

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Beltway 8 closures set

At least one inside lane on both the east-bound and westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads from Beamer to South Wayside Drive will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 31.

The U-turn lanes on the Beltway 8 frontage road at Beamer and at Pearland Parkway will both be closed continuously until midnight, Friday, March 31. Both the Blackhawk exit and Monroe entrance on Beltway 8 will be closed through Saturday, July 8.

Knights hold fish fry

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a fish fry fundraising dinner on Fridays through April 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road. The menu includes a breaded catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea or lemonade. The cost is \$10, eat in or take out. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities.

Library seeks donations

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-1959/Dixie Farm Road to FM-528/NASA Road 1 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, March 31. Alternate exit/entrance ramps will be closed.

Gulflhaven opens food bank

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

CrossRoads health fair set

CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale, will hold a health fair Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature health screenings and blood donations. For a mammogram, call CrossRoads UMC at 281-484-9243 to register by Friday, March 24. ID required.

Lariaettes hold Spring Show

The Dobbie Lariaettes will hold their annual Spring Show from Thursday, April 6, through Saturday, April 8, in the school auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each.

Dobie Theater to perform

Dobie Theatre UIL will hold a one-act play on Thursday, March 23, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Entry is \$5.

Moore scholarships available

Moore Elementary Student Council will offer four scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobbie High School who attended Moore in fourth grade. Applications are available through the Dobbie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Thursday, April 13.

Dobie 40th reunion set

The J. Frank Dobbie High School Class of 1977 has set the dates for its 40th reunion. This will be a two-day event, starting Friday evening, Sept. 15, and ending with the main event Saturday night, Sept. 16. A Friday night mixer will be at South Shore Harbor from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday's main event will be at the Green Event Center, located at 2000 W. Parkwood Ave. in Friendswood, from 7 p.m. to midnight. For additional information, visit www.jfrankdobbie1977.com or www.facebook.com/jfd1977.

Weber vendors sought

Weber Elementary PTA is seeking vendors for their Spring Carnival set for Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is \$25 per exhibit space. Bring a set-up (table and chairs) which must fit in the space provided. Anyone interested in renting a space, should contact Kelly Jo Henry at KHENRY@ccisd.net.

Beverly Hills to meet

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will hold a meeting Monday, April 10, at the recreation room at Beverly Hills Park, located at 10201 Kingspoint, from 6 to 7 p.m.

KWS annual meeting set

The Kirkwood South Committee's annual meeting will be held Thursday, March 30, in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's courtroom, 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer, at 7:30 p.m. All Kirkwood South residents are urged to attend.

Ellington celebrates 100th anniversary

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Ellington Field.

Named for 1st Lt. Eric Ellington, a pioneering U.S. Army aviator who was killed in a plane crash in 1913, the 2,300-acre facility is now known as Ellington Airport and serves as both a military and public airport.

The local airport/military base now has the rare distinction of housing all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. The military base hosts both active and reserve units.

The facility also serves as home for Texas Air National Guard's 147th Reconnaissance Wing. Formerly known as the 147th Fighter Wing, the unit changed its name to 147th Reconnaissance Wing in 2008 when its focus shifted from flying F-16 aircraft to operating a fleet on unmanned

MQ-1B Predator drones, following recommendations from the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

While TANG's 147th Reconnaissance Wing, commanded by an Air Force colonel, operates as the host unit for the joint base, the Army Reserve's 75th Training Command, led by a major general, is the senior military command on site.

Ellington also serves as a base for much of NASA aircraft flight operations.

In June 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration granted a license to the Houston Airport System that will allow Ellington to construct a commercial spaceport - the 10th such facility in the United States.

Currently still in its design phase, the spaceport will serve as a launch site for reusable launch vehicles, which execute horizontal launches,

rather than vertical, similar to commercial aircraft. Other potential uses for the facility include launching micro satellites, astronaut training, zero-gravity experimentation and even spacecraft manufacturing.

Last month, the spaceport project received a \$1 million federal grant to help build roadways and utilities needed to attract aerospace companies to the future site.

Also in 2015, ground was officially broken on the Lone Star Flight Museum, set to open in the near future.

In addition to its collection of rare historic aircraft, the 130,000-square-foot museum, which occupies 13 acres at Ellington, will feature interactive, educational exhibits focusing on the science, technology, engineering and math concepts essential to flight, while allowing visitors to explore the state's rich aviation heritage.

Originally located in Galveston, the museum

was forced to relocate after receiving extensive damage during Hurricane Ike in 2008. The site has been leased from the City of Houston for 40 years at the cost of only \$1 per year.

Each October, Ellington hosts the annual Wings Over Houston Airshow. Featuring both vintage and state-of-the-art aircraft, the event is one of the largest of its kind in the country.

Built in 1917 during the height of World War I, Ellington Field was originally used as a pilot training facility. At its peak, the base housed approximately 5,000 men and 250 aircraft (a technology then still in its infancy). After the war's conclusion, the base was deemed unnecessary by the military and was ordered to be dismantled.

In 1928, what little remained of the base was destroyed by fire.

The imminence of U.S. involvement in World War II, however, prompted the reconstruction of

Continued on Page 2A

Work resumes on controversial duplex



Construction recently resumed on a controversial duplex in the 11500 block of Quincewood in the Woodmeadow Section I subdivision that neighboring homeowners say violates the neighborhood's deed restrictions. A district judge issued a temporary restraining order halting construction on the project last October, unless the owner changed the design to a single-family dwelling. Plaintiffs in the case said they are unaware of any such new plans.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Annual cook-off set for April 27-29

The 21st annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off will take place Thursday, April 27, through Saturday, April 29, 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.)

Organized by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the event is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks display, also to be 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 kids 12 and under being admitted for free.

A Kids Fun Zone will take place Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Free children's activities include 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.

Police, fire department and EMS vehicles will also be on display.

Attendees will also have a chance to take photos with a live Watusi bull named Oliver.

While 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.

At press time, roughly 10 cooking spots were still available. Sponsorship opportunities are also still available. Cooking spots are \$175 for a 40 foot by 40 foot space.

Admission on Friday will be \$10. Admission on Saturday will be \$5 before 4 p.m. and \$10 after.

A cookers meeting for registered teams will take place Tuesday, April 18, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road.

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

Trash pickup dates change for some

Beginning Monday, April 3, residents living in the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will have their waste collection provided by Texas Pride Disposal.

All previous collection policies currently in place will continue.

However, residents of Riverstone Ranch and Clear Brook Meadows will see a change on the days their trash is collected. Residents in those two subdivisions will have their pickup dates switched from Monday and Thursday to Tuesday and Friday.

Pickup dates for all other subdivisions in the district will remain Monday and Thursday.

All waste should be placed at curbside no later

than 7 a.m.

As is previous policy, residents will continue to receive service on most holidays except for New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

In the event that a service day falls on a holiday, the collection will roll over to the next regularly scheduled collection day.

Residents should check the MUD's website at www.cbemud.com or the back of their calendar for current regulations on household trash, yard waste, heavy and bulk trash and items excluded from regular collection.

For additional information, call the district at 281-484-1562 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Police investigate apartment death

Houston police are investigating the death of a man 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.

At press time, the identity of the man, in his 40s, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Anyone with any additional information on this case is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Homicide Division at 713-308-3600.

Turn lanes coming to Beamer, 2351

On Tuesday, March 14, Harris County Commissioners Court approved spending to hire a consultant to design turn lanes at the intersection of Beamer and FM-2351.

Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam was awarded the \$160,000 contract to perform the work.

The contractor will design the reconstruction of the existing two-lane road to provide a through lane along with right and left turning lanes in both directions.

The endeavor will relieve traffic congestion at the intersection, which has long been problematic for area drivers.

The estimated construction cost is \$1.5 million.

Construction is expected to start the last quarter of this year. Once begun, construction is expected to take three to four months to complete.

In October, Phase I of Beamer reconstruction project was completed. That project, which extended Beamer from Tall Ships Lane to West Bay Area Boulevard, included a four-lane, divided roadway with traffic signal upgrades, storm sewer and drainage improvements.

Morman speaks on state of Precinct 2

Dozens of community leaders and elected representatives were in attendance Thursday, March 16 as Harris County Commissioner Jack Morman delivered an address on the current state of Precinct 2.

Represented by Morman since 2011, Precinct 2 includes more than 380 employees operating 50 parks, 17 community centers, more than 1,300 miles of county roads, the Lynchburg Ferry and the Washburn Tunnel. The precinct also includes 99 percent of the Houston Ship Channel and the Port of Houston. Composed of 15 separate cities, Precinct 2 has twice the number of cities as any other precinct in the county.

"If anything, I've learned we have to stand together, or we'll get run over," Morman said.

Morman discussed the recent opening of San Jacinto College's new Maritime Technology and Training Center, located along the Port of Houston at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte. Approved by voters as part of a 2008 bond referendum, the new center will provide students state-

of-the-art training facilities in the growing industry.

The commissioner also spoke on the planned expansion of Beltway 8 and the replacement of the Beltway 8 Ship Channel toll bridge. The expansion will widen the beltway from two to four lanes in each direction from the Gulf Freeway to Highway 225. The replacement bridge will also be four lanes in each direction, rather than the existing two lanes.

The improvements are expected to cost roughly \$1.5 billion, with around \$900 million being spent on the bridge portion. The design phase was recently completed, and the project will soon be going out for bids. Construction is scheduled to be complete in approximately three years, perhaps sooner.

"Our goal is to finish ahead of schedule and under budget," Morman said.

Once completed, the new bridge is expected to last at least 100 years, according to the commissioner.

Naked man causes disturbance

A naked man was taken into custody Friday, March 17, after climbing a barbed wire fence and entering the Brio Superfund site at the intersection of Beamer and Dixie Farm Road.

The Houston Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team responded to the incident around 12:30 p.m. after receiving complaints that the man was walking in and out of traffic at the intersection.

Officers repeatedly tried to calm down the man but were unsuccessful. At one point, the man attempted to run away from the officers and was shot with a conducted energy device (CED), but the man was unfazed. Police said the man

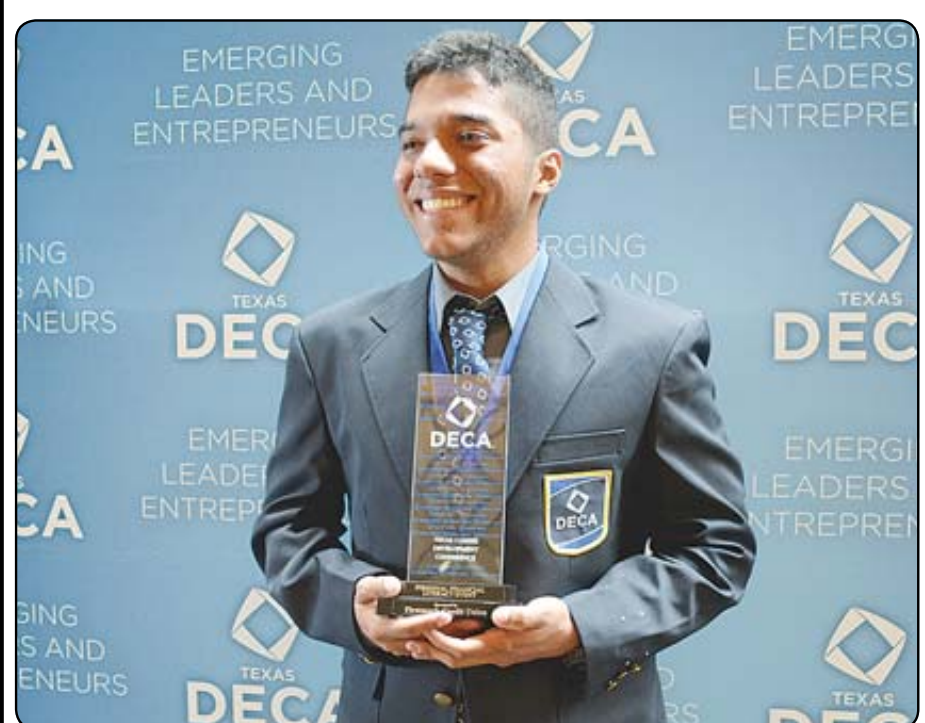
pulled the darts out from his body and continued to run away from the officers toward the Brio site.

After climbing the fence and entering the Superfund site, police were finally able to get the man to cooperate and were able to place him in protective custody. The man suffered minor injuries from climbing over the barbed wire.

The man was reportedly a military veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. He was transported by the Houston Fire Department to the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center for evaluation.

No police were injured.

Garcia heads to international contest



Dobbie senior Noe Garcia recently excelled at the state DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competition in San Antonio, advancing to the international competition in Anaheim, Calif., next month. Garcia won first place in his category of personal financial literacy. He was one of five Dobbie DECA students, including his twin sister, Nadia Garcia, to compete in the state competition. See additional photo on Page 3A.

Photo submitted

In My Opinion

Mother sets record straight on family

Nelly Quijano responds to Samson Tamijani for editorial on South Belt leader 3/16/17.

Mr. Tamijani, I am highly offended on your comments regarding my daughter, Mariselle Quijano. Let me begin by clarifying that she is an American, born in New York City. I am the Cuban-American. I was blessed to be able to come to this great country in 1961 as part of the Peter Pan Freedom Flights. I arrived to the United States without a penny in my pocket.

The Peter Pan Freedom Flights were orchestrated by the Catholic Charities and the U.S. State Department for fear of indoctrination that the Cuban Government would take away parental rights. A right that every human being should have and the right to choose how their children would be educated. Most of us, 14,000 to be exact, between the ages of 2 and 18 were placed in temporary shelters in Miami and relocated to 30 different states. Although I knew as a young girl that it was the right thing to do, it was very sad to leave my family and everything I knew to come to a foreign country where I didn't know anyone. I was only 15 years old!

Unfortunately, I never saw my parents until five years later. I was lucky enough to be able to speak English and soon got a job and enrolled in school at night. I married a wonderful man, Dominic, who was a very hard worker and between the two of us, set out to pursue the American Dream.

We worked from polishing silverware, working at a 5 & 10 while continuing to try to better our lives. We were not rich and had many ups and downs throughout our life, but we had great work ethic, dreams and persistence.

Hard work is what brought us to where we are today. This included many long hours, sleepless nights, but always with our chin up and ready to work each and every day. On a side note I want you to be aware that my husband Dominic also participated in the Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961.

We taught our two daughters, to never forget where we came from. We taught them the value of hard work and they both started working at a very early age while going to school. We also taught them to speak and write Spanish which they speak fluently and throughout their lives, they have made wonderful friends from diverse ethnicities, religions and backgrounds.

My husband Dominic has been deceased for 12 years now. My daughter, Mariselle and I, run our business. We still go to work every day, day after day and employ over 1,400 individuals and are always available to help them at work as well as in their personal life.

To us they are not employees, they are our family. I can continue to give you more texture on our lives since your comments regarding my daughter Mariselle and our family history are totally inaccurate. I will be willing to sit with you at any time to clarify and educate you on the truth. I'm sure it will completely change your attitude and respect when addressing her or my family.

Gilardoni comments: community benefited

Hello Mr. Tamijani, I hope you are well. I would like to take a moment to comment on your article of last week. I was shocked to read the statement you made regarding Mariselle Quijano and wanted to share with you information that you might not know.

First, I would like to mention that what Ms. Quijano does in the community benefits youth and families of all races, including the Hispanic community. I personally know the Quijano family for over twenty years.

Mariselle has been and continues to be one of the strongest voices at McDonald's on behalf of the Hispanic community. She has worked with the advertising agency to protect and raise awareness of the value of the Hispanic market. Not too many companies culturally talked to Hispanics 25 years ago. I have personally worked with her in different projects that directly benefit all our Hispanics in the City of Houston and surrounding areas, specifically the youth.

She is a strong believer of education and has been involved with the HACER program (Hispanic American Commitment for Educational Resources) since 1992.

She has been a judge for the scholarship program since then, which has granted over \$30 million since its inception. This event takes place once a year and awards \$185,000 to graduating seniors in the Greater Houston Area, and a half a million dollar nationally.

For the last three years, she has been part of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute and Cool Speak, which speaks to High School Seniors and counsels them on the importance of education and how to obtain scholarships and financial aid. Among other things, she has been part of all the Hispanic events in the communities where they do business.

She participated in Christmas with Santa with the Ripley House for many years, Back to School Operation Backpack, Bike giveaway for under privilege children with the Neighborhood Centers in Pasadena as well as McTeacher's Nights, once a month, where the proceeds benefit the PISD Education Foundation.

This in turn benefits many children in the Pasadena area. I can go on and on about the things that Ms. Quijano does on

behalf of our community and our children. She is an excellent role model and an inspiration not only for our youth but for every Hispanic that resides in the City of Houston and its neighboring cities. I am writing because we as community need to do right for the people that work so hard to better our society. I hope this brings you some light and helps you know Mariselle a little better.

Best regards,
Graciela Gilardoni

Jesse: we need to be informed, involved

Just wanted to say thank you for your response to Mr. Tamijani's opinion in *South Belt Leader*.

I know Pasadena has a problem that will eventually be fixed, to some extent, and totally agree with your response.

I always remember the days when I would drive down Red Bluff Rd. on my way to SJC Central and seeing the small bldg. on the left, KKK meeting place.

Don't exactly remember if it had a name but always scary and had me thinking, "What if I was back in the day when the klan wielded so much power? How would I as a Hispanic be treated?"

Thank goodness times have changed and racism will continue to fade away.

My brother-in-law is running for District G in Pasadena city council, Oscar DelToro.

Although we do not see eye to eye when it comes to politics, I do support him wanting to become a councilman for Pasadena and make changes.

I have learned a lot from him on the politics of Pasadena and Isbell's role in that.

I know here locally the council race, we have no say in, but we do need to be informed and involved in the school district election.

I definitely think that PISD is doing a great job for our kids.

I'm not a great writer, but just wanted you to know that I support you and the *South Belt Leader* and had no problem with the articles about the Latino PAC. Can't believe Quijano is not "Latino" enough for the Latino PAC.

Jesse Gonzalez

Publisher's note: Thanks so much for your letter and your kind comments. Also, thanks for knowing we need to be involved in local politics, and you can't be more local than the local school district. To me, it is more important to be involved in the local politics, because that is where you can really make a difference.

Muecke wishes more people would speak up

The first thing I always read is the Letters to the Editor. The one today was interesting. I do want to thank you for answering in a very positive way what he was mis-quoting and some items that he made an issue of.

I just wish more people would speak up to help correct things that are wrong in America today.

It is so unfortunate that this type are the ones that speak up and many then follow this thinking.

One thing I have to really agree with Trump on and that is fake news.

Montemayors support Fred, incumbents

We support Fred Roberts who has done an outstanding job during his years of service as a board member of the Pasadena Independent School District.

We also support the three other incumbents and hope that the voters of PISD vote to continue the success that has been accomplished in facilities and programs promoting student success.

Bowers recognizes Roberts' proven record

Dear neighbors and friends in the South Belt area.

Today I am asking that you consider Fred Roberts as he runs for another term on the PISD board of trustees. He has a proven record of service to the students and employees of Pasadena.

He serves for no other reason than to make sure our students receive the best possible education. One that will send them off prepared to meet the challenges that face them in real world experiences.

He supports and works well with other leaders and searches for ways to keep our district and students current with ever changing curriculum and technology.

He is approachable and welcomes your questions and comments concerning matters of the educational needs of children in the community.

I encourage you to consider this fact. A person that has years and years of positive and proven leadership and term after term is reelected to continue seeking out ways to support and improve the quality of education is a very good thing.

Let's continue to vote for people whose only reward is to make sure that PISD will always be the best of the best.

Judy Bowers
16 years- Stuchbery Elem. teacher
17 years- Freeman Elem. Asst. Principal and Principal

James "Mickey" Goodwin



Former longtime South Belt resident James "Mickey" Michael Goodwin, age 69, died Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at Michael E. DeBakey VA Memorial Hospital. He was born on Nov. 9, 1947, in Houston, the son of Robert Earl Goodwin and Naomi Doris Roach. He graduated from Milby High School in 1966 and continued his education earning an associate degree at San Jacinto College.

After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army in Germany during the Vietnam War. He was very proud to serve his country and remained a

staunch advocate of the armed forces throughout his life. During a brief leave, he married the love of his life, Rhonda Lynn Spiller, in 1968. Soon after, he became a dad to Brian, Brandon, and Kimberly, whom he considered his greatest accomplishment. They all attended South Belt schools. Mickey's most favorite memories were of times spent with his family and friends who all lived nearby.

After his service in the Army, he worked as a newspaper journeyman for the Houston Chronicle and Houston Post. Subsequent to hanging

up his newspaper shoes, Mickey worked as an independent real estate broker in the greater Pearland and Houston area. One could always find him wheeling and dealing a new sale, finding families a home in which many years of memories could be created.

For leisure, Mickey loved playing golf with his friends and watching any Houston sports team, particularly the Houston Astros. As a lifelong baseball fan, he coached many little league teams and recently could be found in the stands cheering for his grandson who played for Pearland Little League. More than anything, he loved attending the events of his grandchildren and was so proud of their accomplishments.

Mickey is survived by his wife; oldest son Brian Goodwin; son Brandon Goodwin and daughter-in-law Lindy Goodwin; daughter Kimberly Goodwin Gale and son-in-law David Gale, all of Pearland; and grandchildren William Gale, McKenna Simecek, Austin Goodwin, Megan Gale, Melanie Gale, Caden Goodwin, and Carly Goodwin, all of Pearland. He will also be loved and missed by his brother Gary Austin "Buddy" Goodwin and wife Patsy of Lago Vista; sister Mary Katherine Goodwin Stagni of Golden Valley, Minn., and husband Lee; sister Deborah Susan Goodwin Kennedy, of Elkhart, Texas, and her husband Mark; and many nieces and nephews, whom he loved very much. He will also be missed by his in-laws Bonnie and David McFarland and Larry and Dona Spiller, all of Madisonville.

Mickey is preceded in death by his parents and his brother Robert Glenn Goodwin.

Visitation was Friday, March 17, at Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland. The funeral service was Saturday, March 18, at Crowder Funeral Home followed by a brief graveside burial service at Mt. Tabor Cemetery in Madisonville. Friends may share a memory or a condolence at <http://www.crowderfuneralhome.com>.

Charles "C.M." Milton Leonard



Charles Milton Leonard, Jr., better known as C.M. or Chuck, died peacefully at his home on March 15, 2017. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend.

C.M. was born April 14, 1932 in Houston. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1949-1953. Once he was out of the Navy, he began his lifelong career with the Houston Police Department. He retired in 1982 as a detective in the Rob-

bery Division.

C.M. is preceded in death by his father Charles Milton Leonard Sr., his mother Lena Wuenche, and brother Douglas W. Leonard. He leaves to cherish his memories his wife of 66 years, Sonia Leonard; daughter Sonia Leonard Thorpe and husband Richard; daughter Charlie Leonard Williamson; daughter Teena Leonard; granddaughter Marcy Rambeau Lyon and husband Richard; granddaughter Leah Williamson Bartosch and husband Nate; great-grandsons Parker and Preston Lyon; and all of his ohana in Hawaii.

C.M. enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending lazy days at his bay house. His most favorite pastime was spending time with his family.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to C.M.'s friends who lifted his spirits in his last days at home. And, a special thanks to Jerry Arthur and Kerri Arthur Biddle for the countless hours of help, guidance and late nights.

In honor of C.M.'s life, the family will receive friends from 2 until 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, with the memorial at 3 p.m. at Niday Funeral Home, Beamer Chapel.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

The Kirkwood Civic Club will hold a community meeting on Thursday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road.

Members of the *Southbelt This & That* Facebook page show examples of ways to ensure their children's safety when playing outside by parking cars at the end of driveways and placing garbage bins out to help slow down oncoming traffic and deter children from running into the street. To view photographs of examples of ways to ensure children's safety when playing outside, visit the *Southbelt This & That* Facebook page.

A member of the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page spreads word on a young man who offered to help the resident load groceries in the rain in the parking lot of Kroger near Sabo and Beltway 8. The member reportedly hesitated when the young man offered but decided to give him a chance. The member expresses how there is still some good in the community. For additional information visit the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page.

The *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page is a page designed for residents of the South Belt community to have the ability to post photographs of their lost and found pets in the area. For additional information or photographs of missing pets, visit and join the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

Ellington now 100 years old

Continued from Page 1A
the base in 1941. Manpower again rose to 5,000, as Ellington served once more as a training facility (as it would during the Korean War).

Following World War II, Ellington served primarily as a reserve air base from 1945 until 1948. In March 1949, however, Ellington was re-activated as part of Cold War preparations and renamed Ellington Air Force Base.

The City of Houston annexed Ellington in the late 1960s, and the base was officially deactivated by the Air Force in 1976, forcing the facility to change its name back to simply Ellington Field. In 1984, the city purchased Ellington to use as a third civilian airport, but the military, as well as NASA, still maintain a large presence there.

In 2010, Ellington underwent a massive military expansion as part of the *Grow the Army* project. The expansion included the construction of ten new buildings for the Army National Guard and reserve units.

The \$80 million construction project included a 40,000-square-foot battle command training center and a second Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The U.S. Coast Guard broke ground on its new command center at Ellington in January 2012. The four-story, 117,000-square-foot facility replaced the previous Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston headquarters located in Galena Park.

Once combined with the new Reserve base, the installation of the Coast Guard center brought the total number of military personnel assigned to Ellington to approximately 7,000.

The base was again relabeled in January 2009 when the City of Houston changed its name to Ellington Airport. The military installation, however, continues to retain some of its history and is now known as the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base.

Local library events set

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through April 17. There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, April 14. Volunteers from AARP TaxAide will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo-ID, Social Security card and any other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements and other necessary forms.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be at the library on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through April 8. VITA offers free tax assistance for those earning \$54,000 or less annually, persons with disabilities and taxpayers with limited English vocabulary. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Thursdays, March 23, 3 p.m. United Way Thrive presents the program *Interviewing, Resumes and Applications*.
Wednesdays, March 29, 2 p.m. STEM Time-Biology. Create seed starters, for ages 6 and older.

Wednesdays, March 29, 2:30 p.m., the Internet class is Computer Basics.
Thursdays, March 30, 2 p.m. Book discussion on *The Secret Chord*, by Geraldine Brooks.
Friday, March 31, 5 p.m. Anime club: *Sword Art Online*, rated TV-14, for ages 13 and older.

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.
Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.
Saturdays, Vietnamese learning time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on these programs, phone the library at 281-484-2036. Parker Williams Library hours are: Monday, 1 - 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

For more information on these programs, phone the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:
Thursdays, March 23, 6 p.m. Book Club: *The After Party*
Thursday, March 23, 6:30 p.m. Knitting and Crochet
Saturday, March 25, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class
Saturday, March 25, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. English learning; 12:30 p.m. Lego playtime
Saturday, March 25, 3 p.m. Citizenship class
Tuesday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. Baby storytime; 10:30 a.m. Toddler playtime
Wednesday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. Polliwog Club: Live animals
Wednesday, March 29: Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

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

Laura Bush Elementary celebrates Go Western Day

Laura Bush Elementary celebrated Go Western Day on March 3. Students dressed in western attire and enjoyed their day as cowboys and cowgirls. Shown, posing for the photo, left to right, are kindergarten stu-

dents Anissia Vega, Adeleine Escamilla, Ximena Serrano, Isabella Martinez, Lizeida Villarreal, Arianna Lavergne, Mayra Lira, Mia Amaya, Azaria Alanis and Valeria Tinajero. Photo by Maria Palacios



Shown above, left to right, kindergarten students enjoying the day are Jackson Clem, Abraham Ibarra, Noah Holguin, Emmanuel Guevara and John Roman. Photo by Maria Palacios



Shown above, Alecia Walters (teacher, third from left) poses with second-grade students, left to right, Marcus Rodriguez, Jesse Alvarado, Joshua Jamaica, Tiffani Tillman and Giselle Munguia. Photo by Maria Trela



Shown, left to right, the fourth-grade class gathering together with their teacher to show off their western attire are (front row) Samantha Lira, Andrea Sagastizano, Joanna Williams, Pablo Garcia, Christian Hernandez, Elin Svensson, Mia Gomez, Adriana Ramirez, (back row) Emmanuel Ealy, Atziri Gonzalez, Rebecca Santana, Elias Merced, Roberto Nunez, Alicia Garcia (teacher), Amy Cedillo, Monica Ramos, Casey Aleman and Mia Arana. Photo by Nadja Diaz

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

South Belt announces March VIPs



South Belt Elementary announced its VIPs for the month of March. The students were chosen by their teachers based on their ability to display the character trait of the month: Generosity. Shown, left to right, (front row) Chacidy Carter, Brandon Vivier, Mikayla Gonzalez, Lola Carrizal, Isabell Garcia, (second row) Aja Breaux, Julie Rich, Bella Starks, Paul Salinas, Gabriela Ramirez, Juwayriyah Ali, Isaiiah Machado, (third

row) Shawn Deedman, Allyssa Laurila, Patrick Fobbs, Kayla Calderon, Marina Kostikoglou, Samantha Trevino, (fourth row) Kinotsu Ploucha, Thu Vu, Jakeida Cervantes, Ivan Ayala, Sural Alcorta, Richmond Huynh, Emily Alvarado, (back row) Carter Wright, Isaiiah Johnson, Mason Harris, Elijah Perez, Dhelaya Hernandez, Jonathan Alexander and Rayan Mirza.

Photo by Lakitha Green

SJC to host summer camps for children

Parents who are looking for something fun and educational for their children this summer should look no further than San Jacinto College. The College plans to again host a variety of fun and enriching summer camps and activities for children of all ages at each of its four campuses.

There is something for every interest from athletics and career exploration, to arts and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and everything in between.

Camp prices vary and some offer scholarships to those who qualify to assist with camp tuition. For more information and to register for camps visit sanjac.edu/summer-camps.

Arts

KidSpot: Summer Musical Theatre Camp for Youth Summer at Theatre. San Jacinto presents an ideal opportunity for a child to experience the range of activities possible at a theater. June 5 through June 9 and June 12 through June 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$150.

Athletics

Baseball Camp. The San Jacinto College baseball camp will cover all aspects of the game of baseball including hitting, base running and defensive play at each position. Proper throwing will be emphasized as well during the four-day camp. Games will also be played to apply all phases of the game of baseball. June 13 through June 15, 9 a.m. to noon. Location will be at North campus. There is no charge for this camp.

Basketball Camp. This camp will provide beginners with the basic fundamentals of the game, help advanced players develop their skills to a higher degree, provide opportunities to be challenged, and teach offense, defense, and strategies for game situations. July 17 through July 21, 2 to 5 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$90.

Basketball Camp. San Jacinto College Basketball Camp will focus on the fundamentals of basketball to include ball handling, footwork, shooting and passing in a setting that includes 1-on-1 and 3-on-3 skill work. July 17 through July 20, 9 a.m. to noon. Location will be at North campus. Cost is \$105.

Volleyball Camp. Players will be engaged in activities that will focus on improvement of their all-around game by focusing on the six major skills (passing, setting, blocking, defense, serving, attacking) of volleyball through fast paced training and game-like drills. July 19 through July 21, 10 a.m. to noon. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$90.

Career Exploration

Energy Venture - Career in the Energy Industry. Energy Venture is a summer one-week day camp for 12 to 15-year-old students. Camps focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities, skills needed in the energy industry and future career opportunities in the field. This camp will be held weekly in June and July. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. Location will be at Central, South and North campuses. There is no charge for those who qualify.

Maritime Venture Camp. This is a fun, exciting way for 14- to 17-year-olds to learn all about the maritime industry. Campers will have the opportunity to explore exciting careers available in the area's thriving maritime industry. June 12 through June 16 and June 26 through June 30; Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Location will be at the Maritime campus. Cost is \$25.

Education and STEM Engineering with Duct Tape. Using Tinker Toys, Duct tape, K'Nex, recycled materials, Mentos, rubber bands, Legos, balloons and lots of imagination campers will experience the ultimate science summer camp exploring rockets, robots, roller coasters and race cars. Students in grades 3 through 5 will explore a fun side of engineering and the joy of Duct Tape. June 26 through June 29, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$125.

Ink Slingers Writing Camp. Embark on a nautical adventure in individual expression with short stories, character development and multimedia activities. June 5 through June 9, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$75.

STEM Survivor Camp. Campers will be challenged to compete in contests such as building a running vehicle

with only household items, constructing a JudoBot, creating a Rube Goldberg machine or walking on water. Students in grades 6 through 8 will participate in fun activities that encourage STEM learning through fun adventures. July 10 through July 13, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$125.

Water-Bots and Air-Bots (Beginner). Underwater robotics, drones and rockets in this week-long, NASA-inspired camp full of hands-on activities and in-depth analysis of what makes aerospace so fascinating. Guest speakers will be available from the industry and hands-on experiments to expand camper's understanding. June 5 through June 9 and June 12 through June 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$185.

Water-Bots and Air-Bots (Intermediate). Underwater robotics and rockets in this week-long, private space inspired camp full of hands-on activities and in-depth analysis of what makes the private space sector so exciting. Robotics experience and soldering experience preferred. June 19 through June 23, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$195.

Water-Bots Pro (Advanced). This is a programmer's dream, and campers will be challenged in every aspect of their build. Experience required. June 26 through June 30, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Location will be at Central campus. Cost is \$200.

Upward Bound Summer Program. Rising ninth and 10th graders from Galena Park High School and Channelview High School can participate in this program that helps get first generation college-going students living in low to moderate income homes ready for four-year university study once the student graduates from high school. This summer program includes classes in core subject areas, as well as the social sciences, art and laboratory science. June 5 through June 14, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location will be at North campus. Cost is free to income-qualifying families.

Music

Middle School Band Camp. The Middle School Band Camp is open to any talent level band students

ages 11 to 15. Musical activities will vary from large rehearsals to master classes to sectionals to solo competition. Students will perform under the batons of excellent band conductors and work with leading professional musicians from the Houston area. Students will learn band works to perform a concert the last day of camp, Friday at noon. Snacks are provided; students are to bring a sack lunch each day except for Friday, when there will be a pizza party. June 12 through June 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location will be at North campus. Cost is \$30.

Piano Camp. Under the direction of Dr. Kingchi Au, the summer piano camp is designed for beginning level students ages 6 to 13. Camp activities vary and include fundamental skills and drills, master classes, piano ensemble, basic music theory and musical enrichment. Students will learn piano ensemble pieces to perform a concert on the last day of camp, Friday at noon. Snacks are provided; students are to bring a sack lunch each day except for Friday, when there will be a pizza party. June 19 through June 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location will be at North campus. Cost is \$95.

Woodwind and Brass Camp. The Woodwind and Brass Camp is open to high school-level woodwind players and brass players. Daily musical activities will include large rehearsals, comprehensive master classes, and sectionals led by some of the finest woodwind and brass musicians in Houston. The camp is designed to provide teens with the insight and skill development to be more consistent performers through an intensive program of study. Snacks are provided; students are to bring a sack lunch each day except for Friday, when there will be a pizza party. July 17 through July 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location will be at North campus. Cost is \$30.

San Jacinto College locations and addresses are: Central campus is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

North campus is located at 5600 Uvalde Rd in Houston. South campus is located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston.

Maritime campus is located at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte.

Camp dates, times and costs are subject to change.

Meador participates in Read Across America

On March 2, Meador Elementary celebrated Read Across America which is an annual event to promote the love of reading and to celebrate the beloved Dr. Seuss' birthday. Staff and students enjoyed wearing Dr. Seuss shirts and hats, school-wide reading of Dr. Seuss books and participating in various Dr. Seuss-themed activities throughout the day.

Shown below, first-grader Antwon Olezene tries some green eggs and ham that his teacher made for the class.

Photos submitted



Shown right, left to right, are Rhonda Parmer (associate superintendent), Amy Clowers (assistant principal), Kathryn Katus (peer facilitator), Lanalisa Sinclair (instructional aide), Steve Fullen (associate superintendent), Miriam Garcia (instructional aide), Tara Merida (counselor), Connie Daumas (peer facilitator), Johanna James (secretary), Alyta Harrell (associate superintendent) and Beverly Bolton (principal).



Shown above, left to right, teacher Detra Colbert reads her favorite Dr. Seuss book to first-grader Donovan Mandani, second-grader Johnny Vera and second-grader Darin Washington.



CenterFest introduces new podcast

The Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences (The Center) is introducing a new podcast for people who are interested in knowing more about what is happening at The Center. Specifically, this one is first in a series of programs about the upcoming spring festival known as CenterFest. Podcasts are a new channel of communication to reach even more people with information about the activities The Center offers. There will not be any fewer of the other types of communications. But the beauty of this or any podcast is that people can listen in their cars, offices, at the gym, while out walking, jogging, or just about anywhere else.

Podcast Details
In this installment Wes Copeland, executive director of The Center discusses many of the details regarding the upcoming spring event now known as CenterFest.

CenterFest will be May 6 and 7 on the grounds of The Center," Copeland said. "CenterFest is the evolution of the previous two year's art festivals, but with even more for families who may be new to the area or for those who have not visited the Center lately, or ever."

CenterFest 2017 will involve and employ every facet The Center offers and there is a great deal to offer. The Center includes an art museum, two theaters, a museum with fossils, mammoth bones, a megalodon jaw, rocks, minerals and a very impressive sea shell collection. It also includes a world class planetarium, and a symphony orchestra.

Tickets for CenterFest are \$5 for adults. Children 12 and under may attend at no charge.

Art Music Tacos

At the newly-branded CenterFest (formerly Texas Gulf Coast Arts Festival), one of the goals is to bring art buyers and artists together for both days of CenterFest. There are booths inside and outside The Center.

"There is a great connection people can make with the artist and the piece of art when they see and meet both at the same time," Copeland said.

"It is a great experience for people who love art and for those who love art but just may not know it yet."

Taco Cook-Off

CenterFest will introduce a new feature in the form of a taco cook-off competition. Teams will compete for prizes as they present their culinary take on the taco to a panel of independent judges. Applications for competitive taco teams are available on CenterFest's website.

Texas Style Music

For music, CenterFest will feature several bands that perform Caribbean jazz, Texas Style Country, blues, rock, and pop music. To top it all off, CenterFest will welcome the "one-night-only" return of Brazosport Symphony Orchestra in a special benefit concert and sponsors' reception to help raise money to improve accessibility into The Center.

"Our goal is to both attract more visitors with a fun festival and to raise \$40,000 to purchase and install automatic doors for the lobby spaces," Copeland said.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Benefits for sponsors include exclusive tickets to

Love! Concert and Reception (featuring Broadway show tunes sung by some of

Brazosport Center Stages' most talented vocalists and a not-to-be-missed wine and

food pairing) and high-visibility promotion of business- es sponsoring the festival and

its events. To learn more about CenterFest go to www.brazosportcenterfest.org.

Dobie DECA competes at SCDC



Five members of Dobie High School's Distributive Education Clubs of America competed in the 2017 State Career Development conference (in San Antonio Feb. 23 - 25). Shown, left to right, are Noe Garcia, senior; Nadia Garcia, senior and Dobie DECA president; Jose Reyes, freshman; Samantha Lopez, senior and Dobie DECA

vice president; Amber Allan, sponsor; and Kaitlyn Tran junior and Dobie DECA vice president. Noe Garcia won first in his section in Personal Financial Literacy and has qualified for the International Career Development conference in Anaheim, Calif., in April.

Photo by Joy Brown-Johnson

SJC announces upcoming events

San Jacinto College has announced its upcoming events.

Fine Arts Concert

A fine arts concert, featuring Dr. King Chi Au on piano, will be held on Friday, March 24 at noon, in the Fine Arts Auditorium (N-1.103) on the North Campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Music Department Scholarship Auditions

San Jacinto College will hold auditions for music scholarships from 9 a.m. to noon, on Saturday, March 25 in the Monte Blue Music Building (C5) in Corbin

Hall on the Central Campus. Call 281-476-1832 to schedule a scholarship audition time. For more information on scholarship auditions, visit: <http://www.sanjac.edu/campus-life/visual-performing-arts/audio-engineering/auditions-scholarships>.

Baseball game

The San Jacinto College baseball team will play Alvin Community College on Saturday, March 25 at 3 p.m., at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the North campus. For a full season schedule, visit sanjacsports.com.

Space Day

Space Day will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Thursday, March 30 in the science building (C-19) on the Central Campus.

This San Jacinto College Aerospace Academy event will connect students interested in the STEM fields to representatives from NASA and workforce industry leaders. Information will be provided on internships and scholarships, and networking opportunities will be available.

There will be food and door prizes.

Community Education Center Events

The San Jacinto College Community Education Center, located at the College's Central campus in room C-1.108, will host the following events that are free and open to the public:

English as a Second Language Information Session, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., March 28.

Computer Workshop for Seniors, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., March 31.

To register, email communityeducation@sjcd.edu or call 281-478-2786.

PISD fine arts calendar announced

The Pasadena Independent School District has announced its fine arts performances. Performances are listed with event name, time, date, location and ticket price:

- Williams Elementary Kindergarten Rodeo program, 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., March 10; Williams cafeteria.
- Pasadena Memorial High School Theatre UIL School performance, *The 39 Steps*, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., March 20; Pasadena Memorial auditorium.
- One Act Play contest, 11:30 a.m., March 21; Dobie High School.
- Dobie High School Theatre UIL One Act Play public performance, 3:30 p.m., March 23; Dobie auditorium.
- Big Art Day, 5 p.m., March 24; Veterans Memorial Stadium.
- One Act Play Bi-District contest, 7:03 a.m., March 25; Goose Creek Memorial Performing Arts Center in

Baytown.

- Jensen Elementary Music 1st Grade Musical: *BUGZ*, 8:30 a.m., March 31; Jensen cafeteria.
- Nelda Sullivan Middle School Spring band concert, 6 p.m., April 4; Nelda Sullivan cafeteria.
- Thompson Intermediate Dance performance at Dobie High School Lariatte Spring Show, 7 p.m., April 7 and 8; Dobie.
- Dobie High School Lariattes and Dance Spring Show, 7 p.m., April 6, 7 and 8; Dobie, tickets are \$10.
- Miller Intermediate, Beverly Hills Intermediate Band Festival for Concert Band, 6 p.m., April 7; Beverly Hills.
- Thompson Intermediate Dance performance at Dobie High School Lariatte Spring Show, 7 p.m., April 7; Dobie High School.
- Pasadena High School Eagle Escort Drill and Dance Spring Show, 7 p.m. on April

7 and 2 p.m. on April 8; Pasadena Auditorium, pre-sale tickets are \$7 and at the door tickets are \$10.

- Lomax Middle School Advanced band concert, 6 p.m., April 8; Lomax.
- Thompson Intermediate Dance Spring Showcase, 6 p.m., April 11; Thompson.
- Park View Intermediate Band Steel Drum band, 7 p.m., April 12; San Jacinto College Central Slocumb auditorium.
- Atkinson Elementary Kindergarten Western program, 3:30 p.m. on April 20 and 8:30 a.m. on April 21; Atkinson cafeteria.
- Gardens Elementary Music Fourth Grade program, 6 p.m., April 20; Gardens Cafeteria.
- Roberts Middle School Band Spring Concert, 6:30 p.m., April 20; Roberts cafeteria.
- Schneider Middle School Spartan Honor Band Gator Festival, 1 p.m., April 22;

McAdams Junior High School in Dickinson.

• Pasadena Memorial High School Spring Play: *An Evening of Culture*, 3 p.m. on April 27 and 28, 7 p.m. on April 28 and 29; Pasadena Memorial Black Box Theatre; tickets are \$3.

• Miller Intermediate Theatre and Dance presents: "Harvey," 6:30 p.m. on April 28 and 2 p.m. on April 29; Miller.

• Jensen Elementary Music First Grade Musical: *BUGZ*, 6 p.m., April 30; Jensen cafeteria.

• Hancock Elementary Third Grade Musical, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., May 2; Hancock cafeteria.

• Fisher Elementary Music All Grade Levels perform for Cinco de Mayo, 8:30 a.m., May 3; Fisher school gym.

• Milstead Middle School Beginner Orchestra Spring Concert, 6 p.m., May 3; Milstead cafeteria.

Continued on Page 6A

Fred Roberts announces Aviators for March



Fred Roberts Middle School named its March Aviators of the Month. Students are selected for Aviator of the Month by their teachers for exhibiting outstanding behavior, strong work ethic and positive character traits.

Aviators of the Month, left to right, are Alan Bui, fifth-grader; Joiliana Pena, fifth-grader; Loren Martinez, sixth-grader; and Rafael Galan, sixth-grader.

Photo by Emily Cruz



Over The Back Fence by Alexis

SAMANTHA CELEBRATES HER 30TH

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent from family and friends to **Samantha Thompson Ruiz** who celebrates her 30th birthday on March 28. She is a seventh-grade Texas history teacher at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

JUDGE DELGADO ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Judge **Jo Ann Delgado**, Harris County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Place 1, celebrates a birthday Sunday, 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 Monday, March 27, from the *Leader* staff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SEBASTIAN

A special happy birthday shout-out is sent to Dobie High School freshman **Sebastian Delgado** who celebrates his 15th birthday on March 23 from Veronica, Jose, Max, Xavier and Ruby Delgado.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 23 through March 29.

Atkinson Elementary

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

Burnett Elementary

Carmen Norris marks a day of celebration on March 25.

Bush Elementary

Maria Trela celebrates a birthday March 25. Send a birthday greeting March 28 to **Marcia Stark**.

Meador Elementary

Light the birthday candles March 23 on a cake for **Carissa Puckett**. On March 29, **Cecelia Stewart** enjoys a birthday.

Moore Elementary

The day for a party for **Melissa Hickman** is March 28.

South Belt Elementary

Kat 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

Blow out the candles for a double celebration March 24 for **Kimberly Salinas**.

Roberts Middle School

Marking a birthday March 23 is **Melissa Hargrave**. Send a birthday greeting March 25 to **Narcedalia Reyes**. Enjoying a birthday March 29 is **Valerie Kenney**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Share in the birthday celebration for **Daniel Mullen** March 23. Blow out the birthday candles for **Janis McKinney** March 26. Light the candles on a birthday cake March 29 to **Amanda Rachuig**.

Thompson Intermediate

Blow out the candles for **Travis Meyer** and **Joshua Prunedo** on March 24. On March 25, birthday wishes are sent to **James Sky-Eagle Smith**. Light the birthday candles for **Jamie Morgan** on March 28.

Dobie High

Robert Francis marks a day of celebration on March 23. Double birthday greetings are sent to **Emily Coughenour** and **Angela Gaston** March 24. **Glenda Nicholson** and **Tracy Whatley** are wished a happy birthday March 26. Blow out the birthday candles for **Stephanie Albert** on March 27.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Friday, March 24: **Jessica Faulkner, Jaime Napoli, Rainbow Montenegro, Larry Bischof and Michelle Noble**; Saturday, March 25: **Joe Dominguez, Iris Scentsy, LaMagnolia Trattoria Italiana, Chris Williams and Jeff Wright**; Sunday, March 26: **Andrew Crow, Pratik Bajpayee, Lori Johnson, Kevin Waters, Victoria Michelle, Sunday Evans and Brittany Waters**; Monday, March 27: **Chad Rivers, Erica Torres-Saenz, Eudocio Salinas, Cheryl Woods, Donna Hanson, Joan Zuñiga, Sharon Finney and Jimmy Massicott**; Tuesday, March 28: **Moses Mondragon, Jennifer Blake and Zina Corpus**; and Wednesday, March 29: **Melissa Oliviea, Marquice Scott, Adam Stringer, Mary Wilms, Veronica Rivera and Bobby Rodriguez**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email birthday, anniversary, congratulations, birth announcements, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

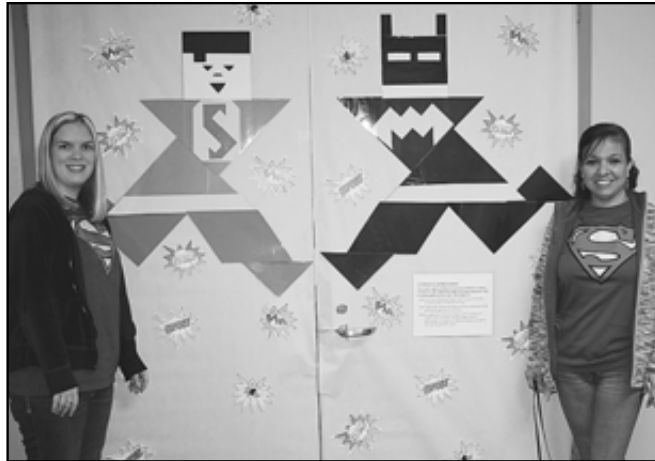
Frazier Elementary hosts math, science night

Frazier Elementary hosted Math and Science Night for its students and parents on Feb. 16. Harris County Precinct One Environmental Education Program also participated in Math and Science Night by setting up an interactive booth for parents and students to learn more about the environment and have hands-on experiences with several animals. The theme for the event was superheroes.

Photos by Susan Blue



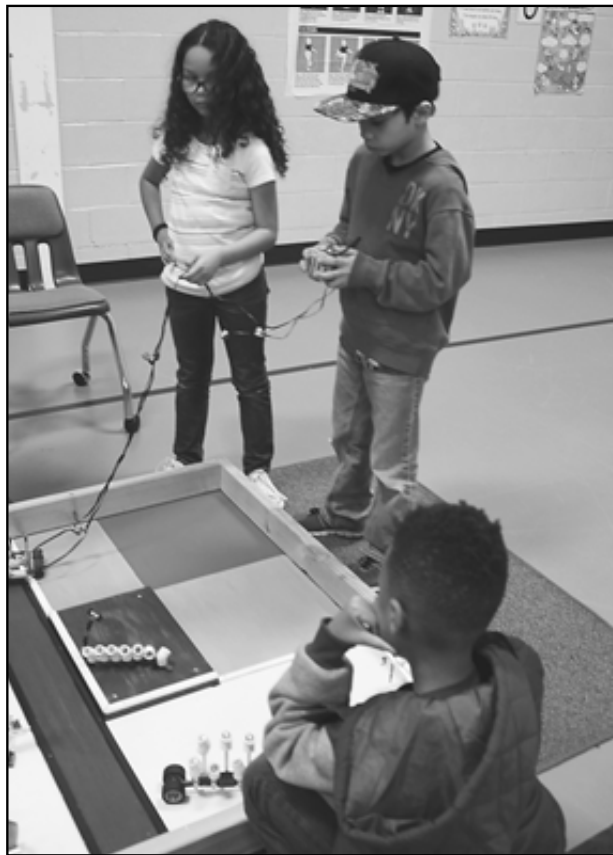
Left to right, Penelope Rodriguez and Haley Rodriguez experience touching a snake with Stefan Kuhlman of Harris County Precinct One.



Second-grade teachers Amanda Brewton (left) and Adriana Cortez (right) wait by the decorated superhero door for families to arrive.



Gemma Carter with her mother, Summer Carter, survey the third- and fourth-grade science fair projects on display.



Left to right, Avery Owens and Ray Solis show Dhailen Hopes and their parents (not pictured) how to drive their robotics bot.

Bettencourt's bill approved for voter approval of pension

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted March 20, 7-2 to approve Senate Bill 151 filed by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), which would require voter approval for a city to issue pension obligation bonds (POBs).

These bonds were originally authorized in 2003 and left out voter approval as one of the requirements. Since becoming law, the city of Houston has issued POBs seven times. The most recent request is for bond issuance in the amount of \$1 billion in order to reduce their current pension obligation.

This by far is the largest amount requested by

a city for this type of

been paid back during that 10-year time frame. "A public vote on pension obligation bonds is an important check and balance that was stripped out of the so-called reforms last decade," Bettencourt said.

"As a result of the original bill that left out voter approval, municipalities have been burying taxpayers under a mountain of debt and bonds, such as the \$8 billion and rising Houston pension problem. SB 151 puts approval of pension obligation bonds back where it belongs, in the hands of the voters!"

"Voters deserve a say on the issuance of pension obligation bonds," he added.

Municipalities issue POBs to fund all or any part of a municipal pension plan's unfunded liability without voter approval.

Since the passage of the original bill in 2003, Texas Public Policy Dallas, El Paso and Houston have all issued POBs. From 2005 to 2015, for example, Houston has issued \$608 million of these bonds

and only \$22 million has been paid back during that 10-year time frame.

SB 151 will allow voters to approve the issuance of this tax-backed debt. By adding voter approval for the issuance of POBs, SB 151 will help alleviate the problem of silent debt that eventually could be required to be repaid by the voters.

"I want to thank Chair Joan Huffman and the other members of the State Affairs Committee for taking a stand for the taxpayers and giving them the final word on pension obligation bonds," Bettencourt said. "Anytime a municipality considers \$1 billion of anything, the public should vote on it first!"

"I was proud of the public testimony for SB 151," Bettencourt added. "It included the retired firefighters, former Houston CPA Society President Bill Frazer, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and independent CFO consultant Bill St. Clair. This shows the wide support for the obvious: let the people vote!"

HC Master Gardeners to host free activities

The Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 will host two free activities during the month of April.

On Thursday, April 13, Louis Mickler will present "How to Take Care of Your Hand Tools" from 10 - 11:30 a.m., at Genoa Friendship Garden located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road in Houston.

There will be plants for sale in the greenhouse during this event. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

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Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
Two youths were killed in an accident on the Gulf Freeway between FM 2351 and Choate Road. A truck driven by James Lynn Creech was speeding and ran into a black Chevy sedan truck driven by David Pelaez. The two passengers in Pelaez's truck were killed.

Four Dobie students named as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program were Jean Fulton, Karen Netband, Joel West and Steve Erickson.

35 years ago (1982)
Members of the Sagemont Recreation Club agreed to recommend the general membership accept an offer from the city of Houston to take over the facility as a public park/recreation center.

25 years ago (1992)
Volunteer Fireman Scott Luce rescued a live goldfish from the Windjammer Apartments after a blaze.

A 15-year-old male Dobie student was arrested, and the arrest of three other students was pending, in connection with at least six reported beatings of students walking home from school. In all instances, the victim attended either Stuchbery Elementary or

Beverly Hills Intermediate and did not know the attacker nor provoke the attack.

30 years ago (1987)
A class-action lawsuit claiming discrimination was filed against the Pasadena Independent School District on behalf of four undocumented Hispanic workers and a Hispanic civil rights group.

Funeral services were held for two South Belt boys, Jeff Sandoval, 17, and Roland Rodriguez, 17. Their bodies were found washed up on Galveston beach following an automobile accident which also killed 19-year-old Michelle Bergier.

City of Houston police raided two South Belt area homes containing methamphetamine labs.

25 years ago (1992)
Weber Elementary closed due to its proximity to a toxic waste site.

20 years ago (1997)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 25th year of service.

Councilmember Rob Todd announced that the council had approved payments totaling over \$70,000 to acquire land for the Blackhawk Boulevard Paving Project for the completion of Blackhawk between Beltway 8 and Fuqua.

15 years ago (2002)
The Texas Academic Decathlon Association was ordered to hold a retest to determine the Texas state academic championship.

Dobie varsity basketball coach Scott Talton was named Boys Coach of the Year by the Houston Chronicle.

10 years ago (2007)
The long-awaited connection between Scarsdale and Yost Road opened after many delays. A ribbon-cutting ceremony included a speech by Pearland Mayor Tom Reid and was attended by representatives of both the South Belt-Ellington and Pearland chambers of commerce.

Cpl. Robert W. Engbrecht, who was critically injured in Iraq, returned home from Iraq to a hero's welcome with more than 100 people in attendance. Longtime South Belt resident and PISD teacher Carole Stockinger died un-

expectedly. She began her teaching career at Thompson Intermediate in 1981 before transferring to Dobie in 1991. Stockinger was responsible for starting the étalage, a magazine that published poems, artwork and stories composed by Dobie students.

5 years ago (2012)
Former Dobie teacher Richard Golenko was selected one of 10 national winners of the prestigious Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award presented annually by the Kennedy Center in Washington. During his 35-year career at Dobie, Golenko taught sociology and Latin and also served as the coach of the esteemed Longhorn Academic Decathlon team. Each of the 10 winners received a \$10,000 award.

Dobie teacher Jeanne Parlange was named the 2012 Science Teacher of the Year by Laying the Foundation, a Dallas-based national nonprofit group that promotes quality teacher training. A 25-year veteran of the area high school, Parlange teaches AP and Pre-AP Physics.

dent School District in the state competition in San Antonio. Under the leadership of coach Steven Higginbotham, the team included Bill Huynh, Steven Nguyen, Noelle Phan, Martin Nguyen, Rey Aguilar, Tareen Kazi, Noe Garcia, Christine Perry and Adrian De Los Santos.

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Delgado visits SJC government class

Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Harris County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2, Place 1, recently paid a visit to San Jacinto College government professor Dr. Nancy Liounis' Texas government class. The students were excited to see a real, practicing judge and politician, especially after we've been reading about Texas government all semester" said Liounis.

Judge Delgado meets SJC students



The Honorable Jo Ann Delgado, Harris County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2, Place 1, recently paid a visit to San Jacinto College government professor Dr. Nancy Liounis' Texas government class. Delgado shared her personal story of her path to leadership in the Texas judicial system and encouraged the students to work hard and be prepared for opportunities when they present themselves.

Photo by Nancy Liounis

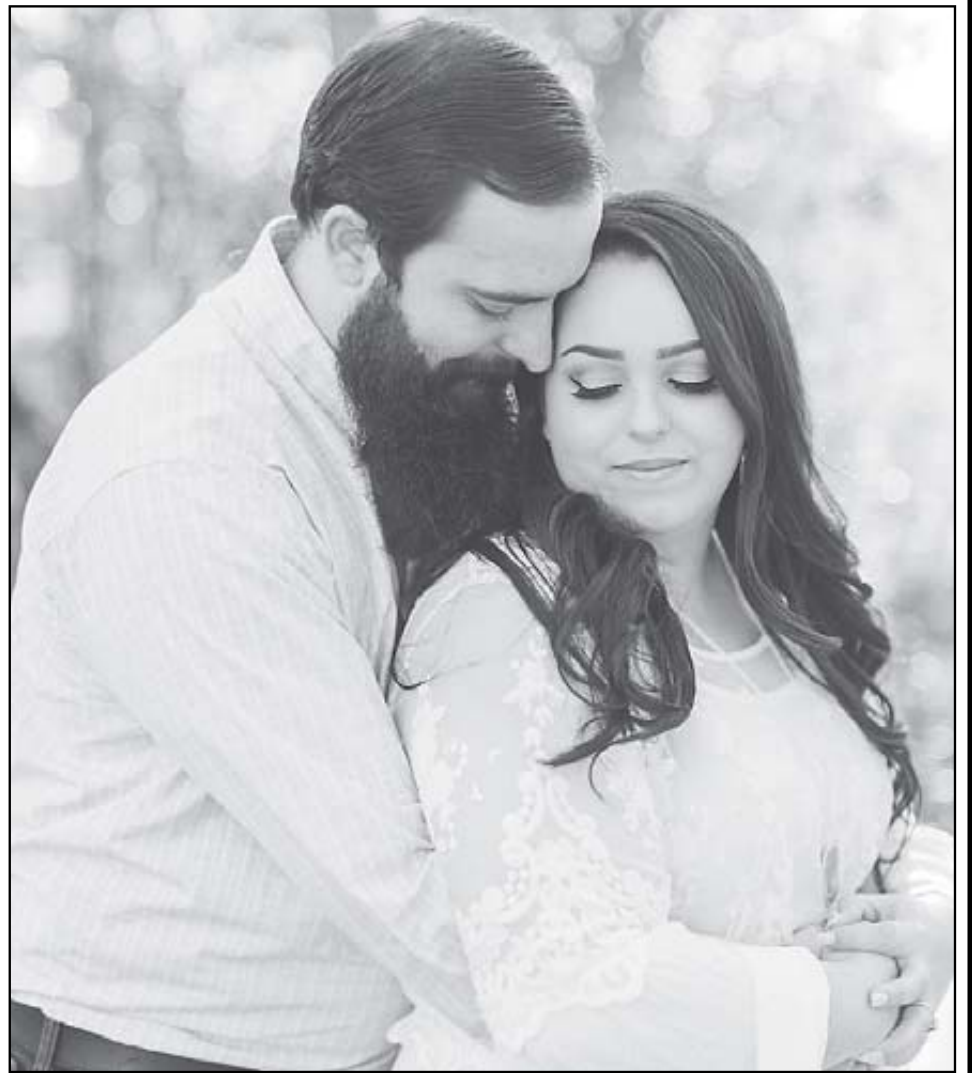
Delgado also gave students advice on being prepared for any opportunities that may cross their path and going the extra mile with any task they are given. She welcomed students to visit her office any time they have questions on an issue of interest and invited them to drop off their resumés for potential clerkship vacancies.

"That really made them feel valued and welcomed by an esteemed member of our court system. Several students felt comfortable enough to share personal situations of their own current or past legal issues, and Her Honor was nonjudgmental, open and practical with her comments," said Liounis.

"Her message to them was, 'Okay, you made missteps, but now you're on the right track, in college, headed toward a degree. You've learned from the situation, so now it's time to proceed with your life and succeed.'"

Chrisman, Marcano plan spring wedding

Brian and Sharon Chrisman, Sagemont area residents, have announced the engagement of their son, Travis Chrisman, to Yodisa Marcano, daughter of Gloria Pizarro who is formerly of the South Belt area. Both bride and groom graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 2010. The groom is currently employed with MD Anderson as senior safety technician. The bride is currently employed with Perry Homes as a selections coordinator. She graduated from San Jacinto College Central in December 2015 as an interior designer. The groom is currently taking business classes at San Jacinto College. A spring wedding is planned.



Hobby Airport hosts HobbyFest

William P. Hobby Airport welcomes the community to its 25th annual celebration of the neighborhood, HobbyFest. The 2017 event on April 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is free to the public with the donation of a non-perishable food item that will benefit the Hobby Area Rotary Club. Proceeds from event sponsorships benefit local students in transportation-related fields. Close to \$10,000 worth of scholarships

will be awarded at the event to deserving students studying in various fields of transportation. Families are encouraged to attend and enjoy complimentary food (while supplies last) as well as free activities for children like face painting, moonwalks, video game bus, a DJ as well as up-close encounters with vintage and modern aircraft. Boy Scouts can also procure a variety of merit badges at the event.

Raffle prizes including round-trip tickets from Southwest Airlines, gift cards and more will also be awarded throughout the day. HobbyFest will host an officially sanctioned International Bar-B-Que Cookers Association competition, with four categories: brisket, pork ribs, chicken and desserts. Teams will begin setup April 14, with judging and an awards presentation during HobbyFest on April 15.

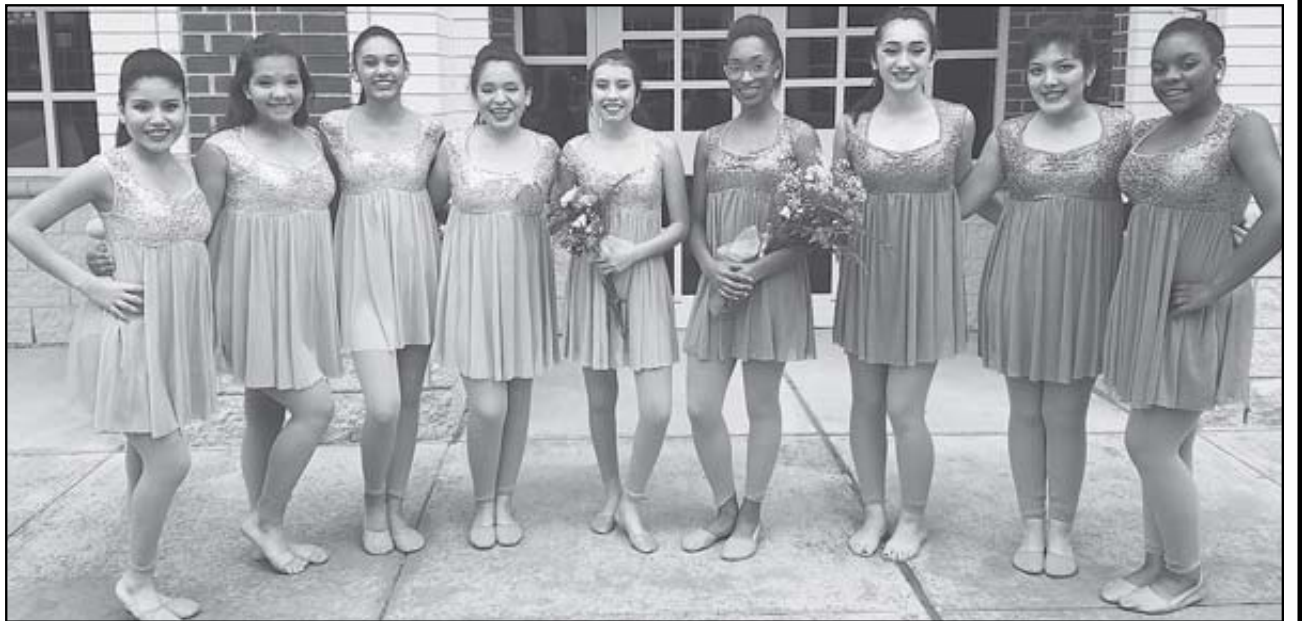
The all-inclusive entry fee of \$200 covers all categories and all proceeds help fund scholarships for local students. Entries for teams are being accepted through early April or until the competition reaches capacity. Interested parties should send contact information to HobbyFestBBQ@gmail.com. For more information about HobbyFest, visit www.HobbyFestHouston.org.

Thompson Dance Team competes in Texas Showcase

The Thompson Dance Team, under the direction of Katina Morris, competed at the Texas Showcase of Champions dance contest on Saturday, March 4 in the Woodlands. The team competed against seven other schools throughout the city of Houston. The Thompson Dance Team placed in the top three in all of the team's events, bringing home

third place in Team Kick, third place in Team Hip Hop, second place in Team Lyrical and a Division One Sweepstakes Award. Shown, left to right, are Sarah Charles, Makayla Karkosky, Desirey Delara, Renata Cadena, Julissa Campos, Janelle Mooney, Mady Vela, Tiffany Villareal and Annaya Belton.

Photos by Katina Morris



Shown, geared up for their kick routine are, left to right, (front row) Makayla Karkosky, Sarah Charles, Julissa Campos, Annaya Belton, (back row) Mady Vela, Desirey Delara, Janelle Mooney, Renata Cadena and Tiffany Villareal.



Shown in their hip hop outfits are, left to right, (front row) Makayla Karkosky, Sarah Charles, Julissa Campos, Annaya Belton, (back row) Mady Vela, Desirey Delara, Janelle Mooney, Renata Cadena and Tiffany Villareal.

Atkinson celebrates "Read Quest Day"



Students at Atkinson Elementary recently enjoyed "Read Quest Day" on March 3. The students read with other students all across America. Dressed as book characters, they participated in a parade, read books and took Accelerated Reader tests throughout the day.

Shown demonstrating "Rainbow Fish Book" left to right, (front row) Gianni Cardenas, Khai Nguyen, Jesus Carrillo, Dominic Fontalvo, Kathrine Acac, (back row) Genesis Tamez, Debra Lambert (teacher) and Joaquin Soraziz.

Photo by Karen O'Connor

Jury scam plagues Harris County

Harris County residents are being targeted by a phone scam that tries to convince callers they owe phony fines for missed jury service.

Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel said con men posing as police officers have turned local residents into victims who have paid as much as \$7,000 for purportedly missing jury service. "Variations on this scam are happening here and other places across the nation," Daniel said. "The con men pose as officers and sound official - they typically give the names of real sheriff's deputies or HPD officers to seem more credible. Don't be tricked - these guys are trying to dupe you out of your money."

"Court clerks and law enforcement officials will never call and demand money. Educating the public is the primary way to defuse this scam," Daniel said.

Daniel and the District Clerk's office have mounted a multi-pronged public awareness campaign, warning the public through TV public service announcements, radio PSAs in English and Spanish, 800 posters on Metro buses, posters in county buildings, news conferences and media interviews.

Here's how the scam works: Con men posing as police officers demand immediate payment for phony fines for missed jury service. Callers are told that officers will be dispatched immediately if the fines are not paid.

The con men typically demand that callers make payments with prepaid debit cards. Court clerks and officers never make such calls. Residents should never provide payments, credit card information or personal information such as birthdates and Social Security numbers. The number of such scam

calls to local residents has increased recently, and the con men now seek more money. Several years ago, the con men typically sought \$300 to \$400 from victims. Today, victims are often asked to pay \$1,000 or more. The Precinct One Constable's office said it has investigated seven incidents that cost victims \$2,000 to \$7,000.

A civil trial lawyer in Houston was duped out of \$1,000 by a jury service scam. The con man impersonating an HPD officer knew that the lawyer was an attorney and he threatened to have the lawyer arrested the next time he appeared in court if the lawyer did not immediately pay the purported fine. The lawyer paid up - he said he was not about to risk being arrested in court and losing face in front of his clients.

"These con men are sophisticated. They're smooth talkers who pose as police officers demanding immediate payment for phony fines," Daniel said. "But the public can avoid becoming victimized if they remember that police officers and court clerks never have and never will call demanding such payments. Please share this message with your friends and loved ones, especially the elderly."

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Meador Elementary celebrates Rodeo Day

Meador Elementary had more than 650 parents attend its annual Rodeo Day on March 3. Students from pre-K to fourth grade spent several weeks practicing line and square dancing to perform for parents. At right, enjoying the day, left to right, are Tara Merida, counselor; Amy Clowers, assistant principal; Frank Sanchez, technology teacher; Beverly Bolton, principal; Courtney Kuhn, music teacher; Jason Watson, PE teacher; and Cathy Taylor, PE teacher. Shown below, left to right, pre-kindergartners Maylen Zambrano, Alexander Salazar, Julio Salazar, Alba Marroquin and Adyleen Solanche display their western apparel with (back row) Beverly Bolton, Rebecca Terry and Amy Clowers.



Shown above, left to right, kindergartners Antonio Garza, Alexa Guevara, Azul Pineda and Alejandro Lopez show off their line dancing moves. Photos submitted

San Jacinto South theater debuts spring production

The San Jac College South Campus theater department will debut its spring production "Such Stuff" on March 30. Written by San Jacinto College South Campus theater

and film professors Kevin Holden and Kevin Jones, and student Doug Parsons, the production compiles six of Shakespeare's plays and takes place in the near future when all art


has been banned and considered illegal for years. A group of rebels get together and

make a speak-easy pub where they can perform. Because of the art ban, Shakespeare is no longer taught in schools, and no one is accustomed to his works, but the show must go on! Holden directs the overall production while four of the six plays are directed by students. "Such Stuff" opens on Thursday, March 30 at 8 p.m.

Additional performances will be held on March 31, April 1 and April 6 to 8 with each performance beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

All performances will be held in the Black Box Theatre inside the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center at the San Jac South campus at 13735 Beamer Road.

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SJC South presents "Such Stuff"



San Jacinto College South campus theater students will perform "Such Stuff" on March 30, March 31, April 1 and April 6 - 8, at 8 p.m. each evening. All performances will be held in the Black Box Theatre inside the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center (Building 15). Rehearsing for the performances are Jeanri Harris (left) and Mariah Harmony. Photo by Andrea Vasquez

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Rothko Chapel to host symposium

The Rothko Chapel is convening a symposium on criminal justice reform and mass incarceration in the U.S., subjects that are the center of much debate in recent years.

"An Act of Justice: Undoing the Legacy of Mass Incarceration" will delve into human rights issues associated with mass incarceration and the associated harmful effects on individuals, families, communities and the nation.

The event is slated for Thursday, March 30, through Saturday, April 1, at the Rothko Chapel, located at 3900 Yupon St. in Houston, and the University of St. Thomas, in the Jerabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon St. Building 30.

The symposium will illustrate how individuals and community organizations are working together toward equitable and sustainable reform.

The weekend will feature national and regional experts including leaders in academics, political leaders, activists, religious leaders, correctional officers, union officials and artists, as well as formerly incarcerated individuals and their families.

Through workshops, panels and keynote speakers, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about how the United States has created the world's largest mass incarceration system, as well as local, regional and national reform efforts.

In addition, an on-site solitary confinement virtual reality experience will be facilitated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Original poetry written by incarcerated youth will be performed by young poets from Writers in the Schools.

"Mass incarceration is one of the most pressing social justice issues of the day -- and reform is dependent on everyone getting involved," the Rothko Chapel's executive director David Leslie said.

"The criminal justice system directly and indirectly depends on -- and impacts -- all of us. There is a growing movement to make major reforms including ending the mass incarceration of so many people -- many of whom, by the way, do not belong in jail or prison."

He added that attendees will learn how to engage with those involved in and impacted by mass incarceration and learn the myriad ways that reforms are being advocated for and carried out.

"We want to help people connect to various resources so they can be engaged as advocates and volunteers in programs both in correctional institutions and the community," Leslie said.

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, there will be a keynote address from Margaret Burnham, professor of Law and African-American Studies at Northeastern University School of Law.

In her talk, entitled "Decriminalization and Decarceration: Getting There from Here," Burnham will explore the legacy of mass incarceration in the U.S.

She will discuss the realities that race, class and economics play while also lifting up some of the visionary reform efforts that are underway -- as well as what it would take as a society to undo this complex system.

Burnham started her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and represented civil rights and political activists in the 1970s.

She is the first African American woman to serve in the Massachusetts judiciary, and in 1993, was appointed by South African president Nelson Mandela to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, March 31, the symposium will feature its second keynote speaker Vincent Schiraldi, the senior research fellow directing the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Schiraldi founded the Justice Policy Institute, which works to reduce the use of incarceration and to reform the justice system by promoting fair and effective policies.

He has worked as director of juvenile corrections in Washington, DC, commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation and as senior advisor to the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. He has pioneered efforts working to create community-based alternatives to incarceration.

Both keynotes will be followed by a reception on the Chapel Plaza. Highlights of the symposium also include: Morning meditations and personal testimonials featuring activist and death row exonerate Anthony Graves, advocate and co-founder of California Families Against Solitary Confinement (CFASC) Dolores Canales and Rev. Ron Stief with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

An exploration of Texas Legislation and reform efforts with Texas State Senator John Whitmire, Terri Burke with the ACLU of Texas, Mimi Marziani with the Texas Civil Rights Project, State Representative James White, Jay Jenkins of the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, and Marc A. Levin, director of the Center for Effective Justice and Right on Crime at the Texas Public Policy

Foundation.

An investigation of perspectives and challenges faced by incarcerated youth, women and family members featuring Charles Rotramel, executive director of Houston revision, Sandra Guerra Thompson with the Criminal Justice Institute at the University of Houston Law Center and Helen Taylor Greene, professor in the Administration of Justice program at Texas Southern University in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs.

An overview of the criminal justice system -- from arrest to community re-integration with Nicole Casarez of the University of Houston Law Center and University of St. Thomas, Houston Public Defender Peter Bray and Roberta Meyers, director of National H.I.R.E. Network of the Legal Action Center.

Discussions with Roberto LaCarra, founding director and associate professor of the criminology, law and society undergraduate degree with the University of St. Thomas Criminology Department and Lance Lowry, president at American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3807.

The three-day symposium is presented in partnership with the Criminology, Law and Society Department at the University of St. Thomas.

LaCarra explained that partnering with the Rothko Chapel for the symposium aligns with University of St. Thomas' focus on social justice issues like mass incarceration.

"We encourage dialog, consideration, and reflection on reform efforts to repair a broken criminal justice system," LaCarra said.

For registration and more information about the symposium, including the daily schedule, visit <http://rothko.chapel.org/experience/events/register/1135>.

For more information about the Rothko Chapel, with a full calendar of upcoming programs, workshops and events, visit rothkochapel.org or call 713-524-9839.

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Texas Senate approves Property Tax, Relief Act

Senate Bill 2, the Property Tax Reform and Relief Act, filed by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), passed the Texas Senate on an 18-12 vote on March 21.

"Texas taxpayers know the truth," Bettencourt said. "Property taxes are rising too fast. As appraisal values rise, tax rates do not come down enough to provide property tax relief. Senate Bill 2 will save future money for hard-pressed homeowners and business owners."

Bettencourt said, "The Bexar County Democratic Party Chair Manuel Medina supported SB 2 along with the entire Harris County Republican Party. This is not a partisan issue, it is an everybody pays issue."

The Interim Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief went to seven cities, took 50 hours of public testimony from 321 witnesses, interacted with 2,150 attendees and heard from frustrated taxpayers around the state who were afraid of being taxed out of their home or business by ever-rising property tax bills. SB 2 seeks, among other things, to lower the rollback rate from eight percent to five percent, schedules an automatic election if a taxing jurisdiction exceeds that rate, and brings transparency and simplification to the property tax appraisal process in Texas. The rollback rate

reduction to five percent is consistent with the original property tax law written in 1979.

"Throughout Texas, in hearing after hearing, the Select Committee heard 50 hours of public testimony from frustrated Texas taxpayers who overwhelmingly called for property tax relief," Bettencourt stated. "The Texas Senate heard them. SB 2's passage says, the plight of homeowners and business owners is recognized."

Sen. Van Taylor, a co-author of the bill, reaffirmed that SB 2 represents the ultimate form of local control, "putting power back in the hands of the people to check the growth of government."

He also stated, "If we want to give our children a future where they are free, we have to pass Senate Bill 2."

Earlier this month, Collin County passed a unanimous resolution in support of SB 2.

After a lengthy debate on the floor between Bettencourt and fellow Senators, the Senate voted to approve the bill and move it on to the Texas House. "I want to thank Lt. Governor Patrick for his support for SB 2 and property tax reform for Texas taxpayers," Bettencourt concluded. The bill, SB 2, moves on to the Texas House where Chairman Dennis Bonnen has filed a similar bill, House Bill 15, for property tax reform and relief.

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SB Dolphins set registration

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

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JFD soccer goes on the road

Bidistrict soccer takes center stage

The race to the Region III soccer tournament final four is on as Dobie is set to play in the opening round Friday, March 24.

The Dobie boys' team, champion on District 22-6A, will begin its journey by taking on District 21-6A No. 4 seed Goose Creek Memorial.

In a coin flip to decide home field advantage on St. Patrick's Day, luck was not on the side of Dobie.

Subsequently, the Longhorns will begin the postseason on the road for the third time in four years as the bidistrict playoff game between the two teams will be played at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

As for the Dobie girls, they will take on District 21-6A runner-up Atascocita March 24, at Galena Park ISD Stadium.

The Lady Eagles, who defeated Dobie 2-0 on the second day of the regular season at the Humble ISD tournament, went 18-1-1 overall this season.

Despite just the one loss, Atascocita was edged out by Kingwood for the 21-6A crown.

Dobie boys excited
With just two losses all season, the Dobie varsity boys are brimming with confidence entering the postseason.

The Longhorns used much of the spring break holiday to rest and mix in some much-needed prac-

time. Ditto for the last few days leading up to the playoff opener.

After reaching the Re-

gion III quarterfinals a season ago, the Longhorns are again looking to make a deep run in the postsea-

son. Senior and four-year letterman Sabino Lozano is making his final playoff appearance this postsea-

At right, Dobie's Alex Magana (20) races a La Porte player to the ball during a late-season game between the two teams at Veterans Stadium. La Porte wound up second in District 22-6A, with Dobie third. Now, Dobie will face an 18-1-1 Atascocita team in the bidistrict play-offs. The match is set for Galena Park ISD Stadium.

Photo by Nick Tamayo
Bidistrict playoffs
Dobie girls vs. Atascocita
Friday, March 24 GPISD, 7 p.m.
Dobie boys at G.C. Memorial
Friday, March 24 GCM H.S., 7 p.m.



SJC reaches quarters

Sending a loud message to open its run at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I Men's Basketball Championship, San Jacinto College rolled past Connors State 115-77 in second-round action March 21.

Corey Davis had 18 of his 21 points in the first half as the Ravens cruised out to a 52-25 lead at half-time.

Head coach Scott R. Gernander was able to

substitute freely in the second half as the locals pushed their lead to as many as 43 over the final 20 minutes.

San Jacinto, the tournament's No. 1 seed and owner of a 33-1 overall record, will face Northwest Florida State Thursday, March 23, in a 1 p.m. eastern national quarterfinal matchup. The NJCAA title game is March 25.

The entire tournament is being played at the Hutchinson Sports Arena

in Hutchinson, Kan.

Davis made 4 of 6 from 3-point land before sitting for much of the second half. Jordan Duffy added 20 points and seven assists.

The Ravens got 61 points from their bench, led by Tay Hardy's 19 points.

Harford 80 SJC women 72
In a game decided in the final quarter, Harford held off San Jacinto Col- Continued on Page 6B

DP drops Dobie softball

Deer Park took the first big step in the District 22-6A varsity softball title chase, handing Dobie an 11-2 setback March 21, at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

The Lady Deer, who joined Memorial as the two lone remaining unbeaten teams in the league, used a big five-run third inning to seize control of the game.

Ashlyn Ware delivered one of the big blows for the Lady Deer, lining a three-run triple to left field

in that big third inning. Maddie Nelson started for the Lady Deer, working the first four innings for the victory. Erin Edmounson worked the final three for the save.

Three Deer Park errors aided Dobie's scoring of a pair of unearned runs in the game.

Dobie's Jacqueline Garcia walked to lead off the bottom of the fourth for Dobie, and Taylor Pleasants then walked. Both later scored unearned runs to cut Deer Park's ad-

vantage to 7-2 before the Lady Deer added on runs late in the contest.

The Lady Longhorns now move on to host La Porte Friday, March 24, in another key District 22-6A matchup. On the same night, Deer Park will host Memorial for sole possession of first place.

Dobie will then take on Memorial Tuesday, March 28, at the Pasadena ISD Complex to close out of the first half of District 22-6A action. First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m.

Dobie's Hunter scores 22-6A MVP



At left, Dobie varsity boys' basketball player Royce Hunter scored Most Valuable Player honors in District 22-6A after pouring in 21.5 points per game over the course of the season. For more on Hunter and the all-district selections, see Page 2B.

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Senior averaged 21.5 points per game

Dobie's Hunter lands Most Valuable Player honors

Varsity Boys' Hoops All-District 22-6A Selections Most Valuable Player

Royce Hunter, Dobie

Offensive Player/Year

Jalen Amos, South Houston

Defensive Player/Year

Triston Ikpe, Deer Park

Newcomer/Year

Darreon Jackson, S. Houston

Coach/Year

Patrick McCoy, S. Houston

First Team Selections

Dylan Bradshaw, Deer Park

Joshua Cooper, Dobie

Jeremy Davis, Dobie

Dominic Warner, La Porte

Ivan Ramirez, Pasadena

Jose Rivera, Pasadena

Roger Martinez, Rayburn

Traveon Burnett, Rayburn

Dralyn Brown, S. Houston

Second Team Selections

Zach Walker, Deer Park

Jeremy Williams, Dobie

D.J. Garrett, Dobie

Byars Wilson, La Porte

Keenan Gooden, La Porte

Josh Martinez, Pasadena

JaMichael Golden, Memorial

Jeovanni Flores, Rayburn

Deaontae Johnson, S. Houston

Clayton Carpenter, West Brook

Sports Calendar

SOCCKER

Friday, March 24

Bidistrict playoffs

Dobie varsity girls vs. Atascocita, GPISD, 7:00

Dobie varsity boys at G.C. Memorial, 7:00

SOFTBALL

Friday, March 24

Dobie varsity hosts La Porte, Dobie, 4:30

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, March 23

Dobie JV girls at South Houston invite, TBA

Friday, March 24

Dobie varsity girls at city meet/Rice University, TBA

Thursday, March 30

Dobie JV girls at pre-district meet, TBA

Friday, March 31

Dobie varsity girls at Rockhold Relays, Baytown, TBA

BASEBALL

Friday, March 24

Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 4:00

Brook varsity at Clear Creek, 7:00

Brook JV hosts Clear Creek, 7:00

Brook sophomores at Clear Creek, 4:30

Tuesday, March 28

Dobie varsity at Deer Park, 7:00

Thursday, March 30

Brook varsity hosts Friendswood, 7:00

Brook JV at Friendswood, 7:00

Brook sophomores at Friendswood, 4:30

Friday, March 31

Dobie varsity at La Porte, 7:00

Saturday, April 1

Brook varsity at Friendswood, 1:00

Brook JV hosts Friendswood, 2:00

Brook sophomores host Friendswood, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, April 4

Dobie varsity hosts Memorial, Dobie, 4:00

TENNIS

Thursday, March 23

Dobie varsity at Sunseri Memorial tourn., TBA

The postseason might have not gone so well for the varsity boys' basketball teams in District 22-6A, with each of the four representatives losing first-round playoff games.

But it was an exciting season with 22-6A, with South Houston grabbing the championship and Dobie taking second. For the Trojans, it was their second district title in the past seven seasons, all ending in playoff berths for the teams.

Just two seniors will exit the South Houston basketball program, making the Trojans the favorites again next season. Dobie finished second in the league following a pair of fourth-place finishes the previous two seasons.

La Porte finished third in the district, and Deer Park was fourth. Following the season, the Trojans and Longhorns earned the lions' share of the top all-district awards, and both teams also had multiple players take home all-district accolades.

Dobie's Royce Hunter, a three-year starter who scored 21.5 points per game this season, was honored as the 22-6A Most Valuable Player after helping the Longhorns to a 10-4 record in league play.

Meanwhile, South Houston had a two of its players as well as its head coach score big wins. The Trojans' Jalen Amos was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year, with sophomore Darreon Jackson earning Newcomer of the Year honors.

South Houston's Patrick McCoy, who has now led the Trojans to the play-

offs in each of his seven seasons, was named the 22-6A Coach of the Year. The league's Defensive Player of the Year was Triston Ikpe of Deer Park, which qualified as the 22-6A fourth seed.

Dobie's Joshua Cooper, a three-year letterwinner who averaged 10 points per game this season, was named to the first team. Jeremy Davis, one of the Houston area's top rebounders at 11 per game, was also a first team selection.

The 22-6A second team honorees included Dobie two-year starter Jeremy Williams and D.J. Garrett, who stepped up and played a big role in his first season with the Longhorns.

Garrett, the lone returnee among the all-district selections for Dobie, is expected to lead the way in 2017-2018 as the Longhorns look to reload following an 18-14 record this season.

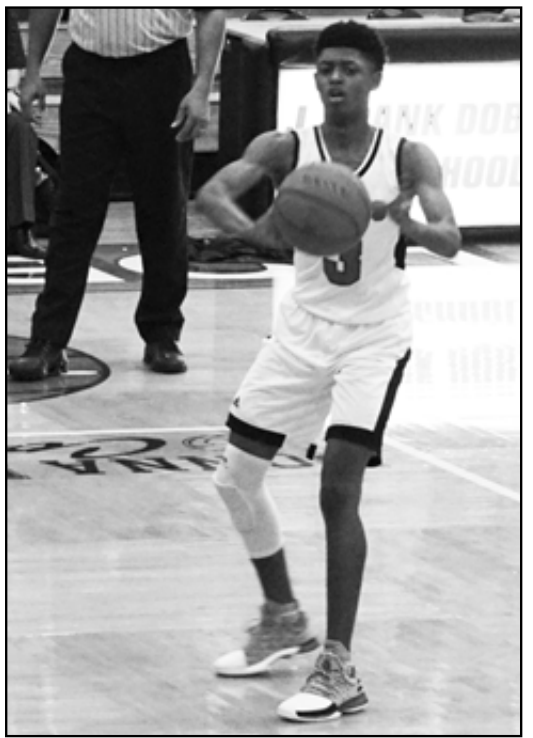
At right, in his second season at the varsity level, Jeremy Davis emerged as a key presence in the middle, averaging 11 rebounds per game, including a handful of games with more than 15. Following the season, Davis was an all-district first team selection.

Photo by John Bechtle



At left, the Longhorns' Joshua Cooper, a three-year letterman, was named to the District 22-6A first team after a terrific all-around season for the forward. Cooper averaged 10 points and nearly four rebounds per game, and he also sank 32 3-point field goals. Photo by John Bechtle

Below, D.J. Garrett got off to a strong start this season with the Longhorns and quickly became a major contributor. En route to being named a District 22-6A second-team pick Garrett averaged 7.5 points per game and also made 52 3-pointers during the season. Photo by Nick Tamayo



At right, in his second season at the varsity level, Jeremy Davis emerged as a key presence in the middle, averaging 11 rebounds per game, including a handful of games with more than 15. Following the season, Davis was an all-district first team selection.

Photo by John Bechtle



One of the Longhorns' top threats from 3-point range, Jeremy Williams was named a second team selection in the District 22-6A ranks.

Photo by John Bechtle

Strong start fuels Hunter's MVP season

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Just a few years from now, Royce Hunter is likely going to be the owner of a college degree in marketing, and he one day plans to run his own business.

But Hunter, a soon-to-be Dobie class of 2017 graduate, still has unfinished business on the hardwood.

The newly-named Most Valuable Player of District 22-6A is eyeing potential college landing spots at this very moment, and he knows he can make a difference.

"I feel like a program is going to get an unselfish player who is also a team leader on and off the floor," Hunter said.

"I averaged 21.5 points per game this season, and shot the 3-pointer at roughly 48 percent. I feel like I can come in and help a program right away."

Hunter projects as a 6 foot, 3 inch combo guard at the next level.

He had primary ball-handling duties on a regular basis for three seasons at Dobie, but was also the team's leading scorer for each of the last two seasons.

The major Division I programs simply aren't knocking on the door at the moment, but that's fine with Hunter.

He named Western Texas and Ranger as two junior college programs who have shown interest, and he's perfectly willing to go that route.

For Hunter, it's about continuing to play the game he loves most.

As a youth, Hunter was one of the more recognizable names within the Ellington Rams' Bay Area

Football League program, one of BAFL's best at the time.

Hunter continued to play football as a seventh-grader at Thompson Intermediate before deciding to stick solely with basketball.

"I had some injuries, and I just really lost my love for the game," Hunter said. "I knew that basket-

ball was my true love, and that's when I decided to stick with it."

With players like Hunter and Joshua Cooper leading the way, the Lions lost just a single game over two years at Thompson.

Hunter played a full season on the freshman team at Dobie before he and Cooper both made the jump to the varsity level

at the University of Texas, took over in the second half as the Mustangs advanced.

As for the 2015-2016 campaign, the Longhorns had to battle all the way down to the wire just to make the playoffs, then got hot at the right time.

At 21-14 when the playoffs began, the Longhorns avenged the North Shore loss by throttling the Mustangs in the bidistrict rematch.

Elsik fell next in the area round, and the Longhorns advanced to the regional quarterfinals.

Facing a tough and athletic Hightower squad, the Longhorns went down early on but battled back.

In the closing seconds, it was Hunter who snagged an offensive rebound in traffic, drew a foul and then sank the deciding free throws to send Dobie to the Region III semifinals for just the third time in school history.

Hunter ended that season as the Longhorns' leading scorer at nearly 13 per night.

Hunter exploded as a senior, scoring 69 points in two games on the opening day of the season at the

McDonald's Texas Invitational.

Hunter went on to lead the team in scoring at 21.5 points a game, ultimately leading to the district Most Valuable Player award. Dobie went 18-13 in the regular season, but struggled from the field in a bidistrict loss to North Shore.

His high school career now done, Hunter is plotting his next move.

A program like Western Texas, Ranger or perhaps another is going to get a terrific all-around talent.

Hunter says his grade-point-average currently sits at 3.6, and he hopes to close strong over the next several weeks in raising that mark a bump or two.

If he does end up playing at the JUCO level in 2017-2018, he certainly hopes to eventually play at a four-year institution.

Dobie head coach Kevin Cross was clear that Hunter and his talents will be missed within his program moving forward.

"Royce got better each year he was on the varsity," said Cross, citing that Hunter was a second-team all district pick as a sophomore, a first-teamer as a junior and now Most Valuable Player.

"He was and still is a hard worker and a competitor. Royce was fun to coach and be around during his four years here, and I know he will succeed at the next level."

"His parents did a great job of raising a very respectful and diligent young man. With Royce's contributions, we were able to make the playoffs each year and make a run to the Region III semis last year. He will be missed."

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

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

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

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

Area sports, news

Dobie VB sets youth training

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach and staff members will host a series of youth training sessions for current fifth- and sixth-grade students. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m., including April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10, May 17 and May 24.

Staff members will include training in all phases of the game, including serving, setting, passing, hitting, blocking, etc. Team offensive and defensive concepts will be included. Pasadena ISD does not provide medical insurance to students for these types of events, so parents will be responsible for providing their own insurance.

For additional information, call Sexton at 832-509-7269 or direct email to her at dgutierrez2@pasadenaisd.org.

SBAST Sharks seek coaches

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

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

The completed application is then to be emailed to andreatparker@att.net by March 27. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess previous swimming or coaching experience and have certification in lifeguard/CPR/AED and water safety training.

Applicants are required to be available to the team beginning April 24 through July 7 for practices, meets and other team activities. For more information about the Sharks, visit the team's website at www.sbast.org.

Lajaunie tennis coming

The 2017 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will now be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena formerly known as Strawberry Park, April 28-30. The DLTSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are finalizing plans for its 6th annual memorial tennis tournament, set to make its first appearance at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

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

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

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

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

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

Opening ceremonies, including a scholarship awards dinner and silent auction, will be held Friday, April 28. There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets are now on sale and are \$15.

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

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

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

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

San Jac softball head coach Saenz earns career 500th win

By Amanda Fenwick
SJC marketing

San Jacinto College Head Softball Coach Kelly Saenz recorded her 500th career win March 3, with a 9-1 win against Coastal Bend College.

Saenz, who is now in her 14th year at the helm of the San Jac softball program, is now 507-321 all-time, which includes

a one-year stint at Frank Phillips College in 2003.

"Getting 500 wins is very humbling, especially being able to do it at just two schools," said Saenz, whose San Jac team is currently ranked 12th in the nation.

"The thing that stands out the most is the consistency in the winning tradition here at San Jacinto

College."

Since Saenz was named the San Jacinto College head coach in 2004, her teams have won 61 percent of their games and have made three National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament appearances, most recently in 2016.

She was inducted into the Softball Canada Hall

of Fame in 2015 for her efforts on the Smitty Midget girls division team that won three consecutive Canadian championships from 1994 to 1996. Saenz is also a member of the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame (2014).

"Coach Saenz has impacted my life tremendously on and off the field. She has taught me

how to become a better person and athlete," said sophomore Alexis DeLeon, a Morton Ranch High School graduate.

"Every day at practice, no matter what is going on in our life, she is constantly reminding us to always perceive confidence in ourselves.

"There is never a dull moment with her either.

She is always keeping us on our toes and making us laugh with all her jokes. Overall, she is an amazing person."

In her 14 years at San Jacinto College, 53 softball student-athletes have received NJCAA Region XIV all-region honors, 50 have been named to the all-conference team, and she has coached one all-region MVP.

Three players have been named to the NJCAA World Series all-tournament team. The National Fastpitch Coaches Association

has also recognized 28 softball student-athletes as all-Midwest region and 10 as all-Americans.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the tradition here at San Jac by bringing in good student-athletes and moving them on to four-year institutions," added Saenz, who has helped 46 of her players sign national letters of intent at four-year colleges or universities, of which 90 percent have successfully earned at least their bachelor's degree.

"This is a great honor

for Coach Saenz," said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor for strategic initiatives. We are extremely proud of her and the success of her team on and off the field."

SJC now 23-13

Saenz's current team is doing its best to continue on a path back to the national tournament.

The team split a pair of games March 17 at Alvin but then came back March 18, with a pair of wins.

Alvin 7
San Jac 2

Host Alvin scored six

runs in the third inning and held off the Coyotes for a 7-2 victory in the opener of a Region XIV doubleheader at Alvin.

DeLeon drove in both of San Jacinto's runs in the game.

Alvin did its damage against four different SJC pitchers in the game to get the win.

San Jac 8
Alvin 0

Sophomore pitcher Niki Gonzalez continued her dominating season, blanking Alvin on one hit.

Continued on Page 6B



San Jacinto College softball head coach Kelly Saenz (center, holding commemorative T-shirt) won her 500th career game March 3 at the Coyotes defeated Coastal Bend 9-1 at the South campus. Those with her to celebrate the milestone included, left to right, (front row) Mackenzie Kotrla, Saenz, Taylor Office, (middle row) Nakilah Robinson, Isis Rangel, Missy Hernandez,

Alexis DeLeon, Shelbi Doherty, (back row) assistant coach Kelsey McClain, Dominique Garcia, Taylor McHenry, Baylee Malone, Tori Stoddard, Natalie Hoyt, Kaitlin Kerl, Kaylee Ousman, Taylor Office, Dani Damian, Tori Ramirez, Katlin Rivera, volunteer coach Selena Reyna and athletic trainer Carie Mueller.

Dobie grad likes closing role

Myers a savior at Paris College

Clay Cox is in his first season as the Dragons' head coach after serving a season ago as the assistant coach.

While the team does have 21 freshmen, Paris has begun to play more consistent baseball since the start of Region XIV play.

There have been many contributors during the recent uptick in play, but perhaps none more important than Myers.

The former Dobie star is currently hitting second in the lineup and playing third base.

When in need of a save in the late going, Cox has frequently called on Myers, who has made good on each of his six save opportunities.

Against Bossier Parrish March 10, Myers struck out the side with the bases loaded to preserve the Dragons' 8-5 victory.

Fast forward to March 18 as the Dragons took on

first-place Navarro. Myers came on in relief in both games, earning the win in both.

In the first game, a 4-3 win for Paris, Myers allowed a hit but went the final 2/3 of an inning, getting the win.

The second game went 10 innings, with Myers pitching the final two innings. The Dragons scored a run in the 10th, and Myers earned the win.

To think this Myers/Paris connection almost didn't happen is laughable, yet it's the truth.

Despite starting four years at Dobie and excelling in the field, at the plate and on the mound, Myers did not garner a ton of attention from recruiters as his Dobie career wound to a close.

Myers said he was originally headed to Black Hawk College, a two-year institution in Moline, Ill., playing within the National Junior College Athletic

Association in Region V.

But Myers simply desired to play collegiately closer to home.

One of several players invited in for a workout by Cox at Paris last summer, Cox said Myers "showed all the tools," hinging his fastball up into the 86 to 88-mile per hour range on that day.

Cox's decision to extend Myers a chance to play for the Dragons was actually quite easy, and Cox remains thrilled.

"You just won't find a harder worker and a better young man than Tyler," Cox said.

"He simply will not let you outwork him out there on the field, and he's a tremendous student who takes care of his business in the classroom.

"When you consider that he plays third base for us every day and he's making all of those throws, and add to that the fact that he closes out games for us,

his work speaks for itself.

"I try and try to give him breaks, but he's just not the type of kid who wants to take a day off."

It's way too early to predict just where Myers projects at the four-year college level, or what pro scouts think of him.

But while Cox sees a two-way player who has taken over the No. 2 hole in the batting order for the Dragons, he sees Myers likely projecting long-term as a pitcher.

"I do think in the long run he is a pitcher at the next level, wherever that may be for him," Cox said.

"Every high school pitcher wants to come in and show that he can swing it at the plate and consistently get the job done," Cox said.

"Some guys aren't cut out for that or simply realize they can't handle the pitching at the college

Continued on Page 6B

Association in Region V.

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Continued on Page 6B

Association in Region V.

But Myers simply desired to play collegiately closer to home.

One of several players invited in for a workout by Cox at Paris last summer, Cox said Myers "showed all the tools," hinging his fastball up into the 86 to 88-mile per hour range on that day.

Cox's decision to extend Myers a chance to play for the Dragons was actually quite easy, and Cox remains thrilled.

"You just won't find a harder worker and a better young man than Tyler," Cox said.

"He simply will not let you outwork him out there on the field, and he's a tremendous student who takes care of his business in the classroom.

"When you consider that he plays third base for us every day and he's making all of those throws, and add to that the fact that he closes out games for us,

his work speaks for itself.

"I try and try to give him breaks, but he's just not the type of kid who wants to take a day off."

It's way too early to predict just where Myers projects at the four-year college level, or what pro scouts think of him.

But while Cox sees a two-way player who has taken over the No. 2 hole in the batting order for the Dragons, he sees Myers likely projecting long-term as a pitcher.

"I do think in the long run he is a pitcher at the next level, wherever that may be for him," Cox said.

"Every high school pitcher wants to come in and show that he can swing it at the plate and consistently get the job done," Cox said.

"Some guys aren't cut out for that or simply realize they can't handle the pitching at the college

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Continued on Page 6B

Mata champions Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu tourney

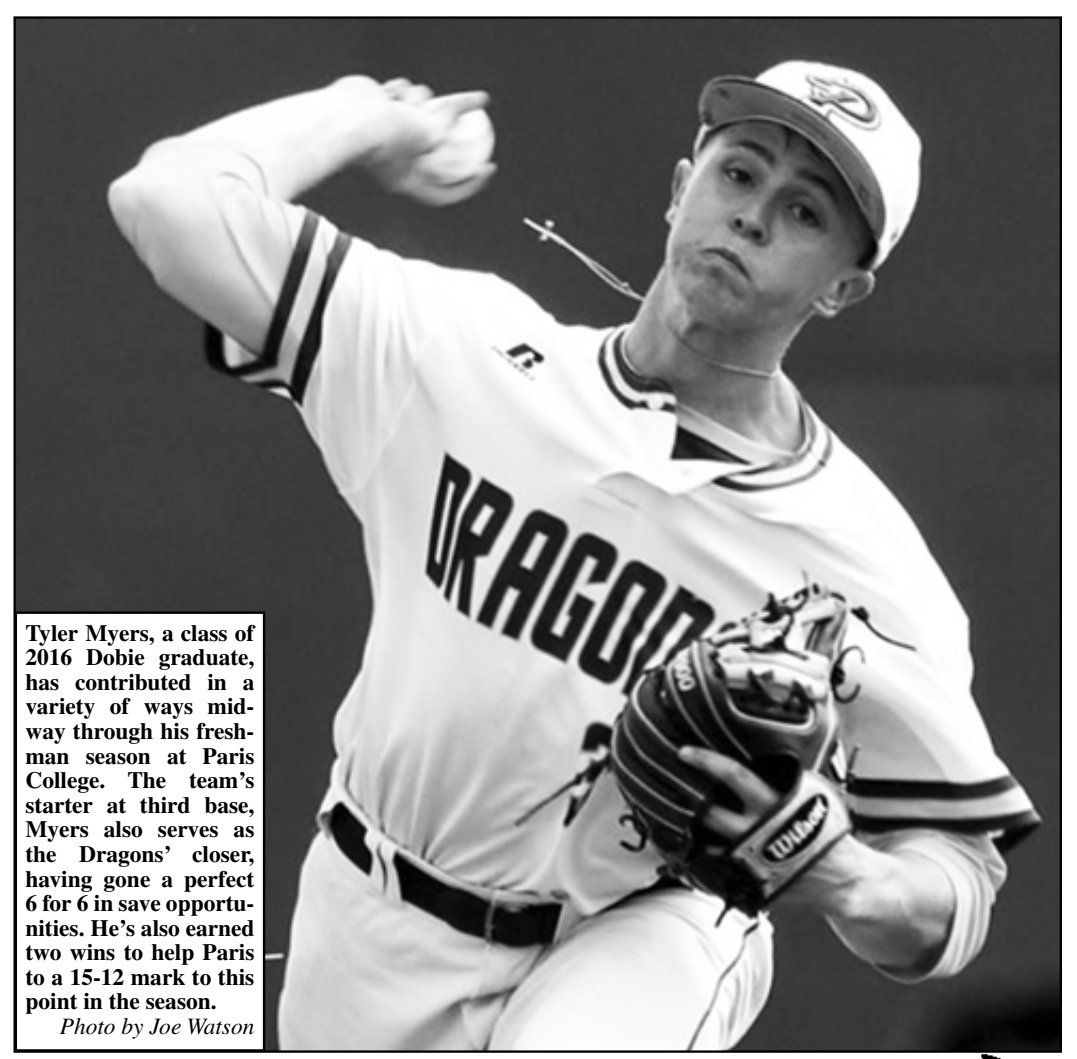


At right, Ty Mata (left), a 9-year-old Frazier Elementary student, was crowned flyweight division champion at the Newbreed Ultimate Challenge Houston Classic Jiu-Jitsu tournament at the Legends Sports Complex in the Woodlands. Mata has been training in the art of jiu-jitsu for a year, and has quickly advanced. At the Newbreed event, he defeated two opponents in the submission Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu category. He



won his opening match by a 15-4 decision and then scored a 17-0 victory by arm bar in his second match. Mata's family includes his father, 1997 Dobie High School graduate Ivan Mata. Mata's grandparents, South Belt residents Maria and Ray Mata, are also proud of his accomplishments. With Mata at the tournament was his instructor Cameron Taylor (in photo above).

Submitted photos



Tyler Myers, a class of 2016 Dobie graduate, has contributed in a variety of ways midway through his freshman season at Paris College. The team's starter at third base, Myers also serves as the Dragons' closer, having gone a perfect 6 for 6 in save opportunities. He's also earned two wins to help Paris to a 15-12 mark to this point in the season.

Photo by Joe Watson

CALENDAR

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

Noon

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

6 - 8 p.m.

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

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.

10 a.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
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 for details.

Noon

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

7 p.m.

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

8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
7:30 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

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

11 a.m.

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

1 p.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday

and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
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 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.

7 p.m.

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

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 27
10 a.m.

Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in 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 for details.

11:30 a.m.

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

Noon

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

3:15 p.m.

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

6 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

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

Continued on Page 4B

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, MARCH 27

6:30 p.m.
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.

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

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 28

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

9:30 a.m.
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.

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

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

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 drglandorf@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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

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

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

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

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

6:30 p.m.
Well Spouse Support Group - meets the last Thursday at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, with the spouse of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare is free. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For details, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

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

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

Second Annual Strut Your Mutt

Presented by

Clear Brook City MUD & South Belt- Ellington Chamber of Commerce

Saturday April 8, 2017 at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Clear Brook City Park located at the corner of Scarsdale and Blackhawk Blvd.

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

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

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Dog's Name: _____

Sex: _____ Breed: _____

Contest Categories: (Please Circle)

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

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

I have read and agree to the above terms.

Signature _____ Date _____

To submit items for the **CALENDAR** at the **South Belt-Ellington Leader** send an email to: mynews@southbeltleader.com

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Dobie baseball gets back on track, takes down Rayburn 7-2 at Maguire

Freshman Daniel Garza went 4 2/3 innings for the win, and Dobie's big-three veteran trio did most of the damage offensively as the Longhorns' varsity baseball squad earned a key 7-2 District 22-6A victory over Sam Rayburn March 21, at Maguire Field in

Pasadena. Jeremy Green Jr. and Euro Diaz Jr. both continued their torrid starts in league play. Diaz had three hits, including a triple and a double. Green had a pair of hits, including a homer as he led the way with four

runs driven in. The senior and three-year starter entered play against Rayburn with a district-leading .548 batting average, then came up with three more hits against the Texans. Isaiah Vasquez had two hits and drove in a pair

of runs as the Longhorns bounced back from a sloppy loss to South Houston. Garza, now 2-1 this season, was on his game as he earned the win on the mound. He fanned six while pitching into the fifth inning. Junior Dejuan Dixon then came on in relief, going the final 2 1/3 innings for the save.

Romero downs Dobie
South Houston pitcher Josh Romero attended Dobie High School during his freshman year, so it stands to reason that he would pitch well against the Longhorns on the varsity baseball field. In a special spring break afternoon game March 16 at Dobie, Romero scattered nine hits and went the distance, getting a double play to end the game as the Trojans scored a 9-4 victory over the Longhorns.

Robert Romero, not related to Josh Romero, had

At left, junior Dejuan Dixon was the hard-luck losing pitcher March 16 at home against South Houston as the Longhorn infield made five errors in a 9-4 loss. He then earned the save as Dobie topped Rayburn March 21. The Longhorns will be back in action Friday, March 24, at Maguire Field against Pasadena. Game time is 4 p.m.
Photo by John Bechtel

two hits and drove in four runs as South Houston built a 5-0 lead through 2 1/2 innings and went on to win. Both teams saw their District 22-6A records evened at 1-1.

Romero deserves credit for pitching an outstanding game, but the Longhorns helped out by making five errors in the field. Another routine ground ball was simply held onto a second base, adding to the Longhorns woes in the game.

Dobie's Diaz, who had three hits in the game, tried to get a rally going in the bottom of the seventh inning with a hit. But Romero was able to get a double play ball with two runners on base.

Green, who like Diaz is enjoying a solid season at the plate, drove in three runs, and Vasquez rocked an RBI double to left-center field.

The Longhorns' Dejuan Dixon lasted 2 1/3 innings in the game, with four Dobie errors coming during his time in the game.

Dobie's Julian Flores went the final 4 2/3 innings on the mound.

Comeback lifts Dobie JV
Joanthan Moreno's inside-the-park home run was the final blow as Dobie's junior varsity team stunned Rayburn March 20, with a come-from-behind 7-6 victory.

The Longhorns entered the final inning down 6-4 but would not quit.

With two outs in a game shortened to five innings by umpires' time-ruling, Alex Hernandez walked and scored on a triple by Alan Lopez.

With Rayburn's lead down to 6-5, Moreno rocked a drive into right-center field and scored the game-winner as the Longhorns improved to

8-3 overall, including 3-0 in District 22-6A play. The Longhorns' Camryn Davis earned the win in relief and delivered perhaps his finest outing

of the season, according to coach Stephen Sutton, who added that his team is playing at its best at the right time.



Isaiah Vasquez smacked an RBI double against South Houston March 16 to help get the Longhorns back from an early 5-0 deficit in an eventual 9-4 loss at Longhorn Field. Dobie senior catcher Jeremy Green Jr. drove in three runs for the Longhorns.

San Jac women's basketball eliminated

Continued from Page 1B
lege 80-72 in a first-round game at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Championship at Lubbock, Texas.

San Jac led by a point entering the fourth quarter, but Harford outscored the locals 19-10 in the fourth quarter.

Harford (29-3) advanced to take on top-seeded Gulf Coast State in the second round. San Jacinto's season ended at 24-9.

SJC players all-region
By Amanda Fenwick
SJC Marketing

With the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I women's basketball tournament wrapping up March 25 in Lubbock, the postseason honors have been announced for the San Jacinto College women's basketball team within Region XIV.

Freshman guard Eryka Sidney of Wheatley High School and sophomore guard/forward Arionna Gill (Las Vegas, Nevada / Arbor View High School) were selected to the All-Region XIV team, making them two of the top 10 players in the Region.

In addition, Sidney was named the Region XIV Freshman of the Year. The duo, along with sophomore forward Jasmine James (Innisfil, Ontario

Canada/Nantyr Shores Secondary School), who was named to the all-conference team, helped guide San Jac to its first-ever national tournament appearance.

"Coming in to this season, I had no idea how good we would be. I had no clue how far we would go," said Sidney.

"I can truly say this season has been one of the most memorable moments for me as well at San Jac simply because of its history."

San Jac (24-9) entered the national tournament as the No. 16 seed and subsequently lost to No. 17 Harford Community College (29-3) out of Maryland. Sidney closed out her freshman season on a high note, scoring 26 points to lead SJC against Harford. She made 9 of 12 field goal attempts, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range.

Sidney also led the team in scoring this season, averaging 12.2 points per game. She also paced the squad in 3-point percentage, shooting nearly 37 percent from long range.

Gill and James were second and third in scoring for San Jac, averaging 11.2 and 10.4 points per game, respectively. Gill was also the team's top rebounder at 9.5 per game.

At the national tournament, Gill had 16 points and eight rebounds, while

James finished with 13 points.

In addition to the individual player honors, San Jacinto College's Michael Madrid was named the Region XIV Coach of the Year.

In just his second year at the helm of the San Jacinto College women's basketball program, Madrid led his team into the national spotlight. He is now 46-20 in his two years at San Jac.

Madrid guided the San

Myers give Paris baseball big lift

Continued from Page 3B
level. Tyler can do it all, so he should have a bright future."

Myers said he merely wants the chance to continue to produce. It's a dream come true to play college baseball, and he hopes what has played out so far for him and his teammates continues.

"The fall workouts were really tough and I believe paved the way for some of the things we are

Jac team to the semifinals of this year's Region XIV tournament, defeating Jacksonville College

Brook baseball now 1-2

In an error-filled game on both sides, visiting Clear Creek held on for a 7-4 victory over Clear Brook on the varsity baseball diamond March 21, leaving the Wolverines at 1-2 in league play.

Clear Creek, now also 1-2 in 24-6A action,

doing well right now," Myers said. "We call ourselves 'Dogs' out there on the field, and that just means we will do whatever it takes to get the job done."

"When I'm out there in a save situation, I believe I'm going to get it done. So far, that's worked out really well."

At the end of the day, Cox said he isn't quite sure how a player with Myers' abilities almost

had to make his way out of the state to keep playing baseball. Sometimes it just happens.

"We have a catcher from Katy High School with a similar story," Cox said. "He's been a tremendous find for us."

"The same with Tyler. I truly feel like we got a steal with Tyler. He's just a great credit to what we are trying to do here. He's been a difference-maker for us."

berth in this year's NJCAA national tournament. For more news, visit www.sanjacsports.com.

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San Jacinto softball wins three straight

Continued from Page 3B
striking out 11 in blanking Alvin on one hit in an easy 8-0 victory over the Dolphins.

Gonzalez currently ranks third nationally with 17 victories. She now has 44 wins for her career at San Jacinto College and needs just seven to tie current SJC pitching coach Kelsey (McClain) Walter's program record of 51, set in 2008-2009.

Dani Damian paced the offense with three hits and two runs scored.

Mackenzie Kotrla, Katlin Rivera and Kaitlin Kerl all had two hits in the game, and Rivera drove in a pair of runs.

San Jac 9 Galveston 2

San Jac scored three runs in the fifth inning and two more in the sixth to run away from Galveston by a 9-2 count.

four runs in the game. Deleon drove in two runs, and Rivera was 2 for 4 with a run scored and an RBI.

Natalie Hoyt came up big in the circle for the Coyotes, going the full seven innings and allowing just one hit while fanning four.

San Jac 2 Galveston 1

All of the runs in the game were scored in the second inning as San Jacinto held off Galveston 2-1 for a sweep of the doubleheader.

Gonzalez struck out 10 while getting the win, and she allowed just four hits and an earned run.

Taylor McHenry took care of things offensively for the locals, ripping a 2-run homer in the second inning. She also doubled.

San Jacinto is now 23-13 overall this season, including 8-2 in conference play.



In addition to his outstanding work on the mound at Paris, Dobie graduate Tyler Myers also starts at third base and hits second during most games for the Dragons. At present, Myers is hitting .277 with 17 runs batted in and 17 runs scored through 27 games.
Photo by Joe Watson