

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Thursday, May 30, 2019

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Boykins to announce bid

The *Leader* has learned from credible sources that Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins is expected to announce his candidacy for mayor on Saturday, June 1. Boykins would join Tony Buzbee and Bill King, who are already challenging mayoral incumbent Sylvester Turner. See next week's *Leader* for additional information.

CBC MUD to trim trees

Beginning in June, the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will hire a contractor to trim and dispose of low-hanging, protruding limbs in the roadway. The work will be done by Bay Area Tree Experts and supervised by a graduate arborist. All trimmed branches will be mulched on site. Residents wishing to have additional limbs trimmed at their own expense may call 281-474-3722.

Sageglen party June 1

The Sageglen Community Association will kick off the opening of the pool for the summer season with a hot dog party on Saturday, June 1, from noon to 2 p.m. at Sageglen Park. All Sageglen residents are invited to attend. Proof of residency (photo ID) is required.

CBC sewer work underway

Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District is working on the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project in Sageglen, Highland Meadow and Wood Meadow I and II subdivisions. CBC-MUD residents should be aware that the phone numbers for the contractor on last month's notification insert were incorrect. The correct number to contact Nerie Construction is 281-996-5551. The fax number is 346-319-5172. District residents may call the MUD directly at 281-484-1562. The district apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Gulf Freeway closures set

There will be a total closure of the northbound frontage road of the Gulf Freeway from NASA Road 1 to FM 518 through 5 a.m. Sunday, June 30. At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway between SH 96/League City Parkway and FM 518 will be closed continuously through 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Drivers traveling north on the main lanes will continue to NASA Road 1, exit, then U-turn and come back to FM 518.

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

JFD cheer holds car wash

The Dobbie cheerleaders will have a car wash Saturday, June 8, at the Snowie's parking lot, located at Beamer and Scarsdale, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5.

St. Luke holds garage sale

St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, will hold a garage sale June 28 and 29 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The sale will include boutique, sports and outdoor items; toys; children's shoes and clothing; home goods; and holiday/seasonal decor. Proceeds go to future building of the Riverstone Ranch campus.

Beltway closures planned

The eastbound Beamer entrance ramp at Beltway 8 will be closed from 10 a.m. Friday, May 31, through 5 a.m. Monday, June 3.

The eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Beamer will be closed continuously through 9 a.m. Friday, June 21.

At least one outside lane on the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed at SH 288 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, May 31. Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Genoa Red Bluff will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, June 14.

At least one outside lane on the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, June 14.

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

Leader correction

The article titled *Local graduations scheduled* that ran in the May 23 edition of the *Leader* contained an inaccuracy. The graduation ceremony for Clear Brook High School was held Wednesday, May 29, at Challenger Columbia Stadium, located at 1955 W NASA Blvd. in Webster, rather than at Veterans Memorial Stadium, located at 2305 E. Main St. in League City, as originally reported. The *Leader* staff apologizes for any confusion. See related coverage in the *Leader's* 2019 graduation issue, located in Section C of this paper.

2019 hurricane season to begin June 1

The 2019 hurricane season will begin Saturday, June 1, and will continue through Nov. 30.

In their annual forecast, meteorologists with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicted nine to 15 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), including four to eight hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher). Of the hurricanes, two to four are predicted to be major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher) this season. Experts say this is on par with the 30-year average.

South Belt residents should plan accordingly, in the event that a major storm should strike the area. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM), working in conjunction with the City of Houston

and the State of Texas, has issued evacuation routes for community members, should the need arise to leave town.

The South Belt area, including ZIP codes 77089 and 77075, are located in what the OHSEM refers to as ZIP-Zone C.

In the case of a Category 4 or 5 storm, those residing in ZIP-Zone C are urged to evacuate by traveling west on Interstate 10 or by heading north on Interstate 45 and highways 290 and 59.

The OHSEM warns against traveling east, as it will take evacuees closer to the coast and into the more vulnerable ZIP-Zone B.

Should the Texas Department of Public Safety issue a mandatory evacuation, contraflow operations will likely be put into effect to expedite the

flow of traffic.

On Interstate 10, eastbound lanes would be reversed at FM 359 in Brookshire, just east of Sealy. The contraflow lanes will end at Loop 1604 in San Antonio.

Southbound lanes on Interstate 45 would be reversed north of Highway 242, just south of Conroe. The contraflow lanes will end at US 287 near Ennis, 40 miles south of Dallas.

On Highway 290, contraflow operations will begin just west of FM 1960. Northbound traffic from State Highway 6 will be able to turn west onto 290 contraflow lanes. Contraflow operations will continue to FM 1948 near Burton.

Contraflow operations on Highway 59 will begin just south of Kingwood Drive and continue to Nacogdoches.

County officials recommend each household assemble a disaster relief kit that includes key items such as flashlights, cell phones, extra batteries, battery chargers, a portable radio, a first

aid kit, emergency water and food, medical supplies, a nonelectric can opener, a highway map and important documents, such as driver's licenses, passports, insurance policies and health cards.

Residents are urged to cover their windows with shielding materials and to secure or put up any loose items around their homes.

Evacuees should fill their vehicles with gasoline as early as possible and take only one automobile, as extra cars create traffic congestion.

Those leaving town are encouraged to bring extra cash in case banks are closed and ATMs are not working. Fleeing citizens are also urged to notify family and friends (especially those out of the area) of their plans and destinations.

Disabled individuals and seniors who require assistance leaving the area should call the state's help line at 211 or visit www.211texas.org/211.

For more information, visit www.hcoem.org.

Continued on Page 5A



Locals visit DC

A delegation from the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership recently took a trip to Washington, D.C., to promote space exploration in the Ellington area. The group of 100 conducted 400 congressional office visits over a two-day period. Pictured above on the trip are, left to right, South Belt resident and BAHEP President Bob Mitchell, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Houston City Council Member Dave Martin.

Photo submitted

Dog shot during home invasion

A family dog was shot during a home invasion early Friday, May 24, on Sagewick Drive near Beltway 8 and Sabo.

According to police, four masked men forced their way into the house through the back door around 12:45 a.m., then pinned the father down in the kitchen. One of the men then guarded the man at gunpoint, while the remaining three suspects ransacked the home.

The family dog attempted to save the father but was shot in the paw by one of the suspects.

During the commotion, the mother and three children attempted to investigate what was happening but were reportedly told to remain in their rooms. At one point, one of the sons jumped out of a window and ran to a neighbor's house for help. After noticing the boy leaving the house, the suspects fled the scene.

The father attempted to give chase with his own gun, but it was too late.

Investigators said the father's wallet and cell phone were taken during the robbery, but the crooks dropped the wallet at the residence before leaving.

The dog was taken to a veterinarian for emergency treatment and is expected to be OK.

No other injuries were reported.

Anyone with any information about the event is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477). See related social media entry on Page 2A.

This marked the third time in approximately two months that dogs have played a heroic role in local crime scenes.

On Friday, March 8, a dog discovered a dead body in an open field near the corner of Sandy Hook and Binghamton while on its morning walk with its owner. The body was later determined to be Angel Marie Peckham, 21, who went missing earlier that morning from an apartment complex in the 3900 block of Arlington Square, near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. The case is still under investigation.

Then on Sunday, March 10, another dog attacked a suspect who was shooting its owner during a robbery in the 11700 block of Davenport Court.

In that incident, Javian Castaneda, 17, was charged with three counts of felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Seeking public comments

PISD sets public meeting

A public informational meeting will be held by Pasadena Independent School District on Monday, June 3, to seek public comments on the needs and use of Title I, II, III and IDEA B Federal funds. (See related at Page 4A.)

Two meetings are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Pasadena ISD Special Programs Office located in the PISD Administrative Building, 1515 Cherrybrook Lane, Pasadena, TX 77502, Room SP104.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss how the district uses funds to provide supplemental support in improving its special programs.

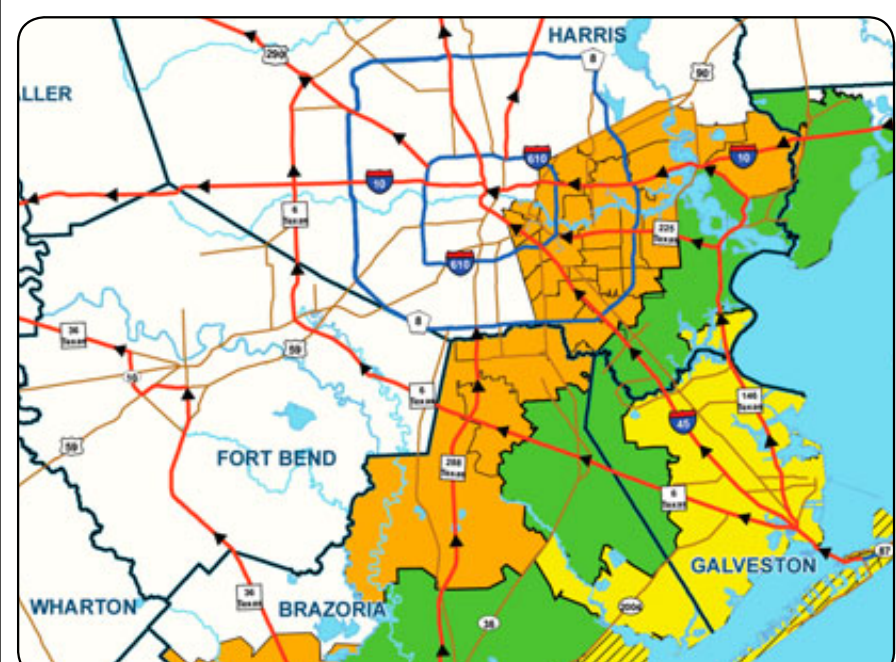
For more information, please contact the Special Programs Office at 713-740-0225.

Station 70 gets new vehicle



Houston Fire Department Station 70 recently took possession of a new district chief vehicle. The 2018 Ford F-250 will replace the 2008 Chevy Suburban previously used by the station. The new truck will be used as a command post/operation center. Shown above with the vehicle is HFD District Chief Clennis Tyre. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Evacuation routes set



Shown above are the Harris County hurricane evacuation routes. Most of the South Belt is located in ZIP-Zone C, represented in orange. The area, however, is divided to the west along Beltway 8. In the event of an evacuation, residents in ZIP-Zone C are urged to travel west or north. ZIP-Zone B is represented in green, while ZIP-Zone A is shown in yellow.

Local citizens stop purse snatcher

A pair of citizens subdued a would-be purse snatcher the evening of Tuesday, May 21, at the Subway restaurant in the 10900 block of Scarsdale at Beamer.

According to Sgt. Robert Sanchez of Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office, the incident took place at approximately 8:30 p.m. when one male suspect in a group of three juveniles grabbed a female customer's purse as she was eating dinner with her son inside the establishment.

As the suspect was heading for the door, a male customer inside the restaurant who had witnessed the crime tackled the teen as he attempted to exit the business.

At this time, the victim's son helped the other male customer detain the suspect, as the pair then sat on the crook, using their body weight to hold the man in place until deputies could arrive at the scene and apprehend the suspect.

Upon their arrival at the establishment, Precinct 2 deputies were able to detain the teen suspect and take him into custody.

The other two juveniles managed to exit the

store without capture. Due to the suspect's age, his identity is being withheld by authorities.

Gun warning

Precinct 2's Sanchez is warning South Belt residents who have concealed handguns to always take them inside their residences rather than leave them in their vehicles, as many have been stolen in recent weeks.

According to Sanchez, there have been at least five reported thefts of handguns from area cars in just the month of May. The sergeant further predicted that the thefts would likely increase in the coming months, as the number of reported burglaries of motor vehicles generally spikes over the summer months when students are out of school.

"They (the guns) need to be put away," Sanchez said. "Now, we have these criminals running around with all these guns. I can't stress it enough. They're putting guns on the street."

Anyone with any information about the thefts is urged to contact the constable's office at 713-477-2766.

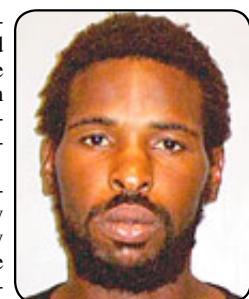
Murder charge filed in 2018 death

A suspect has officially been charged with murder in the August 2018 death of South Belt resident Candace Kitchen Manning.

Terrance Washington, 27, was already in jail after allegedly admitting to police that he had abducted Manning and later set fire to her vehicle to destroy evidence. He, however, denied killing her.

Autopsy results, however, reveal that Manning had been strangled and beaten to death. Washington had initially told investigators that Manning died while the two were having consensual sex. It remains unclear if Manning had been sexually assaulted.

Following the determination of death by the medical examiner's office, prosecutors filed a



Washington

capital murder charge against Washington on Wednesday, May 22.

If convicted, Washington faces an automatic life sentence. Prosecutors, however, may choose to seek the death penalty.

Washington is being held in the Harris County Jail with no bond.

Manning was last seen alive around 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 8, when she was abducted at her apartment complex in the 3600 block of South Shaver and forced into her 2009 Mercedes. Two days later, Manning's car was discovered burning in the parking lot of a Food Town in the 3300 block of Shaver. Her body was in the back seat.

Washington was spotted near the fire and arrested on an unrelated criminal mischief charge. During questioning by police, Washington reportedly admitted to his involvement in the crime.

Manning, 54, was a 1982 Dobbie graduate. Her parents, Jack Kitchen (also deceased) and Joan Kitchen, have longstanding ties to the South Belt community and Sagemont Church.

Despite setbacks, Richards excels at Clear Horizons

Imagine the stress of starting high school and college simultaneously, all while battling a debilitating condition.

Erynn Richards was only six years old when she found out she had lost all hearing in her left ear. "My dad took me to the

movie theater, and he was trying to talk to me from the left side and I had to completely turn around to hear him," Erynn said. "So that's when they knew something wasn't right and we found out I had no hearing in that ear."

Then, in eighth grade, she began experiencing symptoms of vertigo due to her right ear having to overcompensate for the loss of hearing in the left ear. "I already have no balance in my inner ear on the right, so I began to have these episodes where the room would start spinning if I started to get anxious," Erynn said.

These side effects, which include ongoing spells of dizziness and nausea, can last anywhere from one day to a week or more. She began taking medicine, which helped for a few years. "My body got immune to the medicine in tenth grade," Erynn said. "So, the worst of the symptoms

started all over again. I began to miss so many days of school."

With the rigorous coursework at Clear Horizons Early College High School and her college courses through San Jacinto College, she feared that she would not be able to continue to be a part of the program if she continued to miss school due to her health.

"I would sit through classes as the world was spinning around me," Erynn said. "I had accelerated algebra 2, AP physics and AP world history on my schedule that year."

"I also knew my college professors wouldn't be as lenient. It just added to my anxiety, which made the vertigo symptoms even worse."

After ending up in the emergency room one time due to dehydration, Erynn knew she needed to take charge of her life again.

"I brought it upon myself to figure out better time

management since I never knew when I could have another issue," Erynn said. "I was always staying on top of my work and was so much more determined to do well in my classes so if I had an issue, I would have a little cushion to deal with it. It gave me more of a purpose since I did not want the vertigo to rule the rest of my life."

This change in mindset has completely altered the course of her high school career. She went from not knowing if she would be able to succeed in her classes, to now graduating summa cum laude from Clear Horizons, earning her associate degree from San Jacinto Community College, and receiving \$60,000 in scholarship money. Her dream is to now use her personal struggles as the motivation to help others.

After graduation, Erynn will be attending Stephen F. Austin University to study communication sciences and disorders. She plans to advance and get her master's degree in speech language pathology.

"I had to have speech therapy when I was little due to my loss of hearing, and I just remember not having the greatest experience with the speech therapist," Erynn said. However, when my sister went through speech therapy, she absolutely loved her therapist. I remember thinking how impactful that one person was in helping her and that stuck with me."

Erynn's interest in the career path grew over the years, and she completed

two internships in speech language pathology for a class at school.

"I worked at a clinic and at an elementary school," Erynn said. "I got the

chance to work with young students with autism, and after seeing how sweet and smart they are, I knew I wanted to help in any way I can. So, I plan on working

for an elementary school after receiving my degrees."

As for her advice to other students who might be struggling through a similar situation, Erynn wants them

to always keep hope that they will get through it and lean on others for support.

Keep looking to the future and you will get to where you want to go, she said.

Richards earns summa cum laude

Despite battling major health issues nearly her entire life Clear Horizons student Erynn Richards overcame all obstacles and recently graduated summa cum laude from the area campus, earning her associate degree from San Jacinto Community College before receiving her high school diploma. She was also awarded \$60,000 in scholarships. She now plans to attend Stephen F. Austin University, where she will study communication sciences and disorders and hopes to earn a master's degree in speech language pathology. Richards plans to someday work for an elementary school where she can help other students who suffer from health disorders. Richards permanently lost hearing in her left ear at the age of six. The loss of hearing has been chronically accompanied by multiple related health issues.



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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

22-6A's best! Pleasants is MVP; De La Cerda Pitcher of the Year

The statistics tell much of the story, but yet not nearly all of it. Taylor Pleasants was named the Most Valuable Player of

District 22-6A after putting together one of the most impressive seasons in recent memory.

Pleasants will now be widely considered to be the greatest offensive player in the storied history of the Dobie program, having come through with a .600 batting average this season to go with 63 runs scored, 50 runs batted in, 16 doubles, six triples and eight homers.

A four-year starter in both volleyball and softball since the day she stepped onto campus as a freshman, Pleasants sim-

ply got better and better each school year, having been named the 22-6A first team shortstop in 2018 as teammate Yvonne Whaley deservedly pocketed the MVP award.

Pleasants, the Louisiana State University softball signee will be remembered as perhaps the greatest female athlete of all-time at Dobie after also delivering Most Valuable Player accolades on the volleyball court, but it's the softball field where she is unrivaled.

Remember the name Taylor Pleasants as she plays for USA Softball's junior women's national team priorities this summer and then is off to Baton Rouge this fall. She's been a tremendous presence at Dobie.

Pleasants was far from Dobie's lone honoree on the 22-6A all-district list this season. Stepping up big in a time of need for her team, junior Jessica De La Cerda took over the circle and went on to become the league's Pitcher of the Year.

De La Cerda went 17-6 overall with a 2.93 earned run average over 34 appearances as she and Pleasants helped guide the Lady Longhorns to the regional quarterfinals for the first time since 2012.

For more on the Lady Longhorns' all-district and all-academic selections, see Page 2B.



Dobie's Taylor Pleasants (17) concluded her tremendous four-year varsity softball career by being named the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player for 2019, having guided the Lady Longhorns to the regional quarterfinal round for the first time since the 2012 season. The Louisiana State University softball signee was also named the Most Valuable Player in 22-6A during the volleyball season.

Photos by Jade Wise



The District 22-6A Pitcher of the Year Award went to Dobie's Jessica De La Cerda, who stepped up this season to become the team's go-to performer in the circle, particularly down the stretch. The junior right-hander was the winning pitcher twice against Memorial late in the regular season as the Lady Longhorns ascended to the No. 2 playoff seed and then won three playoff games. See more all-district photos on Page 2B.

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CW39 Houston's Triplet joins JFD



An appearance by CW39 Houston's Hannah Triplet (right) highlighted the 20th annual J. Frank Dobie High School Faculty/Staff-Student "Teacher Appreciation Week" Tennis Tournament at Dobie as she teamed in doubles play with Dobie principal Franklin Moses (left). Triplet attended high school at Fort Bend Baptist Academy, where she played tennis. She went on to earn a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin and eventually found her way to CW39 Houston, where she handles traffic reports and is also an anchor/reporter. While at Dobie, Triplet met Camille Lajaunie, wife of Dobie graduate Darren Lajaunie, and recently profiled the Lajaunies and the success of the Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament. That story can still be viewed on the CW39 Houston website. See more on the faculty/student event on Page 6B.

Dobie, LSA players make HABCA roster

The Dobie area round to take part in the Senior All-Star Game June 3. Mercado, an Angelina College baseball signee, and Lopez, a Coastal Bend College baseball signee, helped Dobie defeat District 21-6A champion La Porte en route to the area playoffs.

HABCA Senior All-Star Game
Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.
Constellation Field, Sugarland

team. The Houston Area Baseball Coaches Association has selected Dobie shortstop Jeffrey Mercado and right-handed pitcher Damien Lopez as well as LSA's Trhea Morse, Chad Allen and Jared Chambers

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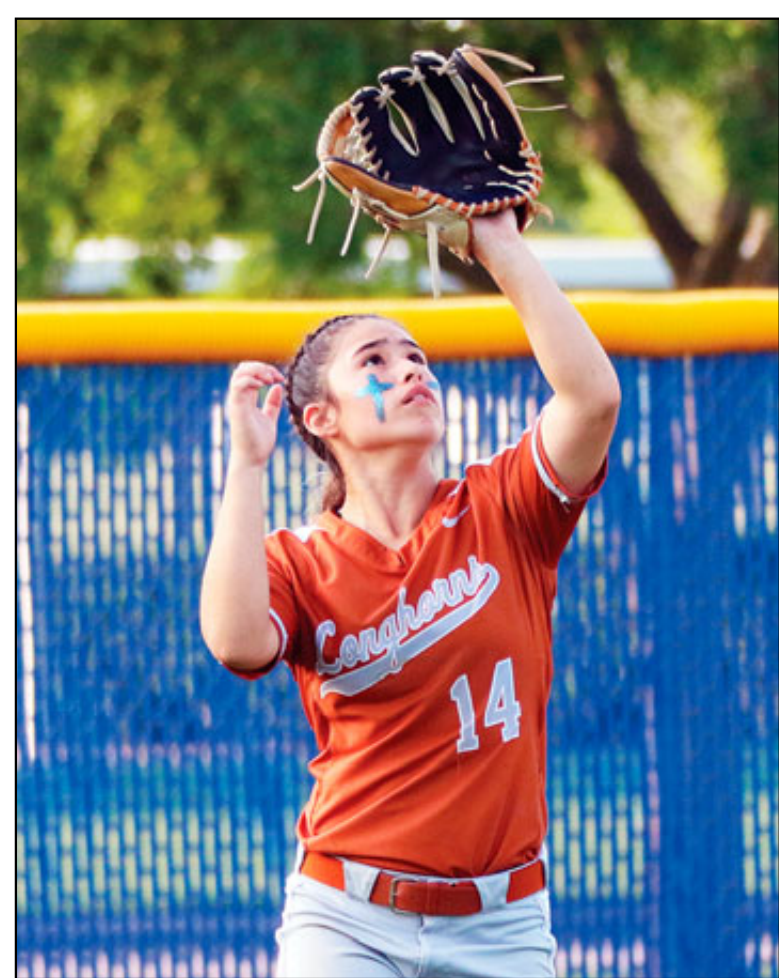
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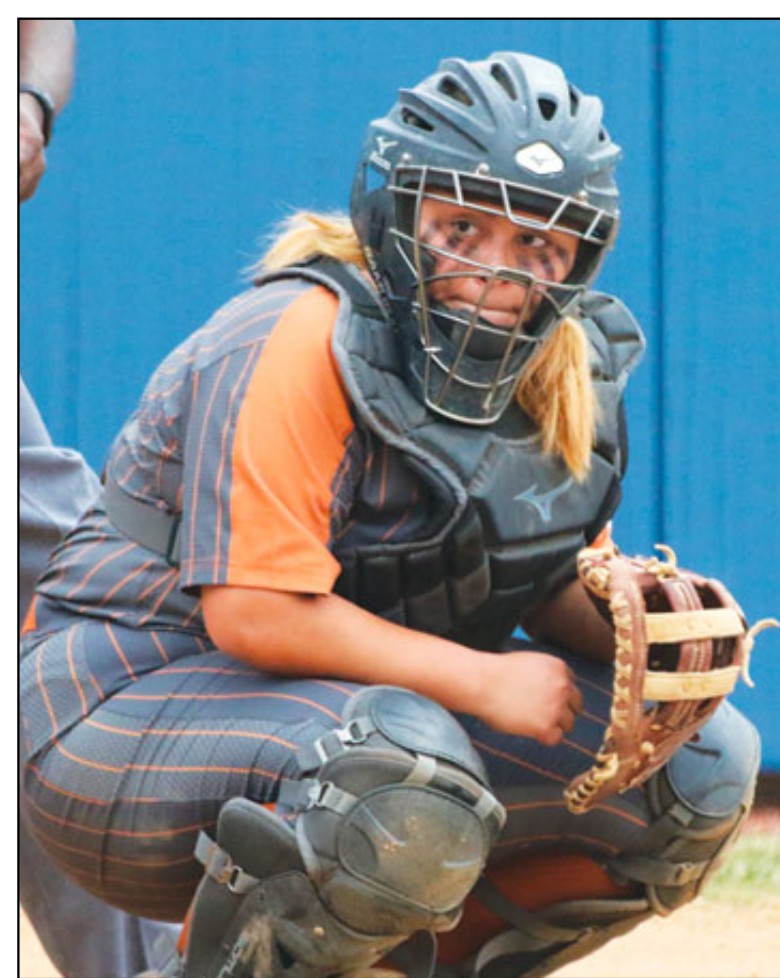
Regional quarterfinalist Dobie softball scores all-district honors



First team all-district outfielder Leslie Longoria was one of the top leadoff hitters in the area this season, seemingly coming up with multi-hit games every time out. The sophomore led the team in batting average (.504) and hits (70).
Photo by Jade Wise



Junior first team all-district selection Camryn Wincher delivered a grand slam in the Lady Longhorns' area series victory over Clear Springs and led the Lady Longhorns with 63 runs batted in during 40 games played. She hit .449 with 11 doubles and six home runs.
Photo by Jade Wise



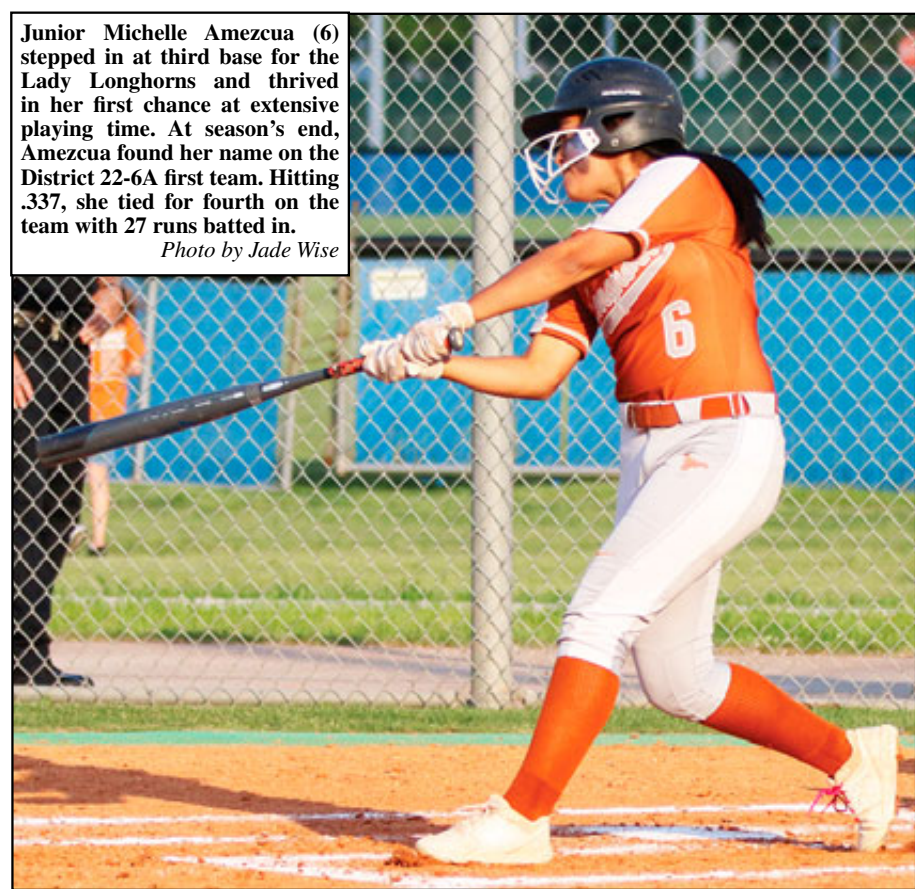
The league's best defensive catcher was Dobie junior Mikayla Gutierrez as she earned first team all-district status this season. Aside from handling the team's pitching staff and defense, she hit .291 and drove in 19 runs. She had five doubles this season.
Photo by Jade Wise



Dobie's Yessenia Pena (10) collected second team all-district honors after coming up with numerous big hits during the regular season and played in the bidistrict series against North Shore. A sophomore, Pena is due back for two seasons.



Junior Michelle Amezcua (6) stepped in at third base for the Lady Longhorns and thrived in her first chance at extensive playing time. At season's end, Amezcua found her name on the District 22-6A first team. Hitting .337, she tied for fourth on the team with 27 runs batted in.
Photo by Jade Wise



- Honorable Mention All-District**
Danielle Colunga – Miquela Guajardo
Academic All-District
Jayla Arenas – Mikayla Gutierrez
Sam Lopez – Camryn Wincher

Another of a tremendous Dobie sophomore class that at varying times during the season included as many as four starters, Jasmin Benitez came up with big hit after big hit on her way to being named to the District 22-6A second team unit. She hit .375 and knocked in 27 runs.
Photo by Jade Wise

Clear Brook's Crutchfield chooses UH track and field

At right, Clear Brook High School graduate Kennedy Crutchfield (seated center) will continue her education and track and field career at the University of Houston after signing a letter of intent with the Cougars. She was a Region III meet qualifier in various sprints as well as relays and jump events over the past three seasons with the Lady Wolverines. Crutchfield was a multi-season volleyball player for the school. With Crutchfield at the signing was her father, Mark Crutchfield (left) and her mother, Tonya Crutchfield. Kennedy Crutchfield is set to join a nationally ranked University of Houston track and field program that already includes Clear Brook graduates Brandon Taylor and Kenneth Pree as well as Dobie graduate Justice Henderson.



Dobie's Karlie Barba (22) delivered in a huge way during her freshman season, delivering three walk-off hits and leading her team to the No. 2 playoff seed. For her efforts, she was a second team all-district pick. She scored 24 runs this season and drove in another 20, delivering eight extra-base hits.

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20th annual Dobie student once again a smash hit in doubles action

The 2018-2019 school year has come to a close, but that doesn't mean the memories have quickly diminished. For one, the 20th annual Dobie High School Faculty/Staff-Student Appreciation tournament was again a huge hit, and this year's event even delivered an upset or two along the way. The following is an email

Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. sent out to those involved following the completion of the event. "The 20th annual J. Frank Dobie High School Faculty/Staff-Student "Teacher Appreciation Week" Tennis Tournament was another huge success! Thanks goes out to the 29 doubles teams who made it a

lot of fun for everyone, and a special thanks to Hannah Trippett, WB Channel 39's traffic reporter, for joining in and playing doubles with Mr. (Franklin) Moses. Thanks, too, to Mike Van Essen and several of his staff members for coming over from Dobie9 and supporting their fellow colleagues after a long, busy day!

The big surprise of the tournament came in the quarterfinals of the Burnt Orange & White Division, where head counselor Jennifer Haynes and partner Luis Neira upset the No. 2 seeds,

coach Steven Mullins and Jennifer Ho, in a 6-4 thriller. A big pat on the back has to go to the six brave souls in the Steve Jamail "Dobie Pride" Division, especially Mrs. (Martha) Jack for mak-

ing her third time a winning charm against fellow counselor K. Davis in the championship match, 3-1, and Mrs. (Martha) Varela, Dobie9's attendance lady, winning one of the prestigious bobble-

heads, as well. The tournament also featured a first in its 20-year history - mother and daughter facing off in the final of the White Division, with algebra's Sandra Rodriguez and

partner Ronald Nguyen beating Mr. (Chad) Kearbey and freshman phenom Megan Rodriguez, a force to be reckoned with for the next three years, 4-2. So, congratulations to all the winners!"

With that the 20th version of the event came to a close, but the Dobie tennis program is surely already excited to play gracious hosts again as everyone tests their skills out on the courts.

Steve Jamail "Dobie Pride" Division (Beginner)

Champions - Jack/Tristan Pedraza

Runners-up - K. Davis/Hayden Lazo

Third-place - Varela/Brian Nguyen

Consolation champions - Landrum/Quan Dinh

White Division (Intermediate/Beginner)

Champions - Rodriguez/Ronald Nguyen

Runners-up - Kearbey/Megan Rodriguez

Third-place - O'Connell/Kiet Nguyen

Consolation champions - Berreth/Sebastian Delgado

Burnt Orange Division (Advanced/Beginner)

Champions - Saldivar/Kristy Morales

Runners-up - Richardson/Austin Luu

Third-place - Long/Camille Smith

Consolation champions - Etienne/Stephanie Gonzalez

Burnt Orange & White Division (Advanced)

Champions - Thomas/Courtney Chung

Runners-up - Giron/Kyle "Bunkie" Redmon

Co-Third place - B. Nguyen/Violet Tran & Haynes/Luis Neira

Consolation champions - Mullins/Jennifer Ho

Area sports news, notes

Dobie grad's softball camp at SJC South June 6

Dobie High School graduate Iver McDonald Robinson will host her Robinson Fastpitch Summer Camp Thursday, June 6, from 5 to 9 p.m. at San Jacinto College South campus. Entrants of all youth softball ages are invited to attend, but limited spots remain available in the 60-person-only event.

Cost of the camp is \$130 per participant and will include plenty of hitting drills, scrimmage game action and defensive strategies. More information about the event can be found at www.mcdonaldclinics.com. For specific questions about the event, direct email to Robinson at ivermac18@gmail.com.

Coaches from college's such as San Jacinto College, LSU, Texas State, Baylor, Sam Houston and Texas A&M-Texarkana have confirmed attendance.

Myers' Ole Miss squad to host baseball regional

Tyler Myers, a Dobie High School graduate and current junior season reliever with the University of Mississippi Rebels baseball team, will be in action May 31-June 2 as the Rebels host the Oxford Regional in Oxford.

Ole Miss, the No. 12 overall national seed, will take on Jacksonville State (37-21) in an opening-round game May 31, with Illinois (36-19) and Clemson (34-24) also in the double-elimination event. The Rebels are currently 37-25 overall after finishing the Southeastern Conference tournament as runner-up to champion Vanderbilt.

As for Myers, he is 2-0 over 22 relief appearances and has a 4.50 earned run average heading into the postseason. He has fanned 33 batters over the course of 36 innings of work.

Twins call up San Jac's Smeltzer



Devin Smeltzer, who pitched one season for the 2016 San Jacinto College JUCO World Series runner-up squad, made his major league debut May 28 for the Minnesota Twins against the Milwaukee Brewers. Suffice to say, he earned the chance to get another start, blanking the Brewers over six innings, allowing three hits and striking out seven. Over nine starts this season between AA Pensacola and AAA Rochester, Smeltzer has gone 3-2 with a 1.15 earned run average, striking out 48 and allowing just a .199 batting average against him. In 2016 with San Jacinto, he was 9-3 with a 1.18 ERA, including 128 strikeouts in 91 1/3 innings. After pitching the 2016 season for San Jacinto, Smeltzer was a fifth round pick by the Los Angeles Dodgers. On July 31 of last year, Smeltzer and two other players were shipped to Minnesota as the Dodgers acquired Brian Dozier. Photo by Rob Vanya



The championship in the Burnt Orange advanced/beginner division went to Dobie varsity tennis player Kristy Morales (left) and faculty member Hector Saldivar, a Dobie graduate who played varsity soccer at the school. Saldivar is currently an assistant on the varsity girls' soccer coaching staff.



The White division featuring intermediate/beginner level players concluded with a first-ever in the 20-year history of the tournament as Dobie9 counselor Chad Kearbey (left) and his playing partner and Dobie tennis player Megan Rodriguez (second from left) finished second to their mother and Dobie instructor Sandra Rodriguez and Dobie player Ronald Nguyen.

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