

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Easter egg hunts planned

Multiple Easter egg hunts are planned for South Belt families this coming week.

Harris County
Harris County officials will hold their annual 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, Judge Jo Ann Delgado and Constable Chris Diaz. 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 promptly at 2 p.m. Participants must bring their own Easter baskets.

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.

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 lamcreynolds@sbcglobal.net.

Prayer walk announced

In light of all the recent and past school shootings in different parts of the nation, a prayer walk has been organized for the local community. The respectful and orderly prayer walk will be held on Saturday, March 24, and will meet at 9 a.m. at Moore Elementary. The walk will go around Moore and Dobie High School. In case of rain, the walk will be rescheduled for Saturday, April 7. For questions, call 281-484-0901.

Martin to hold meeting

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 Ave. 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.

Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one inside lane of the westbound frontage road on Beltway 8 from Beamer to Pearland Parkway will be closed continuously through 5 p.m. Friday, March 23. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288 from two to four lanes in each direction.

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. There will be no help available on Friday, March 30, as the library will be closed for Easter. 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 Edgemoor/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.

County completes storm debris removal

Multiple other options available for area residents

As of March 31, the Harris County Road and Bridge Department will no longer be performing any storm debris removal in the area. Up until that date, they are only picking up debris on days when mowing cannot be performed due to inclement weather.

The Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District has completed its debris removal. Therefore, residents who still have storm or construction debris in front of their homes will need to make arrangements for its removal. There are three options available to residents:

- Have one's contractor performing the work remove all construction debris while completing the job. The price for removal should be included in all bids.
- If one lives in the district, call Clear Brook City MUD with one's name, address and phone number. The information will be forwarded to the trash company, Texas Pride Disposal. They will call with a proposal to pick it up. All Sheetrock must be placed in bags and not weigh over 40 pounds. Payment must be made prior to or at the time of removal.

- Residents may take debris to the dump location at WCA - Greenbelt, 550 Old Genoa Red-Bluff Road, along with a copy of one's water bill and identification. District residents have a special pricing for dumping:
 - * \$8.50 per cubic yard
 - * \$40 minimum charge
 - * \$40 pull-offThe dump can be reached at 281-464-9797 for directions. It is the responsibility of the resident to discard of storm and construction debris. Remem-

ber, should there be any heavy rain, the debris can clog storm drains and cause more flooding. Residents are encouraged to be prompt in removing all debris. As for yard trimmings or waste, they should not be swept, blown or placed into the storm drains. This will cause a strain and/or clog on the drainage system that will result in flooding. If one uses a yard service, make sure that they are instructed to follow this guideline. If a resident notices that one's area is holding

Continued on Page 3A

Firefighters surprise Duff



On Wednesday, March 14, firefighters from Houston Department Station 70 surprised longtime South Belt resident Billy Duff with flowers and balloons for her 92nd birthday. Duff has had a rough year, first losing her husband of 70 years, then having her home burglarized. Shown above with Duff are, left to right, firefighter Daniel Rico, engineer/operator Lupe Perez, Capt. Robert Ramirez and firefighter Robert Hyatt. See related story and photo on Page 6A. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Family Fun Fest set for March 24

The Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host the third annual Family Fun Fest Saturday, March 24, at Clear Brook City Park, located at 11911 Blackhawk, from 3:30 to 8 p.m.

The family-friendly 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 ex-

hibitions. 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, including utility trucks and a Hummer. To register for the Strut Your Mutt and 1K or 5K run/walk, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Houston/3rdAnnualStrutYourMuttFamilyFunFest>. For additional information, contact chamber President Kay Barbour at 281-481-5516.

Alvarado eyes Garcia's Senate seat

Two local state representatives have announced plans to replace state Sen. Sylvia Garcia, should she win her congressional bid this November.

Rep. Carol Alvarado, whose House District 145 encompasses much of the South Belt community, and Rep. Ana Hernandez, who represents House District 143 on the city's northeast side, both made their announcements shortly after Garcia won the recent Democratic primary race to fill the 29th Congressional District seat being vacated by Rep. Gene Green, who is retiring after serving more than 40 years in public office. Garcia is heavily favored to win in the pre-

dominantly Hispanic district, which also includes much of the South Belt area. If Garcia is victorious in November's general election, she would be forced to relinquish her state Senate seat. Should a vacancy occur, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott will be required to call a special election to fill it. Alvarado is a formal rival of Garcia's, having campaigned against her for her current position. In 2013, Garcia defeated Alvarado in a special runoff election to replace the late Sen. Mario Gallegos. Alvarado and Hernandez, both Democrats, are no strangers to state politics. Alvarado was first

Continued on Page 3A

BAHEP hosts annual luncheon

Every year members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership look forward to the organization's annual State of the Economy luncheon where they are given a unique perspective on the economy from experts in the field.

On March 8, Patrick Jankowski did not disappoint as he gave an informative and entertaining presentation that he called, *Are We There Yet? The Road to Houston's Economic Recovery*.

Jankowski is a regional economist and senior vice president of research at the Greater Houston Partnership. He has worked at the GHP and its predecessor, the Houston Chamber of Commerce, for 35 years. The event was held at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook. **Texas economy important to nation** Jankowski lost little time in his presentation be-

Continued on Page 3A

Martin to host BOPA collection event

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, at the 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.

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

Gross to not face charges in stabbing

A woman with longstanding ties to the South Belt community made headlines this week when it was announced she would not face charges for fatally stabbing her fiancé, as prosecutors deemed the incident to be in self defense.

Crystal Gross, 30, was accused of stabbing Amir Bey, 35, on Saturday, March 17, in Omaha, Neb., where the couple was attending Gross' sister's wedding. Prior to the incident, Bey had reportedly dragged Gross down her sister's stairway by her hair. Gross then allegedly grabbed a knife from her sister's kitchen and stabbed Bey a

single time, killing him. Bey stood 6-foot-3 and weighed 280 pounds, while Gross is 5-foot-8 and weighs 135 pounds, records show. Prosecutors said alcohol may have been a contributing factor. Bey had been awaiting a May sentencing date in a federal case in which he was accused of stealing children's Social Security numbers. In January, he pleaded guilty to one count of identity theft and two counts of wire fraud. The Gross family are longtime South Belt residents.

Parking citations issued in error

Multiple South Belt residents have complained to the *Leader* about receiving citations for blocking the sidewalk while parking in their own driveways.

The offense - intended to protect children and the disabled - is prohibited by both state law and city ordinance. Section 40-362 (a) of the city's Code of Ordinances, which states "It shall be unlawful for any person to place, cause, or allow any impairment or obstruction of a sidewalk or roadway, except as authorized by a permit."

On the state level, Section 545.302 (a)(2) of the Texas Transportation Code states "An operator may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle on a sidewalk." While the practice is prohibited by state law, many of the local tickets have been issued in er-

ror, as they were given out to residents living in unincorporated parts of the county by city workers, citing the city ordinance. Affected residents wishing to challenge their citations may do so by visiting the email address on the back of the ticket, www.parkhoustontx.org. While some residents have had their tickets dismissed online, others - including a local former sheriff's deputy - were told they still needed go to court to fight them. **Scam alert** The city's Department of Parking Management is warning residents about a scam that is occurring that involves sending emails to citizens asking them to pay a parking fine. According to Parking Management officials, the city does not email collection notices.

Spots available for annual cook-off

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. (Thursday will be for cooks only, while Friday and Saturday will be open to the public.)

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. Organizers said the shortage of early registrations for this year's event can be largely at-

tributed to the effects of Hurricane Harvey. Cooking teams will compete for best brisket, ribs, chicken, beans, chili, dessert and chef's choice. This year's cook-off 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. The fee includes eight wristbands and allows team members to purchase half-priced tickets. Organized and operated by the Southeast Vol-

Continued on Page 3A

CCISD to hold candidate forums

Three seats on the Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees are up for voter consideration on Saturday, May 5.

To be filled are the District 4 seat, currently held by Page Rander; the District 5 seat, currently held by Jay Cunningham; and the At-Large Position A seat, currently held by Charles Pond. All three board members have filed for re-election.

Challenging Rander for the Position 4 seat is Jeff Larson; challenging Cunningham for the Position 5 seat are Michelle Moore and Yvonne Ti-

bai; and challenging Pond for the At-Large Position A seat are Jacob Berry and Jennifer Brodell. For more information about the candidates, visit <https://www.ccisd.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=645487&pageId=37275036>. To vote in the District 4 or District 5 elections, residents must live in that district. All voters in the school district, however, are eligible to vote in the At-Large Position A race. To educate voters, two candidate forums are planned for the coming weeks.

Continued on Page 2A

A sign of things to come?



Houses in the Kirkmont and Scarsdale subdivisions, including the one shown above in the 9500 block of Sagebend, were recently demolished due to repeated flooding. According to Harris County Flood Control District officials, however, funding to level the homes was already secured before Hurricane Harvey and not related to the recent storm. The *Leader* is asking the resident who emailed a similar picture from Scarsdale to contact the paper, as the original message has been lost. Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Weld notices fences in need of repair

We walk almost daily along the path around the retention pond along Astoria. (Blackhawk Trail, I believe.) Several houses backing up to this area have fences in serious need of repair. They would have addresses on Clear Brook Oak, I believe. A couple are almost completely gone. One has a dog in the yard. I know a new fence is a big expense, but it wouldn't have taken much to buy a few pickets here and there to patch them up. I believe they are beyond that stage now. I don't know why the HOA has allowed this to go on so long.

Make no mistake, this is NOT hurricane related damage. These fences have been in this shape since well before Harvey. This is not only unsightly, but is unsafe to anyone walking along the trail be-

cause of the dog. Perhaps the HOA has an answer we haven't heard???

David R. Weld

Muecke addresses Comeaux article

Publisher's note: Muecke is sending this in response to a letter written by Val Comeaux in the March 1 issue of the *Leader* telling people of money that belongs to them, but they may not be aware of.

Just to let you know Val, you beat the Chronicle with your article in the *Leader* about money in the state treasury that may be yours. Page 2 of the business section, Michael Taylor has a much longer article than you had. But you beat him. By the way the Chronicle today is not much larger than the *Leader* and costs one heck of a lot of money.

Jim Muecke

Elected officials share their words

Cruz thanks all law enforcement officials in investigation of Austin

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz issued a statement on March 21 following the death of the Austin bombing suspect:

"Heidi and I would like to thank the work of the Austin, Round Rock, and Schertz police departments, Texas DPS, FBI, ATF, and all law enforcement who

helped identify the Austin bomber, who is now dead. Austinites and Central Texans should continue to be vigilant and follow all warning from authorities, as work is still ongoing to ensure there are no more bombs that could threaten the community.

"We are particularly

grateful to Austin Police Chief Brian Manley and Austin Mayor Steve Adler who have provided leadership during this troubling time.

"Our prayers continue to be with all victims who are recovering and all families who were impacted by this senseless murderer."

President signs Pearland police officer post office bill into law

On March 19, Rep. Pete Olson announced that late Friday, March 16, President Trump signed his bill to name a post office after fallen Pearland police officer

Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya was killed by a drunk driver on June 16, 2016, while responding to a nonemergency call. He was the first offi-

cer in Pearland to die in the line of duty in over 40 years.

"I thank President Trump for signing this bill into law," Olson said. "Our Pearland community can never repay our debt to Endy, but this post office is a small gesture to thank him for his sacrifice. When Pearland residents visit the Endy Ekpanya Post Office Building, they will see his name and remember his sacrifice and dedication to keeping our community safe."

H.R. 294, the Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building Act will designate the U.S. post office located at 2700 Cullen Blvd. in Pearland, the "Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building."

CCISD to hold election, forums

Continued from Page 1A
On Thursday, March 22, the Bauerschlag Elementary PTA will host a forum at Bauerschlag Elementary, 2051 League City Parkway in League City, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

sau Bay City Hall Council Chambers, 1800 Space Park Drive, Room 200, from 5 to 7 p.m.

CCISD officials said additional candidate forums may be held before the election.

Early voting for the May 5 election will begin Monday, April 23, and continue through Tuesday, May 1.

Harris County Appraisal District business property due April 2

Anyone who owns a business and has tangible personal property used to produce income such as office equipment or inventory must report that property to the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) by April 2.

Examples of personal property include computers, desks, chairs, office supplies, business inventory, machinery and vehicles used to produce income, along with other items used in the business.

The deadline to file a rendition is usually April 1, but because that date falls on a Sunday this year, the deadline is extended until Monday, April 2.

A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable property the business owner owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. Owners do not have to render exempt property, such as church property with an approved religious exemption or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.

HCAD is reminding all business owners that they must report personal property to the appraisal district by filing a rendition listing the property. Personal property is tangible property that can be owned, but it does not include land or other structures attached to the land

Some renditions may be filed electronically using HCAD's iFileTM system. If a unique iFileTM number is printed on the rendition form

below the account number, the owner may render online by going to www.hcad.org and clicking "iFile A Rendition."

If no iFileTM number is printed on the rendition form, the owner will need to complete and file the form manually.

"The appraisal district may use the information submitted in the rendition to set business property values," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

If a rendition is not filed, filed late or not complete, a 10 percent penalty may be imposed. Filing a fraudulent rendition carries a 50 percent penalty if found guilty.

Property owners who need **Continued on Page 6A**

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:
Saturday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class
Saturday, March 24, 2 p.m. Citizenship class
Wednesday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime
Wednesday, March 28, 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 22, 2 p.m. Book Discussion in Spanish: *Guardianes Del Libro* por Geraldine Brooks. Pick up a copy of the book and meet at the library to discuss it.
Friday, March 23, 4 p.m. Teen DIY and a movie: Watch *Pacific Rim* (rated PG-13) while designing a Jaeger Logo, for ages 13 and older. Meet in the library community room to watch man, machine, and monsters duke it out in *Pacific Rim*. Participants can make a personal Jaeger name and logo and have it made into a decal to take home.
Saturday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. Service Corps of Retired Executives group holds presentation. SCORE is an all-volunteer organization of retired executives who mentor entrepreneurs and present workshops on a variety of topics. Call the library for the March topic.
Saturday, March 24, 2 - 4 p.m. Magic: The Gathering Gameplay, for ages 8 and older.
Monday, March 26, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Microsoft Excel III: Learn how to use features of Microsoft Excel for business or personal use. Classes are led by Microsoft Office user specialist Lizett Ceja.
Monday, March 26, 5 p.m. Drone Flying Club, ages 8 to adult. Learn how to fly a quadcopter with the flying club. Registration is requested.
Wednesday, March 28, 5 p.m. Publisher Basics for ages 8 and older. Join Mr. John in the computer lab to create flyers, make brochures or simply learn how to cut and paste pictures from the internet. The Parker Williams Branch Library will be having an introductory class for Microsoft Publisher. Preregistration is requested.
Wednesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. Great Decisions: Russia's foreign policy. Each month the Great Decisions group discusses a different foreign policy topic. Drop by to read or pick up a briefing on this month's topic, and join us for discussion. Registration is requested. For more information on these programs, call the library at 281-484-2036.
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.

City, County work together for federal Harvey funds

After a recent meeting among representatives of the City of Houston, Harris County and the Texas General Land Office in Washington, D.C., Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett announced that local governments and the state agency have established a framework for moving forward on distribution of long-term recovery funds for Hurricane Harvey.

"I had asked for fairness in how the City of Houston would be treated - that the City be properly consulted by the General Land Office, per the requirements for these funds set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development," Turner said.

"This meeting marks the beginning of that consultation. We are now on the right path to a fair distribution of much-needed disaster relief dollars."

"I'd like to thank Land Commissioner George P. Bush for his collaborative efforts, as well as our partners at Harris County," Turner continued.

"Working together, we can put these funds to work for the kinds of long-term

investments in housing and community development that will make our city stronger for the future."

"It's crucial that local governments have significant input into how these funds are distributed," said Emmett.

"As the first line of response to those devastated by Hurricane Harvey, we are most familiar with what is needed and where. I genuinely thank our state and federal officials for recognizing our need for flexibility."

HUD convened the meeting, which included representatives from Gov. Greg Abbott's office.

Abbott had selected the Texas General Land Office to distribute \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated to the State by Congress for Harvey relief last year.

This is the second round of long-term recovery funding for Hurricane Harvey and is primarily intended to meet housing needs. Congress appropriated additional funds in January for infrastructure and mitigation.

The meeting was convened to begin consultations

among the city, county, and state about how funds will be distributed and used. The framework gives Houston and Harris County local control over their recoveries and uses HUD's unmet housing needs data as a basis for distributing funds.

The GLO will use the framework to draft an action plan, which is required by HUD before the agency will distribute funds to the state.

The public can comment on the draft action plan for 14 days before it is submitted to HUD for approval.

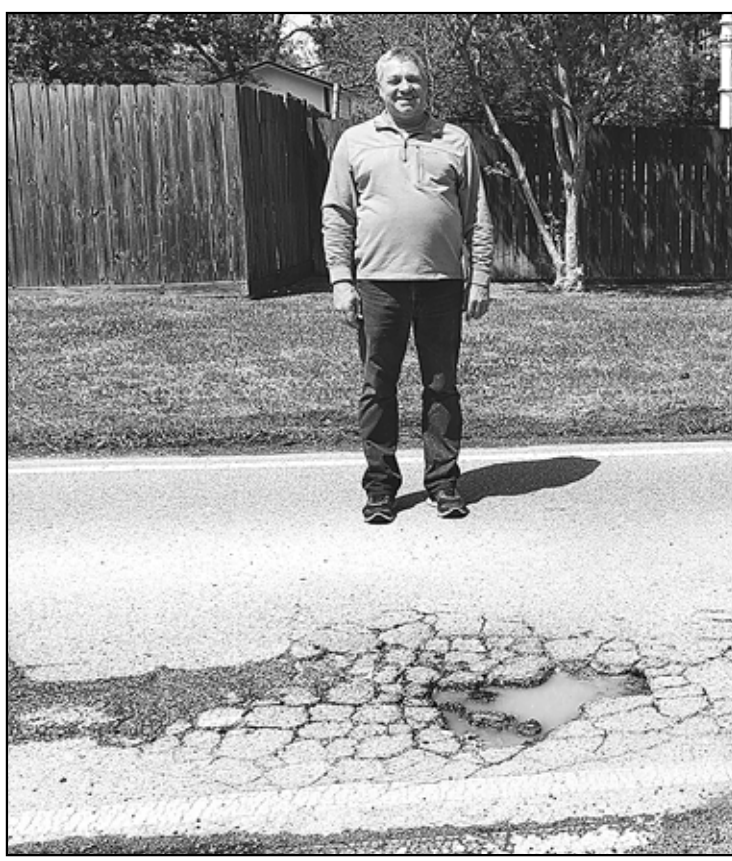
"This is a good first step, and the City of Houston plans to remain heavily involved in the process until we cross the finish line with HUD approval of the GLO's action plan," Turner said. "The sooner we have funds in our hands, the sooner we can implement a world-class community engagement plan and put these dollars to work for recovery."

Armed with a clearer picture of how the funds will be distributed, the City immediately will begin consulting with communities in Houston about how to use these resources to build a more resilient and equitable city.

Community wants to know

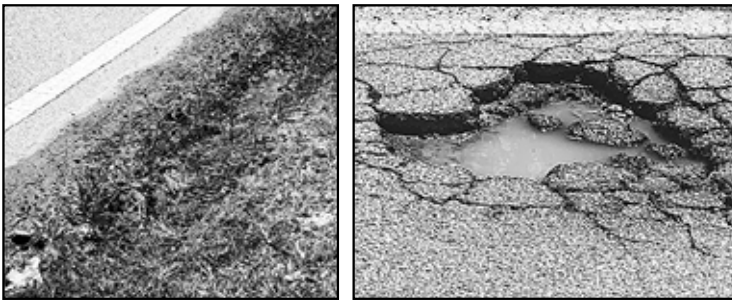
The *Leader* continually receives questions from readers regarding a variety of issues. In this column, the *Leader* will share some of the questions and answers.

Water concerns Baucom



Danny Baucom (shown above) was curious as to why water was pooling in the middle of Hall Road near the Sagemeadow MUD water treatment plant. He said the water was showing up even on dry days and appeared to be deteriorating the road. MUD officials said the water was located above a city pipeline that connects to the area plant. Houston officials, however, denied responsibility. MUD officials have agreed to look further into the matter.

Photos by Marie Flickinger



Maduzia asks about construction



Johnny Maduzia asked the *Leader* about ongoing construction on Therman near Rowlett behind the old Almeda Target. Upon investigation, the *Leader* learned the construction is a new location for a plumbing business. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Death

Patricia A. Sterns

Patricia A. Sterns, 78, longtime South Belt resident for 30 years, died on March 14. She was born Oct. 23, 1939, in Notasulga, Alabama.

Patricia enjoyed going for long rides, country music and fine dining. She worked for Houston Independent School District for 30 years.

She is preceded in death by her parents Clana Peck and Lester Thompson; and



her husband Jerry A. Sterns. She is survived by her

siblings Mary Agnes Rawls, Edith Kelley, Johnny Thompson, Maureen Page and Juanita Royce; her sons Tracy Sterns and wife Gilinda Simon and Michael Peck; grandchildren Michael Sherman Peck and Ronnie Dean Peck; five great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

The visitation was held on Monday, March 19, and the funeral was held Tuesday, March 20, at Forest Park Lawndale. Burial was at Brookdale Cemetery.

Javed says he's "here to stay"

On Tuesday, March 6, Tahir Javed, a Democratic candidate for Congress in the 29th Congressional District conceded in the Democratic primary.

"One of four voters agreed 'we deserve better,'" said Javed. "This is a signal to the

career politicians that they need to do better. While we were not successful in this campaign, I am grateful to the many supporters, volunteers, and activists who joined us. I am here to stay. We will continue to work hard to bring op-

portunity and positive change to our district."

Javed is a first-time candidate, who has run on a platform of clean money, progressive resistance and meaningful change for the residents of TX-29.

Leader checks out social media

By Laura Benavides Scallan

A member of the *Community of Sagemont & 77089* Facebook group shared that a Toyota key was found at Frazier Elementary. If missing a key, contact the finder on Facebook.

Two Chihuahuas were seen off Grand Brook and Kirkville and were posted to the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group. One of the Chihuahuas was white, the other was tan with a black mouth.

A member of the same Facebook group has posted a missing dog flyer. The dog's name is King and looks to be a German Sheppard.

If found, call 713-545-3135 or 832-434-6348.

A German shepherd and a white dog with black spots and black head were spotted on Kirkwren Drive and were reported on the same Facebook group.

There was a loose husky

on Sagepark that had a red collar that was reported on the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group. The member was able to post a photo of the dog.

Another member of the same Facebook group posted a photo of a brown dog with a white chest that was wandering at Quincewood and Olivedwood.

A black and brown medium-sized dog was seen on Old Spanish Trail and Scott streets was reported on the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group. The dog was seen to have been wearing a red collar.

A member of the *Almeda Southeast* Nextdoor group warns other dog walkers to be careful. The member was walking her two Boston Terriers on Kirkway near Kirkwren when she says she was attacked by a large muscular silvery brown dog. The member states that she did have

spray at the time of the attack and was able to stop the attack.

She was able to detain the attacking dog until help arrived.

The attacking dog was being kept by a neighbor who was waiting for animal control to pick it up, but never came so he was holding the dog in the back yard where the gate had come open.

The member states the spray she used is called SprayShield. The spray did not hurt the dog, but the member states it did immobilize it long enough to get the dog under control.

A gray pit bull was found and reported on the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook group. The member of the group does state the dog was found on Galveston Island, it could be a dog that is missing from the South Belt area. The member did post a picture of the dog.

CrossRoads announces Easter events

CrossRoads United Methodist Church has announced the following dates and times for its upcoming Easter events. CrossRoads is located at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

The Easter Cantata performance will be held on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join. A special bilingual Good Friday Service will be held on Friday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. The third annual CrossRoads Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 10 a.m.

The egg hunt starts at 10:15 a.m. and there will be face painting, music and fun to follow!

CrossRoads will have three Easter services on April 1. The traditional service will be at 8 a.m., the contemporary service will be at 9 a.m. and the Spanish service will be at 10:30 a.m.

Chamber scholarships deadline nears

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce has announced two scholarship opportunities. The Dr. Van Phan Scholarship is a \$1000 award and the Making a Difference - Sally Mitchell Scholarship is for \$500. Both scholarships have their own criteria to meet and questions to answer. The deadline to apply for the scholarships is Friday, March 23.

The application should be filled out online. The letters of recommendation, picture and transcript can be submitted via email, delivered or sent to the chamber by the deadline.

For more information on the Dr. Van Phan Scholarship or the Making a Difference - Sally Mitchell Scholarship, visit the Chamber website at <https://southbeltchamber.com>.

PARC encouraged to attend chamber forum

The Pearland Area Republican Club that normally meets on Thursday April 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., is encouraged to attend the Chamber of Commerce forum at the CA Nelson Auditorium at Pearland Junior High, 2337 N. Galveston Avenue, Pearland, for a nonpartisan candidate forum to benefit all citizens of Pearland and Alvin.

This forum is hosted by the Pearland Chamber of Commerce, the Pearland Police Officers Association and One Pearland, and will feature candidates for the Pearland City Council, Pearland ISD Board of Trustees, Alvin ISD Board of Trustees and Alvin Community College Board of Regents. Be educated and be prepared for the vote for these positions in May 2018. Everyone is invited to attend this free event.

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.

Lariaettes holds upcoming 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 presale from any Lariaette, or at the door while supplies last.

Come and support the Lariaettes and dance students as they perform for the last time during the 2017-2018 school year.

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BAHEP takes a look at the economy



Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob Mitchell (left) is shown with longtime BAHEP member and attorney Joe Barlow of Barlow Jones, LLP (center) and new member Scott Howard of Highpoint Insurance Group, L.L.C. Mitchell is also a longtime South Belt resident. Photo submitted

State of the Economy at BAHEP

Continued from Page 1A
fore emphasizing the importance of the Texas economy to the rest of the nation. He reported that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Texas' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016 was \$1.6 trillion or 8.6 percent of the total U.S. GDP, which was \$16.9 trillion.

He said, "What goes on in the rest of the United States is very important to Texas and very important to Houston, because the rest of the United States is a market for everything we produce here whether it's petrochemicals, whether it's engineering services, whether it's petroleum services. The last three years have seen a rough time in the oil patch. It would have been a lot worse if it hadn't been for the fact that the economy is doing well, and we sell to the U.S. economy."

Jankowski illustrated this by telling the audience that a typical passenger vehicle contains 150 pounds of rubber, 200 pounds of liquids and lubricants and 250 pounds of plastics. Most of that originates in this region. There were 17.2 million vehicles produced in 2017 according to North American Production. "When Detroit has a good year, we have a good year, because we sell a lot of stuff to Detroit," he stated.

In 2014, the value of U.S. manufacturing output was \$6.1 trillion. There were 6.2 trillion cubic feet of natural

gas consumed in manufacturing in 2014. Jankowski reiterated, "Again, when U.S. manufacturing is doing well, it helps us, since we sell to the rest of the U.S. As a whole, the U.S. economy has been growing at 2 percent or better over the last five years. The forecasts show that we're going to continue to grow at 2 percent or better."

Houston closely tied to global economy

Jankowski again pointed out that Texas' GDP was \$1.6 trillion in 2016. This was 2.1 percent of the economy of the rest of the world, which had a GDP of \$73.7 trillion. Houston's GDP was 0.6 percent of the world's economy, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the International Monetary Fund. He noted, "When the global economy is growing, that's good for this region. Our global ties are equally as important, if not more important, than our U.S. ties."

He specifically noted all the activity that goes on at the local ports and airports saying, "Houston is second in the nation in what is sold overseas. In this region, 5,000 firms are engaged in trade. These include shippers, engineering firms, management consultants, tax specialists, etc. Sixteen percent of Houston's GDP is tied to exports. Additionally, 450,000 jobs in the region are connected to global trade. The downturn in oil and gas that we've experienced would have been a lot

worse without our ties to the global economy."

Jankowski also reported, "According to the Oxford Economics/PMI (Purchasing Managers Index), the economies of the Eurozone, U.S., Japan, and China are all in the expansion mode right now. It's the first time since 2011 that their economies are all in sync. The outlook for global growth is good, which, by extension, can be applied to Houston to those areas of the economy that are keyed into the global economy."

With that said, Jankowski added a caveat regarding the possible trade war resulting from tariffs on steel and aluminum. There are 89 Houston-area mills and foundries, which employ 2,220 people, that produce steel and 2,227 metal working operations that use steel and employ 88,834 people. He said that a trade war could have a negative impact on our economy.

Energy prices recovering

Jankowski said that energy prices are up and added, "We're starting to see positive cash flows in these companies. However, even with positive cash flow, the industry is not widely profitable yet. The industry has found a way to produce more oil with fewer people. As long as they can continue to grow their production without adding staff, why would they add staff? So, it's unlikely that we will be seeing any significant growth from the energy industry in employment this year."

Outlook positive for regional growth

According to the Institute for Supply Management-Houston, the next three to four months will see the Houston economy expanding. Jankowski reported, "We now have more people working in the nine-county area than have ever worked here before." He then added another caveat saying, "There have been 85,200 jobs lost in the energy sector - about one in four jobs in the region. Between December 2014 and December 2017, there have been 100,800 jobs added in the nonenergy sector. These include jobs in health care, hotels, restaurants, bars, public education, retail trade, finance, arts and entertainment. The problem is that the jobs that were created pay considerably less than the jobs that were cut. The \$4.8 billion in lost wages and salaries impacts every sector of the economy."

2018 forecast predicts job growth

Jankowski reported that the employment forecast for 2018 predicts the creation of 45,500 jobs in the region if energy prices stay in the low to mid 50s. If oil prices go to the mid 60s, that number is too low. If oil prices fall into the 40s, then the number is too high. He said that the components of the predicted job growth will be approximately 10 percent in the public sector, 30 percent in business-oriented activities, and 60 percent in consumer-driven

businesses.

Growth in the consumer sector will be determined by the population, their income, their financial well-being, and their consumer confidence. Over the next five years, it is predicted that the region's population will have a net natural increase of more than 300,000, even if no one moves here!

The net natural increase is calculated by the number of births per year (100,000) minus the number of deaths per year (35,000) times five. Approximately 200,000 people move to the region each year, and about 135,000 to 140,000 people move away, leaving a net growth of 60,000 to 65,000 each year.

Jankowski noted that we are also beginning to see an uptick in income. He also stated that homes are appreciating in value. According to the Freddie Mac House Price Index, the average home value appreciation since December 2012 stands at 40.1 percent.

He noted that even though many homes have suffered flooding, this percentage applies to the entire nine-county region.

Regarding financial well-being, he noted that the stock market has been performing well, and people who feel better about their financial situation may be inclined to spend a bit more than they did a few years ago. Jankowski did caution that the market has been really volatile since January, but that people are better off than they were a couple of years ago.

Consumer optimism is also high in the region regarding job opportunities. Almost two-thirds of adults who took part in the Kinder Houston Area Survey rated job opportunities in Houston as good or excellent. This also has a positive influence on people's willingness to spend money.

U.S. outlook appears strong

Jankowski spoke further of oil and gas stating, "Regarding the U.S. rig count the numbers went as low as 404 rigs in May 2016. We're approaching 1,000 rigs now, but can't seem to get above that number."

"We've gotten so much more efficient at looking for and finding oil. The thing with so many rigs in the field is, things start breaking down and wearing out. We should start to see this year some pick-up in demand in oil field related equipment and services."

The U.S. outlook appears really strong according to the Purchasing Managers Index. For the parts of the economy that are geared to global trade, the outlook is still positive for now.

Public sector will continue to grow

Jankowski commented that there is a common perception that government has gotten too big. He stated, "We are all constituents, but we are all consumers of government services."

The roads where we drive and the water flowing from our faucets are provided by government services, and approximately one-third of government employment in this region is related to education. Government employment is simply keeping pace with population growth. As the population continues to grow, we will also see growth in government employment."

Final thoughts offered

Using data from the Texas Workforce Commission and the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Jankowski said, "We can find a way to grow even without high oil prices. When oil prices are high, we grow very fast. When they are low, we don't stop growing. We just don't grow quite as fast."

He also noted that Houston doesn't stop growing because of tropical storms and hurricanes. Although these storms can cause a lot of devastation, the economy always finds a way to recover. He stated that Hurricane Harvey will change the way some things are done, but it's not going to stop this region from growing altogether.

Jankowski concluded his presentation saying, "I get asked all of the time, 'What is going to happen when we run out of oil? What is going to happen when people don't use oil anymore? What is the next resource that we're going to build our economy on?'"

"We have people who are committed to this region. We have people who are compassionate and don't discriminate. We have people who cooperate to get major tasks finished. That's the foundation of the future of this region, and that's why I don't worry about the long-term outlook of this economy."

Cook-off spots still available

Continued from Page 1A
unteer 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.

While evenings at the function are geared more for adults, Saturday afternoon is intended for families, with

Clear Brook City MUD works diligently

Continued from Page 1A
water or not draining properly, contact the Harris County Flood Control District at 713-684-4000 to report the issue.

Pre-cast walls

Several area residents have contacted the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District to inquire as to why the pre-cast walls that line parts of Scarsdale and Beamer have not been repaired yet after being damaged by high water related to Hurricane Harvey.

According to the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District officials:

- The MUD's insurance provider did not release it to make repairs until Dec. 22. This was three days prior to the Christmas holiday.
- The manufacturer of

the fence is a "sole source," meaning it is the only supplier of this specific product - color, make, etc.

• All of the replacement parts must be manufactured in order to make repairs.

• Inclement weather has hampered the manufacturing of the pieces.

The MUD is in line with all of the other Texas entities that were affected by Hurricane Harvey.

MUD officials said they are in contact with the manufacturer every single week inquiring on the status as to when repairs will begin.

"We are doing everything in our power to get the walls repaired," said Cecilia J. Ganje, Clear Brook City MUD general manager of administration. "We are working diligently."

kids 12 and under being admitted free with the purchase of an adult ticket. A Kids Fun Zone will take place Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Past activities for children included moonwalks, rock climbing, an obstacle course, pony rides, a petting zoo, a train, face painting and hair braiding, a bungee trampoline, a bubble blaster, coins in a haystack and characters such as Snow Queen Elsa, Elena of Avalor, Spiderman and Captain America.

The cook-off will also feature a live auction on Saturday.

New to this year's event

is the addition of two live bands. While bands have performed at previous cook-offs, they were hired by cooking teams rather than organizers.

Although no outside alcohol will be allowed for patrons, it will be for sale on the cook-off grounds, along with barbecue sandwiches, sausage on a stick, cotton candy, nachos, snow cones and drinks.

Sponsorship opportunities are also still available at various levels.

For additional information or to reserve a spot, contact event organizer Linda Arnone at 281-484-4325.

Race forming to replace Garcia

Continued from Page 1A
elected to the House in 2008, while Hernandez has served her district since 2005.

While no Republicans have formally announced their intentions to seek Garcia's state Senate seat, her District 6 also has a high Hispanic population and has been drawn to favor Democrats.

Garcia has reportedly thrown her support behind Hernandez, should a special election be called.

If Hernandez claims the seat, it would mark the first time a former undocumented immigrant was elected to the upper chamber of the state Legislature, as her family is originally from Reynosa, Mexico.

Turner, Ellis, Boykins aid street improvement



Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner recently announced a joint agreement in which Precinct One will pay \$30 million to improve seven streets in the University of Houston-Texas Southern University corridor. "This is a great example of how Harris County can innovatively and strategically partner with the City of Houston, our universities and other entities to improve mobility, safety and quality of life for all residents," said Ellis. Shown above are, left to right, Houston City Council Member Dwight Boykins (District D, representing South Belt), Ellis and Turner. Photo submitted

Freeway Manor area street sealing scheduled

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin has announced that street sealing, scheduled to have begun in the Freeway Manor area on Wednesday, March 21, is expected to be complete by Monday, March 26, weather permitting. For a map of the impacted streets, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/council/e/> and click on the link for Freeway Manor Area Street Sealing Scheduled.

Street sealing is a sprayed-applied asphalt emulsion. It is necessary for pavement preservation as the emul-

sion seals minor cracks and rejuvenates oxidized asphalt, extending the life of the pavement and reducing maintenance. The City of Houston's Public Works Department will be sealing streets, east to west. During the work, crews will come off the area during the application until the product has cured. One lane is to remain open at all times.

"Fresh oil" or "wet emulsion" signs will be placed on the street being sprayed to notify the public. The spray is expected to dry in approximately one to two hours, and

the roadways can be driven on once the signage is removed. Sealing will occur one street at a time. Vehicles parked on the impacted streets will need to be moved as crews spray the emulsion.

If one has a special event or situation like a garage sale, reception, etc. and are unable to move one's vehicle, call Dan Mueller at 773-680-7412.

During the project drivers should expect reduced traffic speed through the channelized areas. There will be access to driveways at all times during the project, but it is encour-

aged one does not return to a driveway until the product is dry. To ensure driver and worker safety, traffic control measures will be in place at all times. The District E office has contacted the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Division to ask that officers can monitor the location and provide assistance with traffic control as needed.

For more information on the upcoming street sealing in Freeway Manor, contact the District E office at 832-393-3008 or via email at districte@houstontx.gov.

Old friends visit Golden Nugget



Longtime South Belt residents recently reunited at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where they attended a Willie Nelson concert. Pictured above at the hotel are, left to right, John Bolen, Arthur Newbold, Cheryl Bolen and David

Flickinger (husband of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger), John Bolen and Flickinger both coached Newbold as a child playing in the Sagamont-Beverly Hills Little League.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

South Belt class celebrates Go Texan Day



Lily Campos' third-grade class from South Belt Elementary celebrated Go Texan Day by dressing up in their best western outfits. Shown are, left to right, Car-

los Delgado, a sleeping cowboy; Kareli Garza; Marissa Tavera; Campos; Robbie Delgado; Evan Bowden; and Matthew Salazar.

Photo submitted

Stuchbery Science Fair winners announced



Stuchbery Elementary third- and fourth-graders recently participated in the annual science fair. Five students were selected as campus winners and advanced to compete at the district level. Edgardo Mateo (far left)

was awarded a gold medal for his project while, left to right, Jorgen Rodriguez, Sydnie Hile, Tyler Albert and Frank Gonzales-Adame earned silver medals.

Photo by Kristin Wallis

BFA Exhibition to showcase students' works

The selections juried into this year's University of Houston-Clear Lake Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition, which opens April 5 and runs through May 3, were the result of a newly implemented mentoring process that took place between graduating senior BFA majors, December graduates and a member of the art and design faculty of each artist's choosing.

"Students were allowed to submit up to five works, but prior to submitting their selections for this exhibition, each student worked closely with a chosen faculty mentor to help clarify which pieces best represent his or her own particular artistic vision," said Jeff Bowen, director of UH-Clear Lake's Art Gallery.

"This discussion used to take place between students and their professors informally, to help solidify what students would like to display," Bowen said. "But this year, working with the rest of the art and design program faculty members, director of the Art School for Children David Moya crafted a mentorship policy that has been instrumental in helping students prepare for this exhibition."

"The BFA Exhibition Mentorship Program was created to facilitate artistic professionalism and build stronger student-faculty relationships," said Moya. "Prior

to submitting art works for the BFA Exhibition, students met one-on-one with faculty members to discuss their artistic vision. Based on the recommendations of the faculty, students would select their strongest pieces and even propose new projects suitable for submission."

Moya added that he hoped that moving forward, this program would be implemented with juniors as well, in order to maximize faculty's influence and relationships with students.

"Most members of the art and design faculty helped mentor," Bowen said. "During the jurying process, they evaluated submissions and came to a consensus on each piece — resulting in every student having at least one of their pieces accepted into the exhibition."

More than 30 students will be exhibiting a combined 53 works in the Art Gallery, located in UHCL's Bayou Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The opening preview reception is on Wednesday, April 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission is free, and refreshments are served. Complimentary parking is available in the visitor lot with overflow available in the student lot D.

For more information about UHCL's Art Gallery, visit <https://www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery/>.

Frazier set 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 be four years old by Sept. 1.

Melillo carnival planned

The 10th annual spring carnival will be held at Dixie Melillo Middle School on Friday, April 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. The carnival will include a dunking booth, an obstacle course, a rock wall, a DJ with music, a cake walk, and a silent auction on baskets. Food at the festival will include turkey legs, sausage on a stick, snow cones, nachos, popcorn and chopped BBQ sandwiches.

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.

Free self-defense classes

The American Society of Karate offers free one-hour self-defense and martial arts classes for ages 13-80 at the Sagement Community Center, 11507 Hughes, on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., through May 25. All classes are taught by experienced black belt instructors. For details, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

BAGS meeting announced

As a follow-up to Frank Billingsley's presentation on his DNA journey, Bay Area Genealogical Society will present a more in-depth look at DNA research. Member Gale French will discuss using the online resource GEDmatch.com to supplement one's genetic genealogy DNA tests.

The meeting will be in the party room at Red River Bar-B-Que & Grill, 1911 E Main St. In League City on Thursday night, March 29. If one would like to eat, arrive at 6 p.m., order food at the front counter and find the group in the party room set aside for dining and socializing.

The program will begin after dinner at 7 p.m.

CSH hosts Passover Seder

Congregation Shaar Hashalom invites the community to celebrate the Second Night Passover Seder on Saturday, March 31, at 6 p.m. Dinner will be held at the synagogue, located at 16020 El Camino Real in Clear Lake.

This interactive service brings together the community to celebrate the enduring message of freedom. This year, the Passover Seder is led by Rabbi Stuart Federow and is complete with a kosher-for-Passover dinner and traditional Passover services. The family-friendly service is complete with an Afikomen Scavenger Hunt for the children and story of the 10 plagues. Member pricing is \$40 for adults, 13 and older and \$20 for children, ages 4-12. Nonmember pricing is \$50 for adults, 13 and older and \$22 for children, ages 4-12.

To make reservations, call the synagogue office at 281-488-5861, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or pay online by visiting www.shaarhashalom.org.

AARP Chapter to meet

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 Oleander 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 and the N. H. Davis Pioneer Complex and Museum in Montgomery. 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 earl.mallett@sbcglobal.net.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

SAMANTHA ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday wishes are sent from family and friends to **Samantha Kay Ruiz** who celebrates a March 28 birthday. She is a seventh-grade Texas history teacher at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SEBASTIAN!
A special happy birthday shout-out is sent to Dobie High School sophomore **Sebastian Delgado** who celebrates his 16th birthday on March 23 from Veronica, Jose, Max, Xavier and Ruby Delgado.

JUDGE DELGADO MARKS A BIRTHDAY
Judge **Jo Ann Delgado**, Harris County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Place 1, celebrates a birthday, March 26. Happy birthday wishes are sent to her from the *Leader* staff.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO JUDGE RISNER

Best wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Judge **George Risner**, Harris County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Place 2, who celebrates a birthday March 27 from the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena ISD enjoy birthdays March 22 through March 28.

Atkinson Elementary
Special birthday greetings are sent to **Jennifer Youngblood** March 27.

Burnett Elementary
Alicia Carrizal and **Maria Vargas** share a day of celebration on March 22. **Carmen Norris** marks a birthday on March 25. The day for a party for **Raylene Martinez** is March 28.

Bush Elementary

Light the candles on a birthday cake March 25 for **Maria Trela**.

Moore Elementary

Join in the birthday fun March 23 for **Katlyn Box** and **Lauren Finley**. The day for a party for **Melissa Hickman** is March 28.

South Belt Elementary

Katherine Myers enjoys a birthday March 23. Warm wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Brandi Ballard** March 26. Celebrating a birthday March 27 is **Natalie Boynton**.

Melillo Middle School

Light the candles for a fun celebration March 24 for **Kimberly Salinas**.

Roberts Middle School

Marking a birthday March 22 are **Carlynn "Carly" Frank** and **Shelby Willis**. Celebrating a March 23 birthday is **Melissa Hargrave**. Send a birthday greeting March 25 to **Narcadalia Reyes**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Light the birthday candles March 22 for **Laura Guzman**. Share in the birthday celebration for **Daniel Mullen** March 23. Send a greeting March 26 to **Janis McKinney**.

Thompson Intermediate

Tiffani Saucedo enjoys a birthday March 22. Blow out the candles for **Travis Meyer** and **Joshua Pruneda** on March 24. **Shaurice Spellman** marks a birthday March 27.

Dobie High

Robert Francis marks a birthday March 23.

Double birthday greetings are sent to **Emily Coughenour** and **Angela Gaston** March 24. Three cheers are sent for a March 26 birthday for **Victoria Armenta**, **Glenda Nicholson** and **Tracy Whitley**. Blow out the birthday candles for **Stephanie Albert** on March 27. Birthday wishes are sent to **Maria Martinez** on March 28.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to friends who celebrate a birthday this week:
Thursday, March 22: **Kristy Poole**, **Crystal Pettibone**, **Maria Ybarra**, **Michael Hansen**, **Edwin Watson** and **Gary Hooks**; Friday, March 23: **Cindy Kiessling**, **Monica Garza**, **Michael McKissick** and **James Lucadou**; Saturday, March 24: **Jessica Faulkner**, **Jaime Napoli**, **Rainbow Montenegro**, **Larry Bischof** and **Michelle Noble**; Sunday, March 25: **Joe Dominguez**, **Iris Scentsy**, **LaMagnolia Trattoria Italiana**, **Chris Williams** and **Jeff Wright**; Monday, March 26: **Andrew Crow**, **Pratik Bajpayee**, **Lori Johnson**, **Kevin Waters**, **Victoria Michelle**, **Sunday Evans** and **Brittany Waters**; Tuesday, March 27: **Chad Rivers**, **Erica Torres-Saenz**, **Eudocio Salinas**, **Cheryl Woods**, **Donna Hanson**, **Joan Zuñiga**, **Sharon Finney** and **Jimmy Massicott**; and Wednesday, March 28: **Moses Mondragon**, **Jennifer Blake** and **Zina Corpus**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.



Atkinson celebrates Read Across America

Atkinson Elementary students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with Read Across America. Students dressed as their favorite book characters and, while taking AR tests, read books throughout the day, meeting their goal of 2,600 points. Longtime Pasadena Independent School District employee **Sandra Vann**, attendance clerk at Melillo Middle School, was a visiting reader. Vann read to **Samantha Rhodes'** first-grade class. Teachers used book themes as inspirational book character ideas. The third-grade teachers dressed as Alice in Wonderland and found a student dressed as Queen of Hearts. Above are, left to right, (front row) **Emily**

Reyes, **Queen of Hearts** (back row) **Elizabeth Cecil**, as **Alice**; **Belva Alaniz**, **Ace of Hearts**; **Brandi Trevino**, **Cheshire Cat**; **Erika Salazar**, **Mad Hatter**; and **Amber Newman**, **Rabbit**. Below are **Samantha Rhodes'** first-grade class, left to right, (front row) **Cat Nguyen**, **Dahlia Reyes**, **Alyssa Alvarez**, **Jonathan Fonseca**, (second row) **Jay Guerrero**, **Michael Nieto**, **Taylor Hines**, **Alyah Arispe**, **Hailey Estrada**, **Natalie Hodgson**, **Adrian Morris**, (third row) **Joncarlos Reyes**, **Arianna Rendon**, **Joseph Moore**, **Kayla Cisneros**, **Marya Zaid**, **Sandra Vann**, **Sebastian Hernandez**, **Noah Adams**, and **Aiden Windsor**.
Photos by Karen O'Connor and Samantha Rhodes



Remember When

40 years ago (1978)

The city of Houston approved the purchase of 44,250 square feet of property on Beamer Road for a future fire station.

The Sonny Encinacia family got quite a surprise at their home on Sageglow when an old, abandoned car was uncovered by a man who was grading their backyard. The car had somehow been buried in the yard, apparently two or three years earlier.

35 years ago (1983)

The Choate Road USA ballpark construction was finally finished with the installation of an \$80,000 lighting system.

Dobie student **Lawrence Mitchell** won the **Steve Bledsoe Award** for most outstanding athlete at the **Brown Relays**.

30 years ago (1988)

A new task force composed of private citizens was formed to work with the cleanup of the **Brio waste site**.

A South Belt Security Alliance officer arrested a rape suspect who was apparently running from the scene of the crime. Taken into custody was a 17-year-old identified as **R. Jackson** of the South-park area.

25 years ago (1993)

Houston Police SWAT officers responded to an address on the 11700 block of **Kirkmeadow** for the possibility of an armed, hostile man barricaded inside.

Metro board members approved plans to build the 800-space **Fuqua Park & Ride**.

South Belt resident **Al Carter** was named best sports writer in Texas by the **Texas Associated Press Managing Editors**.

20 years ago (1998)

The baseball fields at **El Franco Lee Park** were officially dedicated to former Houston City Councilman **Frank Mancuso**.

Dedication of the **Lutheran Education Center** was held at **Lutheran South Academy**.

15 years ago (2003)

Frazier Elementary student **Jon Lowery** won a gold medal in physics at the elementary school science fair sponsored by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The possibility of termination of term-contract teachers caused the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees to pass a reduction in force resolution.

10 years ago (2008)

Clear Lake Tactical Unit made two drug-related arrests in the **Kirkwood** subdivision following an investigation which began earlier in the month.

Homes with a history of flooding in the South Belt area were the most recent to get an opportunity for a Harris County Flood Control District and Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout. Some residents who had experienced substantial repetitive losses were asked to participate in the **Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot program**.

Vandals painted graffiti on the concession stand of the recently opened **Blackhawk Park**.

After six months of meetings, five public hearings and countless hours of work by the members of the **School Boundary Advisory Committee**, the board of trustees approved new school boundary zones for the **Clear Creek Independent School District**.

5 years ago (2013)

The Pasadena Independent School District officially broke ground on its future career and technical high school. To be located on **Beltway 8** at **Genoa Red Bluff**,

the new 246,000-square-foot campus was set to open in August 2014. Approved in a 2011 bond vote, the \$37 million facility would offer students career and technical training.

A unit in the **Park Center Apartments** in the 12300 block of **Beamer** caught fire. Two apartments were completely destroyed in the blaze, and six others suffered water and smoke damage. Fire department officials believed the incident was the result of arson. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2017)

A man died after being found unresponsive at an apartment complex located at 1400 **Redford** near **Edgebrook** and the **Gulf Freeway** on Tuesday, March 21. Patrol officers and paramedics responded to the call around 10:45 p.m. after receiving reports of the man collapsing after having an altercation with a female. The man was transported to **Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital**, where he was later pronounced dead. According to witnesses, the man appeared to be impaired on an unknown substance prior to and during the altercation. The female was detained at the scene but

was questioned and released, pending further investigation. Medical examiners later determined that **Christopher Anderson's** death was caused by a combined toxicity of cocaine, methamphetamine and phenylcyclidine.

UHCL sets calendar

The University of Houston has announced its upcoming calendar.

Friday morning continuing education at UHCL

Learn more about the social, religious and cultural changes currently taking place in Turkey. On April 6 at 9 a.m., assistant professor of history **Cengiz Sisman** will present *Turkey: The Emergence of the First Secular Muslim Country*, in the Garden Room of the Bayou Building, University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Members pay a one-time membership fee for \$26 and \$18 for each class. The membership fee includes class materials, borrowing privileges at the UHCL library and discounts at the UHCL Bookstore and Patio Café.

Parking permits are available for \$5 in Bayou Building, room 1618.

To register, visit www.uhcl.edu/academics/extend-ed/friday-morning-ce.

Art School for Children and Young Adults

Students will express their creativity while learning about culture, history in science in these interactive art classes at UHCL. Elementary age classes will focus on crating original artwork using clay, paint, pastels, markers and crayons for "The Art of Space." Advanced students in grades 4-6 will create pixel origami sculpture, trading cards, game pieces and game boards to create their own game.

Students in grades 6-12 can choose to work with mixed media or 2-D drawing and painting. Spots are available for students, ages 3½ to high school.

Fees range from \$100 to \$130 per student. Contact the Art School for Children

at 281-283-3344 for more information.

Early registration in April for May mini-session

Early registration is April 9-19 for University of Houston Clear Lake's May mini-session and summer registration. Open registration for the mini-session begins April 20 and ends the first day of class, May 14. Fee payment deadline for the mini-session is noon on May 15.

For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/academics/resources/academic-calendar or contact the office of the registrar at 281-283-2525 or registrar@uhcl.edu.

Hands-on cybersecurity workshop for high school juniors, seniors

High school juniors and seniors can enroll now to gain hands-on experience with network configuration, Linux, vulnerabilities scanning and more in University of Houston-Clear Lake Cyber Security Institute's summer day camp June 4-7. Seating is limited.

Cyber Security Summer Camp participants will explore the world of cybersecurity through speakers, activities and games.

Attendants will interact with business and academic professionals from Lockheed Martin, FBI Cyber Squad, UHCL information technology, Sam Houston State University digital forensics team, Chevron Information Technology Cyber Intelligence Center and NASA Johnson Space Center.

Early bird registration is \$250 through April 16. Registration after April 16 is \$300.

Tuition includes lunch each day and a camp T-shirt. For more information or to register, visit www.uhcl.edu/cyber-security-institute/cyber-camp.

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Rosette's artwork wins at rodeo



Out of thousands of entries in the Western Heritage Community Challenge Decorating Contest, the artwork of Meador Elementary's third-grader Kayla Rosette (center) was selected as one of the 150 best in the Greater Houston area. Rosette received four passes to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo where her artwork was displayed in NRG Center from Feb. 27 through March 8. Shown with her are, left to right, Beverly Bolton, principal; and Amy Clowers, assistant principal.

Photos by Tara Merida



Kayla Rosette was able to enjoy the rodeo with her parents, Jose and Rebecca Rosette. She is shown above pointing to her artwork that was exhibited during the rodeo.

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.

HCMG announces March, April events

The following Harris County Master Gardener events have been announced for the months of March and April. On Saturday, March 24, the herb, perennial and pepper plant sale event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pasadena Fair Grounds, 7600 Red Bluff Road. There will be a plant overview at 8 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 713-274-0950.

Saturday, March 24, is also the Earth-Kind residential landscaping workshop. Earth-Kind Landscaping uses research-proven techniques to maximize garden and landscape enjoyment while protecting the environment. Come learn about adapted plants for the Houston area and how to design, plant and manage a landscape that is beautiful, low maintenance and heat and drought tolerant. The cost is \$25 per person, or \$35 per couple and lunch is included. To register, contact Ute Schaefer at Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu or 713-274-0950.

On Tuesday, March 27, Open Garden Day adult workshop and children's activities will be held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. Preregistration is required by Sunday, March 25. Register by email at ogd.harrisshort@gmail.com or by phone at 713-274-0950.

Monday, April 16 will be another Open Garden Day adult workshop and children's activities from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. There will be plants for sale in the greenhouse.

A rainwater harvesting workshop will be held on Thursday, April 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road. Learn about capturing, diverting and storing rainwater and how to build a rain barrel. Registration is required by April 16 and the cost is \$15. Enrollment is limited to the first 30 participants. For more information on other upcoming programs and to register for this program, contact Ute Schaefer at Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu.

On Thursday, April 19, the soils and composting event will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. For more information, visit: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubGreenThumb.aspx> or call 713-274-0950.

On Tuesday, April 24, the Open Garden Day adult workshop and children's activities will be held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road. This is a free Harris County Master Gardener event. Preregistration is required. Register by email at ogd.harrisshort@gmail.com or by phone at 713-274-0950.

Epperson named Lunar princess

Rachel Epperson has been selected to serve as princess in the 2018 Lunar Rendezvous Festival Court. Court members are selected based on community service activities and honors, recommendations from community members and teachers and school activities.

The Lunar Rendezvous Festival began in 1965 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to preserve the rich history and recognize the many accomplishments in the space sciences realized in the Bay Area. The first festival, which took place over two weekends in June 1966 and included more than two dozen events, was a salute to the space program's historic 1965 rendezvous of Gemini VI and Gemini VII in space.

Since its inception, Lunar Rendezvous has hosted fun and entertaining festivals enjoyable for the entire family. Each year hundreds of volun-

teers join together to promote charity, celebrate, and honor the community. Festival proceeds are used to maintain the Bay Area Museum, award college scholarships to local students, and fund other nonprofit programs in the community.

Sponsorship benefits for local organizations and businesses include recognition on the Lunar Rendezvous Festival website, at events and on social media. Sponsors will also receive an invitation to attend and will be acknowledged at the Lunar Rendezvous Festival Fashion Show and Coronation Ball the week of July 16.

Sponsors receive publicity anytime a court member's name appears in print or is spoken at an event; it is always followed by the sponsor's name and affiliation.

For more information on the Lunar Rendezvous Festival or sponsorship information, visit <https://www.lunarrendezvous.org/index.php>.



Rachel Epperson, 2017 Teen United America, has been selected to serve as princess for the 2018 Lunar Rendezvous Festival Court. Photo submitted

HHD urges mosquito prevention, offers tips

The arrival of spring brings a reminder from the Houston Health Department about the importance of protection against mosquitoes and the viruses they can carry.

"Unfortunately, the enjoyable warm weather of spring and summer is a key ingredient for a boom in the mosquito population," said City of Houston Local Health Authority Dr. David Persse. "These workshops are great opportunities to learn simple actions to help protect yourself, your family and your community from Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses."

Zika virus spreads to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* species mosquito. The best way to reduce the risk of infection is to prevent mosquito bites. The health department encourages the 3-D Defense:

- Drain: Drain standing water around your home so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed.
- Dress: Dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors to limited exposed skin.
- DEET: Apply EPA-approved insect repellent with the ingredient DEET. Zika can also spread

through sexual contact. People who've recently traveled to an area with active Zika transmission should use condoms for at least eight weeks to prevent infecting their partner and apply mosquito repellent for at least three weeks to avoid infecting local mosquitoes.

Zika infection during pregnancy can cause a debilitating birth defect of the brain called microcephaly. CDC recommends pregnant women avoid traveling to areas with active Zika transmission.

Many people infected with Zika won't have symptoms, but for those who do, the illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon.

Since 2015, 41 human cases of Zika virus have been reported in the city of Houston. All cases in the city were travel-associated, meaning the patients acquired the virus abroad before returning to Houston.

"Together we can help greatly reduce the risk of these viruses in our city," said Persse.

Morgan celebrates 80th birthday



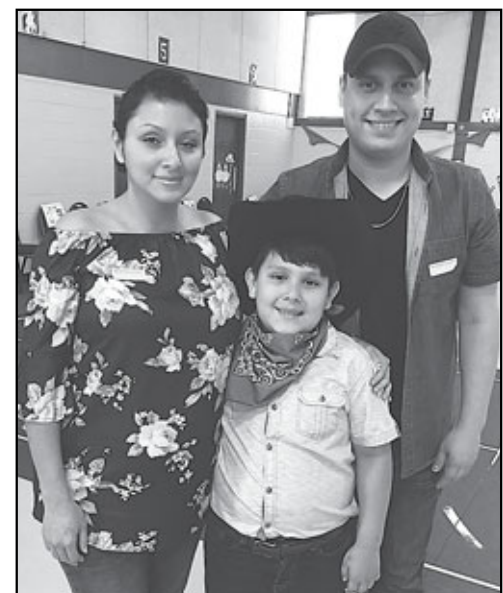
Larry Morgan (second from left), longtime South Belt resident and businessman, was delighted on Sunday, March 18, with a surprise birthday party given by his family. Shown with him are, left to right, son Tommy

Morgan, wife Mary Ellen Morgan and daughter Elizabeth Morgan Eckols. Larry turned 80 years old on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. He is the owner of Morgan's Janitorial Services Inc. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Meador holds annual Rodeo Day



Meador Elementary held its annual Rodeo Day on Feb. 23 to kick off Go Texan Day and the Houston Rodeo season. All the students from pre-K to fourth grade learned line dances and a square dance routine to perform for their families. The favorite dance throughout the day is always the family dance where family members and staff members join the students in a line dance. There were more than 500 guests who attended. It was a full day of dancing and country music with lots of smiles,



hugs, family pictures and proud parents. Shown above, left, are second-grader Charel Cole and her father Roderick Cole. Shown above, right, are second-grader Yahir Ibarra (center) with his parents Karina Gonzalez (left) and Gilberto Ibarra. The Meador staff shown below are, left to right, Bryan Bradbury, coach; Beverly Bolton, principal; Jennifer Dowling, P.E. aide; Derek Woodard, coach; Arlana Peacock, music teacher; and Amy Clowers, assistant principal. Photos submitted



Mayor urges students to vie for scholarships

Mayor Sylvester Turner and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs encourage City of Houston high school juniors and seniors to apply for the Mayor's Art Scholarship program for a chance to win a scholarship.

Students can submit one piece of visual artwork, matted and ready to display, no larger than 30" x 36," with a written description of the work. The winning artwork will be displayed at Houston City Hall throughout April 2018.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Monday, March 26.

See details and entry forms at <http://houstontx.gov/culturalaffairs/artscholarship.html>.

The Mayor's Art Scholarship competition fosters collaboration among Houston-area high school fine arts departments and recognizes excellence in student art, which expresses cultural identities and features of life in Houston area neighborhoods.

For more information, go to www.houstontx.gov/culturalaffairs/ or follow the Mayor's office of Cultural Affairs on Facebook @HoustonMOCA.

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Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.

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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

Nursery Available at all Services

Duff turns 92!



Firefighters from Houston Fire Department Station 70 on Beamer surprised long-time South Belt resident Billy Duff with flowers and balloons for her 92nd birthday on Wednesday, March 14. Duff was recently the victim of a home burglary in which a crucifix belonging to her late husband was stolen. Shown above with Duff is Houston firefighter Robert Hyatt. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Bill, Elaine Edwards visit London, Prime Meridian

During a recent visit to England, South Belt residents Bill and Elaine Edwards toured the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, a suburb of London. In the courtyard of the observatory is marked the Prime Meridian, also known as "zero longitude." The meridian, established in 1884 as the result of an international conference, is an invisible line from the North Pole to the South Pole, and separates the eastern and western hemispheres. It is also the line for Greenwich Mean Time from which time zones are based. Houston is GMT minus six. Although modern global positioning systems place the actual meridian at approximately 102 meters to the east, this reference point was used on navigational charts and along with celestial navigation, to establish latitude (positions north or south of the equator), ships were able to gauge their approximate location at sea. Shown right is Bill standing on the Prime Meridian line. Photo by Elaine Edwards



Photo by Elaine Edwards

Firefighters surprise Duff

Local firefighters recently made a longtime South Belt resident's day when they surprised her Wednesday, March 14, on her 92nd birthday with flowers and balloons. Firefighters from Houston Fire Department Station 70 on Beamer said they made the gesture after learning that Billy Duff has had a particularly difficult year.

Now a widow, Duff first lost her husband of 70 years. Then, a few weeks ago, thieves broke into her home and took some valuables and an especially sentimental item belonging to her. While the crooks made off with some of Duff's diamonds, it was a crucifix that belonged to her late husband that she said she will miss the

most of the stolen items. Duff referred to the firefighters as "angels." The surprise visit from the firefighters was featured on a news segment on ABC Channel 13. To see video footage of the event, view <http://abc13.com/society/firefighters-surprise-widow-celebrating-her-92nd-birthday/3217650>.

April 2 time to file HCAD report

Continued from Page 2A more time to file their renditions may file a written request with the chief appraiser on or before April 2 to receive an automatic extension to May 1. The chief appraiser may also grant an additional 15 days after the postponed deadline, for good cause. The appraisal district

has already mailed personal property rendition forms to businesses known to have been operating in Harris County during 2017. However, all business owners are required to file renditions whether or not they have received notification. A rendition form is available on the appraisal dis-

trict's website at www.hcad.org under the "Forms" tab along with information on the rules of the process. For more information about rendering property, deadline extensions, penalties and rendition forms, taxpayers may call the appraisal district's Information Center at 713-957-7800.

Beta Academy students set sail

Beta Academy scholars set their dreams afloat this month as the school ended their S.T.E.M. week with a cardboard boat regatta. They began this journey with paper sketches and calculations and hand-held models in a wading pool. But on the day of the regatta, the kids were given two hours to build their life-sized crafts out of nothing but cardboard and duct tape.

The ultimate test followed as they launched their personally designed boats in the water and climbed inside. Applying the math and engineering principles they learned in class, each team tried to outlast the others with the most seaworthy vessel. Even the teachers joined in the fun as they raced their own entries against each other. Paddling and splashing and lots of swimming filled the day as the students experienced S.T.E.M. in action.



The teachers and staff of Beta Academy tried their luck on the water. Shown above are, left to right, Raquel Sartor, chief academic officer; Kendra Hampton, principal; and Alex Benitez, assistant principal.

Shown left, aboard their vessel, are Jasmine Sanchez (left) and Victoria Garza. Photos by Lily Hermes



Shown above, Thomas Flores (left) and Jose Majano make a big splash. Shown below, Ridha Kazem (back) and David Caballero paddle away.



Volunteers to build SoHo playground

Volunteers from South Houston Elementary School, UnitedHealthcare and the community will join KaBOOM! Saturday, March 24, to transform an empty site at South Houston Elementary School into a kid-designed, state-of-the-art playground in just six hours.

Hurricane Harvey was one of the worst storms in history to hit Texas, leaving behind unprecedented amounts of rainfall and destruction in its path.

The city of South Houston was one of the strongest hit during this hurricane and due to the large amounts of rain, hundreds of families, as well as South Houston Elementary, experienced severe flooding.

Cleanup and recovery are still underway in this community. Safe and comfortable places for the community to gather and for children to be active will play a key role as the neighborhood rebuilds and rebounds. The rains from Hurricane Harvey devastated the community, but not its spirit.

When disaster strikes, it is critical for families to find ways to create a sense of normalcy as a part of the recovery process. Through this project, South Houston Elementary School will work

with UnitedHealthcare and KaBOOM! to put kids first in the areas most in need of recovery.

In January, kids from the surrounding community came together to draw their dream playground. The playground is based off their drawings and will provide more than 650 kids in South Houston affected by Hurricane Harvey with a safe place to play.

This playground is one of several to be built across Texas this year, serving communities that were affected by the hurricane. It will be the 26th built by UnitedHealthcare through the company's Do Good, Live Well volunteer initiative. Through this partnership, UnitedHealthcare and KaBOOM! are creating an oasis where kids feel valued and loved, and where their potential is supported, nurtured and celebrated.

A kickoff ceremony will take place at South Houston Elementary School, located at 900 Main St. in South Houston, from 8:30 to 9 a.m.; the best viewing of the playground construction will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the final construction phase will take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; a ribbon-cutting will take place from 2:30 to 3 p.m. All times are approximate.

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Dobie boys' soccer wins fourth straight crown

The title was likely to eventually come anyway, but it was Dobie's emphatic delivery that wound up netting the varsity boys' soccer program its fourth straight District 22-6A championship.

Midway through the first half, the Longhorns scored goals just 30 seconds apart for a 2-0 half-time lead over La Porte. A hail of second-half goals then provided the final punches March 19, at Veterans as the locals went on to win 8-1.

Family and friends celebrated senior night prior to the match, and Dobie head coach Justo Manrique properly extended extra playing time early on to those of the Class of 2018.

In the end, seventh-place La Porte had little chance as the Longhorns won their 12th straight 22-6A match, moving to 12-1 overall with the season finale coming March 23, against Memorial.

Manrique no doubt will rest his regulars aplenty against the Mavs what with nothing to gain or lose regardless of the out-

come. Dobie has now won 58 of its last 60 league matches and has owned the 22-6A championship trophy since grabbing it late in the 2015 season. The defending Region III champions are 18-3-2 overall and will

now face the fourth seed out of District 21-6A in the bidistrict playoff round March 29-31.

If Dobie can secure a first-round win, it would meet either Brazoswood (second in 23-6A) or Dickinson (third in 24-6A) in the area round.

In District 22-6A, Dobie will advance as the champion, with Memorial, Deer Park and South Houston also set to move on.

See related photo on Page 6B



At left, Bryan Nava (11) got in on the scoring barrage in the second half as the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team crushed La Porte 8-1 March 19, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. With the win, Dobie locked up its fourth consecutive District 22-6A championship and will now begin to rest a bit before the start of the bidistrict playoffs March 29-31. The Longhorns are also looking to defend their Region III championship from 2017.

Photo by John Bechtle

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Rough shooting night ends San Jacinto's run

Gulf Coast State (Florida) used a 15-8 fourth-quarter run to hold off the San Jacinto College women, advancing to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Di-

vision I Basketball Championships March 20, in Lubbock, Texas with a 54-45 victory.

While second-seeded GCSC is now in the Elite Eight and still has national title hopes, San Jacinto's women's basketball program has now ended. Yet

what a run it was. Winning nine straight games, San Jacinto advanced to nationals for the second straight season. An

opening-round win over Hutchinson (Kansas) gave the program its first-ever national tournament win.

Against GCSC, it simply wasn't meant to be. All-American guard Eryka Sydney scored 17-points to lead San Jacinto, and Princess Clemons added 11 more.

But San Jacinto shot just 33 percent from the field, including only 3 of 21 from beyond the 3-point line. The locals were 6 of 14 from the free

Continued on Page 2B



Alexis Bryant (22) of San Jacinto College scored a team-high 19 points in the Gators' 11-point victory over Hutchinson (Kansas) in the first round of the NJCAA championships March 19, in Lubbock. It was the team's 10th consecutive win. The locals then lost in the Sweet 16 round. At right is Hutchinson College's Coretta Hoskins (2).
Photo by Elizabeth Hertel

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DP survives JFD

Deer Park is still atop the District 22-6A softball world, but Dobie may have sent a strong message for later this season.

The Lady Deer led 3-0 before Dobie scored three runs in the third inning to tie the game. Alana Ortega singled and scored before Taylor Pleasants rocketed a two-run homer to knot the game at 3-3.

Continued on Page 6B

SJC softball rises

Sophomore Taylor Henry has 10 hits in her last four games, leading the San Jacinto College softball program to a solid start in Region XIV action.

Though the locals have struggled to the tune of a 12-16 overall record, the Coyotes have begun conference action with

five wins in six games, including sweeps of doubleheaders against Laredo and Lone Star-Port Arthur.

McHenry, who has also scored eight runs over the last four games, hasn't done it alone.

San Jacinto's Lacey Gabaldon is nine for her last 15 at the plate, and

Continued on Page 3B

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District 24-6A

All-District Boys' Basketball Picks

Most Valuable Player

Ajare Sanni, Clear Lake, Sr.

Offensive Player of the Year

Tramon Mark, Dickinson, Soph.

Defensive Player of the Year

Malik Williams, Dickinson, Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Marcus Williams, Clear Springs, Soph.

Coaches of the Year

Jason Wilson, Dickinson

Tommy Penders Jr., Clear Lake

First Team Selections

Riley Abercrombie, Clear Lake, Sr.

Zaid Harris, Clear Lake, Sr.

Jeremiah Maldonado, Clear Lake, Jr.

Alex Dehoyos, Friendswood, Sr.

Donta Smith, Clear Creek, Sr.

Kendrick Christian, Clear Brook, Sr.

Jalen Wydermeyer, Dickinson, Jr.

Faite Williams, Clear Springs, Sr.

Brook Second Team Selection

Nakia Johnson, Sr.

Brook Honorable Mention Selection

Caleb Chapman, Sr.

District 22-6A

All-District Boys' Basketball Picks

Most Valuable Player

Elijah Parquet, West Brook, Sr.

Offensive Player of the Year

Tristan Ikpe, Deer Park, Sr.

Defensive Player of the Year

Clayton Carpenter, West Brook, Jr.

Newcomer of the Year

Keon Edwards, Rayburn, Fr.

Coaches of the Year

Andre Boutte, West Brook

Darren Chandler, Deer Park

First Team Selections

Dralyn Brown, South Houston, Sr.

Keenan Gooden, La Porte, Sr.

Brad Milliorn, Deer Park, Jr.

Rudy Martinez, Memorial, Sr.

Lijon Smith, West Brook, Sr.

Peter Simon, West Brook, Jr.

D.J. Garrett, Dobie, Sr.

Justin Thomas, Dobie, Sr.

Nick Trevino, Pasadena, Jr.

Dobie Second Team Selection

Brick Fosnight, Sr.

San Jacinto College women fall at NJCAAs

Continued from Page 1B
throw line. It was not the kind of shooting performance San Jacinto was looking for, but that's basketball.

San Jacinto, which elevated Kayla Weaver from assistant coach to head coach for this season, finished 25-11 overall despite using a rotation of only eight players for much of the season.

SJC 62 Hutchinson 51

With just one loss would come the end of an era. That is, the San Jacinto College women's basketball program, like the

volleyball, men's soccer and men's basketball programs, would end with a defeat.

Yet the SJC women wouldn't let it happen, at least for another day.

Winning the college's first-ever National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament game, the Gators defeated Hutchinson (Kansas) 62-51 March 19, at the NJCAA's Division I Championships, thus extending its season and the program.

SJC busted out early, leading Hutchinson 18-6 after a quarter of play.

Although Hutchinson closed the gap a couple of times, SJC went on to win as Alexis Bryant led the way with 19 points to go with 12 more from Maddison Glass.

The win, San Jacinto's 10th straight altogether, moved the team into the NJCAA's Sweet 16 with a 25-10 overall record.

Prior to last season, San Jacinto College had never advanced to nationals. That team lost its first tournament game and returned home. This time, head coach Kayla Weaver's bunch scored a big win.

End has come
The decision was made prior to this school year to end the volleyball, men's soccer and men's and women's basketball programs at season's end. That time has now come for each.

The SJC soccer team lost in the regional semifinals, while the volleyball team finished one win shy

of the national tournament. The men's basketball team lost in the regional semifinals, leaving the Lady Gators standing.

Now, the time has come for the gym lights to go out.

The college is continuing both its baseball and softball programs. The Gator baseball program was ranked No. 1 in the

nation earlier this month before hitting a lull but is certainly a national power on an annual basis.

The softball program, based on the South campus, is currently competing in Region XIV play with hopes of advancing to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series a second straight time.



San Jacinto College's Maddison Glass (4) scored 12 points in opening-round action of the 2018 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Tournament March 19, in Lubbock. San Jac won the game 62-51 for the college's first-ever nationals triumph. Photo by Elizabeth Hertel



Dobie's Onozie is 22-6A DPOY

Dobie senior Victoria Onozie (32), going against North Shore's Autumn Jones (15) here, was named the Defensive Player of the Year in District 22-6A this season after leading the Lady Longhorns' varsity basketball team to a second consecutive league championship and subsequent bidistrict title. Onozie, a three-year varsity letter-winner, was also the Lady Longhorns' top scorer and rebounder this season. Over the past two seasons, she helped the program go 26-2 in 22-6A action.

Photo by John Bechtel



Dobie sophomore guard Charlee Peters (5), working against North Shore's Chelsea Green (11) and Mikayla Patterson (10) during the bidistrict playoffs, earned 22-6A first team status after providing her team with terrific ball-handling and defensive pressure from her guard spot.



Alexis Oses (15), one of just three regular contributors back from last season, helped lead the Lady Longhorns to a second straight league title on her way to a District 22-6A first team nomination. Photos by John Bechtel

District 22-6A

All-District Girls' Basketball Picks

Most Valuable Player

Serinity Williams, West Brook, Sr.

Defensive Player of the Year

Victoria Onozie, Dobie, Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Enriqua Bellow, Deer Park, Fr.

Coach of the Year

Andrea Jackson, West Brook

First Team Selections

Mackenzie Cardenas, Memorial, Sr.

Abigail Samson, Memorial, Soph.

Ariana Williams, West Brook, Sr.

Charlee Peters, Dobie, Soph.

Alexis Oses, Dobie, Sr.

Rosaleba Reyes, Pasadena, Sr.

Faith Cathouse, Rayburn, Sr.

Rebekah Atilano, La Porte, Jr.

Koko Wooley, La Porte, Fr.

Mikayla Bush, Deer Park, Sr.

Brook Second Team Selection

Brianna Smith, Sr.

Vanessa Lam, Fr.

Brook Honorable Mention Selection

Briasia Garza, Jr.

Tonya Montgomery, Jr.

Sports Calendar

SOCCKER

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

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

Thursday, March 29

Dobie JV girls at Rockhold Relays, Baytown, TBA

BASEBALL

Friday, March 23

Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek, 7:00

Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 4:00

Monday, March 26

Brook JV hosts Friendswood, 6:30

Brook sophomores host Friendswood, 4:30

Tuesday, March 27

Brook varsity at Friendswood, 7:00

Thursday, March 29

Brook varsity hosts Friendswood, 7:00

Brook JV at Friendswood, 6:30

Brook sophomores at Friendswood, 4:30

SOFTBALL

Friday, March 23

San Jacinto College hosts Alvin (2), 2:00

Dobie varsity at La Porte, 6:30

Brook varsity hosts Alvin, 6:30

Dobie JV at La Porte, 5:00

Brook JV hosts Alvin, 5:00

Saturday, March 24

San Jacinto College hosts Galveston (2), 1:00

Tuesday, March 27

Brook varsity at Dickinson, 6:30

Dobie varsity vs. Memorial, PISD, 6:30

Dobie JV vs. Memorial, PISD, 5:00

Brook JV at Dickinson, 5:00

Wednesday, March 28

San Jacinto College hosts Baton Rouge (2), 4:00

Thursday, March 29

Brook varsity at Clear Falls, 6:30

Dobie varsity hosts West Brook, PISD, 7:00

Dobie JV hosts West Brook, PISD, 5:30

Brook JV at Clear Falls, 5:00

Dobie JV (B) hosts West Brook, 4:00

Friday, March 30

San Jacinto College at Blinn, Brenham (2), 3:00

San Jacinto College softball starting to heat up at plate

Continued from Page 1B
 Riley Bullen, Kenzi Kotrla and Katlyn Rivera have all stepped up of late at the dish.

In the circle, it's clear that Michelle Kristoff is the team's No. 1 option, and Natalie Hoyt has also found a nice groove in recent games.

It all began March 15 as San Jacinto hosted Neosho in a nonconference doubleheader at home. Neosho won the back-and-forth first game 5-4 despite three hits (including a pair of doubles) and three runs from McHenry.

Rivera doubled among her two hits, and drove in two. Gabaldon and Jeanette Hernandez had a pair of hits each, and Ashley Tran doubled.

San Jac grabbed a 7-3 victory in the second game between the two teams as Bullen homered and doubled to lead the charge.

McHenry had two more hits, scored twice and drove in a pair, while Tran and Gabaldon had two hits

Upcoming games

SJC hosts Alvin (2)

Friday, March 23, 2 p.m.

SJC hosts Galveston (2)

Saturday, March 24, 1 p.m.

SJC hosts Baton Rouge (2)

Wednesday, March 28, 4 p.m.

each. Dominique Garcia earned the win in relief as San Jacinto plated five runs in the sixth inning to take the lead for good.

San Jacinto improved to 5-1 in Region XIV action with 9-5 and 10-5 wins over LS-PA March 17 in Port Arthur.

The locals scored four runs in the fourth inning and five in the fifth inning of the first game to take control.

McHenry, Bullen and Gabaldon all had three hits each, and Rivera and Madison Neal both doubled. Kotrla also doubled twice.

Kristoff went the dis-

tion of play. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund website at www.DLTennisScholarships.com includes pictures from the 2017

tournament and information on this year's tournament, sponsorship opportunities, scholarship details and more. Those who would like

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

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

Lajaunie memorial tennis coming April 27-29 to Strawberry T.C.

College scholarships will benefit young competitors

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 give-away prizes over the course of the three-day event.

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.setteo.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 divi-

Thompson Lions

2018 Girls' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent
March 29	at Park View
April 5	Jackson
April 9	Queens
April 16	at Bondy
April 23	Miller
April 25-27	PISD girls' tourn., TBA
7th Grade Games - 5 p.m.	
8th Grade Games - 6 p.m.	

Beverly Hills Bears

2018 Girls' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent
March 29	at South Houston
April 5	San Jacinto
April 9	at Park View
April 16	Southmore
April 23	Queens
April 25-27	PISD girls' tourn., TBA
7th Grade Games - 5 p.m.	
8th Grade Games - 6 p.m.	

Thompson Lions

2018 Boys' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent
March 28	Park View
April 4	Jackson
April 10	at Queens
April 17	Bondy
April 24	at Miller
May 2-4	PISD boys' tourn., TBA
7th Grade Games - 5 p.m.	
8th Grade Games - 6 p.m.	

Beverly Hills Bears

2018 Boys' Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent
March 28	South Houston
April 4	at San Jacinto
April 10	Park View
April 17	at Southmore
April 24	at Queens
May 2-4	PISD boys' tourn., TBA
7th Grade Games - 5 p.m.	
8th Grade Games - 6 p.m.	

Thunder 6U takes second at SBGSA rookie tourney



The 6-under Thunder squad finished second in the South Belt Girls Softball Association's rookie tournament March 3, at El Franco Lee Park. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Tori DeHoyos, Brooklyn Coronado, Paige McMullen, Rylee Hayes, (middle row) Kinley Brister, Maddison Campos, Mazzy Romero, Evan Juarez (team fan), Khayla Juarez, Daniella Cisneros, Melody Ramirez, (back row) assistant coach Rob Juarez and head Coach Chris Ramirez. Not pictured are assistant coaches Martin Cisneros and Mike Campos.

Submitted photo

CALENDAR

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 more information, 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 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.

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

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 for more information.

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 24

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. For more information, 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 for more information, or drop in.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at 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.

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 26

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.

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 for details.

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4B



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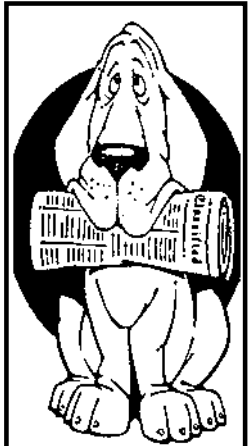


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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B
MONDAY, MARCH 26
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. No meetings on holidays.
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.
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.

8 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.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

7:30 p.m.
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.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.
TUESDAY, MARCH 27
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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
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 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

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.
American Begonia Society - Houston Satellite meets on the fourth Tuesday, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Pkwy. (on the lake side), Seabrook. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458.
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 for details.
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has beginner ballroom lessons taught by Eileen Bauerlein on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 following the senior luncheon at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.

6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. For details, call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.
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.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nalix@texascitizensbank.com.
1:30 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.
2 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.

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.
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 28
7 a.m.
AAA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov/Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for details.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

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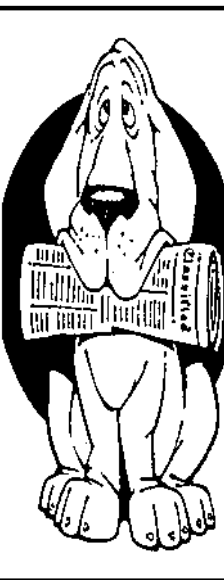
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Dobie's four-time District 22-6A boys' soccer champions celebrate another crown

At right, Dobie's varsity softball program drew legendary status with state championship wins in 1993, 1995 and again in 1997, but the school's varsity soccer program has also delivered its share of greatness since the dawn of the 2015 season. The Longhorns' 8-1 victory over La Porte March 19 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena secured a fourth consecutive District 22-6A championship. In 2017, the Longhorns broke through with the school's first-ever Region III championship and a subsequent berth in the state semifinals. Currently riding a 12-match winning streak in 22-6A play, the Longhorns will close the regular season Friday, March 23, against Memorial. The playoffs commence March 29-31 with the bidistrict round. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) seniors German Reyes (manager), Eduardo Flores, David Castaneda, Jasiel Cruz, Luis Arellano, Ramon Cahue, Sebastian Leal, Thomas Aleman, Alejandro Castillo, Antonio Arias, (back row) head coach Justo Manrique, underclassmen Adrian Garcia, Eduardo Benavides, Fernando Portillo, Oscar Medrano, Eli Donaho, Diego Calderon, Manuel Ricaurte, Kevin Hernandez, Alberto Chavez, Illsen Urrutia, Bryan Nava, Raul Hernandez, Oscar Trevino, Israel Perez and assistant coach Nick Condon.



22-6A Girls' Soccer Standings As of March 20 Games

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Deer Park	12	0	1	50
La Porte	7	3	3	33
Memorial	7	4	2	31
West Brook	6	2	5	30
Dobie	5	2	6	28
Pasadena	2	8	3	14
S. Houston	0	10	2	3
Rayburn	0	10	2	3

March 23 Final Regular Season Games

Dobie varsity girls vs. Memorial, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 23, Veterans Stadium

West Brook at Deer Park, 4 p.m.

Friday, March 23, Abshier Stadium

Rayburn at La Porte, 7 p.m.

S. Houston vs. Pasadena, Veterans, 8 p.m.

Dobie girls' soccer faces must-win

Want to see a competitive soccer match? Go over to Veterans Stadium in Pasadena Friday, March 23, as the Dobie and Memorial varsity girls' squads close out the regular season.

For Dobie, it's simple. The team needs a win or no worse than a shootout win in order to qualify for the postseason. Nothing else will do.

The Lady Longhorns tied La Porte 2-2 March 20 but then lost the shootout to score a point in the standings. Alejandra Magana and Taiya

Mitchell scored for the Lady Longhorns in regulation.

Problem? West Brook has now vaulted over Dobie for the fourth and final playoff seed. West Brook has 30 points in the standings, two points ahead of Dobie.

The good news? West Brook closes its regular season at Deer Park March 23 and will almost assuredly come up with zero points, what with Deer Park having defeated West Brook 9-0 in first-round play.

Thus, West Brook will

likely finish the season with 30 points, while Dobie can get to 34 points with a win over Memorial or to 30 with a shootout win.

The possible outcomes? A Dobie win over Memorial will give the Lady Longhorns the No. 3 playoff seed heading into the bidistrict playoffs March 29-31.

If Dobie and West Brook finish in a tie, there could be a tiebreaker scenario used. The two teams both own shootout victories over one another to this point.

Deer Park softball downs JFD

Continued from Page 1B

Deer Park went ahead in the bottom of the fourth inning on an RBI single by Plocheck, and Sarah Vanderford's RBI double scored Plocheck for a 5-3 Deer Park lead.

Trailing again, Dobie responded in the top of the fifth inning. Leslie Longoria singled, stole second base and moved to third base on an error before she came home on

Pleasants' ground out.

Dobie also got a runner to first base with one out, but Dani Colunga's line drive to shortstop was caught and turned into a double play to end the frame.

Torres retired Dobie in order in the top of the seventh as Deer Park survived to stay undefeated at 5-0. Alana Ortega was the losing pitcher despite a solid performance in the

circle. Dobie, which plays at La Porte Friday, March 23, is 4-1. La Porte, which has also lost to Deer Park in the first half of District 22-6A play, is also 4-1.

After playing at La Porte March 23, Dobie will essentially play the rest of its schedule at home, with each of the team's eight games coming at the Pasadena ISD complex.

Horns' baseball wins two games

Count it as a game that was supposed to be won if need be, but the bottom line is the Dobie varsity baseball team is now 2-1 in District 22-6A play and 13-5 overall after run-ruling Sam Rayburn 11-0 March 20, at Maguire Field.

As he usually does, standout sophomore right-hander Daniel Garza answered the call on the mound, allowing the Texans just two hits over five innings of work. He struck out six along the way.

Offensively, Isaiah Vasquez doubled three times and scored three runs while driving in four runs.

Jonathan Acosta tripled, driving in three runs, and scored twice. Zach Frias doubled and drove in a run as the Longhorns won easily. Sam Rayburn is winless after three games this season.

Dobie 6 South Houston 0

Two days after losing a hard-fought 2-1 decision to West Brook, Dobie bounced back with a tidy 6-0 victory over South Houston March 15, at South Houston.

Alan Lopez came up big for the Longhorns both on the mound and at the plate, helping his team even its 22-6A record at 1-1.

Lopez went six innings against the Trojans, allowing three hits and striking out six along the way. Offensively, Lopez was one time of five Longhorns with run-scoring doubles in the game.

Zach Frias, David Amaya and Lopez all had two hits and drove in a run. Justin Blogg and Isaiah Vasquez also had run-scoring doubles as the Longhorns were able to scratch out some key hits.

DP, LP coming

At 2-1, the Longhorns are now set to face a pesky Pasadena team Friday, March 23, at Maguire Field. Game time is 4 p.m. The Eagles are 1-2 but played well before a 14-0 loss to Deer Park March 20.

Two teams the Longhorns almost certainly will have to contend with for playoff berths are coming soon on the schedule.

Dobie will host the defending state champion Deer Tuesday, March 27. Dobie then hosts La Porte Thursday, March 29. Both games will be played at Dobie High School, at 4 p.m.

In the 22-6A standings, Deer Park and La Porte are 3-0, with West Brook and Dobie 2-1.

Pasadena and Pasadena Memorial are 1-2 and South Houston and Rayburn are 0-3.

Local sports news, notes

Rising Stars registering

The Rising Stars Track Club, the South Belt area's longstanding youth program, is currently accepting registration and is conducting preseason workouts at the Dobie High School track. Team coaches are hosting workouts each Wednesday and Friday, from 4:45 p.m. to dark, Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. Both returning and first-year team members may register at any of the workout sessions.

Pearland Rotary charity golf

Pearland Rotary Club officials have announced plans for the group's 47th annual Golf for Charity tournament, coming to Golfcrest Country Club Friday, May 4. Participants will enjoy golf, a lunch, a celebratory dinner, silent auction and more during the course of the fun-filled day. There will also be a closest-to-the-pin contest in addition to the ever-popular Fireball Challenge. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., and golf begins at noon. To register for the event, visit www.PearlandRotaryGolf.com.

Blackhawk Seahawks FB signing up

The Blackhawk Seahawks' youth football program, complete with drill team and cheerleading squads, is currently registering boys and girls ages 5 to 12 years old, for the 2018 fall season. The cost is \$200 each for football players and \$350 each for drill team and cheerleader members. The Blackhawk Seahawks are members of the South Texas Youth Football Association and play their home games at Dobie High School. To register youths, visit the team website at www.leaguelineup.com/blackhawkseahawks. For additional information, call team president Lisa Sanchez at 832-969-8542.



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