



South Belt-Ellington Leader

42 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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www.southbeltleader.com

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Clocks spring forward

Once again, it's time for South Belters to spring forward, as daylight saving time officially begins Sunday, March 11, 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. 4.

Family Fun Day planned

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber's third annual Family Fun Fest will be held Saturday, March 24, at Clear Brook City Park, located at 11911 Blackhawk, from 3:30 to 8 p.m.

The family-friendly event will again include the Strut Your Mutt dog show, a Twilight 1K and 5K run, Operation Kidsafe fingerprinting, inflatables, games, contests, an Easter egg hunt, food trucks and concessions, demonstrations and exhibitions. Sponsorships are available in various categories.

To register for the Strut Your Mutt and 1K or 5K run/walk, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Houston/3rdAnnualStrutYourMuttFamilyFunFest>.

For additional information, contact Kay Barbour at 281-481-5516.

Kirkmont to meet quarterly

The Kirkmont I Homeowners Association's monthly meetings will change to quarterly, as of Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. The March and April monthly meetings will still be held at the Kirkmont MUD building located at 10102 Blackhawk. Any comments or concerns should be submitted to Kirkmont MUD Manager Linda Arnone at 281-484-4325.

Highway 3 closure slated

At least one southbound lane on Highway 3/Old Galveston Road at Beltway 8 will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, April 1.

Knights hold fish fry

In honor of Lent, the Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a fish fry on Fridays through March 16 in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road, from 5 to 7 p.m. Each dinner includes a breaded catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, 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 will benefit local and community projects. All are invited and welcome.

Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road from Blackhawk to SH 35/Telephone Road will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 9.

Cowboys, Cowgirls register

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls will hold open-player registration Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Little League Baseball fields in El Franco Lee Park. All spots are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Cowboy football is open to ages 5 through 12. Cowgirl drill activities are open to all participants ages 5 through 13. League age is as of Aug. 1.

A minimum \$100 deposit is due when registering. For more information on the football program, call League President Denny Wranich at 281-785-8353. For more information on the drill program, contact Drill Director Kerri Blanton at chelsey1004@yahoo.com.

AARP offers free tax help

Volunteers from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will be available to answer questions and offer tax preparation at Parker Williams Public Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 16. This service is free and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bring Social Security cards or other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, 1099-R forms and other necessary forms to help the volunteer complete the return. For more information, visit aarp.org/taxaide.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from Fuqua to FM-528/West NASA Parkway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, March 9. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-518 to FM-517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, March 10. Alternate entrance and exit ramps will be closed.

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

7 more PISD students charged with threats

There were seven students from the Pasadena Independent School District apprehended this past week for making terroristic threats. This brings the total number of students charged in the past two weeks to 12.

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, 18-year-old Tannor Willis, the remaining six of those charged were juveniles, and their names have not been released. All of the threats were made online on social media sites, except for the Park View threat, which took place verbally at lunch.

Such online threats have become a growing problem nationwide in the aftermath of the Parkland, Fla., shooting last month that left 17 dead

and dozens more wounded.

Clear Lake High School was placed on lockdown Monday, March 5, after a student reported a possible threat. (See related story on this page.)

That same day, Frazier Elementary dismissed late after a possible shooting was reported nearby. See social media column on Page 2A for more information.)

Apartment complex catches fire



Firefighters responded to a blaze at the Cimarron Landing apartment complex in the 10900 block of Highland Meadow Village Drive the afternoon of Saturday, March 3. According to Southeast Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Jerry Terrell, the fire was caused by contractors who were soldering copper pipe on new air conditioning units. The apartments were vacant due to recent flooding, and no injuries were reported. Two apartment units suffered extensive damage in the blaze. The SVFD was assisted by the Houston and Pearland fire departments. Approximately 10 vehicles responded to the incident.

Photo by Jim Elder

Harris County recovers from Harvey

In the six months since Hurricane Harvey sent nearly a trillion gallons of stormwater crashing through Harris County's bayou drainage system, the Harris County Flood Control District has removed more than 101,000 cubic yards of downed trees, tires and other storm debris clogging bayous and channels.

Removing blockages to stormwater conveyance in advance of the next rain event was a high priority for the Flood Control District in the days and weeks after Harvey. Early estimates of as much as 135,000 cubic yards of county-wide channel debris turned out to be on target, say

Flood Control District officials. Using in-house debris removal crews and storm debris contractors, the Flood Control District is nearing completion on a priority sweep of the county's 22 watersheds.

Substantial work remains on Buffalo Bayou, where the Flood Control District owns limited right of way and which presents unique challenges in terms of equipment access. Debris removal crews are now using barges, chainsaws, and excavators to remove Buffalo Bayou debris from multiple public and private access points

Continued on Page 2A

Police search for shooting suspects

Houston police are searching for multiple suspects wanted for firing gunshots at a pedestrian the night of Friday, March 2, in the 10400 block of Sagemont Park subdivision.

According to police, the shootings took place around 7:20 p.m. as the intended victim was walking down the sidewalk.

Witnesses reported seeing three suspicious vehicles — a silver two-door car, a red Dodge Charger and a dark-colored car, possibly a Honda Accord — parked on the street prior to the shootings.

After the shots were fired, the pedestrian ran through someone's yard and jumped a fence,

while the shooters fled the scene in the respective vehicles.

One witness reported seeing the same vehicles in the neighborhood again later that night and the following day.

Investigators believe no one was injured in the shooting, as there was no blood at the scene.

Police believe at least five suspects were involved in the shootings, three of whom were riding in the Charger. It was unclear at press time how many shots had been fired.

Anyone with any information on this case is urged to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

March 6 Democrat, Republican primary election results tallied

The results from the March 6 Democratic and Republican primary elections have been tallied with few surprises, as the favored candidates in most races received at least 50 percent of the vote, resulting in limited May runoff.

In the race for U.S. senator, incumbent Ted Cruz handily defeated all challengers for the Republican nomination, receiving 87.15 percent of the votes (131,693 total votes). Bruce Jacobson Jr. received 2.97 percent of the vote (4,481 total votes); Geraldine Sam received 2.22 percent of the vote (3,351 total votes); Mary Miller received 4.99 percent of the vote (7,541 total votes); and Stefano de Stefano received 2.67 percent of the

vote (4,041 total votes).

On the Democratic side of the aisle, Beto O'Rourke easily won the nomination, receiving 59.09 percent of the vote (92,535 total votes); Sema Hernandez received 21.39 percent of the vote (33,496 total votes); and Edward Kimbrough received 19.52 percent of the vote (30,562 total votes).

In the U.S. House District 22 race, incumbent Pete Olson trounced all challengers for the Republican nomination, receiving 80.54 percent of the vote (3,353 total votes). Danny Nguyen received 12.37 percent of the vote (515 total votes); Eric Zmrhal received 1.66 percent of the vote (69

total votes); and James Green received 5.43 percent of the vote (226 total votes).

In the Democratic contest for the District 22 nomination, candidates Sri Preston Kulkarni and Letitia Plummer will head to a runoff. Kulkarni received 27.88 percent of the vote (907 total votes), while Plummer received 20.10 percent of the vote (654 total votes).

Margarita Ruiz Johnson received 19.49 percent of the vote (634 total votes); Mark Gibson received 14.85 percent of the vote (483 total votes); and Steve Brown received 19.49 percent of the vote (634 total votes).

In the race to fill the U.S. House District 29 seat recently vacated by Rep. Gene Green, Democrat Sylvia R. Garcia easily won her party's nomination, receiving 63.22 percent of the vote (11,659 total votes). Augustine H. Reyes received 2.84 percent of the vote (524 total votes); Dominique Michelle Garcia received 2.56 percent of the vote (472 total votes); Hector Morales received 3.05 percent of the vote (562 total votes); Pedro Valencia received 1.04 percent of the vote (192 total votes); Roel Garcia received 6.6 percent of the vote (1,217 total votes); and Tahir Javed received 20.70 percent of the vote (3,817 total votes).

In the Republican race for the District 22 nod, candidates Phillip Aronoff and Carmen Maria Montiel will head to a runoff. Aronoff received 38.62 percent of the vote (2,402 total votes), while

Montiel received 23.59 percent of the vote (1,467 total votes).

Jaimy Z. Blanco received 21.05 percent of the vote (1,309 total votes), while Robert Schafranek received 16.75 percent of the vote (1,042 total votes).

If elected in November, Garcia will be the first Latina from the Houston area to be elected to Congress.

At the state level, both Republican Dennis Paul and Democrat Alexander Jonathan Karjeker ran unopposed for their party's respective nomination and will face each other in November's general election.

In the state House District 144 race, Ruben Villarreal defeated Gilbert Peña, taking home 62.06 percent of the vote (1,042 total votes) to Peña's 37.94 percent (812 votes).

Rep. Carol Alvarado ran unopposed for the House District 145 position.

In the House District 147 race, incumbent Garnet F. Coleman easily won the Democratic nomination, receiving 81.20 percent of the vote (10,218 total votes). Democratic challenger Daniel Espinoza received 18.80 percent of the vote (2,366 total votes).

Coleman will face Thomas Wang, the sole Republican seeking the position, in the November general election, which is set for Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Runoff elections are scheduled to take place Tuesday, May 22.

Woman charged in fatal crash

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 white Lincoln MKX sport utility vehicle at a high rate of speed south at the frontage road just before 4 a.m. when she struck the rear of a maroon Scion driven by the female victim.

Shayla Joseph and her 9-month old daughter were pronounced dead at the scene.

Rivas received minor injuries, and her female

passenger sustained possible broken bones. Both women were transported to an area hospital.

Police said Rivas showed signs of intoxication at the time of the crash. After her release from the hospital, she 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.

Investigators said evidence shows that Rivas was coming from an establishment that serves alcohol. The unnamed business is now under investigation, police said.

Rivas has been placed on house arrest after posting a \$60,000 bond.

Clear Lake HS placed on lockdown

Clear Lake High School was placed on lockdown for more than 90 minutes the morning of Monday, March 5, after a student reported a possible threat.

The female student told officials that her ex-boyfriend made a threat against the school, and she believed she saw him walking around the campus.

As a precaution, the campus was immediately placed on lockdown, as authorities swept the grounds. The lockdown was later lifted after an extensive search.

The lockdown started around 9 a.m. and was

lifted around 10:40 a.m., according to Clear Creek Independent School District officials.

Following the lockdown, the campus operated on protect-mode, which means the outside doors remained locked, but students could move within the building and get to their class for attendance. Parents wanting to check their children out of school were asked by officials to be patient and wait for the protect-mode to be lifted, which occurred shortly after 11 a.m.

Two individuals associated with the incident were apprehended by Pasadena police. No additional information was available at press time.

Man killed in Gulf Freeway accident

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place around 9:55 p.m. Friday, March 2, in the 17700 block of the Gulf Freeway near FM 2351.

The identity of the male victim, 41, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to police, a male driver of a red Ford Edge was traveling south on the freeway when he failed to control speed and struck a white Chevrolet Cruze, which was parked and disabled with mechanical issues in a moving lane of traffic.

The impact caused the Chevrolet to strike its driver (the deceased victim), standing in front of

the vehicle, and then a Ford F-250 pickup truck parked in front of the Chevrolet.

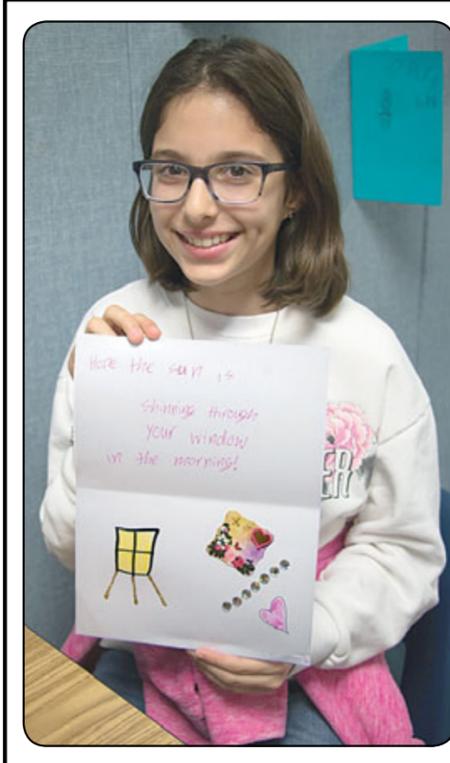
The driver of the pickup truck had stopped to provide a jump start to the Chevrolet.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the pickup truck was not injured.

The driver of the Ford Edge was transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center, where he consented to a blood draw. He did not show visible signs of intoxication. No charges have been filed in the crash at this time.

The investigation was ongoing at press time.

The incident marked the third traffic fatality on that stretch of the freeway in just three days. See related story on this page.



Zaid brightens senior's day

Weber Elementary students and their family members recently participated in the Super Bowl of Service by working on various community service projects, which included making thank you cards for veterans, candy grams for hospital patients and letters to residents in local nursing homes. Participating students also donated food to a local food pantry, made treats for animals in area shelters and learned about home safety from the League City fire and police departments. Weber fifth-grader Hanen Zaid is shown to the left with an uplifting letter she wrote to a local senior citizen. See related story on Page 5A.

Photo submitted

In My Opinion

Leader checks out social media

Deaths

Alix states the clock is ticking

In the wake of the Florida High School shootings I jotted down the attached thoughts. In light of the numerous threats on Dobie and other Pasadena schools I am moved to be a voice for a multi-pronged solution to change things. I recognize that my position may not find much of a chorus in our community. My daughter brought home a report card with straight A's on Friday and was afraid to go to school on Monday!

There is something that has been pulsating in my core for the better part of the last week. Though I have clearly known the source of my angst I've tried to move on in a "business as usual fashion" by loving my family and digging in at work. Well, as I do every morning I just finished seeing my 15 year old daughter out to catch the bus to high school. As she leaves she kisses me on the cheek and says she loves me each day. I see her out each morning until she boards the bus as I am concerned about her safety given that it is dark outside, it's mostly teenage girls and because I've seen more crazy's drive right through a bus zone while kids are boarding the bus. Though this is a topic for another day I'm reminded of just how important the safety of my children and the neighborhood children are to me.

Seventeen. Seventeen high school children killed in a Floridian high school. An additional 20 injured. Countless others traumatized by the onslaught. All terrorized by a youth with a military grade assault rifle and armed enough to slaughter many more.

What is the source of my angst? These children are so much like my daughter that just got on the bus to our suburban area high school much like the one in Florida.

I pause. I reflect. I am a gun owner. I respect my 2nd Amendment right to purchase and own a firearm. Glad to have the right.

I think! How did we get to this place? Surely we collectively know that military grade assault weapons are not made for American households. In fact they are not made for hunting either.

Eighteen. Eighteen school gun incidents in the first 45 days of 2018. This stat makes my pulse rise.

I conclude. The clock is ticking! It is ticking down until the next school shooting! I just sent my daughter into a place where a shooting can very well occur! Why do I roll the dice? Why do we parents take the risk?

I gain clarity. I see you NRA. I see you with your money and your organization. I see that you are tone deaf to any sensible changes to gun laws. I see that you're backed by an industry whose love of profit has eliminated any concerns about the well-being of a nation. I see that you have perfected the role of puppet master and diabolically control the thoughts, words and lack of actions of elected officials in all levels of government.

I call on you to join me. If my thoughts resonate with you I'd love to hear your ideas to become collective and effective agents of change. Let's unite for the safety of our children and to restore the sanity of our nation when it comes to firearms. Maybe we should stop taking the risk with our children. Maybe to throw a wrench into business as usual we should not send them to school. Extreme action may need to be considered to break the stranglehold of the NRA. Maybe on one day or multiple days we should lock down school districts across this country and go to state capitols nationwide. The clock is ticking. Maybe while the next community is reeling in the aftermath of the next school assault we should grieve with them and stay away from school as long as they do. One of the "super powers" of the NRA is their financial strength. We can manufacture a significant financial impact with a mass exodus from schools during times like these. School district funding is tied to attendance. We can march the streets of our communities on these days.

We will be heard. We will be noticed. We will reverberate into the shelters of state capital buildings throughout the country until action is taken. Assault weapons are made for war not for the communities of this great nation!

The clock is ticking. Someone is armed and on the path to being the next mass killer.

The American people have seen the carnage visit our schools, churches and entertainment venues. Yet, legislation to even ban someone on the terror watch list from being able to purchase an assault weapon was blocked!

Polls show that the majority of Americans across party lines support reasonable gun control particularly when it comes to assault weapons.

We can do better. We are the people of America. We are patriotic. We will not punt on the issue of guns any longer.

I will continue to tell my daughter I love her each morning. It's only a matter of time until the next one is a sobering thought. The clock is ticking.....

I will pray for you and yours. Please pray for me and mine.

Let's pray for the courage and strength to champion change. **Noble J. Alix, Jr.**

Laredo invites all to join prayer walk

As we all know, there has been a lot of concern about the recent and past shootings at schools in different parts of our nation. After the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, I believe it is time for our community to come together as parents and churches and support a prayer walk around our schools. We are all God's People, and as we pray together, God will hear us and begin to intervene on our behalf. Our children should not be afraid to go to school. Schools should be a safe place for learning. Our teachers and students need our support more than ever.

Please join me and others for a respectful and orderly prayer walk on Saturday, March 24, at 9:00 a.m. around Moore Elementary and Dobie High School. We will meet at Moore. We would like to be able to do this for every school in South Belt. We need our parents and churches to be involved. If you have any questions, please call 281-484-0901. In case of rain, we will re-schedule for Saturday, April 7. Let's show the nation that the change can begin here.

Patricia Laredo
Muecke addresses Councilman Martin

I attended the Tuesday night PIP meeting, a fairly good crowd but unfortunately did not see Jordan. Understand she had a previous commitment. The speaker Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Justice of the Peace Pct 2, Place 1 did a great job on updating everyone on this past years legislative accomplishments or misdeeds/missteps. Some discussion on the number of recent incidents where a weapon was used, also two recent killings in the Clear Lake police district. Bottom line, lock your vehicle and remove all loose contents. Thieves love to get free stuff.

What was most interesting is that I learned that the new electric speed reading/displaying machine, speed trailer, was furnished by Councilman Martin from his funds. He furnished 2, one for the north and then the south sector. I have been working with HPD for the past several years in getting their old worn out unit on Gilpin near the Milstead Middle school We had the new one placed on Gilpin, then on Edgebrook on both the north and south side. Close to my home so I walked over and watched the cars as they approached, they saw the sign and their speed, guess what, brake lights came on. Now some did not, maybe saw this "small" sign and did not slow down. So the machine is very effective and I want to thank you for spending our tax money very wisely. Clear Lake station Capt. Hitzman spoke highly of the unit and appreciated having it to assist in traffic control.

Representatives introduce Cardiac Arrest Survival Act

Rep. Pete Olson and Rep. Gerald Connolly acted to help save lives impacted by sudden cardiac arrest by introducing H.R. 5013, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act on Feb. 14. This bill will help increase the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest by eliminating the threat of frivolous lawsuits through development of a nationally uniform baseline of protection for persons who use an automatic external defibrillator while attempting to save a life during a medical emergency. Original cosponsors of H.R. 5013 include: Reps. Phil Roe, Don Beyer, Liz Cheney, Neal Dunn and Andy Harris.

"In a cardiac emergency, defibrillation is the best defense and quick use of AEDs can save lives," Olson said. "The threat of lawsuits should never stand in the way of providing emergency medical assistance. This common sense solution provides peace of mind by removing

for a short time.

On March 5, it was reported on the *South Belt This & That* Facebook group that Frazier Elementary dismissed late, that there were multiple police vehicles driving along Hughes Road and the school had mentioned there was a danger in the neighborhood.

The police investigated reports that a white male who was allegedly seen driving a dark gray vehicle near Hall Road and Sageburrow was believed to be shooting a gun in the air. The incident was reported to the school district; students were detained

contact the owner through Facebook.

Another member of the same Facebook group is looking to urgently foster her son's dog. The dog is active, needs a backyard and is a great watch dog. The dog is also spayed, chipped and current on vaccinations. If interested, contact the member through Facebook.

A light brown Chihuahua was found near Sagepark/Sagecrest and was posted to the same Facebook group. The dog does have a collar. Contact the member through Facebook.

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint this week:

Thursday, March 8, 4:30 p.m. STEM
Saturday, March 10, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class
Saturday, March 10, 2 p.m. Citizenship class
Tuesday, March 13, 10:30 a.m. Para los Niños
Wednesday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime
Wednesday, March 14, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint
Bracewell hours this week are: Thursday, noon – 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Parker Williams Library

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

Tax help is available Fridays and Mondays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through tax season from AARP Foundation volunteers. Bring appropriate documents. See related article on sidebar of Page 1A. There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, March 30.
Saturday, March 10, 2 – 4 p.m. Magic: The Gathering Gameplay is appropriate for ages 8 and older.
Monday through Friday, March 12 to 16 (spring break), 1 p.m. Polliwog Club is for all ages to learn about the different animal kingdoms from Harris County Precinct 1 Naturalists. There will be stories, crafts, and even a few animal visitors. Preregistration is required.
Monday, March 12, 6 p.m. Magic: The Gathering Gameplay, for ages 8 and older. Special thanks are given to Strike Zone for the generous donation of Magic: The Gathering cards. For more information, visit <http://www.hcpl.net/sites/default/files/Feb-MTG-1.jpg>.
Monday, March 12, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Microsoft Excel II. Microsoft Office user specialist Lizett Ceja instructs students in Microsoft Excel for business or personal use. New students are welcome if space is available. Registration is requested.
Monday, March 12, 5 p.m. Drone Flying Club, age 8 to adult. Learn how to fly a quadcopter with the flying club. Registration is requested.
Wednesday, March 14, 3 p.m. STEM Time: Fibonacci's Number, for age 7 and older. Meet in the library community room to learn about the various places Fibonacci's number can be found. Below are the programs that occur every week:
Wednesday, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.
Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.
Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time, Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.
For more information on any events, call the library at 281-484-2036. Library hours this week are: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1 – 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Elected officials share their words

Olson acts to combat online sex trafficking

Rep. Pete Olson recently acted to combat the increase in access to online sex trafficking and provide justice for victims of this heinous crime. Olson cosponsored and voted for H.R. 1865, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, which amends the Communications Decency Act to make it easier for states to prosecute websites that facilitate online sex trafficking. Specifically, this bill clarifies that the CDA does not grant immunity to these bad actor websites and creates a new federal crime designation for websites that have the intent to promote or facilitate illegal prostitution. It increases criminal penalties for websites that promote the illegal prostitution of five or more people or recklessly disregard the fact that sex trafficking occurs on their website and provides a pathway for victims to sue bad actors for restitution. H.R. 1865 passed the House by a vote of 388-25 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Olson acts to combat online sex trafficking

"Sex trafficking is a horrific form of modern day slavery that affects families and communities across our country," Olson said. "While the Internet can be a great tool, it has been twisted to harm young women in ways never intended and we have a duty to ensure our laws catch up with technology to protect. For too long, websites like Backpage.com have avoided prosecution for the role they play in enabling sex trafficking on their sites. That ends now. This legislation ensures state and local prosecutors have the tools needed to hold these websites accountable and send the people that operate them to prison if they knowingly allow this heinous crime to occur. With improved enforcement of these laws, victims will have a better opportunity to obtain the justice they deserve."

The bill combats online sex trafficking by providing new tools for law enforcement to target criminal actor websites; H.R. 1865 creates a new

federal anti-trafficking law to specifically target bad-actor websites, that have engaged in the promotion or facilitation of prostitution yet escaped criminal and civil liability;

Under current law, interactive computer services, i.e. those that enable or provide access by multiple users to a server, are not treated as the publisher or speaker of information provided by another information content provider;

This immunity has barred civil challenges even when the courts find that the interactive computer service has tailored its website to facilitate sex trafficking. The bill also provides aggravated penalties applied against individuals who:

Promote or facilitate the prostitution of five or more persons; and
Act in reckless disregard of conduct contributing to child sex trafficking.

The bill also allows states to enforce state criminal laws that mirror the new federal law and current federal trafficking law.

Donna Jeanne Tylka



Donna Jeanne Cendrick Tylka, longtime South Belt resident, died on Sunday, March 4, after a long illness. She is resting peacefully, free from pain and discomfort. She was a bride, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband of more than 48 years, Chuck Tylka; her daughter and son-in-law Sherri and Keith Lindsey and their children Amanda, Brandon and Damian; daughter and son-in-law Laurel and David Chicas and their children Alexis, David Jr. and Lydia; her brothers Tom and Marlene Cendrick of Mandeville, Louisiana, and Don and June Cendrick and their children Daniel and Casey Cendrick of Huntsville; and many cousins, aunts and uncles.

She was preceded in death by her parents George and Harriet Cendrick; in-laws Lottie and Al Tylka; Uncle and Aunt Bob and Gigi Lemker, and Jo and Gene Pond.

Donna was a proud native Texan and lived in Houston all her life. She attended Garfield Elementary, South Houston Intermediate and graduated from South Houston High School in 1966.

She attended San Jacinto College where she met the love of her life and future husband Chuck. They were

Donna Jeanne Tylka

married and settled in the South Belt-Ellington area in 1975. She was employed but decided to become a full-time mom to raise their daughters. Later on, she joined Chuck in their business and worked there until she retired in 2015. She enjoyed traveling, vacationing with her family and helping to raise her loving grandchildren.

Donna had a zest for life and her joy was her family, whom she loved dearly. She loved all, shared everything she had and never met a stranger.

The visitation is at Niday Funeral Home, 12444 Beamer Road on Thursday, March 8, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with the recitation of the rosary immediately following.

On Friday, March 9, a funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary of the Miraculous Medal, 1604 9th Street, Texas City, at 10 a.m. with a reception immediately following in the social hall. At 12:30 p.m., there will be a procession to Holy Cross Cemetery, 3502 N. Main St., Houston for final interment.

Joseph "Joe" Morgan



Joseph "Joe" Morgan, 78, a devoted husband, caring father, and dotting grandfather died on Feb. 27 in Conroe. Joe was a former longtime South Belt resident.

Joe was born in Sharon

Hill, Pennsylvania, Dec. 20, 1939, to Preston D. Morgan Sr. and Elizabeth C. (Kramp) Morgan. He graduated from Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Houston and served in the U.S. Army as a communications specialist. Afterward, he began working for the family business IWECO, eventually as a technical welding expert and later for Coastal Welding Supply.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Preston David Morgan Jr. He is survived by his wife of 53 years Patricia (Pat) Vogel Morgan; children Yvette (Morgan) Hoisington, Joseph Duane Morgan Jr. and wife Elece Wooler Morgan and Patrick Bryon Morgan and wife Tiffany (McClung) Morgan; grandchildren Preston and Greyson Morgan, Jamie Farris, Ashley Smith and Kayli Farris; great-grandchildren Ethan Williams, Sophia Smith, Kason Vitow and Kade, Brodie and Jett Farris.

Joe was a founding parishioner of the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist in South Belt and more recently was a member of Sacred Heart in Conroe then at St. Simon and Jude in The Woodlands. He enjoyed spending time with his family taking vacations, camping, hunting, and watching purportedly humorous movies. He was actively involved with his children and grandchildren and attended their games and activities. Joe was quite the handyman and a meticulous do-it-yourselfer and there was virtually nothing he couldn't fix.

The funeral Mass was celebrated March 2, at St. Anthony's of Padua Catholic Church. Burial followed in Forest Park – The Woodlands Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Anthony's Bread Food Pantry available at 832-482-4210 or at bread@ap.church.

Recovery from Harvey continues

Continued from Page 1A (with permission). The Flood Control District is pushing to remove an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 tons of additional Buffalo Bayou debris by the start of hurricane season on June 1.

On January 30, 2018, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded a \$4.73 million contract to low-bidder Aftermath Disaster Recovery Inc. for land and water-based removal of channel storm debris for the year beginning Feb. 1, 2018. Aftermath takes over from contractor Phillips & Jordan, which had been removing storm debris since Harvey.

Once debris is removed from the channel, it is typically staged along the banks for disposal at an appropriate location. This debris has included everything from refrigerators and other large objects washed into the channel, to as many as six automobiles.

Woody debris is stockpiled and ground into wood chips – a total of nearly 35,000 cubic yards so far – which are then hauled to local green waste recycling centers for final processing into composted mulch.

Noise and vibrations from airboats and chainsaws, as well as dust and various odors, will accompany debris

removal work. While the intent is to transport stockpiled channel debris as quickly as possible, some stockpiled debris could remain in some locations overnight or for several days. Trails will remain open as public safety allows. Trail users are asked to observe all warning signs and fencing in debris removal work areas. Motorists are urged to be cautious of equipment entering and exiting debris removal areas.

Debris that has washed against any bridge, pipeline structure or utility is being removed. Vegetative debris that is silted into the slopes or bottom of the channel is typically left in place. Debris crews are focused on debris that is blocking stormwater conveyance, and are not removing trash, floatables or sediment alone. Buffalo Bayou and other channels are not being "dredged."

The Flood Control District is working with Federal Emergency Management Agency to secure funding for its disaster-related storm debris removal efforts. Once priority channel blockage removal is complete, the Flood Control District will continue to address channel debris as part of its regular maintenance program. Residents are encouraged to report bayou and creek blockages to the

Flood Control District's Citizen Service Center at <https://www.hcfd.org/contact-us/citizen-service-center/>, or by calling 713-684-4197. If possible:

- "Drop a pin" to obtain and share coordinates of the blockage, or
- Include the nearest street address.
- Add a photo.
- Provide email and/or phone contact information, in case Flood Control District personnel need help in locating the blockage site.

For status updates on the county-wide debris removal effort, check the Flood Control District website: <https://www.hcfd.org/hurricane-harvey/keeping-our-flood-control-channels-clear/>.

About Harris County Flood Control District

The Harris County Flood Control District provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit www.hcfd.org.

Lariaettes hold upcoming annual Spring Show

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes and Dance Department will be holding its annual spring show, *Lariaettes Live from the Red Carpet* April 5, 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Dobie High School. Admission is \$10 and tickets may be purchased presale from any Lariaette starting March 19 or at the door while supplies last. Plan to attend and support the Lariaettes and dance students as they perform for the last time during the 2017-2018 school year.

Frazier sets date for Pre-K Roundup

Frazier Elementary will host the Pre-K Roundup on Wednesday, May 2, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. This meeting will provide information on Frazier's pre-K program and criteria for qualifying and each family will be scheduled for an individual preregistration appointment to take place sometime in May. To qualify for pre-K, a child must turn four years old by Sept. 1.

Clear Lake Bridge Club lessons announced

Lessons in beginning and advanced duplicate bridge are underway at the Clear Lake Bridge Club located in the heart of Clear Lake City at 16614 Sea Lark.

There are also bridge lab classes on Tuesday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. each week. Anyone may come to play bridge. Teachers are available to help with bidding and playing the hands. The club is closed the first four days of the month for the regional tournament being held at the West Chase Marriott.

There are beginning games on Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon beginning at 2 p.m. each week.

The charge to play is \$6 for club members and \$7 per game for nonmembers. Intermediate games are held on Tuesday and Thursday each week at 10 a.m. Open games are held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.; Thursday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. Every Sunday of the month is a team game.

For more information, call the club at 281-480-1911 or contact Jim Ochsen, club manager at jpochsner@aol.com.

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.

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District E News
By Council Member Dave Martin

Hurricane Harvey continues to dominate day to day operations in the District E office. Staff continues to work with Houston Public Works and Harris County Flood Control District on projects to reduce the risk of flooding in both parts of District E. Recently Mayor Sylvester Turner took the time to sit down with Rep. Dan Huberty, Sen. Brandon Creighton, and myself to discuss a plan moving forward to address major flooding in the Lake Houston area.

All parties in the meeting agree that the dredging of the River and Lake are necessary due to the settling of sediment which has created islands and sandbars blocking the natural flow of the River. Other items discussed included the construction of flood control gates on Lake Houston. Additionally, the effects of sand mining along the San Jacinto River were a topic. Representative Huberty passed crucial legislation in the 82nd Texas Legislature to put harsh regulations on illegal sand mining operations and is now working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to increase enforcement of those regulations.

The Lake Houston area sits at the bottom of the San Jacinto Watershed which is comprised of nearly 452 square miles. The ten tributaries that have a significant impact on flooding in the Lake Houston community include: Lake Creek, Spring Creek, Cypress Creek, Caney Creek, Peach Creek, East Fork of the San Jacinto River, Tarkington Bayou, Luce Bayou, West Fork of the San Jacinto River and Lake Conroe. Currently, the Lake Houston Spillway Dam has no flood control measures as part of its infrastructure. The Spillway consists of two radial gates and two flashboard gates. This puts our area at a huge disadvantage in storms like Harvey because we have ten other tributaries flowing up the watershed and barreling down the San Jacinto

Meador holds Family Math, Literacy Night



Meador Elementary held its annual Family Math and Literacy Night on Feb. 8. More than 600 attendees enjoyed math and reading, games, crafts, the book fair, basketball, face painting, karaoke, dancing, refreshments



and more. Shown, above left, are Tara Merida, counselor (left); and Beverly Bolton, principal in the photo booth. Shown, above right, are Kali Cochran (left) and her daughter kindergartener Randii Register.



Shown above left, kindergartener Nicholas Jordan shows off his face painting. Shown above right, left to right, kindergarten siblings Bryce Hamon and Cole Hamon walk together to the book fair. Shown below,



Brian Bulluck Jr. (left) plays a game of chess with his son, fourth-grader Brian Bulluck III (right) as fourth-grader Richard Le looks on.

Photos by Andrea Boyken



Pathways Experience promises unique, interactive "un-gala" event

Guests at the 2018 San Jacinto College Foundation Pathways Experience are in for a one-of-a-kind "un-gala" event with hands-on, interactive opportunities to explore the college's degree and certificate pathways. The college's newest building, the Center for Industrial Technology at the North campus, will serve as the venue for the May 18 event.

Along with the interactive Pathways displays, guests will enjoy a Punch Wall with various prizes; Vision Balloons to release throughout the evening; student-designed robots to control; a live scholarship auction via video wall displays; and an assortment of fine food at various stations throughout the venue. An exclusive reception and first look at all the evening's activities will also be held for all VIP ticket holders prior to the start of the Experience. One of the highlights of the event will be a one-night-only opportunity to experience "Club San Jac" complete with a Nitro Bar and musical entertainment to dance the night away provided by the acclaimed Houston party band, Doppelganger. Attire is black tie optional with an overall style of "cowboy chic." All proceeds from the Pathways Experience event will benefit San Jacinto College student

scholarships and programs. "We want everyone to come see and experience firsthand what is happening at San Jacinto College," said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director for advancement and newly appointed member of the National Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Executives Board of Governors. "Make plans to attend our state-of-the-art Pathways Experience to see why we are ranked as one of the top five community colleges in the country, while supporting our students and faculty."

The event will also honor the late Dr. B.J. Westbrook as

the San Jacinto College Foundation's Legacy Award recipient, which will be accepted by his daughters. A longtime resident of the North Channel area, Westbrook led a life of service through funding scholarships, equipment purchases and establishing an endowment for San Jacinto College students, ensuring that students have access to a quality, affordable education.

The San Jacinto College Foundation's Pathways Experience event takes place on Friday, May 18, from 6:30 to 11 p.m., at the San Jacinto College North Campus Center for Industrial Technology, Building 33, located at 5800

Uvalde Road. The exclusive VIP reception will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., prior to the start of the event. Current sponsors for the Experience include Abermarle, Lubrizol, Dr. Gerald Cobb and the Community Hospital Foundation, Steven Cowart, Ruth and Gordie Keenan, Dally & Associates, Inc., Page and the San Jacinto College Strategic Leadership Team. Sponsorship and in-kind donation opportunities, along with couples and VIP packages are available. Individual tickets start at \$250. To purchase sponsorships and tickets, visit sanjac.edu/experience.

PISD announces Fine Arts performances calendar

The Pasadena Independent School District has released its fine arts performances calendar for the months of March, April and May.

Events are listed by event name, date, time and location.

High School Orchestra UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, March 9, 8:07 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dobie High School.

Middle School Orchestra Benchmark Festival, March 24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Beverly Hills Intermediate.

Middle School Band Benchmark Festival, March 24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sam Rayburn High School.

Dobie High School Theatre UIL one-act play - *They Promised Her the Moon*, by Laurel Ollestien, March 24 and April 11, 6 p.m., Dobie High School auditorium.

South Belt Elementary first-grade program - *The Day the Crayons Quit*, April 5, 7 p.m., South Belt Elementary cafeteria.

Thomas Hancock Elementary third-grade musical *EIE I Oops*, April 12, 8:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thomas Hancock cafeteria.

Fred Roberts Middle School fifth-grade band spring concert, April 19, 6 p.m. Roberts Middle School cafeteria.

Fred Roberts Middle School spring orchestra concert, April 19, 6:30 p.m., Roberts Middle School cafeteria.

Fred Roberts Middle School sixth-grade band spring concert, April 19, 7 p.m., Roberts Middle School cafeteria.

Thompson Intermediate Choir performance of "National Anthem" Houston Astros Game, April 24, 4:30 p.m., Minute Maid Park. Cost to attend is \$29 per person. Cash only and payment is due by March 22.

Fred Roberts Middle School Choir - Regards to

Broadway concert, April 24, 6:30 p.m., Aviator Stage.

South Belt Elementary - South Belt Singers Choir Festival, April 28, all day, M. O. Campbell Center.

Beverly Hills Intermediate Orchestra concert, May 3, 7 p.m., Beverly Hills gym.

Thompson Intermediate spring concert, May 3, 7 p.m., Thompson gym.

Dobie High School Orchestra spring concert/senior recognition, May 4, 6:30 p.m., Dobie High School main campus auditorium.

South Belt Elementary fourth-grade program with South Belt Singers and ORFF Ensemble, May 4, 7 p.m.,

South Belt cafeteria.

Beverly Hills Intermediate Orchestra - "National Anthem," May 11, 5 p.m., Minute Maid Park. Orchestra students will meet in the orchestra room, 3:30 p.m. The orchestra will perform before the game and stay for the game and fireworks.

South Houston High School Orchestra spring concert, May 15, 7 p.m., South Houston auditorium.

Moore Elementary Spring Choir/Talent Show, May 22, 6 p.m., Moore cafeteria.

Melillo Middle School Beginner and Advanced Band spring concert, May 22, 6:30 p.m., Melillo cafeteria.

Trash inspections, code enforcement resumes

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey's devastating floods, the Department of Neighborhoods placed a moratorium on the enforcement of heavy trash codes to give residents reasonable time to clear debris, junk and other materials from their properties. As the city continues to make strides in the recovery and rebuilding process, on March 1, the department resumed heavy trash inspections and code enforcement operations in accordance with City of Houston Code of Ordinances Chapter 39.

The department is specifically responsible for inspections and code enforcement pertaining to littering, placement of trash containers for garbage collection service, rules that establish the items that will be picked up by city collectors, including junk and tree waste, and disturbance of contents of garbage collection containers. Other aspects of garbage collection are managed by the Solid Waste Management Department.

"Residents and city crews have had to operate under unusual circumstances over the last five and a half months to manage debris and waste from Hurricane Harvey," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "Now we ask Houstonians to help us return to some degree of normalcy as the Department of Neighborhoods resumes enforcement aimed at preventing unhealthy or unsightly clustering of trash."

"In the aftermath of Harvey, many residents had to deal with unprecedented huge volumes of trash and debris, and our inspections teams made allowances by giving residents and property owners time to come up with the help and resources needed to comply with

heavy trash guidelines," said department director TaKasha Francis. "With much of the cleanup now completed, we are resuming the enforcement of city guidelines for the proper and timely placement of heavy trash and tree waste and the proper placement and storage of garbage collection containers. The timely and proper placement of heavy trash and tree waste and proper placement and storage of trash containers are among the easiest actions residents can take to maintain nice neighborhoods, while noncompliance can result in

citations and fines of fifty to two thousand dollars," said the director.

In addition to heavy trash codes under Chapter 39, DON is also responsible for the enforcement of Chapter 10 codes pertaining to overgrown lots, dangerous vacant buildings, nuisances on private property, trash and junk accumulation, junk motor vehicles, graffiti, and congregated facilities sanitary equipment. The department also enforces Chapter 28 codes pertaining to the placement of unlawful signs on city property and right of way.

Harris County Commissioners Court deaf to taxpayers' needs with Astrodome vote

Harris County Commissioners Court, led by County Judge Ed Emmett, showed just how tone deaf they are to taxpayers by approving a \$105 million project to revamp the Houston Astrodome on a unanimous vote. When a \$217 million proposal to refurbish the Astrodome was put before

voters in 2013, Proposition 2, it was defeated by a 53-47 percent margin. The \$105 million under this proposal would include money from the county's general fund, or property tax collections.

"This is tone deaf to the needs of taxpayers," said Sen. Paul Bettencourt. "The average taxpayer has seen their property tax bill increase by 37 percent in just four years, and tens of thousands more at still trying to rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. There has been no public vote on spending property tax money on a sports venue. The bottom line is that these property tax

monies could have been used to cut the property tax rate or give disaster reappraisal to homeowners impacted by Hurricane Harvey."

Data shows that the average Houston area home has endured a 37 percent increase on their property tax bill in just four years, from 2013 - 2017. During this same time frame, Harris County has not cut their overall property tax rate, meaning they are one of the largest increases among all the taxing jurisdictions in Harris County, collecting well more than half a billion dollars in tax collections every single year. Emmett has resisted calls to trigger disaster reappraisal to give homeowners impacted by Hurricane Harvey a break, despite several surrounding taxing jurisdictions, including the counties of Fort Bend and Montgomery, offering disaster reappraisal to impacted homeowners.

Several other taxing entities, such as Katy Independent School District, Spring Branch Independent School District, and many smaller entities have also triggered disaster reappraisal. Harris County, the City of Houston and Houston Independent School District have so far opted not to do so. At a Feb. 1 hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform, testimony was

taken that additional taxing jurisdictions triggered disaster appraisal for their flooded out taxpayers just a few weeks ago.

"The irony of Commissioners Court spending property tax monies on the Astrodome without a public vote will not be lost on county taxpayers, especially those seeing reappraisals done by school districts and not by the county itself," said Bettencourt. "They should have taken this plan to the public for a vote, just like the City of Houston did with their pension plan at the insistence of the Legislature."

The bipartisan Harris County Taxpayer Protection Act was filed in the Texas Senate by Sen. John Whitmire, and joint authored by Bettencourt, which would have required a public vote on an Astrodome refurbishment plan that uses property taxes, hotel and occupancy taxes, and rental taxes. However, outgoing Texas House Speaker Joe Straus blocked this bill in the House on behalf of Emmett.

"We just need to recognize the obvious," said Bettencourt. "If the County has money to ignore a public vote and refurbish the Astrodome, then they have the capability to offer flooded out homeowners disaster reappraisal and to cut their property tax rate!"

Meador students rewarded



As part of Pasadena Independent School District's Summer Reading Incentive, 191 students from Meador Elementary were treated to a fun day at It's for pizza and games on Jan. 25. These students were rewarded for increasing their reading level over the summer from May to September. Shown above playing a game are second-graders, left to right, Kaitlynn Lanza and Karely Maldonado. Shown, below, enjoying pizza are second-graders, left to right, Sebastian Gonzalez, Destiny Gutierrez and Anel Villarreal.

Photos by Tara Merida



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UHCL lists events

The University of Houston-Clear Lake has announced its calendar of events.

Art Gallery - "War-Toys: Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip"

Gain a new perspective on the psychological effects of war violence on young children in the new exhibit in the UHCL Art Gallery. Los Angeles photographer Brian McCarty allowed children affected by war in Israel to art-direct his photos with personal drawings from their lives. The result is a unique juxtaposition captured in digital images.

The exhibit is available to view through March 15, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. The exhibit is located at UHCL, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

The exhibit is presented as part of the FotoFest 2018 Biennial Participating Spaces program. Free parking is available in the visitor lot or student lot D. For more information, contact Art Gallery Director Jeff Bowen at 281-283-3376 or visit www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery.

Art school for children and young adults

Students will express their creativity while learning about culture, history and science in these interactive art classes at UHCL. The art classes will be held through April 5 at different times and locations.

Elementary-age classes will focus on creating original artwork using clay, paint, pastels, markers and crayons for "The Art of Space." Advanced students in grades

fourth through sixth will create pixel origami sculpture, trading cards, game pieces and game boards to create their own game. Students in grades sixth through 12th can choose to work with mixed media or 2-D drawing and painting.

Spots are available for students, ages 3 1/2 to high school. Fees range from \$100 to \$130 per student. Contact the Art School for Children at 281-283-3344 for more information.

Habitat Work Days

Help maintain the beauty of the UH-Clear Lake campus by volunteering at Habitat Work Days each Tuesday morning in March with the Environmental Institute of Houston. Volunteers are asked to aid in upkeep, clear paths, clean the pond and assist with other conservation tasks.

Dates for March are 13, 20 and 27. Meet at 9 a.m. at the North Office Annex, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

For more information, call UHCL Environmental Institute of Houston at 281-283-3950 or email eih@uhcl.edu. To learn more, visit www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute.

Center for Executive Education - "Strategic Utilization of Leadership Skills"

Managers and leaders in today's workforce must be effective in leading teams to make a positive organizational impact. In this course from UHCL's Center for Executive Education Management and Leadership Certificate Program, participants

Continued on Page 4A

Leader seeks storm info

The *Leader* is seeking information about area residents who are still impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The newspaper has received multiple reports of local families that have been reluctant to come forward and seek government assistance for various reasons. The *Leader* is attempting to organize a community effort to help such families in need make needed home repairs and address other pressing issues. The effort is not affiliated with any governmental organization. The newspaper is particularly interested in hearing about families with children or seniors. Affected residents are asked to contact the *Leader* by calling 281-481-5656 or emailing mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Shaar Hashalom holds lessons

The Bible, the original that is called the Old Testament, is divided into three parts: the first is the Torah (the Five Books of Moses), the second is The Prophets, and the third is a collection of unrelated books called The Holy Writings. Last semester Congregation Shaar Hashalom's own Rabbi Stuart Federow led conversations about books in the third part - The Holy Writings, starting with Ecclesiastes. This semester the Federow will continue in the third part of The Holy Writing, beginning with Psalms, then moving to Proverbs and finishing discussion of The Wisdom Literature of the Bible with the Song of Songs. The study is presented during the current semester of 2018. The course discusses entire scripts, ideas and insights, rather than line by line. Each topic's discussion stands alone, and one does not have to have attended previous classes. Everybody is welcome to attend anytime and enjoy. The sessions are conducted every Sunday, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Congregation Shaar Hashalom. The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real, Houston, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. The entire community is invited to attend. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org or contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861.



Over The Back Fence by Alexis

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

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

EVIE TURNS FOUR!
Stacey (Hayes) and Stephen Flowers of League City celebrate the fourth birthday of their daughter, Evelyn "Evie" Faith Flowers, on Sunday, March 11. Proud grandparents are Jannie and Robert Scarberry of South Belt 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.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena

Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 8 through March 14.

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. Join in the birthday fun with Mayra Tapia-Gonzalez on March 14.

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday March 11 is Dora Barnett. March 13 is the day for a layered cake for Jennifer Dowling. Myriam Garcia enjoys a birthday March 14.

Moore Elementary
The day for a party for Guadalupe Hudson is March 9. Send a happy birthday greeting March 13 to Maria Noyola.

Meillio Middle School
Blow out the birthday candles for Diane Wheeler March 10. The day to celebrate with a cake for Troy Ralls is March 14.

Roberts Middle School
Celebrating a special birthday March 14 is Crystal Polo.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Share in the birthday celebration for Christina Serna March 11.

Thompson Intermediate
Light the birthday candles March 9 for Alexandra Alvarado. Send a birthday greet-

ing to Elida Torres March 12.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles for Jennifer Haynes on March 10. Adrian Amador and Sandra Rodriguez share a birthday on March 12. On March 14, double birthday wishes are sent to Elizabeth Cross and Robert McGill.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to friends who celebrate a birthday this week: Thursday, March 8: Diana Vela, Matt Anderson, Pat Freyaldenhoven, Michelle Fuller and Mark Solis; Friday, March 9: Sheri Akanji, Cheryl Stell, Rudy Rivera, Leah Lister, Lance Botkin, Susan Zientek, Monte Long and Bo Richards; Saturday, March 10: Jim Daigle, Sheila Dill and Kizzy Moore-Christie; Sunday, March 11: Raquel Loya, Michael Martinez, Jesus Romero, Marcelo DeLeon III and Irma Manriquez; Monday, March 12: Debbie Clark, Maria Rijoas, Debbie Johnson and Heather Murphy Burris; Tuesday, March 13: Matthew Hanks, Heidi Delk, Shane Terry, Samuel Pitts, Sharon Jobe, Max Hernandez and Becky Gilley; and Wednesday, March 14: Allison Weatherly, Chris Williams, Curtis Scope, Ron Shafer and Angelique Garcia.

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

SJC honors award, nominee recipients

San Jacinto College has announced its 2017-2018 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee and the Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards recipients. Dr. Carla Garrett, San Jacinto College North campus college-prep writing professor is the college's 2017-2018 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee and Faculty Excellence Award recipient; Kevin Morris, San Jacinto College South campus dean of business and technology is the College Administrator Excellence Award recipient; Debbie Simpson-Smith, San Jacinto College Central campus department chair of education and Casey Prince, San Jacinto College Central campus dietics professor are College Faculty Excellence Award recipients; and College Staff Excellence Award recipients are Hollie Fulsom, San Jacinto College event planner; Loli Priddy, San Jacinto College Central campus physical sciences senior administrative assistant; and Kate Carter, San Jacinto College North campus provost's office senior administrative assistant. Criteria for the college's Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards nominations include addressing the nominee's last two years of work and service in the following areas: dedication, service and involvement in the college community; ability to serve as a role model and work collaboratively with others; contributions to addressing or meeting the needs of students and/or employees; and exemplary attributes or qualifications for the selection committee to consider. Garrett has made strides in helping to shape the College's student success centers serving on its respective advisory committee. One of her major roles working with the student success centers included developing and presenting tutor training workshops to faculty tutors teaching in the English, reading and writing areas. She has also served as a mentor to new part-time and returning faculty. Along with serving on two committees for the state's College Academic Support Programs organization, Garrett was also awarded a 2017 Observing Award which led to her receiving a resolution from Mayor Sylvester Turner's office for making a positive difference in the community as an outstanding educator and was the recipient of the 2016 Legacy Educator Award from her Iota Phi Lambda sorority. Within the last two years, Garrett has also published articles in the *Journal for Liberal Arts and Sciences* and the *National Journal of Urban Education and Practice*. Morris continues to set best practices for administrative leadership across the College. Recently, Morris served as dean of business and technology at the South and North campuses until the position was filled at the North campus. As interim, he helped with the completion of the campus's new Center for Industrial Technology, implemented new organizational structures with department chairs and their staff and helped department chairs move office locations to more centralized locations on campus. To learn more or to register, visit www.uhcl.edu/admissions-center.

University of Houston-Clear Lake announces events calendar

Continued from Page 3A
UH-Clear Lake, including Alfred R. Neumann Library and the Pearland Campus Library, will close March 16 for Spring Break. To report an emergency at the university during the holiday, call the UHCL Police department, 281-283-2222.

Cyber Security Institute - "Network Routing and Switching"
This course from UHCL's Cyber Security Institute builds on foundational knowledge to cover building network topologies implementing WAN solutions, securing network devices and more. The course will run March 16-17, 23-24, 30-31, and April 6-7. The course will be held at the Delta Building, room 201 at UHCL. The course is \$1,300 and includes instructional materials. For more information, visit the UHCL Cyber Security Institute at www.uhcl.edu/cyber-security-institute.

Small classes and private tutoring are available for Spanish, Mandarin, Italian, German, Japanese, Russian and more. English courses for professionals are also available, and classes focus on conversational skills. Individual courses cost \$156. Parking is available in lot D for \$5. To learn more or to register, visit www.uhcl.edu/fl or call the Foreign Language and English Enhancement Program, 281-283-3033.

UHCL Spring Open House
Due to inclement weather during Spring Open House in February, a second event was added on March 24 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Student Services and Classroom building. Prospective students and their guests can meet current UHCL faculty, staff and students who can answer questions about degree programs, financial aid, and more. Friends and family are also welcome to enjoy the music, campus tours and fun activities. Students who apply for admission at the event will have their application fee waived, and some programs offer on-the-spot admission decisions with all required documentation.

Freshman, international and doctoral students are not eligible for On-the-Sport Admissions. For more information, or to register, visit www.uhcl.edu/open. To arrange for a large group or an accommodation for a disability, contact the Office of Admissions at 281-283-2500 at least one week prior to the event.

Movie - The Post
Go back in time to when Katharine Graham took over the *Washington Post* as America's first female publisher. Through her partnership with editor Ben Bradlee, she took everything to expose government secrets over three decades. The film stars Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks. After the film, join a panel discussion of the central themes in the film. The film will be shown on March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Student Services and Classroom building, lecture hall. Admission and parking for the event is free for students with a student ID and \$4 for everyone else. Free parking is available. For more information, call the Student Life office at 283-283-2560.

Autism Speaker Series - Promoting Positive Behavior Using Token Systems
Third-year graduate student in behavioral analysis Desiree Dawson will lead a discussion on how to promote positive behavior using a token system with individuals with developmental disabilities on March 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Bayou Building, room 1510. The talk is part of the Autism Speaker Series, coordinated by the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. The lectures are free and open to the public although registration is required in advance.

Transfer and graduate students can attend workshops on university admissions, financial aid, scholarships and apply early at Admissions Preview on March 29 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Student Services and Classroom building. Additionally, students can meet with enrollment counselors for individual assistance and take campus tours of campus to see what it means to be a UHCL Hawk. On-the-spot admissions is available for some academic programs. Students wishing to participate should bring official transcripts from all previous colleges/universities and required test scores to the event. To register or for more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/admissions/events/admissions-preview.

SJC announces Minnie Piper Award nominee



The 2017-2018 San Jacinto College Minnie Stevens Piper Award nominee and Faculty and Staff Excellence Award recipients shown above are, left to right, Kate Carter, San Jacinto College senior administrative assistant, North campus provost's office; Kevin Morris, San Jacinto College South campus dean of business and technology; Hollie Fulsom, San Jacinto College event planner; Loli Priddy, San Jacinto College senior administrative assistant, San Jac Central campus physical sciences; Debbie Simpson-Smith, San Jacinto College Central campus department chair of education; Dr. Carla Garrett, San Jacinto College North campus college-prep-writing professor and 2017-2018 Minnie Stevens Piper nominee; and Casey Prince, San Jacinto College Central campus allied health sciences, dietetics professor. Photo by Jeannie Peng Mansyur

Center for Executive Education - SAT preparation course
Gain an edge on the SAT with a preparation course from UH-Clear Lake's Center for Executive Education. This course offers 24 hours of hands-on training with challenges, activities and timed exercises. The course will run from March 10 through April 28, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon at UHCL. Students will learn tips and techniques to craft compelling essays, comprehend the reading portion, and make sense of math equations to master the SAT. The course costs \$549 and includes a textbook and instructional materials. UHCL faculty, staff, students and alumni receive a 10 percent discount. To learn more about the course or to register, call the Center for Executive Education, 281-283-3120, or email cee@uhcl.edu.

Center for Executive Education - Power Negotiations: Unlock Your Powers of Influence and Persuasion
Become an effective negotiator in the business world with training to equip you with an understanding of the negotiation process, standards for problem-solving, tools for effective communication and more. This course will run March 12-13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at UHCL. The course is two sessions and is part of UHCL's Purchasing Supply-Chain Management Certificate Program. Participants must attend both sessions to complete the course. The fee is \$995 with group discounts available. For more information, contact the Center for Executive Education at 281-283-3120.

Student spring break
Students will be on break from spring courses March 12 - 16. However, university offices will be open from March 12-15 for regular business. Classes will resume March 19.

Center for Executive Education - Inventory management
Learn about control, quantity and restocking to improve efficiency and cut costs for your business in this course by UHCL's Center for Executive Education. Purchasing, inventory and supply managers are encouraged to attend. The course will be held on March 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at UHCL. The course is two sessions and is part of UHCL's Purchasing Supply-Chain Management Certificate Program. Participants must attend both sessions to complete the course. The fee is \$995 with group discounts available. For more information, contact the Center for Executive Education at 281-283-3120.

UHCL Closed

Remember When

40 years ago (1978)
The Beverly Hills Civic Club was actively seeking the widening of Sabo Road to four lanes. The J. Frank Dobie boys' choir was one of four choirs chosen from Texas to sing at the American Choral Directors Association Convention in Lawton, Oklahoma.

35 years ago (1983)
Members of Sagemont Baptist Church donated more than \$700,000 to the church in a special "Joining Hands for Victory" celebration. The Southbend recreation center announced its planned opening. The center included a junior Olympic 25-meter swimming pool, tennis courts and a pavilion. Harris County Flood Control approved plans for \$1 million in drainage projects for the Southpoint complex.

30 years ago (1988)
The Southbend MUD entered an agreement with Houston's wastewater department. This agreement was expected to lower the cost of sewer service to just more than one-fourth what the district was then paying. Precinct 2 Constable Paul McClure failed to win 50 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary; therefore, he faced a runoff with Galea Park police officer Gary Freeman.

25 years ago (1993)
Attorney James Moriarty reached an agreement with Southbend Properties Inc. to pay each of his 112 clients between \$20,000 and \$45,000 for their homes in the Southbend subdivision. Workers for the Texas Highway Department started building a sound-abatement wall on the Kirkwood side of Beltway 8.

20 years ago (1998)
The Texas Workforce Commission's Skills Development Fund presented an \$857,532 check to San Jacinto College. The Brio Site Task Force made public its target date for remediation of the Brio site. The task force projected planned remediation for Brio would last into 2003.

15 years ago (2003)
J. Frank Dobie and Clear Book high schools finished in the top two spots in the Greater Houston Area Junior Classical League Latin competition. The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees called a \$337 million bond election.

10 years ago (2008)
Pasadena Independent School District superintendent Kirk Lewis received a doctorate in education leadership from Lamar University. Over the past two-and-one-

half years, Lewis traveled to Beaumont every other weekend to attend the school, where he would have classes on Friday nights and all day Saturdays. The FLY Dance group continued to soar, performing both locally and nationally. Originally called the Morris Fifth-Grade Dance Team, the troupe was formed in 2004 by physical education teacher Rhonda Valencia to participate in the school's annual Olympiad. The group specialized in hip-hop dancing. Valencia was aided by Kathy Wood, head of the professional touring FLY Dance Company. The last day approached for potential candidates to file to run in local school and municipal utility district elections which were to be held in May. Classrooms across Pasadena Independent School District received emergency preparedness buckets through the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools grant. The buckets contained various emergency items. In addition, teachers put their individual class rolls and emergency flip chart guidelines in the buckets. Mohamed Haq, M.D., medical oncologist and medical director, was named Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital's 2007 Physician of the Year. Employee of the year was Blu Baillio, R.N., who worked in the hospital's post-anesthesia care unit.

5 years ago (2013)
Dobie High School finished in eighth place in the Texas Academic Decathlon held in El Paso. The Longhorns took third in the Super Quiz and garnered two individual first places. Tuan Phan took top honors for Dobie in honors science, while teammate Angel Garcia took first in varsity science. Garcia also took second in varsity economics. Dobie students winning third-place awards were Sonia Bonavita, in varsity interview; Daniel Ta, in scholastic art; and Maria Ferreira, in scholastic social science.

1 year ago (2017)
Lomax Middle School Principal Norma Penny and Lewis Career and Technical High School Principal Steve Fleming were selected as the 2017 Elementary/Middle and Secondary/Principal of the Year, respectively, by the Pasadena Independent School District. PISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dee-Ann Powell and several district administrators delivered the news Monday, March 6, by surprising the honorees at their campuses. The winners were selected by district and campus administrators. Penny has been at Pasadena ISD for more than 20 years, serving first as a teacher and then a counselor at Miller Intermediate. In 2003, she took a position as an assistant principal of Thompson Intermediate before ultimately taking her current role as principal of Carter Lomax in 2007. Fleming has been making an impact on the students of Pasadena ISD since 1989. He began his career as a science teacher at Pasadena High and took an administrative role as an instructional specialist in 2000. Fleming changed roles again when he served as an assistant principal at Pasadena Memorial from 2003-2011. In 2011, he took on his current position, becoming the first principal of Pasadena ISD's career and technical high school, Lewis CTHS. The pair was honored at a recognition ceremony on Wednesday, April 5. A gunshot was fired during an armed robbery at the Liquor Depot store in the 11600 block of Beltway 8 at Sabo Road. According to police, the suspect entered the store around 8:20 p.m., produced a pistol and demanded cash from the register. As the crook was leaving the establishment with an undisclosed amount of money, the liquor store owner followed him out-

side and attempted to take his photo with a cell phone. At this point, the suspect turned around and fired his weapon at the store owner. The owner was not struck by the gunshot, but the shooter's bullet shattered the window of the adjacent business, Great Clips hair salon. No immediate arrests were made.

CCART plans meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its March meeting on Tuesday, March 13. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The program will be provided by the Armand Bayou Nature Center. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

Will-A-Thon services offered

The Houston Bar Association's Elder Law Committee will sponsor a Will-A-Thon to provide simple wills and basic medical directives, free of charge, for senior citizens 60 and over, disabled persons, and veterans of any age who are Harris County residents and meet the low-income guidelines of the HBA's Houston Volunteer Lawyers. To apply for assistance through the Will-A-Thon, one must call 713-228-0735 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., by March 30, to complete a screening application over the phone. Those who qualify will be given an appointment to meet with a volunteer attorney on April 4 at the Tidwell Park and Community Center, 9720 Spaulding. The documents will be completed and executed on May 2 at the same location.

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PISD communication department wins excellence in PR awards

The Pasadena Independent School District communication team traveled to Frisco this week for the Texas School Public Relations Association's annual conference where they brought home 22 awards.

The event gives district PR teams an opportunity to share ideas and attend professional development classes on the latest trends and issues regarding schools and school public relations.

On the final full day of the event, TSPRA hosted a Star Awards banquet to showcase the best of the best in school PR with awards in more than 50 categories.

"We foster a culture where our team takes pride in their work and has a desire to be recognized as the best in the state for what they do," said Art Del Barrio, PISD director of communication.

Reesha Brown, communication and alumni coordinator, brought home a "Best of Category" medal for a published news release.

Brown, along with Bruce Stone, communication coordinator and Jade Wise, communication specialist, all won gold certificates. Rob Smith, multimedia specialist,

Brown, Stone and Wise were all awarded silver and bronze certificates.

Additionally, the communication team was awarded a Crystal Star Certificate of Merit Award in the category student/staff recognition program.

"As public relations professionals, we have the opportunity to give the school district a voice and tell the compelling stories about our students and staff that might otherwise go unnoticed," Brown said. "These awards are validation that our communication strategies are working and the eyes of Texas are on us."

Stone said he is proud of the team for earning these awards. "These awards are not taken lightly among the PR Community and to win 'Best of Category' and 'Crystal Merit' signifies we're at the top of our game."

"We have a talented and awesome team that understands the importance of telling the Pasadena ISD story," said Wise. "To be recognized by winning multiple awards from an organization of highly qualified communication professionals shows our team's commitment to excellence."

"I am proud to work with such a talented team," said Smith regarding their recent accomplishments.

Crystal Star Certificate of Merit Award for staff/student recognition

2017 Vanguard Community Service Award – Reesha Brown, Rob Smith and Jade Wise

Gold Award Reesha Brown (Best of Category) Published News Release – "Teague teacher receives phone call from two-time Super Bowl champ Peyton Manning"

Writing – "Dr. Iraj Jabbari Captures the American Dream"

Bruce Stone Brochure – Hancock Elementary

Jade Wise Program – 2017 Vanguard Stars of Service Image Identity Package – ECHS Logo

• Logo, Trademark or Symbol – PISD Athletics Photo Sports Subject – PMHS Lady Mavs Slide

Silver Award Reesha Brown Published News or Feature – Oliver Foundation Grant (Standing Desks)

Published News or Feature

– PISD Girls on the Run Puts Students on Fast Track to Success

Specialty Novelty Writing – The Hug Felt around the World – Lady Gaga (Facebook Post)

Rob Smith Video Promotional/Marketing – ¿Por qué Pre-Kinder?

Video Promotional/Marketing – 24/7 Reading Slide into Summer Reading

Bruce Stone Poster – Texas Invitational Poster

Jade Wise Brochure – Texas Invitational Sponsor Card

Bruce Stone and Reesha Brown Flyer – At-a-Glance

Rob Smith and Reesha Brown Video General Interest/Feature Story – Not Your Average Kid

Bronze Reesha Brown Published News or Feature – Tweens Read

Rob Smith Video General Interest/Feature Story – Moore Elementary School Playground

Jade Wise Poster – Capture the Moment

Dobie wins big at chess tournament

On Saturday, Feb. 24, nine Pasadena Independent School District students competed in the Shirdi Sai Jalaram Chess Tournament, sponsored by the Houston Chess Association. Timmy Phan, Dobie; Lazaro Mottu, Career Technical High School; Tin Ly, Dobie; Oscar Garza, Beverly Hills Intermediate; and Dylan Campos, Thompson competed in Division A. Minh To, Dobie; Nicholas Ochoa, Beverly Hills Intermediate; and Fynnlan Ridge, Thompson competed in Division B, while Josua Santiago, Beverly Hills Intermediate competed in Division C. A total of 100 students, ranging from kindergarten to grade 12, played in the tournament.

Several PISD students earned trophies for their performances. In Division A, Phan took third place, Ly took sixth, and Mottu took seventh. In Division B, To won second place, while Ochoa took tenth. In addition to these individual awards, Dobie won the top team award for high school.



Shown are, left to right, (front row) Fynnlan Ridge, Thompson; (second row) Dylan Campos, Thompson; Minh To, Dobie; Timmy Phan; Dobie, Tin Ly; Dobie; (back row) Jordan Santos, chess coach, Deepwater Elementary; Grant Pector, chess coach, BHI; Oscar Garza, BHI; Josua Santiago, BHI; Nicholas Ochoa, BHI; Lazaro Mottu, CTHS; and James Early, PISD chess coordinator. Photo submitted

Mayor responds to resident's open letter about homeless people's encampments

A Houstonian who lives near downtown recently wrote a public letter to Mayor Sylvester Turner about an encampment of homeless people near his residence. The mayor responded on Feb. 28 with a letter which can be viewed in its entirety by visiting <http://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/press/homeless-letter-from-resident.html>.

Highlights include the following: "We have been able to house over 11,000 homeless individuals since 2012, resulting in a 60 percent reduction in the overall homeless population."

"Despite our ability to permanently house thousands of homeless individuals over the past few years, or perhaps because of it, we are now left with individuals on our streets that are the most difficult to house, with debilitating mental health and substance abuse issues, living in encampments that pose public health and safety risks to both the individuals living in the encampments and the surrounding communities." "The public health and safety dangers posed by the encampments in Downtown and Midtown is what prompted me to work with my colleagues in City Council to pass the encampment ordinance prohibiting tents and large amounts of personal items on public property. Although the City was sued and the encampment ordinance initially blocked by a federal court order, we are vigorously fighting the lawsuit."

"Even if our encampments are considered small compared to those on the West Coast or other major cities across the state and nation, it's still a major issue that we must all work together to address. From cuts in funding to the lingering impact of a hurricane, it won't necessarily be easy, but it can and will be done. Enforcement is an important and helpful tool, but not the ultimate solution. I am not looking to simply sweep the issue of homelessness in Houston under the rug. Rather we must work together (or displace an encampment on permanent solutions to this into different neighborhoods). complex problem."

ness in Houston under the rug. Rather we must work together (or displace an encampment on permanent solutions to this into different neighborhoods). complex problem."

Federow holds discussions

Congregation Shaar Hashalom's own Rabbi Stuart Federow is hosting free, open-to-the-public, weekly discussions. The sessions are held every second Thursday of the month at Al Basha Mediterranean Grill, 300 Bay Area Blvd. Suite 700, Webster, from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone can join the discussion and bring questions, thoughts and opinions to share with everyone present.

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



The Pasadena ISD Communication Department won 22 awards at annual TSPRA conference. Pictured, left to right, is Jade Wise, communication specialist; Art Del Barrio, director of communication; Bruce Stone, communication coordinator; Reesha Brown, communication and alumni development coordinator; Dwight Henson, communication specialist; Rob Smith, multimedia specialist and Lori Grande, graphic designer.

San Jacinto College faculty, staff awarded

Continued from Page 4A

Education of Young Children through Simpson-Smith's efforts compiling an 80-page report. Through the program's partnership with the Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, she was also able to secure a \$50,000 student scholarship donation. Simpson-Smith leads by example, encouraging faculty and staff to collaborate with their peers and other departments in order to provide students with the best practices in early childhood development education.

Prince is always open to new, innovative ways to engage her students. Within the last year, she has taken her dietetics technology classes to new levels by incorporating interactive digital quizzes and team work review puzzles for students using apps and computers. These new teaching and learning strategies have helped her courses maintain a 100 percent retention rate. Community involvement, especially in education, is also something Prince practices outside the

classroom. She was selected as a mentor for the Performance Standards Project through the Independent Research and Mentorship class at Deer Park High School, where she works with and mentors a high school student who is studying the dietetics field and working on independent research projects with her guidance.

Fulsom's attention to details and the college's branding shines through in every event she manages. Each year the San Jac Certified alumna coordinates more than 60 individual and collegewide events. In addition to managing and collaborating with nearly all of the college's departments, Fulsom worked with the purchasing department and campus event coordinators to develop a Request for Proposal process for the college's catering and event rental contacts that addressed collegewide and campus specific event needs. She also helped design a webpage for the college's website for employees to reference when looking for a caterer for their event needs. Fulsom engaged

everyone with whom she works and enables them to visualize her creative, memorable event concepts in order to keep the college fresh, innovative and ahead of the curve when it comes to showcasing what student success looks like at San Jacinto College.

Priddy has been described as the foundation of the San Jacinto College Central campus physical sciences department. On her own initiative, she created a part-time faculty binder which outlines processes and procedures that has since been shared throughout numerous departments and across campuses. This earned her an Honorarium from the college. She also created a standard for the incomplete grade process and a department enrollment spreadsheet to assist the department chair with enrollment analysis. In addition to using best practices and process development, Priddy also manages the department's Facebook page and helps to promote STEM

events, scholarships and enrollment payment deadlines.

Carter has contributed significantly to the college's SmartStart project, taking on all of the associated administrative assistant responsibilities including taking meeting minutes, creating enrollment reports, scheduling rooms for SmartStart classes and creating process maps. One of her most important roles includes cataloging all faculty loads, which directly affects faculty compensation. Carter has been especially instrumental in the San Jacinto College North campus's annual Read Across America program. Through her leadership and assistance, employees have collected and distributed more than 4,000 books to students of all ages over the last two years. Currently pursuing a graduate degree in library science, it is no surprise that she is often sought out by many employees for her technical and computer expertise.



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I would like to thank the South Belt community for their continued support. I look forward serving you in the future.

Sincerely,
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Pol. adv. paid by The Committee To Re-Elect Garnet Coleman. Gloria Coleman, Chair. Mrs. Herman A. Barnett, Treasurer. Not printed at state expense

Weber students show support

In a time when families can be stretched thin with daily responsibilities, homework and extracurricular activities, the families of Weber Elementary still found time to let their community know they care.

At the 2018 Super Bowl of Service on Feb. 1, community support spanned generations, with hundreds of students, their parents, siblings and grandparents coming to Weber Elementary to take part in an eclectic variety of volunteer and outreach opportunities.

Students rotated through creation stations where they could make thank-you cards for veterans, candy grams for hospital patients and letters to residents in nursing homes.

"I hope the sun shines through their window each morning like it does through mine," said Haneen Zaid, a fifth-grader at Weber. Zaid was explaining why she drew a picture of a bright window and flowers for the senior citizen who would be on the receiving end of her card.

Around every corner, there were opportunities to donate food to the local food pantry, make a treat for a furry friend in an animal shelter, or learn about fire and home safety from the League City Fire and Police departments.

Weber Principal Cheryl Chaney shared that a night like this takes a village of volunteers. "We have an incredible team at Weber," Chaney said. "They really ran with this concept. And we certainly couldn't have done any of this without these amazing community organizations by our side."

Weber counselor Vanessa Diggs said the instructional preparation that led up to the big night of the Super Bowl and how understanding was connected to the service.

"In their classes throughout the week, students learned about the various activities and organizations they would be supporting on Feb. 1," said Diggs. "This way the activities and the students' actions carried a deeper meaning and understanding of the needs of the community."

There were some familiar faces in the hallways. Weber Elementary alumni Brittney Hryhorchuk and Morgan Summers, now students at Clear Brook High School, were setting the example for the young Weber All Stars through their *Be About It* booth.

The pair, who are members of the Peer Assistance and Leadership program at Clear Brook, were selling bracelets of their own design and creation to help fund a mission trip to Kenya later this year. "Through *Be About It*, we hope to encourage others to put action behind their words," said Hryhorchuk. "Whatever your passion, turn it into a purpose and take intentional steps to make a difference."

To see a photo gallery of the Super Bowl of Service event, visit clearcreekisd.smugmug.com/CCISD-Photos/20172018-School-Year-Photos/Weber-Super-Bowl-of-Service.

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Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Español
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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday	Wednesday
Early Service • 7:45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.
Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	

Nursery Available at all Services

Pre-K students learn about helpers



Amanda Hooper's pre-K classes from Frazier Elementary recently learned about community helpers. The lessons culminated with the students dressing up for a parade. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Mateo Romero, T.J. Lett, Alexis Wilhoite, Selah Guerrero, Dannie Nguyen, Karmen Lewis, (second row) Edison Joiner, Alfredo Gonzales, Skylar Dixon, Bella Santos, Adolfo Villarreal, (back row) Alezea Chavez, Antonio Herrera, Phoenix Tate and Arianna Coronado. Shown below are, left to right, (front row) Harmony Stephens, Jaylynn Hernandez, Alberto Navarrete, Kaisia Jackson, Hector Gallardo, (middle row) Andrew Navarro, Avery Schlueter, Kourtney Hinojosa, David Chavez, Zoe Carter, Ava Carter, (back row) Noah Garcia, Alejandro Puente, Liam Sanchez, Ariann Quinones and Malachi Holzbach. Photos by Susan Blue



Sixth-graders to take over San Jacinto for 2-day Mind Trekkers STEM event

For two days, 4,500 sixth-graders will funnel through experiment lines at San Jacinto College to participate in activities that will have them taking a closer look at the science, technology, engineering and math fields.

The Mind Trekkers Adventures in STEM festival will be held on March 8 and 9 at the college's central campus and feature more than 100 experiments related to the STEM fields. Dow Chemical Company, Chevron Phillips, LyondellBasell, INEOS and Austin Industrial will serve as this year's sponsors. San Jacinto College faculty and students, and representatives from industry partners, will volunteer to assist with the experiments.

"Our goal is to encourage students to have fun with science and to consider the STEM fields for their future careers," said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor of strategic initiatives, workforce, community and diversity at San Jacinto College. "This is a San Jacinto College initiative, and it is important to all of our communities."

Past experiment and activity stations at Mind Trekkers have included skewering balloons, DNA extraction, musical fruit, robotics and making slime.

The public is invited to the free Mind Trekkers Family Night from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, in Andersons Gymnasium on the college's central campus, located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

All STEM events are supported by the San Jacinto College STEM Council. For additional information, visit sanjac.edu/stem-council.

South Belt Chamber announces 2018 scholarship opportunities

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce has announced two scholarship opportunities. The Dr. Van Phan Scholarship is for \$1000 and the Making a Difference - Sally Mitchell Scholarship is for \$500. Both scholarships

have their own criteria to meet and questions to answer. The deadline to apply for the scholarships is Friday, March 23.

The application should be filled out online. The letters of recommendation, picture and transcript can be submitted via

email, delivered or sent to the chamber by the deadline.

For more information on the Dr. Van Phan Scholarship or the Making a Difference - Sally Mitchell Scholarship, visit the Chamber website at <https://southbeltchamber.com>.

CSH hosts musical Shabbat, services, concert

Join Congregation Shaar Hashalom in welcoming touring Jewish artist Joe Buchanan for a weekend of prayer, original song and good times.

Buchanan mixes his blend of southern soul and country charm with his belief that there is always room at the table for more people to join with him in his musical celebration of Judaism. He leads Shabbat services, concerts and workshops in communities across the United States.

On Friday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m., Buchanan along with Rabbi Stuart Federow will lead the Acoustic Shabbat service. This original and intimate service is specifically guided and built on melodies that highlight the beauty of the Day of Rest. Buchanan brings spirit and song to mark the beginning of Shabbat.

On Saturday, March 17, at 7 p.m., Buchanan will lead the Havdalah service that is the heavily symbolic end to Shabbat which ushers in the beginning of a new week. Following the brief Havdalah service, Buchanan will launch a full musical concert of original, uplifting Jewish Americana. He will perform music from his album "Unbroken" as well as new music from an upcoming release.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom's located at 16020 El Camino Real, and has been the conservative Jewish congregation of the Bay Area since 1968. Call 281-488-5861 for details.

Rothko to commemorate Romero's martyrdom

To commemorate the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom, the Rothko Chapel will be filled with music and spoken word.

The Trinity Jazz Ensemble, which performs regularly for Sunday worship at Trinity Episcopal Church, will create a special program of music inspired by Romero and jazz renditions of folk mass and popular songs from the Archbishop's native El Salvador.

Community leaders from around Houston will read from Romero's homilies and writings, including his book "Violence of Love."

The event will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 at the Rothko Chapel, 3900 Yupon.

The program will begin with a poem read in tribute to Romero, followed by a city declaration, presented by council member, district J,

Mike Laster, naming March 24 as the official Day of Bishop Romero in Houston.

Then Trinity Jazz Ensemble will take the stage, starting performers Pelayo Parlade on piano, Mike Owen on bass and Ernesto Vega on flute and clarinet, as well as vocalist April Sloan-Hubert.

Readings by community members will be sprinkled in between performances, and the program will close with a solo of "Amazing Grace" by Sloan-Hubert.

Every other year, the Rothko Chapel awards human rights leaders who share the spirit of late Archbishop Romero of San Salvador, who was assassinated in 1980 for championing the rights of the poor and fighting unjust government tactics in El Salvador at the time, including torture and assassination.

Last year marked both the

30-year anniversary of the awards and the centennial of Romero's birth. The late archbishop is also being considered by the Catholic Church for canonization as a saint. He was beatified with a service in El Salvador in 2015, which is the final step before sainthood.

"Honoring Archbishop Romero is one of the ways that the Chapel continues its mission to bring together art and social justice for the community," public programs and community engagement director Ashley Clemmer said. "We invite everyone to join us in honoring this amazing activist and spiritual leader, his bravery and courage in the face of adversity."

For the Chapel's full calendar of upcoming programs, workshops and events, visit rothkochapel.org or call 713-524-9839.

Last year marked both the

Arredondo a winner



Atkinson Elementary student Natalya Arredondo was selected as a winner for the Houston Livestock Rodeo Art contest. Arredondo was among 10,000 participants with 150 being selected as winners. She was awarded a blue ribbon and four tickets to the rodeo. Shown are Olga Soto, third-grade teacher (left), and Arredondo, third-grade student. Photo by Karen O'Connor

SJC joins C3 to continue culture of safe, quality construction

San Jacinto College announced at its Monday, Feb. 5 Board of Trustees meeting the approved recommendation that the Central Campus Welcome Center project be enrolled in the Construction Career Collaborative initiative.

C3 is a nonprofit collaboration of owners, contractors, specialty contractors, industry associations and design professions with the mission of developing a safe, skilled and sustainable craft workforce in commercial construction for the Houston region.

"San Jacinto College is proud to be the first C3 part-

ner in higher education," said Bryan Jones, San Jacinto College associate vice chancellor, facilities services. "In line with the college values of excellence and accountability, C3 is an organization that demands quality in the area of construction. We expect to see better buildings, better value, and most importantly, safe projects."

Other Houston area C3 certified projects include Texas Children's Hospital pediatric tower E expansion, Ronald McDonald House of Houston, Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center expansion,

Museum of Fine Arts - Houston expansion and more.

According to Chuck Gremlion, executive director of C3, "The participation of the college in the C3 program demonstrates that San Jacinto College is a leader in the development of a high-quality skilled trades workforce and is dedicated to applying the C3 principles to their projects."

The Central Campus Welcome Center is a \$22 million, 52,040 square-foot project designed by Page. The project will be built by Tellep-

sen Builders, a C3 accredited contractor. It is part of the \$425 million bond referendum approved by voters in the District in November 2015. As a C3 project, all construction workers on the project will be employees, not independent subcontractors, who will receive hourly pay with overtime and worker's compensation insurance coverage. Additionally, the workforce will be required to have Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety credentials and will be provided with on-going safety and craft training.

ly published local authors, some featured members of UHCL's Writing Club, and any other attendee allotted time to read segments of their works.

"We chose the theme 'Renewal' because after Harvey, so many students in my creative writing classes were writing about loss and hardship," Eleftheriou said. "Now it's time to think about what comes after a loss and go into a space of thinking about new possibilities."

Eleftheriou said she chose author Allegra Hyde to read from "Of This New World," her recently published, John Simmons Short Fiction Prize-award winning collection of short stories. "Her work goes well with the theme of 'renewal' and she's an accomplished young artist and role model in the community," Eleftheriou said.

Hyde said that her works focused on how communities of people pursue certain utopic ideals. "I am interested in what drives people to go beyond conventional expectations," she said. "My story collection touches on shakers, hippies, and prospective Mars colonists among many other groups. The common thread among them is an insistence on aspiration—and that's the literary energy I hope to bring to UHCL's Renewal-themed reading."

Conor Bracken, writing center assistant director invited Daniel Pena, University of Houston-Downtown assistant professor of English, to read from his Pushcart award-winning novel, "BANG: A Novel."

"His prose, his delivery and his engagement with Houston, including a great blog post he wrote about surviving Harvey, made him a natural choice for a

Open mic event explores renewal after hardship, loss of Harvey

Although Hurricane Harvey's high waters have long receded, many University of Houston-Clear Lake students are still struggling with the after-effects. That's

why assistant professor of literature Joanna Eleftheriou, together with associates and students of UH-Clear Lake's Writing Center, have scheduled an open-mic

event titled "Renewal" on March 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Bayou Building. Audiences have the chance to hear two accomplished, recent-

ly published local authors, some featured members of UHCL's Writing Club, and any other attendee allotted time to read segments of their works.

"We chose the theme 'Renewal' because after Harvey, so many students in my creative writing classes were writing about loss and hardship," Eleftheriou said. "Now it's time to think about what comes after a loss and go into a space of thinking about new possibilities."

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reading which focuses on how we rebound from adversity," Bracken said.

"He's a talented, compassionate and invigorating writer who doesn't shy away from the sticky and difficult politics of existing in liminal states and spaces, and I think due to this he has a particularly unique and valid perspective on living through and rebuilding after, and considering the many effects of Harvey. We are so fortunate to have him and Allegra to come and

read to our students."

"BANG" is a project very close to my heart," Pena said. "I worked on 'BANG' over so many different years in many different countries to get it to this final draft, and I'm excited to share the finished novel with UHCL."

Pena said that when he started the book, he hadn't recognized the ways in which the American drug war in Mexico and U.S. immigration policy were so interlinked. "I simply wanted

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

JFD softball rolls on

Dobie softball's winning streak is up to seven games thanks to a two-day sweep of foes at the Goose Creek Memorial Invitational March 1-2, and now the locals are ready to focus on District 22-6A play.

At Goose Creek, Dobie defeated Baytown Sterling, Klein Forest, Porter and Goose Creek Memorial over two days. Coupled with a 15-0 de-

feat of South Houston March 6, the team is truly on a roll.

In Baytown, Taylor Pleasants had two hits and drove in three, and Leslie Longoria had two hits and scored twice as the Lady Longhorns downed Sterling 6-4.

Miquela Guajardo went six innings in the circle, earning the win after surrendering just Coupled with a 15-0 de-

Continued on Page 6B

Avenging loss, Dobie boys' soccer stays hot

Back on February 9, the whispers could be heard in District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer sideline chats.

An improved Sam Rayburn team had just defeated Dobie 1-0, handing the defending 22-6A champions just their second league loss in three-plus seasons.

Combine that with the idea that Memorial was also on an uptick, and the South Houstons and Deer Parks of the world were also better, the Longhorns were surely in for a fight to the finish.

Well, it's certainly not over yet. Dobie, aiming for its fourth straight District 22-6A crown, still has four games remaining, including three that could go either way.

But the locals have also given themselves a little breathing room down the stretch, thanks in large part to having avenged that first loss to Rayburn, beating the Texans 1-0 March 6 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

At 9-1, the Longhorns now own seven straight wins. Most importantly, Dobie has collected 21 straight points for those seven wins while some of those challengers have stood still.

Certainly South Houston's shootout win over Memorial March 5 helped out. Now, with four matches remaining, Dobie has 27 points to lead the way, with Memorial next at 23.

Deer Park is third with 19, and South Houston has overtaken Rayburn for the fourth spot with 17 points.

At the very least, Dobie has positioned itself very well for a top-2 playoff seeding, but the defend-

ing Region III champions clearly want more. The team will be back in action Friday, March 9, against

Pasadena, in an 8 p.m. game at Veterans Stadium.

Continued on Page 6B



At left, Dobie High School class of 2017 graduate and current Lindenwood University freshman guard Jade Giron celebrates while cutting a portion of the net down after the Lions captured the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association's women's basketball postseason tournament title with a 58-51 win over Fort Hays University March 4 in Kansas City. It earned the Lions their first-ever NCAA Division II postseason berth in program history. Lindenwood, 20-12 and the winner of six straight games, will take on Central Region host and top-seed Augustana University (Sioux Falls, South Dakota) March 9, at the Elmen Center in South Dakota.

Courtesy photo

Garza shuts down Brook

Dobie sophomore Daniel Garza flirted with a no-hitter before Clear Brook broke through, but the sophomore was nonetheless terrific in leading the Longhorns to a 7-4 win over the Wolverines March 5, at Clear Brook. Mixing his pitches

well, Garza held the Wolverines hitless through 5 1/3 innings before a hit came.

But Dobie, which built an early 6-0 lead, held off a late push by Brook to gain the win. Alan Lopez earned the save for Dobie, which has now gone

Continued on Page 6B

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Giron, Lindenwood headed to nationals

Lindenwood University, an NCAA Division II competitive athletics program in St. Charles, Missouri, is headed to the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championships for the first time in program history.

What makes this significant locally? Jade Giron, a 2017 Dobie High School graduate, played a key reserve role for the Lions as they won four straight postseason games,

improbably grabbing the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association championship March 4 with a 58-51 comeback win over Fort Hays State University in Kansas City, Kansas. The Lions entered the MIAA tournament as the ninth seed at just 16-12, but reeled off four straight wins, including a 75-66 defeat of top-seeded Central Missouri in the tournament quarterfinals.

Yet with six consecutive wins to date, the Lions have also secured the program's first 20-win season in the NCAA ranks.

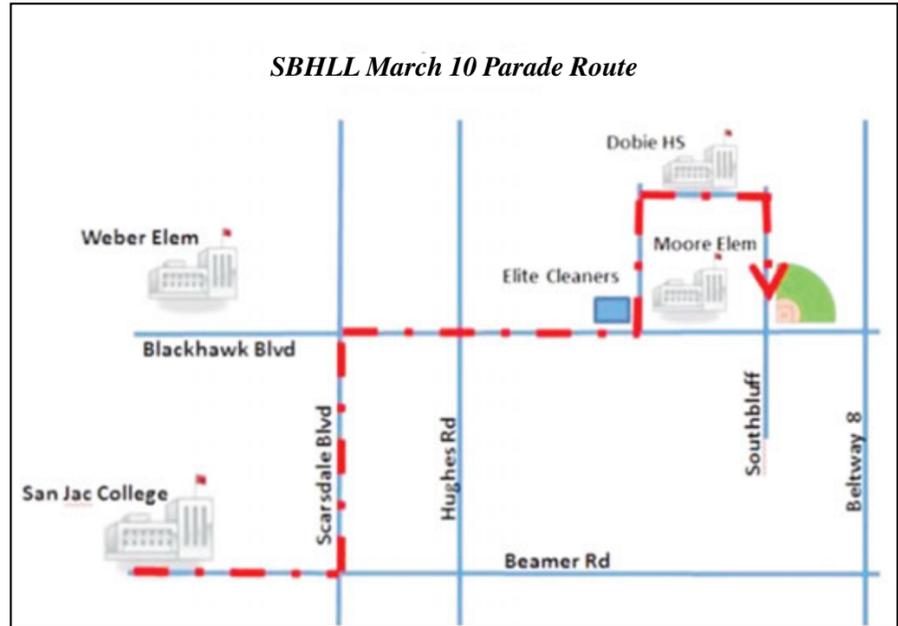
Giron, who was a four-year starter at Dobie and multi-year all-district performer, has played in 27 games this season with three starts. She has averaged four points per game.

Lindenwood is set to take on regional host Augustana University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Augustana will host the eight-team NCAA Division II Central Region tournament March 9-12 at the Elmen Center in Sioux Falls.

At 23-7, Augustana is making its 14th NCAA tournament appearance and first as a regional top seed.

Lindenwood, meanwhile, is the No. 8 seed in the tournament in its first NCAA appearance at this level.



SBHLL's opening day here

At long last, much of the cold weather has left the area, and youth baseball leagues across the state are preparing for a beautiful spring.

Nowhere else is there more excitement brewing than within the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League.

March 10 is opening day, complete with a parade, day-long carnival and age-group tournament action on the field will combine to provide

players' families, coaches, league personnel and the community the chance to celebrate the start of the 2018 season in style at El Franco Lee Park.

Parade begins at SJC

The annual parade will begin at 9 a.m., exiting the parking area at San Jacinto College and continuing north on Beamer. The line will hang a left on Scarsdale and continue to Blackhawk. From there, the parade will wind around Dobie High School

and Moore Elementary before concluding at El Franco Lee Park, home of SBHLL.

The carnival, with food, fun and games available for the entire family, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tournament play featuring games in T-Ball, coach pitch, minor and major divisions, will begin at noon, with championship games starting at 2:30 p.m.

For more details, see www.eteamz.com/sbhll.

CB track sweeps at Santa Fe

While it may not be as significant as winning the district 24-6A Championships later this season, the Clear Brook varsity boys' and girls' track teams put on a clinic at the Reggie Crosby Invitational March 2 at Santa Fe.

The Wolverine boys, using a pair of relay victories as a springboard to the team title, posted 146 points for the win, get-

ting past 24-6A foe Clear Creek, which had 135 points.

The Lady Wolverines were busy doing their thing as well, scoring 136 points to edge second place Pasadena Memorial's 127 points.

Stars of the meet for Clear Brook? There were many.

John'te Horace set a new personal best of 45

feet, 11 inches in the triple jump for the win, and also captured top honors in the long jump.

Keaira Connor won a pair of individual events and also helped the Lady Wolverines to a pair of relay wins.

It all began for Connor in the triple jump as she made her way to 33-5 1/2 for the win, with teammate

Continued on Page 2B

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Local sports news

Rising Stars registering

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

Myers rising on mound

Dobie High School graduate and current Paris College sophomore pitcher Tyler Myers is continuing to lead the way for the Dragons this season. Myers, who has signed to pitch at the University of Mississippi beginning this fall, improved his record to 4-0 with a 6-1 victory over Panola March 3.

Myers, who only began pitching on a regular basis as a senior at Dobie in 2016, was the Dragons' closer in 2017 before preparing to start after signing with Ole Miss.

Against Panola, Myers threw a two-hit complete game allowing a home run for the Ponies' run and striking out four. Although he has surrendered five home runs this season, Myers has gone 4-0 with a 2.45 earned run average over 33 innings.

While Paris has gone just 8-8 to this point in the season, Myers has been a star on the mound while leading the way.

Pearland Rotary charity golf

Pearland Rotary Club officials have announced plans for the group's 47th annual Golf for Charity tournament, coming to Golfcrest Country Club Friday, May 4.

Participants will enjoy golf, a lunch, a celebratory dinner, silent auction and more during the course of the fun-filled day. There will also be a closest-to-the-pin contest in addition to the ever-popular Fireball Challenge.

Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., and golf begins at noon. To register for the event, visit www.PearlandRotaryGolf.com.

Sports Calendar

SOCCER

Thursday, March 8

Brook varsity boys vs. Clear Springs, Challenger, 7:30
Brook JV boys vs. Clear Springs, Challenger, 7:30

Friday, March 9

Dobie varsity girls vs. Pasadena, Veterans, 4:00
Dobie JV girls vs. Pasadena, Auxiliary, 4:00

Monday, March 12

Dobie varsity girls at Deer Park, Abshier, noon
Dobie JV girls at Deer Park, Abshier, 10 a.m.

TENNIS

Thursday, March 8

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

SOFTBALL

Friday, March 9

San Jacinto College at Coastal Bend (2), 2:00
Brook varsity at Friendswood, 6:30
Dobie varsity vs. Rayburn, PISD, 7:00
Dobie JV vs. Rayburn, PISD, 5:30
Brook JV at Friendswood, 4:30
Dobie JV White vs. Rayburn, 4:00

Saturday, March 10

San Jacinto College at Laredo (2), 1:00
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, PISD, 11:30 a.m.
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, PISD, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 12

Brook varsity hosts Clear Lake, 6:30
Brook JV hosts Clear Lake, 4:30

Thursday, March 15

San Jacinto College hosts Neosho (2), 2:00

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday, March 8

Dobie varsity boys/girls at Bayshore Olympics, TBA

BASEBALL

Thursday, March 8 through Saturday, March 10

Brook varsity at Alvin Invitational, TBA
Dobie varsity at Crosby tourn., TBA
Brook sophomores at North Shore tourn., TBA

Friday, March 9

Brook JV hosts Pas. Memorial, 10:30 a.m.
Brook JV hosts Pas. Memorial, 12:30
Brook JV at Dobie, 4:00

Monday, March 12

Brook JV at Clear Falls, 6:30
Brook sophomores at Clear Falls, 4:30

Tuesday, March 13

Brook varsity hosts West Brook, 1:00
Brook varsity hosts Clear Falls, 7:00

Thursday, March 15

Dobie varsity at South Houston, noon

Friday, March 16

Brook varsity at Clear Falls, 7:00
Brook JV hosts Clear Falls, 6:30
Brook sophomores host Clear Falls, 4:30

San Jacinto College baseball rolls to 15-3 overall start; 6-0 in Region XIV

San Jacinto College has quickly staked its claim to first place in the Region XIV South Division race with a 6-0 start, courtesy of three game sweeps over Laredo and Wharton.

SJC, now 15-3 overall this season, got terrific pitching over the three-game series against Whar-

ton, which included 4-1, 5-4 and 10-0 victories. In a 4-1 win to open the series, Alerick Soularie doubled and tripled, and four relievers combined for four innings of hitless relief as the Gators came away with the win.

Nick Neville also homered for the Gators as starting pitcher Jacob Canteberry moved to 4-1 after allowing just two hits over five innings. He fanned seven.

Soularie again burned Wharton with a two-run home run, and Andres Sosa was 2 for 3 with a run scored.

San Jacinto College finished off the series sweep over Wharton with a 10-0 victory. In a game shortened to six frames, Rylan

Kaufman struck out seven and gave up just four hits for the complete-game win.

Paul Zimmerman and Sergio Macias homered, and Soularie tripled as the locals coasted to the win.

It's early in the season, and there is plenty of baseball to be played. One

must remember that San Jac's end goal is to win a national title.

But first things first. Winning the Region XIV title comes first, and the Gators are proving to be the team to beat.

San Jacinto opened the regular season rated third in the National Junior Col-

lege Athletic Association's preseason poll. There has been no other poll given through NJCAA as of press time.

At perfectgame.org, San Jacinto College topped the junior college rankings to open the season and sat at No. 1 through the Feb. 25 poll.

Brook girls' bowling claims its first regional title; Razo, Gammon excel



The Clear Brook girls' bowling program captured its first-ever regional title, which includes a berth in the state competition later this month. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Alexis Hernandez, (middle row) Xander Mata, Lynn Cao, Rabeeah Bhathy, coach Roxy Casas, Adrianna Gammon, Kassandra Razo, Kayla Chavez, Allison Lee,

(back row) coaches Cecil Rutherford, Dario Vacarro and Jason Lee. Casas, one of the school's longtime coaches, is thrilled for this particular group. "Normally, we score enough points to qualify for state, and winning regionals is a bonus," Casas said. "This team can win state. I know it."



In addition to helping lead their Clear Brook team to the regional championship, Kassandra Razo (left) and Adrianna Gammon reached state in individual competition. That state event is March 24-25, in San Antonio. Submitted photos

Wolverine track and field sweeps titles at Santa Fe

Continued from Page 1B
Ayanna Mason placing fifth with a leap of 32-8.

Moving on to the track, Connor's time of 25.92 seconds gave her the championship in the 200-meter dash, and Mason was in at 27.03 for second place.

The Lady Wolverines were the champions of the 4x100-meter relay as Conner, Mason, Kennedy Crutchfield and Jhalia Mathews combined for a time of 50.51.

At 4:11.93, Clear Brook was first to the tape in the 4x400-meter relay as Conner was joined by Riley Halter, Naveah Llamas and Mason.

Crutchfield scored a win in the 100-meter dash as she clocked in at 12.67, just ahead of teammate Sherreka Vann, whose time of 12.99 was second. The Lady Wolverines were impressive in sweeping the top three spots in the 300-meter hurdles. Christiana Winger's time of 48.90 was best, with King landing second at 50.64, and Halter third in a time of 50.94.

King earlier had won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.25 for another 10 team points.

Maya Townsend was runner-up in the shot put with a throw of 31-8, and Winger threw the discus 88-7 for third place.

In the boys' division, Horace proved once again that he is one of the area's best in the triple jump with the 45-11 effort. He also was the first-place medalist in the long jump after scoring in at 21-1, narrowly beating teammate Kenneth Pree, who measured at 21-1/2.

Jarrett Smith's time of 11.39 earned him the championship in the 100-meter dash, and teammate Ray'von Parker's time of 11.61 was second.

In the 200-meter dash, the Wolverines dominated for 24 points. Pree's time of 21.67 won the event, with Loronzo Thompson next at 22.03. Caleb Chapman placed third with his time of 22.76.

The difference in the meet was the relays, where the Wolverine boys tallied a total of 56 points to easily clear the field. Smith, Chapman, Thompson and Pree came together in the 4x100-meter dash for the win at 42.27.

At 1:28.40, the Wolverines claimed another win behind the work of Thompson, Chapman, Kenneth Pree and Kameron Pree.

While they didn't win, the Wolverines scored big points in the 4x400-meter relay for third place in a time of 3:37.25. That medal-winning foursome included Sebastian Koran,

Nolan Jeffrey, Parker and Ernest John.

In the shot put, Brook's Jacob Ackerman had a throw of 45-3 for second place, with Brandon Cazares third at 43-4.

Clearly, Clear Brook

boys' track and field coach Aaron Troyer was pleased with the team victory.

It won't be long before the District 24-6A Championships and 23-6A/24-6A Area Championships are here, and the Wolver-

ines appear to be rounding into form just in time. Getting a win will only boost the locals.

"We had a really good meet this week," Troyer said.

"Several of the athletes

set personal records this week. Also, the 4x100 and 4x200 (relay teams) both ran season bests, and the times continue to drop.

"It was an overall good day. We need to continue working hard and im-

proving, and success will come. We have a solid group of athletes this year.

"It is exciting to see the success they are having and should set up to be an exciting district meet in a few weeks."



The Clear Brook varsity girls' track and field squad gained some momentum a little more than midway through the season, winning the team championship at the Reggie Crosby Invitational at Santa Fe High School. Members of the team include, left to

right, (kneeling) Macady Yardley, Keaira Connor, Reagan Dunlap, (back row) Alyssa Solomon, Victoria Lambert, Ayanna Mason, Kayla King, Sherreka Vann, Christiana Winger, Kennedy Crutchfield, Naveah Llamas, Riley Halter and Kimberly Franzen.

At right, the Clear Brook varsity boys' track team captured top honors at the Reggie Crosby Invitational at Santa Fe High School. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Kameron Pree, John'Te Horace, Tyler Swannagan, Kenneth Pree, Loronzo Thompson, Nolan Jeffrey, (back row) Donald Ezeude, Sebastian Koran, Xzavier Vazquez, Brandon Cazares, Ray'Von Parker, Braelon Hill and Jacob Ackerman. Not pictured are Jarrett Smith, Caleb Chapman, Ethan Rodriguez and Dwight Daniel. The Wolverines got a big lift by winning the 4x100- and 4x200-meter relay events.

Courtesy photo



Pasadena ISD intermediate track ongoing; district finals remaining

With a sweep of the boys' divisions, the Bondy Patriots entered the Pasadena ISD Championships as the teams to beat in intermediate track and field.

The district finale was held March 7-8 after press time and will appear in the March 15 edition of the *Leader*.

As for the March 1 meet at Auxiliary Stadium, the Bondy seventh-grade team pulled together 164 points, holding off Thompson, which had 127 points.

Beverly Hills was third with 84 points. The Patriots dominated the eighth-grade ranks, posting 222.5 points for the team crown.

Beverly Hills was third with 71, and Thompson collected 57.

GAT 7s place second
The Lions' eighth-grade team used a run of success in the field events to keep the pressure on Bondy, but eventually taking second place.

The Lions' Kaleb Mitchell led the way in the high jump. He was the lone competitor to clear 5 feet, 2 inches for the win.

Teammate Yahander Mercado cleared 4-6 for sixth place in the event.

Mercado then bounced back in the pole vault for the top spot, making his way over the 7-0 mark.

The Lions' Nickolas Heeden also cleared 7-0 on more attempts for third place.

At 11.86 seconds, the Lions' Anfonney Lee took second place in the 100-meter dash, and Marcus Millender of Thompson was third overall in the 200-meter dash after he clocked in at 26.17.

A time of 2 minutes, 30.41 seconds was enough for the Lions' Elias Wallace to place third in the 800-meter run, and Mitchell came up big for the Lions in the 2,400-meter run with a time of 8:44.34 for second place.

Mercado kept his outstanding day going in the hurdling events. At the 100-meter distance, Mercado clocked in at 17.66 for fifth place.

With a time of 49.76, Mercado placed third in the 300-meter hurdles.

The Lions' 4x100-meter relay team chased Bondy before winding up second in a time of 50.75. That foursome included Millender, Darrean Williams, Heeden and Lee.

In the 4x200-meter relay, the Lions were fourth at 1:55.85 as the team was comprised of Derrick Doss, Luis Nieves, Jose Medina and Heeden.

Thompson concluded the relay portion of the meet by placing fifth in the 4x400-meter relay. In that one, Wallace, Mitchell, Millender and Williams combined to finish at 4:40.40.

Millender came in at 14-10 for third place in the long jump. Meanwhile, Wallace triple jumped his way to second place at 33-7, with teammate Williams third at a distance of 32-9.

The Lions' Cassius Martinez placed third in the shot put with a best effort of 32-1, and Lee's final distance of 32-0 was good enough for fourth place.

Thompson also fared well in the discus throw. Daniel Delgado was fourth (80-1), with teammate Jacob Reyna (79-2 1/2) fifth.

Bears' 7s take third
With Bondy and Thompson going 1-2 in the seventh-grade division, the Bears of Beverly Hills placed third with 84 points.

Ethan Hernandez and Jeremiah Jackson came up big for the Bears in the speed events, each winning a gold medal.

In the 200-meter dash, Hernandez was the quickest at 25.96 for the win, and Jackson was the winner in the 400-meter run in a time of 53.55.

Jaden Shanklin gave it all he had in the 800-meter run and eventually took second place in a time of 2:28.42. He doubled his fun in the 800-meter run after grabbing second in a time of 5:45.07.

Fernando Flores, competing in the 100-meter hurdles, medaled with a third-place effort of 17.24.

In the 300-meter hurdles, the Bears' Dwayne Duncan (51.10) was fourth, with Erik Hernandez in at 52.29 for fifth place.

Beverly Hills scored 16 big points for second place in the 4x200-meter relay. There, Ethan Hernandez, Flores, Jackson and Nigel Hill teamed for a time of 1:51.16.

The Bears were fourth in the ultra-fast 4x100-meter relay, clocking in at 52.81 behind the work of Ethan Hernandez, Hill, Flores and Erik Hernandez.

In the high jump, Beverly Hills' Christian Cantu placed second after making his way over the bar at 5-0. Brandon Lewis was successful at 7-0 in the pole vault for fourth place.

Ethan Hernandez was fifth in the triple jump with a best of 30-4, and Hill's top throw of 29-1 placed him sixth in the shot put.

BHI third in 8s
Points were tough to steal away from champion Bondy in the eighth-grade division, with the Bears taking third place with 71.

Brendann Williams got the Bears started quickly with his championship run in the 100-meter dash in a time of 11.63.

Jahir Reyes delivered in a big way for his team in both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles. In the 100-meter event, Reyes placed second in a time of 16.53, and he doubled that up with a second-place time of 46.60 in the 300-meter hurdles.

The Bears' best relay finish came in the 4x200-meter event as Brandon Miranda and Trevon Johnson teamed with Joshua Rodriguez and Xavier Malone for second place at 1:42.85.

A time of 25.09 gave the Bears' Miranda fourth place in the 200-meter dash.

Beverly Hills wound up sixth in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:15.22. That group included Johnson, Rodriguez, Angel Villamar and Richard Cazares.

Williams cleared 5-0 for third place in the high jump, and the Bears' Joseph Johnson was fourth at 4-10.

Beverly Hills' Dakarey Ramsay was second in the shot put after a solid throw of 40-1, and a throw of 107-9 placed BHI's Richard Gary fourth in the discus.

GAT 8s take fourth
Calvin Jeans was the big star for the Lions' eighth-grade team, which scored 57 points in the meet.

Jeans was directly responsible for 20 of those points, winning both the discus and shot put events.

A throw of 131-2 was easily the best in the discus as Jeans grabbed the win. He then headed the field in the shot put with a heave

of 42-0. Teammate Kegan Ashworth was third in the shot put at 39-11.

The Lions came away third in the 4x100-meter relay event in a time of 49.88 as that group included Cameron Gray, Durrian Walker, Brandon Torres and Jefferson Ford.

In a time of 17.48, the Lions' Jesus Velasquez placed third in the 100-meter hurdles.

In the triple jump, the Lions' Sebastian Cruz was fourth in the triple jump at 32-11. Gray, meanwhile, was fourth in the pole vault after clearing 7-0.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the Lions' Michael Medina, Jonathan Torres, Lazarus Gonzales and Ford teamed for fifth at 4:13.00.

In a time of 25.75, the Lions' Jefferson took sixth in the 200-meter dash.

The Lady Longhorns gave it a go for the championship in the distance medley relay, winding up second in a time of 13.51.00.

The Lady Longhorns scored a pair of fourth-place finishes and another for fifth place.

Dobie teams run at Lake's Falcon Relays
Mason Douglas and Devin Childs led the way for the Dobie track and field program as both the boys' and girls' varsity teams were in action at the Clear Lake Falcon Relays March 2, at Clear Lake High School.

Douglas came up with a win in the 300-meter hurdles with his time of 15.65 seconds, and he was also third in the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 15.65.

As for Devin Childs, his shot put effort of 42 feet, 3 inches was good for the championship in that event.

The Longhorns raced to a third-place finish in the 4x100-meter relay in a time of 44.02.

In the discus event, the Longhorns' Devon Brown was fourth with a throw of 119-4, and teammate Devin Caballero was sixth at 118-5 1/2.

The Lady Longhorns also had their share of top finishes. Rachel Smith's time of 12.94 in the 100-meter dash was good for second place, and Kiyome Dixon was fifth at 13.30.

Freshman Camille Singleton placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 59.31, and she clocked in at 26.99 for fifth place in the 200-meter dash.

The Lady Longhorns were fourth in the 4x100-meter dash in a time of 1:00.24 as the team included Segura, Delgado, Velasquez and Wence.

Third for BHI 8s
Isamar Elizalde and KeAsia Robinson won championships in individual events to help guide the Lady Bears' eighth-grade team to third place.

Elizalde's victory came in the 400-meter run as she came across the line first in a time of 1:08.02.

Robinson, one of the most impressive athletes throughout the track season, was the winner of the 100-meter hurdles at 17.27. Teammate Jennifer Ibe's time of 17.97 was second.

A two-time champion of the 300-meter hurdles, this time Robinson was second in a time of 56.15, with Ibe third at 57.45.

In the high jump, Robinson extended her dominance, winning for the third time at 5-0.

The Lady Bears were second in the 4x200-meter relay as Riani Bentley, Victoria Green, Sydney Forde and Donyea Porter combined for a time of 56.61.

Benton, Lilly Nguyen, Green and Forde teamed for a time of 2:05.70 in the 4x200-meter relay.

GAT 8s place sixth
Isabella Padilla was second in the 2,400-meter run as she clocked in at 9:49.73.

Melody Guerrero was second for the Lady Bears in the shot put with her best throw of 26-0. Her throw of 76-0 also placed Guerrero second in the discus.

The foursome that included Ashlyn Ross, Natalie Onozie, Kori Pounds and Aliyah Barajas placed fourth in the 4x100-meter relay at 58.30.

The Lady Lions were also fourth in the 4x200-meter relay in a time of 2:04.65. That group also included Ross, Onozie, Pounds and Barajas.

Majesti Yates came across the finish line in the 200-meter dash just out of medal contention, fourth at 29.64.

In the 100-meter hurdles, Natalie Onozie finished at 19.98 for fifth place, and Montserrat Alba's time of 58.95 gave her fifth place in the 300-meter hurdles.

Alba came in sixth in the triple jump after making her way to the 25-6 mark.

The district championships were contested March 7-8, after press time.

PISD intermediate girls take to the track
The Bondy girls kept their grip on the top spots in the Pasadena ISD track and field title chase, but both Beverly Hills and Thompson showed their skills as well.

In the district's third and final regular season meet leading up to the championships, Bondy's seventh-grade team piled up 124.50 points, narrowly outdistancing Beverly Hills' second-place 109 points. Thompson was third with 93 points.

Bondy's eighth-grade team easily won the division with 169 points, and Beverly Hills placed third with 74. Scoring 54 points, Thompson's eighth-graders were sixth overall.

BHI 7s take second
The Lady Bears showed their talent in a variety of events, with four different athletes winning individual events. The school also delivered a win in the 4x200-meter relay.

On the track, Jenea Tucker got the Lady Bears rolling, taking the title in the 400-meter dash in a time of 1 minute, 8.16 seconds.

Marisa Perla went the distance for Beverly Hills in the 2,400-meter run, coming to the finish line first at 10:14.57.

Ariana Walls claimed another win for her team as she led the way in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing at 19.69.

A throw of 69 feet got Brianna Garcia the win in the discus, and teammate Evbu Edigin was sixth at 55-10.

In that 4x200 relay win for Beverly Hills, it was Mia Sanchez, Walls, Ashley Dunn and Deazhia Williams combining for a win in a time of 2:02.08.

The Lady Bears were second to Miller in the 4x100-meter relay as Tucker, Sanchez, Walls and Dunn teamed for a clocking of 57.53 in the event.

Tucker, Perla, Sandra Quiroz and Williams made up the Lady Bears' foursome in the 4x400-meter relay as they were third in a time of 5:01.45.

In other events, a time of 14.10 gave Williams fifth place in the 100-meter dash, and Sanchez was in at 29.32 for third place in the 200-meter dash.

A time of 57.97 gave Dunn fourth place in the 300-meter hurdles, and Garcia cleared the high jump bar at 4-2 for fourth place.

Tucker, taking part in the long jump for the Lady Bears, came away with a best effort of 25-6 for fourth place.

GAT 7s take third
The Lady Lions of Thompson were also

among the teams chasing Bondy for the top spot in the seventh-grade division.

Ashlee Garcia again excelled in the 800-meter run for the Lady Lions, winning in a time of 2:48.83. Teammate Bella Perez's time of 2:56.85 placed her fifth in the same event.

Like the Lady Bears, Thompson also championed a relay as Alexia Velasquez, Emma Hernandez, Perez and Maria Wence teamed in the 4x400-meter relay at 4:54.35.

Giron also scored a win for her team, grabbing the title in the long jump at 14-2.

In the 100-meter hurdles, Thompson's Nicole Olazaba took third place in a time of 19.79, and the Lady Lions' Giron was sixth at 20.54.

The Lady Lions placed second in the 4x200-meter relay as Serena Segura, Emily Delgado, Perez and Garcia teamed to finish in a time of 2:07.55.

A throw of 25-3 was enough for the Lady Lions' Valerie Akinloye to finish third in the shot put.

At 4-2, Wence claimed third place in the high jump, and Perez scored in at 25-5 for fifth place in the triple jump.

Elsewhere, Garcia's time of 30.74 placed her sixth in the 200-meter

dash, and Hernandez came in at 1:12.35 for fourth place.

The Lady Lions were fourth in the 4x100-meter dash in a time of 1:00.24 as the team included Segura, Delgado, Velasquez and Wence.

Third for BHI 8s
Isamar Elizalde and KeAsia Robinson won championships in individual events to help guide the Lady Bears' eighth-grade team to third place.

Elizalde's victory came in the 400-meter run as she came across the line first in a time of 1:08.02.

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Alba came in sixth in the triple jump after making her way to the 25-6 mark.

The district championships were contested March 7-8, after press time.

Lajaunie memorial tennis coming April 27-29
The 2018 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will return to the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena April 27-29.

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 seventh 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 27.

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 at the end of March. In May, the 2018 Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships at the school. Entry fees 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 13.

The tournament will begin Saturday, April 28, 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.DLTennis.com includes pictures from the 2017 tournament and information on this year's tournament, sponsorship opportunities, scholarships details and more.

Those who would like to donate may also do so on the website. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit 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 clajauie@gmail.com with any questions.

SJC hoops opens regionals

By Amanda Fenwick
SJC Marketing
The San Jacinto College men's and women's basketball teams are headed to Jacksonville, Texas, for the 2018 Region XIV tournament championship.

The men's team is the No. 3 seed from the South and will face either Panola College (No. 6 seed) or Coastal Bend College (No. 11 seed) March 8 at 8 p.m.

The men enter the tournament with an 18-12 overall record, including 10-9 in conference play, and a three-game win streak.

San Jac is led by Kabir Mohammed, who averages 13.4 points and 8.7 rebounds per game, and Lamar Hamrick, who is averaging 11.6 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. As a team, San Jac is shooting 44 percent from the field.

The women entered the tournament March 7, after press time, as the No. 4 seed, and faced No. 5 Angelina College.

The women's team ended the regular season with a 21-10 overall record, including 12-8 in conference play, and a six-game win streak. Three San Jac players average double-digit points, led by Eryka Sidney with 17.2 points per game. Alexis Jones checks in with a 13.9 per game average, and Alexis Bryant owns a 13.2 per game mark.

Bryant is also the team's leading rebounder at 9 per game. The 2018 Region XIV tournaments will run through March 10 at f Jacksonville College.

Complete tournament information, including live streaming of the games, can be found on the Jacksonville College website. The tournament win-
Continued on Page 6B



Tay Hardy, a guard with the San Jacinto College men's basketball team, will try to help his bunch get back to the national tournament.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, 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.
9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971.
10 a.m.
Fun Bunch - for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call Ronn Canon at 281-610-8999 or the chamber at 281-481-5516.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for details.
11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations are appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has dance lessons Thursdays, following the senior luncheon. Lewis and Betty Whistler teach lessons in two-step, triple two-

step, west coast swing and night club two-step at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. A \$25 activity card is required for nonresidents which is free to senior League City residents.
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. in Pearland. For details, call Gary at 281-993-8335.
7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.
FRIDAY, MARCH 9
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each 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 just 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.
Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, MARCH 10
7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
10 a.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)</

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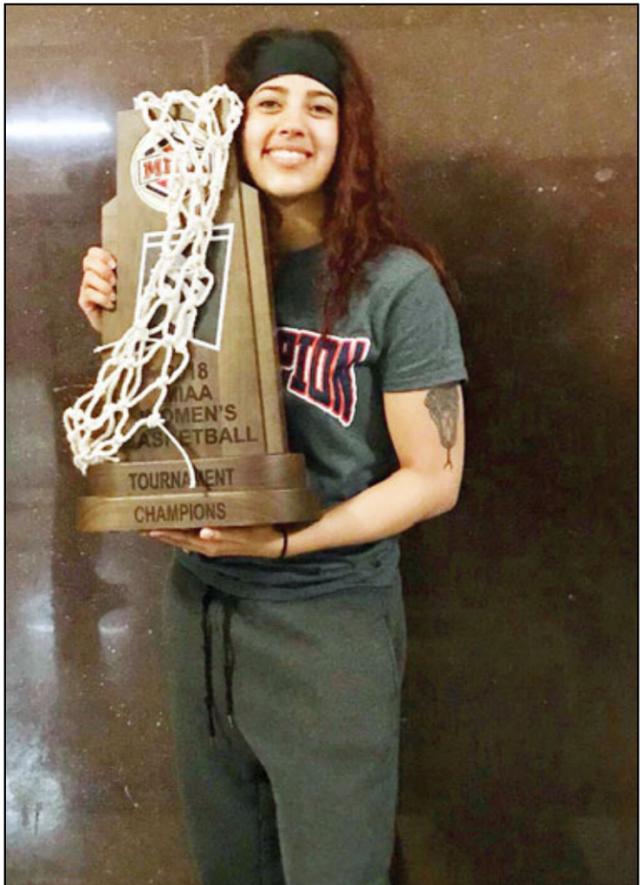
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Giron helps Lindenwood advance

Jade Giron, a 2017 Dobie High School graduate, poses with the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association women's basketball postseason tournament championship trophy after helping her Lindenwood University squad advance to the NCAA regional round for the first time. See related story on Page 1B.

Courtesy photo

Dobie soccer squads head toward playoffs

Continued from Page 1B

A win over Pasadena would give the Longhorns 30 points with three games remaining, all at Veterans Stadium.

To this point in the season, Bryan Nava and Raul Hernandez lead the way with 10 goals each. Kevin Hernandez has five goals and six assists.

Dobie girls move up?

In the District 22-6A varsity girls' ranks, teams are awarded four points for wins, two for a shootout win and one for a shootout loss.

First-place Deer Park has all but locked up the championship at 9-0-1 through 10 matches with four to go.

LaPorte is second at 6-2-2, but has at least three tough matches remaining.

Right now, Memorial is

holding off Dobie for third place, but perhaps not for long.

The Lady Longhorns defeated South Houston 3-0 March 2 as Victoria Chu, Kimberli Izaguirre and Emily Solis scored goals. Taiya Mitchell earned an assist, and Annalise Garza scored the shutout in the nets.

Dobie faced Rayburn March 7, after press time, with the opportunity to force a tie for third place with a win.

Consecutive road games at Deer Park and La Porte will follow, and the locals will then close out the regular season against Memorial at Veterans Stadium.

Dobie should be able to make the postseason, but passing Memorial for third could be tough.



At present, the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team is holding onto the 22-6A lead over Memorial and others, with a defensive effort led by Sebastian Leal (10), Thomas Aleman (far right) and others. Dobie will be back in action Friday, March 9, against Pasadena, at 8 p.m. At left is Memorial striker Jesus Aleman.

Photo by John Bechtel

District 22-6A Girls' Soccer Standings As of March 6 Games

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Deer Park	9	0	1	38
La Porte	6	2	2	27
Memorial	5	3	2	23
Dobie	3	1	5	19
Pasadena	2	5	3	14
West Brook	2	2	5	14
S. Houston	0	8	2	3
Rayburn	0	6	2	3

District 22-6A Boys' Soccer Standings As of March 6 Games

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	9	1	0	27
Memorial	7	1	2	23
Deer Park	6	2	1	19
S. Houston	4	3	3	17
Rayburn	4	4	2	16
Pasadena	2	6	2	8
La Porte	1	6	2	7
West Brook	0	9	0	0

JFD softball wins yet again

Continued from Page 1B

two earned runs.

Dobie then defeated Klein Forest 9-6 as Camryn Wincher led the way offensively, with three hits (double included), two runs scored and an RBI.

Pleasants doubled twice, scored twice and drove in a run. Jacqueline Garcia added a two-run double as Guajardo earned another win.

Yvonne Whaley and Longoria had two hits apiece, and Wincher drove in a run as the Lady Longhorns defeated Porter 4-2. Guajardo allowed just one earned run over five frames for the victory.

Dobie closed out the tournament by beating Goose Creek Memorial 11-4.

Again, Pleasants was a big player offensively

with two hits, two runs scored, two more driven in using a double and a home run. Garcia was 2 for 3 with two runs scored, and Whaley doubled. Maritza Elizalde also drove in two runs.

Shifting to March 6, Dobie made easy work of South Houston, needing only four frames to close out the 15-0 win.

Alana Ortega gave up just one hit over four innings, striking out eight.

Offensively, Wincher had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run. Garcia had a two-run double, and Longoria doubled among her two hits and scored twice.

In the category of "it is what it is," Dobie now plays Sam Rayburn March 9 at 7 p.m., then takes on Pasadena March 10, at 1

p.m., both at the Pasadena ISD complex.

Dobie will win both of those games. It just "is what it is."

Therefore, Dobie will travel to Deer Park March 20 for a much-anticipated battle with the defending league champion Lady Deer.

In Whaley (Texas Tech), Pleasants (Louisiana State) and Wincher (Texas), the Lady Longhorns feature a trio of players who have either signed with or have verbally committed to play for major Division I collegiate programs.

This season may represent Dobie's best in several in terms of bagging a district title. The games are about to get bigger and bigger as the season goes along.

Dobie baseball delivers 7-4 start

Continued from Page 1B

7-4 through the first two weeks of the regular season. Brook, meanwhile, hasn't been able to catch a break in the early going, currently standing at 1-10 over the same span.

Garza, who developed into Dobie's top starter a season ago as a freshman, is clearly the guy now. No disrespect to a Longhorn pitching staff that has excelled to this point, but Garza is the No. 1 starter.

He fanned seven against Clear Brook to get the win, and Isaiah Vasquez was 2 for 2 with a double, two RBIs and three runs scored.

David Amaya had two hits, scored a run and drove in a pair.

The Longhorns got the win over the Wolverines just two days after going 2-2 at the annual Pasadena ISD invite. The Longhorns lost its opener by a 6-5 count to Lubbock Martin, but then bested Alief Elsik 11-0.

On day two, Lutheran South edged the Longhorns, but the locals closed out play with a 12-0 win over Marshall.

Despite the loss to Martin, Zach Frias went 3 for 3 with a run scored, and Amaya had two hits and three RBIs. Jonathan

Acosta also drove in two.

In the win over Elsik, Julian Flores got the victory after going five innings, allowing just two hits and striking out seven.

Lopez and Acosta drove in a pair, and Frias and Jeffrey Mercado both scored twice.

Jonathan Moreno got the win over Marshall. Daniel Ortega and Frias scored two runs each, and Amaya and Garza drove in two each. Dobie, which plays in the Crosby Invitational March 8-10, will no doubt turn to Garza Tuesday, March 13, in the 22-6A opener against West Brook.

San Jac softball off base at 4-14

Not yet a full season removed from reaching the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I World Series, the San Jacinto College softball is ready for the good times to resume.

So far in 2018, things have yet to come together. Now, with little competition remaining outside of Region XIV play, the locals know it's now or never.

Through 18 games, San Jacinto sits at 4-14 overall, having lost three straight as of press time. San Jacinto's pitching staff has posted an earned run average of 5.07 over that span, compared to just 2.22 for opposing pitchers.

Offensively, SJC has gotten little from its freshman class. Among regular players, the top four batting averages belong to sophomore returnees.

There's Taylor McHenry with a 28 hits to go with an average of .444 and 10 stolen bases. All three fig-

ures represent team highs.

Kenzie Kotrla leads the team with five doubles and 14 RBIs to go with her .421 average, and Riley Bullen is hitting .364 with 13 runs batted in.

Throw in Madison Neal's .341 average, and

that's the crux of the offense. Allison Bravo, a freshman from Dobie High School, is hitting .318, and Michelle Kristoff, also of Dobie, has logged a team-high 10 appearances while going 1-3 with a 3.00 ERA.

San Jacinto hoops to regional action

Through 18 games, San Jacinto sits at 4-14 overall, having lost three straight as of press time. San Jacinto's pitching staff has posted an earned run average of 5.07 over that span, compared to just 2.22 for opposing pitchers.

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Throw in Madison Neal's .341 average, and

that's the crux of the offense. Allison Bravo, a freshman from Dobie High School, is hitting .318, and Michelle Kristoff, also of Dobie, has logged a team-high 10 appearances while going 1-3 with a 3.00 ERA.

The women's team started postseason play for its second national tournament appearance. Last season was the first-ever national tournament appearance for the San Jac women, who earned an automatic bid to the national tournament.

The women are coached by Kayla Weaver.

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