

South Belt-Ellington Leader

40 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Church holds egg hunt

Kirkwood South Christian Church, 10811 Kirkfair, will hold its annual Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. until noon. All children under the age of 12 are invited to participate. Each child should bring a basket. There will be crafts and refreshments in addition to the egg hunt. The community is invited. For more information, call 281-481-0004.

Leader holiday set

The offices of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* will be closed Friday, March 25, in observance of the Easter holiday. They will reopen on Monday, March 28, at 9 a.m. Potential news stories may be emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

CBC MUD holiday closing

The offices of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will be closed Friday, March 25, in observance of the Easter holiday. They will reopen on Monday, March 28, at 8 a.m. For convenience, payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-through window side of the building.

Moore offers scholarships

The Moore Elementary Student Council will offer four scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Moore in the fourth grade. Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Friday, April 1, to be considered.

Kirkwood South to meet

The Kirkwood South Homeowners' Association will hold a meeting Thursday, March 31, at Judge Jo Ann Delgado's courtroom, located at the intersection of Scarsdale and Beamer, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call Kirkwood South HOA President Estella V. Davis at 832-462-3484.

Dolphins continue sign ups

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will accept registration for cheer/drill/mascot members (age 4 through 13 as of Aug. 1, 2016) March 24, April 22 and May 26, all at Armadillo Lanes on Fuqua, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, direct email to Tiffany Scimmons at SBDDrill@yahoo.com.

Cowboys, Cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls will hold a final early registration on Saturday March 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the concession stand at the football field in El Franco Lee Park. Early registration is open to all returning football players from the 2015 season and their siblings, and all returning and new drill and mascot participants. A \$100 deposit is due at the time of registration. Returning football players not signed up after this registration will forfeit their right to a reserved spot on the 2016 roster. Contact information will also be accepted from any new football player. For more information, contact Club President Denny Wranich at 281-785-8353.

Health fair April 3

Gulflaven Community Health Fair will be held Sunday, April 3, from noon to 4 p.m. at Gulflaven Church, 10716 Sabo. Everyone is welcome. There will be free health screenings for blood pressure, glucose, body mass index, health presentations, kids' fun health segment, food tasting, and lucky prizes. Call 832-433-2732 or 713-562-4580 to register.

Dobie Craft Show April 16

The Dobie Spanish Department is currently seeking vendors for its spring craft show to be held at the school on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Booths are \$30 each and include one table and two chairs. Booths with power are available for \$5 extra. Vendors must provide his or her own extension cords. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Puente at 832-528-4388 or epuente@pasadenaisd.org.

Area dog show planned

South Belt resident Mary Maddox will host the Strut Your Mutt Doggy Parade Saturday, April 16, at Clear Brook City Park, located at Blackhawk and Scarsdale, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will give Clear Brook City MUD dog lovers a chance to mingle with others, while enjoying a day in the park. Dog owners may enter their pets in multiple contests, including prettiest dog, ugliest dog, largest dog, smallest dog, best trick, best dog and owner costume, female diva dog and male macho dog.

Area veterinarians will be on site to answer questions and give information about keeping pets happy and healthy. Area pet stores will have raffles with all money going to the Houston Humane Society. There will be activities throughout the park for children under 10 years old. The Sageglan HOA will serve hot dogs at noon.

Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. Contest judging will begin at 10 a.m. in the gazebo. All dogs must be on a leash and have proof of current rabies vaccination.

City, county join to make area improvements

On Tuesday, March 22, City of Houston and Harris County officials announced a joint agreement that will roughly double spending on making improvements to abandoned and dilapidated houses in the area.

The measure is being spearheaded by recently appointed Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Locke and recently elected Mayor Sylvester Turner.

"At a time when resources are scarce, Precinct 1 and the City of Houston are jointly finding solutions to improve neighborhoods," Locke said.

"These nuisance properties are more than eyesores. They threaten residents' health and safety. Hardworking families deserve to live in an environment where they don't have to worry about illegal dumping, overgrown weeds and other dangerous conditions near their homes."

The City of Houston currently spends roughly \$890,000 per year on these improvements. Locke has pledged to spend an additional \$750,000 to \$1 million.

Improvements include mowing lawns, boarding up broken windows and removing trash. The city currently has a list of approximately 600 homes in need of such repairs.

Turner said it is unlikely all of the repairs would be possible without the county's assistance.

tance.

"If the city was doing it themselves, the odds of taking care of all 600 would be remote," Turner said.

The announcement came just weeks after Locke promised to spend \$12 million making street repairs near NRG Stadium in advance of next year's Super Bowl.

The *Leader* has already received multiple calls about local properties that are in need of such repairs.

Anyone wanting to report a residence in need of attention is urged to call the city's help line at 311.

JFD attends state Decathlon



The Dobie Academic Decathlon team recently represented the Pasadena Independent School District in the state competition in San Antonio. Shown above at the event are, left to right, Bill Huynh, Steven Nguyen, Noelle Phan, coach Steven Higginbotham, Martin Nguyen, Rey Aguilar, Tareen Kazi, Noe Garcia, Christine Perry and Adrian De Los Santos.

Photo submitted

Dobie performs at state tournament

The Dobie and Memorial Academic Decathlon teams represented the Pasadena Independent School District in the state competition last month, following several wins at the Region 5 tournament.

Dobie's coach and former decathlon competitor, Steven Higginbotham, said Dobie's continued success in the program is the product of hard work.

"Decathlon is probably the most time consuming academic activity a student can be involved in," Higginbotham said. "They come in on weekends and as much as two hours after school most days."

The Academic Decathlon promotes student achievement and learning by challenging students in various academic subjects. Teams are comprised of up to nine students who represent different grade point divisions. The group studies decathlon curricula and competes against other schools. There is a series of 10 events including an interview in front of judges, a written essay, speeches, a written comprehensive exam in math, social science, economics, literature, art, music and the Super Quiz.

Dobie Varsity student Frank Bertrand excelled, taking home third place in essay, second

place in speech, third place in social science, third place in economics, third place in science and fourth overall high score individual.

The team finished seventh overall in Super Quiz.

The goal of decathlon is to teach participants the value of teamwork, leadership and time management.

"My favorite part of academic decathlon is working together as a team," said Andrew Mendoza, Memorial decathlon team member. "I think as much as it is an individual competition, preparing and studying is a collaborative effort. No matter what, we can always strive to do better."

Memorial decathlon coach Jeremy Maduzia led the team to a fifth place win at the regional competition, the campus' first state qualifying win in four years.

"Starting out we made a goal to place in the top 5 at the regional competition and go to state," Maduzia said. "I stressed the fact that while I'm the coach, the students were the ones responsible for studying and learning the content. We worked the kids really hard this year and it paid off for us."

Both teams have already started preparing for next year's competition with the topic World War II.

Local police battle area crime

Local police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying multiple robbery suspects.

The Hair by Angel salon, located in the 12000 block of Beamer at Hughes Road, was robbed at gunpoint Thursday, March 17, around 2:45 p.m.

According to Houston Police Department spokesman John Cannon, a man entered the store with a black shirt or scarf covering his face, as well as a pair of sunglasses, waving a pistol and demanding money. After taking a small amount of cash from the store's register, the man fled the scene in a small, dark green, four-door vehicle – possibly a Nissan Altima.

Two young children were reportedly in the store at the time of the robbery. No one was injured. The suspect is described as a white male, standing approximately 6 feet tall, weighing between 190 and 215 pounds.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or HPD's Robbery Division at 713-308-0700.

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office responded to a call Saturday, March 19, in the 10300 block of Kirkbend, where three people were robbed at gunpoint.

According to Precinct 2 Sgt. Robert Sanchez, a man, his wife and a friend were hanging out in the resident's garage around 9:30 p.m. when a black male approached them with a gun, demanding valuables.

During the robbery, the suspect reportedly pistol-whipped the resident, before fleeing the scene with a wallet, a watch, a wedding ring and a gun.

The suspect fled the residence in a white Ford F-150 pickup truck. Witnesses reported seeing the vehicle parked on the street earlier in the day but did not notify police.

Sanchez advises residents to always notify authorities if they see suspicious activity.

"We don't want people to not feel safe in their own garage," Sanchez said.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to call 281-481-9189.

Chamber banquet set for March 30

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual installation banquet Wednesday, March 30, at the Palms Events Center, 15301 Gulf Freeway at Dixie Farm Road, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Now in its 31st year, the banquet provides an opportunity for local business and community leaders to network and fraternize among one another. Multiple elected officials are also expected to attend.

Newly elected Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner will be the featured guest at the event.

The 2016 chamber president and board members will be officially sworn into office by Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 Justice of the Peace George Risner.

The chamber member of the year and volunteer of the year will also be recognized at the event.

Individual tickets are \$50 each. Sponsorships opportunities range from \$650 to \$1,000. Current sponsors include Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, Texas Citizens Bank, CenterPoint Energy, Redford Apartments, Almeda Mall, Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, San Jacinto College and PrimeWay Federal Credit Union.

The reception will start at 6:15 p.m., with dinner being served at 7 p.m.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact the chamber office at 281-481-5516 or info@southbeltchamber.com.

BAHEP promotes storm protection

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) recently hosted a meeting attended by local and state elected officials and other decision makers within the region. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain critical support for legislative funding to further ongoing studies that will determine the optimal solution for a storm surge protection system for the upper Texas Gulf Coast.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell began the meeting by giving a history of BAHEP's involvement in the storm surge suppression initiative.

February 2009 marked the first meeting between Mitchell, Dan Seal, BAHEP's executive director for Special Initiatives, and Dr. Bill Merrell of Texas A&M University at Galveston. Merrell has championed the Ike Dike Concept, a coastal spine, to protect the region from storm surge in

light of the \$30 billion of damages and loss of life caused by Hurricane Ike in September 2008.

Mitchell then premiered a dramatic new video, financed by the Bay Area Coastal Protection Alliance, for the group. It noted the destructive hurricanes which have hit the upper Texas Gulf Coast since the Great Storm of 1900, a Category 4 storm that killed an estimated 8,000 people in Galveston, the deadliest hurricane disaster in U.S. history. The names of other hurricanes are all too familiar – Carla, 1961; Alicia, 1983; Rita, 2005; Ike, 2008.

Bill Read, former director of the National Hurricane Center, who was in attendance at the meeting, stated in the video, "In the lull between the storms, we tend to forget how devastating these storms can be."

Continued on Page 3A

CBC warns about washing clothes

Flushing of all of the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District's water lines will be performed Monday, April 4, through Friday, April 8.

The process will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 4, and continue throughout the day until 4 p.m. daily. Residents may experience some water discoloration which is caused by natural sediment in the water mainlines being flushed out of the system.

It is suggested residents refrain from washing

clothing during these five days due to the possibility of sediment in the lines. Before washing clothes, make sure the water is clear. The adding of chlorine bleach while washing clothes could make any discoloration problems worse.

The district will not be responsible for damages to clothing, etc. Should residents experience discoloration of the water after the flushing program has been completed, do not hesitate to call Clear Brook City MUD at 281-484-1562.

2 arrested after Dobie altercation

Two Dobie students were arrested Monday, March 21, following an altercation at the area school.

According to Pasadena Independent School District spokeswoman Renea Ivy, the brawl, which involved three students, started around 12:30 p.m. in the school's lobby, located near the entrance. As the fight was broken up by school officials, one of the three students was detained,

while the other two, who are reportedly brothers, fled the campus on foot and headed toward Moore Elementary.

The two juvenile students, ages 14 and 16, were quickly apprehended by police and charged with evading arrest, a misdemeanor. The third student was not charged with a crime.

All three students, however, will face disciplinary action at the school, Ivy said.

Dobie grad joins fire department

Former Dobie student and San Jacinto College employee Hung "David" Le recently graduated from the Houston Fire Department Academy, fulfilling a childhood dream of his.

"I always wanted to be a superhero when I was growing up," Le said. "And no offense to the military or the armed forces, but this seemed like the best way for me to do that."

A 2009 Dobie graduate, Le continued his education at San Jacinto College, where he earned a firefighting certificate. He then went on to work at the college, serving as a gym manager.

Following nine months of study, Le graduated from the fire academy on March 10 and immediately went to work for HFD Station No. 8 on Louisiana Street in downtown Houston – the largest and most active branch in the city.

The new graduate was the only one of 56 cadets in his graduating class to see action on his first day, battling a fire at an abandoned house – a suspected arson case.

"It was the most exhausting thing I've ever done in my life," Le said. "All of the cardio training in the world doesn't prepare you for that."

Le hopes to one day return to school and study business, but he has no plans on leaving the fire force any time soon.

"This is my ultimate goal," Le said.

While Le's journey hasn't necessarily been easy, he has persevered and maintains a positive outlook. "If you have love and passion in what you do, nothing can stop you," Le said. "It's been tough, especially for me as a rookie. I'm still learning, but it will be worth it in the end."



Le graduates fire academy

South Belt resident Hung "David" Le recently graduated from the Houston Fire Department Academy. A 2009 Dobie graduate, Le had previously been employed at San Jacinto College, serving as a gym manager. Following graduation from the fire academy, Le was assigned to HFD Station No. 8 in downtown Houston – the largest and most active branch in the city. He was the only firefighter of his graduation class to encounter a fire on his first day on the job.

Photo submitted

Dobie HOSA students volunteer at PW Library

Dobie High School Health Occupation Students Association (HOSA) students Jasmine Pham and Karina Frias volunteered time during spring break to help Parker Williams Branch Library conduct their periodic count of customers/patrons using the library.

This is a project of Friends of the Parker Williams Branch Library, but the group is very small and seeks help from other groups.

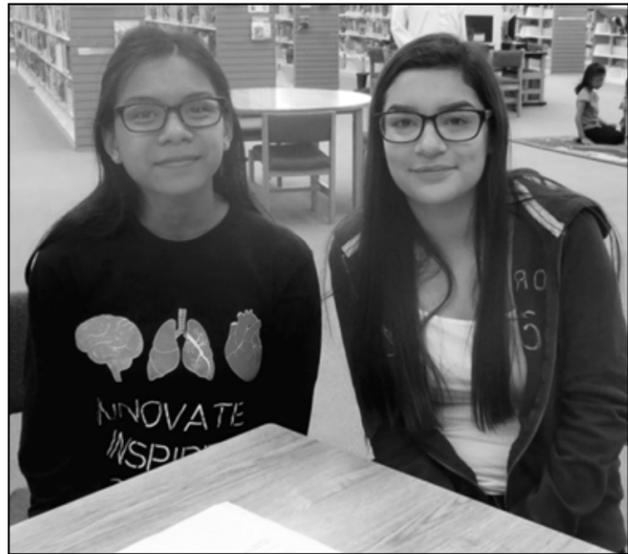
Former AARP Chapter 4341 members Charles Robinson and Ellie Melanson also volunteered time. Most of the Friends members are retirees. They welcome new members to join the group. Application blanks can be found at the library. Individual dues are \$5 a year.

HOSA is a national vocational organization that promotes the healthcare profession. Students learn leadership and communication skills while gaining knowledge of health professions.

Other students who volunteered for the library customer count were Maite Albarran and Tai Lee.

Anne Regier, Cheryl Sanders, and Linu John are the HOSA sponsors at Dobie.

Dobie HOSA Vice President Destinee Vargas coordinated the HOSA volunteers for this count.



Dobie HOSA students Jasmine Pham (left) and Karina Frias volunteer at Parker Williams Branch Library for Customer/Patron Count during spring break. Photo submitted

Elected officials share their words

Boykins joins Mayor Turner for launch of Turnaround Houston

By Council Member Dwight Boykins

Today, I stood with Mayor Sylvester Turner as he announced the launch of the Turnaround Houston Initiative. Turnaround Houston will offer access to job training, resume writing, tattoo removal, and counseling services to help those residents who want to turn their lives around.

There will be a series of resource fairs to help address the barriers to employment that many Houstonians face.

The first resource fair will take place on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, located at 9413 Cullen Blvd., 77033.

I want to applaud Mayor Turner for his willingness to address the critical issue of barriers to employment. He chose to expand on the success of the 2nd Chance Program that my office

implemented in the spring of 2015.

This year, the 2nd Chance Initiative has grown to assist even more "hard to employ" residents with finding a job and gaining financial stability.

This year's job fair will be held on Monday, May 9, at the George R. Brown Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. I look forward to meeting and working with those in our community who are looking for a second chance at life.

For more information, please call my office at 832-393-3001. For more information on Turnaround Houston, please visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/turnaround/> or the City of Houston Homepage at <http://www.houstontx.gov>.

Again, I want to thank Mayor Turner for his vision and together we will build a brighter future for all deserving Houstonians.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Branch

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Thursday, March 24, at 2 p.m. - Movie Time for Adults. Feature presentation is *No Time for Sergeants*, starring Andy Griffith, 1958.

TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 18. Volunteers from AARP TaxAide will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns. This service is free and is available in the library meeting room on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo-ID, Social Security cards and any other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, and any other necessary forms to help the volunteer complete the return.

Wednesdays - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Thursdays - Toddler Story Time, 10:30 a.m.; Saturdays - Vietnamese Storytime. Classes are at 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information on Vietnamese programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on all programs, call the library at 281-484-2036.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for March at the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint.

Tuesdays - Pre-K Storytime (ages 3-5 years and their parents/caregivers) from 10:30 to 11 a.m.; Storytime Craft from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays - Baby/Toddler Storytime (ages 6-36 months and their parents/caregivers) at 10:30 a.m.; Baby/Toddler Playgroup (ages 6 months to 3 years and their parents/caregivers) at 11 a.m.; Computer Basics at 2 p.m.; Internet Basics at 3:15 p.m.; and Power Point at 4:30 p.m.

Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday - noon to 8 p.m., Friday - 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on programs, call the Bracewell Library at 832-393-2580.

Bush finalists attend District Science Fair



Laura Bush Elementary Science Fair finalists competed at the District Science Fair on March 22, 2016. All students received a gold medal for their projects. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Gia Robinson, Sebastian Saenz, Adam Daley, (back row) Axel Olmedo, Manlio Arango and Gisselly Garza. Photo submitted

San Jacinto College opens new Maritime Campus

With the cut of a ribbon and ring of a bell, San Jacinto College marked the grand opening of the new Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

The center is located next to a turning basin along the Port of Houston at 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte - the ideal location for students training to enter the maritime industry, and for current mariners upgrading their U.S. Coast Guard certifications.

"This is what we have envisioned for many years," said Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "The Maritime Technology and Training Center on our new Maritime Campus is our response to the region's growing needs surrounding the Port of Houston and the industries impacted by its activity each day. It has been many years in the making, but it is finally here, and we are excited to begin training the next generation of maritime workers right here along the Gulf Coast."

The grand opening featured remarks from The Honorable Gene Green, U.S. Representative for Texas' 29th Congressional District; The Honorable Brian Babin, U.S. Representative for Texas' 36th Congressional District; The Honorable Larry Taylor, State Senator, Texas Senate District 11; and The Honorable Dennis Paul, State Representative, Texas House District 129. Mr. Jay Guerrero, Regional Director for Southeast Texas, representing The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, presented a congratulatory certificate to the college.

In addition, a flag-raising ceremony was held, with a U.S. flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol, on the first day of classes held at the center. The flag was donated by Congressman Babin. The event culminated with a christening ceremony, ribbon cutting, and the ringing of the bell, opening the doors to the center for tours.

Texas ranks third in the nation, with Houston ranking second, for all domestic maritime industry jobs, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers Study released by the American Maritime Partnership. However, more than half of the industry's workforce is reaching retirement age. This is why San Jacinto College began offering its maritime training in 2010, which led to the creation of the Maritime Technology and Training Center.

The center sits 14 feet above ground and includes 45,000 square-feet of space on each of the upper and lower levels; a 3,748 square-foot suite for three full mission ship bridge simulators, donated by the Houston Pilots; 15 classrooms; an administrative

suite; a multipurpose room, a dining area, and an engineering simulator; aquatic training facility; and stations for Global Maritime Distress and Safety System training, automatic radar plotting aid training, radar training, and liquid cargo handling training. A separate industry dock for crew changes will be built in the near future in partnership with G&H Towing. The Maritime Technology and Training Center was built with funds from the 2008 bond referendum, which voters in the district overwhelmingly approved by 71 percent.

The land was purchased from the Port of Houston Authority. The official groundbreaking ceremony took place in December 2014.

Maritime training at San Jacinto College began in 2010 after discussions with Port of Houston Authority Commissioners and maritime industry leaders. It was found that the majority of local maritime companies were sending their crews out of state for their United States Coast Guard

(USCG)-required courses because they did not have a local place for this type of training.

"The complexity of the Houston Ship Channel and the Galveston Bay illustrates perfectly why U.S. licensed merchant mariners must develop and keep their navigational and other maritime skills honed to a fine edge," said Capt. Brian Penoyer, the Coast Guard Captain of the Port and Sector Houston-Galveston commander. "As local mariners ourselves, we're excited to see this state-of-the-art training and recertification facility right here where our friends and colleagues live and work."

The college invited maritime industry leaders to discuss developing a training program specifically for their working mariners and to recruit more mariners into the industry, and unlike decades before, those with more training in the soft skills.

In 2010, the college received the assistance it needed to jumpstart the maritime training program with a Texas

Workforce Commission grant of \$394,577 and a \$400,000 federal appropriation championed by U.S. Rep. Gene Green, representing Texas' 29th Congressional District. Maritime courses were offered at a facility along Highway 225 in Pasadena. Classes filled to capacity almost immediately, and the college responded by adding more courses, a radar lab, and the three full mission ship bridge simulators from the Houston Pilots.

"Houston Pilots have long been champions of promoting maritime education in the local area. When we purchased a ship simulator, it was a natural fit to partner with San Jacinto College," said Capt. Robert Shearon, presiding officer of the Houston Pilots. "The Kongsberg ship simulator at San Jacinto College's maritime training center is a state-of-the-art training and research tool that will assist in the education and professional development of the next generation of maritime leaders."

"From our perspective, well trained mariners - wheth-

er pilots, tow boat operators, or harbor assist tug captains - means safer mariners."

In 2012, San Jacinto College introduced the state's first, and only, associate degree for maritime transportation to address the maritime industry needs for more mariners with a college education.

SJC also began offering a program for those who wish to work in other areas of maritime by introducing an associate degree for cargo handling/logistics, transferable to the Texas Southern University maritime logistics program and to the University of Houston College of Technology logistics program.

An Introduction to Ships and Shipping courses was added to the college's business administration associate degree, transferable to Texas A&M University in Galveston through an articulation agreement.

Contractors on the center include Tellepsen Builders, general contractor; Rizzo & Associates, program manager; IBI-Texas, architects, and

Rear Adm. William Pickavance, USN (Ret.), maritime consultant.

"This has truly been a collaborative effort that extends far beyond San Jacinto College," said Hellyer. "It is because of our maritime partners, supporters, and community that we were able to begin our maritime training and build the Maritime Technology and Training Center on the Maritime Campus. We express our sincerest gratitude to them, and look forward to more partnerships as we grow our maritime training programs."

More than 3,500 USCG certifications have been awarded to mariners since SJC began training in 2010.

Currently, the program offers approximately 45 USCG and Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)-approved courses, with this amount increasing in 2017 to meet new USCG requirements.

For information about maritime training at San Jacinto College, visit www.sanjac.edu/maritime.



At the ribbon cutting ceremony for the San Jacinto College's Maritime Technology and Training Center are, left to right, (front row) Michel Bechtel, Mayor, City of Morgan's Point; State Rep. Armando Valle, House District 140; State Rep. Ana Hernandez, House District 143; Congressman Brian Babin, 36th Congressional District; Congressman Gene Green, 29th Congressional District; State Rep. Wayne Smith, House District 128; State Rep. Dennis Paul, House District 129; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College; Dan Mims, Chairman of SJC Board of Trustees; Louis Rigby, Mayor, City of La Porte; John P. Zemanek, Councilman At-Large, City of La Porte; State Sen. Larry Taylor, Senate District 11; Capt. Robert Shearon, presiding officer, Houston Pilots, (second row) Darrel Morrison, councilman, City of Pasadena; Ron Servis, Intergovernmental and Community Liaison for Harris County Judge Ed Emmett; Mary Ann Perez; Stephen DonCarlos, commissioner, Port of

Houston Authority; Fay Picard, District Director, State Rep. Greg Bonnen, House District 24; Tammie Nielsen, Community Relations Coordinator, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman; Mike Sullivan, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector; Johnny Isbell, Mayor, City of Pasadena; Kevin Tokarski, Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift, United States Maritime Administration; John Kennedy, commissioner, Port of Houston Authority; John Moon Jr., secretary, SJC Board of Trustees, (back row) Will Miller, Southeast Texas Deputy Regional Director for U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz; John Keeney, Mayor, City of Taylor Lake Village; Jay Guerrero, Regional Director for Southeast Texas for U.S. Sen. John Cornyn; Keith Sinor, assistant secretary, SJC Board of Trustees; Charleya Wheeler, secretary, La Porte ISD Board of Trustees; Dr. Ruede Wheeler, member, SJC Board of Trustees; Brad Hance, member, SJC Board of Trustees. Photo by Jeannie Peng-Armao

CenterPoint Energy provides information on excess flow valves

An excess flow valve is a device that can be installed by CenterPoint Energy on a home's natural gas service line (the underground line that runs from the main line to the meter).

Excess flow valves are designed to permit normal operation of a service line, but automatically shut off or significantly restrict natural gas flow when the flow exceeds prescribed limits, such as when a service line is damaged due to excavation or other similar activity.

When activated, an ex-

cess flow valve may prevent the buildup of natural gas in the service line and lessen the possibility of a natural gas fire, explosion, personal injury and/or property damage. However, they do not protect against leaks beyond the meter assembly (house piping).

Federal law requires the installation of an excess flow valve on a newly constructed natural gas service line. Where excess flow valves are not required by law, it is the customer's option to install the device at his or her expense.

The cost to install an excess flow valve varies depending upon the difficulty of installation. Due to operating characteristics

and limitations, in some instances, excess flow valves cannot be installed on existing service lines. Each situation will be evaluated upon request.

To find out if a home currently has an excess flow valve installed or to learn more about having an excess flow valve installed at the owner's expense, contact CenterPoint Energy.

Learn more about installing excess flow valves through the "frequently asked questions" section by visiting CenterPointEnergy.com.

For access to additional important Public Awareness safety messages, visit the Public Awareness page at www.CenterPointEnergy.com/Safety.

Free tutoring at St. Luke's

St. Luke's Catholic church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 2, for grades K-12 and college.

For more information about tutoring, contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397.

Library seeks book donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library, located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., is seeking donations of nice condition adult fiction pocket paperbacks and children's books. Items may be dropped off at the front desk of the library.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

- The Voice of Community-Minded People -

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Deaths

William Cole Griffin



William Cole Griffin, 40, a longtime South Belt area resident, died Thursday, March 17, 2016. He was born in Rockingham, N.C., to William and Pamela Griffin. He always claimed that he wasn't born in Texas, but he got here as fast as he could.

Griffin was a graduate of Dulles High School, where he was part of the JROTC for four years and attended Officer Candidate School at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. One of his favorite things was attending Space Camp when he was in seventh grade.

After graduation, Griffin served with the Army Reserves for several years, and eventually returned to active duty in 2007, where he served with distinction with the 2-12, 1st Cavalry Division in the Iraq Campaign overseas. Continuing a life of service, he joined the ranks of Peace Officers in 2012 with the City of Arcola.

Griffin is preceded in death by his grandparents and his mother, Pam.

He is survived by his wife, Stacey; children Adrianna and Alex; his father, William; brother Justin; aunts Donna and Tonda; uncles Rick and

Tom; several cousins; a nephew; and two nieces.

A visitation will be held Thursday, March 24, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pasadena, with a service at 1 p.m. Interment will follow at Houston National Cemetery.

Raul T. Garza



Raul T. Garza, 73, of South Belt, died on Sunday, March 20, 2016.

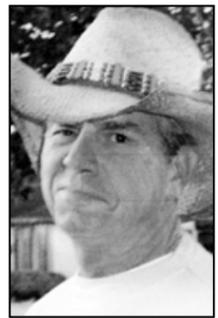
Garza was preceded in death by his father, Manuel, mother Andrea Garza, and sister Minerva.

He is survived by his wife Dolores; brother Manuel Garza; sister Linda Martinez; son Raul Garza Jr.; daughter Claudia Espinoza; and his grandchildren, Bianca and Zoe Espinoza, and Lucas and Isaac Garza.

Garza enjoyed being semi-retired with his part-time job at Butler's Court-yard. He took pride in helping others and telling his military stories.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, 2016, and the funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 25, all held at Niday Funeral Home.

William Robert McDowell Jr.



William "Bill" Robert McDowell Jr., 66, died on Saturday, March 19, 2016, due to pneumonia caused from a fight with cancer.

McDowell is survived by his wife, Beverly McDowell; daughter Tricia McDowell; sons Matthew McDowell and Nick Grey; mother Evelyn Mulholland; brother Gregory McDowell; and many friends.

McDowell had a strong work ethic which started as a young man when he could be seen pushing his lawn mower and edger down the street. He was a U.S. Marine from 1967 to 1970 who served in Vietnam, and as a Reserve until 1973. After leaving the military, he became a brick-mason like his father and stepfather. He did this his adult life and eventually became the owner of McDowell Masonry. Not only did he and his wife raise three children, but they also took in a young man, Nick Grey, and raised him as one of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local SPCA. McDowell often took in stray dogs and cats.

A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, 2016, at Houston National Cemetery.

Dobie Cheerleaders honored, receive awards at annual banquet

The Dobie High School Cheerleaders held their annual cheer banquet on Sunday, March 6, at Bay Oaks Country Club.



Varsity cheerleaders who received awards were, left to right, Julia Lohse - Most Versatile Varsity; Hannah Brady - Most Congenial Varsity, Long-



Four senior cheerleaders were awarded scholarships from the J. Frank Dobie Cheer Booster Club. Each scholarship recipient was awarded for participating at least three years on the Dobie cheer squad, academic achievement, and leadership qualities. Scholarships were given at the annual banquet to, left to right, Hannah Brady, Megan Cook, Ashley Hicks and Julia Lohse.



Junior Varsity members who received awards were, left to right, Brittany Puente - Most Congenial JV; Angelica Cantu - Most Dedicated JV; and Sara Ottwell - Most Versatile JV.

BAHEP asks legislators to support critical funding for storm surge protection studies

Continued from Page 1A

"The biggest killer in a hurricane is the surge. Probably three quarters of the total damages in a hurricane is due to storm surge," said Craig Beskid, executive director of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association.

What can be done to prevent the devastation and help prepare for and mitigate the flooding caused by storm surge in the tri-county area of Harris, Galveston and Chambers counties? "The idea is very simple. You stop the surge at the coast. You don't let it get in the inland waters," says Merrell. He supports a multi-pronged approach that uses a coastal spine to extend the Galveston seawall which was built in the early 1900s. It would be covered with sand and sea grass so that people won't even know the barrier lies beneath. Gates would be placed along the Boliver Roads area, which is a navigation channel. This would help keep surge water out of Galveston Bay. The technology is based on that which has been used successfully for decades in The Netherlands.

Interactive Coastal Atlas introduced

The video also introduced a remarkable interactive tool, developed by the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG), which is now available to anyone with an Internet connection. Dr. Sam Brody, director of the center, explained that the Coastal Atlas was developed so that coastal stakeholders could understand the impact of storm surge and flooding on property along the coast.

Homeowners, businesses and developers can use the atlas to view relevant information about a specific location. "The main purpose of the atlas is to study what the impacts of storm surge might be in the tri-county region," said Brody. "Users can zoom in on a plot of land and see what would happen to their homes or businesses and the quantifiable damages for certain scenarios. The atlas also incorporates a vertical slider bar to show users the drastic reduction in flood damage if the Ike Dike and coastal spine were in place."

"New Orleans received \$14.5 billion to protect 300,000 people and an economy less than 1/16 of that of the Houston region. We're trying to protect six million people. We need to get this done, and we need the support of our elected officials to do it," Mitchell declared. Mayor Michel Bechtel of Morgan's Point, Texas, added that during the last Texas legislative session, not one cent was allocated for storm surge studies. Mitchell reported that in a recent conversation, Rep. Greg Bonnen, M.D., suggested that the Texas House and Senate should, on behalf of the state, write a resolution in support of the coastal spine to send a message to federal officials that the state is serious.

The Gulf Coast Community Protection and

Recovery District (GCCPRD) is a coalition of six upper Texas Gulf Coast counties. It was formed to help Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Orange counties develop plans and conduct studies to alleviate damage from events like Hurricane Ike. The GCCPRD, according to Col. Len Waterworth of TAMUG, has been looking at the coastal spine as well as elevating State Highway 146 by 23 feet. Waterworth noted that Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, the chair of the GCCPRD, said that the 146 plan would not be acceptable to the local communities. Waterworth indicated that opinion in the region is starting to coalesce around the coastal

spine as a means to protect against storm surge. Bechtel reported that in November 2015 a letter containing 36 Texas congressional signatures was sent to the Office of Management and Budget requesting that something be done about storm surge. Additionally, in September 2015 the Texas Municipal League issued a resolution in support of the Ike Dike Concept. The league represents 1,100 cities. Sen. Sylvia Garcia, Rep. Dennis Paul, and Rep. Wayne Smith, who were in attendance, agreed that this was a major endorsement.

Collaborative effort mandatory

Mitchell related that the East Harris County Manufacturers Association has

committed to drafting a bill to request funding to continue the studies that are in progress. He also said that \$2.5 million per year for the next three years will be required. "The bill will need a sponsor and the support of the local Texas legislators," he stated.

Considerable discussion followed as to the best course of action to take to secure funding. "There has to be (local) ownership demonstrated before anyone is going to want to invest," Garcia commented. Fredell Rosen of BACPA reported that the Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District has given \$250,000 towards the studies over the past two years, as well as many private individuals.

"We have to show the collaborative effort across the aisle (in Texas) and across the university spectrum. We're looking for everybody to collaborate on this - to have a piece of it," said Houston City Council Member David Robinson.

In reply, Mitchell emphatically stated, "I want to go on the record saying that we're all in this together. It is not one against the other. Some people have better ideas than others, but, at the end of the day, there is going to be a compromise that reflects one plan. Most importantly, though, we need leadership. We need state leadership, and we need congressional leadership to continue these efforts."

BAHEP seeks surge protection



Shown above discussing the storm surge protection studies at the recent meeting were, clockwise from front, Fredell Rosen, president, Bay Area Coastal Protection Alliance (BACPA); Sen. Sylvia Garcia; Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP); Houston City Council Member David W. Robinson; Harriet Lukee, BAHEP membership director; Mayor Michel Bechtel, City of Morgan's Point; Derek Darnell, Sen. Garcia's office; and Rep. Dennis Paul (HD 129). Others attending the Storm Surge/Coastal Atlas meeting were Rep. Greg Bonnen, M.D.; Rep. Wayne Smith, HD 128; Rep. Ed Thompson, HD 29; Brooke Jimenez, district director, Sen. Larry Taylor's office; Betty McGinnis, district assistant, Rep.

Carol Alvarado's office; Wesley Starnes, Chief of Staff, Rep. Wayne Faircloth's office; Debra Risinger, district director, HD 129; Lauren Laake, Houston City Council Member Dave Martin's office; Julia Retta, Deputy Chief of Staff, Council Member David Robinson's office; Jacque Darbonne, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman's office; Murry Matthews, Office of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner; Chris Hext, East Harris County Manufacturers Association; Bill Read, Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG), former director of National Hurricane Center; Col. Len Waterworth, TAMUG; Will Mobley, TAMUG; and Kathryn Paradis, BAHEP communications manager.

Photo submitted

SOUTH BELT FAMILY FUN EVENT

1.5 Mile or 3 Mile Fun Run/Walk
Saturday, April 9, 2016

Walk/Run begins at 6:00 pm
Clear Brook City Park at Blackhawk & Scarsdale



Proceeds Benefit South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce Education Committee

Entry Fees: \$20 Adult guaranteed t-shirt if registered by April 4
\$1 Kids under 12 (no t-shirt) (non-refundable)

To Register: return Entry Form and Fee to Chamber Office
Early Packet Pick-up: Friday, April 8 at the South Ellington Chamber of Commerce
10500 Scarsdale from 2pm to 4pm

Event Day Packet Pickup and Registration: Saturday, April 9 at the Clear Brook City
MUD Building, 11911 Blackhawk Blvd from 4pm to 5:30pm

Finisher medals to everyone who completes the course

Amenities: Custom designed t-shirts guaranteed (adult sizes only) if registered by April 4,
multiple water stops

Post Run/Walk Activities include DJ, Food Trucks, Inflatables, and more

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Address: _____		City/State Zip _____
Age: _____ (Day of Race)	M / F _____	Circle One: 3 Mile or 1.5 Mile
Run/Walk _____		
T Shirt Size (Circle One):	ADULT: S M L XL	

I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity and that I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with running in this event. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of accepting my entry, I and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the Clear Brook City MUD all race volunteers and all sponsors, their representatives, employees and successors from any claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event or carelessness of the persons named in the waiver. Further, I grant to all of the foregoing the right to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for legitimate purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____
**For questions and early drop off, contact the South Belt-Ellington Chamber
281-481-5516 or info@southbeltchamber.com
10500 Scarsdale Blvd.



PTK Honor Society inducts 46 new members



The Alpha Gamma Zeta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society recently inducted 46 new members. Guest speaker for the induction ceremony was Catherine O'Brien (pictured), San Jacinto College Associate Vice Chancellor for Learning, who reflected on her time as a PTK member in college and the experiences it afforded her. PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2 million members and 1,200 chapters located in all 50 U.S. states, U.S. territories, Canada and Germany. Those being inducted are Manisha Kaushal Adhikari, Shanna Adkins, Savannah Amaro, Anastasia Balciunas, Katelynn Barlow, Aimee Brewer, Scotti Brown, Alexa Burrridge, Brenda Cardenas, Jennifer Cepeda, Adrian Chapa, Jessica Clakley, Kenneth Clay, Laura Culp, Danielle Darko, Elizabeth Dimopoulos, Ana Estrada, Kristen Fields, Heidi Golabian, Sarah E. Guajardo, Stephanie Gutierrez, Malek Haver, Taylor Howard, Darion Lindsey, Austin Martin, Michael Jacoby, Ryan McGuire, Valerie Mendoza, Breana Montero, Sausan Haj Muhammad, Brittany Nelson, Lauren Palms, Kevin Phillips, Phillip Rainbolt, Christa Robbins, Ahmad Shraim, Hannah Tang, Nabeeh Tawalbeh, Amir Timani, Daisy Valdespino, Kayla Voisin, Quyen Vu, Elia Torres, Trung Vu, Razzmon Williams and Haley Williams.

Photo by Andrea Vasquez

Explore world cultures at UHCL showcase

Treat one's eyes and ears to entertainment from around the world at University of Houston-Clear Lake's Cultural Extravaganza at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 25, in UHCL's Bayou Theater, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The annual event showcases music, dancing, comedy and more, all performed by members of the UH-Clear Lake community, hosted by UHCL Intercultural Student Services.

Countries represented last year include Mexico, China, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Poland, Taiwan, India, Spain and others. Admission is free.

For more information, call UH-Clear Lake Intercultural Student Services at 281-283-2575, or email iiss@uhcl.edu.

The cost is \$70 for non-students or \$15 for current UHCL students. Registration closes March 25.

For more information, call the Center for Educational Programs at 281-283-3530 or visit <http://cep.uhcl.edu>.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

JUDGE DELGADO ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
South Belt's justice of the peace, Judge Jo Ann Delgado, celebrates a birthday Saturday, March 26. Happy birthday wishes are sent to her from the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 24 through March 30.

Atkinson Elementary
Special birthday greetings are sent to Jennifer Youngblood March 27. Enjoying a birthday March 30 is Ashli Dennett.

Burnett Elementary
Carmen Norris marks a day of celebration on March 25.

Bush Elementary
Maria Trela celebrates a birthday March 25. Marcia Stark celebrates a birthday March 28.

Meador Elementary
On March 29, Cecelia Stewart enjoys a birthday.

Moore Elementary
The day for a party for Melissa Hickman is March 28.

South Belt Elementary
Warm wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Brandi Ballard March 26. Celebrating

a birthday March 27 is Natalie Boynton. Maria Flores is wished a happy birthday March 26.

Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a birthday March 29 is Valerie Kenney.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Blow out the birthday candles for Janis McKinney March 26. Share in the birthday celebration for Samantha Thompson March 28. Send a birthday greeting March 29 to Amanda Rachuig.

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

Dobie High
Double birthday greetings are sent to Emily Coughenour and Angela Gaston March 24. Thomas Chen, Glenda Nicholson, Paulina Perea and Tracy Whatley are wished a happy birthday March 26. Blow out the birthday candles for Stephanie Albert on March 27. On March 30, triple birthday wishes are sent to Bertilda Hollin, Nghiep Nguyen and Leslie Seigler-Keton.

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

Thursday, March 24: Jessica Faulkner, Jaime Napoli, Rainbow Montenegro, Larry Bischof and Michelle Noble; Friday, March 25: Joe Dominguez, Iris Scentsy, LaMagnolia Trattoria Italiana, Chris Williams and Jeff Wright; Saturday, March 26: Andrew Crow, Pratik Bajpayee, Lori Johnson, Kevin Waters, Victoria Michelle, Sunday Evans and Brittany Waters; Sunday, March 27: Chad Rivers, Erica Torres-Saenz, Eudoso Salinas, Cheryl Woods, Donna Hanson, Joan Zuñiga, Sharon Finney and Jimmy Massicot; Monday, March 28: Moses Mondragon, Jennifer Blake and Zina Corpus; Tuesday, March 29: Melissa Oliviera, Marquice Scott, Adam Stringer, Mary Wilms, Veronica Rivera and Bobby Rodriguez; and Wednesday, March 30: Marilyn Kiel, John Berlitz, Gina Escobar, Michelle Matzahn, Walter Luna and Kristin Baxter.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email 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.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS

Workshop supports career transitions

Gain insight from experts if you're planning to change careers, return to the workforce, set goals or choose a major at a two-part Career Transition Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, April 1 and 8, at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The Career Transition Workshop from UH-Clear Lake's Office of Career Services will illuminate participants' strengths, work values and available career resources as well as help them develop a plan of action.

Personality, prior experience, and work values are all important factors in finding a good job fit, and UHCL career counselors will guide participants in targeting a fulfilling career.

The workshop is open to the public and costs \$50 for non-students or \$35 for UH-Clear Lake students.

For more information, call UHCL's Office of Career Services at 281-283-2590.

Course features benefits of rubrics in education

Educators can make rubrics the new top teaching tool in *Using Rubrics to Improve Student Learning*, designed specifically for K-12 teachers, coaches, principals and professional development administrators.

The workshop is offered by University of Houston-Clear Lake's Center for Educational Programs and will be held from 9 a.m. until noon on April 2 in the Arbor Building, Room 1310.05.

Participants will learn how to develop rubrics and use them to improve student performance. Center Director Randy Willison will lead the workshop with expertise gained from more than 29 years of experience in K-12 public education.

The cost is \$70 for non-students or \$15 for current UHCL students. Registration closes March 25.

For more information, call the Center for Educational Programs at 281-283-3530 or visit <http://cep.uhcl.edu>.

Farmer's market March 29 at UHCL

Enjoy local fruit, food and more at a University of Houston-Clear Lake Farmer's Market from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, at the university's Bayou Building, Atrium I, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Products range from fruit and baked goods to candy, purses and shoes offered through local vendors at the event hosted by UHCL's Intercultural Student Services.

For more information, contact UHCL Intercultural Student Services at 281-283-2575 or email iiss@uhcl.edu.

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Melillo students compete in annual VEX IQ robotics competition

Twenty teams of future engineers at Melillo Middle School participated in an intense VEX Robotics Challenge recently, putting their IQs to the test for first-, second- and third-place status.

"Any time you have a competition where students can showcase their talents and their intelligence, the intensity level is going to be high," said Guy Mitchell,

VEX coordinator. "The students get into it because we always push them to the next level and they want to see how far they can go."

Each team constructed robots capable of traveling, lifting and moving items using science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills.

The object of each game, lasting 60-seconds per four rounds, was for teams to attain the highest score by having their robot empty cut-outs, toss balls onto a ramp and park robots. Each task was performed under driver control using joy sticks.

The top three teams were named winners of the competition. First place went to Serena Segura, Giselle Cazares and Leslie Hernandez.

Second-place medals went to Dillan Nguyen, Ethan Bishop and Billy Junkin.

Third-place winners were Madelyn Montes, Sierny Rocha, Miriam Castillo and Emily Delgado.

While the team with the highest score wins, every student finishes the program with something gained through their experience.

"They learn the value of team work, hard work and gain STEM building skills that can be used in the workplace," Mitchell said.

The program, which has doubled in size since last school year, is a testament to the community's support of educational initiatives.

"We had so many volunteers, including teachers, counselors, coaches, parents, teachers, students and staff from Pasadena Memorial, help out with this robotics program," Mitchell said.

The competition was made possible through two Pasadena Independent School District Education Foundation grants totaling nearly \$10,000. Mitchell teamed up with Jill Lacamu, Moore Elementary principal, to apply for the grant after seeing the robotics program at her campus. The program has taken off ever since.

"We are so thankful to Pasadena ISD and all the volunteers who have been part of this initiative," Mitchell said. "These are types of programs that ignite an excitement about learning among our students and prepare them for the future."



Serena Segura, Giselle Cazares and Leslie Hernandez were crowned first-place winners at Melillo's VEX Robotics competition.



Dillan Nguyen, Ethan Bishop and Billy Junkin take home second-place medals.



Madelyn Montes, Sierny Rocha, Miriam Castillo and Emily Delgado won third place in the competition.



The Robotics team celebrates another successful year. Pictured are, left to right, Gabriel Busch, Deborah Bass and Guy Mitchell. Not pictured is Jose Wong.



The winners, Serena Segura, Giselle Cazares and Leslie Hernandez, compete in their final round of VEX IQ Robotics.

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Remember When

40 years ago (1976)
An attorney representing 35 businessmen in the Pasadena Independent School District boundary line threatened to refile their suit against the PISD unless the district agreed to a plan which would tax residents on personal property.

25 years ago (1991)
The J. Frank Dobie Lariattes presented their spring show consisting of a Hawaiian dance and the "Electric Parade."

35 years ago (1981)
More than 50 people attended the Kirkwood South Civic Club meeting to hear Rep. Randy Pennington speak, and many who attended expressed concern over the opening of a sexually oriented business close to the South Belt area on the Gulf Freeway — the dual establishment Core Adult Theatre and the Big Apple.

30 years ago (1986)
A joint commercial property owners association was formed by two development groups for some 40 acres of yet-to-be-developed land near Memorial Southeast Hospital on Beamer. Pace Investments and Scarsdale Limited Partnership filed a 16-page declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions for the Memorial Southeast

Plaza Property Owners Association, Inc.

20 years ago (1996)
There was a warrant out for the arrest of John Gatewood, who conned as many as 30 locals out of money.

15 years ago (2001)
By a vote of 6-1, the Clear Creek Independent School District authorized the superintendent to pursue the acquisition of a site for a school to replace Weber Elementary.

State Farm agent Dan Moore and wife Syble were

honored at a retirement reception.

10 years ago (2006)
In an effort to improve the percentage of students completing high school, each of the five PISD high schools and three alternative schools adopted a program named Expectation Graduation.

5 years ago (2011)
Just four days after abruptly ending the local Harris County Precinct 2 deputy patrol contract, Constable Gary L. Freeman announced he planned to reinstate the program.

Freeman had originally canceled the area contract due to a budget shortfall. However, a review of the constable's figures conducted by auditors at the county budget office revealed an error of more than \$1 million toward the constable's annual budget

of roughly \$5.5 million.

1 year ago (2015)
Chuck Tylka was re-elected by his colleagues to serve another term as chief of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department. This marked the seventh consecutive time Tylka, who has 40 years of service, had filled the position. Founding member Jerry Terrell, who has 44 years of service, was re-elected assistant chief/fire marshal.

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March Aviators of the Month at Roberts



Fred Roberts Middle School Aviators of the Month for March are, left to right, fifth-graders Daniel Licerio and Gloria Immaculate, and sixth-graders Alayna Calvillo and Angel Perales. Teachers

vote on students each month who showcase academic excellence, service, acts of kindness, and above and beyond qualities in the classroom. Photo submitted

South Belt Elementary students place second in Destination Imagination at Katy High School

Sarah Smith and Marcy Pittman, teachers from South Belt Elementary, recently took several teams of students to compete at the Destination Imagination regional tournament at Katy High School where one of the teams placed second and will advance to the state competition in the Dallas area.

Destination Imagination is a nonprofit organization that has been around since 1999. Their goal is for students to learn 21st century thinking skills by teaching them how to take their ideas from imagination to innovation. The tournament is divided into two parts, the team challenge and the instant challenge. Before the tournament, teams choose one of seven standard-based challenges to solve. The areas of focus from the challenges are technical, scientific, fine arts, improvisational, structural and service learning.

The team of third graders who placed second at the tournament chose to do the improv performance about close encounters. The team started doing research on six different areas of confined spaces around September/October.

On the day of the tournament, the team chose at random one of the six areas to act out. They were given four minutes to prepare the skit, given a mysterious character to include and had to create a prop out of a newspaper. Out of the 15-20 teams who competed in the same team

challenge, the South Belt Elementary team had the highest score.

Unlike the team challenge, the instant challenge is kept a secret until the day of the tournament. The team must come up with a solution in five to eight minutes. Even after the challenge is completed, the team cannot discuss it with others until Globals in Tennessee. Smith says she still does not know what the team did during the instant challenge.

Allowing kids to solve problems on their own is very important in Destination Imagination. Managers are not allowed to give ideas or interfere, they can only teach acting skills and how to do research. Smith said the kids were nervous before the tournament, but she was very pleased with how well they worked together.

This is the second year the school has participated in Destination Imagination, and Smith says she plans to keep it going. The teams will sometimes practice after school or put on after-school performances and according to Smith, the parents are blown away with their kid's performances.

The team will compete at the state competition in the Dallas area on April 1-2. The state competition uses the same challenge and process as the regional tournament. The top five teams will advance to Globals which will be held at the University of Tennessee.

Electric Bananas take 2nd place



Members of the Electric Bananas with their trophies are, left to right, Sarah Smith (team manager), Malcolm Sherwood, Mathew Vu, Gustavo Salinas, Mary Grace Pelekamoyo and Marcy Pittman (team manager). Photo submitted

Atkinson Science Fair winners named



The following fourth-grade students are the Atkinson Science Fair finalists who participated in the Pasadena Independent School District Science Fair on March 22, where the district winners were announced. Pictured are, left to right, Aylin

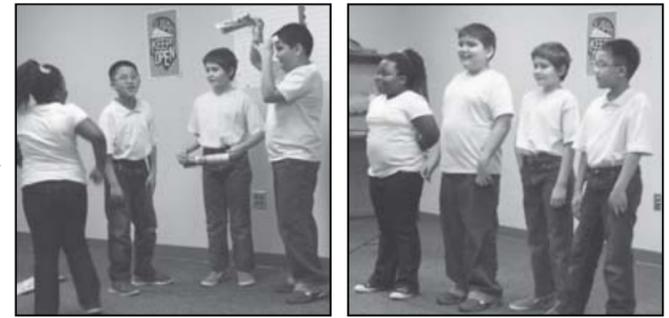
Reyes (Elizabeth Lizama's class), Linda Pham (Tracy Nguyen's class), Jaelyn Vandiver (Tracy Nguyen's class), Emily Hamlett (Nancy Vasquez's class), and Lilly Tran (Rebecca Garcia's class). Photo submitted

Musical Strike



Musical Strike members are, left to right, Aniya Flemming, Evan Fernandez and Hope Ortiz.

Electric Bananas



Electric Bananas in action are, left to right, (left photo) Mary Grace Pelekamoyo, Mathew Vu, Malcolm Sherwood and Gustavo Salinas, (right photo) Mary Grace Pelekamoyo, Gustavo Salinas, Malcolm Sherwood and Mathew Vu.

Smart Troopers



Smart Troopers are, left to right, Alex Olvera, Jake Josling, Jabez Palma and Sebastian Sanders.

Splendid Steers



Splendid Steers are, left to right, Ricardo Gomez, Michael Montano, Taylor Nguyen, Di Dao and Quynh Ky.

Strange Destiny



Strange Destiny members are, left to right, Daniel Arcenaux, Jonathan Alexander and Andrew Ullman.

Meador students participate in District Science Fair



Left to right, Meador students Yaeishya Ciudad, Jorge Escobar, Ethan Hernandez, Jordan Muniz and Tre Ramirez participate in science hands-on activities. They were joined by students from other Pasadena ISD elementary students who were science fair winners at their campuses. Numerous experiments and exhibits were enjoyed by these students.

Below, Meador Elementary fourth-grader Ethan Hernandez looks through a telescope at the Pasadena Independent School District Science Fair. Photos submitted



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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday		7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday		1:00 p.m. Misa en Español
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated
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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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Highland Meadow Easter winners



Highland Meadow Homeowners' Association held its Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 19, at the Highland Meadow Park. More than 1,500 Easter eggs filled with candy were hidden throughout the park. Chili cheese hot dogs, chips, soft drinks, desserts and candy were served to the children and homeowners. In addition to the three golden egg winners, eight small Easter bunnies and music CD's were given out as drawings. Golden Egg winners pictured are (front) Axel Rivas, 1-3 age group; (middle) Daniel Gonzalez, 4-7 age group; and (top) Sarah Cruz, 8 and up age group. Each received a 2016 Easter bunny.
Photo by Rudy Alafa



The Leader wishes all our readers
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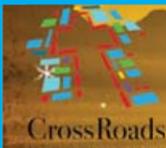
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Managing bad behavior workshop set

Join the University of Houston-Clear Lake Applied Behavior Analysis Student Organization for an interactive workshop for parents and caregivers of children with autism on Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the university's Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 2311, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

During the workshop, *Understanding and Managing Problem Behavior*, attendees will learn to identify the cause of problem behavior such as aggression, property destruction and general non-compliance in their children.

The workshop will also cover how to develop and implement procedures to decrease or eliminate the problem behavior.

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Holy Thursday 7 pm 11:15 pm	March 24 Bilingual Mass, followed by adoration Night Prayer and close of Night Watch	Jueves Santo
Good Friday 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	March 25 Morning Prayer • Oración de la Mañana Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion English Stations of the Cross Celebración de la Pasión del Señor con Veneración de la Cruz & Sagrada Comunión	Viernes Santo
Holy Saturday 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 8:30 p.m.	March 26 Morning Prayer • Oración de la Mañana Easter Decoration of the Church Decoración de la Iglesia para la Pascua The Great Easter Vigil • La Gran Vigilia Pascual	Sábado Santo
Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	March 27 Mass in the Church Mass in the Church Overflow Mass in the Parish Hall Mass in the Church Overflow Mass in the Parish Hall Misa en Español en la Iglesia	Domingo de Pascua

ALMEDA MALL

Almeda Mall
March 2016

As we approach the Holy Days of Passover and Easter, the management and ownership at Almeda Mall would extend our prayer for all of our community, regardless of your individual faith, for a blessed Holy Season.

Starting on March 24, the Almeda Mall Reader-board sign on I-45 will be dedicated to depicting scriptures from the Old and New Testament speaking to the Jewish Passover Lamb and God's sparing of the Hebrew first born, and on March 27, the Christian Easter Sunday, the scriptures will speak to the Christian belief that Jesus Christ is the true Lamb of God, and hailing His resurrection from the tomb.

We would implore each of you, during this season, to offer a special prayer of thanks for the many gifts your God has provided for you and your family, and to ask His continued blessings on our United States Of America!!

We wish for each of you, a joyous, safe and blessed Passover and Easter Season!!

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Good Friday break alters playing slate

For the second straight week, there will be no Friday action on high school athletic fields. Last week, it was spring break, and now Good Friday has stepped in. So the Clear Brook and Dobbie varsity baseball and softball programs, as well as their competitors, will instead be in action Thursday, March 24.

Most bidistrict soccer playoff games, including those involving Dobbie (see at right), will also be contested March 24. The usual schedule resumes Tuesday, March 29.

Thursday, March 24

Dobbie varsity baseball

vs. Sam Rayburn

Maguire Field, 4 p.m.

Dobbie varsity softball

vs. Memorial

PISD Complex, 6:30 p.m.

Brook varsity softball

at Friendswood, 6:45 p.m.

Brook varsity baseball

at Clear Falls, 6:30 p.m.

JFD teams hunt bidistrict playoff wins



Above, Dobbie senior Summer Naser hopes the Lady Longhorns can shock District 21-6A champion Deer Park in the bidistrict playoffs, which would allow Naser and her Lady Longhorn teammates to keep their 2016 season alive.

Photo by Nick Tamayo

At right, the Dobbie varsity boys' team, including Mateo Gutierrez (14) had an easy time Jan. 8 against Port Arthur Memorial at the Pasadena ISD Cup, winning the game 5-0. Now, the Longhorns, champions of 22-6A, travel to meet the Titans in Beaumont. The two teams also met in the first round of the playoffs a season ago, with Dobbie advancing after winning a thrilling shootout.

Photo by John Bechtle



Bidistrict soccer playoffs

JFD varsity boys at Port Arthur Memorial

Butch Thomas Stadium, Beaumont

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.

JFD varsity girls host Deer Park

Veterans Stadium, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 24

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Haven't we been here before? The luck of the draw has the Dobbie varsity boys' soccer team going up against the Port Arthur Memorial Titans in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight season.

And the Dobbie girls, in the playoffs for the first time since losing in the first round to Deer Park in the opening round in 2014, will again face the Lady Deer.

It's all part of the fun as the chase for the Region III championship begins.

Despite finishing the District 22-6A season with an unbeaten record (13-0-3) for the second consecutive season, Dobbie isn't drawing much praise outside of its own circle.

Cinco Ranch, Aldine and Alief Elsik are some of the big-time programs who garner the most attention in discussions about possible Region III Final Four candidates.

But why not Dobbie? The Longhorns advanced to the second round a season ago, and seem to epitomize the true "team" game approach.

And it's all about advancing. Dobbie head coach Justo Manrique has long said that in the game of soccer, a terrific play or

a mistake by one of the 11 players on either team can often make the difference in a game — especially come postseason times.

Granted, there is no legendary scoring threat on this team.

Instead, the Longhorns frequently take a few chances up front, pushing for extra scoring chances

while asking its defense to hold the fort in the back. But it's worked to this point, and perhaps it will continue.

As for the Dobbie girls, there is an understanding that it is liable to take a monumental effort to defeat one of the area's top programs (Deer Park), but

Continued on Page 6B

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Gaines, JFD slug past SR by 15-5 count

At right, Dobbie's Deja Gaines drove in four runs, leading the Lady Longhorns to a 15-5 victory over Sam Rayburn March 22, at the Pasadena ISD complex. The Lady Longhorns banged out 21 hits as they moved to 5-2 in District 22-6A action with one more game in the first round to come against Memorial. Despite losses to Pearland and Alvin in the first half of league play, the Lady Longhorns are sitting comfortably in third place, with the big game coming against Memorial. Pearland leads the 22-6A standings at 7-0, with Alvin next at 6-1. Dobbie is third with Dawson, Manvel and Memorial currently pushing for the fourth playoff seed. See more on Page 2B.

Photo by John Bechtle



SBASA welcomes applicants

The South Belt Area Sports Association is again looking for deserving class of 2016 high school seniors who would like to vie for the group's annual scholarship awards.

Each year, the associa-

tion presents \$500 scholarships to be applied to approved areas, including tuition, fees, books or miscellaneous expenses. The selection will be made by the SBASA committee. Financial need will be considered in the selection process.

The student must have completed a minimum of three seasons in any of the six youth sports leagues supported by the SBASA, including the Sagmont-Beverly Hills Little League, South Belt Girls' Softball Association, Sagmont Cowboys, South Belt Senior League Baseball (Pony/Colt), the South Belt Youth Soccer Club or the Southbelt Dolphins.

Eligible candidates must be satisfactory in both attendance and academic standing and should also have exhibited good citizenship, character and community involvement to date. The scholarship may be

used to defer costs in the approved areas, including tuition, fees, books or miscellaneous expenses. The selection will be made by the SBASA committee. Financial need will be considered in the selection process. The applications must be completed and returned to the Dobbie or Clear Brook counseling offices by April, 22, 2016.

The recipient must enroll in a minimum of 12 class hours at an accredited institution, including a four-year college or technical/vocational school.

The funds will be distributed to the chosen candidates once registration and other appropriate receipts are provided to the committee for approval.

Applicants should also submit a copy of their transcript and a senior portrait with the application.

Questions should be directed to Rich Newell, president of South Belt

Area Sports Association, at rdnewell2@auspex-inc.com or Karen O'Connor, secretary, at karenocconor9694@sbcglobal.net.

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At 2-4, Longhorn baseball looks to get back on track

If it's too early to begin thinking about must wins, then the time is probably coming soon.

Visiting Alvin handed Dobie a 3-0 no-hit loss March 22, at Dobie, which was the Longhorns' second straight loss. On March 16, the Longhorns had a 5-0 lead heading into the bottom of the third inning before losing the

game, 8-7.

Now at 2-4 overall in league play, the Longhorns would love nothing better than to get back to even in the 22-6A standings as the first half closes out.

The opportunity is there as Dobie faces winless Sam Rayburn Thursday, March 24, at Maguire Field. Game time is 4 p.m.

The first half of District 22-6A action then ends as the Longhorns host the Memorial Mavericks, also 2-4 at this point, on Tuesday, March 29, at Dobie. Game time is also 4 p.m.

Dobie's biggest issue aside from the 2-4 start is the fact that five teams sit in front of it in the standings at this point. Pearland leads the way at 7-0, hav-

ing handed 6-1 Alvin its lone loss in league play. Manvel, Dawson and South Houston are also currently ahead of the locals.

Against Dawson, the Longhorns built themselves a tidy 5-0 lead through the top of the third inning before the Eagles got their offense going.

Scoring two runs in the third inning, one in the fourth, two more in the fifth and three more over the final two innings, the Eagles were able to steal the win.

Luis Salazar led Dobie with four hits in the game, and Jeremy Green came up with two runs driven in

in the contest, but the Eagles' ability to score runs late made the difference.

Against Alvin, Dobie's Kaelon Woods certainly

pitched well enough to win, with Alvin getting one run in the first inning but then being held to two runs in the seventh inning.

Woods went the distance, striking out six. He allowed just five hits in the game. The problem?

Alvin's Joe Dalmolin

was spectacular, striking out 13 during his no-hit performance to lift the Yellowjackets.

So four of the five teams above the Longhorns in the standings have already scored wins over the locals, so perhaps that "must win" situation comes now.

After facing Rayburn and Memorial to finish the

first half, the Longhorns will begin the second half with a home game against first-place Pearland. Obviously, the games are about to get bigger and bigger.

In 2015, the Longhorns rallied to make the playoffs after experiencing some ups and downs through the early to middle portions of league play. A comeback is possible.



Anthony Propeck has come a long way in the sport of bowling during his high school career, which culminated with him picking up numerous honors. Propeck also gives back to the sport in many ways, serving on various boards and committees.

Clear Brook bowler Propeck keeps his accolades coming

Clear Brook High School bowler Anthony Propeck was inducted into the Houston Hall of Honor and named Houston Bowler of the Year March 19, in Houston. For his efforts, Propeck received scholarships for both prestigious honors, and received scholarships for the Houston Service Award and for winning in Division 1 Scratch Singles, High Game Scratch (277), and High Scratch Series (712) at the City Tournament.

Propeck currently has league averages of 211 and 210. He finished high school district competition with a 208 average, and was the Southeast Houston high school district

champion in 2014 and 2015.

The standout later tied for first place in Region X competition, bowling an outstanding 299 game and averaging 232.

During his career, Propeck has made three high school state appearances and made the all-district first team three years in a row.

During play, Propeck has had numerous 750 plus series' and 11 games over 275.

Propeck is the president of the Greater Houston United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Youth Leaders and Texas USBC Youth Leaders. He also holds a position as a youth

director on the GHUSBC Board of Directors.

As a freshman, Propeck started with the Clear Brook High School bowling team with a 146 tryout average.

Through hard work and dedication, Anthony improved daily," said one of his Clear Brook coaches, Roxy Casas.

"We saw his potential pretty early and encouraged him to join leagues for more practice.

"During his sophomore year, he finished the high school season with a 199 average and was the district champion. He has been unstoppable ever since. We are so proud of him."

San Jacinto College baseball to host Play Pink game against Blinn Bucs

The San Jacinto College baseball team will help raise funds for Angel Flight South Central, an organization that helps breast cancer patients, at the seventh annual Play Pink game on Saturday, April 2.

San Jacinto College will face off against conference rival Blinn College in a doubleheader, with the first game starting at 3 p.m., at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the North campus.

At the midway point in the season, San Jacinto College is ranked No. 2 in the nation by Perfect Game, and is in first place in the Region XIV South Zone, with a 22-6 (11-5 conference) record.

"The Play Pink events in past years were successful, and we hope the community will once again come out to support this worthy cause, while enjoying some good baseball action," said San Jacinto College head coach Tom Arrington.

SJC assistant coach Jimmy Durham lost his wife, Michele, to breast cancer 12 years ago.

At the time, Durham was on the coaching staff at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico.

While Michele was being treated in Houston, the couple used the services of Angel Flight South Central (formerly Grace Flight of America) to fly Michele to and from New Mexico and Houston, free of charge.

Angel Flight South Central provides free air transportation for medical and humanitarian purposes, with the first game starting at 3 p.m., at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the North campus.

The organization's goal is to remove the transportation burden from patients so they can receive specialized medical treatment that may not be available to them locally.

Angel Flight South Central also has a ground crew that drives patients to and from the local airports in their communities to hospitals.

The organization not only flew Michele to and from Houston for treatment, but would also occasionally fly one or all of the Durham's five children, so that they would not be far from their mother.

"(Angel Flight) literally helped keep our family together," said Durham, who is now in his 11th season as an assistant coach at San Jacinto College.

"They allowed the entire family to be together

SJC's Play Pink Game
San Jacinto College
hosts Blinn Bucs
Saturday, April 2
J.R. Harrison Field
at Andy Pettitte Field, 3 p.m.

at least some of the time, and gave our children an opportunity to be with their mother."

All money raised from donations at the April 2 game will go directly to Angel Flight South Central.

San Jacinto College players and coaches will wear special pink jerseys during the game, which is a big series against the Bucs in conference play.

Fans are encouraged to wear pink to support the cause, and can bid on auction items, which will include sports memorabilia. Play Pink T-shirts will be available at the game for fans who make contributions to the Angel Flight organization.

Durham says he hopes the Play Pink event not only raises awareness for Angel Flight South Central, but monetary help as

well.

"The pilots volunteer their time, planes, and fuel to help others," added Durham.

"They pay for these flights themselves, unselfishly, and need more funding to continue to serve people in need."

San Jacinto College baseball games are free to attend, but donations will be accepted for admission to the Play Pink game.

All San Jacinto College baseball home games are played at the North campus at 5800 Uvalde Road in Houston.

For information about the San Jacinto College baseball team, visit sanjacsports.com.

For information about Angel Flight South Central, or to make donations, visit the organization's website at angelflightsc.org.

Two losses hurt CB softball

A 9-3 loss to Clear Falls followed by an 11-1 loss to the Brazoswood Lady Bucs suddenly have the Clear Brook varsity softball team looking to make up some ground.

The locals were 2-1 at one point in the District 24-6A campaign, but now the defeats have begun to come - three in all.

The Lady Wolverines will look to close out the first half of league play with a win, going against host Friendswood Thursday, March 24. Game time is 6:45 p.m.

Brazoswood broke

open a close game by scoring four runs in both the fourth and fifth innings.

Against Clear Falls, the Lady Wolverines were defeated 9-3 as Clear Falls' Maddison Demers hit two home runs and drove in

five runs in the game.

Brazoswood is the district leader at 6-0. Clear Falls is 5-1, followed by Clear Springs at 4-2.

Brook is battling with others for playoff positioning.

Tracksters set to hit final turn during season

Just two varsity track and field meets remain as athletes from Dobie High School strive to be at their best for the District 22-6A championships.

Both Dobie teams will be involved in the South Houston High School Invitational, set for Thursday, March 24, at Auxiliary Stadium.

After that, the Lady Longhorns will compete at the Rockhold Relays at Baytown's Stallworth Stadium April 1, and Dobie's boys will be part of the mix at the April 1 Wildcat Relays in Angleton.

It'll be good to get back to action as both programs took some time off for spring break.

Dobie junior Camille Singleton did run in the 200-meter dash at the March 19 Texas South University High School Invitational, finishing 21st overall with a time of 25.81 seconds.

Also at the TSU Relays, Clear Brook's Brandon Taylor continued his unbeaten season in the 100-meter dash, winning in a time of 10.38.

He then went head-to-head with Desoto's Trevin Chambers in the 200-meter dash, eventually taking second in a time of 21.14. Chambers' winning time was 21.11.

High jumper Luke Barksdale cleared 6 feet for ninth place, and the Wolverines' John'te Horace (5'8") was 15th.

Cuatrus Quarles of Clear Brook collected a time of 22.72 in the 200-meter dash for 16th place overall.

Dobie boys at LP

Before spring break, the Longhorn boys were in action at the annual Bayshore Olympics,

hosted by La Porte High School.

Jeremy Davis came up with the Longhorns' top finish as he was runner-up in the 110-meter hurdles at 15.11.

Jacury Shelvin's time of 11.44 placed him seventh overall in the 100-meter dash, and teammate Mark Brent was 24th at 12.00.

Daniel Williams represented the Longhorns in both hurdling events.

At the 110 distance, Williams' time of 15.85 was 11th, and he placed seventh in the 300-meter hurdles with a clocking of 42.07.

In the same 300-meter hurdles, the Longhorns' Earl Newton came up with a time of 42.64 for ninth place.

Shelvin went quickly in the 200-meter dash as he placed 11th at 23.58, and Longhorns' freshman Kris Morris had a time of 24.42 for 21st place. Segdrick Romar of Dobie was 29th at 24.96.

In the 400-meter dash, Dobie's Christian Penolza was 13th at 55.10, and Mason Douglas completed the 110-meter hurdles at 16.43 for 12th place.

Douglas' time of 44.66 placed him 19th in the 300-meter hurdles.

Dobie placed sixth in the 4x200-meter relay, seventh in the 4x100-meter relay and 10th in the 4x400-meter relay.

JFD girls at Clear Creek

Dobie's varsity girls' track and field team made a pre-Spring Break stop at the Clear Creek Wildcats Relays in League City.

The Lady Longhorns will close out the first half of league play Thursday, March 24, at the Pasadena ISD complex, against Memorial. Dobie's March 29 home game against Pearland opens the second half.

Brook is battling with others for playoff positioning.



At right, Dobie's JoJo Castaneda is looking to help his varsity baseball teammates get back on track in the District 22-6A race. At 2-4, the Longhorns have games with Sam Rayburn and Memorial to close out the first half of league play.

Hits keep coming, Lady Longhorns now 5-2

15 runs, 21 hits. If only that could happen each night.

Wait, the Lady Longhorns of Dobie have made it a bit of a habit of scoring bunches of runs through District 22-6A action.

In Dobie's five wins in district play, the offense has produced 79 runs. That's more than 15 per game.

District leader Pearland downed Dobie 9-0 in the league opener, and second-place Alvin used a six-run, seventh inning to defeat the Lady Longhorns 6-1.

But other than that, this has been one of the area's most explosive offensive teams.

Against Rayburn in that

15-5 win March 22, the Lady Longhorns banged out 21 hits.

The game was scoreless until the third inning, when Dobie scored six times. A four-run, fourth inning allowed Dobie to coast to the victory.

Taylor Pleasants, a standout player in her first year on the varsity squad as a freshman, had four hits to pave the way. Yvonne Whaley, the team's sophomore lead-off hitter, had three more hits.

Daja Gaines continued her solid offensive season with four runs batted in, and Allison Bravo plated three more runs.

Junior pitcher Michelle Kristoff was the winning pitcher, going the distance

for the win.

The Lady Longhorns will close out the first half of league play Thursday, March 24, at the Pasadena ISD complex, against Memorial. Dobie's March 29 home game against Pearland opens the second half.

At right, Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley has guided her team to five wins in seven District 22-6A contests. In those five wins, the Lady Longhorns have scored 79 runs. After closing out the first half of play against Memorial, Dobie will host 22-6A leader Pearland.

Photo by John Bechtle



While Michele was being treated in Houston, the couple used the services of Angel Flight South Central (formerly Grace Flight of America) to fly Michele to and from New Mexico and Houston, free of charge.

Angel Flight South Central provides free air transportation for medical and humanitarian purposes, with the first game starting at 3 p.m., at John Ray Harrison Field at Andy Pettitte Park on the North campus.

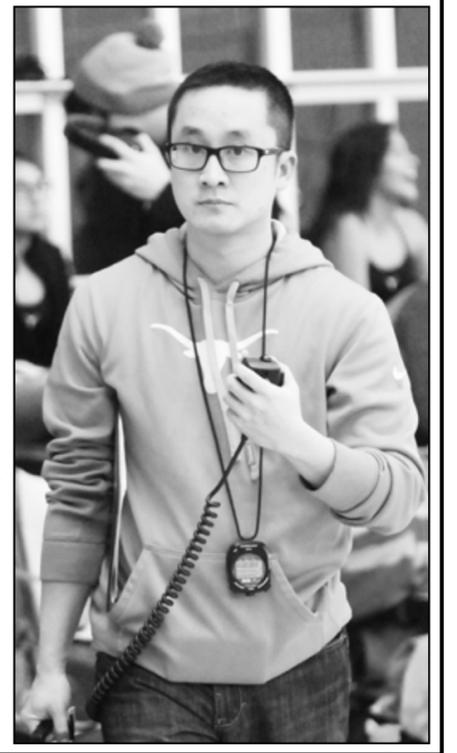
The organization's goal is to remove the transportation burden from patients so they can receive specialized medical treatment that may not be available to them locally.

Angel Flight South Central also has a ground crew that drives patients to and from the local airports in their communities to hospitals.

The organization not only flew Michele to and from Houston for treatment, but would also occasionally fly one or all of the Durham's five children, so that they would not be far from their mother.

Dobie offers youth swim clinic

At right, Dobie swim coach Bradley Nguyen and the Longhorns' program will host a pre-summer league clinic for youths age 6 to 12, April 5 through April 8 at the Beverly Hills Intermediate pool. The April 5 workout will include freestyle skills, while the April 6 workout will cover the backstroke. The April 7 workout will cover breaststroke/butterfly skills and the April 8 workout will include work in all strokes. Nguyen will be assisted by JFD assistant coach Kyle Ediger as well as current Dobie swimmers. Cost of the clinic is \$50 cash. The Pasadena ISD does not provide medical insurance for this type of event, so parents will be responsible for providing their own child's medical insurance. For more information, direct email to Nguyen at ktnuyen@pasadenaisd.org.



Important offseason continues as JFD football eyes 2016

There hasn't been much live action on the football field since Dobie lost for a fifth consecutive time to the eventual state champion North Shore Mustangs last November.

But that doesn't mean that varsity football head coach Mike Norman, his staff or the players in the offseason program haven't been working hard in preparation for 2016.

There's more familiarity within the program these days, what with Norman and his staff having had almost a full year on site.

And there's realignment. With the likes of Pearland and Manvel exiting the District 22-6A ranks, there will be a new league champion next season for the first time in a while. And Dobie is hoping to be that team.

Dobie will not engage in spring football workouts in May, instead opting to begin the preseason a week early — on Aug. 1. Norman's Longhorns will be ready, no doubt.

"I know on my part, I feel a whole lot better at this time of the year than I did last year," Norman said.

"I basically didn't get here full time until May, and there were staff things we had to handle in addition to getting to know the players. I basically only had a month with the guys in school last year.

"We've also had a chance to instill the things we expect on a daily basis, like hard work, accountability, being disciplined and so forth.

"I've had a chance to evaluate kids' work ethic, see their passion and desire for the game and those types of things. Plus, the kids know more about what I and the coaching

staff expect from them."

When the on-field work in preparation does begin, there are certain facts the Longhorns will deal or have already dealt with.

Yes, the Longhorns have advanced to the play-

offs in each of the past six seasons. Still, the school has not seen a playoff win since 2004.

Norman knew when he arrived that the Longhorns would have to get bigger, stronger and faster in or-

der to compete with the big dogs in Class 6A Division I football playoff situations. This offseason, the Longhorns have addressed those have-tos.

"There isn't a whole lot of fun in the offseason, but

things get tough, we do remind the kids about Deer Park, about North Shore and those games where we let things get away," Norman said.

"It's important to get better every day, and to work toward the things we need to do to get to where we want to be. The kids have responded well, and we'll carry that forward."

From a personnel standpoint, Dobie's biggest concerns may come on the defensive side of the ball — particularly at linebacker and safety.

Three-time all-district defensive tackle Chandler Tisby will be a big loss, as will Xzavion Kelly, but Norman believes there is enough depth along the line for that unit to bounce back.

Inside linebacker is a concern due to graduation as well, what with junior-to-be Dejuan Dixon essentially the lone returnee, and he did not play the entire season at the varsity level.

At outside linebacker, three-year starter and University of Texas-El Paso signee Dedrick Simpson will exit. Norman is also concerned about the loss of safety Darius Hypolite.

"You don't replace three-year starters like Dedrick and Darius," Norman said.

"I think, clearly, our biggest concerns in terms of filling needs is on defense. We had some guys step up at the junior varsity level, and the staff will also evaluate some of last season's freshman class to determine if the time is right for a move to the Friday night lights.

As for the offense, quarterback Jeremy Davis is in line to get a great deal of work, both in the passing and running game.

In Dobie's loss to North Shore in the bidistrict playoffs, Davis nonetheless played a big role in both of the Longhorns' scoring drives. Perhaps there is no other player on that side of the ball than Davis, as far as Dobie is concerned.

"Jeremy is going to get a lot of touches in everything we do offensively," Norman said. "He really has developed into a dual threat kind of a quarterback, and we're excited to see what he can do."

In looking to replace the Longhorns' other starter from last season — Tyler Giron — Norman said at present that role likely belongs to 2015 junior varsity starter Jacob Sulak.

At tailback, there's little doubt the entire Dobie nation wants to see how freshman tailback Kris Morris progresses from last season to this.

Morris had a handful of highlight reel plays last season, and the staff is intent on getting him the football.

JoJo Castaneda is another player who will get

touches either in the backfield or from a slot receiver spot.

Receiver as well as tight end are two other positions of need, especially after the coming graduation of Jaylon Bolden at receiver.

"Jaylon is another player you don't simply replace," Norman said.

"In a perfect world you just plug someone else into that slot receiver role and go, but it's not that simple. Jaylon is a special talent.

Breon Simmons and

Jeremiah Hernandez will figure greatly into the mix, and Jeremy Marcum could be a solid option at tight end after the Longhorns lost starters Jesse Paredes and Jason Lester.

Along the offensive front, Norman has few concerns. That group returns as many as four starters, and there is depth coming from the subvarsity programs.

"I feel real good about the offensive line," Norman said. "We definitely should have a better group overall in terms of expe-

rience and playing level. That should be a strong suit."

Presumably, Sabino Lozano will return in the kicking game, but Josue Villalta will graduate. Clearly, special teams will be addressed, with Ke'montre Lowe certainly in the mix as a return man.

It may seem as though there is plenty of time for the Dobie program to get itself together for the 2016 season, but time flies.

Norman believes better days are ahead for JFD. He's already seen some

examples of that, and is excited to see more.

"I've been very pleased with the response of the kids from year one to year two," Norman said.

"They know what we expect, and have done a lot of the things necessary to improve.

"We're looking forward to the 2016 season. Somebody has to win the district title, and we certainly feel as though it can be us. You have to put the work in as coaches and players to get the results, but we have so far."

Dobie Longhorns football 2016 opens against Summer Creek

The Dobie varsity football team, aiming squarely at the District 22-6A championship come 2016, now knows the course the season will take.

The Longhorns will close out the first week of the regular season by hosting Summer Creek in a nondistrict matchup Saturday, Aug. 27, at Veterans Stadium.

Following opening week, the Longhorns

will also have nondistrict games against Clear Springs, Morton Ranch and Dawson before beginning 22-6A action against the Deer Park Deer Sept. 23, also at Veterans Stadium.

Homecoming is set for Friday, Oct. 28, against Pasadena, and the Longhorns close the regular season at Bulldog Stadium in La Porte, Friday, Nov. 4, against the Bulldogs.

Second-year Dobie

head coach Mike Norman and his staff will be looking to guide the program to its first district championship since 2010.

The team also hopes to win a playoff game for the first time since the 2004 campaign.

The program is working on a string of six consecutive playoff appearances, and has faced North Shore in the playoffs five straight years.

2016 Dobie Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 12 (Fri)	at Strake Jesuit scrimm.	7 p.m.
Aug. 19 (Fri)	at Clear Brook scrimm.	11 a.m.
Aug. 27 (Sat)	Summer Creek	6 p.m.
Sept. 3 (Sat)	at Clear Springs	6 p.m.
Sept. 9 (Fri)	at Morton Ranch	7 p.m.
Sept. 16 (Fri)	at Dawson	7 p.m.
Sept. 23 (Fri)	*Deer Park	7 p.m.
Sept. 29 (TH)	*Memorial	6 p.m.
Oct. 13 (TH)	*Sam Rayburn	6 p.m.
Oct. 21 (Fri)	*at South Houston (SR)	7 p.m.
Oct. 28 (Fri)	*Pasadena (HC)	7 p.m.
Nov. 4 (Fri)	*at La Porte	7 p.m.

(SR) Senior Night
(HC) Homecoming
* District 22-6A games

Lajaunie tennis plans take shape

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund (DLTSF) along with the Bay Area Racquet Club (BARC) in Houston will host the 5th Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament Friday through Sunday, April 22 through April 24. The BARC is located on Kings Park Lane, off NASA Parkway.

The Sponsorship Drive and tournament preparations are underway for the tournament, which will award members of the BARC's junior tennis players both youth camp and college scholarships.

College scholarships will also be awarded to two tennis playing seniors (one boy and one girl) at Dobie High School.

Lajaunie began his tennis career playing at Dobie High School and graduated co-valedictorian in 1984. The Lajaunie family have been members of BARC since 2009. Last year DLTSF raised

\$19,000 for the scholarships from sponsorships, donations, silent auction, dinner raffle and proceeds from Texas Land and Cattle night for DLTSF.

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

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

All registered players will receive a tournament T-shirt and hat, and enjoy complimentary Saturday morning breakfast snacks.

A complimentary lunch will also be available for players, which will be do-

nated by the Lajaunie family.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are busy seeking donors, and silent auction items.

On April 22, the event will "Kick-off" with a silent auction with the BARC scholarship awards dinner at the racquet club.

There will be six camp scholarships and two college scholarships awarded to BARC junior tennis players.

This year, a new camp category for BARC junior tennis players has been added, called the Baseline camp scholarship for those age 7-10.

This is an addition to the Ace camp scholarship, the Center Court camp scholarship and the Grand Slam college scholarship for BARC Junior tennis players.

Members of the Dobie Tennis team will be allowed to play in the tournament free of charge. Do-

bie players should check the tournament website for all details related to the scholarships.

Last year, the DLTSF awarded five camp scholarships to BARC junior tennis players and awarded four BARC high school seniors scholarships for college. Dinner tickets will go on sale April 1.

This year, the kick-off party attendees will be treated to a barbecue dinner, which will include sliced brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad, all of the fixings and iced tea.

Dinner tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 10-and-under. Tickets may be purchased at the BARC or on the DLTSF website.

The Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships in May at the school during a special ceremony.

The silent auction will begin April 22 at 4 p.m., and finish April 23 at 3 p.m.

Ballers' 11-12s continue hoops dominance



The Ballers, a youth basketball team featuring players from the South Belt area, claimed their fourth straight City of Pasadena league championship, this time in the age 11-12 division. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) De-

Lady Ballers 9-10s win basketball title



The Lady Ballers, a youth basketball team stocked with South Belt area talent, pulled off the upset to win the City of Pasadena league championship in the girls' age 9-10 division. Members of the team are, left to right, (bottom row) Eva Caldera, Layla

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
7 a.m.

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club — Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

Noon

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

4 p.m.

Houston Area Parkinson Society — Free water exercise for individuals with Parkinson's disease, 4 to 5 p.m., Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital Clear Lake, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Call 713-313-1652 or visit www.hapsonline.org for information.

7 p.m.

CrossRoads UMC — Maundy Thursday service is March 24, 7 p.m., with communion, at CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

Asbury United Methodist Church — presents a live dramatization of the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples on Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. Asbury UMC is located at 5354 Space Center Blvd. in Pasadena at the corner of Genoa-Red Bluff and Space Center Blvd.

7 p.m.

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

Al-Anon (English Speaking) — Provides support for

family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Alateen — Provides support for teenage children, friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 25
7 a.m.

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

10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club — Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

Noon

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

6 p.m.

Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) — Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., room 215, First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Genealogical Society — Meets the last Friday of

each month at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing at 6:30; meeting at 7 p.m. No general meeting in Nov. or Dec. For information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

7 p.m.

CrossRoads UMC — Good Friday service with the Easter Cantata is March 25, 7 p.m., at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) — Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., (Hwy 35), Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26
7:30 a.m.

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

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CrossRoads UMC — Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with games, snacks, crafts, and Bible stories, at CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

10 a.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) — Vigilance Group of Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., (Hwy 35), Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

11 a.m.

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

1 p.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club — Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

1 p.m.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom — Presents *Line by Line with the Prophets*, sessions by Rabbi Stuart Federow, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at 16020 El Camino Real, 77062, the Conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. Everyone is welcome. This is a line by line study, but previous classes are not required. Visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the Synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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Clear Lake Bridge Club — Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

2 p.m.

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

5:30 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery — A faith-based 12-Step Program. Sundays, 5:30 p.m., Chapel of the Educational Building at Life Church in Houston, 9900 Almeda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for information or to RSVP for child care.

6:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Candlelight Meeting, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

7 p.m.

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

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Continued on Page 4B

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

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

MONDAY, MARCH 28

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

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

10:30 a.m.
Triad Meeting - at Madison Jobe Senior Center in Pasadena features the Pensacola, Fla., Gospel singing group, A Higher Calling, to entertain the seniors. Learn how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud and elder abuse. Free refreshments provided by Parsons House Assisted Living Facility in La Porte and Paramount Senior Care Centers of Pasadena. Important handouts will be provided and distributed. Call 713-477-0175 for information. Bring a friend.

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

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For more information, call 713-856-1611.

3:30 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered. For adults with Parkinson's disease only.

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Mondays at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua, 6 p.m. Come and improve crossword game playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for information.

6:30 p.m.
Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - meets Mondays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Enter door next to recycling bins. For information, call 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org.

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

7 p.m.
Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group - Group meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the staff meeting room. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Betty Bielat at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.

7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - New AA meeting, Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery Program, open meeting meets every Monday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building, 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For more information, call Russell Garcia at 832-483-6715.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

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

9:30 a.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 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon, at 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For more information, call 713-856-1611.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets weekly, Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive, Pearland. Lunch is served for \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nalix@texascitizensbank.com.

1 p.m.
Ballroom Dance Practice - Tuesdays, Hometown Heroes Park, League City. Come and enjoy free ballroom dancing, 1 to 3 p.m., on a beautiful 3,630 sq. ft. floating hardwood floor. Dancers practice to a large variety of ballroom music. Instructor available to assist people with new moves. Everyone is welcome! For questions, call 281-554-1180. 1001 East League City Pkwy.

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

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 215, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

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

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

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

1 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - invites dancers to the Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance rhythms from 1 to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. Eileen Bauerlein is available to assist those needing help learning dance moves. For details, call the park office at 281-554-1180 or Neva Schroder at 832-864-2721.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Wednesday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 5:30 p.m., followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 6:30 p.m., then a Bible study led by both pastors (English and Spanish). Everyone is welcome!

6 p.m.
Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics or addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 p.m., room 215, at First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Call 281-487-8787, or just in.

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

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Confidential domestic violence support group for women, 7 p.m., 210 S. Walnut off NASA Pkwy. between I-45 South and Highway 3. Call 281-338-7600 or visit www.bayareaturningpoint.com for information. 24-hour crisis hotline is 281-286-2525.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

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

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Bridge games weekdays, 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark Rd. For lessons, contact instructor Dr. Dave Glandorf at dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net or 281-488-6318. Cost is \$6/game or \$15/lesson. For information, call the club at 281-480-1911.

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

4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise for individuals with Parkinson's disease, 4 to 5 p.m., Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital Clear Lake, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Call 713-313-1652 or visit www.hapsonline.org for information.

6:30 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Course, books and child care are free. For information, call 281-484-9243 or visit www.crossroads-umc.org.

6:30 p.m.
Well Spouse Support Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale the last Thursday of each month with those who are the husband, wife or partner of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free childcare provided. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For information, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

6:30 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Park and Recreation Center on Hughes Road. For more information call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

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

Al-Anon (English Speaking) - Provides support for family and friends of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

Alateen - Provides support for teenage children, friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts. Thursday, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or just drop in.

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

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Bidistrict soccer playoffs: Dobie teams look to advance into areas

Continued from Page 1B
it can be done.

Dobie has not advanced to the second round of the playoffs since the 2012 season, but there's always hope for change.

In that 2014 loss to Deer Park at Abshire Stadium, the Lady Longhorns played well in a scoreless first half, but things got away in the second half as the host Lady Deer went on to win 5-0.

Dobie boys get PAM

The Longhorns hope the road to the Region III Final Four begins with a win over the Titans in Beaumont.

From there, the Dobie/PAM winner will draw either Alief Taylor or Clear Springs in the area round.

Dobie head coach Justo Manrique is also interested to see what takes place in the North Shore/Pasadena and Brazoswood/Cinco Ranch first-round matchups.

Whether it's Port Arthur Memorial or maybe a second foe like Clear Springs or Alief Taylor, the plan is the same – stay the course.

"The key is to survive and advance," Manrique said.

"We need to keep playing the way we have been playing and believe that we can advance."

We have been to three

overtimes in the three playoff games (one win, two losses) we've played since I've been here. With that in mind we need to use our experience to our advantage."

Last year, Dobie won the 22-6A title with an unbeaten record but then had to travel to Channelview to face fourth-seeded Port Arthur Memorial.

Overtime and a shoot-out resulted, but the Longhorns were able to squeeze

out a victory in the shoot-out. In the second round against Clements, also on the road, Dobie held a second half lead but wound up losing in overtime. That's just how it goes in playoff soccer.

Unfortunately, the Longhorns' first loss in a long while – when and if it comes – will end the team's spectacular season. Clearly, neither Manrique nor his players are eager to see that time come.

Dobie girls face hurdle

Deer Park advanced to the area round last season and had hoped to go farther. This time around, Deer Park head coach Jesse Saavedra is of the mindset that a trip to the Region III Final Four might be in order.

The first step round matchup pitting Dobie versus Deer Park is a No. 1 seed versus a No. 4 seed, but that doesn't mean the Lady Longhorns are giving

in none too soon.

Although Dobie had to win its final regular season game to qualify for the playoffs, head coach Bryan McDonald's team actually played well against district champion Alvin, Dawson and third-place Pearland.

So Dobie won't shy away from anyone. And really, it boils down to the Lady Longhorns sticking to a philosophy that has worked well to this point.

That is, play steady soccer and don't make the kind of mistakes that allow easy scores for the opposition. On the offensive end, take advantage of counter-attack chances and sneak in a goal or two.

The Dobie/Deer Park winner will face either Brazoswood or Fort Bend Travis in the area round of the playoffs.

It's a second step in the postseason that Dobie would love to take.



The Dobie varsity girls' soccer team, including, from left, Abigail Villaseñor (2), team captain Isabella Tamayo (11), Alejandra Magana (20), Angelica Ortiz (22), Leslie Garcia and team captain Briana Garcia, hopes to leave the Veterans Stadium playing sur-

face with a win over Deer Park in the bidistrict playoffs, set for Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. Deer Park won the 21-6A title, while Dobie finished off the regular season (above) with a shoot-out win over Memorial.



Analise Garza, Dobie's starting goalkeeper, just might face a challenge against Deer Park, the District 22-6A champion. But Garza and her teammates played well during the regular season against tough competition.



Above and below, Elizabeth Gonzales' daughter, Vanessa, at the Easter Egg Hunt at El Franco Lee Park. She had a blast. Photos submitted



From left, Devani Morales, 8, Abner Morales, 3, and Aldo Morales, 11 years old, share a moment with the Easter Bunny after landing plenty of goodies during the annual Pct. 2 Easter Egg Hunt at El Franco Lee Park.



Shown, enjoying the Easter Egg Hunt at El Franco Lee Park are, left to right, Pct. 1 Commissioner Gene Locke, Pct. 2 Constable Christopher Diaz, Caleb Richardson, 6, Abner Morales, 3, Misa Vo, 10, Pct. 2 Judge Jo Ann Delgado and Jayden Pecina, 5 months, with mother Debra Pecina.



At right, Gene Locke, Pct. 1 Commissioner, addresses the large crowd at the Easter Egg Hunt at El Franco Lee Park while, from left, the Easter Bunny, Pct. 2 Judge Jo Ann Delgado and Pct. 2 Constable Chris Diaz look on. The annual event was again attended by hundreds of young South Belt area children and their families.

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