



South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Beltway closures planned

Both the eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Beamer Road will be closed continuously through 9 p.m. Friday, May 4. All entrance ramps to Beltway 8 at the Gulf Freeway intersection will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday, May 4, through 5 a.m. Monday, May 7.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288 from two to four lanes in each direction.

South Belt pre-K to sign up

South Belt Elementary, 1801 Riverstone Ranch Road, will host its kindergarten and pre-K roundup Tuesday, May 22, at 6 p.m.

For additional information, call 713-740-5276.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-518 to FM-517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, May 12. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, Dec. 31.

Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

The northbound frontage road of the I-45 Freeway from FM 518 to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be continuously closed through 5 a.m. Friday, Aug. 31. Traffic traveling north on the frontage road will take I-45 north main lanes from the FM 518 entrance to the NASA Road 1 exit.

Dynamic Women to meet

The Dynamic Women group will hold its quarterly luncheon and networking event Thursday, May 10, at the Golfcrest Country Club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All area women are invited to enjoy a lunch, make new friends, shop with local vendors and enjoy guest speaker Sherry Woodruff.

A music teacher and concert pianist, Woodruff will share her story about the *Melody of Life*.

At 10 a.m. guests will shop and network. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m.

The cost is \$16, which includes lunch. Guests can register for door prizes. For reservations, email sandeellis@comcast.net.

Senior Expo set for May 4

Senior citizens can enjoy manicures, a photo booth, massages, health screenings, refreshments, henna tattoos, door prizes and more at the Senior Info/Expo Friday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to noon at the senior center which is located at El Franco Lee Park, 9500 Hall Road.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Fun Bunch Committee, in collaboration with Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, will host the free Senior Info/Expo.

For those who get hungry at the event, there will be a continental breakfast, protein shakes, cookies, etc.

All refreshments, like the activities, will be available free of charge.

The event will feature more than 30 exhibitors, which include Memorial Hermann Southeast, AARP, Harris County Area Agency on Aging, San Jacinto College South and many more.

The Fun Bunch is a program of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Fun Bunch members have many years of experience and a vast amount of knowledge and expertise.

Through their volunteer efforts, members of the Fun Bunch serve as chamber ambassadors representing the chamber at community events such as ribbon-cuttings, luncheons and special events.

The Fun Bunch also enjoys participating in trips, luncheons and other social activities. The members plan and organizes all activities for the group.

For more information on the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the Senior Info/Expo or the Fun Bunch, visit the website at southbeltchamber.com or call 281-481-5516.

For information about programs at El Franco Lee Senior Community Center, visit the website at HCP1.net or call Stephanie Gilder at 832-927-2190.

Senior Expo set for May 4

City residents living south of Fuqua will have their heavy trash picked up on Thursday, May 10 (the second Thursday of the month).

City residents living north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have their heavy trash picked up on Friday, May 11 (the second Friday of the month).

The month of May is for tree/yard waste. For more information, visit www.cityofhouston.net/solidwaste.

Beltway closures expected to cause delays

Heavy traffic delays are expected to take place Friday, May 4, through Monday, May 7, as all entrance and exit ramps connecting the Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8 will be closed.

The closures are scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. Friday and continue through 5 a.m. Monday.

Texas Department of Transportation officials advise commuters to follow detour signs to maneuver around the construction.

The closures are associated with ongoing projects to widen Beltway 8 from Highway 288 to Highway 225 from two to four lanes in each direction.

An additional project involves replacing the existing Beltway 8 Ship Channel toll bridge. The replacement bridge will also be four lanes

in each direction, rather than the existing two lanes.

Traffic congestion along the beltway has been an issue for many travelers in recent months, as both eastbound and westbound frontage road lanes have been routinely closed, as well as multiple U-turn lanes.

Both the eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Beamer Road will be closed continuously through 9 p.m. Friday, May 4.

Construction west of the Gulf Freeway is expected to be complete by March 2019, while construction east of the Gulf Freeway is not expected to be complete until 2022.

Firefighters respond to blaze



Emergency crews from both the Houston Fire Department and Southeast Volunteer Fire Department are shown above responding to a house fire the afternoon of Friday, April 27, on Sagecanyon near Hall Road. SVFD Chief Chuck Tylka said it appeared that the fire was electrical in nature. The blaze, which started near the home's back sliding glass doors, spread to the roof and caused extensive damage. No injuries were reported. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Pct. 2's Diaz donations questioned

The Leader has learned that Channel 11 News is planning to do an investigative report on Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz for the possible misuse of items donated to Harvey victims for campaign purposes.

At press time, the report was scheduled to air at 10 p.m. Wednesday, May 2.

Sources familiar with the incident told the Leader the investigation involves using shirts donated from the Oak Meadows Church of God, located on Allendale at Allen Genoa in the South Houston area, to distribute as gifts at both a Diaz golf tournament and a March parade. Opponents contend this was intended to promote Diaz's re-election campaign, despite being paid for using funds separate from his campaign account.

Originally blank, Diaz's office had the shirts printed to display the Precinct 2 Constable's office logo, the church's logo and the logos of local unions. The shirts also featured the words "volunteer" and "Team Diaz." The clothing was designed with the intention of distributing to hurricane victims, community members and volunteers, as the constable's office was responsible for doing extensive rescue and repair work both before and after Harvey.

The shirts (shown to the right with the constable) contained no mention of Diaz's re-election

Continued on Page 2A



Constable Chris Diaz

Annual cook-off a success!



The 22nd annual South Belt Spectacular, held at El Franco Lee Park April 26 through April 28, was a huge success, raising thousands of dollars for the annual South Belt fireworks display, also to be held at the area park. Children are shown above searching for coins in a haystack, as part of Saturday's Kids Zone. See additional photos on Page 6A and in next week's Leader. Photo by Marie Flickinger

CCISD election set for May 5

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees election is scheduled for Saturday, May 5.

To be filled are the District 4 seat, currently held by Page Rander; the District 5 seat, currently held by Jay Cunningham; and the At Large Position A seat, currently held by Charles Pond.

All three board members have filed for re-election.

Challenging Rander for the Position 4 seat is Jeff Larson; challenging Cunningham for the Position 5 seat are Michelle Moore and Yvonne Tibai; and challenging Pond for the At-Large Position A seat are Jacob Berry and Jennifer Broddle. For more election information, visit www.ccisd.net/2018election.

To vote in the District 4 or District 5 elections, residents must live in that district. All voters in the school district, however, are eligible to vote in the At-Large Position A race.

Polling locations include:

Single-member District 4
Precincts 0417, 0474, 0475, 0537, 0996, 0545, 0782, 0393 and 0715 will vote at Clear Brook High School, located at 4607 FM 2351 in Friendswood.

Single-member District 5
Precincts 0349, 0378, 0655, 0742 and 0845 will vote at Brookside Intermediate, located at 3535 E. FM 528 in Friendswood.

Single-member District 5
Precincts 220, 263, 401, 455, 464, 482, 487 and 488 will vote at Ross Elementary, located at 2401 W. Main in League City.

Single-member District 5
Precincts 453, 454, 471 will vote at League City Elementary, located at 400 South Kansas Ave. in League City.

Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Crash victims searching for dog

A vehicle rolled over on the afternoon of Monday, April 30, on the southbound lanes of the Gulf Freeway between Fuqua and Alameda Genoa. The vehicle was occupied by a husband (an active-duty reserve) and wife, along with their daughter and family dog named Night Rider, which ran away from the crash scene. Anyone with information on the dog's whereabouts is urged to email FindNightRider@outlook.com. The family was in the process of moving to the area from Austin. Both the wife and daughter were transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Photo by Marie Flickinger



USCG's Carter leads massive drug bust

Former South Belt resident Jonathan Carter went out with a bang during his last deployment as commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Legare, leading a massive drug bust that yielded 12 tons of cocaine and one ton of marijuana.

According to Coast Guard officials, the contraband was worth an estimated \$390 million in wholesale value.

The drugs were seized in international waters off the coasts of Mexico and Central and South America during 17 separate interdictions. Aiding the Legare were USCG cutters Reliance, Harriet Lane, Decisive, Steadfast and Dependable.

U.S. agencies involved in the operation included the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security.

The Coast Guard was assisted by vessels from the Canadian Navy, along with intelligence from the Mexican government.

"What these numbers represent is an increased commitment by U.S. and international partners to combat transnational criminal networks and

promote stability in the Central American region, along the U.S. southern border, and in the southern maritime approaches to the U.S.," Carter said in a press conference. "(This) offload sends them a message that our network of partners and allies remains resolute in our commitment to stem the flow of illicit trafficking that breeds instability."

A 1995 Dobie graduate, Carter has had an esteemed record of service for the Coast Guard, commanding multiple ships both inside and outside of war zones.

In 2008, Carter became the first Coast Guardsman ever appointed to the Presidential Emergency Operations Center in the White House, where he served under both George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

In 2010, Carter was selected to the U.S. Naval War College, where he earned a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Policy. He subsequently served at the Pentagon in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before taking command of the Legare in July 2016.

The commander now plans to attend the Marines Corps University, where he expects to earn a second master's degree.

Carter will then likely return to Washington before going back to sea.

In 2017, Carter was inducted into the Dobie Hall of Honor.

When not on duty, Carter and his wife, Amy, reside in Stafford, Va., along with their two daughters, Alison and Katelynn; and son, Matthew.



Carter

In My Opinion

Hobbs announces retirement, thankful

When Hobbs Auto Repair opened its doors 33 years ago in 1985, my family and I had no idea how much the business and community would mean to us. The support of the South Belt community has been a large part of our success and we have enjoyed being a part of that family. Being a part of local sports teams, fundraising for our local events, and supporting those individuals in need has made this decision a difficult one. With a heavy heart I have decided to hang up my tools and I'm looking forward to a pleasant retirement. I will be forever grateful for the support I have received over the years. Thank you for all of your business,

David Hobbs
Hobbs Auto Repair

O'Connor shares about scholarship

Each year, the association presents \$1000 scholarships to be applied toward collegiate academic cost to one deserving boy and girl student.

Eligibility requirements for the South Belt Area Sports Association:

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

Eligible Candidates must be in satisfactory standing in both attendance and academic standing and should also exhibit good citizenship, character and community involvement.

The scholarship may be used to defer expenses 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 counseling office by May 18, 2018.

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: Joe Bennett at joebob10227@yahoo.com.

Karen O'Connor
Office Clerk /IMM
Atkinson Elementary

Albrecht reminds all of law, pets in cars

Remember folks, it is not legal to tape your ads to top sign poles or street sign poles or city/county property. Why not support your South Belt community and put your ads in the *South Belt Leader*!

And please be kind to your pets by not leaving them in a parked car even if the window is partially down. A temperature of 80 or 85 degrees outside means at least 100 degrees in a parked car. Even if it's a very short time! Our pets cannot handle inside heat! **Michele Albrecht**

Laredo invites all to join prayer walk

To our South Belt community, I am inviting anyone who would like to join myself and others in a prayer walk on Saturday, May 12th at 9:00 a.m.

What we are doing is praying for one hour at the schools in our area one by one. If you visit our Facebook page called School Prayer Walks U.S.A.

We have more information and pictures from our last prayer walk.

Our next prayer focus will be at Frazier Elementary School at 10503 Hughes Rd. We would especially want to invite any parents who have children who attend Frazier Elementary to join us for one hour of prayer. All in our community are also

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:
Tuesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. Para los niños
Tuesday, May 8, 11:15 a.m. Preschool playtime
Wednesday, May 9, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint
For information on events at Bracewell Library, call 832-393-2580.
Bracewell hours this week are: Thursday, noon – 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. this week:

Thursday, May 3, 4 p.m. Movie and markers: *Star Wars Rebels – Spark of the Rebellion* (rated TV-Y7) 90 minutes, for ages 7 and older. Meet in the library community room to watch the movie. Watch the beginning of Ezra Bridger's journey to becoming a Jedi Knight. Coloring sheets and markers will be provided during the movie.

Friday, May 4, 4 p.m. Star Wars Celebration for ages 6 and older. Meet in the library community room for a "May the Force" event for Star Wars games, crafts and activities.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Ask a Lawyer: Family Law (Divorce). Get information on topics related to family law and divorce, including divorce procedures, child support and custody, with attorney Shuang Leng. Registration is requested.

Monday, May 7, 2 – 4 p.m. Genealogy Group: The Parker Williams Genealogy Group is an informal group that meets the first and third Monday of each month (unless the library is closed) to discuss family history research (beginner to advanced). Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in tracing family history.

Monday, May 7, 6 p.m. Magic: The Gathering Gameplay, for ages 8 and older. A special thank you is given to Strike Zone for the generous donation of Magic: The Gathering cards. For more information, visit http://www.hcpl.net/sites/default/files/feb_mtg-1.jpg.

Tuesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. Basic computer classes: Learn information to improve skills for the internet, email, Facebook and social media, etc. Registration is requested.

Wednesday, May 9, 5 p.m. STEM time: Balance. Meet in the library community room to learn about scientific concepts and simple machines that have to do with weight and balance.

Below are the programs that occur every week:
Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.
Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.
Saturdays, Vietnamese learning time. Classes begin at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.
For more information on events, call the library at 281-484-2036.
Library hours this week are: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1 – 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

welcome to join us.

Our schools really need our prayers especially in the times we are living in. We believe with God's help we can begin to see His peace over our schools.

In case of any questions please call 281-484-0901. If it is a rain day we will reschedule for May 19th.

Patricia Laredo

Muecke thanks Martin, Haddock

Publisher's Note: The following is a letter from James Muecke to Council Member Dave Martin and Carol Haddock, Houston Public Works director.

I passed by the Edgebrook Corridor area by I-45 South (Fiesta Grocery store) and saw that the contractor had completed the lane realignment project in record time. Not a perfect solution but much better than what it had been. People now have a safer way of merging and making a safe turn.

Ms. Haddock I want to thank you and your employees in PWE for addressing this merging traffic hazard. You identified the problem and quickly stepped up and took care of it. We in the Edgebrook Corridor area thank you.

James E. Muecke

McGinty responds to Muecke on email

Publisher's Note: The following is a letter from Jordan McGinty, south sector manager for the office of Council Member Dave Martin in response to James Muecke's letter thanking Martin and Carol Haddock, Houston Public Works director.

Mr. Muecke, thank you for your email. I passed along your comments to Council Member Martin. I drove the area today and it looks great, and feels a lot more safe for drivers.

Thank you Director Haddock!
Jordan McGinty

Koncaba requests help with donations

Texan Bank is organizing the 2nd Annual Splash into Summer Bash for the resident children at Kidz Harbor! The event we had last year was nothing short of AMAZING! The day was very special for the children... I have enjoyed walking through their rooms and seeing the trophies they won proudly displayed, as well as pictures memorializing the day. Proceeds from this year's event will be used towards purchasing back to school clothes, shoes and supplies for the 2018-19 school year for the children residing at Kidz Harbor.

If you haven't heard of Kidz Harbor, it is essentially an orphanage (technically a group foster home) that houses abused and abandoned children from all over Texas. They can care for up to 60 or more children at a time (with ages ranging from infant up to age 21) while providing them a safe environment where their medical and psychological needs can be met. We have spent a lot of time at Kidz Harbor and have been impressed by the positive impact the employees of Kidz Harbor are making in these children's lives.

The event is on June 2nd from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and we have a lot of fun activities planned for the kids at this event including inflatable water slides, swimming, painting, games, food, snow cones, etc. We need YOUR help to make this day happen. We are requesting that you consider a goods or monetary donation. Some goods donations include: new or gently used stuffed animals, small toys/games, new or gently used books, pool toys, swimming goggles, toddler pools, sunscreen and bug spray.

Please consider helping us make this day special for the children! All donations can be dropped off at any of our Texan Bank locations in Friendswood, Clear Lake, Sugar Land and Houston on the Gulf Freeway. Any support you provide at any of the events we have helps to make these children's lives better. Thank you for your consideration!!

If you want to learn more about Kidz Harbor you can visit their website at www.kidzharbor.org or click to watch the Kidz Harbor video <https://vimeo.com/206646967/5b3f2a315d>.

Kristi Koncaba
President & COO
Texan Bank

Elected officials share their words

Coleman plans to introduce bill for change in HB 1842 sanctions

The following is a statement released by Rep. Garnett Coleman in regards to filing a bill that will modify the HB 1842.

"I announced this week that I will be filing a bill when the 86th Legislature convenes in 2019 to repeal statutory language that allows the Texas Education Agency to take over schools and entire local school districts," said Coleman.

"The intent of House Bill 1842 in the 84th Regular Texas Legislative Session—which I voted against—was to improve chronically underperforming schools who had no solution in sight. However, the law has fallen short and created a quagmire that is putting our schools

and school districts in jeopardy," Coleman said. "I will work with my Harris County colleagues towards a reasonable solution that repeals or substantially modifies the language that passed as part of HB 1842.

"Many members have been pointing out for decades that something needs to be done to improve our children's education in underperforming schools, but HB 1842 did not accomplish that. Our school districts need several options that allow them to find the best solution to fit their community, but burning down the house does not solve the problem. Our children and parents deserve good schools in every neighborhood.

"I will continue to fight for Blackshire Elementary and Mading Elementary, located in District 147 that I have proudly represented since 1991."

According to an article that Jacob Carpenter wrote and was released by Coleman, under a law passed in 2015, known as HB 1842, the TEA must close campuses or appoint a board of managers to govern Houston Independent School District if any of the district's 10 longest-struggling schools fail to meet state academic standards this year.

If passed, the new bill that Coleman files may affect not just HISD but all school districts in the state of Texas.

Rep. Olson encourages student participation in advisory council

Rep. Pete Olson invites TX-22 high school juniors and seniors to apply to participate in his 2018-2019 Congressional Youth Advisory Council this fall. This advisory council provides insight into the youth perspective and Olson encourages them to work hard to accomplish their academic goals.

"Our high school students are our nation's future leaders," Olson said. "Participating in this council gives students the opportunity to better understand the inner workings of government and

interact with local officials and leaders in industry. Hearing directly from these students also helps me better understand their priorities and get their input on the work we are doing in Congress. I encourage all TX-22 high school juniors and seniors to apply and look forward to meeting the 2018-2019 council."

The CYAC is a select group of high school students that meet with Olson to discuss the issues most important to them. The council meets six times within the school year

and includes a roundtable discussion on current events, as well as learning the pivotal role of lawmakers, experts and citizens in a democracy. These high-achieving students are considered ambassadors for Olson and have the opportunity to provide feedback on legislation working its way through Congress. Completed applications are due to the Sugar Land or Pearland offices by June 1. For applications and more information, visit <https://olson.house.gov/services/student-services>.

Olson votes for HR4

On April 27, Rep. Pete Olson acted to help the flying public by reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Olson voted for H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act, which also includes critical disaster reforms to help communities better prepare for natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey. This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the FAA for five years, provides stability for the aviation community, invests in airports, strengthens passenger protections and improves America's competitiveness in the global aviation industry. It also includes key reforms to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will help reduce the impact of future disasters by focusing on pre-disaster mitigation projects. H.R. 4 passed the House by a vote of 393-13 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

"Recent reports of safety issues and mistreatment of passengers on commercial planes highlight the need for action," Olson said. "This bill will help ensure passenger safety and protect their rights.

It will help foster growth and innovation so our manufacturers and aviation community can compete internationally and employ millions of Americans. I'm also thrilled with the critical reforms to FEMA that will allow our communities to be better prepared in the future should disaster strike."

Highlights of H.R. 4

- Reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration for 5 years.
- Keeps America the world leader in aviation by putting American jobs, American innovation, and the traveling public first.
- Cuts Washington red tape so that manufacturers can get products to market on time, stay competitive globally, and continue to employ millions of Americans.
- Encourages American innovation in aviation technologies to promote a stronger American workforce.
- Ensures that airport infrastructure connects businesses and the increasing number of air travelers to the world.
- Gives the American traveling public a better flight experience.

• Ensures the system remains the safest in the world for air travelers and addresses factors related to recent incidents.

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act:

- Focuses on building smarter and building better before disaster strikes.
- \$1 invested in pre-disaster mitigation saves \$4 to \$8 in avoided recovery costs.
- Recognizes the benefits of taking action before a catastrophe occurs, and reforms FEMA and the Stafford Act by ensuring that a percentage of assistance provided in the wake of disasters is invested in pre-disaster hazard mitigation so that states, tribal, and local governments can preempt the damage and distress that results from disasters.
- Clarifies what may be eligible for mitigation funding, making sure investments are cost effective and reduce risk.
- Speeds recovery by creating efficiencies in FEMA's programs such as getting structures inspected faster.

Leader checks out social media

By Laura Benavides Scallan

There were several posts on various community Facebook groups reporting heavy police activity due to an alleged car chase involving police in pursuit of armed robbers on Friday, April 27. See next week's *Leader* issue for more details.

A member of the *Southbelt This & That* Facebook group reported that a Hispanic man wearing a white shirt, black jacket and a backward black cap was ringing her doorbell on the evening of April 29. The

member stated that the man was quiet until he saw her look through the glass and started to allegedly pretend cry and ask for help. The member went on to say she called the police and asked if anyone else had seen the suspect.

Another member of the same Facebook group shared a post that there will be cheer and drill registration at El Franco Lee Field on May 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 5 through 13.

The post states that for

more information, contact Kerri Blanton at kerrib1201@gmail.com. The member also shared the post on the *Community of Sagemont & 77089, Ashley Pointe Subdivision* and *Everything Sagemont* Facebook groups.

It has been shared on several different community Facebook groups about a roll-over that occurred on April 30. Due to the accident, the victim's dog was reported missing. See story on Page.

There was a member of the *Ashley Point Subdivision* Facebook group shared that the South Belt Sharks swim team will hold tryouts.

Although some tryouts were held May 2, there will be tryouts on May 3 and the first week of practice. For more information, contact the member through Facebook.

Hooray for Hollywood dance scheduled

Everyone is welcome to attend the *Hooray for Hollywood* Ballroom Dance.

There will be musical selections from many popular movies over the decades.

No reservation or membership is required and the door fee is \$8.

This dance will be held on Saturday, May 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway.

Tables are reserved for "Dancers without Partners" who choose to sit with others who may wish to share partners. Every dancer is welcome regardless of skill level, age or status, including teens, seniors, students, couples and singles.

These dances include a wide variety of rhythms that are popular at ballroom dances today.

The dress code is always "as you like." The intent is to have fun, and everyone is free to dress up or dress comfortably in whatever they like.

The ballroom at Hometown Heroes Park is 3,630 square feet of floating hardwood and is easy on the feet. There is plenty of lighting, well-drained parking with paved sidewalks and a covered dropoff at the front door.

The sponsor of the event is Let's Dance, coordinated by Neva and Bill Schroder. For questions, call 417-838-2204.

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Donations to Diaz questioned

Continued from Page 1A

campaign. "I wasn't even campaigning," said Diaz. "You try to do something good for people, and you get hit for it. I don't understand."

This sentiment is shared by Lacy Wolf, business manager for the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers, one of the labor groups

featured on the shirt in question.

"He's always just been out there for the community," Wolf said. "I don't get it."

Tony Pittman, the pastor who originally donated the shirts, also has no issues with the distribution of the shirts.

"I have no problem with what they did," Pittman said. Seeing that the church had donated millions of dollars worth

of supplies elsewhere following Harvey. "I think there's an agenda behind this that's evil. Those guys busted their butts. They did a phenomenal job."

Diaz said he intends to contact the Texas Ethics Commission to clarify the issue. The story was still developing at press time. See future editions of the *Leader* for possible follow-ups.

Free self-defense classes

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

Library friends seek items

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library, located at 10851 Scarsdale, is seeking donations of current, gently used fiction and nonfiction books, especially adult softbacks, pocket books and children's books. CDs and DVDs will also be accepted. The items will be sold to fund summer programs and other expenses.

Island-themed dance to be held

A island-themed ballroom dance, will be held at Hometown Heroes Park, Saturday, June 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. John Rubberg will play all rhythms and keep those beautiful floating hardwood floors moving all evening.

The public is welcome, including couples, singles, students and seniors, regardless of dance ability.

The door fee is \$8. The city policy requires no smoking, no alcohol or floor wax. The dance is sponsored by Let's Dance, coordinated by Neva and Bill Schroder. For more information, call 417-838-2204.

Shaar Hashalom holds discussions

Congregation Shaar Hashalom's Rabbi Stuart Federow is hosting free discussions that are open to the public. The sessions are held every second Thursday of the month at Al Basha Mediterranean Grill, 300 Bay Area Blvd., suite 700, in Webster from 7 to 9 p.m.

Anyone can join the discussion and bring questions, thoughts and opinions to share with the group.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area.

The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at esh@shaarhashalom.org.

Free legal clinic for veterans available

Veterans who need legal advice or legal assistance may visit a free legal clinic scheduled in Galveston on Saturday, May 5. The clinic will be held at the Galveston VA Outpatient Clinic, 3828 Avenue N, from 9 a.m. until noon.

No appointment is necessary.

The clinic is co-sponsored by the Galveston County Bar Association and the Houston Bar Foundation's Veterans Legal Initiative. Any veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran, can receive one-on-one advice and counsel at the clinic from a volunteer attorney in any area of law, including family, wills and probate, consumer, real estate and tax law, as well as disability and veterans benefits.

Veterans who need ongoing legal representation and who qualify for legal aid may be assigned a pro bono attorney through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers to handle their case.

For more information about the legal clinic and other legal services for veterans, call 713-759-1133 or visit www.hbba.org.

AARP Webster Area Chapter sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes all to join them at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 18, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook. The chapter meets in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

Everyone is invited to come to the meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors.

Some months there is also a potluck lunch. On Friday, May 18, representatives from three local senior living facilities will briefly explain specific levels of care available.

The discussions will focus on home care, independent living, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing care and continuing care retirement communities.

A question and answer session will follow their presentations. The speakers will begin at 10:30 a.m. after the chapter business meeting and they will be invited to join the members during the potluck lunch immediately following the meeting.

With the meeting including a potluck lunch, members and visitors are encouraged to bring a dish to share after the meeting ends.

The AARP Chapter also organizes day trips for AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost.

The next day trip will be Monday, May 7, to tour the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum and the Oleander Garden in Galveston. Lunch will be at Mario's Seawall Italian Restaurant.

The following day trip will be Tuesday, June 12, to tour Fernland Historical Park in Montgomery and the N. H. Davis Pioneer Complex and Museum. Lunch will be at Phil's Roadhouse and Grill.

There will be a day trip on Thursday, July 26, to College of the Mainland Theater to see a live evening performance of the musical *Cry-Baby*. Dinner will be at Gus' Restaurant.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, annual dues are \$6 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP.

For more information, contact Earl Mallett at 281-484-2589 or earlmallett@sbcglobal.net.

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PLT presents Agnes of God by Pielmeier

Pasadena Little Theatre, Houston's most established community theater in continuous operation, is excited to present *Agnes of God*, a drama by John Pielmeier on the Russell Stage.

The play takes place during a two-year period in the court-appointed psychiatrist's office of Dr. Martha Livingstone. She is tasked with determining the mental stability of Sister Agnes, a novice accused of murdering an infant to whom she gave

birth. Throughout the investigation, Livingstone is met with opposition from the convent's Mother Superior Miriam Ruth. In order to get the answers she seeks, Livingstone will have to dig deep into the psyche of both Mother Ruth and Sister Agnes. All three women explore questions of faith, memory and the meaning of sainthood.

Pielmeier was inspired to write this story after reading a newspaper article on a trial involving Sister Maureen

Murphy of Brighton, NY. She was found bleeding, denying she had given birth. In March of 1977, she was found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Agnes of God features director Gregory R. Brown and actresses Luci Galloway, Polly Reavis and Barbara Brandt. This production opens May 4 and continues weekends through May 20. Friday and Saturday showtimes are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$18 at the door, \$15 for

advance purchases online for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.

There will be one Thursday performance at 8 p.m. on May 17 that is the 2-for-\$20 show. Seating will be arena style for a more intimate environment. There will be an after-show discussion at every performance. To purchase tickets, make reservations or for more information, call the box office at 713-941-1758 or visit www.pasadenalittletheatre.org.



Pasadena Little Theatre, located at 4318 Allen Genoa Road, will present *Agnes of God* on weekends from Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 20, along with a single Thursday performance on May 17. A drama by John Pielmeier, the production centers around Sister Agnes, a novice nun accused of murdering an infant to whom she gave birth. Shown above rehearsing for the play are, left to right, Polly Reavis as Dr. Livingstone; Luci Galloway as Sister Agnes; and Barbara Brandt as Mother Superior. Photo by Zack Varela

Stuchbery students participate in PISD Get Fit Jog



Stuchbery Elementary students participated in the Pasadena Independent School District Get Fit Jog on Saturday April 14 at the Pasadena Rodeo Fairgrounds. Shown above are the third-graders, left to right, (front row) Nathan Mata (35th), Ariel Ortiz (30th), Jazzy Randall (15th), Franchesco Torres (1st), Alexis Guerrero (16th), Adan Matillo (22nd), (second row) Rachel Sanchez, Jordan Garcia, Jeremiah Turner, Zaria Gibson, Kiara Torres, Tyler Albert, (back row) Destiny Killingsworth, Cathy Sanchez, Nathaniel Padilla, Grace Hernandez, Ana Serna, Ariana Serna and Melissa Tzintzun. Shown below are the fourth-graders, left to right, (front row) Marissa Vasquez (18th), Adam Williams (7th) Keyli Guerrero (24th), (second row) Christian Glaspie, Jorgan Rodriguez, Frank Adame, Rafael Lopez, Harry Nguyen, Jesus Perez, (back row) Nicholas Sepulveda, Rebecca Ramirez, Matthew Perez, Cielo Sanchez, Madeline Vasquez and Sydnie Hilel. Photos by Susan Brady



Bay Area region's educational institutions on the right path

The Education and Workforce Development Committee of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has been hosting informal panel discussions over the past several months that have focused on core industries to gauge whether or not the region's educational institutions are turning out the kind of workforce that the business leaders and industries want and need.

A recent panel discussion highlighted the tourism and financial services sectors. Serving on the panel were William T. Harris, CEO, and Daniel Newmyer, vice president of Education, Space Center Houston; retired USAF Lt. Gen. Doug Owens, CEO, Lone Star Flight Museum; Roy Green, general manager, South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center; Thomas Hast, chief lending officer/Marketing and Business Development, Johnson Space Center Federal Credit Union; and Brock Reynolds, coordinator, Training and Development, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union.

Interpersonal skills critical for success

Harris explained that Space Center Houston has approximately 380 full-time employees. SCH has a professional development program in place for staff in order to enhance interpersonal skills.

Harris said, "Young people generally don't know about good customer service such as looking at someone in the eye when you're talking to them, how to shake someone's hand, and how to speak in complete sentences. This is just a societal thing and not specific to this area."

Green has been the GM at South Shore Harbour for 22 years of the hotel's 30-year

history. The hotel has about 140 full-time employees. The majority of openings at any time are entry level positions. Green said that the college students who work part time in customer service type positions have the personality and will look you in the eye most of the time, but they're gone in a year or two after they graduate.

Green also reported that from every 10 applicants, only two are what he would consider to be qualified to walk in for an interview. They also don't seem to be able to go anywhere without their phones. He explained, "Phones can be a liability and a hazard, especially in the kitchen, but it's tough prying them out of their hands."

Owens reiterated the importance of professionalism. He said that the Lone Star Flight Museum has 35 employees with about 25 of those being full time. "We have a focused and defined mission. I view the facility as a way to influence young people. It's important when bringing people on board to have them represent the museum as a professional organization," he stated.

Reynolds is in charge of training and development for GCEFCU. There are 122 employees at five locations with a couple more opening soon. He explained, "The financial industry is currently in transition. The customers come in more educated; so, we need our employees to be more educated. However, interpersonal communication skills are lacking at the entry level positions. This is a real challenge."

Hast is in charge of training and development for JSCFCU. In building on what Reynolds stated, Hast said that he'd like to add that em-

pathy seems to be a quality that is lacking in a lot of the young people coming in. He added, "I'm not exactly sure why that's happening, and I don't know how you teach empathy. If there were a way to teach that, it's something we should focus on."

"I've worked for JSCFCU for 15 years. We've had exponential growth. We have 60 part-time employees and 210 full-time employees. Exponential growth in technology has allowed that to happen. Young people are pretty good at sending a text or an email, but getting them to talk to someone in person is really hard to do for them. Being able to write intelligently also seems to be a skill that is diminishing."

Educational institutions tasked with much

Harv Hartman, committee chair and panel moderator, then asked the panelists, "What skills would you like to see educational institutions emphasize more?" Hast reiterated the importance of empathy in the workplace. Harris replied, "We place a real emphasis on the personal touch, diversity, equity, inclusion and acceptability, effective listening and being respectful of others. I think that coaching on how to be a productive member of society could be taught beginning in pre-K."

Those in attendance agreed that educators have been tasked with teaching these additional skill sets that students aren't getting at home.

Greg Smith, Ph.D., superintendent of schools, Clear Creek Independent School District, stated, "There are things going on technologically-wise to give us pause. Social media's use of shortened sentences that are less mean-

ingful and lack of eye contact affect people's ability to work through their differences and to collaborate."

Institutions of higher education have long recognized the importance of the soft skills that employers seek in their new hires. Sallie Kay Janes, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor of continuing professional development for San Jacinto College District, reported, "One of the first things we do with students is to have them go through an orientation. We try to teach them how to work with each other and how to learn. Even in the more technical programs, we are starting to incorporate those skills."

Dwayne Busby, executive director for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, noted that UHCL has a Career Service Center which helps with resumé writing as well as conducting mock interviews.

Additionally, the College of the Mainland and Workforce Solutions have developed courses for industry that teach job skills and how to interview, which have been very successful.

What's the bottom line?

It has been clear in each of the panel discussions that have taken place that the region's educational institutions are doing an excellent job of preparing students academically. Almost without exception, however, there is an abundant need for these same students to develop their interpersonal communication skills, to work as part of a team, and to show empathy. Educational institutions are working diligently to fill in those gaps in soft skills that some would argue have been created by today's technologically dependent society.

STEM challenge brings together innovative students

Seventeen-year-old Amanda Pastrano made the most out of one of her weekends in April when she decided to participate in the STEM Challenge 2018 at University of Houston-Clear Lake. And, she says, she is glad she did.

"When I first heard about it in my computer science class, I thought it sounded very interesting," said Pastrano. "A teacher called a meeting at school and asked who was interested; several of us decided to go."

Approximately 127 students from local high schools and colleges participated in STEM Challenge 2018 presented by Bridges to STEM Careers and Pathways to STEM Careers, a partnership between UH-Clear Lake and San Jacinto College. The students divided into 32 teams, some who had already formed teams at their schools, like Pastrano, while others were placed in teams by the organizers. The teams also chose from two paths: a programming path and a science path.

"The STEM Challenge allows students to attempt and strengthen their analytical skills without a lot of pressure,"

said UHCL senior lecturer of computer science Krishani Abeysekera, who oversees the challenge at UHCL. "In addition to students meeting and working with students from other schools, they also get to network with people from industry."

Support for the conference came in part from grants from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education, with additional support from the UHCL Alumni Association, ESyntax Corporation and Flow-Cal Inc.

AtLink Communications and Tietronix Inc. provided summer internships for winners of the morning and afternoon challenges. Representatives from all four of the companies, as well as teachers from participating schools, served as judges.

"This was an awesome experience for students," said Clear Horizons High School Algebra II teacher Carmen Hampton. "I told our Math Club about the STEM Challenge. The students participate in math competitions throughout the years, and agreed this would be a fun event."

"Our school had four stu-

dents attend the challenge three years ago, but last year and this year, we took the maximum amount of students - 16 or two teams of four for each track: programming and nonprogramming (science)."

Teams worked together on three projects, a morning project that included exploring ways to stack paper plates with straws, marshmallows and other products along with other logic and analytical problems, while the afternoon assignment included rolling a marble through a constructed maze also using limited products. Students/teams that chose the programming track participated in a programming challenge, where they had to solve problems using C, Java or Python. Those who did not know any programming chose the Science path and spent that time solving science puzzles and questions.

Winners included the following students:

Overall Winner - Programming Path: Team DAWJ - Clear Lake High School - Arunan Thiviyathan, Dean Zhou, Joey Muffoletto and William Zhang.

Overall Winner - Science Path: CBHS Wolverine 3 -

Clear Brook High School - Muhammad Zain, Viet Bui, Mark Logan and Nathan Michael.

Station Winner - Logic and Analysis Station: DHS Broncos Too - Dayton High School - Blake Martin, Hillary Waterstreet, Andrew Hicks and Makenna Nugent.

Station Winner - Software Design Station: - UHCL - Jonathan Goodman, Jesse Lira, Christopher Webb and Matthew Browder.

Station Winner - Science Station: Knights of the Night - Clear Springs High School - Connor Marsh, Vijay Joshi, Samir Cayenne and Harrison Mooney.

Station Winner - Engineering Design Station: C.A.R.L. - Pasadena Memorial High School - Ryan Shugart, Alexander Moyeda, Laura Mata and Christopher Perez.

Internship at AtLinks:

1. Nathan Dill (UHCL)
2. Daniel Mina (UHCL)
3. Peter Banefield (UHCL)
4. Stephanie Zendejo (UHCL)
5. Kasra Ghodsi (UHCL)

Interview for Internships at Tietronix:

1. Matthew Browder (UHCL)

2. Arunan Thiviyathan (CLHS)
3. Dean Zhou (CLHS)
4. Sharmin Nipa (UHCL)
5. Daniel Abreo (SJC South) San Jacinto College - North STEM coordinator and professor of mathematics and engineering Nathaniel Wiggins believes the conference provides a mixture of challenges that are different than many may encounter in school allowing them to apply what they have learned in class a variety of ways.

"The STEM Challenge motivates students because they see other students get internships, and they compete knowing that industry professionals are looking upon them," said Wiggins. Although Pastrano's team did not win, she was proud of the work they had done and noted her team had only included two of her classmates and not three like most of the other teams.

"I want to attend the conference next year, but we will be sure to add another student to our team," she said.

For more information about the STEM Challenge, contact Abeysekera, 281-283-3831.

UHCL announces spring commencement ceremonies

Nearly 1,300 University of Houston-Clear Lake students are expected to graduate this spring semester. Of those, approximately 1,100 plan to cross the stage at two commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 20, at NRG Arena, 1 NRG Park. A total of 582 will receive bachelor's degrees; 480 will receive their master's degrees and 14 will receive doctorate degrees.

At noon, the College of Business will confer degrees to 297 candidates; the College of Human Sciences and Humanities will honor 307. Alumna Mary Anne Brelinky, president of EDF Energy Services and managing director of EDF Trading North America LLC, will deliver the commencement address. EDF is an international firm that manages large-scale electricity and natural gas assets.

At 5 p.m., 165 candidates in the College of Education will receive degrees, as will 307 in the College of Science and Engineering. The

commencement speaker is alumnus Michael Larrañaga, principal consultant at Ramboll, a global sustainability solutions provider.

Brelinky, who received an MBA from UHCL in 2000, has worked with other energy and utility executives to assure that large businesses, industries and communities have reliable and affordable electricity from a resilient power grid. At EDF, she brokers trades in the high-finance energy market, setting corporate strategy, hedging, and profitability targets for customers in the U.S. and Canada. Brelinky currently serves on the boards of directors of Atlas Scholars, DK Energy, the Gulf Coast Power Association, the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Advisory Council for Women's Energy Network, and University of Houston's Energy Advisory Board.

At Ramboll, Larrañaga advises governments and corporations on strategies for

business continuity, supply chain resilience and more. He received his master's in environmental science from UHCL in 1998. He is a member of a Department of Homeland Security think tank that develops technology solutions to the most pressing technological issues facing the nation's first responders. Larrañaga, who is the 2018 honoree for UHCL's Early Achievement Award, has served as a consultant in the automotive, government, construction, educational, transportation, nuclear, refining, chemical and manufacturing industries. He has a doctorate in industrial and human factors engineering from Texas Tech University.

This spring's degree candidates will join more than 66,000 others who have graduated from the university. UHCL began as an upper-level university in 1974, admitting juniors, seniors and graduate students. The ceremonies mark the graduation of UHCL's first class of freshmen since the university's expansion to undergradmen in 2014.

NRG Arena is located beside NRG Stadium and the Astrodome. Guests do not need tickets to attend. There is a fee for parking and attendees only take cash. For the sports complex's latest parking information, follow the links at www.uhcl.edu/academics/commencement/parking.

Friday, May 18, UHCL's Alumni Association will host Senior Send-off - formally known as Soaring Hawks Celebration - a reception for graduates, friends and families from 6 to 8 p.m. in Atrium II of the Bayou Building. The event is free but advance tickets are required. Graduates were mailed complimentary tickets; they can pick up additional tickets until noon, May 17, at University Advancement (Bayou 1604) or the Office of Student Life (SSCB 1.204).

Thompson announces "Name That Book" winners



Thompson Intermediate's "Name That Book" team competed on April 21 and won second place in the Pasadena Independent School District's annual "Name That Book" contest. All the readers read 20 books to be able to compete against the other 10 intermediate schools in the district. Shown are, left to right, (front row) MaryBeth Nicol, team sponsor and librarian; Kaitlyn Webb; Kyra Jackson; Kiera Jackson; (back row) Dr. Melissa McCalla, principal; Victoria Couchman; Kelly Nguyen; Jaidyn Kelley; Marcus Gomez; Catherine Berkstresser; and Adiana Golden. Photo by Kristine Couchman

Tyer graduates



Andrew Tyer graduated from Navy boot camp on April 20 in Great Lakes, Ill. He is a 2014 J. Frank Dobie High School graduate and is currently in Groton, Conn., attending submarine school. His family members include his proud parents Clennis and Pam Tyer, brother Jeffrey Tyer and sisters Kellie and Katie Tyer. Andrew is following in the footsteps of his grandfather Ben Tyer, who was a longtime Sagemont resident and served in the Navy for 20 years until he retired in 1976.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PAWPAW!
 Ted Heinrich of Sagemeadow marks his 76th birthday Monday, May 7. Congratulations and best wishes are sent to him from his wife Linda Heinrich; son Carl Heinrich and his wife Martha Heinrich and their children Carl Heinrich IV, Drayton Heinrich, Meadaux Heinrich and Easton Heinrich; daughter Piper Sais and her husband Anthony Sais and their daughter Parker Sais, who all say, "We love you!"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY!
 Happy birthday wishes are sent May 7 to former Leader employee Mary Doan from friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 3 through May 9.

Atkinson Elementary
 Martha Lerma celebrates a birthday May 9.

Burnett Elementary
 Erika Gonzalez enjoys a birthday May 3. May 4 is the day to send Daren Dibble a birthday greeting.

Bush Elementary
 Send a happy birthday greeting to Nicole Holguin on May 3. Sing a birthday song to Mindy Cook May 4. Nicolette Martinez marks a birthday on May 9.

Frazier Elementary
 Light the candles on a birthday cake May 8 for India Kemp.

Meador Elementary
 Best wishes for a happy birthday are sent May 4 to Paulina Rivas-Lopez.

Moore Elementary
 The day for a birthday party for Traci Marr and Beth Anne Mullen is May 6.

Meillilo Middle School
 May 6 is the day for a birthday cake for Sandra Vann.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
 Happy birthday wishes May 5 to Lindy Pace.

Thompson Intermediate
 Send a birthday greeting May 3 to Maria Lopez. Marking a birthday May 9 is Krystal LaReau and Neil Ashford.

Dobie High
 The day for a double-layer birthday cake for Cynthia Guzman and Tanya Morales is May 3. Give three cheers for a birthday May 7 for Sonya Gilford Fontenot, Barbara Jimenez and Jesse Lopez. Light the candles May 9 for Jordan Evans.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
 The Leader sends happy birthday wishes to friends who celebrate a birthday this week:
 Thursday, May 3: Craig Pittman, Keith Richardson, Tanya Morales and Brandie Ash; Friday, May 4: Stacy Waugh, Scott Siscoe and Tamara Fisher; Saturday, May 5: Jennifer Bustamante, Tori French, Alice Wright, Pat Becker and Amanda Zamora; Sunday, May 6: Patrick Ermis, Roni Gonzales, and Erin Hill; Monday, May 7: Yvonne Villegas, Josh Garza, Stephanie Salazar and Jenn Verchiens; Tuesday, May 8: Amelia Brown, Christopher Barber, Tiffany Robbins, Julie Kutra and Sara Muller; and Wednesday, May 9: Tiana Jaime-Perez, Freedom Groebner, Ronny Carker and Bubba Bannett.

UHCL students, staff showcased research

Students, faculty and community members engaged in conversation surrounding academic research by college students during poster presentations at the 24th annual Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts at University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Undergraduate and graduate students shared their research in gender, social media, student stress, mobile applications, childhood education and more. Led by UHCL faculty and students, the four-day conference included roundtable discussions, symposiums and oral presentations on topics ranging from human trafficking to advanced quantum mechanics.

For more information about the conference, visit www.uhcl.edu/student-conference.

Bible semester set

The Bible, the original or what is called the Old Testament, is divided into three parts: the first is the Torah — "the five books of Moses," the second is called The Prophets and the third is a collection of unrelated books called The Holy Writings.

Last semester Congregation Shaar Hashalom's Rabbi Stuart Federov led conversations about books in The Holy Writings, starting with the book of Ecclesiastes.

This semester the Rabbi will continue the study, beginning with Psalms, then moving to Proverbs and finishing the look at The Wisdom Literature of the Bible with the Song of Songs.

The study is presented during the current semester of 2018. The course discusses entire scriptures, ideas and insights rather than line by line.

Each topic's discussion stands alone, and one does not have to have attended previous classes.

The sessions are conducted every Sunday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Congregation Shaar Hashalom. The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the office at 281-488-5861.

CCART schedules May meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its May meeting on Tuesday, May 8. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, in Seabrook. The featured speakers will be Dr. Greg Smith, Clear Creek Independent School District superintendent; and Vicki Mimms, Dickinson Independent School District superintendent.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. This is the final meeting before the summer break and will feature the annual barbecue luncheon. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. The annual dues are \$50.

HCMG names May dates

The Harris County Master Gardeners has announced the May event dates.

On Thursday, May 10, The Harris County Master Gardeners lecture series will feature *Bats In Our Area And How They Are Beneficial* by Suzanne Jurek from the Houston Zoo from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. This event is free. For more information, call 713-274-0950 or visit hcmga.tamu.edu.

On Thursday, May 17, the Harris County Master Gardeners Green thumb series presentation will be *Insects In The Garden* from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. This event is also free. For more information, call 713-274-0950 or visit hcmga.tamu.edu.

Israeli folk dancing events set

What meant to last only for four to five months is now in its ninth year, as the participants do not want to stop dancing. The sessions are not built on one another, so missing a few sessions or just starting still affords catching up quickly.

The dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on Mondays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. May dates are 7, 14, and 21. There will be no dancing on Memorial Day, May 28. June dates are 11, 18 and 25. There is also a session on June 4. The cost is \$4 per session or \$35 for 10 sessions for CSH members and \$5 per session or \$45 for 10 sessions for nonmembers. Dancing is an enjoyable way to get excellent cardiovascular exercise. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is located at 16020 El Camino Real and is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at cs@shaarhashalom.org.

Guzman wins Houston Bar Association Law Day art poster contest

Meador Elementary's first-grader Arlett Guzman won first place in the kindergarten through second grade category at the Houston Bar Association Law Day art poster contest. Guzman was honored on April 24 at the Law Day luncheon at the downtown Marriott Marquis. Guzman also won third place in the state contest and is invited to tour the capitol building. She received a total of \$250 prize money. Shown with Guzman (center) are, left to right, the keynote speaker Lee Rosenthal, chief judge, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas; and Tara Merida, Meador counselor.



Shown below are, left to right, Beverly Bolton, Meador principal; Cecilia Stewart, Meador art coordinator; Arlett Guzman; Carlos Guzman, Arlett's father; and Merida.

Photos by Bonnie Simmons



SJC sets calendar

San Jacinto College has announced its calendar of events.

Summer and fall registration now open
 Registration is now open for summer classes that start on May 14 and June 4, and for fall classes that begin on August 27. For more information on steps to register, visit sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration.

Music concerts
 The SJC Central campus music department will host the following concerts. All concerts are held at 7 p.m., in the Monte Blue Music building, unless specially noted, and are free and open to the public:
 Organ recital featuring Eric Bigalke, Friday, May 4, 3 p.m.
 String orchestra concert, Friday, May 4.
 For more information, contact Geneva Fort at geneva.fort@sjcd.edu.

Music scholarship auditions
 The SJC Central campus music department will host scholarship auditions on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m., in the Monte Blue Music building. To schedule an audition, contact the music department at 281-476-1832 and visit <http://www.sanjac.edu/campus-life/visual-performing-arts/audio-engineering/auditions-scholarships> for more information.

Houston TechFest
 Houston TechFest will hold its first spring conference at SJC Central campus on Saturday, May 5. Now in its 12th year, TechFest has attracted sponsorship from the likes of Microsoft and Amazon. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., followed with workshops throughout the day. The event is free and open to the public. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2ERXoRq>.

Community Education Center events
 The SJC Campus Community Education Center is located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena in Building 1, room C-1.108. The SJC North Campus Community Education Center is located at 5800 Uvalde Road in Building 2, room N-2.112. The Community Education Centers will host the following workshops that are free and open to the public:
 Central campus, Relax and Stretch, May 4, noon - 12:30 p.m.
 Information session: How to Apply for Free Job Training, May 8, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Skin cancer: Reduce Your Risks, May 9, noon - 1 p.m.
 To register, call 281-478-2786 or email communityeducation@sjcd.edu.

Deadline approaches for SBA disaster loans

On April 25, Tanya N. Garfield, director of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West, reminded Texas small businesses of the May 25 deadline to apply for an SBA federal disaster loan for economic injury caused by Hurricane Harvey that occurred Aug. 23 - Sept. 15, 2017.

According to Garfield, small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

"Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the applicant suffered any property damage," Garfield said.

These low-interest federal disaster loans are available in the counties listed below.

Texas counties include: Angelina, Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Brazos, Brooks, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend,

Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson and Wilson.

The interest rate can be as low as 3.305 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

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Remember When

40 years ago (1978)
 The Honorable Henry Schuble retained his appointed seat as judge in District 245 by taking approximately 62 percent of the vote against challenger Jesse Shivers.

15 years ago (2003)
 Texas International Airline discontinued all flights from Hobby to Dallas-Fort Worth.

35 years ago (1983)
 The City of Houston's parks department withdrew a request to the city council for \$10,000 for improvements to the Sagemont pool. The parks department purchased a new filter system and pump for the pool out of its maintenance budget.

Dobie's Lawrence Mitchell ran to a second-place finish in the 100-meter dash at the Region III-5A meet and qualified for the state meet.

30 years ago (1988)
 The South Belt-Ellington Leader was one of six businesses to be honored by the Southeast Economic Development Council of Harris County (SEED) at its first awards banquet.

The Southbend Homeowners Association chose not to endorse the efforts of a local citizens group working to increase the amount of cleanup the Environmental Protection Agency had outlined for the Brio toxic waste dump.

15 years ago (2003)
 The \$337 million Clear Creek Independent School District bond was defeated.

The Surface Transportation Board gave its approval to the San Jacinto Rail Limited application for construction of a proposed 7.1 mile rail line and to all proposed routes submitted by the rail company.

10 years ago (2008)
 A story in the Leader regarding the enforcement of speed zones on the Sagemeadow portion of Blackhawk prompted action by local authorities, with both the constable's office and the sheriff's department beefing up patrols along the area street. A common complaint was that the street should have a higher speed limit than 30 mph since it had become a major thoroughfare. The average vehicle speed on the street was 32.26 mph. Another common complaint was vehicles parking on Blackhawk, thus impeding the flow of traffic.

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston announced its intention to close Mount Carmel High School at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

A driver was killed in a single-vehicle accident at the intersection of I-45 and Beltway 8. Gregorio DeJesus, 38, was traveling at a high rate of speed on the northbound service road at roughly 2:45 a.m. when he lost control of his vehicle and struck a bridge support. DeJesus' car, a brand new Corvette, subsequently landed on its roof and caught fire, trapping the driver inside. Witnesses tried to come to the driver's aid, but heat from the flames kept them at bay. DeJesus, a Friendswood resident, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Two men were arrested by deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's Office. Deputies spotted two males at the service station at Scarsdale and I-45 who fit the description of a complainant who said two men had banged on her vehicle and tried to enter it in the 12000 block of Scarsdale. While questioning the men, a second complainant approached the deputies and said that the suspects had attempted to rob him earlier in the evening and had punched him multiple times in the face. The first complainant also positively identified one of the men. Eddie Olivera, 18, was arrested and charged with robbery. Rico Cadrial, 17, was arrested for having an outstanding warrant.

5 years ago (2013)
 An unknown male suspect kicked in the front door of an apartment at the Cabo San Lucas apartment complex on the Gulf Freeway and demanded money from Evan Butler, 25. When he did not comply, Butler was fatally shot, and the suspect fled the scene. No immediate arrests were made.

The 17th annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off was a success, setting records for the number of teams, volunteers and attendees. More than 10,000 tickets were sold to the event, which is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show.

1 year ago (2017)
 Chris Bezdek was honored Tuesday, May 2, as the

Pasadena Independent School District's 2017 Distinguished Alumnus. A 1998 Sam Rayburn graduate, Bezdek is a longtime volunteer and supporter of the district and executive vice president of CommunityBank of Texas. He joined the district's Education Foundation board in 2010, serving as president for two terms and now as treasurer. He has also been a volunteer at the foundation's Shining Stars Gala and annual golf classic. In 2012, he began serving as the McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament steering committee's finance chair. A bronze commemorative plaque was placed on permanent display outside the district's administration building.

South Belt resident Wayne Lominac Sr. got the thrill of a lifetime when Houston Texans star player J.J. Watt delivered a pizza to his house, as part of Papa John's contest. Lominac was joined by his wife, Stephanie Lominac; his son, Wayne Lominac Jr.; his daughter, Shea Lominac; and some close friends as Watt stuck around to visit, sign autographs and take photos.

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PISD hires new intermediate principals

The PISD Board of Trustees recently approved the hiring of three new principals, Cleveland Lee, Diane Phelan and Mikie Escamilla, to lead Queens, San Jacinto and V.W. Miller Intermediate Schools, respectively.

Lee, an assistant principal at Pasadena Memorial High School since 2012, will assume the role as principal of Queens Intermediate next school year, following the retirement of current principal Troy Jones.

"I'm super excited about the opportunity to work with the students, staff and faculty at Queens," said Lee. "My goal is to really build up the Queens family and put the campus on the map. We are Queens. We are all in."

Roaring on to the scene for the Tigers of San Jacinto Intermediate, new principal Phelan will be replacing Dianna Walker, who is retiring at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

Phelan, who has served as principal of Keller Middle School since 2008, says she looks forward to making the transition.

"Tiger pride is something I have witnessed during my time as principal of Keller," said Phelan. "I look forward to working with the San Jacinto family to continue making great gains academically and building strong connections with all stakeholders."

At Miller, Escamilla looks to take the Falcons to new heights after being named the campus's new principal for the remainder of the school year and beyond.

Escamilla, an assistant principal at Miller since 2014, was named principal following a two month stint as interim principal when Vanessa Reyes left to take over as the principal of Sam Rayburn High School in February.

"I am extremely excited for this opportunity to continue working with the students, staff and parents of Miller Intermediate," said Escamilla.

"I want to carry the torch forward with student successes, while maintaining the high standards established by Mrs. Reyes."



The newly-hired Pasadena Independent School District principals are, left to right, Cleveland Lee, Queens Intermediate principal; Diane Phelan, San Jacinto Intermediate principal; and Mikie Escamilla, V.W. Miller Intermediate principal. Photo by Jade Wise

South Belt Elementary gets lesson on Iditarod race

Delilah and Rick Hymas; Gary Richards and his Alaskan malamute Lyric; and Gerald Szymczak and his Alaskan malamute Apollo from The Texas Alaskan malamute Rescue Organization came to South Belt Elementary on April 6 to share the experience of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race with South Belt third- and fourth-graders. The students had been learning about "The Last Great Race" in the recent studies as well as reading the book *Balto*. To top off their studies, students were treated to an up-close and personal experience with a mushers' sled, a gangline and two Alaskan malamutes. The students learned the route of the race, the hardships the mushers and the dogs face, interesting facts about Balto and how to determine the differences between an Alaskan malamute and a Siberian husky. Shown right are (left) Ava Hernandez and Makayla St. Romain-Ballard. In the background are, left to right, Ava Castillo, Kenzie Fernandez and Adam Gonzalez. Shown below with Apollo are, left to right, Jakeida Cervantes, Mia Mata, Leila Reyes, Aubrie Vasquez, Macy Cooper, Liliana Mata, Evalyna Gonzalez, Akira Brual, Johnathan Garcia, Jawad Nasar and Caleb Brown.



Shown, presenting information on the Iditarod race to students are, left to right, Gerald Szymczak with his Alaskan malamute Apollo; Rick Hymas; and Gary Richards with his Alaskan malamute Lyric. This Alaskan race pits man and animal against nature. Photos by Trang Nguyen

Class of 2018 hosts ninth annual senior prom

It was a night to remember under the Big Top on April 19 as the class of 2018 hosted local senior citizens for the ninth annual Senior to Senior Prom. A cherished district tradition, the Senior to Senior Prom is an opportunity for graduating seniors representing every high school in CCISD to show appreciation to this very important segment of the community for their support throughout their K-12 journey.

Clear Creek High School students Karime Sandoval and Ronald Valencia served as masters of ceremonies, or ring-

masters, for the evening. Dr. Greg Smith, Clear Creek ISD superintendent of schools, welcomed the honored guests.

"We are all big fans of this special event because it brings together seniors of two different generations to celebrate each other," Smith said. "The young adults you see here tonight not only completed their academic requirements but they have shown great character and leadership along the way. This is our way of saying thank you for any role you had in their experiences and success while they were with us."

during dinner, guests were treated to the sounds of the Clear Falls High School Troubadours, under the direction of Jill Fetty. Clear Lake High School recent alumnus Ethan Swindull, also known as DJ Altruist, played crowd-pleasing, line-dancing music throughout the evening.

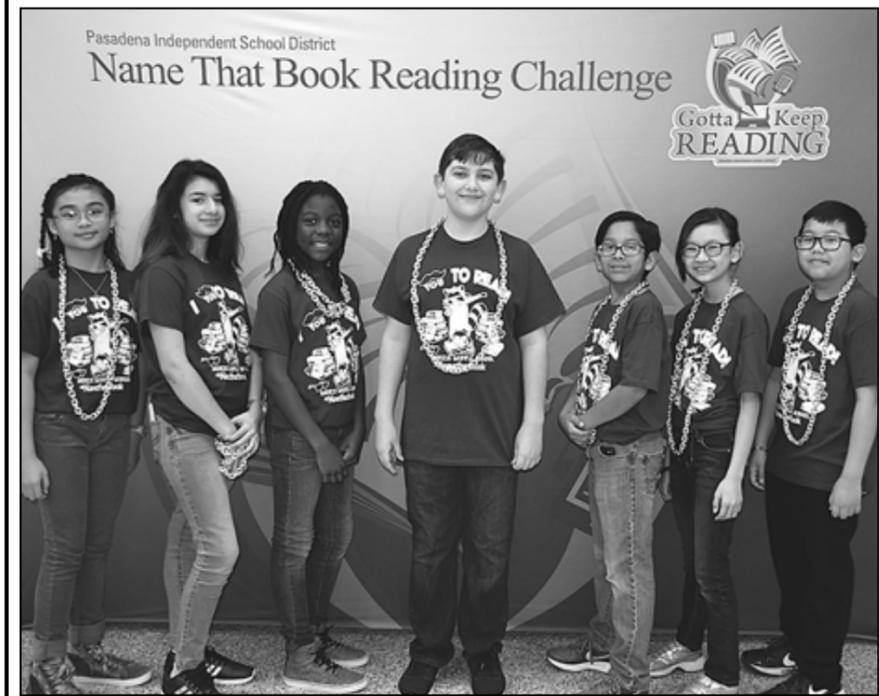
CCISD Gold Card holders, community members who live within the district boundaries and age 60 years and older, are invited to the annual dinner and dance. This year's theme was a vintage circus motif complete with carnival games. The class of 2018 from Clear Brook,

Clear Creek, Clear Falls, Clear Horizons, Clear Lake, Clear Springs and Clear View high schools helped decorate, serve dinner and even joined their special guests out on the dance floor.

"Being given the opportunity to interact with others out of my age group made me appreciate the importance of being involved in my community," said Justin Vo, Clear Horizons Early College High School senior.

Guests James Ponder and Marilyn Crump were crowned the 2018 Prom Queen and King.

Moore places third in "Name That Book"



The eighth annual Pasadena Independent School District Name That Book Competition was held on Saturday, April 21 at Parkview Intermediate. The middle school competition was fierce. Morris Middle School tied for second place with Melillo Middle School and in the bonus round placed third. Lomax Middle School placed first. Morris Middle School has placed in the top

three places seven out of the eight years of the competition. The students worked hard and read the 20 books picked for this year's competition. This year, one of the teammates, Yaeisshya Cuidad, created the art work for the team shirts. Shown are, left to right, Cuidad, Arianna Rivera, Neveah Ben-Smith, Anthony Garza, Emir Espinoza, Kristi Nguyen and Anthony Dinh.

San Jac Foundation honors WWII veteran

The San Jacinto College Foundation will honor the life and legacy of the late Dr. B.J. Westbrook at its Pathways Experience event on Friday, May 18.

The Foundation's annual Legacy Award will be accepted by Westbrook's daughters, Renee and Mickie Westbrook. Each year the Foundation pays tribute to one of its influential donors that change students' lives through the gift of education.

A longtime resident of the North Channel area, Westbrook led a life of service through funding scholarships, purchasing equipment and establishing an endowment for San Jacinto College

students, ensuring that students have access to a quality, affordable education.

Westbrook served his country as an infantryman in the United States Army during World War II. Despite having no medical experience, he was later given a medical assignment, promoted to sergeant and managed the dispensary of the 24th and 25th divisions of the 6th Army, which included about 7,000 men.

After he completed his enlistment, Westbrook chose to pursue a college education, made possible by the GI Bill. As the first in his family to graduate from high school, a college education was an

endeavor of which no one in his family had ever dreamed. Upon graduating from the University of Texas, Westbrook continued on to dental school and worked as a dentist in Houston's North Channel area for more than 50 years. During that time, he supported many of the San Jacinto College Foundation's initiatives and donated more than \$100,000 in scholarship and program funds.

"Dr. B.J. Westbrook was a builder of dreams," said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director. "He came from humble beginnings, served our country and went to college on the GI Bill. He accomplished his

dream of becoming a dentist and wanted to pay it forward for our students. His hard work and deep devotion to his family allowed him to not only build a life but also to commit to investing deeply in his community. We are privileged to honor his life and legacy at the Pathways Experience, and San Jacinto College will continue his dream of building accessible educational pathways for our students."

In addition to the special award ceremony for Westbrook, guests at the 2018 San Jacinto College Foundation Pathways Experience will find a one-of-a-kind "un-gala" event with hands-on, interac-

tive opportunities to explore the college's degree and certificate pathways.

The pathways experience event takes place on Friday, May 18, from 6:30 to 11 p.m., at the San Jacinto College North Campus Center for Industrial Technology (Building 33) located at 5800 Uvalde Road. The exclusive VIP reception will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., prior to the start of the event.

Sponsorship and in-kind donation opportunities, along with couples and VIP packages are available. Individual tickets start at \$250. To purchase sponsorships and tickets, visit sanjac.edu/experience.

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Dobie students place first in art competition



On Saturday, April 21, Dobie High School art students, left to right, Samantha Schroder, Elaine Lien, Madison Hogan and Troy Lampton competed in the Artist Boat Spring 2018 "Beautify the Bucket" competition in Galveston. Dobie High School placed first in the youth/family category. Students had one month to design and paint a blue trash barrel that will be destined for Galveston beaches based on a theme of ocean organisms, marine debris, coastal and marine ecosystems or Galveston recreational activities. The artist boat barrels are designed to promote good stewardship in disposing of trash to keep the beaches clean and protect ocean wildlife from harmful waste and debris.

Sherrie Kent, Dobie art teacher, said her daughter Sabrina Gasiorowski, shown right, also helped with the barrel.

Photos by Sherrie Kent



Tipsy Tasters enjoy South Belt cook-off



The South Belt Tipsy Tasters for the third year enjoyed margarita tasting and all the food at the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Sylvia Velasquez.

South Belt cook-off names winners

The South Belt Spectacular Cook-off was held April 26 - 28 at El Franco Lee Park.

The categories for competition at the cook-off were beans, chili, chicken, chef's choice, brisket, ribs, desserts, margaritas, overall sweepstakes and showmanship.

The following are the winners for each category.

<p>Beans</p> <p>First place - Outta Place Cookers</p> <p>Second place - Kick Back Kookerz</p> <p>Third place - Loz Kompaz Kookers</p> <p>Fourth place - Kick Back Kookerz</p> <p>Fifth place - Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Sixth place - H-Town Texas Cookers</p> <p>Seventh place - Los Borachos Cookers</p> <p>Eighth place - Los Borachos Cookers</p> <p>Ninth place - Smokin Somewhere Cookers</p> <p>Tenth place - Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Chili</p> <p>First place - Fork Em Up Cookers</p> <p>Second place - Loz Kompaz Kookers</p> <p>Third place - Los Pistoleros Cookers</p> <p>Fourth place - Outta Control Cookers</p> <p>Fifth place - Team Henk Cookers</p> <p>Sixth place - Family Strong</p> <p>Seventh place - BBQ "4" Tha Soul</p> <p>Eighth place - Los Pistoleros Cookers</p>	<p>Chicken</p> <p>First place - Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Second place - Magnolia Tejano Cookers</p> <p>Third place - Kix BBQ Team</p> <p>Fourth place - Lazy B Cookers</p> <p>Fifth place - Team Henk Cookers</p> <p>Sixth place - Fork Em Up Cookers</p> <p>Seventh place - Fork Em Up Cookers</p> <p>Eighth place - Kick Back Cookerz</p> <p>Ninth place - Family Thing Cookers</p> <p>Tenth place - Q:30</p> <p>Chef's Choice</p> <p>First place - What's Their Name Kookers</p> <p>Second place - Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Third place - Triple M Cookers</p> <p>Fourth place - OMG BBQ Cookers</p> <p>Fifth place - Outta Place Cookers</p> <p>Sixth place - 4 Of A Kind Cookers</p> <p>Seventh place - Good Night Cookers</p> <p>Eighth place - SCP Kookers</p> <p>Ninth place - Texas Bad Boys</p> <p>Tenth place - H-Town Texas Cookers</p> <p>Brisket</p> <p>First place - Smoking Irish</p> <p>Second place - Smoke Sum Cookers</p> <p>Third place - 4 Of A Kind Cookers</p>	<p>Ribs</p> <p>First place - Pyromaniacs</p> <p>Second place - Smoking Irish</p> <p>Third place - OMG BBQ</p> <p>Fourth place - Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Fifth place - Outta Control Cookers</p> <p>Sixth place - Dynamite Cookers</p> <p>Seventh place - Texas Bad Boys</p> <p>Eighth place - Los Borachos Cookers</p> <p>Ninth place - Gabriel's Angels Cookers</p> <p>Tenth place - Outta Control Cookers</p> <p>Desserts</p> <p>First place - Smoking Irish</p> <p>Second place - OMG BBQ</p> <p>Third place - Loz Kompaz</p>	<p>Margaritas</p> <p>First place - Outta Place Cookers</p> <p>Second place - Half Lit</p> <p>Third place - Where's Alex</p> <p>Fourth place - Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Fifth place - Cooler Killers</p> <p>Sixth place - Family Thing Cookers</p> <p>Seventh place - Outta Control Cookers</p> <p>Eighth place - Good Night Cookers</p> <p>Ninth place - Lazy B Cookers</p> <p>Tenth place - House Divided</p> <p>Overall Sweepstakes Winner</p> <p>Second 2 None Cookers</p> <p>Showmanship Award</p> <p>Here 4 Da Beer Cookers</p>
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Check next week's **Leader** for more cook-off pictures

Miller enjoys cook-off



Hundreds of area children took advantage of the several free activities provided at the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off on Saturday, April 28. Shown above playing in a Houston Police Department helicopter is Jamison Miller. A student at South Belt Elementary, Miller is the son of Rachel Barbour and Chad Miller. See additional photos on Page 1A and in next week's Leader. Photo by John Doyle

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Pleasants' big night lifts Lady Longhorns to area round

Thanks in large part to an explosive night from Taylor Pleasants and a shutout pitching performance from Alana Ortega, the Dobie varsity softball

program remains alive in the Region III playoffs.

Area Playoff Round

Dobie vs. Clear Falls
Fri., May 4, 7:30 p.m.
Clear Lake High School

Crushing North Shore 11-0 in five innings April 27, at San Jacinto College South, the Lady Longhorns advanced to the area playoff round for the first time since 2012.

There, the locals will face a Clear Falls team that pulled a mild upset with a 2-1 series win over District 23-6A champion Dawson.

When Dobie takes on Clear Falls in a one-game, winner-take-all area round matchup Friday, May 4, at Clear Lake High School, Ortega will no doubt be entrusted to get the job done against Falls' offense.

Falls, meanwhile, must figure out a way to slow Dobie's offense, particularly Pleasants, senior Yvonne Whaley and standout freshman Leslie Longoria.

The Lady Longhorn trio played huge roles against North Shore, the third-place team out of District 21-6A.

As she has done throughout much of the

last two seasons, Whaley jump-started Dobie's offense in the top of the first inning with a lead-off triple against North Shore's Catalina Cavazos.

Longoria followed with a walk, and Pleasants delivered a two-run double to center as Dobie led 2-0 in a hurry.

Pleasants later moved up on a ground ball and scored on Jacqueline Garcia's fielder's choice groundout as Dobie led 3-0.

Dobie then basically put the game away in the top of the third inning, a seven-run outburst highlighted by Pleasants' grand slam.

Mykayla Gutierrez led off with a single to center, and runner Jasmine Benitez stole second base.

Maritza Elizalde rocked a triple to score Benitez,

and Dani Colunga's single scored Elizalde for a 5-0 lead. A walk to Longoria plated another run before Pleasants' grand slam scored Ortega, Whaley and Longoria in front of her for a 10-0 lead.

For the game, Pleasants was 3 for 3 with six runs batted in. She scored twice. Whaley was 3 for 3 out of the lead-off spot.

Continued on Page 6B



At right, Dobie junior shortstop Taylor Pleasants put on a show in the bidistrict playoff round against North Shore, driving in six with a grand slam and two-run double as the Lady Longhorns cruised 11-0. Now, Dobie will face Clear Falls in the area round. Photo by John Bechtle

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LSA tracksters headed to state

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

The Texas Association of Private and Parochial School Class 5A state track and field meet is up next, and the Lutheran South Academy teams will be well represented.

Lutheran South's boys' and girls' teams both medaled in the team standings after the competition at Clear

Creek ISD's Challenger Columbia Stadium was complete April 28.

San Antonio Christian was the boys' and girls' team champion in Class 5A.

The S.A. Christian boys scored the team title with 178 points, and Lutheran South's 108 points were second.

In the girls' division, S.A. Christian tallied 167

Continued on Page 2B

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It's Dobie vs. Atascocita on baseball diamond

In a precursor of what is surely to become a heated rivalry in the revamped District 22-6A ranks beginning in 2018-2019, the Dobie and Atascocita varsity baseball teams are set

to meet for a bidistrict title as the best-of-three series plays out May 3-5. The first and third games will be held at Atascocita High School, with the middle game coming May 4 at Maguire Field in Pasadena.

Atascocita arrived at this point by taking second place in 21-6A, going 20-9 overall and 11-3 in 21-6A, second to Kingwood.

Dobie, in the midst of its finest season since 2011 in terms of overall record, is 22-8 after clos-

ing out the District 22-6A slate with a 4-1 win over Memorial that netted a 10-4 record and the No. 3

Continued on Page 3B

In that win over Memorial, sophomore right-hander Daniel Garza won his eighth game of the season.

Continued on Page 3B

Bidistrict baseball playoffs

Dobie vs. Atascocita
(Best-of-three series)
Game 1: May 3, 7 p.m., at Atascocita
Game 2: May 4, 7 p.m., at Maguire
*Game 3: May 5, 2 p.m., at Atascocita



Sophomore Daniel Garza picked up his eighth win of the season as the Dobie varsity baseball team secured a bidistrict playoff series spot against Atascocita with a season-ending 4-1 win over Memorial.

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2005 JFD graduate Former Dobie volleyball player scores NCAA role

Dobie graduate Chelsea Blakely clearly loves volleyball. Following four-year and record-setting playing careers both with the Lady Longhorns and at UT-Pan American, Blakely has become one of the sport's top ambassadors at the collegiate level.

Now a Senior Associate Athletic Director at UT-Rio Grand Valley, Blakely has been appointed to the NCAA women's Volleyball Rules Committee.

"It really has been such an amazing experience," Blakely said of her career path to this point.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the sport. It has provid-

ed so much opportunity in my life."

And perhaps Blakely's love for volleyball truly grew during her days at Dobie, where she played for then head volleyball coach and current Pasadena ISD Assistant Director of Athletics Donna Branch and her staff.

"We were very, very lucky to have the opportunity with coach Branch and coach (Mo) Hickman.

"It really was a very unique situation with great coaches and great teammates!! I'm so glad to hear that (Branch) is exceeding, as she always does."

See Blakely's story on Page 2B.

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Local sports news, notes

Dobie football to host May 19 dodgeball tourney

The Dobie High School football program will host a fun-filled dodgeball tournament Saturday, May 19, at the Dobie 9 campus. All Dobie students who provide their campus identification card are eligible to compete. The fee is \$10 per player, and teams will consist of five girls and five boys. Those interested may contact Dobie football booster club member Gloria Wallace via email at gloria.wallace73@gmail.com.

Rising Stars registering

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

Seahawks FB signing up

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

SBYSC, Copa Alianza offer soccer tourneys

In conjunction with the South Belt Youth Soccer Club, Copa Alianza is bringing a youth clinic and soccer tournament series to El Franco Lee Park May 11 through May 13.

The three-day event begins with a coaching clinic Friday, May 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. Then comes a two-day series of age-group tournaments at El Franco Lee Park. There is soccer action planned for all age groups, including odd-year age-group teams 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011, while the even-year age group squads will compete in 5-on-5-tournaments.

There are also options for male players looking to see what the pro ranks entail, as well as information for those looking to play collegiately. Copa Alianza will also have a host of options available to female players in a variety of age groups.

Registration options are available at www.southbeltsoccer.org and www.launidadesoccer.com. For more information, call Javier Cuellar at 713-829-0157.

Brook QB Garcia picks NWSU

Jaizac Garcia, a three-year starter at quarterback for the Clear Brook Wolverines, has elected to continue his education and playing career at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, an NCAA Division II program located in Alva, Oklahoma.

The Rangers went 5-6 a season ago and play in the Great American Conference. The team did win its final two games of the regular season. Isaiah Weed, who will be a senior this fall, started the majority of NWSU's games at quarterback.

Dobie athletics physicals are May 16

Dobie High School student-athletes will have a great opportunity to get their required annual athletic physical completed Wednesday, May 16, in the school gymnasium as Dr. John Kirkwood and his staff will be on campus providing the examinations at \$25 each beginning at 1 p.m. Any student-athlete planning to compete in any sport at Dobie during the 2018-2019 school year must have a completed athletic physical on file on campus prior to being allowed to take part in practices, workouts, games, etc. There are no exceptions.

SJC's Sidney signs with Texas Tech hoops

San Jacinto College sophomore guard Eryka Sidney, a Wheatley High School graduate, will continue her education and playing career at Texas Tech University in Lubbock after inking a letter of intent with the Lady Red Raiders.

Last month, Sydney completed one of the best two-year runs in SJC women's basketball history as she was selected as a National Junior College Athletic Association All-American honorable mention member, was named to the all-Region XIV team as well as the all-conference team, and was the Region XIV Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Sidney led the team in scoring this season at 17 points per game, a mark that ranked her 45th in the country. She shot nearly 38 percent from long range and averaged 4.3 assists per game. Sidney, also an NJCAA first team All-American as a freshman, led the Lady Gators to back-to-back national tournament appearances and has scored more than 1,000 points in her career.

Longoria Player/Year at UH-V



Dobie High School graduate and current University of Houston-Victoria sophomore softball player Marissa Longoria was named the Jaguars' Softball Player of the Year at the team's annual banquet. Longoria, the Jaguars' primary starting catcher for the past two seasons, has hit .218 this season with 10 runs scored and 12 runs batted in over 39 games. She has three doubles and a triple. Longoria is a health sciences major at UH-V. The Jaguars, coached by Dobie graduate Lindsey Ferguson Ortiz, is currently 25-15 overall, including 14-7 in the Red River Athletic Conference. UH-V resides in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks. Submitted photo

Dobie gymnasium gets new look with mural

When Dobie's main gymnasium officially opens for volleyball fans the first week of August, the Longhorn faithful will be welcomed by a new look.

Thanks to the efforts of the Dobie sports medicine department, headed by Jesse Lopez and Ruth Grasty, a new mural went up on a main wall the first week of April.

"Hopefully it will stand the test of time and remain here for a very long time," Lopez said.

"I didn't realize how outdated this wall was until we had the finished product on there.

"I want to have this mean everything to our school. Anyone that walks into our gym, I want them to know exactly where they are, and that they know

they are in some trouble. Our athletes should defend this image and understand that it's a privilege to represent the Dobie name. Dobie Pride!"

In previous years, Lopez and the sports medicine department have used activity fund monies to have murals placed in various locations within the athletic field house, the gymnasium and other sur-

rounding areas.

Throughout the school year, Lopez and his staff sell healthy snack options that are administration-approved, such as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, hydrating drinks, nuts, seeds and things of that nature.

This year, as he has done on numerous occasions throughout his eight years at Dobie, Lopez was

able to use some of those funds to enlist the help of a local company that handles the design and hanging of murals.

This particular project was completed in five days.

With Dobie and the other Pasadena ISD high schools welcoming the Humble ISD schools for competition beginning next school year, the time

was right for a fresh, new look within Longhorn Nation.

"It's not about any one person or sport, but instead it's about the entire school and the community," Lopez said.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of all of our student-athletes, and we want them to feel proud of their surroundings."



A week was all it took. In photo at right, there is the look at the main gymnasium wall as of Monday, April 9, before the existing mural underwent a major make-over. In the photo at top is the new look, which was completed Friday, April 13. Dobie athletic trainer Jesse Lopez said he hopes the new look provides a renewed sense of pride as the respective Dobie High School programs aim to defend their home court. It is Lopez's sports medicine department that has been responsible for getting the many murals seen in the athletic field house, around the main gymnasium, etc., at Dobie. The sports medicine department routinely uses some of its monies from its activity fund to have the murals completed.

Photos by Jesse Lopez



Pioneer tracksters pick up pace at regionals, off to state

Continued from Page 1B points for the win, holding off Victoria St. Joseph, which had 158. LSA was third with 92 points.

Now, the top four finishing relay teams and individuals from TAPPS' South Region (LSA) and North Region have automatically qualified for state.

The TAPPS State Championships are set for May 4-5 at Midway ISD's Panther Stadium in Hewitt, Texas.

The field events and the

3,200-meter run will play out May 4, with the running event finals coming May 5.

At regionals, Noa Miller starred individually for the Pioneers. He was the regional champion in the 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes, 01.02 seconds.

Shifting ahead to the 1,600-meter run, Miller made a late push for another gold medal before taking second at 4:43.65.

Carson Noack also won a gold medal for the Pio-

neers, becoming the regional champion in the pole vault. Noack cleared 13-0 for the win.

The Pioneers performed particularly well in the relays at regionals.

The girls' top finish came in the 4x200-meter relay as Mary Catherine Adams, Bethany Andress, Brooke DeHoyos and Laiya Palmer combined for second place and a silver medal in a time of 1:48.58.

Adams, Andress, Laura Demchak and Palmer had earlier teamed in the

4x100-meter relay for a third-place finish at 51.03.

LSA's 4x200-meter boys' relay squad also moved on to state, with Jacob Justice, Curtis Teichman, Daniel Hutchins and Lewis Palmer III producing a time of 1:34.90.

Palmer showed her speed in the 100-meter dash as she scored second place and a silver medal with a clocking of 12.78.

The Pioneers' Ian Schaidler made his way to state in the 400-meter dash as his time of 51.77 placed

him third in the event.

Similarly, the Lady Pioneers' Gabby Scott was third in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 50.21 for a state qualification.

Aside from Noack, LSA is also set to be well-represented in the field events.

At the South Regional, Francesca Scott threw the discus 90 feet, 7 inches for fourth place.

In the high jump, Andress cleared 4-8 for fourth place, and the LSA boys did well in the high

jump as well.

Hutchins made his way over the 6-0 mark for second place, and teammate Peyton Soderstrom also reached state, clearing 6-0 but with more tries.

LSA's Taylor Johnson missed out on a state berth in the discus but she threw the shot put 33-4 for third place and a state berth.

In the boys' shot put, LSA's Aaron Casas came up with a top effort of 45-1 1/2 for third place. He will thus join his teammates at state.

Now at UTRGV

Dobie grad Blakely named to NCAA VB rules committee

UT Rio Grande Valley Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Operations Chelsea Blakely has been appointed to the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee.

Blakely, a class of 2005 Dobie High School graduate, played on the 2004 Lady Longhorns' squad that reached the Region III quarterfinals, the last time a JFD volleyball squad has advanced that far.

"As a former Division I student-athlete, being named to the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Rules Committee is a privilege," Blakely said.

"Volleyball has been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember, and I'm proud to be among a third generation of women who dedicated themselves to advancing the sport.

"Serving in this capacity is an honor and I'm excited to give back to the sport that has provided so much opportunity in my life."

The eight-member committee is responsible for advancing women's volleyball through its work with rule oversight, implementation and development.

Blakely's term begins



Chelsea Blakely

September 1, 2018, and lasts three years. There are four members on the committee from Division I and two apiece from divisions II and III.

"I'm very proud of

Chelsea to be representing UTRGV on an NCAA committee," UTRGV Director of Athletics Chris King said.

"From being a student-athlete to a graduate assistant and now serving as an executive staff member, Chelsea has been an integral part of our department.

"We are proud to have two of our senior female administrators serving on NCAA committees, including (Senior Associate Athletic Director for Student Services/Senior Woman Administrator) Farrah Manthei on the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee."

Blakely has been working with the UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics since September 2009 and has been serving as Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Operations since July 27, 2015.

In her current role, Blakely is responsible

for the development and implementation of an external operations plan designed to increase brand awareness, build brand affinity and maximize revenue through integrated marketing and communication strategies and coordinated efforts that enhance the fan experience.

Blakely helped to lead the department through a successful rebrand with the transition from legacy institutions The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) and The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley during the summer of 2015.

This process involved cohesion and motivation among creative agencies, licensing firms and service providers to oversee a complete rebrand that included new logos, facilities presentation, digital and social media platforms and merchandise, including the updating of graphics and signage in fa-

cilities as well as rebranding the athletic department in the community.

Blakely accomplished this rebrand through oversight of the department's advertising campaigns and marketing and promotional materials to ensure consistent messaging across all media including broadcast, print, outdoor, digital and social media.

For their efforts, Blakely and her team were recognized with honorable mention in the National Associate of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACMA) 2016 Marketing Team of the Year Award competition.

As the sport administrator for volleyball, Blakely served as the Tournament Director for the 2017 WAC Tournament.

She oversees a UTRGV volleyball program that has made back-to-back WAC Tournament championship match appearances, including a victory that led to the program's first NCAA Tournament

appearance in 2016.

Blakely has taken part in numerous continuing education opportunities, including the 2017-2018 DI-AAA ADA Mentoring Program.

She also attended the 2018 ICLA Winter Symposium, the 2017 Collegiate Athletics Leadership Symposium and the 2017 Learfield Licensing Partners Regional Educational Summit.

Blakely played for the UTPA volleyball team from 2005-2008, nearly doubling the program's all-time assists record with 3,905.

She is also second all-time in assists per set (9.21) and service aces (153), while ranking fifth in service aces per set (0.36) and eighth in digs (1.07).

Blakely graduated from UTPA with a bachelor's degree in business administration in marketing in 2009 before earning her MBA in marketing in 2011.

JFD baseball draws Atascocita

Continued from Page 1B son against one loss.

While the Longhorns had already reached the postseason with a big win over La Porte, the locals needed a win over Memorial to ensure the possession of that third seed. Meanwhile, Beaumont West Brook, which won both of its games against the Longhorns in league play, was forced to settle for the No. 4 playoff seed. There, District 21-6A champion Kingwood, a winner of 11 straight games heading into the postseason, awaits. Although Dobie may have to play two games at Atascocita when it all

plays out, the Longhorns seem to be in great shape heading into the series. Garza has been hard to handle in all of his starts this season, and both Damien Lopez and Alan Lopez have formed a solid combination either as starters or relievers. And there are others to whom Dobie head coach Miguel Torres can turn if need be. The key may be Dobie's offense producing runs against top-notch pitching in the playoffs. Coming into the season, first baseman Isaiah Vasquez, third baseman Zach Frias, shortstop Jeffrey Mercado and catcher

Justin Blogg were seen as the presumptive top hitters, but the Longhorns have also gotten big contributions from the likes of Jonathan Moreno, David Amaya, Jonathan Acosta and others. Dobie's 22 wins are the team's best since that 2011 group won a district title. After a series win over Channelview, that team fell to Clements. But this is a different group at a different time. This team is pitching very well and getting clutch hitting when it needs it. Now, it's onto the playoffs, and these Longhorns are looking for an extended stay.



With a best-of-three series coming against Atascocita, Dobie sophomore Alan Lopez is assured of seeing action against the Eagles as the two teams battle for a spot in the area playoffs. The Dobie/Atascocita winner will face either Dawson or Dickinson May 10-12 in that area round. Photo by John Bechtle

Dobie, Clear Brook tracksters finish season at regional meet

From a local standpoint, the high school track and field season has come to a close, and select athletes from Clear Brook and Dobie high schools have quite a bit of which to be proud. The Region III Championships, long considered the most competitive of any of the four in the Class 6A ranks, played out April 27-28 at Turner Stadium in Humble. Kenneth Pree, who is headed to the University of Houston to continue his education and playing career beginning this fall, was involved in the long jump finals. There, he went against

teammate John'te Horace and others from across the region. In the end, Pree's top jump of 22 feet, 7 3/4 inches landed him fifth place overall. Horace, meanwhile, was just a tick behind Pree, soaring 22-4 3/4 for sixth place in the same event. Strake Jesuit junior Matt Boling (23-7) and North Shore's Thomas Davis (23-4 1/4) were Region's III automatic state qualifiers. Dobie sent a pair of standout freshman competitors to the Region III championships, including Amari Singleton and Ambreon Jones.

Singleton, who also qualified for the Region III cross-country meet last fall, took part in both the 400-meter and 800-meter events at the regional track and field meet. In the 400-meter run, Singleton wound up 14th overall in the event, finishing in a time of 58.91 seconds. As for the 800-meter run, Singleton was also 14th overall, completing the event at 2 minutes, 24.96 seconds. Jones was part of an elite field in the 300-meter hurdles. Her time of 48.95 placed her 16th. The state meet is May 10-12 in Austin.

Dobie student/faculty doubles tennis once again called a smashing success

Editor's Note: The annual Faculty/Staff/Student doubles tennis tournament at Dobie played out May 1, and by all accounts it was the biggest and most fun-filled of them all. The following is the context of an email Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno sent out following the completion of the event. Faculty and Staff: Four new division champions were crowned May 1 at the end of the best tournament event to be hosted to date. Thirty-four doubles teams in all competed, and everyone on hand had a good time - on and off the courts alike. Thanks to those who participated and for those who

made their way out to support their favorite players. Some of the highlights included the surprise performance of coach (Hailee) Edwards in the Beginner Intermediate White Division, where she and partner Luis Neira won three times before losing to coach (Hector) Saldivar/Kristy Morales in the final. Also, coach (Yvette) Giron's run of multi-consecutive championships - five or so - finally came to an end in the Advanced Burnt Orange/White Division, which was won by the Dobie9 entry of principal Michael Van Essen and up-and-coming freshman standout Julia Bui. By the way, family bragging rights for the next 364 days go to Stephen Cross.

He and Bao Nguyen beat twin brother, Kevin Cross, and Jessica Vu in the Advanced Intermediate Burnt Orange Division quarterfinals by a score too harsh to print. The tournament, now in its 19th year, is held in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week, giving the Dobie High School players and I, as well, a chance to say "thank you" for all that (they) do throughout the school year. A special "thanks" goes out to principal, Mr. Franklin Moses, for supporting the tournament and to Racquet Pro for donating the tennis balls and racquet grips. The winners (faculty/staff listed first) are as follows:

Steve Jamail Dobie Pride Division

- Champions** - Casteel/Jordan Tran
- Runners-up** - Badon/Alex Cuaping
- Third-place** - Tetuyev/Edwin Ayala
- Consolation champions** - KristenTolley/Jesse Mendoza

Beginner Intermediate White Division

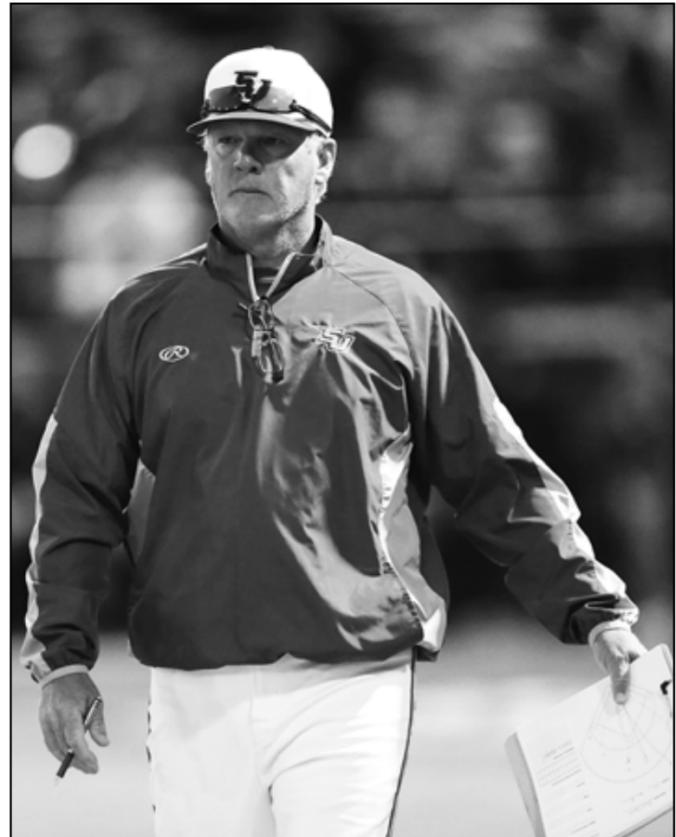
- Champions** - Hector Saldivar/Kristy Morales
- Runners-up** - Edwards/Luis Neira
- Third-place** - Richardson/Austin Luu
- Fourth-place** - Esparza/Kacy Huerta
- Consolation champions** - Long/Camille Smith

Advanced Burnt Orange Division

- Champions** - Beckham/Gisell Morales
- Runners-up** - Steven Cross/Bao Nguyen
- Third-place** - Roensch/Erica Hay
- Fourth-place** - LaBua/Tina Ha
- Consolation champions** - L. Lewis/Tommy Nguyen

Advanced Burnt Orange/White Division

- Champions** - Mike Van Essen/Julia Bui
- Runners-up** - Ronnie Thomas/Emily Nguyen
- Third- and fourth-place** - Yvette Giron/Sebastian Delgado vs. B. Nguyen/Taylor Tran
- Consolation champions** - Steven Mullins/Mylan Phan



San Jacinto College baseball head coach Tom Arrington will be inducted into the National Junior Athletic Association's Hall of Fame next month during the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., and he certainly hopes his team is with him while chasing a championship. Photo by Christopher Tomlinson/Grand Junction Sentinel

Top-ranked San Jac baseball set to close out regular season

Another week, and another round of solid if not standout results for the National Junior College Athletic Association's top-ranked Division I baseball team. The Blinn Bucos ended San Jacinto College's winning streak at 15, and the two teams wound up splitting a four-game set. But that has done little to slow down SJC, now, owners of a 40-11 record, including 25-6 in Region XIV play. Jacob Matheny had a two-run double, and Herbert Iser drove in a pair of runs as SJC extended its winning streak to 15 with a 4-2 win at home April 26. Blinn freshman and Clear Brook High School

graduate Reggie McCallister drove in a run for the Bucos. Otherwise, Gator ace Jacob Cantleberry was solid, going four innings for the win. Reid Morgan earned the save, allowing just two hits over the final three frames. McCallister had two hits and drove in two runs as Blinn handed San Jac a 4-2 loss April 27. Iser and Peter Zimmerman jacked solo homers for San Jacinto, but the offense was quiet the rest of the way as SJC's 15-game winning streak ended. Nick Neville had a two-run single, and Alerick Soularie and Zimmerman doubled, but Blinn came away with a 5-4 victory April 27.

Blinn's Kyle Gray improved to 7-1 this season, fanning nine along the way. Scoring three times in the seventh inning, San Jacinto closed out the four-game series with a 6-3 victory over Blinn. Matt Goodheat and Matheny drove in two runs apiece, and Devon Roedahl struck out six over seven innings of work, improving to 7-2 this season. San Jacinto, the top-seeded team in the Region XIV South division, has one remaining conference series against Alvin May 3. The Region XIV postseason tournament is set for May 12-16. The JUCO World Series comes in late May.

SJC softball program begins national tourney repeat quest at regional

By Amanda Fenwick SJC Marketing
The San Jacinto College softball team will open the 2018 Softball National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIV Tournament Friday, May 4, at 12:30 p.m., against Bossier Parish Community College. San Jac (23-29) is the No. 3 seed from the South heading into the tournament. Bossier Parish is the No. 2 seed from the East. The tournament is hosted by Lone Star College-Port Arthur. Sophomore Taylor McHenry (Deer Park High School) leads the team with a .428 batting average. McHenry has seen action in all 52 regular season games, with 187

plate appearances. She has a team-best 80 hits, including 11 doubles, five triples, one home run and 23 RBIs. McHenry also leads the team in stolen bases with 22. As a freshman in 2017, McHenry was a first-team all-Region XIV selection and first-team all-South Region XIV pick. Fellow sophomore Riley Bullen (Clear Creek High School) has also appeared in all 52 games for San Jac this season. The 2017 second-team all-Region XIV honoree is hitting .424 behind 170 at-bats, 72 hits, a team-best 21 doubles, three triples and four home runs. Her 21 doubles this season is 17th best in the country. In the circle, San Jac is led by freshman Michelle Kristoff.

The Dobie High School graduate owns a 2.08 ERA in 144.2 innings pitched. She has started in half of San Jac's games this season and has a 10-13 record and one save. Freshman Denisse Gracia (Goose Creek Memorial High School) has a 3.00 ERA in 63 innings pitched. The 2018 NJCAA Region XIV Tournament runs Friday, May 4 through Monday, May 7 in Port Arthur, on the campus of Lamar State College Port Arthur. Complete tournament information, including live game coverage, can be found on the Lamar State College Port Arthur website. For more information about San Jacinto College athletics, visit sanjac-sports.com.

Region XIV Softball Postseason Tournament

Friday, May 4 Openers

10 a.m. - Trinity Valley vs. Blinn

12:30 p.m. - Bossier Parish vs. San Jacinto

3 p.m. - Tyler vs. Coastal Bend

5:30 p.m. - Angelina vs. Galveston

***Double Elimination format**

*** Finalists advance to World Series, May 16-19, St. George, Utah**

***Regional runs May 4 through May 7**

All games to be played at LSC-Port Arthur

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 3
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
The Bay Area Writers' League - Meets the first and third Thursdays monthly to improve writing skills. Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7:30 p.m. Newcomers welcome.
FRIDAY, MAY 4
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for more information, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark,

77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, MAY 5
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.

7 - 10 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - is the venue for the "Hooray for Hollywood" ballroom dance Saturday, May 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. at 1001 E. League City Pkwy, sponsored by Let's Dance coordinated by Neva & Bill Schroder. The community is invited to hear music from popular movies over the decades. No reservation or membership is required and the door fee is \$8. Tables are reserved for dancers without partners who choose to sit with others. Every dancer is welcome regardless of skill level, age or status, including teens, seniors, students, couples and singles. The dress code is always "as you like." The dance floor is 3,630 sq. ft. floating hardwood and is easy on the feet. There is plenty of lighting, well-drained parking with paved sidewalks and a covered drop-off at the front door. For more information, call 417-838-2204.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SUNDAY, MAY 6
1 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.
7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, MAY 7
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 back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.
11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
2 p.m.
Genealogy Group - Parker Williams Genealogy Group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. on first and third Monday at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Public is invited. For more information, email Liz Hicks at eroot.rot@usa.net.

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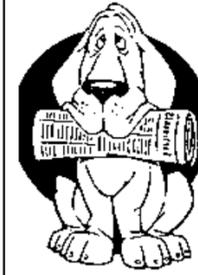


The Southeast VFD needs you!

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: www.southeastvfd.com to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, MAY 7

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

6 p.m.
New Directions Singles - Age 50 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

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

6:30 p.m.
Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit www.oahouston.org.

7 p.m.
Survivors of Suicide Support Group - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For details email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisishotline.org.

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

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

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

TUESDAY, MAY 8

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

9:30 a.m.
CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$35.

9:30 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.

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

10:30 a.m.
Tri-County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Exact cash or a check requested. For reservations, call Susan Hooper at 832-723-7671.

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

Noon
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For details, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has dance lessons Tuesdays following the senior luncheon taught by 35-year dance area instructors Lewis and Betty Whistler at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. For questions regarding lessons, call 832-517-5833. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents. For questions about the activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180.

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

2 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

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

9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Senior Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Jan Okumura at 832-298-9480 for details.

10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for details.

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

1 - 3:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. This is a casual, practice dance (not formal lessons) and is open to all ages. Everyone may dress comfortably and enjoy dancing in a safe, friendly environment on a beautiful floating hardwood floor. Name tags are provided to assist in getting acquainted. Having a partner is helpful but dancers without partners are welcome. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204.

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

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

Bay Area New Democrats - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit www.bayareanewdemocrats.org.

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, MAY 10

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

9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971.

10 a.m.
Fun Bunch - for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call Ronn Canon at 281-610-8999 or the chamber at 281-481-5516.

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

11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

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

6:30 p.m.
Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets monthly on the second Thursday (except December, June and July) at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. For details, call Gary at 281-993-8335.

7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy. (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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

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

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Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley has her team in the area playoff round for the first time since the 2012 season. The Clear Falls/Dobie winner will face either George Ranch or Kingwood in the regional quarterfinals May 10-12.



Junior Alana Ortega has been a force during Dobie's 12-3 run since the District 22-6A campaign began and ended. In a five-inning shutout of North Shore April 27 at San Jacinto College South, Ortega continued her fine work in the circle. She allowed just two hits and struck out nine in the win. Photos by John Bechtle

Area round clash is May 4

Dobie softball to test Clear Falls

Continued from Page 1B and scored three runs. Longoria scored two runs and drove in two runs. Ortega had a hit and got the win in the circle with a two-hit shutout, striking out nine. For the purposes of getting the superlatives out of the way, Dobie's 22 wins is its most this decade. The team has reached the area playoff round for the first time since 2011. As far as Dobie head coach Robin Rackley, once a state-championship winning teammate at the school, is concerned, the chance for a great playoff run is always there. Dobie lost two tough games to Baytown Sterling in the bidistrict round in 2016 after leading the series 1-0. A season ago, two tough-luck losses to Memorial late in the season forced Dobie into a one-game playoff against then defending Region III champion Atascocita. The outcome did not go Dobie's way. Despite the first-round setbacks, Rackley has always believed she and her staff oversee one of the area's top programs. Perhaps the win over North Shore is just the start. "I always think we have a good chance to go far in the playoffs," Rackley said. "I'm a Dobie graduate. This program means a lot to all of us. We go into every season believing we can put a run together." That run this season began right around the end of three weeks of tournament play to open the season, says Rackley. Up to that point, proven veterans Whaley (Texas Tech signee), Pleasants (Louisiana State University commit) and even Cam-

ryn Wincher (University of Texas commit) were coming through consistently at the plate. But with other younger and less proven players still looking to find their way offensively, opposing teams often could pitch to Dobie's big three a bit more carefully. At the same time, Ortega and Miquela Guajardo opened the season as the two likeliest options to take over for three-year starter Michelle Kristoff in the circle. It also took time for Ortega and Guajardo to get comfortable. Since the start of district play, Dobie has won 12 of 15 games. In two of those losses, Dobie had eventual 22-6A champion Deer Park on the ropes before the Deer prevailed. How? Whaley and Pleasants, for different reasons, are two of the most dangerous hitters around. Whaley sets the table with speed at the top of the lineup and seemingly is always on base. Pleasants, then, is the power bat. Swinging from the left side, she's simply tough to deal with from the circle. Garcia returned from injury and has played well lately in her final season. Longoria, just a freshman, has stepped up in a huge way for the team for much of the season. So has Maritza Elizalde and Colunga, as well as Mykayla Gutierrez, among others. Ortega has handled the bulk of pitching lately, but Guajardo has also settled in during her opportunities. In short, it has come together nicely for the Lady Longhorns. "We had a talk early on about the fact what we needed more than two or three players to contrib-

ute consistently," Rackley said. "Because we have had that for most of the season now, other teams have to pitch to Whaley, Wincher and Pleasants, because we have other runners on base. It's been hard to stop lately for teams, and I hope it continues." Clear Falls, part of a top-heavy 24-6A alignment, finished fourth but yet went 9-5 in league play. The Lady Knights took down Dawson, the No. 1 seed from 23-6A. Clear Falls and Dobie have never met in the post-season. It'll be a winner-take-all scenario May 4, but Rackley welcomes it. "I just feel like offensively we can really put pressure on pitchers and defenses," she said. "If you play best-of-three, then maybe a team has a chance to make some adjustments. In a one-game playoff, you don't have that chance. I like our offensive abilities." Rackley, however, also admits that Clear Falls can bring its own brand of offensive prowess 1 through 9 in the batting order. It's all about executing. "I'd like to see us get out of the gate offensively like we did against North Shore," Rackley said. "We seem to play better when we are out in front in all phases. I know maybe a lot of teams do, but if we can get a jump on Falls and keep the pressure on, we should be fine." For those wondering when Dobie last played in the regional quarterfinals, those details can be discussed when it happens. It's a detail Rackley knows well, but she and the Lady Longhorns are focused on getting this one first.

JFD girls' golf wraps up season at Region III tourney

The Dobie varsity girls' golf team rounded out the finest season in program history, complete with the Lady Longhorns' first-ever regional tournament qualification. After finishing second at the District 22-6A Championships to Deer Park's A team, Dobie played in the Region III Championships April 24-25 at Eagle Pointe Golf Club in Mont Belvieu. After a tense and possibly nervous first day, the Lady Longhorns bounced back in second-round play to finish strong. At right, left to right, Dobie golfers Alena Hay, Celestine DeLuna, Savannah Garza, Cecelia Torres and Alexis Perez appear at regionals. Seven Lakes (630) won the Region III title by a shot over Kingwood. Individually, Clements sophomore Anne Chen won the crown with a two-day total of 137, a Region III tournament course record of (-7) over the two days. Submitted photo



- 64th – Cecelia Torres: 102-96 198
- 85th – Celestina DeLuna 123-116 239
- 81st – Alexis Perez: 118-103 221
- 86st – Alena Hay: 121-119 240
- 84th – Savannah Garza: 127-108 235
- Dobie 16th as a team 464-423 887

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