valerio** who share a birthday March 17. **Mallory Castillo** celebrates a birthday March 18. Warm birthday greetings are sent to **Jennifer Johnson** on March 19. Light the birthday candles on March 21 for **Carol Declercq**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line.

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

# Four Longhorn alumni inducted into Class of 2018 Hall of Honor

Four Dobie High School graduates returned to their alma mater recently for the school's Class of 2018 Hall of Honor induction ceremony.

The annual event celebrates distinguished Dobie alumni and faculty members for their lifelong achievements and for bringing honor and pride to the school and the Longhorn community.

The group is the sixth class to be inducted since the Dobie Hall of Honor was established in 2013. The 2018 inductees were: Mitchell Vicknair, Class of 1983; John Scheschuk, Class of 1995; Dr. Sabia Taqvi Abidi, Class of 1998; and Karima Christmas-Kelly, Class of 2007.

The event kicked off with a reception for honorees, their families and esteemed community members, where they shared fond memories from their days at Dobie.

After the reception, the inductees gathered at the Hall of Honor to pin their plaques onto the wall - bringing the

number of honorees to 44.

Dobie Principal Franklin Moses thanked honorees for inspiring the next generation of Dobie Longhorns.

"Students for years to come will walk down this hallway and stop by to see the new faces on the wall," said Moses. "Thank you for being a model of success for our students. This is well deserved."

The event concluded with a scholarship presentation, funded by past Hall of Honor inductees in effort to inspire future graduates to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

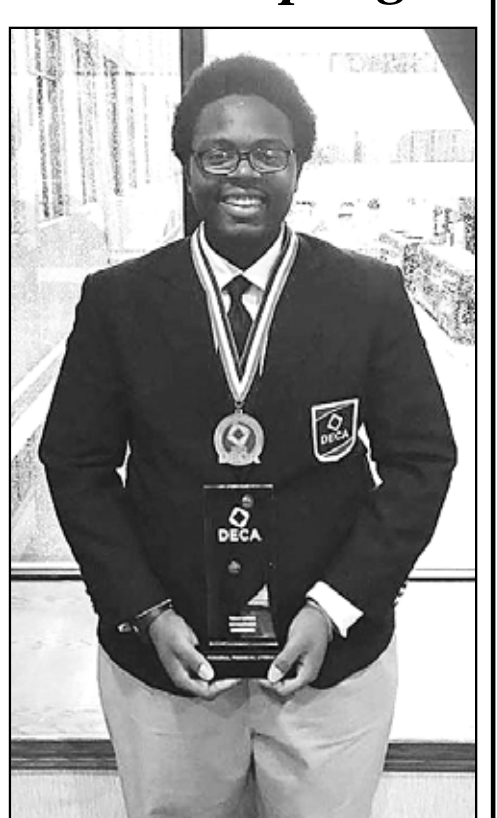
This year's recipients were: Cassandra Guevara, Maxine Gomez, Malia Mir and Cyrus Gonzalez.

**Class of 2018 Hall of Honor inductees**  
Vicknair spent the majority of his career in banking and financial services before assuming his current role as president and CEO of American Finasco, a national debt management company that helps financially distressed

small businesses avoid bankruptcy and foreclosures. Vicknair's passion for small business administration lending encouraged him to team up with a business partner and launch Private Mortgage Financing Partners LLC a few years after joining American Finasco. Aside from his business ventures, Vicknair maintains an active role in the community. He served as a Catholic missionary for the National Evangelization team and chaired several charity events for his church. Vicknair currently serves on the core team for a prison ministry, where he regularly visits inmates to provide spiritual support and teach life skills.

Scheschuk ranks as one of the most successful student-athletes in the annals of both Dobie and Texas A&M. Arguably, the Longhorns' most honored baseball player, Scheschuk is still remembered as perhaps the most selfless and team-oriented player ever to wear an Aggies uniform. At Dobie, he was

# Moorer top eight



Pasadena Memorial senior CJ Moorer advances to nationals following a top-eight finish at the DECA State Competition. Photo submitted

# Moorer to represent PMHS at DECA

Following a recent top-eight finish at the DECA (formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America) state competition, Charles "CJ" Moorer will be the first student in Pasadena Memorial High School history to go to the national competition for DECA next month. The senior competed against 86 other students in the personal financial literacy category at the state competition, where he took a test and delivered a presentation on the importance of having good credit, knowing your credit score and why lenders need to know that information.

Memorial DECA Advisor Timothy Boyd has been working with DECA students for four years, but he knew he stumbled onto a special talent when he heard Moorer read at a campus poetry slam.

"I knew I needed this student for DECA once I saw CJ's presentation skills," said Boyd.

Inspired by his mother and biggest fan Nicole Blakes, an entrepreneur herself, Moorer aspires to pursue a career in finance following high school.

"My mother started her own business about 12 years ago, and I want to be as good as my mom or even better," said Moorer. "She's more excited than me about me going to nationals, if that is even possible."

Moorer says he looks forward to making new connections with other talented students at the DECA national competition in Atlanta, Georgia on April 21-24.

"Everyone who has made it to nationals is someone who knows what they are doing," said Moorer. "If I can make friends with people who know what they are doing, there is a possibility that may take me a little further in life."

"I think it's great to have someone like CJ represent the community," said Boyd. "CJ is someone who has great comradery with the teachers at the school and he works well with other students. It's really good to see him be successful and represent Pasadena Memorial at DECA."

## Free ballroom dance set

All are welcome to participate in a free ballroom dance which is held every Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway. It is a casual practice dance, with informal lessons and is open to all ages. Acceptable attire is comfortable dress. Attendees can enjoy dancing in a safe, friendly environment on a floating hardwood floor. Name tags are provided to assist in getting acquainted. Having a partner is helpful but dancers without partners are welcome. For questions about the Wednesday dance, aka Humpday Dance, contact Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204.

## BASC holds monthly dance

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

## BADM schedules meeting

The Bay Area Democratic Movement April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, at the Krist Law Firm in Clear Lake, 17100 El Camino Real, at 7 p.m.

The Democratic candidates plan to attend the meeting. For more information, visit [bayareademocraticmovement.org](http://bayareademocraticmovement.org).

## First Christian sets dates

First Christian Church of Pasadena, Disciples of Christ, invites all to the following events:

The Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, at 10 a.m.

Maundy will be held Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m.

Good Friday will be celebrated on Friday, March 30, at 11 a.m.

Easter Sunday early service is April 1 at 8 a.m.; the late service is at 10:30 a.m.

For questions, contact Debbie Brandt at 832-725-6456. First Christian Church of Pasadena is located at 4848 Preston Road.

## Remember When

**40 years ago (1978)**  
Texas Commerce Bancshares confirmed that it had been granted a charter for a new national bank to be known as Texas Commerce South Belt.

In a business meeting, the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees raised the summer tuition, approved the evening school schedule, approved textbooks, made tax roll adjustments, approved personnel changes and recognized students for their accomplishments.

**35 years ago (1983)**  
Frazier Elementary's principal, Gene Henson, was reassigned to Teague Elementary.

Sagemont Bicycle Shop was burglarized of a Diamondback mini pro pit bike, worth \$340. The burglar broke through the front door to gain entry.

Dobie seniors Freeman Tomlin and Steve Geissen were chosen to the Coaches All District 23-5A basketball team.

**30 years ago (1988)**  
The San Jacinto College South Drama Department received an excellence award,

and two students won individual honors at the TJCSA Play Festival in Denison for their performance in *The Foreigner*. Holly Bara received a superior acting award for her role as Ellard Simms, and John Ivy received an excellence award for his role as Charlie Baker.

The San Jacinto College District Board of Regents approved the addition of an environmental technology program for San Jacinto College South.

**25 years ago (1993)**  
The 668-home Southbend subdivision was scheduled to be demolished after all of the homes were acquired by the insurer of the developer.

Randomly selected parents and employees of PISD received an eight-question survey. District spending, campus security, student counseling and teacher/class ratios were topics of the questions.

San Jacinto College South history instructor Kearby Lyde was nominated for the Minnie Stevens Piper award.

**20 years ago (1998)**  
The traffic and transportation, government affairs and economic development

committees of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce honored Maureen Wakeland, a local engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation.

San Jacinto College South's softball team won first place in the Okaloosa-Walton College tournament in Niceville, Florida.

**15 years ago (2003)**  
Dustin Alan Jenkinson, 19, was in custody facing multiple charges after a drive-by shooting in the 9800 block of Sagequay. Charges included aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, a first-degree felony, and deadly conduct, a third-degree felony.

Johnny Carmona, sales supervisor and community coordinator for Sam's Club on Fuqua, won two national awards, the Literacy Hero Award and a good works and community involvement award.

**10 years ago (2008)**  
The Texas Air National Guard took civilians on four of its F-16 refueling missions. The flights were part of TANG's annual family and employer appreciation day. One participating family member was longtime South



Four Dobie High School graduates returned to their alma mater for the school's Class of 2018 Hall of Honor induction ceremony. Shown are, left to right, Franklin Moses, Dobie High School principal; Dr. Sabia Taqvi Abidi, class of 1998; John Scheschuk, class of 1995; Karima Christmas-Kelly, class of 2007; Mitchell Vicknair, class of 1983; and Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent of schools. Photo by Reesha Brown

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## Moore Elementary holds kindergarten Texas program



Moore Elementary's kindergarten students performed songs, dances and speeches they learned about Texas on Tuesday, Feb. 27. Shown above, left, are the speakers of the program, left to right, Hailey Si-chanh, Ivory Reyes, Laura Alcaraz, Ruben Puente and Brandon Huynh. Shown, above, right performing are, left to right, Ezekial San-



chez, Jakayah Amos and Katelyn Pham. Shown below, left, Abigail Orozco (left), and Jordan McCombs dance along to the music. Shown below, right, left to right, (front row) Ruben Puente, Diego Flores, Alyssa Moreno, David Perry, (back row) Tony Herrera, Gennesis Rivera, Justin Ward, Addelyn Maldonado and Kai Tillman.



Shown are, left to right, (front row) Sophia Chacon, Emiliano Solis, Rudy Martinez, Ayden Tripett, Kyrese Luckey, (back row) Jordan Vila, Aries Escobedo, Laura Alcaraz, Nyroshi Harris, Xara Oddo and David Watts. Photos submitted

## New courses at SJC taking drone training to new heights

Drones have played a secret weapon in military defense and were recently used to maneuver around hard-to-reach areas to find people during Hurricane Harvey. In recognizing the increased need for drones in the public and private sectors, San Jacinto College will offer small unmanned aircraft systems drone flight training classes this spring.

"Technology advances change, and the commercial and industrial uses for drone technology are evolving," said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor of strategic initiatives, workforce, community and diversity at San Jacinto College. "One lesson learned from Hurricane Harvey was that drones could be used to

inspect the conditions at petrochemical plant sites during the immediate aftermath of the flooding when employee access to the site was limited by high water or by safety concerns. The professional use of drones requires a refined skillset, and we are rapidly discovering new ways to use drone technology to grow or improve business operations."

## Hispanic Outlook on Education ranks SJC No. 6 on Top 100 list

The magazine known as *Hispanic Outlook on Education* has ranked San Jacinto College sixth on its Top 100 Colleges and Universities for graduating Hispanic students list.

panic origin at the end of the award year.

According to data presented in the February issue of the *Hispanic Outlook* magazine, San Jacinto College awarded 4,213 total associate degrees to Hispanic students, representing 44 percent of the total associate degrees awarded.

The annual ranking is based on several factors, including the percentage of Hispanic students in attendance, total student enrollment, two-year schools awarding the most associate degrees to Hispanics, and the percentage of Hispanics awarded associate degrees by two-year schools.

To be designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education, the institution must have an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students with an enrollment of at least 25 percent His-

panic origin at the end of the award year. The classes, set to begin later this spring, will include how to safely fly a drone with 18 contact hours and how to prepare for the Federal Aviation Administration certification exam for small unmanned aircraft systems. The classes will be taught by David Robichaux, a pilot and retired air traffic controller with the FAA. Very few places in the country are offering this type of training, according to Dr. Janis Fowler, director of the San Jacinto College Aerospace Academy.

"Drones can be challenging to fly," said Fowler, adding that one of the largest industries using drones right now is real estate. The agriculture industry is also using drones to map fields using sensors to detect crops with disease and drought. "If you're going to invest in a drone, you must know the restrictions about its use in an urban area." Class participants will receive a drone, simulator and a workbook. For more information, email janis.fowler@sjcd.edu.

## SB participates in Jump Rope for Heart



During the month of February, South Belt Elementary students participated in Jump Rope for Heart. The program is designed to teach students the necessary skills to jump rope, along with developing heart healthy habits. As a campus, South Belt raised more than \$11,000 for the American Heart Association. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Grayson Riley, Annie Nguyen, Elijah Hernandez, Brianna Scott, (middle row) Levi Sanchez, Chloe Maycott, Phuwedet Maingot, Jude Schmitt, (back row) Tori DeHoyos, Coach Cerda and Sophia Hernandez.

## San Jac announces upcoming calendar

San Jacinto College has announced its upcoming calendar.

**Registration now open**  
Registration is now open for classes that start on May 14 and June 4.

For more information on steps to register online, visit [www.sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration](http://www.sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration).

**Spring Break**  
San Jacinto College will be closed for spring break through March 18. The college will resume normal business hours and class schedules on March 19.

**Baseball game**  
The San Jacinto College baseball team will play the following games: Blinn College at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 17; Coastal Bend College at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20; and Alvin Community College at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 22.

Each game will take place at the John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the North campus. For a full schedule, visit [www.sanjac.sports.com](http://www.sanjac.sports.com).

**Nursing information sessions**

The San Jacinto College nursing department will host information sessions on the nursing programs from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday, March 19, and from 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, in the Allied Health and Sciences building, N-17.1070 and N-17.1080, on the North campus.

For more information, email Cheryl.howard@sjcd.edu.

**Remember Me lecture performance**

The San Jacinto College music department will present the *Remember Me* lecture performance at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, in Corbin Hall in the Monte Blue Music building, C-5, on the Central campus. For more information, email Geneva.fort@sjcd.edu.

**Community Education Center events**

The San Jacinto College Community Education Center, located on the college's central campus

in room C-1.108, will be the venue for the following March workshops that are free and open to the public. To register, email [communityeducation@sjcd.edu](mailto:communityeducation@sjcd.edu).

- English as a Second Language Information Session, March 19, 3 to 4 p.m.
- Nutrition Workshop, March 23, noon to 12:30 p.m.
- Nutrition Workshop, Part 2, in collaboration with Legacy Community Health, March 29, noon to 1 p.m.

Part 1, in collaboration with Legacy Community Health, March 22, noon to 1 p.m.

- Relax and Stretch Workshop, March 23, noon to 12:30 p.m.
- Nutrition Workshop, Part 2, in collaboration with Legacy Community Health, March 29, noon to 1 p.m.

## Republican voters want voice in property tax increase

Texas Republican Primary voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 10, patterned on Senate Bill 1, which called for property tax revenue increases of more than 4 percent to obtain voter approval.

Proposition 10 copied SB 1, authored by Sen. Paul Bettencourt which was passed by the Texas Senate three times during the recent regular and special legislative sessions, but the 4 percent rollback rate was rejected by the Texas House.

"94 percent of the Repub-

lican voters are crying out for property tax relief," said Bettencourt. "Their opinion is crystal clear because property taxes throughout the state have been rising two to three times as fast as Texans ability to pay. The key component of Proposition 10, and Senate Bill 1, is not only a 4 percent increase, or rollback rate, but most importantly a taxpayer ratification election for any property tax increases above that level. Proposition 10, passing statewide with 94 percent of the vote shows that Texas taxpayers want to vote

on property tax increases," he added.

There were 11 propositions on the Republican Primary ballot, included a proposition calling for a swap from the property tax to a sales tax. However, Proposition 10, which called for a 4 percent rollback and an automatic election, passed with 94 percent and received the second most number of overall votes.

Proposition 10 finished just behind Proposition 8 which calls for voter fraud to be a felony. Proposition 1,

a proposal to move from the property tax to a sales tax finished the lowest of the propositions at only a 67 percent pass rate.

Major metropolitan areas like Houston have seen astonishing property tax bill increases in just four years. For example, the average Houston home, with a value of around \$235,000 will pay \$4,924 in property taxes in 2017, up dramatically from \$3,582 in 2013, a roughly 37 percent increase.

"A \$1,342 property tax bill increase, 37 percent in

magnitude, has a real impact on the ability of an everyday Texan to own a home," continued Bettencourt. "These increases are happening all over the state. For example in Tarrant County, the increase was 30 percent, or \$932, on a lower priced home," he added.

"This 94 percent vote recognizes obvious that this rising property taxes are an everywhere problem for home and business owners and must be addressed in the next legislative session. The Texas

Continued on Page 6A

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Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.

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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m. Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.  
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m. Nursery Available at all Services

# J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes announce annual spring show



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes and Dance Department will be holding the annual spring show "Lariaettes Live from the Red Carpet" April 5, 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Dobie High School. Admission is \$10 and tickets can be purchased pre-sale starting on March 19 from any Lariaette or at the door while supplies last. Plan to attend and support the Lariaettes and dance students as they perform for the last time during the 2017-2018 school year. Shown are, left to right, Executive Roxy Hernandez, Executive Itzamarie Corral, Lt. Gabriela Ramirez, Maj. Zoe Vela, Col. Adela Alanis, Lt. Col. Aleida Gonzalez, Capt. Jazmin Guerrero, President Gisselle Guerra,

Vice President Xochi Romero, (second row) Angela Vu, Hallie Nelms, Olivia Garza, Corina Banda, Marissa Rodgers, Alexis Chicas, Andy Del Villar, Catherine Fuentes, Maritza Hernandez, Maria Pedroza, Ashley Sorto, Marissa Enriquez, Bianca Perez, (third row) Darianna Glenn, Sara Cortez, Ally Bellini, Faith Renteria, Victoria Gonzalez, Evemaria Perla, Aliyah Salas, Lian Yui, Sidney Torres, Renita Navy, (back row) Tammy Dang, Thy Huyh, Yanelly Garza, Tamecia Anderson, Kayla Wilson, Kiareliz Ramos, Jocelyn Garcia, Charlyze Tamayo, Osayi Edigin, Brooke Morales, Lauren Deramus, Jasmine Olivares, Brianna Gomez and Granyeli Feliciano. Photo submitted

# Texans want tax relief now

Continued from Page 5A  
Senate, led by Lt. Governor Patrick, has taken the lead on property tax reform and really has an 'A Team' list of candidates on the November ballot," summarized Bettencourt. "I am looking forward to a robust debate on property tax relief as this issue polls nearly as high with Independent and Democrat voters as well."

"With the election of a new House Speaker I am optimistic that this will change." More information can be found at [www.PaulBettencourt.com](http://www.PaulBettencourt.com).  
of the Texas Senate Republican Caucus.

The Texas Senate passed Senate Bill 1, the Texas Property Tax Reform and Relief Act, a total of three times during the previous regular and special legislative sessions.

Unfortunately, the Texas House passed a 6 percent roll-back version of the bill that only provided property tax relief to four counties. The House opted to adjourn a day early rather than appoint an SB 1 conference committee.

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## Frazier Elementary sets date for Pre-K Round Up

Frazier Elementary will host the Pre-K Round Up on Wednesday, May 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

This meeting will provide information on Frazier's pre-K program and criteria for qualifying.

Each family will be scheduled for an individual pre-registration appointment to take place sometime in May.

To qualify for pre-K, a child must turn four years old by Sept. 1.

## Fun Bunch hosts game night

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Fun Bunch will host a community game night on Monday, March 19 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at The Blue Beetle Café.

The Blue Beetle Café is located at 10904 Scarsdale Blvd. The Fun Bunch is a committee of the SBE Chamber. Committee members are active adults 55 and older who enjoy social activities, field trips and volunteering at the chamber. For more information and to RSVP, contact the chamber at 281-481-5516

## Will-A-Thon to serve seniors, veterans, disabled

The Houston Bar Association's Elder Law Committee will sponsor a Will-A-Thon to provide simple wills and basic medical directives, free of charge, for senior citizens 60 and over, disabled persons, and veterans of any age who are Harris County residents and meet the low-income guidelines of the HBA's Houston Volunteer Lawyers. To apply for the Will-A-Thon, call 713-228-0735 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., by March 30, to complete a screening application over the phone.

Those who qualify will be given an appointment to meet with a volunteer attorney on April 4 at the Tidwell Park and Community Center, 9720 Spaulding. The documents will be completed and executed on May 2 at the same location.

## Abbott appoints Konkaba to board



Kristi Konkaba

Gov. Gregg Abbott has appointed Kristi Konkaba to the Texas Mutual Insurance Company board of directors for a term set to expire on July 1, 2023.

Konkaba of Friendswood is president, chief operating officer and board member of the Texan Bank and executive vice president, chief operating officer, secretary, board member and co-founder of Friendswood Capital Corporation.

She is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management, HR Certification Institute, HR Houston, Texas Bay Area SHRM and Financial Women in Texas.

Additionally, Konkaba is a board member of the Bay Area YMCA, Innovative Alternatives, Inc., South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Konkaba received a Bachelor of Science in American jurisprudence and a Master of Arts in human resources management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry**

**March 16th and 23rd**

Dine in or take out dinners are \$10 each.

The dinner will consist of:  
a breaded USA catfish fried fillet,  
hush puppies,  
cole slaw,  
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french fries,  
along with iced tea or lemonade.

Baked fish fillets available in limited quantities.

Dinners will be served between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Social Hall at St. Luke the Evangelist 11011 Hall Rd.

All money raised will benefit Local and Community projects. All are invited and welcome.

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ADVANCING HEALTH

# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

## JFD football boosters to elect new officers

Board elections for the Dobie football booster club will be held Monday, March 19, in the school cafeteria, beginning at 7 p.m.

In order to be eligible for nomination, to nominate candidates or to vote for positions, one must be a booster club member and have paid the annual membership dues.

For a list of positions and responsibilities as well as other details, interested parties may visit the club's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/dobiefootball/](http://www.facebook.com/dobiefootball/).


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## Dobie soccer on brink of fourth straight crown

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

One of the most dominant runs in Dobie High School athletics history is about to continue.

Bryan Nava's goal with just a minute, 45 seconds gone in the game was enough for the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team to defeat Deer Park 1-0 March 12 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The victory, Dobie's 10th straight and 56th out of its last 58 in district play, puts the locals on the brink of a fourth straight league crown.

In 2014, head coach Justo Manrique's first season with the Longhorns, the team had its struggles while taking fourth place in 22-6A. A first-round playoff loss to Deer Park ensued.

Since that time, the Dobie program has been one of the best in town, with a Region III championship highlighting last season's run to the state tournament.

There were plenty of questions surrounding this

year's team, what with as many as nine solid contributors exiting after the 2017 campaign via graduation.

Yet since a 1-0 loss to Sam Rayburn seemingly opened the door for others early in the district race, Dobie has answered the challenge of all comers.

Now, the Longhorns need just a win over either La Porte (2-7-2) or second-place Memorial to lock up the league title. Should Dobie defeat La Porte March 16 at Veterans Stadium, it can take the night off in the season finale versus Memorial.

Continued on Page 6B

**At right, Dobie sophomore midfielder Eli Donaho (7) heads the ball out of danger just in front of Deer Park's (23) in the second half of the Longhorns' 1-0 win over the Deer March 12, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The win puts Dobie three points away from a league title.**

Photo by John Bechtle



## Lady Longhorns face 22-6A's best

Nine straight wins. A 15-5 overall record. The Dobie varsity softball team has truly enjoyed a strong run of late, but now the real fun begins.

Now at 4-0 overall after hammering South Houston and Pasadena by a combined 40-2 March 9-10, Dobie will face defending District 22-6A champion Deer Park Tuesday, March 20, at Deer Park.

The Deer are also 4-0 after having defeated La Porte March 12. Dobie will close out the first half of district play against La Porte and Memorial, both currently 3-1.

Dobie has its sights set on winning the district title this season, and the next three games will indeed provide a good look at whether that can happen or not.

Dobie took care of its business against South Houston and Pasadena before earning a couple of days off for spring break.

Continued on Page 2B

**Dobie softball (4-0) at Deer Park (4-0)**  
Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.

## Bruins strike first blow in 22-6A baseball

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

West Brook senior left-hander Colin Powell scattered five hits in a complete-game win, sending his Bruins past Dobie 2-1 in the District 22-6A varsity baseball opener March 13, at Dobie.

who enjoy a good pitcher's duel, this one was a great example of how it's done.

Dobie turned to staff ace Daniel Garza, and while the standout sophomore was far from pinpoint, he kept the Bruins scoreless through four innings.

Ditto for Powell, who



Dobie's Daniel Garza was the hard-luck losing pitcher March 13 in the District 22-6A varsity baseball opener against West Brook as the Bruins' Kolin Powell scattered five hits in a 2-1 victory.

Photo by John Bechtle

**Upcoming Games**

**Dobie at South Houston**  
Thursday, March 15, 1 p.m.

**Dobie vs. Rayburn**  
Tuesday, March 19, 4 p.m.  
Maguire Field

**Dobie vs. Pasadena**  
Friday, March 23, 4 p.m.  
Maguire Field

Powell, who fanned eight in a 106-pitch outing, retired Dobie's Jacob Perez on a come-backer to the mound to end the game, stranding the potential tying run at third base.

watched as Dobie's Jeffrey Mercado singled sharply to right field to open the bottom of the first inning but then retired nine straight before Daniel Ortega's infield single in the

Continued on Page 2B

## San Jac women headed to hoops nationals

In its final season, the San Jacinto College women's basketball team has earned an automatic bid to the National Junior College Athletic Associ-

ation (NJCAA) national tournament after defeating Kilgore College Saturday afternoon at the 2018 Region XIV basketball tournament.

San Jac, now 24-10 overall this year and the tournament's No. 4 seed at regionals, handed third-seeded Kilgore a 66-58 loss in the championship game. The team has now won nine straight

Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

The NJCAA national tournament takes place March 19-24 in Lubbock, Texas.

For more information about the San Jacinto College women's basketball program visit [sanjacsports.com](http://sanjacsports.com).

**Tournament facts:** Sydney was named the Region XIV tournament

did the trick as Bryant had 22 points and 14 rebounds. Victoria Blankenship came off the bench with 14 points as San Jacinto played just six players in the game. Sydney had 14 points and Jones came up with 10.

With a national tournament bid at stake, San Jacinto then took down Kilgore.

Aside from Sydney's 23 points, the locals also received 14 points from Alexis Jones. Clemons had 10 points and 11 rebounds, all on the defensive end.

Kilgore's Jade Thurmon had a tournament-high 37 points in the game en route to all-tournament accolades.

Thurmon led the nation in scoring at 23.3 points per game and was named the Region XIV Most Valuable Player. She has committed to play at Iowa State University beginning this fall.

If the San Jacinto women defeat Hutchinson, they would face No. 2 seed Gulf Coast State (Florida) in a second-round clash.

So the women's program will continue with an appearance at the national tournament. That isn't the case for the men's team.

In the Ravens' final-ever game, Tyler came up with a 65-64 victory in the Region XIV tournament semifinals. SJC's Kabir

Mohammed had 17 points and 12 caroms as the team ended its season at 19-13 overall.

**NJCAA National Hoops**  
**San Jacinto College (24-10) vs. Hutchinson, Kansas (27-6)**  
Monday, March 19, 2 p.m.  
[www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

games and will make its second-consecutive appearance in the national tournament.

The NJCAA has announced that No. 15 seed San Jacinto will take on No. 18 Hutchinson, Kansas (27-6) in a national tournament opener Monday, March 19, at 2 p.m. Houston time. The game will be live streamed on NJCAA.org.

As for the regionals, San Jacinto went just seven players deep for much of its run but won anyway. Alexis Bryant and Princess Clemons were named to the all-tournament team, and Eryka Sidney is the 2018 Region XIV

Most Valuable Player after scoring 23 points in the title game win over Kilgore. The Gators led 30-19 at halftime and made that hold up the rest of the way, qualifying for nationals.

San Jacinto opened the tournament with a 56-50 victory over Angelina. In that one, Sydney paced the locals with 14, and Clemons added 13.

Bryant had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Clemons added 13 points and seven rebounds.

The locals then went up against top-seeded Panola in the semifinals, coming up with a 73-58 victory over the Ponies. A 27-17 run in the fourth quarter

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# Local sports news

# Bruins nip Dobie; locals now 11-5



At right, Isaiah Vasquez went 1 for 3 at the plate for the Dobie varsity baseball team March 13 against West Brook. The senior and three-year letterman has been the team's most productive hitters to this point in the regular season.  
Photo by John Bechtle

Continued from Page 1B fourth inning.

Cal Fulton and Luke Mason had RBI triples as the Bruins took a 2-0 lead in the top of the fifth inning. A walk and a stolen base helped out, but Garza kept the Longhorns within striking distance.

Alan Lopez tripled to right field with two outs in the bottom of the fifth and scored on Perez's RBI single.

In the bottom of the sixth, Isaiah Vasquez singled with two outs, and pinch runner Roberto Bavis made his way to second base before Powell worked out of trouble.

Alan Lopez relieved Garza to start the top of the seventh inning and wrapped strikeouts around a fly out for a 1-2-3 game, giving the Longhorns one

last chance. Justin Blogg singled with one out in the bottom of the seventh and reached second on a passed ball. But Lopez was retired on a hard-hit liner to center field, and Perez hit the come-backer to end it.

West Brook improved to 12-5 overall with the hard-fought road win against the Longhorns.

**Dobie rolls at Crosby**  
Finishing off one of its best nondistrict runs in several years, Dobie ran the table at the March 8-10 Crosby tournament and was 11-4 before facing West Brook March 13.

In all, the Longhorns first defeated Willis 8-2 and then got past Clear Creek 8-7. Dobie beat Dekaney and then closed things out with a 10-8 win over Houston Heights.

Against Willis, Alex Hernandez pitched and earned the win for Dobie. Vasquez, swinging a hot bat all season, drove in three runs and David Amaya had three hits.

Daniel Ortega had two hits for the Longhorns, as did Blogg, who knocked in a pair of runs. Perez had two hits, an RBI and scored twice.

Dobie defeated Clear Creek for the second time this season as Jonathan Moreno picked up his second straight win. Vasquez doubled twice, and Lopez had a double.

Mario Rodriguez notched his first pitching win of the season, and Vasquez drove in a pair as the Longhorns downed Dekaney. Garza scored two runs, and Amaya doubled.

Julian Flores was one of many stars for Dobie in the win over Houston Heights. Flores improved to 2-0 on the mound, and Jeffrey Mercado was 2 for 3 with a double and two RBIs.

Vasquez had two hits, including a double. Zach Frias had two hits and scored twice, and Blogg drove in three runs. Eric Sanchez also had two RBIs.

At right, Dobie sophomore reliever Alan Lopez (42) fires a pitch to the plate during the top of the seventh inning as his Longhorns took on Beaumont West Brook March 13, in the District 22-6A opener for both teams at Longhorn Field. Lopez fanned two and retired the side in order, but the Bruins hung on for a 2-1 win as the locals stranded the potential game-tying run at second base to end the game. West Brook is 12-5 overall this season, with Dobie at 11-5. Elsewhere in 22-6A action March 13, La Porte hammered Memorial 9-0, Deer Park held off South Houston 7-5 and Pasadena defeated Rayburn 3-1. Dobie will play at South Houston Thursday, March 15, at 1 p.m.  
Photo by John Bechtle



At right, Dobie sophomore reliever Alan Lopez (42) fires a pitch to the plate during the top of the seventh inning as his Longhorns took on Beaumont West Brook March 13, in the District 22-6A opener for both teams at Longhorn Field. Lopez fanned two and retired the side in order, but the Bruins hung on for a 2-1 win as the locals stranded the potential game-tying run at second base to end the game. West Brook is 12-5 overall this season, with Dobie at 11-5. Elsewhere in 22-6A action March 13, La Porte hammered Memorial 9-0, Deer Park held off South Houston 7-5 and Pasadena defeated Rayburn 3-1. Dobie will play at South Houston Thursday, March 15, at 1 p.m.  
Photo by John Bechtle

### 24-6A Varsity Baseball

(As of March 14)

Teams	W	L
Clear Falls	1	0
Clear Springs	1	0
Friendswood	1	0
Clear Lake	1	0
Dickinson	0	1
Clear Brook	0	1
Clear Creek	0	1
Alvin	0	1

### 22-6A Varsity Baseball

(As of March 14)

Teams	W	L
La Porte	1	0
Deer Park	1	0
West Brook	1	0
Pasadena	1	0
Dobie	0	1
S. Houston	0	1
Memorial	0	1
Rayburn	0	1

# Sports Calendar

**SOCCER**  
**Monday, March 19**  
Dobie varsity boys host La Porte, Veterans, 6:00  
Dobie JV boys host La Porte, Auxiliary, 4:00

**Tuesday, March 20**  
Dobie varsity girls at La Porte, Bulldog, 7:00  
Brook varsity boys at Alvin, 7:00  
Brook varsity girls host Alvin, 7:00  
Brook JV boys at Alvin, 7:00  
Brook JV girls host Alvin, 5:00  
Dobie JV girls at La Porte, Bulldog, 5:00

**Friday, March 23**  
Dobie varsity girls vs. Memorial, Veterans, 6:00  
Brook varsity boys host Dickinson, 7:00  
Brook varsity girls at Dickinson, Vitanza, 7:00  
Dobie varsity boys vs. Memorial, Veterans, 4:00  
Dobie JV boys vs. Memorial, Auxiliary, 6:00  
Brook JV boys host Dickinson, 7:00  
Brook JV girls at Dickinson, Vitanza, 5:00  
Dobie JV girls vs. Memorial, Auxiliary, 4:00

**TENNIS**  
**Friday and Saturday, March 23-24**  
Dobie varsity seniors at Beachcomber Classic, TBA

**Thursday, March 29**  
Dobie varsity at Sunseri Invit., Galveston, TBA

**SOFTBALL**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
San Jacinto College hosts Neosho (2), 2:00

**Saturday, March 17**  
San Jacinto College at Lamar State (2), 1:00

**Tuesday, March 20**  
Dobie varsity at Deer Park, 6:30  
Dobie JV at Deer Park, 5:00

**Friday, March 23**  
San Jacinto College hosts Alvin (2), 2:00  
Dobie varsity at La Porte, 6:30  
Dobie JV at La Porte, 5:00

**TRACK AND FIELD**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Dobie JV girls at GCM Relays, Baytown, TBA

**Friday, March 23**  
Dobie varsity boys/girls at Angleton/Purnells, TBA

**BASEBALL**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
Dobie varsity at South Houston, noon

**Friday, March 16**  
Brook varsity at Clear Falls, 7:00  
Brook JV hosts Clear Falls, 6:30  
Brook sophomores host Clear Falls, 4:30

**Monday, March 19**  
Brook JV hosts Clear Creek, 6:30  
Brook sophomores host Clear Creek, 4:30

**Tuesday, March 20**  
Brook varsity at Clear Creek, 7:00  
Dobie varsity vs. Rayburn, Maguire, 4:00

**Friday, March 23**  
Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek, 7:00  
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 4:00

# Bayshore Olympics host Brook, Dobie track; Pree sets PB in TJ

Prior to the start of spring break, the Clear Brook boys as well as the Dobie boys' and girls' track and field teams made

a trip to the Bayshore Olympics in La Porte. **Horace, Pree lead CB**  
A week after winning the team championship

at Santa Fe, the Clear Brook boys' team found the going tougher at the Bayshore Olympics in La Porte.

Still, team standouts John'te Horace and Kenneth Pree kept their outstanding seasons rolling.

Horace set a new personal best at 45 feet, 11 inches in the triple jump

to win at Santa Fe. At La Porte this time around, he was even better.

Jeffrey registered a 23.54 for a season-best and seventh place.

# No. 1 ranked San Jac loses two at Galveston

Just days after regaining the nation's No. 1 ranking in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I baseball poll, San Jacinto College experienced a tough weekend in Galveston.

San Jacinto improved to 7-0 in conference action with a 3-2 victory over the Whitecaps in the March 9 series opener.

SJC's Jacob Cantleberry went five innings, allowing two hits and fanning five while improving to 5-1 this season.

Sergio Macias homered and doubled to pace the Gators, and Paul Zimmerman and Tyricee Silas had

run-scoring doubles. Trey Dillard pitched the ninth inning for San Jacinto, striking out two to earn his fourth save.

Galveston then rallied for 5-4 and 2-0 wins March 10. In the first game, the Whitecaps led 5-0 before San Jacinto mounted a pair of rallies.

Jacob Matheny and Zimmerman had two hits apiece, but Galveston held on for the win. In the series finale, Galveston's Kolby Lunsford hurled a five-hit shutout as the Whitecaps won the series.

SJC is now 17-5 overall this season, including 7-2 in Region XIV action.

# Lady Horn softball awaits tougher tests

Continued from Page 1B after four frames. Dobie needed just three innings while routing Pasadena 22-0. The locals scored nine runs in the first inning and 13 more in the second.

Whaley again had four hits, scored four runs and drove in four. Ortega was 3 for 3 with three runs scored and three runs batted in.

Wincher homered and tripled to drive in five runs, and Kristen Barba added two triples and a double. Ortega struck out eight over the three innings for the win.

So now it all begins. It'll be shocking if the trio including Deer Park, Memorial and Dobie does not make the postseason. Yet just who slots where in the final seedings is to be determined.

Kennedy Crutchfield was the winner of the 100-meter dash in a time of 13.21, with teammate Shrekka Vann sixth at

# A.S.K. recognizes South Belt's Garcia, his dedication to martial arts

At right, longtime South Belt area resident and brown belt holder Candido Garcia (center) was honored for his dedication and countless hours of service to the American Society of Karate during the A.S.K. Black Belt Ceremony and Martial Arts Show March 4 at Barnett Stadium. Presenting the award were black belts Michael Alonzo (left) and his wife, Melissa Alonzo, also local residents. The event included a ceremony and recognition of karate candidates receiving their black belts, a demonstration of karate techniques by the San Jacinto College Martial Arts team and an entertaining self-defense husband and wife skit. Approximately 600 karate students, family members and guests were in attendance. The Alonzos instruct multiple classes each week in the Houston area as well as a Friday evening class at Sagement Recreation Center.



Victoria Onozie came away with a season best and fourth place for her throw of 102-0 in the discus, and teammate Jamesetta Seals was fifth at 101-2.

The Lady Longhorns also continued their strong season in the relays, bagging second overall in both the 4x100-meter (50.15) and 4x200-meter (1:47.38) events.

Mason Douglas and Devin Childs led the way for Dobie's team at La Porte.

At 40.99, Douglas was second in the 300-meter hurdles, while he clocked in at 15.52 for third place in the 100-meter hurdles.

Dobie's Jeremiah Ballard was in at 18.11 for seventh place in the same event. Both times were season bests for Douglas and Ballard, respectively.

Childs went a season best of 128-3 for third place in the discus as he continues to excel.

# Lajaunie memorial tennis coming April 27-29

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

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

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

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

Dobie tennis team will be awarded entry fees to play in the tournament in his honor.

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

He was an electrical engineer graduate from the University of Texas in Austin, and a pillar of the community while working at the Johnson Space Center.

Lajaunie was also dedicated and passionate for his favorite pastime of playing tennis.

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

morning breakfast snack.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Players may also register at [www.seteo.com](http://www.seteo.com). Registration deadline is April 13.

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

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund website at [www.DLTennisScholarships.com](http://www.DLTennisScholarships.com) includes

pictures from the 2017 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, TX, 77059, or contact Camille Lajaunie at [cjlajau nie@gmail.com](mailto:cjlajau nie@gmail.com) with any questions.

# JFD girls soccer sits fourth

Like it or not, the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team is likely headed to the playoffs as the No. 4 seed out of District 22-6A – if the locals can hold off West Brook.

As expected, first-place Deer Park was able to beat Dobie in regulation this time, handing the Lady Longhorns a 3-0 loss March 12, at Deer Park ISD's Abshier Stadium.

With just a road game at La Porte (March 16) and a neutral finale against Memorial (March 19), Dobie is still chasing La Porte and Memorial for second place. West Brook, meanwhile, is just five points behind Dobie courtesy of a late-season push.

Dobie is in the midst of four days off after playing three games in six days. It all started March 7 as the Lady Longhorns defeated Rayburn 8-1 at Veterans Stadium.

Alejandra Magana led the way with two goals and two assists, and Kim-

berli Izaguirre also had a pair of assists. Victoria Chu scored two goals and now has a team-high seven this season.

The Lady Longhorns also got individual goals from Olivia Obregoa, Zithally Medrano, Aylin Bonil-

la and Annette Vela. Dobie then downed Pasadena 2-1 March 9, as Chu and Taiya Mitchell netted goals. Magana had an assist.

On March 16, Dobie will take on the Lady Bulldogs in La Porte. The 7 p.m., match will be held

at Bulldog Stadium. The junior varsity game is at 5 p.m.

The Lady Longhorns will close out the regular season Monday, March 19, taking on Memorial at 4 p.m., at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

## District 22-6A Girls' Soccer Standings As of March 13 Games

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Deer Park	11	0	1	46
La Porte	7	3	2	31
Memorial	7	3	2	31
Dobie	5	2	5	27
West Brook	4	2	5	22
Pasadena	2	7	3	14
Rayburn	0	9	2	3
S. Houston	0	10	2	3

# Wolverines' baseball eyes better 24-6As

The nondistrict portion of the schedule is thankfully over for the Clear Brook Wolverines. Despite a 2-2 showing at the Galena Park ISD Invitational March 8-10, the Wolverines entered District 24-6A action at just 3-12.

At Galena Park, the Wolverines' Kyle Knobloch came up with his best pitching performance

of the season, going five innings for an 8-5 victory over Manvel. Knobloch allowed six hits and just two earned runs.

The Wolverines plated four runs in the second inning and three more in the third to assume command. Sebastian Pichardo had a two-run double and Josh Fagana added a two-run single as the Wolverines overcame four errors in

the game.

Host North Shore used a 10-run fourth inning to defeat Clear Brook 11-0 in five frames. Aaron Calhoun and Gavin Machado had Brook's only hits, both singles.

Pichardo went 4 for 4 with three runs in the Wolverines' 9-2 win over Strake Jesuit. Jacob Martinez also had two hits and drove in a pair of runs. The

Wolverines scored three runs in the first inning and four in the third inning.

Four Cy-Creek pitchers scattered four hits in Cy-Creek's 4-0 win over Clear Brook in the tournament finale for both teams.

Willis Coleman was 3 for 3 with a pair of doubles, and Braxton Gerek also doubled.

The Wolverines will return to action against the Knights Friday, March 16, at Falls.

opener for both teams. Machado had two hits for the Wolverines, now 3-13 overall. But otherwise, the game belonged to the Knights.

Willis Coleman was 3 for 3 with a pair of doubles, and Braxton Gerek also doubled.

The Wolverines will return to action against the Knights Friday, March 16, at Falls.

## BHI's Robinson wins four golds

# Bondy girls rule Pasadena ISD track

Finishing off an undefeated track and field season, the Bondy Lady Patriots swept the seventh- and eighth-grade team titles at the Pasadena ISD's intermediate championships March 7-8 at Auxiliary Stadium.

Bondy's eighth-grade team was particularly impressive, racking up 211.3 points for the championship. Locally, Beverly Hills had 68 points for third place, and Thompson had 26.3 for seventh place.

In the seventh-grade division, Bondy's 147.3 points were enough to hold on for the win. Beverly Hills had 107.3 for third place, with Thompson fifth at 78.3.

**BHI 7s runner up**

Sixteen big points in the relays and a pair of individual gold medals from Mia Sanchez and Jenae Tucker allowed the Lady Bears' seventh-grade squad to keep the pressure on eventual champion Bondy. In the end, Beverly Hills was second to conclude a great season.

Sanchez, a big factor in the 200-meter dash all season, was the champion in the PISD finale in a time of 29.89 seconds.

At 1 minute, 7.40 seconds, the Lady Bears' Tucker championed the 400-meter dash for her team, with teammate Marisa Perla fourth in a time of 1:12.66.

The Lady Bears pocketed wins in both the 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter relays, then claimed second place in the 4x400-meter distance.

Tucker and Sanchez were joined by Ashley Dunn and Arianna Walls in the 4x100 for the win in a time of 56.13. Sanchez, Walls and Dunn then

teamed with Deazhia Williams for the title in the 4x200 at 2:00.69.

As for the 4x400-meter relay, the Lady Bears were second in a time of 4:53.64, with Tucker, Perla, Sandra Quiroz and Williams representing the locals.

Walls and Dunn also scored top-three medals for the Lady Bears in the hurdling events. Walls came to the finish line in a time of 20.19 for third place in the 100-meter hurdles, while Dunn's time of 59.58 helped her finish third in the 300-meter hurdles.

In other events, Williams' time of 14.64 was fourth-best in the 100-meter dash, and Perla finished the 2,400-meter run at 10:20.28 for fourth place.

Brianna Garcia cleared 4 feet for fifth place in the high jump, with Dunn sixth at 3-10. At 13-3 1/2, Sanchez was fifth in the long jump. Janet Armenta placed fifth in the discus with a great throw of 56-5.

**Lady Lions fifth**

Ashley Garcia of Thompson won the gold medal in the 800-meter run to lead the Lady Lions to a fifth-place finish.

In that one, Garcia's time of 2:44.50 was the best by far, and teammate Bella Perez wound up with a third-place bronze medal for her time of 2:51.41.

The Lady Lions' Valerie Akinloye was a threat for the gold medal in the shot put before she eventually took second at 26-5.

Thompson's Emma Hernandez also picked up a third-place medal, taking it in the 400-meter run with a time of 1:12.32. Garcia, meanwhile, was in at 32.10 for fifth place in the 200-meter dash.

The Lady Lions were third overall in the 4x100-meter relay as Jacqueline Giron and Emily Delgado teamed with Alexia Velasquez and Maria Wence for a time of 57.30.

Moving to the 4x200-meter relay, the Lady Lions were also third with a time of 2:02.23 as Giron, Delgado, Perez and Garcia combined.

The same went for the 4x400-meter relay as Thompson's time of 4:55.36 was third. That foursome included Velasquez, Hernandez, Perez and Wence.

As for Wence, she was third in the high jump, clearing 4-4. Giron tied with two others for sixth at 3-10. A leap of 13-0 1/2 placed Giron fifth in the long jump.

In other events, the Lady Lions' Nicole Olazaba placed fifth in a time of 20.32 in the 100-meter hurdles. Her best effort of 25-2 1/2 was good for sixth place in the triple jump.

**BHI 8s take third**

Perhaps Bondy possessed the best team in the eighth-grade division, but it was Beverly Hills' Ke'Asia Robinson who stole the show.

Having burst onto the scene in the season's first meet with three gold medals, Robinson took things a step farther this time, winning four.

On the first day during the running events, Robinson was the champion of the 400-meter dash in a time of 1:08.35.

Later, Robinson first won the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 16.89, with teammate Jennifer Ibe second at 18.73.

At 55.12, Robinson ended a brilliant first day

with a win in the 300-meter hurdles. Ibe's time of 56.64 was third-best.

On the second day, Robinson was the lone athlete to clear 4-10 as she collected a fourth gold medal. In all, Robinson accounted for 40 team points.

Sydnye Ford placed third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 30.09, and she was part of the Lady Bears' 4x200-meter relay team that was fourth in a time of 2:02.40. Ford was joined by Victoria Green, Lilly Nguyen and Donyea Porter.

**GAT 8s go seventh**

The Lady Lions' eighth-grade girls' team finished the season with a seventh-place finish at the championships.

Isabella Padilla earned a silver medal for her second-place finish in the 2,400-meter run as she came in at 9:38.90.

Thompson's best relay finish came at the 4x400-meter distance as the locals were fourth in a time of 4:59.27. That team included Majesti Yates, Ashlyn Ross, Aliyah Barajas and Padilla.

The Lady Lions' collected a time of 58.56 for fifth place in the 4x100-meter relay as that foursome included Barajas, Kori Pounds, Natalie Onozie and Ross.

Barajas, Pounds, Onozie and Ross also represented Thompson in the 4x200-meter relay for a sixth-place finish of 2:06.66.

Karime Murguia of Thompson took a fourth place tie in the high jump as she cleared the bar at 4-2. Teammate Melody Guerrero was sixth in both the discus (60-5) and shot put (24-1).

# BHI's Williams, Thompson's Jeans shine

As their peers did in the girls' divisions, the Bondy Intermediate Patriots closed out a perfect run on the Pasadena ISD track and field scene, winning the season-ending championships March 7-8 at Auxiliary Stadium.

The Patriots' eighth-grade team wound up with 197.5 to outdistance the field. Beverly Hills logged 109 for third place, and Thompson was fifth with 49.

Both Thompson and Beverly Hills pushed Bondy in the seventh-grade team chase. In the end, Bondy had 153 for the top spot. Thompson's 128 points were second, followed by Beverly Hills with 93 points.

**Second for GAT 7s**

Thompson's seventh-grade team delivered a solid performance, with Kaleb Mitchell, Darrean Williams and Yahander Mercado winning district titles.

Mitchell cleared 5 feet for the title in the high jump to claim his crown. Meanwhile, Mercado was the district's best pole vaulter at 7-6. Teammate Nickolas Heeden was third at 6-6.

Williams' title came in the long jump after he registered a distance of 15-3/4 for the win.

Anforney Lee of Thompson placed second and took home a silver medal in the 100-meter dash.

In the 1,600-meter run, Mitchell again medaled as he finished at 5:31.52 for second place.

Mitchell picked up a third medal for second place in the 2,400-meter run at 8:32.66.

Mercado was in on the medals in the 300-meter hurdles, third this time at 50.13.

The Lions' 4x100-meter relay team placed second in a time of 50.36 as Marcus Millender, Williams, Heeden and Lee teamed.

Ditto for the 4x200-meter relay as Millender, Williams, Heeden and Elias Wallace combined to post a time of 1:50.05.

Wallace and Williams went 2-3 in the triple jump. At 33-6 3/4, Wallace was second, just ahead of Williams' third-place effort of 31-1.

A throw of 86-6 placed the Lions' Daniel Delgado second in the discus throw.

**BHI 7s take third**

The Bears' seventh-grade team had a few terrific efforts in the seventh-grade division as athletes took gold medals.

Ethan Hernandez won a tight race in the 200-meter dash, eventually clocking in at 26.03.

Beverly Hills' Jeremiah Jackson was also a district champion, capturing the top spot in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:02.28.

Jaden Shanklin also stepped up in a big way

for the Bears. In a time of 2:27.19, Shanklin was second in the 800-meter run. Later, Shanklin was in at 5:39.19 for third place in the 1,600-meter run, with teammate Jovanni Aviles fifth in a time of 5:40.07.

Missing a medal in the shorter distance, Aviles' bounced back for third place and a bronze medal in the 2,400-meter run at 8:39.57.

In a time of 48.66, the Bears' Dwayne Duncan captured second place in the 300-meter hurdles.

At 14-9, the Bears' Fernando Flores was good for third place and a bronze medal.

A time of 12.74 landed Hernandez fourth in the 100-meter dash. In the 100-meter hurdles, Flores placed fourth with a time of 17.60.

The Bears were fourth in both the 4x100-meter and 4x400-meter relays. In the 4x100-meter relay, the locals secured a time of 52.64 as Ethan Hernandez, Nigel Hill, Flores and Erik Hernandez teamed.

As for the 4x400-meter relay, it was Jackson, Aviles, Shanklin and Christian Cantu bringing home a time of 4:21.77. Cantu also cleared 4 feet, 10 inches for fourth place in the high jump.

The Bears' Brandon Lewis was fourth in the pole vault after succeeding at a height of 6-6.

At 29-10 1/2, Ethan Hernandez was fifth in

the triple jump, and Hill's throw of 30-8 was sixth in the shot put.

**Williams leads BHI 8s**

Beverly Hills' Brendann Williams proved to be the best eighth-grade sprinter, winning the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the league championships.

In the 100-meter dash, Williams clocked in at 11.86 for the title. Then, he clocked in at 24.68 for first in the 200-meter dash, with teammate Brandon Miranda third in a time of 25.56.

Jahir Reyes of Beverly Hills also had himself quite a meet, winning the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 16.32. Third place then went to Reyes in a time of 1:01.89 in the 400-meter dash.

The Bears scored big for a pair of second-place finishes in the relays, as well as a third.

At 1:44.22, the Bears were runner-up to Bondy in the 4x200-meter relay as Trevon Johnson and Joshua Rodriguez teamed with Jared Campbell and Miranda.

Second place was also the final destination for the Bears in the 4x400-meter relay at 4:00.74. That group included Johnson, Rodriguez, Burrell and Miranda.

Beverly Hills secured third place and a bronze medal in the 4x100-meter relay as Trelyn Burrell, Rodriguez, Johnson and Williams teamed for a

time of 49.59.

In the 300-meter hurdles, the Bears' Emmanuel Drain clocked in at 49.83 for fourth place.

Williams went 5-0 for fifth place in the high jump.

Dekarey Ramsay was fourth overall in the shot put (35-7 1/2), and Richard Gary was fourth in the discus (107-2), with Ramsay fifth (102-10).

**Jeans paces GAT 8s**

Thompson's Calvin Jeans was one of the biggest stars in the eighth-grade division, winning both the discus and shot put titles.

Dominating both events, Jeans came up with a throw of 44-8 1/2 for the crown in the shot put, with teammate Keegan Ashworth third at 35-8 1/2.

A throw of 119-10 in the discus secured the championship for Jeans, with teammate Bryce Sanchez sixth at 99-1.

Thompson also earned a bronze medal in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:04.74. That foursome included Jefferson Ford, Jonathan Torres, Brandon Torres and Michael Medina.

At 32-6 1/2, the Lions' Sebastian Cruz was fourth in the triple jump. He was sixth in the high jump at 6-0.

The Lions' Jesus Velasquez came up with a time of 17.96 for fourth place in the 200-meter dash.

# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, 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.

10 a.m.

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

Noon

**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. Email [OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com](mailto:OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com) for details.

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

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland,

First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.

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

7:30 p.m.

**The Bay Area Writers' League** – Meets the first and third Thursdays monthly to improve writing skills, Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7:30 p.m. Newcomers welcome.

**FRIDAY, 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** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

Noon

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

7 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17**

7:30 a.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

10 a.m.

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

11 a.m.

**Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** – For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

1 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

7 p.m.

**Bay Area Bluegrass Association** – bluegrass music show and jam session on the third Saturday (except December). Stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. Free. Johnny Arloff Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For details, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

8 p.m.

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

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18**  
1 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

2 p.m.

**Grief Support Group** – For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter

and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.

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

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

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

8 p.m.

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 19**  
10 a.m.

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

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games at 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

10:30 a.m.

**Seniors and Law Enforcement Together** – SALT meetings are held at Madison Jobe Senior Center, 1700 East Thomas St., in Pasadena on the third Monday. Meetings start timely and teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may be in attendance. Free. Refreshments served. For details, call 713-477-0175.

**Continued on Page 4B**

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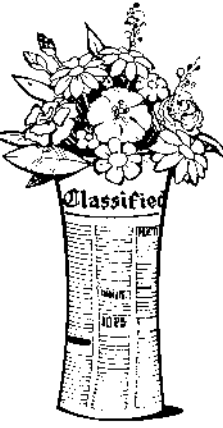
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## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

**MONDAY, MARCH 19**

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 more information, call 713-856-1611.  
 2 p.m.  
**Genealogy Group** - The Parker Williams Genealogy Group meets from 2 - 4 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. The public is invited to attend. For details, email Liz Hicks at [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net).  
 3:15 p.m.  
**Houston Area Parkinson Society** - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's, 3:15 - 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit [www.hapsonline.org](http://www.hapsonline.org) for details.

6 p.m.  
**New Directions Singles** - Age 50 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

6 p.m.  
**Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.  
**Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting** - Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Enter door next to recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit [www.oahouston.org](http://www.oahouston.org).

7 p.m.  
**Survivors of Suicide Support Group** - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email [LynneAnnH@yahoo.com](mailto:LynneAnnH@yahoo.com) or visit [www.crisishotline.org](http://www.crisishotline.org).  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.

7:30 p.m.  
**The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society** - Meets the third Monday at Clear Lake Park Bldg., 5001 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook. Presenters explore topics such as fossils, planetary geology, mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry making, fossil and mineral collecting. Field trips to Texas collecting sites and surrounding states. Interested persons welcome. Door prizes. Free parking. For more information, visit [www.clgms.org](http://www.clgms.org).

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 details, contact 281-488-5861 or [csh@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:csh@shaarhashalom.org).  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Russell at 832-483-6715.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20**

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 more information, or drop in.

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

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

Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.  
 Noon  
**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. Email [nalix@texascitizensbank.com](mailto:nalix@texascitizensbank.com).

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

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

2 p.m.  
**The National Active and Retired Federal Employees** - NARFE Chapter 941 meets the third Tuesday, El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Visitors welcome. For details, call Roy at 713-734-1461 or EFL Center at 281-464-9708.

2 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class** - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details/classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at [dr glandorf@clearlakebridgeclub.com](mailto:dr glandorf@clearlakebridgeclub.com)

sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318.

6:30 p.m.  
**Breast Cancer Support Group** - Meets on the third Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the lobby of the Clear Lake Regional Breast Diagnostic Center, 200 Medical Center Blvd., Suite 106, Webster. For details, call 281-526-6840.

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

7 p.m.  
**Positive Interaction Program** - meets the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, first floor staff meeting room. PIP is police and citizens working together making neighborhoods safer. Bring a friend. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900.

**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 21**

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

9:30 a.m.  
**Young at Heart Club** - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for details.

9:30 a.m.  
**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group that meets at 15500 El Camino Real in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to anyone age 50 or older and there are no dues. Day trips and extended trips are available. Deposits are being taken on a Canadian Rockies VIA Rail trip (July 20 - 27), Scandinavian Treasures Baltic cruise (Sept. 5 - 15) and a Nashville Show trip (Dec. 2 - 8). Plan ahead to join the trips. For details, call Marilyn at 713-947-2388.

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

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

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

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

7 p.m.  
**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information.  
**Bay Area New Democrats** - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit [www.bayareanewdemocrats.org](http://www.bayareanewdemocrats.org).

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22**

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

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

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

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
**Hometown Heroes Park** - has dance lessons Thursdays, following the senior luncheon. Lewis and Betty Whistler teach lessons in two-step, triple two-step, west coast swing and night club two-step at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.

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.

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

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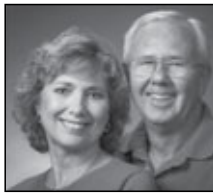
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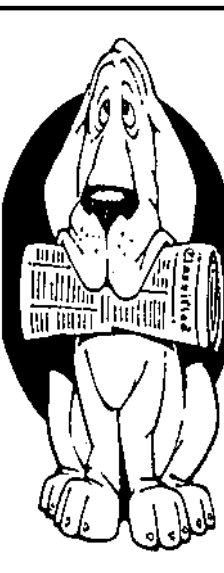
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# Lutheran South boys' soccer wins TAPPS D2 state championship

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

Defeated two years running in the regional final, the Lutheran South Academy varsity soccer team simply wouldn't settle for the same this season.

Instead, the Pioneers pushed things to the very end, handing Garland Brighter Horizons its first loss of the season en route to winning the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II state championship in a sudden death shootout.

Goalkeeper Kyle Dagley stopped Brighter Horizons' first and fourth shots in the shootout session, with the Pioneers successful on each of their first four.

What ensued was nothing short of pandemonium as the Pioneers celebrated their first state title in boys' soccer since 1984.

Head coach Nate Hagge took over the program prior to the 2016 season and watched as his team fell in consecutive seasons one step short of the state tournament. Not this time.

"You always start a season with the goal of winning another district title so you can have a chance to win in the playoffs," Hagge said. "Once we did that, it was about taking it one match at a time and getting it done. Obviously we thought we had a good shot at it, but you still have to go play."

LSA downed St. Mary's

Hall 3-1 in the first round of the playoffs and then went against San Antonio Christian in the regional title match. A 1-0 win there sent the Pioneers to the state final four.

The Pioneers won their state semifinal game by a 1-0 count over San Antonio TMI, then took aim at Garland Brighter Horizons.

In what turned into an epic thriller, the two teams first went scoreless through 80 minutes of regulation. The game was still score-free through a pair of 10-minute overtime sessions before the shootout.

No matter the talent or experience of a given team, sudden death

shootouts often provide the unexpected. But LSA was true, scoring four straight times to bag the crown.

"It was a blur to be honest," Hagge said. "We were shuttled here and there for

the trophy presentation and pictures, then we had to get off the field so the next game could start. It was really just a great moment for the guys."

In all, Lutheran South Academy finished the season at 27-7-3. Three of the team's seven seniors started, but the Pioneers will welcome back the majority of its roster next season.

Dagley registered 70 saves in the nets and came up with 14 shutouts, including a brilliant performance in the state championship game. Captain Zach Roberts anchored the defense, and the trio of Aaron Morales (31 goals, 10 assists), Matt William (19 goals, 12 assists) and

Alex Canales (11 goals, 18 assists) came up with a good deal of the team's scoring.

Hagge knows the journey will begin anew next season, but now the goal is bigger. "I talked to one

of the returnees a couple days after the season, and he told me that the pressure of winning state is off now, and they can just go out and play. You still have to play them one at a time."

## Dobie boys' soccer near crown; fourth straight championship

Continued from Page 1B

With a fourth consecutive league title certainly within reach, Manrique said the 1-0 loss to Rayburn was certainly a moment that stands out for him.

"That was the true turning point in the season for us, no doubt," Manrique said. "We were immature as a group and needed to pull it together. I really believe that loss forced them to grow up. To their credit, they have so far."

"We had a terrible practice before the loss to Rayburn, and I told the guys that we had essentially lost that one before we took the field."

Since that time, the Longhorns have not looked back. There have been few, if any, easy wins. The locals led Memorial 3-0 in the first round with roughly 13 minutes remaining and nearly allowed a tie before hanging on.

Against Deer Park in the team's latest win, Nava's goal was all that was produced offensively, and goalkeeper Ramon Cahue and his defensive team-

mates took care of the rest. "We have had some tight leads this season, and have (seemingly) won all of them by a goal," Manrique said.

"We actually trailed South Houston and had to scramble back. Then we had to hold onto a lead for 78 minutes against Deer Park, but I think it shows our maturity and the fact that we have come together as one."

Looking forward, Dobie needs just three points (value of a win) to secure the league title. After that, it still has to be determined who the locals might face out of District 21-6A. Then, perhaps Brazoswood and North Shore lurk as they did in 2017.

On the cusp of a fourth straight league title, Dobie has truly established itself as a big name in Region III soccer under Manrique's watch.

Of course, the Longhorns would love to repeat as Region III champions, but Manrique knows better than to get too far ahead of the game.

"That first year (2014) was challenging, but we

have achieved some things since then that I think a lot of guys can be proud of," Manrique said. "Being a part of this program has improved a lot of their lives on several levels, and I know it has improved mine."

And now it's on to the playoffs once more - likely as the 22-6A champion. Despite a solid 17-3-2 mark to this point in the season, Dobie will not likely be the Region III favorite this season. But the group wasn't favored last season either, yet pulled it off.

"You just can't get too far ahead of yourself in this game," Manrique said. "We know who is out there in the postseason, and they know Dobie is out there."

In fact, Dobie graduate and current Brazoswood varsity boys' coach Bryan Hayman attended Dobie's win over Deer Park and no doubt anticipates going against his alma mater in the postseason.

The playoffs are indeed near, but the Longhorns have a little bit of unfinished business to handle before that time.



The Lutheran South Academy boys' soccer team captured the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II state championship after overcoming previously unbeaten Garland Brighter Horizons in a sudden death penalty kick session. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Zach Giugliano, Jordan Hill, Will Pfeiffer, Levi Shaider, Noa Miller, Aaron Morales, Kyle Dagley, Blake Baggott, Matthew William, Mark Giugliano, Zach Roberts, (middle row) Eli Garrabrant, Joel Diaz, Nick Little, Alex Canales, Jacob Freeborn, Charlie Beck, (back row) Patrick Dooley, Hayden Huber, Bryan Edwards, Fernando Bejarano, Ben French, Kyle Kerr, Darryl Sheer, Jonah Garrabrant, Ian Schaidler, Braden Leimkuhler and coaches Dikeh Agbor, Diego Santillan and Nate Hagge. The Pioneers finished the regular season with a 27-7-3 record with the state title.

District 22-6A Boys' Soccer Standings				
As of March 13 Games				
Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	11	1	0	33
Memorial	9	1	2	29
S. Houston	6	3	3	23
Deer Park	7	4	1	22
Rayburn	5	5	2	19
La Porte	2	8	2	10
Pasadena	2	8	2	8
West Brook	0	12	0	0



Dobie goalkeeper Ramon Cahue (yellow jersey) was not thrilled following a second-half collision in the box with Deer Park's Orlando Ortiz (12). In the end, Cahue earned the shutout as Dobie inched toward another league title. At far left is the Longhorns' Antonio Arias (18). Photo by John Bechtle

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