

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Student garage/bake sale

The Student Ministry of Sagemont Church is hosting a huge garage and bake sale on Saturday, March 16, from 7 a.m. to noon. The sale will be in the parking lot near Hughes Road on the church's main campus at 11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy. E.

All proceeds from this sale will benefit the construction of a new building for Sagemont's students, junior high through college, following the loss of buildings due to Hurricane Harvey. A wide assortment of items will be available for purchase, and the church welcomes the community to come and support this effort for the teenagers.

Amanda Glen gate closing set

The entrance security gate for the Amanda Glen subdivision will be closed 24/7 beginning March 17. All those entering the subdivision will need to have security access.

Beverly Hills Civic meets

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will meet Thursday, March 28, at Beverly Hills Park Recreation Building from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Knights hold fish fry

In honor of Lent, the Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a fish fry on Fridays through April 5 in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road, from 5 to 7 p.m. Each dinner includes a breaded USA catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea or lemonade. The cost is \$10, eat-in or take-out. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities. All proceeds benefit local and community projects. All are invited and welcome.

Fun Run at Life Church set

Texas Oral and Facial Surgery is holding the sixth annual Ima's Home for Children 5K Run/Walk & Kids 1K March 23 at 8 a.m. at Life Church, 9901 Windmill Lakes. Ima's Home for Children, in Manila, Philippines, became the vision of Jim Kilgore, lead pastor, after riding through Manila and seeing a portion of the 400,000 street children hungry and homeless. His passion led to the creation of this facility named for his mother, Imogene Kilgore. It is in its sixth year of operation and houses more than 87 children who are clothed, educated and cared for medically. To learn about Ima's Home, visit www.imashomeforchildren.com.

To register for the 5K run, visit imas5k.it.sourrace.com. Registration is \$35. The Kids 1K is \$25 and will follow the 5K in the Life Church parking lot. If unable to participate, one may make a donation, at www.life.cc. Ima's Home for Children is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and is 100 percent funded by private donations.

Spring break scheduled

Pasadena Independent School District students will be off Monday, March 11, through Friday, March 15, to celebrate spring break. Classes will resume Monday, March 18. Clear Creek Independent School District students will also be off Monday, March 11, through Friday, March 15. CCISD classes will resume Monday, March 18.

Clocks spring forward

Once again, it's time for South Belters to spring forward, as daylight saving time officially begins Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m. Residents are reminded to turn their clocks forward one hour to gain an extra hour of daylight at the end of each day. Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3.

E-recycling planned

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, March 9, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cell phones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. The event takes place monthly on the second Saturday. For information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

Heavy trash pickup set

City of Houston residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, March 8 (second Friday of the month). City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, March 14 (second Thursday of the month). March is for tree waste only. For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

Freeway closures planned

The eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Beamer will be closed through 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 20. At least one outside lane of the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Blackhawk to Beamer will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 15. At least one northbound lane of the Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston Road daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through **Continued on Page 4A**

Lawsuit filed in controversial flood property

By James Bolen

The Harris County Flood Control District's potential purchase of a controversial piece of property on Dixie Farm Road at Blackhawk has been placed on hold following a dispute between

the land's owner and a developer that had inked a contract to utilize the land.

Plans initially called for constructing a 60,000-square-foot shopping center at the southeast corner of the area intersection. The project

was to occupy six of 50 acres at the site, with the possibility of later expansion.

The development came to a halt this past summer, however, when it was determined that elements of the project were approved going by outdated flood maps.

Following Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Friendswood City Council voted to revert to 1999 flood-plain maps, rather than the later 2007 models.

Some opponents of the vote suspect the decision was to aid the proposed Parkwood Plaza development in moving forward.

If the proposal had been guided by the later 2007 maps, the site would be located in a floodway, which would have posed several obstacles to the development.

Going by the 1999 maps, however, the development would not be placed in such a floodway, easing construction requirements.

Sources close to the city's decision contend the vote was aimed at helping Friendswood residents recover from the historic storm, which left none in the area unaffected. Had the city opted to use the 2007 maps, many Friendswood residents would have been forced by federal guidelines to elevate their homes — something many couldn't afford at roughly \$150,000-\$200,000.

"It was a compassionate measure," said for-

mer Friendswood City Council Member Janis Lowe. "The city needed to rebalance and get back in routine, and get houses back on the tax rolls. It was a balancing act. They (City Council members) were trying to put the city back together, to try and return to a sense of normalcy."

Regardless of the city's intentions, Friendswood residents became vocal in their opposition this past June after learning about the proposed development, which they see as a flood hazard to the already impacted city.

"The intent wasn't to dump a bunch of dirt," said Don Johnson, husband of Galveston County Tax Assessor and Tax Collector Cheryl Johnson, who has been a strong opponent of the development.

The dirt in question had been trucked there from a nearby site, where Harris County Flood Control District crews are constructing a massive detention pond. The fill dirt was to be used toward construction of the shopping center, per an agreement the county made with the property owner.

The dirt dumpings ceased, however, when county officials realized that the agreement to do so was based on the 1999 maps.

In addition to the possible added flood risks, **Continued on Page 6A**

Exxon to remove soil



An ExxonMobil contractor is shown above as he prepares to operate an excavator at Dobie High School. The permanent remediation work began this week.

Dobie-Exxon remediation ramps up

As part of its ongoing remediation efforts at Dobie High School, ExxonMobil will be removing impacted soil from the field in front of the campus and replacing it with clean soil.

These measures are being taken to remove residual hydrocarbons in the ground from the incident first reported in early January.

Previous cleanup efforts at the school were part of an emergency response, while these will focus more on long-term safety.

The remediation will begin over spring break, as to limit student interference. Some elements of the cleanup will take place over the summer break to also limit any inconvenience to students.

The majority of remediation activities are expected to be complete before classes resume in the fall. ExxonMobil continues to provide regular updates to Pasadena ISD, members of the community and appropriate agencies. It has incorporated their feedback, requests and sugges-

tions into its plans.

The work will be divided into two phases.

Phase 1

The first phase of excavation will involve removing impacted soil located north of the pipeline right of way.

Air and soil monitoring stations will be in place on all sides of the excavation area.

While a vapor control plan will be in place during excavation, some neighbors in the area may occasionally smell an odor similar to gasoline.

A temporary road will be constructed in the field in front of Dobie and will allow construction traffic to bypass the majority of school traffic. ExxonMobil officials expect a flow of approximately one dump truck every 30 minutes through the excavation site during daytime hours.

The worksite will be fenced in, and students will not be permitted near the excavation area. For the safety of pedestrians, the sidewalks adjacent to the excavation site will be closed.

ExxonMobil officials will work with the school to develop an alternate walkway for students that walk to the campus.

Work on Phase 1 is expected to begin during spring break and continue into the summer.

Phase 2

Once summer break has begun, the impacted soil south of the Phase 1 excavation site will be removed and replaced. This will require closing the southeast access road and removing some sections of the nearby road surface.

Once remediation is complete, the road surface will be replaced, and the excavation site will be restored to its original condition.

Any South Belt area residents with questions are encouraged to call ExxonMobil's Community Hotline at 855-300-2660 for additional information.

Sandlin plans Spring Break DWI Initiative

Harris County Constable Phil Sandlin has put together plans for a Spring Break DWI Initiative. This initiative is a collaborative effort by Precinct 8 and 16 other area law enforcement agency partners aimed to seek out and arrest intoxicated drivers across eastern and southern Harris County.

This will be a consolidated effort by 17 law enforcement agencies in eastern and southern Harris County to seek out and arrest intoxicated drivers during the upcoming Spring Break holiday which begins March 9. Precinct 8, along with each agency taking part, is committed to decreasing the number of drunk driving fatalities in Harris County. For way too long, the county has con- **Continued on Page 6A**

DWI suspect charged in area fatality

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in a fatal crash that took place at 14800 Old Galveston Road/State Highway 3 about 1:05 a.m. on Friday, March 1. (See related Bombshells story on this page.)

The suspect, Erik Julian De Leon, 21, is charged with intoxication manslaughter and intoxication assault in the 174th State District Court.

Billy Satterfield, 40, was killed in the crash. According to Houston police, the suspect was driving a silver Dodge Ram pickup truck north at the above address and struck a silver Mazda B2300 pickup truck stopped at the red light.

The suspect's truck then struck a silver Dodge Caliber, whose driver had a green light and was

turning left on to Old Galveston Road.

Satterfield, a backseat passenger in the Caliber, was pronounced dead at the scene. The Caliber's driver, operating his rideshare vehicle, was transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center in critical condition.

The suspect was transported to the same hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Investigators determined the suspect was intoxicated and he was subsequently charged. In addition, Jesse Mercado, 32, the driver of the Mazda, was also determined to be intoxicated. He was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated in Harris County Criminal Court No. 8.

Suspect arrested in apartment murder

A suspect charged and wanted in the fatal shooting of a man at an apartment complex at 10280 Windmill Lakes about 1:50 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11 is now in custody.

The suspect, Antoine Armstrong, 43, is charged with murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and felon in possession of a weapon in the 337th State District Court.

The victim, Samuel Phillips III, 26, was transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased later that day. According to Houston police, patrol officers

responded to a shooting call at the above address.

Upon arrival, a witness identified Armstrong as the shooter. He was last seen driving a black Dodge Durango.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Armstrong was arrested without incident by members of the Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force.



Antoine Armstrong

Morales defeats Noriega for House 145

Christina Morales easily defeated Melissa Noriega in the March 5 special runoff election to select the state representative for House District 145.

In the contest which was to fill the seat being vacated by Rep. Carol Alvarado, Morales received 60.76 percent of the vote (1,824 total votes) to Noriega's 39.24 percent (1,178 total votes).

The race marked the latest in a string of elections triggered by former U.S. Rep. Gene Green's retirement from Congress last year. Former state Sen. Sylvia Garcia won the race

for Green's seat, leaving her state Senate seat vacant.

Alvarado then claimed Garcia's former position in December, prompting a special election for her seat in the state House.

Morales is the president of a Houston area East End funeral home. **Christina Morales**



Beverly Hills incident revealed as a hoax

The Pasadena Independent School District Police Department is investigating how a rumor spread on social media that claimed a Beverly Hills Intermediate student had brought weapons to campus and planned to shoot up the school.

Beverly Hills Principal Stacey Barber told the *Leader* the rumors were 100 percent false and that the student in question is a model pupil with no disciplinary problems.

Rumors suggested the boy had brought a gun and a machete to class on Friday, then planned to return on Monday to launch an attack.

While this incident was a hoax, district officials said they are appreciative that students embraced PISD's "if you see something, say something" philosophy, as multiple children and their parents reported the possible incident.

The following call from Barber went out to Beverly Hills parents, notifying them of the event:

"We received an anonymous tip regarding an eighth grader who was rumored to have brought a weapon to school. Along with the

Pasadena ISD police, we reacted quickly to secure the student in question. After a thorough investigation, we found no credible evidence to this rumor.

"We are aware of a misunderstanding between **Continued on Page 4A**

Ellington incident

A NASA jet airplane failed to take off from Ellington Airport on Tuesday, March 5, after experiencing a malfunction with its landing gear.

While some media outlets initially reported the incident as a plane crash, the vehicle had not yet left the ground and was not categorized as such by airport officials.

Two crew members were on board the plane at the time of the mishap, but no injuries were reported.

The faulty aircraft was a WB-57, a high-altitude research plane — one of three kept by NASA at the local facility.

Following the accident, the plane was towed back to a hangar, where it could be studied. **Continued on Page 4A**

Investigation launched into Bombshells

The Harris County District Attorney's Office has launched an investigation into Bombshells Restaurant & Bar, located on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua, following allegations that the business may have oversold alcohol to a driver accused of causing a fatal accident on Highway 3 near Pinedoch Friday, March 1. (See related story on this page.)

The driver, Erik Julian De Leon, 21, was charged with intoxication manslaughter and intoxication assault.

At press time, it was uncertain if De Leon had in fact visited the Bombshells at the aforementioned location or not, as he reportedly told

investigators he had left Bombshells on NASA Parkway. While there used to be a second Bombshells located on NASA Parkway, it has since been rebranded by the owner as Studio 80.

The District Attorney's Office has issued subpoenas for surveillance footage and sales records from both businesses to determine if De Leon had been a customer that night.

A second driver involved in the accident, Jesse Mercado, 32, was also determined to be intoxicated and charged with driving while intoxicated. **Continued on Page 4A**

Former South Belt area commissioner Tom Bass dies

Former Precinct 1 Harris County Commissioner Tom Bass has died. He was 92. Bass, who has a nearby park on Beltway 8 named in his honor, served in the position from 1972 through 1984.

Bass was instrumental in designing Precinct 1 to become a predominantly black district, and in 1984, El Franco Lee defeated a crowd of four challengers — including current Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner — to become the first black commissioner in Harris County.

A longtime military man, Bass served in both the U.S. Army and Army Reserves prior to serving as commissioner.

Bass was a state legislator for 10 years, serving in the Texas House of Representatives. After stepping down as Precinct 1 commissioner, Bass assumed a role as adjunct

professor at the University of St. Thomas, where he served as chairman of the Political Science Department.

Current Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis said Bass served as an inspiration to many younger black politicians.

"His public service as a state legislator and then commissioner blazed a path for younger politicians to follow — including in the areas of civil rights and voting rights for disenfranchised people," Ellis said.

"His work in redistricting commissioners' precincts led to the first minority — El Franco Lee — elected to Commissioners Court. Bass also was a leader in setting aside land for flood control purposes."

Bass is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Mary Ann, and their children. See related obituary on Page 2A.

In My Opinion

Grant's response to Williams' concerns

Two weeks of rainy weather have cancelled local baseball tournaments. An opportunity to go out of town to play good teams in the pre-season is the right thing to do to prepare for district competition.

Going to Laredo not only prepared the players for the season, but also was an educational experience for the players. It allowed them to see another part of Texas — its landscape and culture. Not everything is learned in a classroom.

Playing time is guaranteed in little league — it is not in high school or college. Playing time is earned; however, having a bench role contributes to the success of the team as a whole. Believe it or not, be-

ing on the bench is just as important as being on the field. If the player is wearing a uniform, he or she must be mentally engaged in the game and ready to play. The mental game is a huge factor in baseball. The ability to sit on the bench to support and learn to participate in the team in other ways makes it stronger. It helps the team function at its best.

The booster club's role is to provide additional funding to all of its players. By having all players participate, in one role or another, Coach Torres chose to be inclusive and not selective.

Quality baseball coaches know how to cultivate the right climate to make a successful team. Miguel Torres is a quality baseball coach. He knows what he is doing.

Kathy L. Grant
A Recovering Wife of a Baseball Coach

Elected officials share their words

Turner writes open letter to Houston on Prop B

The following is an open letter written by Mayor Sylvester Turner to Houston residents about Prop B:

Dear fellow Houstonians, Everyone loves firefighters, and wants them to be paid commensurate to what other firefighters are making around the state. Prop B goes further, and links firefighters pay to Houston police officers even though the organizational structures and promotional requirements are vastly different. Prior to and after passage of Prop B, the city's finance department and controller's office said costs would exceed \$100 million a year.

Because no funding source was included in Prop B and the City is required to balance its books by June 30th of each year, the implementation of the voter approved measure places the City in a dilemma; increase the firefighters' pay by 29 percent which will invariably cause a reduction in personnel and services, seek a determination from the court on whether Prop B conflicts with state law which could only be done after voters approved it, and/or negotiate with the union to phase in the costs of Prop B over multiple years.

As mayor, I have made sure the city is pursuing all three paths. We have forwarded to the Union a proposal that would phase in the costs of Prop B over five years which would substantially eliminate the need to take action, and this entire matter would be behind us.

At the same time, the City, in the lawsuit filed by the Houston Police Officers Union (HPOU) in Nov. 2018, asked the court to rule on the legality of Prop B. If the court rules as a matter of law, Prop B was preempted by state law, the HPOU lawsuit is terminated subject to appeal and Prop B is no longer before us.

However, until the court rules, the City is obligated to move forward in implementing Prop B with the effective date being Jan. 1, 2019.

Since there have been some misstatements and confusion on the legal action the City has or has not taken surrounding Prop B, let me take a moment to lay out what we have done.

The HPD Officers' Association sued the City of Houston and Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341 on Nov. 30, 2018. In the 2018 HPOU litigation, the court is asked to determine whether Prop B can stand, since it conflicts with state law. The City answered and appeared in the case as required and, later, also made an affirmative claim within the HPOU suit, seeking a declaration that Prop B conflicts with state law.

No new, separate lawsuit was filed by the City. No new parties were added in the 2018 HPOU lawsuit by the City. No money damages are sought by the City.

The Houston Professional Fire Fighters' Association, Local 341, the firefight-

ers' union, sued the City of Houston in 2017 seeking a pay raise for fiscal year 2018 after the union, not the City, walked away from the collective bargaining table. The union ignored the City's requests that it return to the table. The union sued the City and asked a state court judge to set (not negotiate) all employment terms.

The City is not mounting a broadside attack, constitutionally or otherwise, on the Fire and Police Employee Relations Act (FPERA). In fact, the City wants the firefighters' union to return to the bargaining table so that a Judge is not asked to set pay without reference to any standards.

In my 30 years of public service, I have supported collective bargaining. I fought for collective bargaining for firefighters in the Texas Legislature in 2005. To this day, I am committed to collective bargaining.

Lastly, if an agreement cannot be reached with the union to phase in the costs of Prop B over multiple years and if the court does not timely rule on the legality of Prop B, the City is already defining parity between police and fire, re-programming its systems and preparing for a reduction in force as needed to balance the budget.

On Jan. 15, 2019, the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341 and Intervenor-Plaintiffs Patrick "Marty" Lancton, Gabriel Angel Dominguez, Roy Anthony Cormier, Brian Ray Wilcox and Delance Shaw filed brand new claims in the 2018 HPOU litigation against new parties: Mayor Sylvester Turner, Finance Director Tantri Emo, Controller Chris Brown, and all elected city council members. The firefighters and their union seek the immediate implementation of Prop B.

None of the elected officials needed to be sued. Director Emo, who is not an elected official and does not "sit" at or on City Council, did not need to be sued. Although the process for radically restructuring the City's Human Resource System and payroll methodology to accurately issue salary checks is difficult, it is well underway and will be done. Moreover, the City plans to make payments under Prop B effective as of Jan. 1, 2019.

The fact is that the City did not start any of the pending litigation involving the firefighters. Firefighters sued the city to destroy the City's historic pension reform; not just the part relating to firefighters, but all the reforms for all municipal employees.

That litigation could add hundreds of millions of dollars to the City's costs, scuttle some or all the employee pension systems and financially ruin the City. Fire fighters sued the City in 2017 prior to Prop B, asking a court for a pay raise for the fiscal year 2018.

They have not dropped that lawsuit. They caused Prop B to be enacted. Now, again, in the 2018 HPOU litigation, they have sought the immediate implementation of Prop B as a way to ex-

pedite the receipt of money from the taxpayers.

Prop B requires that the City substantially increase firefighter compensation. It was misrepresented to the public as bringing about pay "parity." In fact, Prop B requires that firefighters benefit if police officers get benefits or raises, even though their working conditions are completely different, but police officers do not benefit from firefighter benefits or raises.

Citizen-driven charter amendments like Prop B are not always carefully drafted, much less fully vetted documents when they arrive at City Hall. When they are not, there is next to nothing a city can do to correct even the most glaring constitutional and legal errors in a citizen-driven charter amendment. A city's only meaningful opportunity to save itself from unconstitutional additions to the City Charter, or obvious efforts like Prop B, comes after the proposed charter amendment passes. After an election, such determinations should be made by our courts.

The City contends that Section 24 to Article IX of the City Charter, approved by voters on Nov. 6, 2018, as Proposition B ("Prop B"), is preempted by State law because:

1. Chapter 174, the State of Texas' collective bargaining law, contains an express preemption clause that states, "(t)his chapter preempts all contrary local ordinances, executive orders, legislation, or rules adopted by the state or by a political subdivision or agent of the state, including a personnel board, civil service commission, or home-rule municipality" and Prop B is contrary to the provisions of Chapter 174;

2. If not expressly preempted, Prop B is impliedly preempted because it frustrates both the express policies of the State of Texas stated in LGC Section 174.002, and numerous other provisions of LGC Chapter 174 regarding compensation, bargaining, and conditions of employment;

3. Prop B is void under art.XI, § 5 of the Texas Constitution because it is inconsistent with the general laws of the State of Texas.

In this case, the City has asked a court of law to have the final say. That is how our system of law should work.

Let me end where I started. We love and respect our firefighters and want them to be appropriately compensated. Having said that, I don't believe the voters intended to place our City in financial turmoil, cause our credit rating to tumble and increase the costs of City debt.

As mayor, I have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the financial stability of this city and that includes presenting a balanced budget. Prop B threatens to erase all the financial gains of pension reform and place us in a financial crisis. As a city, we cannot let that happen.

We must work together to find a path forward no matter how bumpy the course or how hot the rhetoric.

There is just too much at stake.

Death

Tom Bass



Tom Bass, 92, was born Jan. 11, 1927, in Texas and died March 3, 2019.

Tom was a third-generation Houstonian and only child of Mary Lee Scoggins and Thomas Hutcheson Bass, both of Houston. He was predeceased by his son Martin Gerard.

Left to celebrate his life well-lived are Tom's wife Mary Ann (King); daughter Patty; son Paul; daughter Rita and husband Stan Bradberry; daughter Amy Bass-Wilson; daughter Vicki and husband David Moran; son Bob and wife Jackie; son Dan and wife Dani; daughter Laura and husband Don Gibson; and son David. Tom is also survived by twenty-three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tom had an active, varied, and at times very public career. He graduated from St. Thomas High School in 1944, and like many men of his generation, he enlisted in the Army with the intent to serve his country during World War II. Fortunately, the war was over shortly after Tom completed his training, and he was able to further his education at the University of Texas. He graduated in 1950, and married his sweetheart Mary Ann. While Tom worked as a teacher, they started their family. Tom later did graduate study in political science, which led him into teaching in that field at Dominican College and the University of St. Thomas.

His interest in politics eventually led him to run for public office and he became a state representative for Harris County in 1963. As a newly elected member of the legis-

lature, Tom was preparing to don a tuxedo in anticipation of meeting President John Kennedy at an evening reception in the State Capital on Nov. 22, 1963. However, the president was assassinated in Dallas earlier that day before Tom had the opportunity. He abstained from wearing a tuxedo for the next 39 years, finally making an exception for one of his son's weddings.

During the 1971 legislative session Tom was a founding member of the "Dirty Thirty" — House of Representatives members who put aside party loyalty to successfully force out the presiding Speaker of the House, who ruled the chamber and had become entangled in the infamous Sharpstown stock-fraud scandal. Tom was that rare one — a politician who put service before ego and self-interest. He worked tirelessly for the promulgation of civil rights, leaving the State legislature only after ensuring that the state's re-districting was done to give a voice to all voters — particularly the previously disenfranchised black and Latino voters.

After 10 years in the State legislature, Tom was elected in 1973 to the Harris County Commissioners Court. During his tenure as county commissioner, Tom led the county in the acquisition of park lands and green belts. The current Braes Heights hike and bike trail was one result of Tom's efforts during that time. In 1984, in recognition of his flood control efforts while county commissioner, 115 acres of parkland on 288 South was named the Tom Bass Regional Park.

Tom left the Commissioners Court in 1985 and then worked to bring the first 9-1-1 district in Texas to Harris County. In appreciation for all Tom's efforts on behalf of 9-1-1, the newly constructed Greater Harris 9-1-1 critical call center was named the Tom Bass Building in 2008.

In his spare time, Tom was an Army Reserve officer. He retired in 1980 as a Colonel after thirty-six years of active and reserve service. He became a competitive runner during the running boom of the 1970s and embraced marathon running. He won hundreds of age awards and completed 40 marathons, including three Boston Marathons. He competed in the

Senior Olympics at regional, state and national levels into his 80s. Beginning in 1976 he served Corpus Christi Catholic Parish as lector, Eucharistic minister and on the pastoral council.

Despite all of Tom's accomplishments in his public life, he was at heart a reserved man, happy to let others take center stage. He had friends of all ages and a regular poker group, where they played for the high stakes of pennies. Tom was fortunate to be blessed with extended family, including many cousins, as well as in his life-long friends and supportive public-servant staffs. When asked what his favorite pastime was, Tom would say without hesitation, "Being with my family — watching them enjoy each other." He always felt his greatest accomplishment was his family. He and Mary Ann were married for sixty-eight years and he never stopped writing her humorous love poems.

Tom's children remember him for his games of fox-across-the-river, poker, fun-run races and charades. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren remember Tom for his offers of candy no matter what the occasion and his faithful purchases every spring of the Girl Scouts thin mint cookies.

A funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, March 7, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Houston at 10:30 a.m. with a reception following in the parish hall. A viewing with the recitation of the rosary was held March 6 at Earthman Funeral Home on Bissonnet.

Interment will be private at Texas State Cemetery in Austin. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Casa Juan Diego, P.O. Box 70113, Houston TX 77270.

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

Boykins applauds last minute swearing-in of fire cadet Luna

Council Member Dwight Boykins applauds the last minute swearing-in of a fire cadet who faced the prospect of being declared ineligible due to age restrictions under state law.

Tonight, Germaine Luna was seated as a Houston Fire-fighter on the eve of his 36th birthday. Luna had completed nine months of fire cadet training but the graduation ceremony for him and his fellow

cadets had been delayed indefinitely by Mayor Turner. State law requires new cadets to be sworn in by the age of 35.

Boykins, who spoke out during City Council about Luna's unique circumstances, was on hand at the Houston Fire Department Training Academy to witness the event.

"I'm glad we were able to make this happen but our

work is not over," said Boykins. "While the swearing-in of Luna is important, there are 68 other cadets who have completed their training and deserve the same opportunity."

Luna was honorably discharged after serving five years in the Marines. He moved to Houston from his home in Las Vegas to pursue his dream of becoming a firefighter.

Elected officials share their words

District E News

By Council Member Dave Martin

Many of you may have seen my interview last night with FOX 26 reporter Greg Groogan regarding the reprioritization of Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) bond projects. I stand firmly that income should not be used as an equalizing factor for these projects because natural disasters do not strike based on income.

Last summer, HCFCD hosted 23 community meetings on the proposed projects to be included in the bond and there was never a mention of adding income-based criteria to the ranking criteria. It was understood and presented to voters in these community meetings that projects would be completed based on hardest hit areas and the number of residents that would benefit from the projects.

This item is expected to be discussed at the March 12, 2019, Commissioners Court meeting. Commissioners Court meetings are open to the public, and begin at 10 a.m. at 1001 Preston Street, Suite 934, Houston, TX 77002. Commissioners Court meetings are also streamed online here and you can get more meeting information by visiting the Commissioners Court website.

Earlier this week, I traveled to Austin to participate in Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Day and Bay Area Economic Partnership's Space Day at the State Capitol. I joined members from across District E in advocating for legislation related to Sand Mining, Post Disaster Recovery, Taxation, as well as the impact of the aerospace industry in Texas.

Rep. Dan Huberty has been instrumental in authoring House Bills 907, 908, and 909 which seek to establish best management practices for aggregate production operations, increase penalties related to illegal aggregate production operations, and increase oversight associated with aggregate production operations. All three

of Huberty's bills have been referred to the House Committee on Environmental Regulation. We appreciate Rep. Huberty's hard work on these pieces of legislation that, once passed, will have a tremendous impact on the communities in the Lake Houston Area.

Sen. Brandon Creighton has authored Senate Bill 1800, which seeks to amend the Texas Constitution for the purpose of creating a Texas Resilience Infrastructure Fund (TRIF), which would assist in the financing of resiliency projects. The TRIF would be a special fund in the state treasury outside of the general revenue fund for the development of flood prevention and mitigation projects. This bill has been referred to the Texas Senate Committee on Water and Rural Affairs, which Sen. Creighton is the currently the vice chair. Thank you to Sen. Creighton for working hard on this piece of legislation that seeks to better prepare the state of Texas for future natural disasters.

Thank you to Rep. Dennis Paul for authoring House Bill 303 and Sen. Larry Taylor for authoring it's companion bill Senate Bill 1039 which seek to establish a spaceport development corporation in Houston, Texas. Rep. Paul will be presenting this bill to the Texas House International Relations and Economic Development Committee this coming Monday, March 4, at 10 a.m. More information on Monday's committee meeting can be found at <https://capitol.texas.gov/Committees/MeetingsUpcoming.aspx?Chamber=H>.

The Texas Legislature is hard at work on a myriad of issues and we thank these state representatives for their tireless work for the betterment of our area. If you do not already subscribe to your legislators' weekly newsletter, I highly recommend getting added to their distribution list for more timely updates.

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingsport: Thursday, March 7, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. STEM@your library, for tweens ages 9-12. Meet in the library conference room for exploratory activities that make Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fun. Contact the library for more details. Teen Tech Week.

Thursday, March 7, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Spanish computer class for adults and seniors Monday, March 11, 10:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Citizenship class. The classes cover the 100 civics questions and how to prepare for the citizenship interview. Other topics include the citizenship application and qualifications. Class participation is by appointment only.

Tuesday, March 12, 10:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Citizenship class. Class participation is by appointment only.

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30 a.m. Para los niños Wednesday, March 13, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic PowerPoint

For more information, call the library at 832-393-2580. Bracewell hours this week are: Thursday, noon – 8 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1 – 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.: Tax help is available Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until April 15 with volunteers tax assistants. Bring all tax documents and Social Security card. See Page 1A sidebar for more information.

Thursday, March 7, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Résumé help. Create or revise your résumé using Microsoft Word. Registration is requested.

Saturday, March 9, 1:30 p.m. Basic Korean with Rhee. Learn how to speak, read and write basic Korean with interactive games led by native speaker Rhee Haun. Registration is requested.

Monday, March 11 – Friday, March 15, 1 p.m. Polliwog club, for ages 6 and older. Precinct One naturalists will teach children in the community about the different animal kingdoms and their species including reptiles, birds, mammals and more. The children will meet new animals and complete a craft. Preregistration online or in person is required.

Monday, March 11, 3 – 5 p.m. Gaming: Fortnite Tournament, for ages 8 and older. Meet at the library computer lab for a 2V2 playground match versus players. There will be times rotations based on the number of players. Players with a USB Xbox One or PS4 controller can bring it and hook into the library computer if it has the USB cord attached or USB wireless charging cord.

Tuesday, March 12, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. UpWORDS program, for ages 5 and older, uses the LENA Start curriculum consisting of 14 one-hour sessions over four months in which parents learn how to improve their child's early language. The program continues through June 4. Contact the children's librarian at 832-927-7870 or in person to preregister. Online registration is not permitted.

Below are the programs that occur every week, unless the library is closed: Tuesday, Babytime lapsit, 10:30 a.m. For babies 0 to 18 months, featuring a mother-baby lapsit time with fingerplays, songs and playtime.

Wednesday, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

Wednesday, 2 – 3 p.m.: Basic computer classes (Vietnamese). Learn mouse, keyboarding, basic internet skills and more at this weekly class in Vietnamese. Registration is requested.

Thursday, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.

Saturday, Vietnamese learning time, for adults and children ages 8 and older. Classes begin at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. It's the new year and a great time to take a class to help with a skill for work, gain understanding of a topic or learn a language. There are many free classes available online at the library website or on the internet, through universities or other sources. Practice navigating the internet to learn about these, or sign up for one. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-927-7870. Library hours 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.

Menéndez calls for moratorium amid skewed STAAR test results

On March 5, Sen. José Menéndez called upon Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath to suspend the use of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness to assess school district and campus performance after reports indicate it unfairly tests students at the wrong grade level.

Menéndez told Commissioner Morath in a March 5 letter that he is introducing legislation to put a moratorium of two years on the use of STAAR test as a measurement of school district performance.

Research indicates that the test measures student achievement on average two to three

years above grade level. Menéndez released the following statement: "If the STAAR test is going to be used as an accountability measure, it must be a just and appropriate test," Menéndez wrote. "Many students, teachers and schools are set up for failure by the currently flawed standardized testing. As the father of school-age children, I have no doubt that other parents are as disturbed by this revelation as I am."

"This isn't something we can wait and figure out. Students, teachers, administrators, and entire districts are being judged based on a testing procedure that could

be fatally flawed. This requires urgent and decisive action."

Free legal clinic for veterans set

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

No appointment is necessary. The clinic is co-sponsored by the Galveston Coun-

ty 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 please call 713-759-1133 or visit www.hba.org.

Leader checks out social media

By Laura Benavides Scallan

There was a post circulating in the local community Facebook groups regarding a Beverly Hills Intermediate School student. The Leader posted on its Facebook page that the postings regarding this student are totally inaccurate. The post also stated that the source of erroneous information has not been confirmed yet, but the Pasadena ISD police are investigating.

A member of the Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert Facebook page shared a link about a news story involving an H-E-B employee who is accused of filming a boy in the men's restroom. The alleged incident was reported at the H-E-B off Space Cen-

ter Boulevard and Fairmont Parkway.

On the Southbelt This & That Facebook group, a member posted that someone tried to pry open a window around 3 a.m. on March 5. The member reported that the suspect was scared off when the light was turned on.

Another member of the same Facebook group shared an image. The image states the Southbelt Dolphins will hold new and returning player registration on Saturday, March 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stadia Sports Grill, 1853 Pearlman Parkway #135. The registration will be for football, drill and cheer.

A member of the People of Sagemont 2 Facebook group shared an image. The image

states the Sagemont Cowboys will have open registration on Saturday, March 9, at El Franco Lee Park at the baseball fields from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This post has been shared to other community Facebook groups.

Another member of the same Facebook group posted an image about a strength and conditioning camp. The camp will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning March 12 at 6:15 p.m.

The location of the camp will be 10220 Blackhawk Blvd. There will be a \$15 camp T-shirt fee. For more information, visit www.southbeltalliance.org or contact the member on Facebook. The post has been shared to several community groups.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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Ohden speaks at crisis pregnancy banquet



Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center held its annual banquet and silent auction on Feb. 22. Melissa Ohden (left), abortion survivor, was the featured speaker for the event. Ohden is the author of "You Carried Me, A Daughter's Memoir." After years of searching for her biological family and offering forgiveness for the decision that was made to end her life, Ohden's story and her life are so much more than one of survival. Shown with Ohden is Jean Killough, executive director at Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center. Approximately 450 people were in attendance.

Photo submitted

Precinct One holds cultural fashion show

El Franco Lee Community Center Seniors Program hosted a cultural fashion show displaying clothing from Asian, Latino and African traditions. On Valentine's Day, more than 150 seniors learned about other cultures through dialogue, food and colorful clothing that was modeled by seniors. Celebrating the diverse cultures at EFL has been

an annual event for more than five years. It began with display tables with basic information about each culture. Shown below, posing in fashionable cultural attire, are the Asian models, left to right, Po An Ok, Hyon Peace, Ba Lan Van, Bong Nguyen, Tina Le, Tuy Le, Moui Huynh, Kim Cuc Tran, Hanh Phan and Kinh Nguyen. Photos submitted



Thompson Intermediate shares honor roll

Thompson Intermediate has shared its honor roll list for the fourth six-weeks.

Honor Roll

Seventh grade

Ace Joshua Adams, Marcela Aguilar, Chelsea Adeola Akinloye, Hayden Xavier Alanis, Imaad Hassan Ali, Cassius Aiden Arredondo Zuniga, Armando Salvador Arredondo, Ezekiel Nicolas Arriaga, Michelle Avalos, Aracely Griselda Aviles, Rosalyn Wahasit Barber, Jet Jack Barker, Joel Barera, Mohannad Mohamed Bataineh, Mya Olivia Bell and Joseph Anjel Benavides.

James Javeon Betties, Katharina Bleith Ramirez, Aidan Bruce Brown, Alan Huy Bui, Elijah Gabriel Bustamante, Diego Camacho, Kayden Daniel Campos, Anthony Joseph Canales, Jill Yvette Canales, River Ethan Carroll, Jaylynn Rose Carter, Leonardo Rocky Castillo, Angel Cavazos, Efrain Cazares, Dominick Sebastian Chavez and Zane Russell Coleman.

Camryn Ann Collins, Braulio David Colon Ortiz, Sojourner Lee Concepcion, Heli Marlene Contreras, Kaitlyn Jade Corona, Roberto Diego Corona, Haylie Alexis Cortez, Mariah Isabella Costello, Amyiah Re'shae Cotton, Ashley Marie Cruz, Madison Mae Andres Cuyo, Celeste Renee Dammel, Tyler Duy An Dang, Yalat Kenai De Luna and Haley Danelle DeHoyos.

Azalea Rain DeLeon, Davio Angel Dominguez, Juliana Alizee Duarte, Vivian Ngan Duong, Gracie Makenna Dykstra, Dylan Miles Erickson, Tiffany Escudra, Zoe Elyse Espinoza, Joselyn Yennise Febus, Katya Isabela Flores, Kelly Milagro Flores, Horacio Omar Galvan, Jesus Alejandro Gamez Cepeda, Natalia Mari Gamez, Ziara Clara Gaona and Vanessa Alexandra Garay.

Aranzasu Garcia, Eliud Garcia, Hailey Elizabeth Garcia, Mariana Garcia, Yulissa Yvonne Garcia, Devin Andrew Garza, Titus Quoc Giang, Surjurnee Charlisha June Givens-Fontenot, Lydia Golenko, Flor Maria Gomez Chicas, Izabella Grace Gomez, Ricardo Alonso Gomez, Alana Marie Goree, Eva Lynn Grile, Ayesha Hasan and Jah Jon Jonthal Hawkins.

Abdallah Abdelfattah Helal, Terrance Charles Henry, Antonio Joseph Hernandez, Ethan Cross Hernandez, Jazmin Marie Hernandez, Julia Lucila Hernandez, Xally Paola Hernandez, Zara Melania Hobson, Adonis James Hubbard, Tyler Phillip Hudgens, Oscar Huerta, Eric Dinh Huynh, Bella Isaacs and Isabel Kathleen Jimenez.

Makayla Sudario Johnson, Shalini Rhea Johnson, Avery Zane Jones, Jay Alejandro Jones, Sarahlynn Onya Kam-Trevino, Noah Robert Keigley, Shana Lee Kieselhorst, Sebastian Alexander King, Quynh Nhat Ky, Emely Yulissa Lazo, Dennis Paul Le, Rachael Yvan Le, Tommy Le, Jordan Christiana Leahman, Mario Noel Leal and Nathaniel Riley Lind.

Jonathan Nathaniel Lopez, Joshua Jeremiah Lopez, Adriana Elena Luna, Jennifer Ly, Julie Ann Machado, Aidan Jacob Maldonado, Jules Nathaniel Borromeo Manlangit, Angelina Desiray Martinez, Daniel Alex Martinez, Trinity Dawn Maxwell, Anthony Alfonso Medina, Luis Aiden Medina and Frida Mejia.

Giovanni Mendoza, Seth Michael Miller, David Felipe Miranda, Roselynn Molina, Michael Anthony Montano, Adam Andre Montes, Quoc An Ky Ngo, Tran Bao Ngo, Alex Khoa Nguyen, Anh Dong Nguyen, John Tang Nguyen, Tam Le Duc Nguyen, Taylor Truong Nguyen, Terry Thanh Nguyen, Ti Na Nguyen, Troy Anh Nguyen and Tuyet Thien Nguyen.

Tyler Toan Minh Nguyen, Cindy Ni, Aaryan Nizam, Joseph Michael Ortiz-Ramirez, Victoria Angeliqe Ortiz-Ramirez, Lacie Elizabeth Pace, Abigail Rose Bayang Panza, Alton James Parker, Mary Grace Venant Pelekamoyo and Belle Alexandria Perridon.

Serenity Nevaeh Porter, Sophia Danielle Posey, Cymone Rachel Potier, Javari Alexander Powell, Iris Victoria-Jolie Premanand, Gabriel Alexander Presiado, Valeria Quiroz, Jayden Jeremijah Rangel, Juan Carlos Reyes, Eduardo Angel Reynerio, Joel Isaac Rivera, Jeovany Javry Rodriguez and Itzel Romero.

Jacob Daniel Romero, Kaylee Jasil Ruiz, Valerie Amber Salazar, Emily Sali-

nas, Gustavo Ricardo Salinas, Aliyah Nicole Sanchez, Ivan Sanchez, Jacklyn Cristina Santos, Alyson Renee Schwausch, Madelyn Grace Sepulveda, Simon Andrew Sepulveda, Malcolm Joseph Sherwood, Katelyn Renee Shirley and Minza Siddiqui.

Oscar Silva, Xavier Silva, Allisyn Hope Sockwell, Maddisyn Lynn Sockwell, Oscar Sosa, Nicolas Ruben Soto, Dempsey Derrell Spears, Jasmine Rayne Stewart, Hermynie Taylor, Kenton Dat Thai, Vinson Vinh Tran, Y Thien Tran, Anthony Xavier Turner and Blaine Anthony Turner.

Liam Eric Vasquez, Julissa Vega, Isabelle Rossana Joelayne Villegas, Julina Le Vo, Mai Anh Tran Vo, Halie Hoa Vu, Iveen Bao Phi Vu, Mathew Quoc Vu, Teresa Ngoc Vu, Trang Yen-Thuy Vu, Stephen Michael Curtis Wiggins, Giselle Grace Witenberg and David Enrique Zelada.

Eighth grade
Alexis Acosta, Derrick Nathaniel Addison, Zoe Marie Aguilar, Valerie Damilola Akinloye, Mia Denise Alexander, Alize Denai Alvarez, Leonel Angel Araiza, Michael-Alexander Gabino Arambula, Jady Zane Arnes, Jorge Luis Arredondo, Luke Jason Auzenne, Jesus Avitia, Dynasti Rakhilla Benson and Ethan James Bishop.

Yvette Alouette Boisseauneau, Honesty One Brooks, Andrew Michael Cabrales, Jade Guadalupe Cabrera, Daylan Tyrese Cadoree, Aaron Camacho, Abraham Camacho, Dylan Mathew Campos, Kaitlyn Makenna Campos, Kaleb Campos and Bella Rein Cisneros.

Kayla Jo'nae Coleman, Manuel Sebastian Colunga, Jonathan Contreras, Deandre Christian Cooper, Victoria Ann Couchman, Amy Elizabeth Cruz, Sarah Abigail Cruz, Sofia Victoria Cruz, Tiana Hanh Curtis, Colin Dung Dang, Hieu Vu Minh Dang, Serenity Sierra Dedios, Raul Sebastian Diaz, Jenny Nhi Do and Nam Minh Duong.

Robert Sean Durham, Nicolas Michael Edmondson, Leslie Gabrielle Espinoza, Juan Pablo Estrada, Benjamin Alan Evans, Hayden Thomas Feil, Cristian Daniel Fernandez, Nohemi Yuriko Figueroa, Elyza Susana

changes. "Universities are meant to be transformative," Starr said. "That's what we stand for here, too. We want to be something that's ever-changing, Transformational. We will constantly evolve based on the needs of our members, students, faculty and staff."

Starr added, "We want to be that centralized station where people can come and have fun, learn, grow and gain knowledge. Even if it's just one moment that changes someone's day, it could change the course of their life. Those moments that make people feel welcome and safe, promote diversity and create a strong sense of community. We want to offer those moments, that wellness program, that fitness program. We want to grow those programs. And that takes time."

In the meantime, the recreation center lowered monthly fees significantly, especially for community members, from \$60 per month to \$40

Flores, Ethan Antonio Flores, Iveth Flores, Lyzbeth Flores, Evan Alexander Fraustro and Sophia Abigail Garay.

Ashlee Monique Garcia, Jasmin Nicole Garcia, Marcus Aaron Garcia, Noah Heinz Garcia, Xander Garcia, Noah Seth Gaytan, Briana Elaine Gomez, Marcus Alexander Gomez, Ariana Celeste Gonzales, David Gonzales, Julianna Rebecca Gonzales, Alexa Gonzalez, Jadon Christopher Gonzalez and Jiselle Alexia Gonzalez.

Victoria Alexa Gonzalez, Kevin Alexander Guzman, Ravin Leann Harvey, Martin Hernandez Huerta, Emma Rai Hernandez, Fernando Alexis Hernandez, Jacob Mathew Hernandez, Natalie Paige Hernandez, Victor Adolfo Hernandez, Eleanne Herrera, Kaiden Lee Hills and Nevan Elaijah Hulse.

Ryan Janell Humphrey, Chance Alan Hurd, Daisy Lynn Irwin, Ian Sudario Johnson, Natalia Jenae Jones, William George Junkin, Bianca Nicole Kinder, Jonathan Gage Krenk, Evan Joshua Kruschinsky, Thalia Ngoc Diem Le, Mauricio Leal and Alyssa Saige Lloyd.

Ivan Lopez, Lilian Lopez, Sean Edwin Lopez, Ivan Ray Mariscal, Adolfo Martinez, Emily Lylana Martinez, Evan Alejandro Martinez, Elyanna Kayleen Martinez, Melissa Brianna Martinez, Nevaeh Michelle Mata, Jackson McCall, Tashjae Breasia Mccann, Hunter Edward McGehee, Annasolla Felicity Mcknight and Cindy Stephanie Medina.

Aryana Estrella Mejorado, Danielle Jenae Mendiola, Isaac Mendoza, Paula Mendoza, Kaleb Nathaniel Mitchell, Jesse Zachariah Mohamed Chavez, Connor Austin Mohwinkel, Genevieve Mia Monarez, Maria Jose Monge Hernandez, Madelyne Viktoria Montes, Jer'keithric Antione Moore, Shishira Nevaeh Moreno and Alena Amelia Morin.

Anthony Reyes Morin, Isela Viviana Munoz, Mia Renee Naranjo, Ann Ky Anh Nguyen, Daniel Nguyen, Dylan Thai Nguyen, Huyhoang Huy Nguyen, Lilyan Nhi Nguyen, Ryan Duc Nguyen, Steven Trieu-Phi Nguyen, Tyler Tran Nguyen, Vivian Mai Thanh Nguyen, Ginessa

Continued on Page 4A



The ladies shown above are the Black History models, left to right, Beverly Wallace, Gwendolyn Allen, Doylean Sprauve, Zandra Jackson, Pat Bynum, Shirley Martin, Louise Lee, Alice Pigott, Sandra Woodward, Janice Gentry, Deborah Jones and Deborah Styles-Favors.

Shown below, displaying bright apparel, are the Latina models, left to right, Yolanda Villarreal, Esthela Lopez, Maria Laurel, Maria Bowden, Delores Gomez, Margarita Rios, Mercedes Nassar and Angelica Gonzalez.



Unpredictable spring weather should keep residents alert

Springtime in southeast Texas offers plenty of pleasant days, but it also brings the threat of severe weather. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the National Weather Service want to remind residents of the unpredictability of the season during its Spring Severe Weather Safety Campaign that runs March 4 - 8, 2019.

"Spring is a time of renewal and we want to take this opportunity to give a refresher on the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to stay safe," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Preparation is important year round and we can best do that by staying informed, having an emergency plan and essential supplies."

Understanding the difference between a warning and a watch:

- A watch indicates that the potential exists for the development of severe weather.
- A warning is more serious and requires more immediate action. It indicates that severe weather conditions are occurring or imminent.

HCOHSEM reminds residents that severe weather can develop rapidly and with little warning, and offers some lifesaving tips for the following threats:

Thunderstorms

- Keep an eye out for signs of a coming storm, including darkening skies, increasing winds or flashes of lightning.
- If one can hear thunder, one is close enough to the storm to be in danger from lightning, which kills 40-50 people per year.
- Postpone outdoor activities if a storm is imminent; lightning often strikes where it is not raining.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building or vehicle, with doors and windows securely fastened.
- Stay away from windows and avoid taking a bath, shower or using plumbing until the storm has passed.

Flash Flooding

- Drivers should never underestimate the force and power of flood waters. If one sees high water, turn around, don't drown.
- Waters can rise so rapidly that they may be far deeper by the time a person is halfway across, trapping a person in their vehicle.
- Six inches of water can cause tires to lose traction and begin to slide, 12 inches of water can float many cars, and two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs and most other vehicles.
- Flash floods are especially treacherous at night when it is very difficult to

see how deep waters may be or how fast water is rising.

- Floodwater weakens roadbeds. Drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

Tornadoes

- There are several distinct things for which to look that indicate a tornado may be on its way: dark, often greenish clouds, large hail, a funnel or wall cloud, or a roaring noise.
- Monitor local media for storm information, as well as NOAA weather radio.
- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of a home or building away from windows: a stairwell, bathroom, hallway or storage closet. Do not stay in a mobile home.
- At work and school, follow the drill and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.
- If in a car, do not try to outrun a tornado and avoid bridges/overpasses. If one sees flying debris, pull over and park. Keep the seat belt on and the engine running. One should put their head

AARP, VN Teamwork offer free tax help

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will be available to answer questions and offer tax preparation at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale, Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 15. Tax help provided by VN Teamwork/VITA is available Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Preregistration is not necessary.

This service is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring Social Security cards for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms, unemployment compensation statements, 1099-R forms and other IRS forms to help the volunteer complete the return. For information, visit aarp.org/taxaide.

HCMG announces events

The Harris County Master Gardeners has announced its upcoming events for March. The Harris County Master Gardeners Lecture Series "Small Scale Backyard Composting," presented by John Ferguson of Nature's Way Resources, will be held Thursday, March 14, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road in Pasadena. There will be plants for sale at this location.

The Harris County Master Gardeners Green Thumb Series "Herbs" will be held on Thursday, March 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. On Saturday, March 30, the Harris County Master Gardeners plant sale of tomato/pepper, herbs, vegetables and perennials will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until all produce is sold, at Campbell Hall, located on the Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Road. All these events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 713-274-0950 or visit hemga.tamu.edu.

UHCL wants recreation, wellness center a community destination

"If you build it, they will come" is a slightly altered line from the movie "Field of Dreams" that Brian Mills has pondered since the opening of University of Houston-Clear Lake's \$38.2 million Recreation and Wellness Center in August 2018.

Indeed, students, faculty and staff are using the facility's state-of-the-art equipment. But Mills, director of campus recreation, has bigger plans.

Mills wants to make the center a community destination — where people from all walks of life come to have fun, feed their spirit, get healthier and learn how to stay that way.

He hopes to entice individuals and businesses to utilize state-of-the-art, constantly cleaned equipment with no initiation fees, no contracts, helpful and knowledgeable staff, a variety of fitness programs and recently lowered monthly fees.

in Clear Lake and beyond. What gymnasiums don't have is the center's natural conduit to academic resources for fitness and wellness. For starters, UH-Clear Lake has an undergraduate fitness and human performance program, officially recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association. It has a graduate program in Exercise and Health Sciences. Also, the Exercise and Nutritional Health Institute is co-located in the center.

"We didn't spend this money to build a gymnasium," Mills said. "We want people to get healthier. We want people to be happier. We want people to be excited to come here, because they're not just showing up and getting on a treadmill for an hour. We want people to come here and say, 'Let's go have some fun at the rec center. Let's go play basketball. Let's take a group yoga class.' We'll find ways to make their engagement with us fun, insightful and, hopefully, sus-

tainable. It's not a workout. It's a behavior change."

Mills also hopes to forge relationships with health care professionals in the community who share his department's holistic vision of health and well-being — personal trainers, coaches, licensed massage therapists, nutritionists, yoga instructors and others to complement fitness and recreational programs.

The key is strategic relationship-building, says Bryce Starr, who joined UHCL last October as coordinator of fitness and wellness. "We can have other community members come in and showcase their proficiencies in the areas that we aren't proficient in, and create these relationships within the community."

Starr is charged with mapping out the strategic growth of student and community programs, which includes anticipating the changing needs of a changing university and a changing community. In his vision, the recreation center will become an agent of those

changes.

"Universities are meant to be transformative," Starr said. "That's what we stand for here, too. We want to be something that's ever-changing, Transformational. We will constantly evolve based on the needs of our members, students, faculty and staff."

Starr added, "We want to be that centralized station where people can come and have fun, learn, grow and gain knowledge. Even if it's just one moment that changes someone's day, it could change the course of their life. Those moments that make people feel welcome and safe, promote diversity and create a strong sense of community. We want to offer those moments, that wellness program, that fitness program. We want to grow those programs. And that takes time."

In the meantime, the recreation center lowered monthly fees significantly, especially for community members, from \$60 per month to \$40

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Over The Back Fence by Alexis

SIBLINGS CELEBRATE SAME BIRTHDAY
Special birthday hugs are sent to **Robert "Austin" Scarberry** (2007 Dobie grad) on Wednesday, March 7, from his wife **Tiffany** and daughters **Jade** and **Lily Scarberry**. Austin is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. His sister, **Jenny Hayes** (1997 Dobie grad), also has a birthday March 7. Hugs and kisses are sent from children **Brayden**, **Baylee** and **Olivia**. Best wishes for a great birthday are sent to both from proud parents **Robert** and **Jannie Scarberry**, former longtime South Belt residents; brother **Joseph Hayes** (2000 Dobie grad); sister **Stacey (Hayes) Flowers** (2005 Dobie grad), husband **Stephen** and children **Kennedy**, **Owen** and **Evie**; and brother **Tyler Scarberry** (2010 Dobie grad).

ROBERT ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Robert Scarberry, retired Dobie auto collision repair teacher and former longtime South Belt resident, celebrates his birthday Saturday, March 9. Birthday wishes are sent from wife **Jannie**; children **Jenny Hayes**, **Joseph Hayes**, **Stacey (Hayes) Flowers** and husband **Stephen**, **Austin Scarberry** and wife **Tiffany**, and **Tyler Scarberry**; and grandchildren **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno**, **Jade** and **Lily Scarberry**, and **Kennedy**, **Owen** and **Evie Flowers**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DIDDY!
Diddy Clark celebrates a birthday Saturday, March 9. Best wishes are sent for a wonderful day from her family, friends and co-workers at the *Leader*.

EVIE TURNS FIVE!
Stacey (Hayes) and Stephen Flowers of League City celebrate the fifth birthday of

their daughter, **Evelyn "Evie" Faith Flowers**, on Monday, March 11. Proud grandparents are **Jannie** and **Robert Scarberry**, former longtime South Belt residents, and **Karen** and **Mike Flowers** of Dickinson. Sharing in the celebration are big sister **Kennedy**; big brother **Owen**; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Tiffany Scarberry**; uncles **Joseph Hayes** and **Austin** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno** and **Jade** and **Lily Scarberry**. Stacey is a 2005 Dobie High School graduate.

CONGRATULATIONS, STUDENTS!
Congratulations are in order for South Belt residents **Anthony J. Rivera-Mercado** and **Tu Uyen H. Vo** who were named to the dean's list at Boston University for the fall 2018 semester. The dean's list recognizes students with a full-time course load who have achieved a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average or are in the top 30 percent of their class for the academic term.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 7 through March 13.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song March 8 to **Brandi Trevino**.

Bush Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting to **Jayan Fender** March 12. Enjoy a birthday cake on March 13 with **Lindsey Pelton**.

Genoa Elementary
The day for a party for **Veronica August** is March 13.

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday March 11 is **Dora Barnett**. March 13 is the day for a layered

cake for **Jennifer Dowling Moore** *Elementary*.
The day for a party for **Guadalupe Hudson** is March 9. Send a happy birthday greeting March 11 to **Yonia Garcia**.

Melillo Middle School
Break out the party favors March 10 for **Diane Wheeler**.

Thompson Intermediate
Light the birthday candles March 9 for **Alexandra Alvarado**. Send a birthday greeting to **Elida Torres** March 12.

Dobie High
Heather Adams enjoys a birthday March 7. Light the birthday candles for **Jennifer Haynes** on March 10. **Adrian Amador** and **Sandra Rodriguez** share a birthday on March 12.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to friends who enjoy a birthday:

Thursday, March 7: **Amber McMurrough**, **Susan Metzger** and **Christopher Kennard**; Friday, March 8: **Diana Vela**, **Matt Anderson**, **Michelle Fuller** and **Mark Solis**; Saturday, March 9: **Cheryl Stell**, **Rudy Rivera**, **Leah Lister**, **Lance Botkin**, **Susan Zientek**, **Monte Long** and **Bo Richards**; Sunday, March 10: **Jim Daigle** and **Sheila Dill**; Monday, March 11: **Raquel Loya**, **Michael Martinez**, **Jesus Romero** and **Irma Manriquez**; Tuesday, March 12: **Debbie Clark**, **Maria Riojas**, **Debbie Johnson** and **Heather Murphy Burris**; and Wednesday, March 13: **Matthew Hanks**, **Heidi Delk**, **Shane Terry**, **Sharon Jobe**, **Max Hernandez** and **Becky Gilley**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

BH social media confirmed to be a hoax

Continued from Page 1A
two students, including the one in question, last week. That incident was thoroughly investigated and resolved on Friday. However,

due to social media posts, we take all threats seriously and continued the investigation. "The investigation found no weapons on our campus, and no threat was made to anyone at our school. "We would like to thank all the students and parents that reached out to us in person, through their teachers, over phone, email and, also, our quick tip alert system through our district website. "Thank you for being a part of our Bear family."

Sidebar items from Page 1A . . .

Continued from Page 1A
Thursday, March 14.

Northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Genoa Red Bluff will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, March 11.

At least one lane of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road at Genoa Red Bluff will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, April 4.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, March 11.

The northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Fairmont Parkway will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, March 11.

The southbound U-turn lane at Beltway 8 and Vista will be closed until 5 a.m. Monday, April 1.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Preston will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, March 11.

The closures are part of ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes each direction.

Black belts teach self-defense

The American Society of Karate is offering free one-hour self-defense and martial arts courses for teens and adults (ages 13-80) at the Sagemont Park Community Center, located at 11507 Hughes, on Fridays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The courses are taught by experienced black belt martial arts instructors. For more information, email Michael.Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Free tax help available

Volunteers will be available to answer questions and offer tax preparation at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale, on Mondays and Fridays (AARP Tax-Aide) and Saturdays (VN Teamwork) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 15. This service is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring Social Security cards for oneself and dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms, unemployment compensation statements, 1099-R forms and other IRS forms to help the volunteer complete the return. For details, visit aarp.org/taxaide.

Israeli folk dancing continues

Few people really enjoy cardiovascular exercises per se. Exercise does not have to be a chore since dancing is an excellent way to exercise while having fun.

Dances are held at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on Mondays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. March dates are 11, 18 and 25. April dates are 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. 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 to cover expenses. Everyone is welcome to join the group - even if one has not attended.

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

Frazier offers Owls' scholarships

Frazier Elementary is offering nine scholarships to graduating Dobie seniors who attended Frazier. Contact the Dobie scholarship counselor for an application and information. Applications are due to the Dobie counselor by Wednesday, March 20. Call Susan Blue at 713-740-0564 with any questions.

Moore scholarships available

The Moore Elementary Student Council will offer four scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Moore in fourth grade. Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Thursday, April 18, to be considered.

Parker Williams accepts donations

The Friends of The Parker Williams Branch Library is accepting donations of gently-used pocket paperbacks, full-size hardbacks and paperbacks, children's and young adults' books, DVDs and CDs and current magazines. Sales proceeds are used toward program support at the local library. Donations may be left at Parker Williams Library, located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

CCART holds March meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its March meeting on Tuesday, March 12. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The program will be provided by Donald LeFever who will be speaking about pain relief via acupuncture. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering and coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas-retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

Fatal accident leads to Bombshells inquiry

Continued from Page 1A

Billy Satterfield, 40, was killed in the crash. A passenger in a Lyft vehicle, Satterfield was returning home from the airport. He was less than five minutes away from home and had reportedly just texted his wife to tell her he was returning home from his trip safely.

The Lyft driver, 29-year-old Ezatullah Safi, remained in a coma at press time. A GoFundMe account has been set up to help Safi and his family with medical expenses. To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/please-help-ezatullah-safi.

Bar's troubled past
Bombshells has a lengthy history of alcohol-related controversy.

This past June, a temporary restraining order was placed on the business preventing it from selling alcohol, following a string of incidents related to the bar. At that time, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg described the bar as a "crime factory."

According to court documents, at least 90 people have been arrested at the business since it opened less than five years ago. Some of those arrested have been known gang members. In May 2018 alone, there were four DWIs related to the bar, one of which seriously injured Houston Police Officer Chayne Brothers, who went on to sue the establishment for overserving

the driver responsible for the crash. A second lawsuit was filed by an injured party from a DWI crash in February 2018.

Other reported crimes at the site include shootings, assaults, robberies and drug possession. In January 2015, an off-duty police officer working security at the bar shot and killed a man after he allegedly pointed a gun at him in the parking lot after being kicked out for fighting.

In March of that year, the business made national headlines after it refused to serve patrons with face and neck tattoos, claiming it represented gang affiliation, most notably the Houston sect of the Tango Blast prison gang.

Last year's temporary restraining order forced the restaurant to sell only food, no alcohol, and to close at 9 p.m. for 14 days. The business opted to temporarily close its doors rather than serve food exclusively.

The restraining order was later lifted, provided the establishment adopted certain safety measures, such as digitally monitoring the amount of drinks each patron consumes and having at least two police officers on site from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

A trial has been scheduled for later this summer to determine if the establishment will be allowed to continue selling alcohol.

Wellness center opens

Continued from Page 3A

two regulation-sized basketball courts that include a retractable volleyball system; a multi-activity court for indoor soccer, floor hockey and other sports; a large weight and cardio room; an Olympic free-weight zone; two multipurpose rooms for yoga and other group exercise; men's and women's locker rooms and a three-lane, 1/8th-mile elevated indoor running track. There are also three teaching labs for biomechanics, motor control and exercise physiology, classrooms and offices for faculty and staff.

Thompson names rolls

Continued from Page 3A

Rebecca Salazar, Christian Jordan Schmidt, Serena Maria Segura, Mable Lee Self, Valeria Silva, Emilee Rayne Sulak, Kennedy Dat Thai and Yvonne Thaothhi Thai.

Maria Avenelle Tipton, Madeline Elizabeth Torres, Johnny Tran, Francisco Johnathan Urquieta, Vianca Victoria Valencia, Christian Andrew Vega, Alexia Carolina Velasquez and Phu Ngoc Thien Vu.

For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/campus-recreation.

The new officers of the Scarsdale Civic Association cracked down on deed restriction violations.

30 years ago (1989)
Six law enforcement agencies chased a suspect from South Belt to Texas City to Dickinson, traveling much of the way on the wrong side of the 1-45 feeder road.

Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team finished 14th of 40 schools at the state competition in Austin.

Melillo names science fair winners



The Melillo Middle School science fair was held on Thursday, Feb. 28. There were 40 participants in this year's fair. Each middle school in Pasadena can send 12 students to the district science fair. The students shown will represent Melillo on March 28. They are, left to right, (front row) Miranda Medel, Thalia Oddo, Marvin Jerezano, Adriel Cruz, Noah Villareal, Sarah Massey, Max Garza, (back row) Morgan Hill, MiaBella Garza Sudario, Adam Daley, Asia Davis and Isabella Sanchez. Photo submitted

HCFCD wins award with Houston Transtar

Harris County Flood Control District and Houston Transtar were awarded the Emergency Management Association of Texas Emergency Management Technology & Innovation Award for The Roadway Flood Warning System published in July 2018.

The Roadway Flood Warning System is a new feature on Houston Transtar's traffic map that indicates the possibility of roadway flooding. Houston Transtar partnered up with the Harris County Flood Control District to take the rainfall data from the Harris County Flood Warning System's 170+ rain gauges around the county. When a gauge receives one inch of rain within a 15 minute period, it puts a three-mile buffer around that gauge and lights up on the map, indicating the potential for roadway flooding in that area. The area is indicated by a blue pinpoint

labeled "Roadway Flooding Risk." It remains there for a 90-minute period, or resets if it continues receiving heavy rain.

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management nominated Houston Transtar and the Flood Control District for the EMAT Emergency Management Technology & Innovation Award. This award recognizes and honors the development, or innovative use, of technology and/or an innovation that improves local-level emergency management preparedness response, recovery, mitigation and/or protection operations.

"The collaboration between HCFCD and Transtar to develop a visual mapping aid of where street flooding is possible during heavy rainfall is a significant step forward in helping to reduce flood damage to vehicles and save lives as well as build a more resilient community," said Jeff Lindner, director of hydraulic operations and meteorologist for the Flood Control District.

The Roadway Flood Warning System may be accessed at <https://traffic.houstontranstar.org/layers/> and the Harris County Flood Warning System may be accessed at <https://www.harriscountyfws.org/>.

and structural problems made the complex uninhabitable.

5 years ago (2014)
Harris County Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado ruled on March 12, that the two pit bulls responsible for attacking Monica Garza on the South Belt hike and bike trail the previous week be euthanized.

The 16-year-old mother accused of placing her newborn baby in a Windmill Lakes dumpster the previous month was arrested. The unnamed juvenile was charged March 6 with abandoning her child without intent to return, a second-degree felony under Texas law.

1 year ago (2018)
Seven more students from the Pasadena Independent School District were apprehended for making terroristic threats. The threats affected all levels of students, with defendants ranging from fifth grade to 12th grade. One female student from Shaw Middle School was arrested; two students from Thompson Intermediate were arrested; one student from Park View Intermediate was arrested; two students from Pasadena Memorial High School were arrested; and one student from Lewis Career and Technical Center was arrested. With the exception of the Lewis student, all of those charged were juveniles. All

of the threats were made on social media sites, except for the Park View threat, which took place verbally at lunch. Such online threats had become a growing problem nationwide in the aftermath of the Parkland, Fla., shooting the previous month that left 17 dead and dozens more wounded.

A female suspect was arrested following a crash in the 18200 block of the Gulf Freeway near FM 2351 on Wednesday, Feb. 28, that left a woman and her child dead. Veronica Rivas, 20, was charged with two counts of intoxication manslaughter in the 351st State District Court. According to police, Rivas was driving a sport utility vehicle at a high rate of speed south on the frontage road just before 4 a.m. when she struck the rear of a vehicle driven by the female victim. Shayla Joseph and her 9-month-old daughter were pronounced dead at the scene. Rivas and her female passenger sustained minor injuries and were transported to the hospital. Police said Rivas showed signs of intoxication at the time of the crash, and upon her release from the hospital, was taken to jail and subsequently charged. Tests determined Rivas had a blood alcohol level of 0.21, almost three times the legal limit of 0.08.

Remember When

40 years ago (1979)
Two South Belt area youths survived a harrowing speeding and shooting incident which resulted in the firing of one Harris County Sheriff's officer and the suspension of another.

The J. Frank Dobie tracksters set two records and placed at least one athlete in the top four in all but three of 18 events at the Brown Relays.

35 years ago (1984)
Clear Creek Independent School District trustees approved a recommendation to revise the grading system so that no grade below 70 would be passing.

The new officers of the Scarsdale Civic Association cracked down on deed restriction violations.

30 years ago (1989)
Six law enforcement agencies chased a suspect from South Belt to Texas City to Dickinson, traveling much of the way on the wrong side of the 1-45 feeder road.

Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team finished 14th of 40 schools at the state competition in Austin.

25 years ago (1994)
A year of controversy surrounding the activities of Dobie High School baseball coach Bruce Marshall ended on an abrupt end when Marshall was relieved of his

coaching duties by principal Jerry Speer.

San Jacinto College South's debate team came away from the 17th annual Barbara Jordan Invitational Tournament with several awards, including a sweepstakes trophy and the third-place debate trophy.

20 years ago (1999)
Officer David Criswell of South Belt received the Houston Police Department's Meritorious Service Award.

Dr. Joseph Kirkland joined San Jacinto College South as dean of instruction.

15 years ago (2004)
City Councilmember Addie Wiseman made some complimentary comments about Mayor Bill White during her speech at a Sagemont Civic Club meeting.

Service was restored to about 500 local homes and businesses which were without phone lines for at least a day because a contractor working to repair a water leak cut an SBC cable.

Pasadena Independent School District's wetlands mitigation project for the new Dobie High School was creating tension between PISD and Harris County Precinct 1.

In the Democratic party primary election, incumbent Judge Jo Ann Delgado received 59 percent of the votes for justice of the peace Pre-

cinct 2, place 1, beating Sandra Woodard.

10 years ago (2009)
The body of former South Belt resident Susana De Jesus was found in the early morning in a tractor trailer near Reliant Stadium. Police were led to the body after questioning Nicholas-Michael Edwin Jean, who was arrested by authorities following a daylong manhunt after an attempted carjacking in Pearland that forced the closure of Magnolia Elementary and the lockdown of two other schools in the area.

State Sen. Mike Jackson introduced a bill that, if approved, would make Pearland part of San Jacinto College's service area. The action took place just hours after the Pearland Independent School District board unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the proposal.

City of Houston officials cut off all utilities at the Alameda Chateau apartments, located at 10802 Kingspoint, due to unsafe living conditions at the complex. The Public Works Department had recently disconnected the water at the complex because the owner, David Wise of San Diego, owed more than \$80,000 in back water bills. Wise later paid the majority of the delinquent bills, but other conditions, such as faulty electrical wiring, mold

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Meador celebrates annual rodeo day



Meador Elementary staff and students held the annual rodeo day on Feb. 22 with more than 600 parents and family members in attendance. Every student practiced many hours learning line dances and square dancing to perform. Family members were invited to join the final family line dance. The day was filled with

dancing, smiles, hugs and lots of photos, which was a great way to kick off rodeo season in Houston. Shown above left are pre-K cowboys Dylan Mendoza (left) and Damian Hernandez. Shown above, dressed for the occasion, are Beverly Bolton (left), Meador principal; and Skylar Glayzer, first-grader.



Third-grade cowgirls were ready to participate in all the fun on rodeo day. Shown above, enjoying the festivities, are third-graders, left to right, Charel Cole, Aleyjah Lewis and Khloe Hinojosa. Shown below are

the Meador rodeo dance instructors, left to right, Kevin Goffney, coach; Jennifer Dowling, PE aide; Heather Cline, technology teacher; Tracie Nair, music teacher; and Derek Woodard, coach.



Frazier Elementary names science fair winners



Frazier Elementary has named its science fair winners for 2019. These students will advance to represent Frazier in the Pasadena Independent School District science fair. Shown are, left to right, Anaisa Chavez, "Which type of chocolate will melt fastest?"; Keithan Mitchell, "How does the temperature of a tennis ball affect the height

of its bounce?"; Damian Martinez, "Stop Soil Erosion"; Cullen Ponder, "Slime Time"; and Caleb Johnson, "Parachute." Chavez placed first, Mitchell placed second, Martinez placed third, Ponder placed fourth and Johnson placed fifth.

Photo by Susan Blue

Jessup awards Early Act First Knight to students



Students at Jessup Elementary were awarded the Virtue of Confidence with the Early Act First Knight program. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Melanie Sanchez, Christopher Rangel, Camila Leyva, Yurem Perez, Julissa Jurado, (middle row) Anna Nguyen, Elijah Mack, Jose Banda, Milagros Jaimes, Alexis Arredondo, (back row) Lady Charnell, Cielo Hernandez, Aubrey Cantu, Eduardo Cortez,

Melanie Redondo and Landon Maldonado. Shown below are, left to right, (front row) Mila Lazo, Liliana Morales, Cesar Reynaga, Dilan Nieto, Yamilet Najera, Luis Perez, (middle row) Ashley Solis Miranda, Michael Ramirez, Mario Quiroz, Ethan Benavidez, Naomi Solis, (back row) William Simpson, Jordan Chau, Jayden Gamez, Christian Trevino and Lady Charnell.

Photos submitted



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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

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Perrys celebrate 61st wedding anniversary

Bob Lee and Lena Concetta Perry celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on Feb. 10, at the opening of the latest restaurant Perry's Grill and Steakhouse in River Oaks, the Perrys' 17th location. The family has been in business for 40 years.

The family moved to the Sagemont area in 1965 and resided on Sagedowne Lane for more than thirty years. All five children attended J. Frank Dobie High School and were involved in baseball. Bob coached sons Bobby Jr. and Christopher for many years. Bob and Lena spent every weekend at the baseball field moving from field to field to be able to see all the games. Sadly, they lost their daughter Angela at age 19 in an auto accident.

The Perrys are a tightly knit family and have enjoyed many years of happy memories of backyard barbecues and pool parties with family and friends. As an avid golfer, Bob was a member of Golf Crest Country Club for many years, achieving the nickname Bogey Bob from his many golfing buddies. Bob even made three holes-in-one over the years.

The Perry family legacy began when Bob and Lena started their own business, opening a local meat market on Scarsdale Boulevard in March 1980, which is still in operation.

The family members have helped in the business, and recount many happy stories of waiting on customers and learning the ways of the trade. For many years their son Bobby, who has since retired, was Bob's butchering assistant. Their son Christopher expanded the meat market to a small deli/barbecue hot spot, birthing the first Perry's Grille & Steakhouse in 1988. He currently oversees the operation of all the locations.

In 1997, Bob and Lena moved to League City. Their family includes children Concetta Marie Perry Ligori and husband Terry; Angela Marie Perry; Bobby Lee Perry Jr. and wife Beth; Jacqueline Marie Perry Blanchard and husband Brian; and Christopher Vernon Perry and wife Holly. Their grandchildren are Anthony Neal Ligori (son of Concetta and Terry Ligori) and wife Mary Jo; Nicholas Lee Perry

and wife Jessica; Christopher Phillip Perry and wife Lauren; Andrew Shawn Perry; Zachary Thomas Perry and wife Cheyan and Michael Anthony Perry (sons of Bobby Jr.); Patrick Michael Blanchard; Cameron Brian Blanchard and Lauren Angela Blanchard (children of Jacqueline and Brian Blanchard); and Alec Christopher Perry and Jake Gregory Perry (sons of Chris and Holly Perry); great-grandchildren Toni Angela Ligori, Jacqueline Rose Ligori, Sofia Concetta Ligori, Dominic Perry, Avery Perry, Colton Perry, Nolan Perry, Carson Perry and Aidan Perry; and Kenlynn Britain Perry (mother of Bobby Perry Jr.'s children). Unfortunately, the Perry family lost a grandchild, Micheal Anthony Perry, son of Bobby Perry Jr., in 2014. Three more great-grandchildren are expected this spring.

The Perry organization has grown and now includes two Perry & Sons meat market/restaurant locations with 17 steakhouses throughout Texas with locations in Illinois, Colorado and Alabama. The Perrys plan to open three more locations this year.

Shown, right, are Lena (left) and Bob Perry. Gathered together for a Perry family photo below, left to right, are Christopher, Concetta, Bob, Lena, Jacqueline and Bobby.



Contrary to note, paying in cash results in arrest

The "we do not pay cash" white sticker on the pictured gaming machine did little to protect the Smart Stop convenient store at 5103 FM 2351 Road at Blackhawk in Friendswood when deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit recently executed a search warrant at the store, following an investigation into illegal gambling. The investigation proved that contrary to the white sticker, customers were caught paying in cash. Nearly \$10,000 in cash was seized during the search. The bust marked the latest in a string of raids by the Special Operations Unit in recent months to combat illegal gambling in and around the South Belt community.



Sandlin plans Spring Break DWI Initiative

Continued from Page 1A
 Sandlin is asking that citizens who choose to drink, do so responsibly and not get behind the wheel if one has had too much to drink.

The purpose of this initiative is to not only seek out and arrest those people who choose to drink and drive, but to raise community awareness about this serious issue.

The constable's office wants people to know that there are severe consequences for choosing to drink and drive and to know that if they do, officers and deputies will be there to arrest them.

Sandlin is asking that citizens who choose to drink, do so responsibly and not get behind the wheel if one has had too much to drink.

There are so many other options available to make sure one gets home safely. One can choose a designated driver, call a taxi or rideshare and do so before going out.

It could very well save one's life or the life of others on the road.

With Harris County leading the nation in the number of DWI related fatalities, the county must do everything in its power to keep this problem from

continuing. That is why Sandlin is spearheading this initiative and that is why residents will continue to see more of these types of initiatives going forward.

Every law enforcement agency taking part in this Spring Break initiative has made a commitment to aggressively enforce DWI laws and make it clear to the public that the county is taking a stand.

Participating agencies are: the Harris County Constable's Office Pct. 8, the Harris County Constable's Office Pct. 2, the Harris County Constable's Office Pct. 3, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Houston Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Deer Park Police Department, the La Porte Police Department, the Pasadena Police Department, the Seabrook Police Department, the Nassau Bay Police Department, the Lakeview Police Department, the Morgans Point Police Department, the Shoreacres Police Department, the Friendswood Police Department, the Webster Police Department and the Baytown Police Department.

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Controversy over dirt on Dixie FM road continues

Continued from Page 1A
 some Friendswood residents expressed concern about the possible toxicity of the fill dirt, as it was removed from a location adjacent to the nearby Brio Superfund Site. Multiple tests, however, have determined the site to now be safe.

The Harris County Flood Control District offered to haul away the dirt to another site, but the property owner refused.

After it was determined the proposed development was to be in a floodway, permitting for the project was retroactively pulled.

Once the endeavor came to a stop, the Harris County Flood Control District offered to purchase the property for \$2.7 million, with plans to potentially construct another detention pond.

While the property owner agreed to the deal, the developer filed a lawsuit, claiming to be entitled to 50 percent of the sale.

Johnson is worried the bickering will harm the community. "Harris County has been very generous with this

guy, considering the property can't be developed," Johnson said. "What about the public good? What about what's in the best interest of the public? Now, people are worried these two guys are going to screw something up."

"There's plenty of other places around town and up on the north side that need work too. This sale was supposed to be finalized on Dec. 8, 2018. I'm not sure how patient they (Harris County) can be. We need flood control. We don't need two old guys fighting. It's kind of pitiful, in my opinion."

Johnson hopes the involved parties will resolve their differences in favor of what's best for the community.

"If the property owner and his broker are unable to quickly resolve their differences over how to split the generous offer from Harris County Flood Control District, I would hope they could agree to deposit the \$2.7 million from the sale of the prop-

erty in an escrow account, pending the outcome of their legal bickering and sign releases for Harris County and any claims to the property at 2811 Dixie Farm Road," Johnson said.

"That would allow the property owner and his broker to spend as much time battling in court as they feel necessary - without impacting progress on development of a much needed detention basin at the downstream portion of Clear Creek, as it exits Pearland and the South Belt area."

Cook-off spots available
 Some cooking spots are available for the 23rd annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, to be held Thursday, April 25, through Saturday, April 27, at El Franco Lee Park. A 40-foot-by-40-foot spot costs \$225.

Operated by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the event is the sole fundraiser for the South Belt Fourth of July fireworks display.

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

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Legislation could end surprise billing for most

The practice of billing insured patients excessive amounts for non-network care at in-network facilities could end if a measure unveiled Thursday, Feb. 28, by Sen. Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills becomes law.

Known as surprise billing, this happens most commonly in emergency room visits when individuals go to a facility covered by their health plan. Later, they find out that some service providers who saw them, like imaging technicians or emergency room doctors, are contracted employees and not in-network. This can mean much higher out-of-pocket expenses for the consumer. Often, the first indication of these charges comes in the mail in the form of bills for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Hancock's proposal, SB 1264, could effectively end the practice for most insured Texans.

Hancock passed the first legislation addressing surprise billing practices as a House member in 2009, creating a process by which patients can seek remedies to excessive, unexpected medical bills by requesting mediation through the Texas Department of Insurance. He said that system has so far saved patients more than \$30 million in out-of-pocket medical costs.

"Still, thousands of Texans receive unexpected and frankly, unreasonable surprise medical bills every year," said Hancock. "Enough is enough."

Since these disputes are actually between the service provider and the insurer, Hancock says there's no reason for the consumer to be involved.

"TDI mediation will continue, but without patients being put in the middle," Hancock said. "The fact is that market negotiators in these situations are the providers or facilities and their health plans. This legislation acknowledges that fact."

The bill introduced Thursday would leave it up to those parties to seek mediation, and would leave the patient out of it. The key language in the bill would forbid providers from billing people insured through state-regulated health plans such as preferred provider organizations, health management organizations or the state pension systems for services received at an in-network facility more than their responsibility defined under the plan. Hancock says this is intended to apply to situations where a patient has no option in who is providing their care, like emergency care or out-of-network physician services at in-network hospitals. The patient would still be responsible for co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses as defined by their plans, but wouldn't be on the hook for costs above that. The bill also includes an opt-in provision for people under federally regulated, self-fund-

ed ERISA health plans, which Hancock says makes up at least 40 percent of the state's health insurance market.

"It's our hope that by including these plans in mediation, Texas will send a loud and clear signal to DC: that similar consumer protections need to be passed at the federal level," said Hancock.

Also Thursday, the Senate State Affairs Committee considered a bill that would prohibit local ordinances regulating private businesses. Saying this was solely the responsibility of the state, bill author and Conroe Sen. Brandon Creighton's SB 15 would pre-empt ordinances like ones in Austin and San Antonio mandating that private businesses offer paid sick-leave to employees. Moreover, he believes such local rules threaten the state's business-friendly environment.

"Less government, lower taxes and fair, predictable regulations are why companies are moving here, why companies are expanding once they get here, and why we continue to be the benchmark for job creation in this nation," said Creighton.

A state district court ruled last November that Austin's ordinance violated the state's minimum wage law and prohibited implementation of the new rule. The bill remains pending before the committee.

The Senate reconvened in regular Session on Monday, March 4.

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Now March 23 at EFL SBHLL reschedules parade, etc.

The wet month of February, combined with a bit more to begin this month has forced Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League officials to reschedule its parade, opening day ceremonies and carnival.

Now, those events and more will take place Saturday, March 23, with the parade at 9 a.m. Opening ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m., at El Franco Lee Park and games will follow soon thereafter.

One of the issues facing both the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little and the South Belt Girls Softball Association is the soggy fields within El Franco Lee Park at both facilities. More rain is forecasted for March 9, the original opening ceremonies date for SBHLL.

JFD volleyball sets youth league

The Dobie High School volleyball program will host a spring volleyball league, complete with a

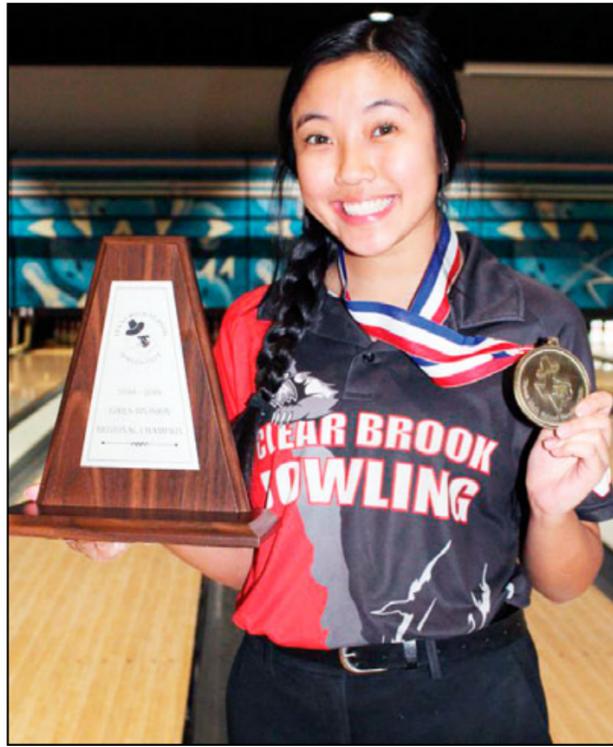
series of training sessions and oversee tournament play for current fifth- and sixth-grade girls later this

month and into April. The sessions will begin Tuesday, March 19 and continue March 26, April 2, April 9, April 23 and April 30, all at Dobie High School.

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Cao leads Brook bowling



Clear Brook bowler Lynn Cao helped lead the Lady Wolverines to the Texas High School Bowling Club regional championship, winning the individual title along the way at Time To Spare in Houston to keep her terrific season going. The state championships will be held later this month. See Page 2B for more.

Frisco Legacy wins LSA boys' hoops makes final

Just 32 minutes of solid basketball separated the Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' team from a state title.

As it was, a talented Frisco Legacy Christian squad, led by a trio of juniors, broke away in the second half, leading to an eventual 66-51 victory over the Pioneers.

With the win, Frisco Legacy captured the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A state championship March 1 at University High School in Waco. The Pioneers had an up and down regular season before getting on a roll in the postseason. In the state semifinals Feb. 28, the Pioneers clinched a 31-win Fort Bend Christian team with a 66-57 victory.

Spring break bumps up game times

The Clear Creek and Pasadena school districts will enjoy spring break March 11 through March 15, and with it will come a slew of earlier start times for most high school sporting events.

For example, the Dobie varsity softball team will play 11:30 a.m. games at the Pasadena ISD complex both March 11 and March 12.

The Dobie varsity baseball team will host Summer Creek Thursday March 14, at Dobie. First pitch is at 2 p.m.

Clear Brook will play at Clear Creek Tuesday, March 12, at 1 p.m.

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Kingwood soccer halts Dobie's run

District 22-6A newcomer Kingwood has suddenly made the boys' soccer championship chase a bit more interesting.

The Mustangs, currently working to catch second-place Memorial, ended Dobie's 11-match winning streak with a 1-0 victory March 5, at Kingwood.

Now 16-2-2 overall, the Longhorns were shut out for the first time this season and absorbed a loss for the first time in nearly two months.

That might be big for the rest of the league, but the Longhorns are still in firm control of first place with four matches to play.

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Dobie, now 11-0-1, has 33 points, while Memorial has 28 but has played 13 matches to Dobie's 12. Humble has 27 points over 13 matches, while Kingwood now has 26 points over the same 13 matches.

Meanwhile, the Dobie varsity girls are almost assured of reaching the postseason despite a 5-0 loss to Kingwood March

5 at San Jacinto College South. Kingwood, now 12-0-1 this season, is headed for the league title but still has some work to do.

As the Lady Longhorns head to Atascocita for the big match, McDonald simply wants great effort.

Lady Horns slug Kingwood

As disappointing as an opening district loss to Summer Creek might have been, the Dobie varsity girls' softball team has a chance to make up for that and then some.

Having bounced Kingwood 8-3 on the road March 5 with another huge team effort, the Lady Longhorns have righted the ship at 2-1 in league play and will now host defending 6A state champion Atascocita March 8 at the Pasadena ISD complex.

Against Kingwood, Jessica De La Cerda continued her solid pitching of late, scattering nine hits in a complete-game effort that led to the win.

Offensively, Camryn Wincher kept up her torrid RBI pace with three more, including a two-run double.

Dobie Lady Horns host Atascocita

Friday, March 8, 7 p.m. Pasadena ISD Complex

Mikayla Gutierrez smacked her first career homer, a solo shot in the third, and Taylor Pleasants circled the bases for an inside-the-park home run

Continued on Page 6B

JFD baseball edges Brook

The Clear Brook and Dobie varsity baseball programs sure hope to get back to some sort of normalcy as the respective teams head back to tournament play March 7-9.

The Wolverines, now 3-3 this season, lost out on a string of games as the Clear Creek ISD tournament was washed out.

Instead, the Wolverines played a doubleheader against Pearland, losing 12-3 and 4-1.

verines 3-2 Dobie scored the difference-maker in the top of the seventh to improve to 5-3 overall heading into the Crosby tournament.

Dobie at Crosby Invite

March 7: JFD vs. Clear Creek, 9 a.m.; JFD vs. Willis, 11:30 a.m.

March 8: JFD vs. Heights, 9 a.m.; JFD vs. Dekaney, 11:30 a.m.

Brook at Alvin Invite

March 7: Brook vs. Galveston Ball, 10 a.m.; Brook vs. Elkins, 12:30 p.m.

March 8: Brook vs. Friendswood, 10 a.m.; Brook vs. Strake Jesuit, 12:30 p.m.

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H.S. soccer races intensify

Continued from Page 1B getting our minds right for the last stretch. (against Atascocita) We just have to come out with the right mind set and be willing to

fight for every inch.” **JFD boys move on** With their 33 points, the Longhorns have qualified for the playoffs. But this team wants to win it all

and has control of its destiny. The Longhorns, back in action Friday, March 8, against visiting Atascocita at San Jacinto South, can make a new streak of wins

pay off with a fifth consecutive league crown. It’s about bouncing back quickly from setbacks, and this program is good at that.

22-6A Boys’ Soccer Standings

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	11	1	0	33
Memorial	9	3	1	28
Humble	7	5	1	27
Kingwood	8	3	2	26
Atascocita	6	5	1	19
Rayburn	5	6	1	16
Pasadena	2	9	1	7
S. Houston	2	10	1	7
S. Creek	1	9	2	5

At right, Dobie’s Emily Solis (6) and Taiya Mitchell (11) are set to lead the Lady Longhorns’ varsity soccer program down the stretch as the group jockeys for playoff seeding with four matches remaining in the regular season. Kingwood is 12-0-1 and headed for a 29th consecutive district championship after a 5-0 win over Dobie March 5, at San Jacinto College South. Dobie is now third behind Atascocita, but the two teams vie in a huge matchup Friday, March 8, at Atascocita. In the first round, Dobie played the Lady Eagles to a 2-2 tie. Dobie will then play Rayburn at Veterans Stadium Monday, March 11, at 6 p.m.



Lady Wolverines champion regional bowling



Clear Brook’s girls’ team wound up the big winner of the Texas High School Bowling Club Championships March 3, at Time To Spare in Conroe. Lynn Cao won the regional title in the individual competition, with teammate Allison Lee placing third. The performance of those two went a long way toward helping the team capture the regional championship in the team category. At left, the Brook group at regionals included, left to right, (front row) Cao, coach Roxy Casas, Lee, (back row) coaches Cecil Rutherford, Dario Vacarro and Jason Lee. Cao is now the most decorated performer in program history. Over her three-plus seasons, Cao has led the team to three district titles and a pair of regional crowns. She has been a part of three different state-qualifying teams, with a top-4 finish last season. She was also 41st nationally last season as a junior.



Led by individual regional champion Lynn Cao and third-place finisher Allison Lee, the Clear Brook girls’ bowling team captured the regional championship March 3 at Time To Spare in Conroe, punching their ticket for the state championships later this month. Members of the team and their coaches include, left to right, (front row) Rabeeah Bhaty, Alexis Hernandez, Cao, coach Roxy Casas, Allison Lee, Victoria Cybulski, Paola Herrera, (back row) coaches Cecil Rutherford, Dario Vacarro and Jason Lee.

Dobie’s Berneathy to face new leaders

After just one season on the job, Dobie’s Kevin Berneathy (right) and South Houston’s Patrick Longstreet will enter 2019 preseason as the elder statesmen among Pasadena ISD head football coaches. The head coaching jobs are now vacant at Sam Rayburn and Memorial after those leaders stepped aside for various reasons. At Pasadena, longtime head coach Jeff Ganske retired, and offensive coordinator David Zapfen has been approved as the Eagles’ head coach moving forward. Meanwhile, Chris Quillan at Memorial is retiring, and Rayburn’s Shaun Wynn has resigned to pursue other coaching opportunities. PISD officials expect to have those vacancies filled by the end of this month.



Photo by Jade Wise

San Jac baseball honors program legends



San Jacinto College honored six former student-athletes at the college’s annual Baseball Legends ceremony on the North campus. Receiving honorary plaques and rounds of applause were former baseball standouts Anthony Banda, Randy Brown, Donnie Elliot, David Evans, Greg Runser, and D.J. Wilson. Another honoree, Anthony Banda, is a professional baseball player and was attending spring training with the Tampa Bay Rays. “It’s wonderful to be able to bring these guys back,” said San Jac Baseball Coach Tom Arrington, addressing the room full of current players and their families during the ceremony. “They’ve meant so much to our program over the years, and they’re great examples of how this team can prepare our young athletes for everything they’ll face in future phases of their careers.” Following the ceremony, the legends headed over to Andy Pettitte Park, where they threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Gators’ game against Odessa College. “Continuing to be involved with the baseball program at San Jac is so important,” said Randy Brown. “There’s something special about seeing the development of these players firsthand. It’s great to be a part of it and be able to give back.” Above, the Legends included, left to right Elliott, Brown, SJC’s Arrington, Evans and Wilson.

Morris soccer to play Roberts

Tryouts are complete, and players have been selected for two Morris Middle School soccer teams that will go head-to-head against players from Fred Roberts Middle School Friday, March 22.

The players from Morris that will make up the two teams are Isabella Avila, Jimmy Bui, Isabella Byron, Julian Calderon, Allen Campos, Mia Campos (team captain), Thomas Castellano, Diego Flores, Joshua Fonseca, Matthew Gomez, Aranza Gonzalez, Luis Hernandez, Mario Lara, Richard Le, Peyton Lynn, Bobby Maldonado (goalie), Joshua Martell,

David Martinez, Lexie Martinez, Samuel Martinez, Wilbert Martinez, Nehemiah McKnight, Simon Montemayor, Edison Moreno, Nair Olvera, Michelle Oviedo, Alelaida Pacheco, Mariela Quirino, Jezreel Rames, James Rendon, Gustavo Reyes (team captain), Christopher Rodriguez, Sebastian Rodriguez, Sofia Rodriguez, Bianca Rubio, Aaron Sanchez, Xavier Sanchez, Yahir Sanchez, Rhema Sanni-Thomas, Andy Silvam Jesus Solache, Zachary Staten, Jose Vargas (goalie), Viviana Velasques, Kennedy Villafana, Anton William-

son and Anthony Zeledon. On March 22, one game will be played after school at Morris, with another to be played at the Fred Roberts field.

Middle School Soccer Coming!
Morris Middle School
 vs.
Fred Roberts Middle School
Friday, March 22
After school at both schools
Come out to see the action!

Area sports news, notes

Rising Stars Track Club practicing, etc.

The Rising Stars Track Club, the area's longstanding youth track and field organization, is set to begin practices and registration at Dobie High School. Returning team members are encouraged to join workouts now through March, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the JFD track.

The team will also practice each Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. as well as each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon until the season begins. Team officials will also accept registration each Saturday in conjunction with the practices. For more information, call head coach Ivory Kimble at 832-561-1248.

Southbelt Dolphins to register players March 9

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League will be accepting new player registration Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at El Franco Lee Park during opening day festivities for the Sagement-Beverly Hills Little League.

Players ages 5 to 12 are eligible to join the Dolphins for the 2019 season at \$300 per player, and there is a bring-a-friend discount available for those who are responsible for another player joining. Drill team and cheer openings are also available for those ages 4 to 13 at \$300 for the season.

Pear Run to aid Pearland PD on May 11

The 2019 Pear Run will this year celebrate 15 years of police support, healthy living and exercise, and members of the jogging public are invited to get involved.

Organized by the Pearland Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, the run through funds raised has previously assisted the Pearland Police Department, helping to purchase equipment, K-9 officer needs, officer memorials and more.

This year, the goal is to raise \$50,000 for a new mobile command center to be used in SWAT situations and at other large public events.

This planned command center will be state-of-the-art in technologies to keep citizens safe and assist with police activities. Participants are encouraged to register for the 10k or 5k Run, 5k Walk or the Kids Fun Run.

In addition, those who choose to be business sponsors for the event will have the opportunity to be seen by more than 1,000 potential customers. There are several sponsor levels to meet all budgets.

The Pear Run will be May 11, 2019, held at the Pearland Town Center Pavilion, 11200 W. Broadway in Pearland. The first race begins at 7 a.m. Visit the official website at www.pearrun.com for details.

Ellington Rams to host open player sign-up

The Ellington Rams of the Bay Area Football League will host its final new player registration Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at El Franco Lee Park. For additional information, call team athletic director Javier Escobedo, at 832-643-2981. Players ages 5 to 12 are eligible to join the Rams for the 2019 season. The team will also register drill members ages 8 to 13 as well as mascots ages 4 to 7.

Lajaunie tennis is April 26-28

The 2019 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will return to the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena April 26-28.

The DLTSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are in the planning and sponsorship gathering stages for its eighth annual memorial tennis tournament.

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

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

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

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

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

Opening ceremonies, including a scholarship awards dinner and silent auction, will be held Friday, April 26.

There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets will soon be available for purchase.

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

Tickets may be purchased at the HTTC or on the DLTSF website as of April 1. In May, the 2019 Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships at the school. Entry fee for the tournament is \$35 for singles and \$22.50 per player for doubles.

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

The tournament will begin Saturday, April 27, at 8 a.m. and finish the next afternoon, with trophy presentations at the conclusion of each division of play.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund website at www.DLTennisScholarships.com includes pictures from the 2018 tournament and information on this year's tournament, sponsorship opportunities, scholarship details and more.

Those who would like to donate may also do so on the website. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a non-profit corporation, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Donations may now be made via the website with a credit card or one may mail a check or money order to: Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, TX 77059, or contact Camille Lajaunie, committee chairperson at clajau@pearland.com with any questions.

Brook track excels at SF's Crosby Relays

Obviously the cast of characters this time around was a bit different what with the infusion of the freshmen, but the Clear Brook varsity girls had little trouble repeating as the Crosby Relays team champion for the second straight season.

Winning the 4x1 and 4x2 relays and taking second in the 4x4 accounted for 56 big points along the way.

Freshmen Jailey Shelton and Camryn Dickson teamed with junior Keaira Connor and senior Kennedy Crutchfield for the 4x1

win in a time of 47.75 seconds.

The same four ladies also combined for the 4x2 victory in a time of 1:41.72.

The Lady Wolverines' second-place 4x4 relay squad included Kimberly Franzen, Sherreka Vann, Christiana Wagner and freshman Genesis Madden at 4:18.44, with Clear Creek edging the locals at the tape.

The Lady Wolverines also got a victory from Dickson in the 100 dash as she clocked in at 12.12.

Crutchfield was second for the silver medal at 12.67, and Vann was sixth at 13.22.

Connor delivered in the 200 dash as she took second place and a silver medal with her time

of 25.11. Vann wound up fourth in the same event as she was in at 27.33.

Shelton stepped up for the Lady Wolverines in the 400 dash as she was second in a time of 1:01.64, and Franzen was fourth as she sped her way to a clocking of 1:04.52.

In the field events, Dickson scored for Clear Brook in the triple jump. There, her effort of 35-10 1/2 was good for second place.

Elsewhere, Madden was fourth in the 100 hurdles with a time of 16.37, and her time of 52.69 in the 300 hurdles placed her seventh, just out of the scoring.

Reagan Dunlap's time of 12:30.95 placed her sixth overall in the 3,200 run, and Wagner came to the line at 2:38.00 for seventh in the 800 run.

Koran came to the finish line in a time of 2:01.42 for second place.

Sports Calendar

TENNIS

Thursday, March 7

Dobie varsity hosts St. John's, 3:00

SOFTBALL

Friday, March 8

San Jacinto College at NFCA Lead-Off Classic, TBA

Saturday, March 9

Dobie varsity vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD, 11:30 a.m.

San Jacinto College at NFCA Lead-Off Classic, TBA

Sunday, March 10

San Jacinto College at NFCA Lead-Off Classic, TBA

Monday, March 11

Dobie varsity vs. South Houston, PISD, 11:30 a.m.

SOCCER

Friday, March 8

Dobie varsity girls at Atascocita, 7:30

Dobie varsity boys host Atascocita, San Jac, 7:30

Dobie JV boys host Atascocita, San Jac, 5:30

Dobie JV girls at Atascocita, 5:30

Monday, March 11

Dobie varsity boys vs. Sam Rayburn, Vet., 2:00

Dobie varsity girls vs. Sam Rayburn, Vet., 6:00

Dobie JV girls vs. Sam Rayburn, Aux., 4:00

Dobie JV boys vs. Sam Rayburn, Aux., noon

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, March 7

Dobie girls track at Bayshore Olympics, La Porte, TBA

Dobie boys track at Bayshore Olympics, La Porte, TBA

Pasadena ISD intermediate meet, Auxiliary, 4:30

BASEBALL

Thursday, March 7

Dobie varsity vs. Clear Creek, Crosby, 9 a.m.

Dobie varsity vs. Willis, Crosby, 11:30 a.m.

Brook varsity vs. Galveston Ball, Alvin, 10 a.m.

Brook varsity vs. Elkins, Alvin, 12:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8

Dobie varsity vs. Heights, Crosby, 9 a.m.

Dobie varsity vs. Dekaney, Crosby, 11:30 a.m.

Brook varsity vs. Friendswood, Alvin, 10 a.m.

Brook varsity vs. Strake Jesuit, Alvin, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9

Dobie varsity at Crosby tourn., trophy rounds, TBA

Brook varsity at Alvin tourn., trophy rounds, TBA

Monday, March 11

Brook JV hosts Clear Creek, 1:00

Brook sophomores host Clear Creek, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, March 12

Brook varsity at Clear Creek, 1:00

Thursday, March 14

Dobie varsity hosts Summer Creek, 2:00

Friday, March 15

Brook varsity hosts Clear Creek, 1:00

Brook JV at Clear Creek, 1:00

Brook sophomores at Clear Creek, 11 a.m.

Rutledge's gem gets baseball past Wharton

Wharton College threw a kink in San Jacinto's plan to rule Region XIV baseball this season, winning two of three from the Gators in the teams' series Feb. 27 and March 2.

In the opener, Wharton came up with a 13-6 victory at San Jacinto College.

San Jacinto's Jackson Rutledge then continued his dominating season in

the middle game blanking Wharton 3-0 as part of a three-hit shutout.

Facing just two hitters over the minimum in the gem, Rutledge struck out 10 in the game to get the win.

Bryan Seamster had a solo homer for the Gators, and Adam Houghtaling came up with an RBI double.

Rutledge, ranked as one of Baseball America's best draft eligible JUCO players nationwide, is off to a terrific start.

The freshman right-hander is 3-0 and has struck out 53 batters in just 30 innings of work.

His earned run average of 0.60 is a team-best. The Gators' pitching staff as a whole has a 1.30 ERA.

Wharton scored a run in the bottom of the ninth inning and then walked off with a 5-4 win in the 12th inning to take the series in the finale.

Seamster had another solo homer for San Jacinto College.

The Gator will be back in action Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, with three conference games against visiting Laredo.

24-6A Boys' Basketball All-District Selections

Most Valuable Player

Tramon Mark, Dickinson, Jr.

Offensive MVP

Jaja Sanni, Clear Lake, Jr.

Defensive MVP

Calen Anderson, Clear Creek, Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Seth Jones, Clear Creek, Fr.

Coach of the Year

Jason Wilson, Dickinson

First Team Selections

*Caleb Elsey, Alvin, Sr.

*Deuce Guidry, Dickinson, Jr.

*Paul Wilson, Clear Brook, Sr.

*John Argue, Clear Lake, Sr.

Hunter Smith, Clear Creek, Sr.

Casey Davis, Clear Lake, Sr.

Terrence Woodson, Clear Springs, Sr.

Brandon Andrews, Clear Brook, Jr.

*Unanimous Selection

Second Team Selections

Dorian Mason, Clear Falls, Sr.

Garrett Rooker, Clear Springs, Jr.

Maurice Pinnock, Clear Creek, Soph.

Jalen Wydermyer, Dickinson, Sr.

Francesco Cicalese, Clear Falls, Sr.

Jake Mather, Clear Lake, Sr.

Kyle Burt, Clear Springs, Sr.

Jabari Miller, Dickinson, Jr.

Tieras Barron, Clear Creek, Sr.

Honorable Mention - Brook

Lionel Clark, Sr.

Jaren Van Buren, Sr.

Jordan Baker, Jr.

Shane Porter, Jr.

All Academic - Brook

Shannon Angeletti, Sr.

Kobe Edmond, Sr.

Jordan Baker, Jr.

Shane Porter, Jr.

Matt Ghansyam, Jr.

Carter Ung, Sr.

Gage Whiteman, Jr.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

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 jpochsner@aol.com for details.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

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 713-661-4200.

FRIDAY, MARCH 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.

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.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-661-4200.

8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/

addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

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.

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 jpochsner@aol.com for details.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

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 jpochsner@aol.com for details.

Scleroderma Support Group - Do you know someone with scleroderma? Join a support group on the second Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital in Humble. Bring a friend. Call Jacob Davila at 281-706-6232, or email jdvavila@scleroderma.org.

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.

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.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

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.

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 jpochsner@aol.com for details.

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

Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

6-8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Mercy Hearts meets on the second and fourth Mondays, 6 p.m., at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale. The focus is support for families of inmates and ex-offenders. The program will provide a complimentary meal, group Bible study and discussion. Child care is provided. This is a confidential ministry and information will be treated accordingly. For details, contact C. Talbot at 281-245-7072 or Chucktal@msn.com.

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

Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group - A national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families meets the second Monday at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. For information, call 281-538-4648.

6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., next to the fire station. For details, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565 or visit <http://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>.

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 713-661-4200.

Sagement Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday, Sagement Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the education bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

Continued on Page 4B



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SOUTHBELT - Data-Systems - Hard Drive Data Recovery - Linux Installation. 10909 Sabo, Suite 120, 281-481-0909. E-mail: sds@walkerlaw.com. TF

GARAGE SALE
5050 E. SAM HOUSTON PKWY. S. at Zion Lutheran Church. Sat, March 9, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Garage sale & treasures. Lots of vendors with new and old items. 3-7

MISCELLANEOUS
FOREST PARK EAST CEMETERY: Three spaces, choice location Section 206, lot 89, spaces 7, 8, 9. Call 281-487-7932. TF

FOR SALE. Antiques - Early American - before 1830. 3 walnut chests, 1 walnut commode, 2 hanging oil lamps - made electric, 2 slant top desks (cherry & maple), 1 cherry wall cupboard, 1 pine washstand and 1 antique bed. Call 281-795-9474. TF

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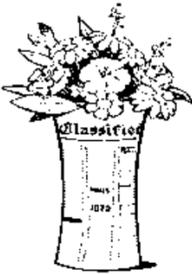
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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

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.

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 \$50.

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 details.

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, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

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.
Free dance lessons - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's 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 713-661-4200.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

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 jpochnsner@aol.com for details.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

1 - 3:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details information on the activity card, call the city at 281-554-1180.

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 713-661-4200.

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

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale

Bldv. For information, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

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.

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 or visit aglownet.org.

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 jpochnsner@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, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

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 Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real. This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200.

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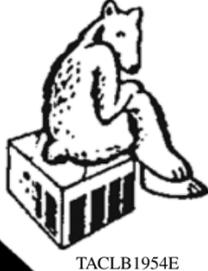
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Dobie track and field teams compete at Clear Lake's Falcon Invitational

The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams kept up the march toward the district championships early next month with an appearance at the Falcon Invitational at Clear Lake High School.

The Dobie boys scored particularly well in the shot event as they grabbed three of the top five spots. Senior Jason Brooks came up with a throw of

47-1 1/2 to land the gold medal, and teammate Devin Childs came away with a bronze medal for his third-place throw of 45-2.

In the same event, the Longhorns Devon Brown took fifth place overall as his best throw traveled 44-6.

Dobie's overall speed showed up big in the relays. The Longhorns were second in the 4x1 and

third in both the 4x2 and 4x4 events.

Ballard also competed in the high jump, clearing 5-6 for sixth place.

Deon Singleton was fourth in the 100 dash at 11.45, and teammate Bryce Shea completed the 200 dash at 23.15 for fourth place as well.

In the girls' division, Briasia Garza won the 400 dash, and Amari Singleton was the winner of the 800

run.

In the 100 dash, Dobie's Rachel Smith finished at 13.03 for eighth place, and Aajaylah Reed's clocking of 26.83 was ninth in the 200 dash.

The 300 hurdles saw Dobie's Erika Tafolla in at 49.88 for ninth place, with Ambreon Jones 10th in a time of 50.37.

Dobie was second in the 4x2 and the 4x4, and took third in the 4x1. Smith,

Reed, Janelle Mooney and Jones teamed in both the 4x1 and 4x2 events, with Vanessa Villareal, Grace Castaneda, Janya Hunt and Garza teaming in the 4x4.

The Dobie teams will be in action once more prior to spring break. The JFD contingent will be at the Bayshore Olympics in La Porte in a special Thursday, March 7 competition.



From left, Dobie's Cameron Guy, Deon Singleton, Rushad Ball and Adam Robicheaux took a break after running the 4x4 relay for the team at the Falcon Relays at Clear Lake High School March 1. The foursome combined for a time of 3:34.70, placing them third for a bronze medal in the event.



The Dobie varsity girls' track and field team out together another strong showing at the Falcon Relays at Clear Lake High School March 1. Some of the members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Janelle Mooney, Aajaylah Reed, Janya Hunt, (back row) Amya Ray, Kenya Horton, Briasia Garza, Jordyn Ridge, Briana Haywood, Amari Singleton, Grace Castaneda, Erika Tafolla and Zoe Hernandez. The team will be back in action March 7 at the Bayshore Olympics at La Porte.

Lady Longhorns offense rolls, team scores 42 runs at GCI

Continued from Page 1B

inning later as the visitors went on to get the win.

Since Feb. 28 with two games at the Goose Creek ISD tournament, Wincher has driven in 19 runs, a

staggering pace.

Also against Kingwood, Michelle Amezcua, Jasmin Benitez and Wincher all doubled.

In the absence of senior starting pitcher Alana Ortega, De La Cerda has played a big role for the Lady Longhorns.

Against Atascocita, she may be asked to deliver another great effort.

Dobie 22, Pasadena 0

Dobie quickly got back to 1-1 in District 22-6A action following a long-awaited game with Pasadena. Delayed six days by weather and subsequent wet fields, the game lasted just three frames as the Lady Longhorns rolled 22-0 at the Pasadena ISD complex.

with a double, and Colunga had two hits, scored a run and plated another.

Starting pitcher Miquela Guajardo earned the win with 3 1/3 innings of work, and De La Cerda finished it off.

Dobie then routed Baytown Lee 10-1 as Longoria was 4 for 4 with three runs scored out of the leadoff spot.

After driving in 11 runs at the Goose Creek ISD tournament, Wincher again came up big against the Lady Eagles.

Smacking a grand slam, Wincher drove in five more runs, giving her 16 over a six-game stretch.

Amezcua, Kristen Barba, Karli Barba and Taylor Pleasants all doubled in the rout.

In that one, Pleasants went 3 for 3 at the plate, smacking a double and a triple to wind up with three runs batted in.

Wincher, finishing off a terrific tournament for herself at the plate, drove in three runs.

Dobie made four errors in the game, which didn't help as the Lady Bulldogs took the win.

Benitez scored two runs and had a pair of runs driven in.

Wincher had a double among her three hits, and drove in three runs.

Dobie got triples from Kristen Barba, Karli Barba, Samantha Lopez and Pleasants.

Wincher leads Dobie

The weather was not great in the least, but Dobie did manage to squeeze in five games at the Goose Creek ISD Invitational.

The Lady Longhorns scored 32 runs over three

In the second of two games March 1, Dobie scored first as Longoria led off the game with a triple and scored on Jasmin Benitez's sacrifice fly.

But that's all the fun Dobie would have in an eventual 3-1 loss to The Woodlands.

Dobie delivered plenty of run support to its pitchers while winning its first three games of the tournament.

De La Cerda got the win with 4 2/3 innings of solid pitching, and Karli Barba finished the game.

Wincher drove in five runs, including three with a bases-clearing triple, as Dobie pounded Brazoswood 12-2.

In that one, Wincher tripled twice and also doubled to pace the offense.

Meagan Smith earned the win in the circle as she went four innings, slowing Odessa.

In the Goose Creek ISD opener, Dobie run-ruled Baytown Sterling in five innings as Longoria went 2 for 3, scoring two runs and driving in three more.

Wincher was 2 for 2

Longoria had three more hits and scored three times, and Pleasants had a three-run double and also tripled. De La Cerda allowed just one earned run over five innings for the victory.

Now comes a matchup with the defending state champion.

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San Jacinto Coyote softball splits tilts against Odessa

The San Jacinto College softball team managed to dodge the rain long enough to get in a pair of nonconference games against Odessa, splitting them.

The locals won the first game 10-2 as the offense came through in a big way.

Morgan Childs was again the leadoff hitter, going 3 for 3 with a triple and three runs scored as her team did a great job of

hitting behind her.

Samantha Martinez doubled to drive in a run and also scored a run, and Dominique Garcia went 2 for 2 with a double and two runs driven in.

Ariana Saenz, stepping in at catcher as of late, came up with two hits in three at bats.

Meagan Smith earned the win in the circle as she went four innings, slowing Odessa.

San Jacinto sophomore pitcher Michelle Kristoff was solid in the second game, but the Wranglers' Cori Turner was even better.

Turner led Odessa to a 2-0 shutout win, scattering five hits and no runs for the win.

Kristoff went the distance, allowing five hits and no earned runs to go with five strikeouts despite the loss.

Meagan Smith earned the win in the circle as she went four innings, slowing Odessa.

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