

Auxiliary fundraiser set

Memorial Hermann Southeast Volunteer Auxiliary will continue its annual Mother's Day Sale on Thursday, May 5, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third floor North Tower of the hospital (outpatient's entrance). Purchases can be made from a large selection of bed, bath, kitchen items, area rugs, handbags and fragrances. Proceeds will go to auxiliary scholarships, donations to charities, and hospital projects.

Dobie football car wash

The Dobie Longhorn Football Team will hold a car wash on Saturday, May 7, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Food Town on Scarsdale and Beamer Road. Cost is \$5. Tickets can be purchased from football players, or pay at the car wash.

KS scholarships available

2011-2012 scholarship applications are available for graduating seniors at Dobie High who reside in Kirkwood South. Application and information sheets can be picked up in the scholarship coordinator's office at Dobie.

Stingers hold fundraiser

Stinger Baseball 8U Kid Pitch will have a Crawfish Boil fundraiser on Saturday, May 14, at Scooter's Ice House, 1134 North Main St. in Pearland. Stinger Baseball will represent the South Belt/Pearland area in the 2011 World Series in Atlanta and needs the support of the community to get there.

Kindergarten Roundups set

South Belt Elementary
South Belt Elementary will hold Kindergarten Roundup on May 6, at 9 a.m. This will be an informational session for parents and an open house for prospective kindergarteners. Parents will receive enrollment requirements while students visit the current kindergarten classrooms for a book and a snack. Bring a current copy of each child's shot record, if available. For more information, call 713-740-5276.

Frazier Elementary
Frazier Elementary will hold its 2011-2012 Kindergarten Roundup Monday, May 9, from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. for those entering kindergarten in the fall.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet the kindergarten teachers and learn about the school and the kindergarten program. Children can visit the kindergarten classrooms and have story time with juice and cookies. Parents will receive the enrollment packet for the fall and will be allowed to go to the front of the line with the completed packet at registration in August. For more information, call the school at 713-740-0560.

Lariaettes set spring show

The Dobie Lariaettes will present their annual spring show, *I Love the Nightlife*, on May 5, 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. in the Dobie auditorium. Admission is \$10, under 2 (seated in a lap), free. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Matt Woods at 281-485-7830 or email waymar00@aol.com.

Thompson dance meeting

The Thompson Eighth-Grade Dance Committee will meet Tuesday, May 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. For more information, call Anna Flores at 281-221-5602.

Dobie class reunions set

Dobie 10-year reunion
Dobie Class of 2001 will hold its 10-year reunion on July 9, 2011, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland. The cost, April 15 through June 1, is \$50; June 2 through July 2, \$60 (this is the last day to pre-order tickets); and on July 9, \$75 (cash only at the door). For more information, contact <http://www.dobie2001.webs.com/>.

Dobie 35-year reunion
Dobie Class of 1976 will hold its 35-year reunion on June 11, 2011, from 6 p.m. to midnight in the Marina Ballroom at South Shore Harbour Resort in Leauge City. The cost through May 20 is \$75; May 21 through May 31, \$85 (last day to pre-order tickets); and June 11, \$85 (cash only at the door).

For more information, contact Milly Valez McHale at sillymilly_40@yahoo.com or face book.com/millyrosales or John Pfister at pfisterl@att.net or facebook.com/pfisterl. There is also a link on the Dobie website.

Melillo health fair May 13

Melillo Middle School will hold its community-wide third annual health/fitness fair on Friday, May 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. The purpose of the fair is to increase health and fitness awareness through education and prevention. The school believes this fair will provide a valuable service to the community.

In addition, the fair will include a blood drive run by the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and will wrap up Melillo's Book Fair week. Melillo Middle School is located at 9220 Hughes Road in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision. For further information regarding the health/fitness fair, call the school at 713-740-5260.

Dobie decathlon takes second in nation

By Al Carter

Despite a school-record score and a standout performance from senior Jeremy Morris, Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team was forced to settle for the runner-up spot at the national championships, which concluded on Saturday in Charlotte, N.C.

Granada Hills Charter School won the event, giving California its ninth consecutive national title.

Dobie became the first Texas school in five years to finish in the top two – and only the second in the past 10 years.

The Longhorns piled up 50,436.2 points, the most ever for a Dobie team at the national level. Dobie won the national title in 1992 and again in 1996.

But the Longhorns' hopes for a third national championship were thwarted by Granada Hills, which finished with 52,113.5 points. The point difference – 1,677.3 – is considered razor-thin in the scoring system used.

Waukesha West (Ill.) High School took third with 49,785 points.

Morris contributed 9,059.4 points, the first Dobie student to break the 9,000-point barrier since Steven Higginbotham took over as the Longhorns' coach in 2006. Morris' score was second overall.

The Longhorns carried away 31 individual medals, the most ever won by any Texas school at the national event. Dobie also won the Super Quiz and the Super Quiz Relay.

Dobie's Quinn Velasquez went 5-for-5 in the Super Quiz Relay to secure the victory.

The Longhorns fell noticeably short in the math portions of the competition.

"We actually had a decent increase in all the other categories," Higginbotham said.

Morris won gold medals in art, literature, economics and in the Super Quiz. He also won a

bronze in music.

Other Dobie individual results: Jessica Huynh: bronze medal in art and literature.

Ed Gonzalez: gold in Super Quiz; third overall in the scholastic category; silver in art and interview; bronze in speech.

Katey Miille: silver in art; bronze in music, literature and essay.

Julian Hernandez: gold in Super Quiz and also in interview with a perfect score of 1,000.

Eddie Nunez: silver in math and speech; bronze in literature and economics; second overall in varsity category in Super Quiz.

Mark Admani: silver in literature, bronze in social science.

Tad Walters: Silver in economics, social science and Super Quiz.

Dobie AD excels at nationals



Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team placed second this past weekend at the national competition held in Charlotte, N.C.. Granada Hills Charter School from California won the event, earning the school its ninth consecutive national title. Dobie students pictured above are, left to right, (front row) Mark Admani, Eddie Nunez, Julian Hernandez, Quinn Velasquez, Katey Miille, (second row) Coach Steven Higginbotham, Jeremy Morris, Jessica Huynh, Ed Gonzalez, Tad Walters and Coach Todd Geries.

Annual cookoff heating up

The 15th annual South Belt Spectacular Cookoff will take place Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road.

Organized by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the event raises funds for the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show.

Friday's entertainment will start at 4 p.m. with open karaoke hosted by Michael Brown. The Blue Note Brothers Band will play live modern country, southern rock and blues from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Saturday's events will begin at 10 a.m. with the opening of a children's play area. Games2U will provide a digital game truck until 12:45 p.m. and a Hamster Ball game from 1 to 3 p.m. A rock climb and a moonwalk will be provided by Awesome Events.

There will also be large inflatable slides, an obstacle course and a Jacob's Ladder. With the exception of the rock climb, all will be free of charge.

The San Jacinto College Cosmetology Club will be doing hair braiding, face painting and henna art for a nominal charge.

The Sagemont Church Clown Ministry will entertain children from noon until 4 p.m. Gabby the Clown will also be performing.

The South Belt Idol karaoke competition will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. for contestants 8 years and older. Contestants will be grouped into three age groups: 8-12 years is scheduled for 1 p.m., 13-17 years is scheduled for 2:30 p.m., and 18 years and up is scheduled for 4 p.m. An award for each group will be presented at 6 p.m. The contest is free but limited to the first 10 to sign up for each group. Plaques will be awarded to all

winners. To sign up for the competition, e-mail name, age, song choice and phone number to Chris McDonald at chrismcd@wans.net.

A silent auction will also take place Saturday. Current auction items include a chance to name an area street, four rounds of golf at Timber Creek Golf Club, tickets to Schlitterbahn and tickets to the Galveston Historic Homes Tour.

Saturday evening's events will begin at 6 p.m. with an awards presentation to the winners of the barbecue cookoff and karaoke competition.

At 8 p.m., Rene Hinojosa and the Texas Heat band will perform their style of country, rock, blues and Tejano music for the crowd.

Drinks and barbecue will be sold by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department throughout the event.

Parking will be available at Dobie High School with a shuttle service running both days from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Organizers are still seeking volunteers to serve as food judges and to supervise the children's games. To volunteer, contact the *Leader* at mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Admission is \$5. Children 12 and under will be admitted free. Advance tickets are buy five, get one free and can be purchased at State Farm Agent Thuy Epperson's office, 10904 Scarsdale Blvd # 226; the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale; the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, 11555 Beamer; Central Ace Hardware, 11676 Beamer; the Kirkmont MUD office, 10102 Blackhawk; and the Clear Brook City MUD office, 11911 Blackhawk.

For additional information, e-mail John Layton at jlayton@live.com.

No outside alcohol will be allowed.

Watering slab may save foundation

With Texas facing its worst drought in 44 years and wildfires threatening much of the state, South Belters are reminded that watering their home's concrete slab may help save the house's foundation from cracking during these dry times.

Expansive soils like clay act like a sponge. They swell the more they absorb water and shrink as they lose it, causing a home's foundation to move up and down.

The purpose of watering a home's foundation is to maintain a constant level of moisture in the soil under the house and slab.

While opinions vary on the best approach to

foundation watering, many experts suggest installing a buried irrigation system using soaker hoses that can be easily purchased and installed.

The soaker hoses, however, should not be placed directly against the home's foundation, but rather approximately 6 inches away from it to spread water into the soil more evenly.

Watering should concentrate on the lowest side of the house, with the goal of keeping the soil consistently moist, but not muddy.

Experts also warn of planting trees and large shrubs too close to a home's slab, as they grow toward moist soil and can cause further foundation damage.

Signs of foundation damage include cracks that are 1/8 inch wide or wider, uneven floors and doors that won't open.

Residents who have reason to believe they have structural damage are encouraged to consult a licensed engineer for further evaluation and recommendations.

Sullivan to host area town hall

Houston City Councilmember Mike Sullivan will hold a town hall meeting Wednesday, May 11, at San Jacinto College South in the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

South Belt residents are encouraged to attend to receive updates on ongoing and future projects taking place in District E.

Representatives from the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department,

Solid Waste Department, Parks and Recreation Department, General Services Department, Houston Police Department and Houston Fire Department will be in attendance and give presentations.

Sullivan will open the floor to questions and comments following the presentations.

For additional information, call Karina Moreno at 832-393-3008 or e-mail Karina.Moreno@houston.tx.gov.

Luncheon to honor top grads

Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale will be the guest of honor at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's top 10 luncheon to honor local students Thursday, May 12, at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club in Pearland, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

The event will honor the top 10 graduat-

ing students from Dobie, Clear Horizons High School and Lutheran South Academy.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call chamber executive director Sally Mitchell at 281-481-5516 or e-mail info@southbeltchamber.com.

Residents urged to shop gas prices

With gas prices approaching all-time highs, South Belt residents are urged to shop around before hitting the pump.

At press time, the lowest price for regular gasoline in the immediate South Belt area, according to the website www.houstongasprices.com, was \$3.83 per gallon at Kroger and Exxon, both of which are located at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Sabo.

Kroger customers have a slight advantage, however, as they receive 3 cents off per gallon with a Kroger Plus card.

Regular gasoline can be found for \$3.85 per gallon at Shell and Chevron, both located at Beltway 8 and Beamer, as well as the Valero located at 11499 Beamer at Kirkfair and the Conoco located at 11435 Hall Road and Beamer. Shell also

offers a discount to Kroger Plus customers.

Residents with larger tanks to fill may find it beneficial to travel a little farther to save additional money.

At press time, the cheapest regular gasoline in the Greater-South Belt area could be found at Murphy USA, located at 9612 Rowlett Road and the Gulf Freeway, for \$3.74 per gallon.

This was followed by the Valero at 5411 Beltway 8 at Genoa-Red Bluff, which had regular gasoline for \$3.79 per gallon.

The Exxon located at Beltway 8 and Sabo also had the cheapest premium gasoline in the immediate South Belt area at \$4.11 per gallon.

This was followed by the H-E-B located at 9828-A Blackhawk at Beltway 8, which had premium gasoline for \$4.13 per gallon.

Three arrested following shootout

Three area residents were arrested Wednesday, April 27, in the 9900 block of Easthaven following a shootout with Harris County Sheriff's deputies.

According to authorities, volunteer reserve deputies went to a home near Alameda Genoa around 9:30 p.m. to serve a felony warrant.

One deputy reportedly knocked on the door and announced they had an arrest warrant. A woman inside the home said she was armed and prepared to fire at them, officials said.

Deputies say they then spotted a man inside the home carrying a weapon. The man went to the back door, looked outside and began shoot-

ing at the officers who had formed a perimeter surrounding the house, according to authorities.

One of the deputies returned fire, and the man surrendered. No one was injured, and both the man and woman were taken into custody.

Deputies searched the home and found several weapons inside. Additional weapons were found at a second home on the property, and a third suspect was also arrested.

The person who deputies originally wanted to arrest was not in the house, but the location was his last known address.

At press time, the case was still under investigation, and no charges had been filed.



Williams turns 103

Park Manor of South Belt resident Juanita Newman Williams will turn 103 Saturday, May 14. Born in Francis, Okla. in 1908, Williams moved to Houston in 1943. Williams was married to Edward Williams Sr. from 1925 until his death in 1970. The couple had six children. One child, James, died as an infant. Their five living children are Margarette Clark, Port Orchard, Wash.; Edward Williams Jr., Houston; Barbara Caldwell, Tucumcari, N.M.; Jon Gary Williams, Lavergne, Tenn.; and Kathy Hamm, Pasadena. Williams has 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. She has been a seamstress, gardener, cook and caregiver. She has also been a lifelong member of the Church of Christ. Longevity runs in Williams' family, as her mother also lived to be more than 100. To celebrate her birthday, there will be a cake reception at Park Manor, 11902 Resource Parkway, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 14.

Readers' Opinions

Reams: How did we get here?

How did America get into the mess we're in? Anyone who knows our history and the history of the rest of the world can not deny that America has accomplished more, helped more people, build the greatest economy, produced the most wealth and became the greatest republic ever devised over the past 200+ years than any other country. We are the "shining city on the hill." The world's only remaining super power. So, how is it that our Founders had such wisdom, morality, integrity, character, vision and resolve to set us in motion; subsequent generations stood on their shoulders and continued to build our republic up to and including the "greatest generation;" and yet today we find ourselves on the precipice of becoming just another country, maybe even a bankrupt third world country?

Simple answer: America went to sleep. We didn't follow the example of our ancestors, didn't stay involved, didn't continue to protect and defend this republic against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It's those domestic enemies that are our undoing. Consider this statistic:

For 2008, 71% of voting age citizens were registered to vote (146 million of 300+ million citizens). Only 64% actually voted (131 million). And, "less than 5% of registered voters actively participate within the fabric of politics beyond the act of voting. Within this 5% there is an even smaller percentage of leaders. Within this tiny percentage lies the fate of America." (H.L. Richardson) Which group do you fall into? Even the act of voting by the majority of voters is done without knowledge of the issues, our history, or our founding documents. It's based more on party lines and because your parents voted for that party. Vote for whomever promises the most unconstitutional "goodies" at the expense of someone else.

Everybody has a reason for not being involved; too busy; don't know what to do; don't have an education; travel a lot with my job; got four kids who need me; working hard to make ends meet; etc., etc. Let someone else do it. Less than 5% are doing it, carrying the burden of the other 95%, and America is losing. Try using those excuses with our Founders who ended the Declaration of Independence with "...we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor." They weren't too busy.

History is filled with examples of great nations crumbling from lack of attention given to it by its own citizens. Instead, leaving their future, and the future of their offspring, in the hands of an unscrupulous, egotistical, power-seeking political ruling class who stay in office for decades looking out for their own interests, not ours. Will we become yet another such nation? Will we become another Greece? Another Rome? Another France? Will your great grandchildren look back and thank you for what you did, or condemn you for what you didn't do?

Those in the 5% already understand this and are doing all they can. Those in the 95% need to join them before America becomes a has-been footnote in history. Every community around here has a tea party, a 9-12 group, or some other grassroots organization fighting for America. What's your "hot button?" Find a group, join them and get busy. Your posterity are counting on you.

Larry Reams

Semler writes about America's foundation

The Declaration of Independence states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed". They wanted a country where citizens are free to pursue a way of life of their choosing. To live as they want to live.

The history of the King of Great Britain, during this time, was a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over the thirteen colonies. This form of government would not

support the Rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. To protect these rights the Colonies, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions, absolved their Allegiance to the British Crown. They formed a government comprised of representatives of the people they would govern, elected by the governed, and whose laws would be for the benefit of the governed; to protect the Rights of the people.

Our founding fathers established a set of guidelines by which this Government was to operate. These guidelines are known as The Constitution of the United States of America. The purpose of these rules was spelled out in the Preamble to the Constitution:

"We the people of the United States, In order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The actions and decisions of our founding fathers were guided by their belief in the Creator, the one who has endowed us with the Rights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. They called upon the Supreme Judge of the world for his blessing of their intentions in establishing their own form of government. Still today, in times of trouble, despair, tragedy, we turn to God for His healing powers to sustain us and carry us thru whatever we have to endure.

Our freedom to express our faith in God, to worship Him in a manner of our choosing, is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution - Freedom of Religion, Press, and Expression. This amendment states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. We still have Freedom of Religion, however there have been a number of instances where our rights to freely express our beliefs have been prohibited.

Using the concept of Separation of Church and State we no longer are allowed to begin the school day or start a sporting event with a prayer. We have had public displays of the Bible removed. There are those who want the words "In God we Trust" removed from our currency. Those who are behind these and other such actions have been successful because they have successfully misrepresented and misinterpreted the meaning and intend of the First Amendment.

What the founding fathers wanted to do was to guarantee that every citizen would be free to worship God in his or her own way. Free to choose what to believe. And free not to believe. And they did not want these freedoms hindered by the formation of a State religion. Such action could have adverse effects on the citizens, causing them to suppress their religious practices for fear of reprisals from the Government.

We are guaranteed freedom of religion, but not freedom from religion. To do so would require prohibiting the free exercise thereof, a guarantee of the First Amendment. But there is no coercion to force a set of beliefs on anyone. There is no requirement made that an individual participate in a prayer or other religious activity, except by their own choosing.

America is a Christian Nation. This country was built upon the belief in God, the Creator who endowed us with the rights and freedoms we enjoy. As much as 76% of Americans profess to be Christian. But there are those among us who want to remove references to God from our society; who want to limit the places and means by which we practice our religion.

We need to preserve our heritage. We need to protect our freedom of Religion as guaranteed by the First Amendment. If you agree with me, contact your elected officials. Let them know where you stand on this issue. Request strongly that they do all they can to preserve our rights to free exercise of our religion.

President Ronald Reagan said "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under."

And may God continue to Bless America.

Robert J. Semler

Donating to Locks of Love



Eight-year-old South Belt resident Mazzymarie Payne donates 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love during the second annual "Share Your Hair" week benefiting Locks of Love held recently at San Jacinto College South. During the week, participants with at least 10 inches of bleach-free hair were invited to receive free haircuts from the cosmetology department salon located at the campus. All hair received was donated to Locks of Love. Monetary donations to Locks of Love were also accepted at this year's event. Payne stated she "wants to help kids who have cancer by giving them real hair." Locks of Love is a public nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

Photo submitted

Dobie seniors Dell Scholars Program scholarship recipients

Three Dobie High School seniors - Caitlin Caughlin, Jimmy Ly and Uyen Tran - were recently named recipients of \$20,000 scholarships from the Dell Scholars Program, funded by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

The Dell announcement marks the first time a Pasadena Independent School District school has ever had three recipients in one year.

The three are among only 300 scholarship recipients named nationwide.

The Dell Scholars Program involves a comprehension and rigorous application process that includes several extensive recommendation

forms and letters from teachers and administrators.

The scholarship program is the only one of its kind to include support services that help scholars and their families deal with personal issues that might adversely affect a student's college career.

Dell scholars have achieved an 85 percent college graduation rate, which compares to a national average of 23 percent for low-income college students.

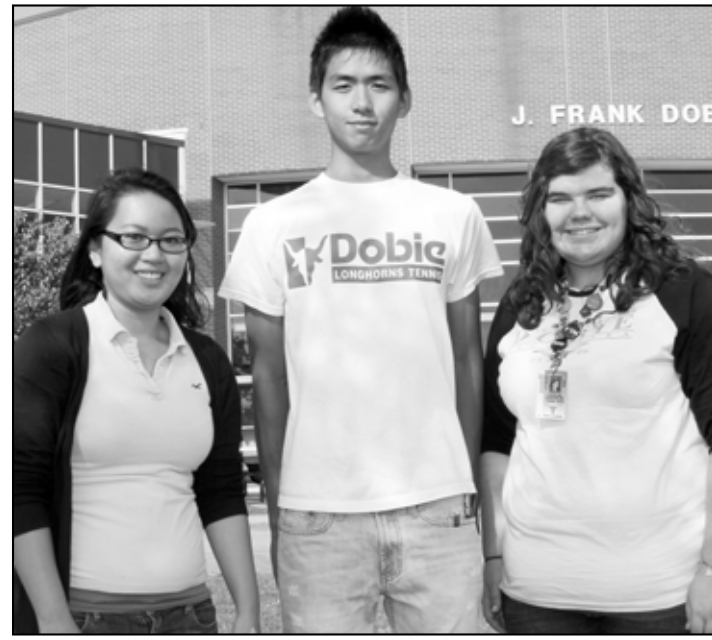
Caughlin participates in orchestra, the "Best Buddies" program and the Advanced Placement Student Leaders program. She plans to attend the University of California-

Los Angeles and major in neuroscience.

Ly participates in Health Occupations Students of America, the Math Club and Science Club. He also plays for Dobie's varsity tennis team. He plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and pursue a pre-med curriculum.

Tran is also active in Health Occupations Students of America and Advanced Placement (AP) Student Leaders. She is also headed for UT-Austin for pre-med studies.

All three are members of the Dobie National Honor Society.



Dell Scholarship Program winners are, left to right, Dobie seniors Uyen Tran, Jimmy Ly and Caitlin Caughlin.

Photo submitted

PW Library events set

The following events are scheduled for the week of May 5 through May 11 at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

A Mother's Day Craft Time is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, at 4 p.m. This event is for children ages 5 and up.

On Saturday, May 7, Vietnamese storytime will include Reading Club at 9 a.m., intermediate storytime at 11 a.m., and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.

Preschool storytime is

CBC MUD safety meeting scheduled

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Wednesday, May 11, 2011, until 8:30 a.m. for an employee safety meeting.

During the meeting, payments may be left in the drop slot on the side of the building for convenience.

at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, and toddler storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

St. Frances Cabrini holds annual bazaar

St. Frances Cabrini's annual festival will be held on two consecutive Sundays, May 15 and May 22. On Sunday, May 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., barbecue and Mexican food dinners will be served. There will also be a Chalupa card game, arts and crafts and Trash & Treasure, perhaps southeast Houston's largest garage sale. On Sunday, May 22, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., there will be many activities, including a variety of food, children's games and rides, bingo, game booths, music and dance, and the annual raffle with a total of five prizes, including a \$4,500 VISA gift certificate first prize. Trash & Treasure will open on Monday, May 9, in the Mother Cabrini Center and will be open every day through May 22. The Fiesta will take place each Sunday on the church grounds located at 10727 Hartsook St. in Houston.

For more information, call the church office at 713-946-5768.

Dobie Project Graduation seeks volunteers

Dobie Project Graduation, Class of 2011 Senior Picnic, needs donations for the drawings to be held on June 2 from 1 to 6 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park.

The Project Committee needs help with donations of food, items and funds, to sponsor a successful event for Dobie's Class of 2011. They are in dire need of senior parent volunteers to assist with all the activities planned for that afternoon, including the Powder Puff football game for the senior girls, with coaching assistance by the senior boys. Contact Christine Duensing at 281-974-0867 or Sharon Finney at 281-793-5918 to volunteer. Details will be posted on the Dobie Project Grad Facebook.

Cowgirls host dance/cheer clinic

The Sagemont Cowgirls will host a drill/cheer clinic May 16 through May 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Dobie's dance room. For \$50, each participant will receive a camp T-shirt, learn a dance routine, and enjoy a dinner each night.

A showoff of the routine will be presented to family and friends on Friday, May 20, at 7:15 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a spot, e-mail the Cowgirl drill director at michelle@sagemontcowboys.com or call 281-809-8817.

Free health seminar at Gulfhaven

Gulfhaven Health Ministries is holding a free health seminar for the first two weekends in May. For the first weekend, the scheduled sessions will be "Do Not Let Obesity Control You" on Saturday, May 7, and "Diabetes is a Slow Killer" on Sunday, May 8. The second weekend will present "Heart Diseases" on Saturday, May 14, and "Cancer: Fight for Your Life and Win" on Sunday, May 15.

All sessions will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. at Gulfhaven Health Ministries, located at 10716 Sabo Road in Houston. For information about this program, call 713-944-6912.

Deaths

Dorothy Barbara Bird



Dorothy Barbara Bird, 56, died on Thursday, April 28, 2011. She was a South Belt resident.

Bird is preceded in death by her husband, Donald.

She was born Aug. 24, 1954, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She came to Texas as a single mother of two. She met Don in 1993, they married, and enjoyed trail rides and met many friends who knew them as "Mom and Pops."

A memorial service for Bird will be held Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at Niday Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

Sandra Fae Clinton

Sandra "Sandi" Fae Clinton, 70, died on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, surrounded by family and friends. She was born Jan. 31, 1941, in North Eastern, Pa., to Jeanette and John Kebler.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Merlyn Clinton; daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and David Dennis; son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Tina Clinton; sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Tony Kolo; grandchildren Nicole, Zachary, Matthew, Michael, Nathan, Lauren, Taylor, Jacinda, Alysa and Matt; great-grandchildren Eva and Brayden; as well as a multitude of relatives and friends.

Clinton attended Geneseo State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of

Science in elementary education. She married the love of her life in September of 1960 in Ripley, N.Y. She moved to the South Belt area of Houston in 1975.

She taught in Pasadena Independent School District and impacted the lives of thousands of children in her 20-plus years of service. She enjoyed life to the fullest and loved to laugh, watch movies, read, play games, traveling to the casino, and being with her family and friends.

A memorial service was held Friday, April 29, 2011, at Niday Funeral Home. Donations to the ALS Association may be made in lieu of flowers.

Jimmie D. Brown



Jimmie D. Brown, 69, died Wednesday, April 27, 2011, surrounded by his family at the Methodist Hospital in Houston after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Brown was born April 19, 1942, in Bell County, Texas, to J.D. and Lillie Bell Ko-

pecky Brown and was one of four children. He was raised in Temple, Texas, and moved to Houston in 1962 where he met his wife of 48 years, Virginia Smith Brown. They moved to the South Belt area in 1971 to raise their three children.

After 30 years, Brown retired from the Port of Houston Authority. Upon retirement, he and Virginia spent their time traveling together.

Brown enjoyed spending time with his family and was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, floundering, shrimping, crabbing and boating.

He is preceded in death by his father, J.D. Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Brown; daughter Sherry Brown Edmond; daughter and son-in-law Deborah Brown and Ronald Hancock; son and daughter-in-law Jimmie D. Jr. and Shari Curtis Brown; granddaughters Peyton Sierra Brown, Marjorie Lynn Bell, Amber Renee Wells and Jennifer Ashley Wells; grandson Talmadge Wayne Hales; seven great-grandchildren; his mother, Lillie Bell Kopecy Brown; sisters Margaret Brown Sullivan and Helen Brown Mabe; brother Bobby Brown; many nephews, nieces, in-laws and friends; and his best "doggie" friend, Bandit.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 2, 2011, at Niday Funeral Home. Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

The family requests that donations be made, in honor of Jimmie Brown, to the American Lung Association.

Darren Lajaunie dies

Darren Lajaunie, who was raised in the South Belt area, died at press time after a long cancer battle. Obituary information will be in next week's *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

The visitation is Thursday, May 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. with a rosary at 7 p.m. at Crowder Funeral Home, 111 East Medical Center Blvd., Webster.

A funeral Mass will be Friday, May 13, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

Frazier walks to support autism awareness



Hundreds of Frazier students, parents and staff came out to the track at Frazier on Tuesday evening, April 12, to participate in an Autism Awareness Walk. The theme was Light the Night Blue for Autism. All participants received a blue glow stick to carry as they walked. Autism is a developmental disorder that affects one out of 110

persons. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Kali Muniz, Areli Perez, (middle row) Heather Ramirez (teacher), Evelyn Diaz, Jarethzy Alavarez, Stephanie Alvarez, Steve Alvarez, Eric Gonzalez, Sarah Lyssy (teacher), and (back row) Alexandra Garcia and her father, Augustin Garcia.

Photo submitted



A funeral should be as unique and special as the person it represents. We believe every life has a unique story and deserves to be honored. Let us help you tell that story, and truly celebrate a life that was lived.

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Moore SUCCESS students visit CiCi's



Recently, Success students in Liz Neubauer's class at Moore Elementary took an excursion to CiCi's Pizza for community-based instruction. Students put their learning into practice using money and ordering their own meals. CiCi's manager, Alex Jimenez, was extremely supportive and invited them back. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) paraprofessional Bobbie Bashinski, Dominique Torres, Isaac Ochoa, Troy Arevalo, Ashley Baez, (back row) paraprofessional Brandy Castillo, Jimenez, Gabriel Gonzalez, Rafie Shaoib and Neubauer. Photo submitted

Yard waste program saves city \$1.5 million

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department implemented a change to its ordinance which governed the way that yard waste is collected.

On April 5, 2010, department crews stopped picking up yard waste in petroleum-based plastic bags. Residents who placed yard waste at the curb had to put this valuable material in City of Houston-approved compostable bags.

The city's new Yard Waste Recycling Program has been instrumental in helping the Solid Waste Management Department save taxpayer dollars and landfill space. The disposal savings in the first year has been more than \$1.5 million by diverting 25,526 tons of yard waste.

This program provides a vital role in Houston's economy. Green waste represents approximately 33 percent of the waste stream. By providing the Yard Waste Program, and the Tree Waste Recycling program, the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department gives these natural resources another life. Living Earth, the corporate partner, converts the yard waste into mulch and other soil amendments.

By diverting yard waste, the department saves money which results in its ability to expand the Automated Recycling Program to more Houston residents (with RecycleBank Rewards).

The more that residents recycle at the curb, the department is able to divert more waste from the landfill, which, in turn, allows the department to save more money and add more homes to the Automated Recycling Program. This allows the city to save money and provide message reinforcements through education and public information.

The yard waste program has been well-received by city residents. Houston has seen virtually 100 percent compliance. There has not been a "jump" in garbage tonnage. The garbage numbers have stayed the same.

Also, residents were informed that they have options:

- 1) Grasscycling (letting the grass lay on the lawn after clipping; or 2) Backyard composting; or 3) Use of City of Houston-approved compostable bags. The department has seen the yard waste volume at the curb reduced by 61 percent.

While in its first year of the new yard waste collection methods, the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department has received the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling Award and the Mayor's Proud Partner Award for this environmentally sound and cost-effective program. Many surrounding Texas cities are exploring this program and considering implementing it based on Houston's tremendous success.

Other highlights include:

- Big Belly Solar compactors were obtained by the Solid Waste Management and Parks & Recreation departments through grant money provided by Houston/Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. These 10 new recycling kiosks can be found at the City Hall reflection pool area and other Houston parks. These solar-operated sites will provide an 80 percent reduction in collections which saves time, fuel and emissions plus offer opportunities to recycle at participating Houston area parks. These "intelligent waste stations" use wireless monitoring which transmits to a central server when full and ready for collection.
- The city now has 105,000 homes in the Automated (Single-Stream) Recycling Program with RecycleBank Rewards.
- An additional 100,739 homes have dual stream 18-gallon bins for curbside recycling.
- The Tree Waste Recycling Program has allowed the city to divert 244,000 tons of material from area landfills. In fiscal year 2010 alone, 42,173 tons were diverted saving the city \$747,121 in avoided disposal costs.
- The city has recycled more than 11,174 tons of Christmas trees in the last 20 years of the program.
- The department has diverted more than 500 tons of building materials from area landfills by allowing contractors, businesses and individuals to bring the construction material to the City of Houston Reuse Warehouse.

For more information, log on to www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

Stuchbery says "NO" to drugs



Officer Mario Saldivar with the Pasadena Independent School District Police Department has a grant every year to help teach the students in the school district to say "NO" to drugs, including tobacco. Stuchbery Elementary honors this twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Saldivar sends bookmarks, posters, bracelets and much more to all schools in the district to help students understand how dangerous it is to use drugs, including tobacco. Photos submitted



Students pictured are, left to right, (front row) Sergio Nieto, Emily Sanchez, Uriel Valadez, (back row) Jorge Renderos, Jessica Perez, Valery Herrera and Karina DelVillar. Photos submitted

Airman 1st Class Shumann visits Melillo



Airman 1st Class Cody Schumann recently visited Penny Havard's fifth-grade class at Melillo Middle School. After serving a year in Iraq, Schumann, a resident of Friendswood, has been back home for a short time readjusting to life in the United States. The students formed a relationship with Schumann because his sister, Megan Lyons, is a teacher's aide at Melillo. The students wrote letters to him at Christmas and called him in Iraq to offer words of encouragement. Schumann returned the favor by visiting the students, answering their questions, and sharing his experiences with them. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Marcos Pruneda, Savannah Huizar, Sebastian Garcia, Alan Arreola, Joseph Gallien, Breanna Mendez, Andres Martinez, (back row) Havard, Schumann, Lyons and Rocky Boyette. Photo submitted

Texas schoolchildren make over \$108 million

Competition for oil and gas leases on Permanent School Fund lands in West Texas earned more than \$108 million Tuesday for the Permanent School Fund, a total that's more than twice the previous record set in 1979.

"This is an all-time record, \$108 million just for the right to explore for oil and gas," Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said after the sale. "The schoolchildren of Texas just earned \$108 million today and that's great news."

In the quarterly lease sales held by the General Land Office, oil and gas firms submit sealed bids for the right to drill for hydrocarbons on Permanent School Fund lands.

The Permanent School Fund will also earn 20 to 25 percent royalties on any oil or gas produced on the leases.

The record high total of \$108,557,634.32 featured the largest average bonus paid for Permanent School Fund lands - an average \$1,916 per acre - and involved 159 leases on about 56,000 acres. The most active bidders were Angelle & Donohoe Oil & Gas Properties with \$51.7 million and Energy Resources Corp. with \$36.4 million.

Generally, exploration bonuses range from \$200 to about \$2,500 an acre depending on the location and geology.

The state's \$25.6 billion Permanent School Fund helps pay for the state's share of public education.

For a detailed look at the record Permanent School Fund oil and gas lease sale, visit http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/energy-and-minerals/oil_gas/sealed-bid-sales/past/index.html.

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Canned goods collection a success at UHCL

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Student Government Association officially broke its own record for the organization's Hunger Heroes food drive in its efforts to help the Clear Lake community by collecting a total of 4,105 cans of food for local nonprofit pantries.

Student Government Association Executive Council conducted the third annual campus-wide effort that brought in donations from faculty, staff, administration and students.

The Communication Association contributed the largest student group donation with 1,451 cans. Donations will go to the Interfaith Caring Ministries food pantry in League City and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in Nassau Bay.

For information about the drive, contact the Student Life Office at 281-283-2566 or e-mail clarkjen@uhcl.edu.

Quick THEA testing available at UHCL

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will offer the Quick THEA, the 5-hour test required for admission to Texas colleges and universities and teacher education programs, on Friday, May 20, at 8 a.m. in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 3310, 3311, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Registration deadline is May 13 at 11:30 a.m., with late registration May 19 at 5:30 p.m. Fee is \$29 with an additional \$10 institution fee, and scores will be available in just four to five business days.

For more information call 512-927-5398 or visit <http://www.thea.nesinc.com>.

Moore 4th-graders collect to "Save Japan"



A group of fourth-graders at Moore Elementary organized a Save Japan collection of funds to help support the Red Cross' efforts in Japan. After reading about the struggles of the Japanese people and viewing some of the images after the recent earthquakes and tsunami, fourth-grader Krystalyn Garcia decided to do something about it. She asked a couple of friends at school to help her, asked for permission at school, and began making signs and collecting money. In all, \$416 was collected, and all funds will go to the Red Cross. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Andy Nguyen, Brittany Gutierrez, Garcia, Sydney Tran, (back row) Aaron Nguyen, Melina Hernandez, Renita Navy, Lindsey Rappalo, Juliana Hickman and Alysa Gonzalez. Photo submitted

HOME RUN CORNER

The Leader staff reminds parents to submit congratulations for their sluggers' achievements for publication in Over The Back Fence.

E-mail mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.



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Free skin cancer screenings at MSHS

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital will offer free skin cancer screenings Saturday, May 7, at the Cancer Center located at 11920 Astoria Blvd., Suite 100.

The screenings are free, but space is limited, and appointments are required.

With more than 1 million cases diagnosed annually, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States.

One in five Americans and one in three Caucasians will develop it in the course of a lifetime. In fact, one blister-

ing sunburn in childhood more than doubles an individual's chances of developing melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer.

Exposure to tanning beds before age 35 increases melanoma risk by 7 percent and even occasional use of tanning beds can almost triple the chances of developing melanoma.

The good news is that with early detection, the survival rate for patients is about 99 percent.

For more information or to register, call 713-222-2273.

Over The Back Fence by Jan

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY ALEX!
 Birthday wishes are sent to **Alex Martinez** who turns 10 on May 8, from proud parents, **Alex and Erica Martinez**, and sisters **Abigail and Audrey**. Alex is a student at Genoa Elementary.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR JOHN
 Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent on Wednesday, May 11, to Sports Editor **John Bechtle** from his family, friends and co-workers at the *Leader*.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 5 through May 11.

Burnett Elementary
 Blow out the birthday candles for **Jackie Vanelli** May 7.

Frazier Elementary
 Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to **Barbara Walton** May 5.

Moore Elementary
Beth Anne Mullen and **Traci Marr** enjoy a birthday May 6. Blow out the birthday candles for **Keacey Davis** on May 10.

South Belt Elementary
Veronica Deleon has a birthday May 10.

Stuchbery Elementary
 Birthday greetings are sent to **Veronica Rodriguez** May 5. Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to **Angela Frazee-Adams** May 8.

Melillo Middle School
 Blow out the birthday candles for **Sandra Vann** on May 6.

Morris Middle School
 Birthday wishes are sent on May 6 to **Janet Perry**. A birthday is enjoyed by **Dina Bonner** May 9. Marking a birthday May 10 is **Consuelo Hagans**. On May 11, **Diana Cavazos** is sent birthday wishes.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
 May 10 is the day for a cake for **Alyta Harrell**.

Thompson Intermediate
 The day for a cake for **Federico Cabrera** is May 6. On May 8, greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Tuyet Vo**.

Dobie High
 May 5 is the day for a double birthday surprise for **Debra Kersman** and **Sharon Lovelace**. Three cheers for a happy birthday are sent to **Barbara Jimenez, Jesse Lopez** and **Tamara Williams** on May 7. On May 8, blow out the birthday candles for **Jackie Hardwick**. Sharing a birthday May 9 are **Jordan Evans** and **Lara Jaime**.

Kristina Butler is wished a happy birthday May 10. The day for a party for **Steven Mayo** is May 11.

LAUREATE PSI CHAPTER MEETS
 Laureate Psi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its April meeting in the home of **Pam Harvey** with **Judy Switzer** as co-hostess. There were 10 members present and four absent. Plans for Founder's Day, which will be held on April 16 at Golfcrest Country Club, were discussed. Following the business meeting, Switzer read from the *Book of Beta Sigma Phi* and presented the program, *New Paths to Friendship Through Poetry*. The May meeting will be hosted by **Carroll McCullough** in the home of **Barbara Jennings**.

HOME RUN CORNER
 Congratulations go out to **Adrian "A.J." Martinez** for his back-to-back over-the-fence home runs on April 21 against the SBHLL AAA Astros from his family. The Orioles went on to win the game 10-4.

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

Free choir concert at San Jac Central

The San Jacinto College Central music department will host a free concert May 6 at 7 p.m.

Student choirs, under the direction of choral professor Dr. Paul Busselberg, will present the annual spring choral concert in the Jan Corbin Recital Hall.

The program will feature selections that ensembles have been rehearsing and performing over the past two semesters. The choir, accompanied by Dr. Sarah Spencer on piano, will perform works by American composers Aaron Copland and Morten Lauridsen, along with a selection from Johannes Brahms' German Requiem and *Cantique de*

Jean Racine by Gabriel Fauré.

Chamber singers will perform a set of early English madrigals along with two new selections of Renaissance works by Jean Belmont and William Hawley. The choir will also perform Houston-area composer Karim Alzand's *Measure in Trance*, which they presented recently at Rice University.

San Jacinto College offers a wide range of music degree options and private music lessons at all three campuses.

All concerts are free and open to the public and will be staged at the Dr. Monte Blue Music Building, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.


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Lt. Harry Zamora

For Harris County Constable Pct. 2

As a 31-year Houston Police Commander, Lieutenant Harry Zamora was exposed to the National Incident Management System. Through continuing education, he learned about the theory leading to the development of policies and procedures for emergency responses and has applied this knowledge throughout his career.

Harry contributed to the 2008 department-wide mobilization for Hurricane Ike, where he commanded units responsible for securing the city and post Ike operations where he commanded units responsible for the Points of Distribution sites for residents to obtain critical need assistance and supplies. Harry has led over 150 police officers and first line supervisors in a field force concept and planned police response to events such as abortion clinic protests, parades and demonstrations, incidents of large-scale disorder, and other significant national newsworthy events, including the 16th G7 Economic Summit, the 1992 Republican National Convention, the Houston Rockets National Championships and parades, Superbowl XXXVIII (2004), and other semi-final or final championship sporting events involving the Astros, Rockets, Comets, Aeros, and Oilers. Harry was also involved with the police response to conflict involving Greenpeace International, militia groups, KKK protests and anti-GLBT efforts.

Harry has commanded and worked with units responsible for gathering criminal intelligence and planning for dignitary protection involving the President and Vice President of the United States, international heads of state and other dignitaries and VIP's.

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Davila graduates from college before high school

By Matt Griesmyer

South Belt's Jasety Davila, daughter of Julio and Yolanda Davila, is a normal 17-year-old high school senior. She goes to classes, does her homework, hangs out with friends and looks forward to college life. What separates her from most students is the fact that she will be walking across the stage as a graduate of San Jacinto College before she actually graduates from high school.

Davila is a student in Clear Horizons Early College High School, a part of the Clear Creek Independent School District, which gives its students not only a high school education, but extensive college credit in the process. Students who attend classes within its walls not only leave with college credit, but could even go so far as to earn their associate degrees.

Located on the San Jac South campus, Clear Horizons accepts any CCISD student as an applicant, and he or she is accepted into the school regardless of income or status in a special population.

Applicants are accepted to the school based on a lottery system. Only 100 students are allowed per grade level, which sets the maximum student occupancy for the school at 400.

Davila remembers the acceptance process well.

"I initially did not get in, I was put on the wait list when I was in eighth grade," Davila said. "As students who were accepted into the program really thought about it and decided they would rather not participate, I was moved up the list and got in."

The life at Clear Horizons is, in some ways, much like life at a normal high school. Students have classes, homework, clubs, dances and the



Jasety Davila, Clear Horizons and San Jacinto College South graduate.

like. There are still proms, still high school teachers, and still four years of classes to attend.

The differences, however, can be noticed. There is no football team, so there is no homecoming dance. As a matter of fact, there are no sporting events at all. Instead of a graduating class of between 800 and 1,000, graduating classes can be around one-tenth of that at 80 graduates.

Classes at Clear Horizons progress from having six high school credit classes and two college credit classes during the students' freshman years to the complete opposite, where they have one high school class and ten college classes their senior year. The increased courseload can make for a challenge for students.

"Getting through freshman and sophomore years were the hardest part," Davila said. "After that, college classes were

easier. Students really have to stick it out. Don't expect to have a social life the first two years because there is a lot of homework."

According to the school's website, the purpose of schools like Clear Horizons, of which there are 40 in Texas and 200 in the nation, is so "low-income youth, first-generation college goers, English language learners, students of color, and other young people who are traditionally under-represented in higher education can simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree or up to two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree - tuition free."

"We also graduate with a better understanding of what we are getting into with college," Davila said. "With Clear Horizons, we know how to act in a college environment, know what to expect from college professors and what is expected of us in classes. It is a great opportunity for kids who know where they want to go in life."

So what is Davila going to do after she walks?

"I am looking forward to working on my bachelor's degree, starting on my career and, of course, the thought of being 19 with my bachelor's degree," Davila said.

Davila is also contemplating attending medical school but has not made up her mind completely on that point.

Graduating magna cum laude in her class of 81, Davila will get her associate degree from San Jac on May 13 and then officially graduate from high school on June 4.

Davila has two sisters. One is in the seventh grade, and the other is 1 year old. The older of the two sisters is still debating on following in her big sister's footsteps and applying to Clear Horizons.

Tax assessor offers tips to save gas, time

Save money and time, conserve the nation's energy and reduce pollution by using the Harris County Tax Office's many online services or by using mail or telephone from home or the office.

"If you want to make a short trip, you can renew the annual registration of your car or light truck at one of our service partners, most of them grocery stores. One is near you," Don Summers, Harris County tax assessor/collector, said.

The tax office has compiled a long list of tips to assist its customers with renewing vehicle registration, paying property taxes, and registering to vote. The list is available at http://www.hctax.net/News/PR/2011/Auto/Tips_04272011.pdf. All of these can be done conveniently from home or in the neighborhood.

"In these tough times, most of us are hurting. We have had to cut staff and expenses, too. If you follow these suggestions and do more online, by mail, by phone or at more convenient locations, you can save money and time.

"We are here to serve you and that includes offering ways to make your dealings with us less painful," Summers added.

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Remember When

35 years ago (1976)
 Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Tom Bass and his assistant, Mike Noblet, were guest speakers at the Southeast Civic Association. They gave an update on work being done in the Edgemoor area to alleviate flooding.

20 years ago (1991)
 Dorothy Wells, fourth-grade teacher and team leader from Frazier Elementary, was named Educator of the Year by the Pasadena Knights of Columbus Council 3700.

30 years ago (1981)
 The pilot of an Eagle Airlines craft carrying eight passengers landed the airplane safely near the Gulf Freeway at Edgemoor after both engines failed.

Ayrshire Corporation was set to begin development on a subdivision to be located between Sageglen and South Bend, west of Beamer Road. The subdivision, South Brook, was composed of two tracts of land. One was 168 acres, the other was 138 acres.

25 years ago (1986)
 Dobie French student Sebastian Rivers won top honors at the Texas French Symposium where he competed against 950 students statewide, winning one second- and three first-place awards. For his efforts, the sophomore got to spend a month in France, sponsored by the French Alliance and Nacel, a nonprofit student exchange group.

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees replaced the 12-grade administrative personnel pay system with what was felt to be a more flexible six-grade system.

Officials at PISD warned trustees that maintaining level spending and transferring reserve money into the maintenance fund would probably not be enough to thwart a tax increase.

A decision was expected to determine whether the Green Tee subdivision would be allowed to break away from the Clear Creek Independent School District. Residents were seeking to join the Pearl- and ISD for "social, economical and educational" reasons.

15 years ago (1996)
 The U.S. Assistant Surgeon General presented the South Belt Brio Community Assistance Panel its 1995 Auxiliary Mission Support Award.

Voters in Clear Creek Independent School District overwhelmingly approved a \$63 million bond referendum.

10 years ago (2001)
 Thompson Intermediate School's National Academic League team claimed its third national championship in eight years by defeating Wichita, Kan., during the NAL National Finals held at the Houston Exxon Building.

Meador Elementary Assistant Principal Kathy Connolly was named the new principal of Morales Elementary beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.

Houston police arrested two Pasadena males in connection with random shootings at homes in the 12000 block of Flushing Meadows.

The Blues Brothers Cook-off team won first place in the fifth annual South Belt Spectacular Cookoff.

5 years ago (2006)
 For the third year in a row, the Blues Brothers team was the all-around champion at the South Belt Annual Cookoff Spectacular.

A traffic stop for a broken tail light resulted in the arrest of a suspect for felony possession of a weapon and the recovery of a vehicle allegedly highjacked from a Highland Meadow resident.

The Bank of America on Blackhawk at Beltway 8 was robbed for the third time in less than a year.


1 year ago (2010)
 Former Pasadena Independent School District Director of Fine Arts and longtime music educator Barbara F. Eads died after a battle with cancer.

South Belt resident James "Jimmy" Myron Willprecht died when his plane crashed in a wooded area in Friendswood. Willprecht, 52, was flying alone in his 1973 Bellanca Super Viking when the plane crashed in a field north of the Wilderness Trail subdivision between FM 528 and FM 2351.

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Hello Residents of Precinct 2,

It has been an honor and privilege serving the community I live in as a Precinct 2 Harris County Deputy Constable for the past 15 years, and an even bigger privilege being the Sergeant over the South Belt Patrol Program. The extensive knowledge I have of the communities within Precinct 2 and the committed relationships I have built have encouraged me to seek the elected position of Constable. With my experience, work ethic, and dedication to service, I believe I am ready to lead the Constable's office and the community it serves in the direction of safety, trust and prosperity. I pray you will stand with me as I ask for your full support in next March 2012 Primary elections.

Sincerely,
Zerick Guinn
 The People's Choice for Constable

Find me on the web!
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 ♦ 713-256-7864 ♦ P. O. Box 34335 Houston, TX 77234 ♦ zguinnforconstable@yahoo.com

Espinoza, Beynaerts engaged, graduate



Delia and Tim Marcum of Sagemont and Steve Beynaerts of Pearland announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their son, Bobby Beynaerts, to Monica Espinoza, daughter of George Espinoza of Sagemont and Norma and Clint Myers of Friendswood. The pair met at Thompson Intermediate during their eighth-grade year. Monica was a cheerleader and Bobby a football player. Their courtship continued through high school where they graduated in the Dobbie Class of 2006. In 2010, they both graduated from Texas State University. The

bride-to-be earned a Bachelor of Public Administration. She is currently working for Atlantic Housing. The prospective groom graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science and is working for the San Marcos Consolidated School District. The couple resides in San Marcos, but are eager to get back to Houston very soon. The prospective groom popped the question on the couple's vacation to Mexico on Jan. 3. They are planning a mid-November wedding in Galveston.

Spring dance concert at SJCS

The San Jacinto College South performing arts company will perform its annual spring dance concert, *Crossroads*, in early May.

The show's highlighted performances include *White Lies*, choreographed by dance faculty member Diane Cahill Bedford and *Whispers from a Blank Page*, choreographed by student Ashley Cook.

Both dances represented San Jacinto College South at the American College Dance Festival held recently at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

Diety, a humorous piece, has been restaged by Dr. Patty Haselbarth, lead faculty for dance, and choreographed by guest choreographer Lori Katterhenry, chair of dance at Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J. Music for some of this year's pieces includes selections from Ludovico Einaudi, Howard Shore, The Vitamin String Quartet and Zoe Keating.

"This year's concert will be an emotional journey for me and for many of the performers," said Haselbarth. "Quite a few of the dancers who have been with the program for several years will be transferring to four-year institutions to complete a bachelor's degree. These dancers are approaching a 'crossroad' in their lives thus the title of the concert *Crossroads*, to reflect this new chapter in their lives."

Crossroads runs May 5 and 6 with both shows starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building on the South campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston. Admission is \$3.

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Cokesbury youth director, David Fort, and wife Connie.

Fort named Cokesbury new youth director

By Anne Adams
Bringing a background as an airplane pilot and with a call to Christian ministry service, David Fort has been named the new youth director at Cokesbury United Methodist Church.

Fort is a longtime Houston area resident, growing up in Kingwood. "I gave my life to Christ at a youth rally called the Wave in sixth grade," he said, "and I am continually blessed to have loving and supporting parents that raised me in a Christ-centered way."

During his senior year in high school, Fort felt the call to be a missionary pilot; one of those who fly persons and equipment into remote areas.

With this interest in aviation, he attended LeTourneau University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical science in August of 2010. "I now have my commercial pilot license and aircraft mechanic license," Fort said, and added: "I feel God tugging me towards youth ministry. All the while, I thought I was being trained as a pilot and mechanic, but God was also training me to be a leader. He

put me in several leadership positions where I learned and grew."

While attending LeTourneau, Fort served as vice president of missions for the university student ministries where he organized more than two dozen mission trips for students throughout the United States and Mexico. He recruited and trained trip leaders and faculty sponsors for each trip, as well as implemented transportation and planned budgets.

"I love working with kids, teenagers, and college students," Fort said. "I believe in building strong Christian foundations in the kids with prayer, service, evangelism, and fellowship."

Fort's wife, Connie, is currently completing her education at the University of Houston Downtown, pursuing a career as a bilingual elementary school teacher.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. All sixth-through 12th-grade students are encouraged to become involved.

The Rev. Mark Pedersen is the pastor of Cokesbury UMC.

'Bridging' the gap between domestic violence, healing

The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc. (The Bridge), recently visited San Jacinto College South for a presentation on the effects, warning signs, and prevention of domestic violence.

"Domestic violence can happen to anyone at any stage of their life," said The Bridge's prevention and outreach specialist, Kirby Gibbs. "A lot of people feel that domestic violence is exclusive only to low income, uneducated people, but we know it goes across the board. Some women don't believe that they're in an abusive relationship maybe because they're not being hit; they don't have the black eyes and the bruises, but it's beyond that."

In Gibbs' presentation, she defined domestic violence as "violence between intimate partners in which one partner maintains power and control over the other through physical, emotional and even economic abuse," she said. "Last year in Texas, 111 women died due to domestic violence, and of those, 29 were from Harris County."

She also spent time discussing tactics abusers use to keep control of their partners such as coercion and threats, intimidation, and isolation. Another tactic that often goes unnoticed is economic abuse, which is when the abuser does not allow the partner to work or go to school, thus limiting their financial and educational power.

All aspects struck a chord with attendees, especially ones who have personally experienced domestic violence. "People need to know how hurtful these effects can be," said an attending South campus student. "It brings low self-esteem upon you; the pain from everything that happened never goes away."

Gibbs also talked about aspects of healthy relationships, which include trust and respect, accountability, shared responsibility, negotiation, and fairness. One of

the ways The Bridge and other domestic violence agencies are helping to prevent abuse is by starting with young children. This is in hopes of stopping the violence before it happens, before it has a chance to resonate with them that violence is acceptable.

"Primary prevention is something that I strongly believe in. Doing this work has really opened my eyes to some of the tactics that some people may use. By talking to the kids and addressing social

issues, we can get through to them that this is not OK. This is not what healthy relationships are like. Because so much of our own self-esteem is based on how other people view us, it's important that our partners and others we surround ourselves with are helping to build us up and not bring us down," said Gibbs.

In partnership with the Clothesline Project, after the presentation, students were invited to design T-shirts, expressing their views on domestic violence. It is a

vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women. Each color represents an effect such as those who have died from abuse, survivors of rape and sexual assault, or women who have been attacked for political reasons.

For information about the Clothesline Project, visit www.clotheslineproject.org.

Dow Chemical winners named

Eight students from Thompson Intermediate School entered the annual Dow Chemical calendar competition; six seventh-

graders under the direction of Joyce Koska, and two eighth-graders under the direction of Stephanie Albert. This competition is held

every year for students from nine surrounding districts in grades ranging from sixth through 12th.

The theme of the artwork submitted was *Chemistry. Imagine the Possibilities.*

Using this theme, students composed a design 16-inches-by-20-inches in size. With the artwork, the students also submitted a small essay explaining how their artwork related to the theme.

From 200-plus submissions, two Thompson students from Albert's class, Taylor Nguyen and Dona Nguyen, were selected as semifinalists.

Of the 24 total semifinalists, the number was then narrowed down to 12.

Dona Nguyen was selected as one of those finalists, guaranteeing a full page in next year's calendar. She is also guaranteed a cash award ranging from \$200 for honorable mention to \$500 for first place.



Left to right, Taylor Nguyen and Dona Nguyen.



Joyce Koska's seventh-grade students who entered the annual Dow Chemical calendar competition are, left to right, Joanne Tran, Chris Waguespack, Iris Sinisterra, Mandy Cao and Michelle Tran. Darius Gougis, a participant, however, is not pictured. Photos submitted

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Lady Longhorn softball advances; Kempner up next

Five straight bidistrict titles; Dobie among final 16 teams

Her team has advanced to the area round of the varsity girls' softball playoffs for the fifth straight season, but even Dobie head coach Robin Rackley knows that better play is needed from her group. Shelby O'Brien circled the bases on a two-run, in-

side-the-park home run in the bottom of the fourth inning as the Lady Longhorns went on to edge North Shore 2-1 in the bidistrict playoffs April 29 at the Pasadena ISD complex.

Junior pitcher Shannon O'Connor didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning and pitched her way out of a jam in the sixth inning to earn the win.

The good news is that Dobie has advanced and is one of just 16 teams remaining in the mix for the Region III title.

However, as Dobie gets set to meet District 23-5A champion Kempner beginning May 5 in a best-of-three area round series to be played at Manvel High School, more production is needed.

For much of the season, Dobie's offense has scored runs at a much better clip. But over the last three games covering 21 innings, the Lady Longhorns have scored just the two on O'Brien's homer.

O'Brien's hit, a fly ball to left-center field, likely should have gone for a single or possibly a double to score teammate Amie Gallant from third base.

But when North Shore left fielder Brandi Giles collided with center fielder Jassidy Silva on the play, O'Brien circled the bases for a 2-0 Dobie lead.

North Shore's Brittany Johnson opened the top

of the sixth inning with a double to left field and later scored on a single by Samantha Tovar, but O'Connor got out of further trouble when

Dobie first baseman Jenna Medina dug a throw out of the dirt for the third out of the inning.

In the seventh, O'Connor

registered her seventh strikeout as part of a 1-2-3 frame to end the game.

"In the playoffs, you'll always take a win," Rackley

said. "I have to give North Shore credit. They have improved a lot over last

year when we beat them in two straight games. But we know we have to score

more runs to reach our goal. We've talked about it, and

Continued on Page 6B

Curtis, Lutheran South star, to state track in four events

Lutheran South Academy track and field star Lorelei Curtis is continuing her annual re-write of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial School record books during this, her senior season.

Curtis, who will attend DePaul University this fall on a track and field scholarship, isn't quite done at the high school level.

Already the three-time state champion in the 200-meter and 400-meter events at the state level, Curtis is going for four goals this time around.

At the regional meet held at Awty International April 29, Curtis was the winner of the 100-, 200- and 400-me-

ter events and was third in the triple jump to reach the state level.

Curtis posted a time of 13.09 seconds to win the 100-meter dash and secured the 200-meter crown with a time of 25.72. Her third win came in the 400-meter dash at 57.80.

In the triple jump, Curtis cleared 32 feet, 10 1/2 inches for third place.

Other Pioneers advance
Curtis was not the lone LSA Pioneer athlete to shine at regionals.

The boys' team finished second as a group with 85 points as numerous athletes stood out.

In the 200-meter dash, the Pioneers went 1-2-3 as

Ryan McGough (23.2) was the winner with Nate Volk (23.3) second and Cody Pratt (24.0) third.

Rainer Richter won the 110-hurdles at 15.76, and teammate Zane Lunn was second at 16.90.

Lunn came back to win the 300-hurdles at 40.69, and Richter was third at 42.61.

Zephany Lunn (144 feet, 10 inches) won the discus, and McGough (13-0) won the pole vault.

The girls' team (111 points) was also second. Claire Parker (110-hurdles), Erin Shireman and Abigail Hart (both pole vault) advanced along with three relay teams.



Dobie outfielders, from left, Kellen Gomez, Amie Gallant and Shelby O'Brien had plenty to celebrate after the Lady Longhorns reached at least the area round of the playoffs for the fifth straight season after defeating North Shore 2-1 April 29 at the Pasadena Independent School District sports complex. O'Brien's two-run, inside-the-park homer in the bottom of the fourth inning was the difference.

Bidistrict playoffs: Dobie, Brook set to go

Horns take on C'View

Call it revenge if you want as Dobie takes on Channelview in the varsity baseball playoffs for the second time in three years.

Then again, only four players from Dobie's '09 team that lost in three games to Channelview are on the roster, so that revenge factor may not play out.

The bottom line is the Longhorns are looking to win a playoff series for

the first time since the 1990s, and they'll have to defeat Channelview to get it done.

Dobie head coach Miguel Torres, the Longhorns' varsity assistant during that series two seasons ago, simply wants his team to perform to its capabilities.

At 21-12 overall, the Longhorns have had a solid season, but a playoff series win is necessary to

Wolverines get Dulles

The regular season is in the books, and the Clear Brook Wolverines' varsity baseball program has seemingly made a smooth transition to the guidance given by first-year head coach Gene Flores.

The Wolverines won their 20th game of the season, beating Dickinson 3-2 April 29 on a seventh-inning walk off, RBI single by Matt Heidt.

Brook, which finished in a three-way tie for second place at 9-5 with Alvin and

Clear Springs, then got a lucky flip of the coin.

Winning a coin flip, the Wolverines were given their choice of any of the No. 2 through No. 4 playoff slots.

Flores and his team chose the No. 3 slot, so here come the Dulles Vikings, which Brook defeated in 2009 to open the playoffs.

At 9-5, Clear Brook has been on a great roll since standing at 4-4 in 4-5A action. Since that time, the Wolverines' pitching has

San Jac softball begins regional quest

Rankings and records aside, San Jacinto College is one of eight teams in contention for the Region 14 softball tournament title, and the locals are intent on coming away with the title.

South zone champion Blinn, ranked seventh nationally, might be the favorite to win the May 5-8 regional event at Northeast Texas Community College.

Or perhaps Navarro, ranked No. 11 nationally and entering the tournament as the east zone champion, can build a case.

Then there is San Jacinto, which, at 39-19 overall, can clearly be called one of the dark horses to win the double elimination tournament, with the winner advancing to nationals later this month.

"It really is a wide open tournament for several teams when you consider the factors," San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz said.

"We've played some really good teams from across

the nation and have done very well. I think that has allowed us to build some confidence. We beat Blinn once in four games, but we were right there at the end in two of the losses."

For San Jacinto, the No. 2 seed out of the south zone, the action plan seems simple.

Pitchers Shannon Millman, Katie Vogt and Alexis Estrada will pitch well enough to keep the Coyotes close, but the offense has to deliver on its end.

"We have to deliver the key hits and be consistent offensively," Saenz said.

Continued on Page 6B



At right, San Jacinto College third baseman Michaela Adams and her teammates are focused on winning the Region 14 softball tournament, which runs May 5-8 at Northeast Texas Community College.

Area softball playoffs
Dobie vs. Kempner
All games at Manvel High School

Game 1: Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m.
Game 2: Friday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Game 3: Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m.
(Game 3 will be played if needed)

Bidistrict baseball playoffs
Dobie vs. Channelview
All games at Dickinson High School

Game 1: Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m.
Game 2: Friday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Game 3: Saturday, May 7, 3 p.m.
(Game 3 will be played if needed)

Clear Brook vs. Dulles
Game 1: At Brook, Thurs., May 5, 7 p.m.
Game 2: At Dulles Fri., May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Game 3: At Alvin, Sat., May 7, 2 p.m.
(Game 3 will be played if needed)

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Sports Calendar

SOFTBALL

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Area playoffs

Dobie varsity vs. Kempner, Manvel, 7:00

Friday, May 6

Dobie varsity vs. Kempner, Manvel, 7:00

Saturday, May 7

Dobie varsity vs. Kempner, 11 a.m. (if necessary)

BASEBALL

Bidistrict playoffs
Thursday, May 5

Brook varsity hosts Dulles, Brook, 7:00

Dobie varsity vs. Channelview, Dickinson, 7:00

Friday, May 6

Brook varsity at Dulles, 7:30

Dobie varsity vs. Channelview, Dickinson, 7:00

Saturday, May 7

Brook varsity vs Dulles, Alvin, 2:00 (if necessary)

Dobie varsity vs. Channelview, Dickinson, 3:00 (if nec.)

TENNIS

Monday, May 16

Dobie varsity hosts faculty/student tourn., 3:00

Tuesday, May 17

Dobie varsity hosts faculty/student tourn., 3:00

Wednesday, May 18

Dobie varsity hosts faculty/student tourn., 3:00

Sports news, notes

SBYSC sets fall registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club will host a single on-site registration Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemeadow MUD Building, located at 10755 Hall Road. Players ages 4 to 18 are eligible to compete. The league will accept checks or money orders at the sign-up. No cash will be accepted. Those who wish to do so may register online at www.southbeltsoccer.org. There is a \$10 discount available to those who register online. The registration fee includes a uniform, socks and shorts.

Dolphins' mascot openings

The Southbelt Dolphins mascot program is seeking girls 5 to 8 years old, as of Sept. 1, 2011, to fill openings for the 2011 season. Those interested may call Cequisha Proctor at 281-875-5696 or direct e-mail to southbeltdolphins@gmail.com. The Dolphins are part of the Bay Area Football League.

Sagemont-Beverly Hills notes

SBHLL Senior/Big League division coaches sought – The league has openings for the senior and big league divisions that will soon start play. Those interested may call Cindy Munoz at 832-618-3649.

SBHLL 2011 Yearbook Fundraiser – League officials are creating a yearbook containing colorful memories from the current season. It will include pictures and thoughts from such events as opening ceremonies, parade, team pictures and action photos from the season. The yearbooks will sell for \$25 each. Orders can be placed at the ballpark.

Dobie football car wash

The Dobie High School football program will host a car wash Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Food Town on Scarsdale Boulevard. The cost is \$5. Local residents may purchase a ticket from the football players now through the time of the car wash.

Horns' soccer banquet

The Dobie High School boys' and girls' soccer programs will host their postseason banquet Friday, May 6, in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Dinner is included in the ticket price. Family and friends are welcome. Members of the soccer program are also selling raffle tickets for \$5 each, with the winner taking home an Apple iTouch. Tickets may be purchased from any Dobie boys' soccer player. The winner will be chosen at the banquet, and he or she does not need to be present to win. For more information call 281-798-6376.

Dobie soccer boosters to meet

The Dobie High School boys' soccer booster club will host a mandatory parent's meeting Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m., in the media room.

Beverly Hills speed camp

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff will host a 5-week speed camp beginning June 6 and running through July 8. The drills will focus on agility, muscle strength and muscle endurance. The sessions will run weekly on Mondays through Thursdays, with the exception of the final week. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon. The fee is \$60 cash, which includes a camp T-shirt. Deadline to register is Monday, May 23. The camp is open to all boys and girls ages 11 to 15. For additional information, call coach Ben Portis at 713-740-0420, ext. 05124 or 713-299-0251.

Brook softball camp

Clear Brook High School head softball coach Ashley Pillow will host a youth camp June 14-16 at Lady Wolverine Field from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Registration prior to June 1 is \$60 and \$75 thereafter. Girls entering kindergarten through the ninth grade as of the 2011-2012 school year are eligible to attend. For more information, direct e-mail to apillow@ccisd.net.

Brook soccer camp

Clear Brook High School varsity boys' soccer coach Chris Stromeyer and varsity girls' head coach Jeff Brewer will host the Wolverines' youth camp June 6-10 at the school. Boys and girls entering the fifth through ninth grades as of the 2011-2012 school year are eligible to attend. The camp will run from 9 to 11 a.m. each day. Fee is \$50, which includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, call Stromeyer at 832-457-5181 or Brewer at 713-822-9107.

Brook baseball into bidistrict round to face Dulles Vikings

Continued from Page 1B

been stellar, led by Ryan Vrugink, who went 5-2 in district play with a pair of hard-luck losses.

During several of his victories, Vrugink logged double-digit strikeouts.

"Ryan has clearly given us everything we expected from him and then some," Flores said.

"I talked with him before the season and told him that, along with a couple of other key guys, we were going to go as far as he was going to take us." So far, so good.

As for the decision to take the No. 3 playoff seed and a berth with Dulles, Flores said he went with a hunch. With No. 1 ranked

Clements lurking as a possible first-round opponent for the 24-5A fourth seed, the Wolverines were able to avoid the Rangers with the coin flip luck.

Should Clear Brook defeat Dulles, the team will face the Deer Park/Beaumont West Brook winner.

Brazoswood, champion of 24-5A, is also in Clear Brook's portion of the bracket later down the road, but at least the Wolverines are familiar with the Bucs.

"I just think it's better to avoid some of those Fort Bend teams and some of the others out there," Flores said. "Clearly, we cannot look past Dulles, and we won't, but we had a choice

and we made what we felt like was the best one for us."

As for Dulles, the Wolverines will turn to their standout pitching to help carry the team a long way.

Vrugink, a University of Houston signee who led the way for the staff this season, is the likely first-game starter. But pitchers like Nolan Trabaino, Keaton Miller and Andrew Phu will also be important in the cause.

Miller, who has signed with Hill College, and Phu, who has signed with Alvin Community College, will join Trabaino, a junior.

"Keaton stepped up and had three saves during district play, so he really came

up big. Trabaino also threw the ball well, and with a couple of breaks here and there, Vrugink could have been 7-0 instead of 5-2.

"Pitching is the key in the playoffs, but we also have to get better offensive production."

Flores believes the Wolverines' pitching stood out so much not solely based on results, but because the offense struggled often. In turn, the team was seemingly in close games much of the way.

Clear Brook went 20-9 overall and 9-5 in district, but most of the games were tight.

"Moving forward, we have to get better produc-

tion from the No. 5 through No. 9 spots in the lineup," Flores said. "You have to be able to produce runs up and down the lineup and cut down on holes in the lineup. That's our focus."

The other key factor for Clear Brook will be the play of the seniors, 13 in all.

"I never expected anything less from these guys this season than to make the playoffs," Flores said. "I knew they expected that from themselves."

"To their credit, this group has stuck together the entire way. They are still cracking jokes and hanging out together like they were in January. Sometimes that's not the case. We have

a good group of guys who expect a lot of themselves. All I do is try to put them in the position to win."

District 24-5A Standings

Varsity Baseball

(As of May 2)

Teams	W	L
Brazoswood	10	4
Clear Springs	9	5
Clear Brook	9	5
Alvin	9	5
Clear Creek	8	6
Pearland	6	8
Clear Lake	5	9
Dickinson	0	14

Note: Clear Brook won a three-way coin flip and elected to take the No. 3 seed. Clear Springs then defeated Alvin for the No. 2 seed, with Alvin taking fourth.

Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League Standings

As of May 4 on league website

Junior Division

Team	W	L	T
Phillies	10	1	0
Padres	8	2	0
Marlins	5	5	0
Reds	5	4	1
Astros	3	6	1
Mets	3	8	0
Red Sox	1	9	0

Major Division

Team	W	L	T
Astros	12	2	0
Braves	11	2	1
Diamondbacks	8	2	1
Rangers	9	6	0
Cubs	8	6	1
Orioles	4	9	0
Marlins	4	12	1
Cardinals	3	11	0
Phillies	3	12	0

AAA Division

Team	W	L	T
Orioles	9	2	0
Astros	8	3	0
Phillies	3	5	1
Rangers	3	7	1
Diamondbacks	2	8	0

AA Division

Team	W	L	T
Cardinals	9	2	1
Cubs	6	7	0
Astros	4	7	1
Athletics	4	7	2

A Division

Team	W	L	T
Mets	10	0	1
Mud Cats	8	1	1
Hooks	7	2	0
Express	6	3	0
River Dogs	5	2	1
Scrappers	4	5	0
Bulls	5	5	1
Muck Dogs	3	3	1
Owlz	3	6	1
Raptors	3	5	1
Blue Claws	1	7	1
Thunder	1	6	1
Storm	0	8	1

T-Ball Division

Team	W	L	T
Scrappers	7	0	1
Hooks	6	2	1
Express	5	2	2
River Dogs	4	4	0
Thunder	4	3	2
Rattlers	2	6	1
Red Wings	4	6	0
Storm	2	5	0
Raptors	3	4	0
Hot Rods	1	6	1



Clear Brook High School's senior varsity baseball players gathered to commemorate playing their final regular-season game at Wolverine Field after defeating the Dickinson Gators 3-2 April 29 to secure a playoff spot. Those senior players included, left to

right, (kneeling) Matt Heidt, Andrew Phu, (standing) Kris Tempelin, Daniel Coats, Craig Boone, Justin Clemens, Aaron Yelovich, Keaton Miller, Dusteyn Suttle, Ryan Vrugink, Jeffrey Suchma (crouching), Austin Butler and Josh Salway.

Dobie baseball seeks elusive series win over Falcons

Continued from Page 1B

This current Dobie team is also bidding to accomplish something that hasn't been done since the 1990s – win a playoff series.

Dobie has a storied postseason history, but much of that was accomplished in the late '80s and during the '90s.

In the 1996-97 school year, the Longhorns made their way to the regional semifinals before falling to Bellaire 2-0 and 11-4 in a best-of-three series.

Since that season, Dobie has come up dry in the baseball playoffs.

In 2009, the Longhorns had one of their best chances to advance but lost a game-three lead to Channelview as the Falcons took the series two games to one.

So now comes a new chance to add to the Dobie legacy. And although the Longhorns have had much of their success this season via the bat, the arms will be the key to the series.

Juniors Emmitt Pitts and Zack Long figure to be the starters for the first and second games of the series. Needless to say they will be expected to pitch deep into their respective games.

Beyond that, the Longhorns will likely look to seniors Chandler Salas, Xavier Johnson and Ryan Henry for help, with one of those players getting the start should a game three be needed.

Torres will also likely add junior varsity arms Ryan McCormack and Aaron Gonzalez to the mix for depth.

"Pitching will be the key for both teams," Torres said. "Both teams have two pretty good starters. Obviously, our guys have to go out there and hit their spots and keep the ball out of the middle of the plate."

Of course, if the series explodes into an offensive

show, the Longhorns should be well off.

Seniors Justin Eckols, Al Gonzalez, Johnson, Marcelo Martinez and Edward Peabody have swung the bats well all season, and if Channelview's arms cannot

keep the ball out of the middle of the plate, they will

pay the price.

"Our teams are similar," Torres said. "It doesn't really matter what happened in 2009 because there are few players left from then."

"We have a goal of winning the region and going to state. It all starts right now, and we will be ready."



Dobie is set for the bidistrict playoffs, taking on Channelview for the second time in three years. This time, the Longhorns will be looking to avenge the Falcons' 2009 series win. Key Dobie players this time around will include, from left, Edward Peabody, Emmitt Pitts, Xavier Johnson and Justin Eckols.

District 22-5A Standings

Varsity Baseball

(As of May 2)

Teams	W	L
Deer Park	12	3
Dobie	11	4
South Houston	7	8
Memorial	6	9
Sam Rayburn	6	9
Pasadena	3	12

Note: Memorial wins fourth-place tie-breaker over Sam Rayburn

SJC hoops coach Gernander retires after 31 years

In 31 years on the sidelines at San Jacinto College, men's basketball head coach Scott Gernander built the program to be a National Junior College Athletic Association powerhouse.

He was a part of three national championships as an assistant coach and accumulated a .802 win percentage as head coach.

Gernander has announced that he will participate in the voluntary separation and severance plan offered by the college in an effort to meet a \$10 million budget cut the college will incur as a result of the state budget deficit.

Gernander had seven days to reconsider his decision before it became official on April 26 at 5 p.m. His resignation is effective Aug. 31, 2011.

The veteran coach, who spent 24 of those 31 years as head coach, closes the book at San Jacinto College on a decorated career with an overall record of 640-158.

"This has been an incredible run for me," said Gernander.

"I have had the privilege of coaching amazing and talented student-athletes year in and year out.

"I'm going to miss being on the sidelines and in the gym every day, but this is the right time for me and my family to make this change in our lives."

Gernander first came to San Jac in 1980 as an assistant coach and was named San Jacinto College's sixth head coach prior to the 1987-88 season.

He also served 24 years as the San Jacinto College Central campus athletic director.

"Coach Gernander has an incredible record here at San Jacinto College, first as an assistant coach and then for 24 years as head coach," said Dr. Neil Matkin, San Jacinto College Central president.

"Without question, his successor will have big

shoes to fill, but Coach Gernander has built a great team."

Gernander won his 600th game as a collegiate head coach in January of 2010 and finishes his storied San Jac career 11th on the NJCAA all-time active coaching list.

He began his coaching career at Tower-Soudan High School in Minnesota, where he coached for seven years.

Gernander then went on to coach at South Houston High School in Houston, before being hired as an assistant coach at San Jacinto College.

"My time here at San Jacinto College has been about more than basketball," added Gernander.

"Six of my children went to school here, and I've spent about half of my life here. It's a special place. San Jacinto College is a great school, and I have no regrets."

Sam Cassell, who played for San Jacinto College be-



Scott Gernander

San Jacinto baseball captures south zone, heads to regionals

The San Jacinto College baseball team (37-14 overall, 23-7 conference) finished the 2011 season by winning its final seven conference games to claim the Region XIV south zone title for a fifth consecutive time.

Defensively, San Jac was led by a trio of dominant left-handed sophomore pitchers in Miguel Peña, Tyler Wright and David Rollins.

Peña finished the season with a 10-3 record and a 1.91 earned run average. Wright went undefeated, posting a 10-0 record, and a 2.69 ERA.

Rollins posted a 7-3 record, with a 2.99 ERA, and pitched a rare no-hitter on April 6 against Weatherford.

The bullpen was anchored by hard-throwing sophomore right-hander Tommy Collier, who saved five games and posted a 3.00 ERA.

Offensively, San Jac was led by freshman first baseman Esteban Gomez, freshman outfielder Justin Byrd and sophomore shortstop Josh Gonzalez.

Gomez posted a .344 batting average for the season, driving in 37 runs, with a .457 slugging percentage. Byrd had a .337 batting average, 42 RBIs, and a .473 slugging percentage. Gonzalez had a .329 batting average, 41 RBIs, and a .493 slugging percentage.

Now, the San Jacinto team will look to win the regional crown.

The Region XIV Tournament will be held May 14-18 at Blinn College in Brenham.

South zone top seed San Jac will play the number four seed from the Region XIV east zone.

The tournament bracket will be determined once all Region XIV teams finish regular season play.

The winner of the Region XIV Tournament earns a berth in the JUCO World Series, which will be played May 28 through June 4 in Grand Junction, Colo.

San Jacinto College finished the 2010 season as the national runner-up at the JUCO World Series.

San Jac finished the regular season ranked 12th in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association / Perfect Game Division I baseball poll.

The Region XIV Tournament in Brenham will be broadcast live by Texas Sports Radio Network (www.tsrsports.com).

For more information about the San Jacinto College baseball program or any other athletics, visit www.sanjacsports.com.

Dobie netters reap all-district



Dobie senior Jonathan Taylor, the 22-5A boys' singles tournament champion, was named a first team all-22-5A performer after his strong play. He later advanced to the Region III tournament.

Morgan all-conference



Class of 2010 Dobie High School graduate Chelsey Morgan, now at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin as a member of the women's softball team, was named to the all-Heartland Conference second team. Morgan concluded her first collegiate season by finishing second on the team in hitting with a .328 mark, which also ranked her in the top 20 of the Heartland Conference. The freshman struck out just nine times in 116 at-bats and had seven doubles, which was tied for third-most on the team. During the first week of March, Morgan was named the conference's hitter of the week. She helped the Falcons to an eventual 18-27 overall mark, and the wins tied a school mark for most in a season.



22-5A coach of the year Manuel Moreno Jr. of Dobie (right), chats in-match with girls doubles players Hongnhung Ho (left) and Eun Lee during the Region III tournament. Ho and Lee were 22-5A first-team picks.

LSA's Kenyon picks Alabama tennis



Lutheran South Academy senior tennis player Stuart Kenyon (second from left) will continue his education and playing career at the University of Alabama after signing a letter of intent with the Crimson Tide. Those with Kenyon at the signing included, left to right, Michael Kenyon (father), LSA coach Trey Senney and Annette Kenyon (mother). Stuart Kenyon was the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A boys' singles state champion during the 2008, 2009 and 2011 seasons.



9U Barracudas score goal to end season



The South Belt Youth Soccer Club's U-9 Barracudas completed their first season as a team this spring by scoring their first goal of the season in their final game. Although the Barracudas did not have any wins they remained positive, learned the importance of teamwork and had fun. The goal was scored by Mazymarie Payne with an assist from Jordan Reed.

Members of the team are, left to right, front row) Katelyn Walker, (second row) Kiana Bowman, Jordan Reed, (third row) Serenity Walker, Mazymarie Payne, Ava Mendez, Jaylynn Bowman, Anyah Joseph, (back row) team mom Georgia Villareal and head coach Ras Bowman.



Dobie mixed doubles players Tony Tieu (left) and Melanie Thompson were named to the all-District 22-5A second team after an impressive spring season on the court.

All-District 22-5A tennis selections

- First Team**
- Boys' Singles -- Jonathan Taylor, Dobie; Ryan Cash, Deer Park.
 - Boys' Doubles -- David Kolacny/Matthew McDonald, Pasadena Memorial; Ray Flores/Alex Torres, Pasadena Memorial.
 - Girls' Singles -- Favi Lopez, Deer Park; Courtney Johnson, Deer Park.
 - Girls' Doubles -- Hongnhung Ho/Eun Lee; Katie Guillory/Paige Stephens, Deer Park.
 - Mixed Doubles -- Brandon Kafarella/Astrid Torres, Pasadena Memorial; Jacob Meredith/Stephanie Smith, Deer Park.
- Second Team**
- Boys' Singles -- Chase Heffley, Deer Park; William Bracho, Pasadena Memorial.
 - Boys' Doubles -- Nate Kobza/Taylor Thomas, Deer Park; Cameron Balmer/Reid Del Bello, Deer Park.
 - Girls' Singles -- Shelly Tran, Dobie; Osaka Heng, Dobie.
 - Girls' Doubles -- Daniela Bermudez/Vanessa Sencion, Deer Park; Van Le/Tina Nguyen, Dobie.
 - Mixed Doubles -- Micah Osburn/Tiffany Ramos, Deer Park; Melanie Thompson/Tony Tieu, Dobie.

Coach/Year (voted by 22-5A coaches) – Manuel Moreno Jr., Dobie

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 5
7 a.m.

AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse – The public is invited to join NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse on their National Day of Prayer gathering on Thursday, May 5, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Praise Chapel, located at 18516 S. Highway 3 in Webster. Everyone is welcome to the come-and-go event and encouraged to bring friends and neighbors. Experience this rich banquet of anointing and wisdom sure to bless all who attend. For additional information, call Barbara at 713-818-5467 or visit the website at www.aglownasa.com.

Noon

Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free water exercise from noon to 1 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

AI-Anon – Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.

6:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Catholic Church – St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

Diabetes Support Group – A support group for young adults with diabetes. All subjects are open for discussion: new technologies, research advances, fears, phobias, dating and other personal matters. Meets the first Thursday of each month at 1315 St. Joseph Parkway #1705, Medical Place One. Contact Dan Steiner, CDE, at 713-756-8536 for more information.

7 p.m.

The Bay Area Writers League – Meets the first Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble at Bay Area Boulevard and the Gulf Freeway. Newcomers are welcome.

8:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

FRIDAY, MAY 6
7 a.m.

AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

Noon

Moving Forward Women's Adult Children Anonymous – The ACA group meets Fridays at noon at the Up The Street Club in Webster, 508 Nasa Parkway, in room 4. ACA is a 12-step program of hope, healing and recovery for people who grew up in alcoholic or dysfunctional homes. For more information, call 281-286-1431.

SATURDAY, MAY 7
6 p.m.

Frontier Squares – Meets to square dance at the Westminster Academy at 670 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or visit www.frontiersquares.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 8
2 p.m.

Grief Support Group – For any adult who has lost a loved one. Meets every Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. For more information, call 281-487-8787.

8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? AA meetings are

held Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

MONDAY, MAY 9
7 a.m.

AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

9 a.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free exercise and speech therapy from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

6 p.m.

Scrabble Club #511 – Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua from 6 to 9 p.m. All who enjoy the game or want to learn to play are invited to join. For more information, call 281-488-2923.

6:30 p.m.

New Directions Singles Club – New Directions Singles support meetings are held each Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. Nasa Parkway. For further information, call Susan at 832-494-5098 or Carolyn 281-340-2354.

Civil Air Patrol Meeting – Weekly at Ellington Field in the Civil Air Patrol Building. Call 281-484-1352 and leave a message for more information.

7 p.m.

Sagmont Civic Club – Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Kirkwood South Christian Church, 10811 Kirkfair Dr.

Grief Support Group – "Friends Helping Friends" meets every Monday from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehab Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Those who have lost a spouse or other loved one are invited to participate. For information, call Betty Flynn at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.

TUESDAY, MAY 10
7 a.m.

AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

9:30 a.m.

CCART – The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. They are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 Nasa Parkway in Seabrook near the Landolt Pavilion. All Texas retired school employees from all surrounding school districts are welcome to attend and join this organization. Annual dues are \$35.

10 a.m.

American Begonia Society – Meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Town Square Community Room. For more information, call 713-946-4237 or 713-941-7158.

10:30 a.m.

Tri-County Republican Women – General meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month except June and July at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland. A luncheon is available. To make reservations, call 281-484-8083.

1 p.m.

Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum – Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565.

1:30 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society – Free exercise and speech therapy from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Bayshore Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, 4021 Brookhaven, Pasadena. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B
TUESDAY, MAY 10
2 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - TOPS #1530 meets at the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint, from 2 to 4 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.
6:30 p.m.
Green Thumb Series - The Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 offers free evening gardening lectures the second Tuesday of each month at the Bass Pro Shops, Hwy. 288 @ the Sam Houston Tollway. Programs will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Visit the Web site for a list of topics and location at www.hcmgap2.tamu.edu or call 281-991-8437.
Clear Lake Toastmasters Club - Meets at the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 938 El Dorado Blvd. Call Jerry Tate at 281-481-5417 for information. 7 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.
Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway. For more information, call George Malone at 281-438-7243. 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Tuesdays and Sundays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in. 9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week of each month at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Nellie Galney at 713-991-3517 for more information. 11:30 a.m.
American Business Women's Association Bay Area Vision Chapter - Now meets at Perry's Italian Grill, 1001 Pineclack in Houston on the second Wednesday of every month. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call Lorilyn Wynn at 281-388-5202. 4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise held from 4 to 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. 6 p.m.
Alzheimer's Support Group - The free group meets the second Wednesday of each month at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. For more information, call Steven Williams at 281-929-4199 or 713-266-6400. 6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Domestic violence support group for male survivors meets each Wednesday at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway. Call 281-338-7600 for information. Participants may join at any time as this is an open group. 7 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Confidential domestic violence support group for women meets every week. For information, call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com. BATP is located at 210 S. Walnut off NASA Parkway between Interstate 45 South and Highway 3. The 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525.
Bay Area New Democrats - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 16603 Buccanera Drive, across from the new Clear Lake Library. For more information, contact John Cobarruvias at john.cobarruvias@bayareanewdemocrats.org or visit www.bayareanewdemocrats.org.
THURSDAY, MAY 12
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in. 9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse Fellowship of Friends, 144 Park Avenue in League City. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others to the interdenominational meeting. 11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets on the second Thursday of each month at MIMI's Cafe in the Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway Street, #1600. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes networking with professional business women, lunch and guest speaker. Women of all ages and occupations are invited. Bring plenty of business cards. Reservations are appreciated. Contact Monica Perez at mlynnperez2002@yahoo.com for reservations, or visit the Web site at www.seen-abwa.org. Noon
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise from noon to 1 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787. 6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com. 8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.

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Bidistrict champs again, Lady Longhorns now face Kempner

Continued from Page 1B
we know that we have to hit the ball better and be more consistent. Basically, it boils down to playing our game.”
That game involves hitters such as Kellen Gomez and Gallant getting on base at the top of the order, with

players such as O'Brien, Faith Roberts and Ariel Morgan driving them in.
Against North Shore, Dobie had trouble getting its offense in gear against Lady Mustangs' starter McKenzie Ratcliff.
The junior right-hander stood toe-to-toe against the

Lady Longhorns, retiring 10 straight batters to open the game before issuing a walk to Gallant.
North Shore catcher Alexis Padilla then aided Dobie's cause by sailing an errant throw that allowed Gallant to advance to third base. Then came O'Brien's hit to left-center field, the collision and eventual game-winning play for Dobie.

Against Kempner, we are facing a team that is like us. They are fast, and they also have pop in their lineup.
“Our focus is to stick with the game plan, and to do that, we have to hit the ball, play catch on defense and pitch well. We beat Kempner in the Bryan tournament, but that was three months ago, so obviously both teams are much different. They won their district, so that tells you right there they are talented.”
And with eight seniors

on the roster, including five starters who are college signees, Rackley isn't afraid to ask her veteran players to step up in the big series against Kempner.
“You always look to your seniors to lead the way, and this year is no different,” Rackley said.
“All season, the seniors have led us, and the younger players have followed. For us to get where we want to be, we need those seniors to play well.”
“If (seniors) want this,

they have to be great leaders and get us there. Shannon will pitch well and keep us in games. She has done that all season. We just have to get the offense rolling and put runs on the board like we are capable of doing.”
Dobie has proved that getting to the area round is easy with five straight appearances, but this team wants much more.
A series win over Kempner will go a long way toward making that happen this postseason.



In searching for more offense moving forward to the area round series against Kempner, the Lady Longhorns' varsity softball team will turn to their seniors, including third baseman Faith Roberts, the team's cleanup hitter.



Dobie catcher Ariel Morgan, who has signed to play softball at San Jacinto College next season, is hoping to continue her high school career much deeper into the month of May.

San Jacinto softball heads to regionals

Continued from Page 1B
our lineup, and we have to get everybody going at the same time. The goal is to win the tournament, and this is the time to be hot.”
In a perfect softball world, the hits would come from several sources.
Bethany Armstrong, Nicole Andrade and Jaelyn Bechtel have been hot lately.
In 187 at bats, Armstrong is hitting a team-best .433 with 81 hits, including 13 doubles and 28 runs batted in.
The sophomore outfielder broke the school record for consecutive hits in a game with 18 this season, bettering the previous record of 17 games.
Andrade is hitting .417 in 144 at bats, including 60 hits, 12 doubles, one triple and 35 RBIs.
Bechtler, who plays first base and also operates in the designated hitter role, leads the team with eight homers.
Saenz also expects Megan Matejka and Michaela Adams to come through in a big way. “Megan has been

there for us all season, and Michaela has struggled a little bit lately, so we have to get her going.”
Regardless of the seedings or matchups, the Coyotes know a string of four or five solid games can deliver a national tournament berth.
In 2008, San Jacinto got hot at the right time and made that trip to the big event. A season ago, San Jacinto did not advance, but did pressure top seed Navarro in a pair of close games.
“We are as talented as anybody in the tournament,” Saenz said. “We have had a week off, and I think that's good because we have healed some small bumps and bruises and been able to focus on the things we have to do to win.”
“At this point, it's all about being the last team standing, and there's no question we can be that team. This season we have shown that we can play head-to-head with some of the nation's top teams. I know we can do it.”



San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz is set to take her team to the Region 14 tournament, set for May 5-8 at Northeast Texas Community College. San Jac is the No. 2 south seed.

South Belt Youth Soccer Club

It's time for FALL Soccer Registration!

Registration for Boys and Girls ages 4 to 18 years old is being held on: **Saturday, May 14th at the Sagemeadow MUD Bldg. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
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Registration fees are as follows:

Ages as of 7/31/2011	Fees	Online
U5-U8 (4,5,6,7)	\$95	\$85
U9 & U10	\$115	\$95
U11 & Older	\$145	\$125

Late fee of \$10 will be assessed after July 1st, 2011.

THE SAGEMEADOW MUD BUILDING IS LOCATED AT: 10755 HALL RD.

Schlitterbahn GALVESTON ISLAND Waterpark

New in 2011

SHIPWRECK HARBOR Wave Lagoon

Hottest, Coolest Time in TEXAS

Over 33 Attractions!
April 22 - September 18, 2011

FREE PARKING | PICNICS WELCOME

SAVE up to \$12!

SAVE \$2 EACH. Present this coupon prior to purchase at any Galveston Island ticket window Sunday through Friday in June, July or August or any operating day in May or September and SAVE \$2 each on up to 6 full-price, all-day tickets.

Not valid Saturdays in June, July or August or with any other offer, discount, special price, prepaid, afternoon, group, two-day or season tickets. Tickets must be purchased at Schlitterbahn and used the same day. Coupon has no cash value and is not for resale. Prices, operating schedule and attraction availability subject to change without notice.

Expires September 18, 2011.

409.770.9283
schlitterbahn.com

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