

False scares at area schools

Two local Pasadena ISD campuses experienced false scares this past week, including Dobie High School and Morris Middle School.

Dobie

An online rumor spread between Dobie students Thursday, April 14, about a possible threat to the area high school. Pasadena ISD police were immediately notified, and after investigating with other law enforcement agencies, determined the post in question was about another area campus with the initials DHS.

School officials sent a message to parents notifying them of the event. In the message, Dobie Principal Jorly Thomas urges parents to warn the children about the dangers of reposting such messages on social media.

"We ask that you talk to your student about the importance of reporting threats," Thomas said in the message. "Posting and reposting threats can have severe consequences, including felony terrorist threat charges."

Morris

A second false threat took place Wednesday, April 13, at Morris Middle School.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, an alert student crossing guard noticed a young male teen slightly off campus (not a Morris student), with what appeared to be a handgun tucked in his waist band. The guard reported the incident to school officials who notified police. Morris students were dismissed for the day as a precaution.

Police detained the teen in question and determined the weapon was an airsoft gun, or nonlethal replica gun similar to a BB gun. The male was held until his parents arrived to pick him up. No charges were filed, as no laws were broken, officials said.

As with the Dobie incident, Morris parents were notified of the event and reminded to discuss with their children the importance of reporting suspicious activity.

New Covenant sets food drive

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have a food distribution event the fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 2 p.m. This month's event will take place Saturday, April 23. For more information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

Concert Band Festival set

As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the Pearland Community Band will host the Concert Band Festival Saturday, April 30, at Pearland Town Center Pavilion, 11200 Broadway in Pearland, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Supported by a City of Pearland Cultural Arts Grant program, this project will feature area concert bands. Attendees are asked to RSVP by Friday, April 22 to Toni Sherrill at mlion0402@yahoo.com. For additional information, visit visitpearland.com.

Kirkwood to meet April 28

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Sagemeadow to meet April 21

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes.

Homeowners are encouraged to attend. For general inquiries, email info@sagemeadow.org or call/text 832-377-0847. For more information, visit sagemeadow.org.

Park at Bay Area car show set

The Park at Bay Area will host its inaugural Street Meet Saturday, April 23, from noon to 5 p.m. at 5000 Space Center Blvd. in Pasadena. Open to the public, this free event will include entertainment and a food truck. Winners for first, second and third place will receive cash prizes. A silent auction will take place with all proceeds benefiting the Alzheimer's Association. For information, call 281-721-2500.

CB Meadows to hold meeting

Clear Brook Meadows HOA will hold its annual meeting Monday, April 25, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer, from 7 to 8 p.m. A food truck will be on site, and door prizes will be awarded.

COVID cases increase

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains on par with the previous week following several weeks of consistent decline.

As of Tuesday, April 19, there had been 12,627 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866). Of those, 86 remain active, down 13 from the previous week. To date, 132 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up three from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), there had been 9,214 confirmed cases. Of those, 97 remain active, up one from the previous week. To date, there have been 75 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034 (total population: 40,532), there had been 8,693 confirmed cases. Of those, 69 remain active, up five from the previous week. To date, 89 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus.

Scotty's to host JFD night

Scotty's Pub, located at 10943 Scarsdale Beamer, will host a Dobie alumni night Saturday, April 30, from noon to close. The event will include a 5 for \$5 special, as well as Longhorn Burgers and Longhorn Punch. The class with the largest attendance will receive a \$100 scholarship donated in its name. Wristbands will be issued to receive Happy Hour prices all night. Name tags will be provided.

Early voting begins for May 7 elections

Pasadena ISD bond, Clear Creek ISD board among contests to be decided

Early voting for the May 7 joint general and special elections will begin Monday, April 25, and will continue through Tuesday, May 3.

Voters will decide on multiple contests, including a \$305 million Pasadena ISD bond referendum, two state constitutional amendments, the Clear Creek ISD and the Sagemeadow MUD board elections.

Pasadena ISD

Pasadena ISD will have a \$305 million bond

election on the May 7 ballot.

If approved, the proposed bond package will include major safety, security and technology upgrades.

The bond would replace four aging elementary schools, including Bailey, Jessup, Parks and Williams, which were all constructed more than 60 years ago. The cost of renovating the campuses to provide needed repairs and bring them in line with the standards of technology-based edu-

cation and state guidelines now exceeds the cost of building new campuses.

The bond also includes athletics upgrades such as new turf fields, scoreboards and LED lights, upgraded lighting at Maguire Baseball Field, the Auxiliary Stadium and the Softball Complex along with renovations to the Auxiliary Stadium track and concession and restroom facilities.

Bond funding would allow the district's fine arts programs to replace damaged and/or aging instruments for K-12, in addition to making modifications to school auditoriums and adding new AV equipment.

The bond will be divided into three ballot propositions (Proposition A, Proposition B and Proposition C) that residents will have the opportunity to vote on individually.

Proposition A would be for \$281 million; Proposition B would be for \$15 million; and Proposition C would be for \$9 million.

Proposition A would provide for four priority replacement schools, improvements to safety and security, modernization and renovation projects, plumbing improvements and fine arts improvements.

Proposition B would address technology, net-

working and infrastructure improvements.

Proposition C would tackle athletics needs, including upgrades to Maguire Field, Auxiliary Stadium and the Softball Complex.

For a complete list of projects, visit www1.pasadenaisd.org/about/school_bond_2022.

State amendments

Texas voters will decide the fate of two proposed amendments to the state constitution, both of which deal with homestead taxes.

The full texts of the amendments follow as they appear on the May 7 ballot:

Proposition 1: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the resident homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on a homestead."

Proposition 2: "The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for

Continued on Page 3

Store busted selling to minors



Acting on tips from the public that the Handi Stop gas station in the 12000 block of Beamer at Hughes Road was selling alcohol and tobacco to minors, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operation Unit initiated an investigation. The tips were confirmed Saturday, April 9, and early the following morning around 1:15 a.m., deputies arrested store clerk, Abul Hassanuzzaman, 62, (shown in insert) and charged him with a Class A misdemeanor for selling an alcoholic beverage to a minor. The previous store at the same location came under fire for selling the synthetic marijuana product Kush to children. That store was leveled in April 2017 after being abandoned for several weeks. Ownership of the two stores is not believed to be related.

Man murdered at Edgebrook complex

Another fatal shooting has taken place at an apartment complex in the 1300 block of Redford dubbed a "hot spot" by police, bringing the total number of shootings just this year to at least eight, four of which were fatal.

The latest incident at The Redford Apartments, located near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway, occurred about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 13.

The identity of the victim was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting at the above address and found the victim lying on a sidewalk unresponsive suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

Houston Fire Department paramedics arrived and pronounced the victim dead at the scene.

At press time, there was no known suspect(s) or motive.

Shootings have become commonplace at The Redford Apartments in recent months, with Houston police declaring the complex a hot spot for violent crime last month after there were two shootings there in just two days.

Past incidents include the following:

- March 16: Rufus Banks fatally shot inside apartment.

- Feb. 8: Alexis Cantu, 21, fatally shot at the complex. (Parys Burks-Henderson, 18, was charged with murder in the crime.)

- Feb. 6: unnamed male, 21, shot outside the complex but survived. (Parys Burks-Henderson was charged with attempted capital murder in this crime.)

- Jan. 28: Lee Mayfield fatally shot inside

Continued on Page 4

Park toilets burned; reward offered



Someone set fire to the port-a-potties at Bishop Park, located on Blackhawk near Scarsdale, around 1:45 a.m. Saturday, April 16. The Clear Brook City MUD is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. Report tips to the Harris County Precinct 2 constable's office at 713-477-2766.

JFD's Verhofstad nationally recognized

Dobie High School chemistry teacher Selene Verhofstad recently won the 2022 Shell Urban Science Educator Development award.

This national science award has been given to only seven teachers in the nation over the past eight years. (See related photo Page 2.)

This award provides support to diverse educators in pursuit of professional development with active participation at the NSTA National Conference on Science Education and serves to increase the science educator talent pool of minority educators to meet the education workforce challenge of the future.

The award consists of \$1,800 to be used to participate in NSTA virtual conference offerings. Recipients will be invited to attend a variety of

workshops and presentations that are of particular interest to urban teachers at the annual National Conference.

Verhofstad has been a science teacher for more than eight years and has taught chemistry for the last five years. In the past four years, she has been part of the early college high school in Pasadena ISD. This school-within-a-school model serves "middle" students who may need extra help moving toward college-ready material.

Verhofstad has been able to move these middle students to do work that is beyond what goes on in a regular classroom. She scaffolds everything that she teaches. For example, students

Continued on Page 3

Speeding driver loses control



A 17-year-old driver lost control of his vehicle around 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, and crashed into a residence on Blackhawk near Sagequeen. Prior to the crash, a Precinct 2 deputy observed the driver traveling around 80 mph down Blackhawk and attempted to stop him. Before he could, however, the driver tried to turn onto Sagequeen and lost control, smashed through the house's fence and into its garage. No one was injured. The driver received multiple citations. This marked the third time in roughly three weeks a driver has crashed through an area fence, with other accidents also taking place on Scarsdale and Kirkfair.

County continues free testing, vaccines for uninsured - despite lack of funding

The Health Resources and Services Administration recently announced that, due to lack of funds, the Uninsured Program stopped accepting claims for COVID-19 testing/treatment and COVID-19 vaccines.

However, Harris County Public Health will continue offering free COVID-19 testing and vaccines to all Harris County residents until further notice.

This means that many Harris County healthcare providers will no longer get reimbursed for uninsured individuals related to COVID-19 services such as treatment, testing and vaccinations.

Alternative resources for uninsured individuals who need COVID-19 services or other healthcare coverage include the following:

- Medicaid enrollment.
- Healthcare marketplace enrollment.
- COVIDtests.gov.
- HRSA.gov - Find a Health Center.

Although the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have dropped significantly, the

pandemic continues. The best protection against COVID-19 and its variants is being fully vaccinated and getting a booster when eligible. Getting a booster is especially important due to the growing number of variants.

To find an HCPH vaccine site, go to vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787. To find a nearby location, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/Registration-for-COVID-19-Vaccine#COVID-19-vaccine-map-dash-board. Parents must accompany their children ages 5-17 to be vaccinated, or children must bring a consent form signed by a parent or guardian. Consent forms are at vacstrac.hctx.net.

Parents can help keep their children safe who are four or younger and cannot be vaccinated by getting them tested frequently. Testing is free at HCPH sites. Appointments are not required. To find a nearby site, call 832-927-7575 or visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Information.

In My Opinion

Burleigh supports PISD bond election

We all need to vote FOR Propositions A, B and C in the upcoming election (May 7th). We need to stand together in our community to support the Pasadena ISD in their effort to build new schools, modernize and renovate existing schools, purchase new buses, upgrade classroom technology and renovate athletic facilities.

We need the proper facilities so that our children can have the education that we all want for them.

I grew up here and went through Elementary, Middle school and High School here.

Now that I get a chance to go back to some of those same schools to help hand over the Student of the month awards, I have realized first hand how much of a need there is for remodeling, repair and replacement of several of the schools.

We can accomplish this by supporting both Propositions A, B and C. This \$.03 total proposed tax rate increase will not affect seniors 65 and older or disabled due to the homestead exemption.

This proposed tax increase will also be offset if Proposition 2 on the ballot passes. Proposition 2 will raise the homestead exemption for school district property taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Barry Burleigh, D.C.
Owner, Burleigh Chiropractic, LLC

Hidalgo cancels contract; then County pays \$885,000

Guest editorial by Bill King

The more we learn about Harris County's vaccine outreach contract, the more it stinks. County records show that shortly after County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced on September 8 that she intended to ask the Commissioners' Court to cancel the controversial contract, the County rushed through a payment of \$885,000 on Sept. 16 covering all of the contractor's outstanding invoices. When the County made the payment, the invoices had only been pending for about two weeks. Few County vendors get paid that quickly.

That payment came on top of another \$539,000 payment made the same day Hidalgo announced the cancellation. In total, the contractor was paid over \$1.4 million in eight days. The County Attorney is now attempting to recover most of the money paid to the contractor.

Payment Screen from Harris County Auditor's Office

The timeline of these payments raises more serious questions about the controversial vaccine outreach contract.

The selection of Elevate Strategies was approved by the Commissioners' Court at its meeting on June 8 last year. However, at that time, a final contract was not ready. The Court was asked to approve the award to Elevate Strategies but was assured that the contract would be brought back for final review after it was completed. That never happened. Instead, the final contract was signed by the County and Elevate Strategies on July 27 without further action by the Court.

The contract provides that the contractor may only invoice the County after "the Department's acceptance of equipment, product or Services." It also provides the Contractor's invoice "will include a description of the Services performed

..." (emphasis added). The contract identifies the "Department" as the Harris County Judge's Office.

Five days after the contract was signed, Elevate Strategies submitted an invoice for \$539,363.97, which was approved and paid on Sept. 8, the same day Hidalgo announced she was going to cancel the contract. For this invoice to be approved, Elevate Strategies should have performed \$539,000 worth of services in the first five days on the project. Given that those five days included a weekend, that would seem extraordinarily unlikely.

On Aug. 28, Elevate Strategies submitted a second invoice for \$590,193.94, which was quickly followed with a third invoice four days later on Sept. 1 for an additional \$295,680.06. All totaled, Elevate Strategies billed the County \$1,425,237.97 for about 35 days on the job. That would mean that Elevate Strategies was performing about \$41,000 of work for the County every day from July 27 to Sept. 1, including weekends. An attorney for Elevate Strategies stated at the Sept. 14 commissioners' meeting, that Elevate had hired 15 employees to work on the project. So, that would come to just under \$100,000 per employee in just the first month.

But what makes this sequence of events even more

problematic is an exchange that took place at the March 22 Commissioners' Court meeting between Commissioner Cagle and First Assistant County Attorney, Jay Ayier. Cagle asked Ayier how much Elevate Strategies had been paid and if any of the money had been recovered. Ayier told the Court that his office had recovered "a little over \$200,000" and were expecting to get another \$500,000 that Elevate had agreed to refund. (See Commissioner Court Video at 4:32:40.)

Of course, this begs the question of why the County would be due any refund if all the Services on the invoices had been performed, as required by the contract before any payment was approved.

And the contract does not provide for any advances. This was confirmed by the County's Purchasing Agent, Dwight Dopplauf, during the Commissioners' Court meeting on Sept. 14. Commissioner Tom Ramsey was questioning Dopplauf as to why the financial information required in the RFP was waived for Elevate Strategies. Dopplauf said the financials were not necessary because "we made it clear we were not paying any dollars upfront." (Commissioners' Court video at 7:06:00)

So, who approved the payment of these invoices before the services were performed and why? Notwithstanding that the contract identifies Hidalgo's office as the "Department" responsible for approving invoices, David Barry, the County Administrator, told the Commissioners' Court on Aug. 24, that the contract would be "managed under public health which is under my responsibility. By no means have we just

paid them the lump sum of the contract. We will be watching the data every month." (Commissioners' Court video at 6:05:40) Whether the approval came from Hidalgo's office or from Barry's office, someone has some explaining to do.

Submitting a fraudulent invoice or knowingly approving the payment of a fraudulent invoice would be a far more serious charge than the charges Hidalgo's staff members are currently facing. I suspect that the next round of inquiries from investigators will center on these payments and how the County came to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for services that were not performed.

Note 1 - The payment provisions of the contract are found on pp. 3-4. "Services" is a defined term in the Contract and refers to a Scope of Services which is attached to the Contract as Exhibit "B".



Dobie teacher honored

Dobie High School chemistry teacher Selene Verhofstad was recently presented the 2022 Shell Urban Science Educator Development award. The prestigious national award has been presented to only seven teachers in the past eight years. Also a coach on the area high school's Academic Decathlon team, Verhofstad additionally serves in Pasadena ISD's early college high school program. (See related story on Page 1.)

PISD's advanced academics award recipient



Ariel Delos Reyes (right), fifth-grade science teacher, received PISD's Advanced Academics Amazing Achievement award. Excelling in the classroom and school community, he motivates students and contributes positively to the overall campus culture. Shown with Delos Reyes is Allison Lewallen, Morris Middle School principal.

Morris honors staff



The Morris Middle School Paraprofessional of the Year is Orietta Tejada (left). As an amazing paraprofessional, she has shown unwavering commitment to Rebecca Dyda and the Success students on campus. Tejada has gone above the call of duty to make sure the Success students' and teacher's needs are met. Tejada collaborates with the classroom teacher and helps implement methods to assist the students. As the Success program has been understaffed, she has stepped up to pull the extra weight needed to help the students. Understanding the importance of her role, she has formed wonderful relationships with her students. Shown with Tejada is Allison Lewallen, principal.



The Morris Middle School New Teacher of the Year is Nicole McLaughlin (left). McLaughlin is a special education teacher and an ELAR teacher. McLaughlin is a great asset to Morris and an outstanding advocate for students. Recognized by her math and science partners, she is a helpful teammate. Working hard all year, she gave her students the necessary support to learn and grow. McLaughlin can be found pulling intervention small groups, helping fellow teachers and creating solutions with her peers. Making a positive and welcoming learning environment, she maintains strong relationships with her students. Shown with McLaughlin is Lewallen, principal.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarea

A member from the Neighbors app posted a video of a man that was caught on the Ring camera checking for unlocked cars in the Sycamore Valley subdivision. The incident happened Sunday, April 17, at 4 a.m.

Another member on the same app reported that there were car thieves in the neighborhood. Member states that the thieves stole her husband's wallet from the truck and looked like they went through a lot of cars on their street. The incident took place Friday, April 15, at 11:30 p.m., near Monroe Road and Fuqua Street.

A member of People of Sagemont Facebook page posted that he pumped gas at H-E-B on Blackhawk Boulevard then got scammed \$400 the next day from their bank. The member states that he paid at the pump and advises the community to pay inside or use cash as there is no point in taking chances anymore.

Traffic stop leads to arrests



On March 29, Precinct 8 deputies Campbell and Mitchell initiated a pursuit on Edgebrook Drive and Theta Drive. The vehicle ultimately came to a stop and the occupants were apprehended. Upon a search of the vehicle, deputies recovered 99 grams of methamphetamine, 21.5 grams of heroin, 13 grams of cocaine and drug paraphernalia. The passenger was found to have multiple open felony warrants through the Harris County Sheriff's Office and was charged with possession with intent to deliver.

Scouts sell spaghetti

Boy Scout Troop 468 will host its 17th annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser Saturday, April 30, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway in Pearland, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Each dinner includes a serving of spaghetti with or without meatballs, salad and bread for \$7, eat-in or take-out. Individual desserts are available for separate purchase. There will also be a silent auction and baked goods sale. All proceeds benefit Troop 468's activities and equipment.

Verbal Behavior Clinic

is a family-owned ABA clinic, serving children with Autism and their families.

Our clinic is currently accepting new clients for ABA services. We offer 1:1, social groups, and parent training.

Ages 2-10. Aetna, BCBS-TX, CIGNA, and Magellan.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

CCISD early registration for pre-K, kinder

Clear Creek ISD announced pre-kindergarten (pre-K) and kindergarten on-line enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year launched on Monday, April 18. It will remain open throughout the summer and beginning of the school year.

CCISD elementary campuses will be open by appointment from May 2-6, from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., to assist parents with enrollment and receive supporting documentation.

CCISD offers free, full-day early learning programs for those who qualify, as well as a tuition-based pre-K program for residents who live within the district boundaries.

Pre-K in CCISD
For children turning 4-years-old on or before Sept. 1, and who reside in the district, CCISD offers tuition-based pre-K, on a space available basis and free pre-K for families who qualify.

Qualifications for free pre-K range from limited English proficiency or economically disadvantaged, to child of a parent in the military, as well as several other factors. For a complete listing of qualifications for free pre-K, parents and guardians may visit ccisd.net/prek.

Kindergarten in CCISD
To enroll in CCISD's full-day kindergarten program, students must reside within the district's boundaries and turn 5 years old on or before

Sept. 1.
Early learning education
CCISD's early learning programs include monolingual and bilingual classrooms and Early Childhood Special Education.

The district provides pre-K programming at 20 elementary campuses. To identify the pre-K campus that services their school zone, families may visit ccisd.net/prek and select "Pre-K Locations in CCISD."

Additionally, the district will hold a Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Fair in June to help families through the registration process.

Those dates will be June 13-15 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at McWhirter Elementary, 300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Web-

ster.
CCISD bilingual (English and Spanish) enrollment and data specialists will be on-hand to help parents and guardians register for the coming year.

Special services
Through the Early Childhood Intake Center, CCISD also provides evaluation services for children between the ages of two and five, who are not in a district pre-K program and are not yet kindergarten age, to determine if a child has a special education disability and if there is a need for special education services. The Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Program, serving children beginning on their third birthday, meets the needs of students identified as

needing these services.
To schedule an evaluation, parents and guardians may call 281-284-0330.
Visit www.ccisd.net/enroll for more information on qualifications to enroll in CCISD's pre-K and kindergarten programs, as well as step-by-step registration instructions and a listing of necessary documentation.

Let the Leader help with your advertising.
281-481-5656

Verhofstad nationally recognized

Continued from Page 1
work all year around the idea of scientific inquiry. She starts the year with structured inquiry, where students are given directions for their problem. Students then move to guided inquiry;

Verhofstad tells students to complete chemical reactions, but doesn't share which chemicals to use. She guides them toward certain reactions, but they must analyze them for their properties to come up with their final product.

In the second semester,

students do more open inquiry. Students also engage in engineering challenges such as "Having a Ball with Chemistry and Engineering" where students work together to build an affordable bouncy ball. Students learn about the importance of trial and error and being okay with failing.

Verhofstad is grateful for the honor and said the conference proved to be constructive.

"It was a great experience to win this award and attend the National Science Teach-

ing Association conference last week," said Verhofstad. "I was able to attend various sessions to increase my knowledge of science teaching strategies."

Verhofstad also serves as Dobie's Academic Decathlon coach, alongside Bob Daugherty, an Advanced Placement U.S. history teacher at the area high school. The Longhorn team excelled at the recent state Academic Decathlon tournament. See the April 14 edition of the *Leader* for additional information.

Thompson pentathlon students compete



The eighth-grade Thompson pentathlon team placed third in the Super Quiz and fifth place overall at the event Saturday, April 9. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Coach MaryBeth Nicol, Gia Nguyen, (back row) Francisco Serrano (scholastic science third place), Bao Ngo (honors mathematics third place), Jorgen Rodriguez (varsity fine arts first place, varsity mathematics third place), Luke Penaloza (scholastic science third place), Sarah Massey and Awele Ozieh.

Stuchbery students participate in Get Fit Jog



More than 30 Stuchbery third- and fourth-grade students ran in the District Get Fit Jog on Saturday, March 26. To qualify for the 1.2 mile race, each student completed 40 miles during the school year. Shown above, left to right, are (first row) Kingston Adkins (fourth place in fourth-grade boys), Charlotte Kearby (11th place in third-grade girls), (second row) Adalynn McMullin, Anabel Gomez, Camilla Munoz, Alessandra Torres,

(third row) Declan Brister, Daniel Moreno, Peter Vo, Emiliano Aguirre, Kayden Leal, (fourth row) Maria Ramirez, Aaron Leyva, Matthew Mooney, Paul Hernandez, Nevaeh Torres, Gift Obah, (fifth row) Idalia Rodriguez, Gianna Andrade, Aiden Padilla, Matthew Pantoja, Rolando Ortiz, Victoria Escamilla, (sixth row) Jazlyn Villeda, Emma Rose Lopez, Eliana Benavides, Courtland Smith, Key Marion Cotton and Avarie Morgan.

Early voting begins for elections

Continued from Page 1
public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000."

Clear Creek ISD
Clear Creek ISD will hold an election for two positions on its board of trustees.

To be decided are the District 1 seat currently held by Board Secretary Dr. Laura DuPont, and the At-Large Position B seat currently held by incumbent Scott Bowen.

DuPont is not seeking re-election, while Bowen is.

Most South Belt residents will be allowed to vote in only

the at-large race, as the community is primarily located in Clear Creek ISD District 4.

Candidates seeking the District 1 School Board Trustee position include Jessica Cejka and Misty Dawson.

At-Large Position B School Board Trustee candidates include Kyrsten Garcia, Carl Nunn and Bowen. (Candidates are listed above in the same order that they have drawn for position on the ballot.)

Sageameadow MUD
In the Sageameadow MUD

election, four individuals are running to fill three open spots.

Incumbents Ted Heinrich, Dean Baier and Edward Figueroa are being challenged by Seth Webb, who filed to run in the race shortly before the write-in deadline.

The three candidates who receive the most votes will fill the three open positions.

For additional information on the May 7 elections or to see a sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

Burnett honors Fehst



Burnett Elementary congratulated Nancy Fehst (center), second-grade teacher, for having the most progress and growth of all second grade in the district during the Dreambox Challenge. Shown with Fehst left to right, are Selena Contreras (instructional specialist in elementary mathematics) and Cindy Garcia (instructional specialist in elementary mathematics).

RAPE IS AN UNDERREPORTED CRIME

Don't be a silent bystander!
Speak out against all sexual violence!

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual violence, call the *Sexual Assault Hotline* at **1-713-258-7273**



Man murdered at Edgebrook apartment complex; killing is the 8th this year

Continued from Page 1 Sipes, 41, and Kelvin Mene- Jan. 5: Marilyn Lee an apartment but survived. and one female – were all ed to the hospital in stable condition. The Cabo San Lucas Apartments, located on the opposite side of the Gulf Freeway at Edgebrook, has also become a hot spot for shootings, with at least six taking place in late 2021, including two fatal shootings in two days in October. Last week, Houston police made a third arrest related to a fatal shooting that took place at The Redford Apartments back in 2019. Daniel Cisneros Leyva, 22, was charged with capital murder for the February 2019 killing of Edward Guerrero, 21. Two other suspects, Cris- tofer Ernesto Perez, 20, and Juan Castillo, 20, were already charged with murder shortly after the crime in 2019. Anyone with informa- tion on any of these cases is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Dobie speech receives \$7,500 donation



For the third year in a row, the J. Frank Dobie debate team received a donation from ExxonMobil. With this donation, Exxon helps the team attend tournaments such as Berkeley, Emory and the state championship where team members, Jordan Leahman (third from right) and Jocelyn Floyd (second from left), placed 10th in Duet Acting. Exxon's leadership includes Nicolas Medina, former debater, who noted debate as a tool for his success in the business world. The students would like to thank Medina and Walter Cayce for continuing their promise which, in addition to competition, has helped financially restrained students get college scholarships. Shown above, left to right, are Dylan Campos, Floyd, Sydnee Pector, Yarezi Martinez, Emily Reyes, Lexi Martinez, Malia Curry, Kelly Nguyen, Valeria Arrendondo, Leahman, Kaylyn Montemayor and Jeff Flores. Not shown are Andrew George Barrett (coach).

Moore scholarships available

Moore Elementary scholarships are available to graduating seniors at Dobie High School or Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School who attended Moore in fourth grade. Applications can be accessed through the Dobie senior counselor's office website and Moore Elementary website. Applications must be returned via email to Demetria Pitts by Tuesday, April 19, to be considered.

JFD Class of 1992 reunion

The Class of 1992 will celebrate its 30-year reunion July 30 at Chapman and Kirby, 2118 Lamar St. Suite 100. For more information and to join the class page, one may visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/305984622788781/>.

SJC seeks new mascot

San Jacinto Community College is changing its mascot and asking the college community to help make that decision by April 29. Historically, the college had three original campus mascots: the Central Campus Ravens, North Campus Gators and the South Campus Coyotes. Now that they are one, unified college, the time has come to have one new mascot that will represent the five campuses and extension centers as well as their ex- per-expanding diverse community of students, employees and alumni. One's input and ideas are important to help make this historic decision for the college. This new mascot will be a representation of all SJC campuses, students, employees, alumni and especially their baseball and softball athletics programs. To honor college tradition, the classic San Jacinto College blue and gold will remain as the primary colors.

Frazier's New Teacher of the Year



Frazier's New Teacher of the Year is Shannon Davis (back row), pre-K teacher. Though this is her first official year as a certified teacher, she has been subbing at Frazier for many years. As a new teacher to pre-K, she has created a fun and loving environment for her students. The children love going to her class, as she is always interacting with them. Davis has a thirst for learning great strategies and implementing them into her classroom. As a true professional, teaching is her gift. Shown with Davis, left to right, are (front row) Sofia Avitia, Jayce Beauchamp, Omar Estimbo, Adrian Ricks, Giovanni Perez, (middle row) Abraham Tellez, Axel Ortega, Aqsa Shaikh, Ford Kliesing, Ray Rodriguez III and Santo Carrillo. Not shown are Cassandra Vega, Camila Vega, Drea Howard, Kevin Garrido and Benjamin Resendiz.

Garcia donates \$2M to Pasadena ISD



U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia, whose House District 29 encompasses much of the South Belt community, recently presented a check for \$2 million to Pasadena ISD. The funds are part of a grant helped pushed through by Garcia of the recently passed infrastructure bill. The grant was one of seven such proposals that were successfully introduced by Garcia. Two of Garcia's other proposals fail to gain passage. The funds are to be spent on new interactive boards for in-class instruction. Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Pasadena Mayor Jeff Wagner and the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce were also all instrumental in getting the grant passed, accord-

Judaism class set Wednesdays

Congregation Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real, is offering an Introduction to Judaism class via Zoom. The class gives participants an opportunity to ask any and all questions regarding Judaism and the Jewish community. It examines the Jewish beliefs regarding God, the nature of man, life, death, sin, sacrifice, atonement, forgiveness, Satan versus the devil, the Messiah and the afterlife. It includes studying the Jewish holidays and holy days, the life cycle events and how Judaism responds to the controversial issues of our day. This class is required for those who wish to convert to Judaism at Shaar Hashalom, but one does not have to be interested in conversion to take the class. The classes are open to the public. The class meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and is conducted by Rabbi Stuart Federow. For more information and the Zoom link, email adulted@shaarhashalom.org.

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Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
 Tami Richardson, 12, qualified for the United States Gymnastics Federation Junior Nationals.
Local resident, A.J. Fickessen, was named Houston Metropolitan YMCA membership director in Harris County.
40 years ago (1982)
 The *South Belt Leader* changed issue dates from Wednesdays to Thursdays.
 Harris County voters began casting their ballots on punch cards on the Votomatic code recorder instead of the previously used voting machines.
 PISD sent warnings to parents regarding cartoon-type stickers which were tattoos that could contain LSD. The notices indicated the district was not definitively aware of the stickers in the local area.
35 years ago (1987)
 A federal court judge issued an injunction against the Pasadena Independent School District, restraining the district from discriminating against and ordering it to increase efforts in the recruitment of black teaching applicants.
 Reggie Godbolt and Dwight Baker were given awards at a banquet honoring players on the Dobie basketball team. Godbolt won the Hustlin' Horn award, while Baker was cited as the team's most valuable senior.
 Police found parts to 10 cars, all reported stolen within the previous month, when it searched the home of Earl M. Fuller. Upon arriving to serve warrants for unrelated minor outstanding violations, local officers found Fuller's garage and yard full of car parts ranging from sunroofs to dashboards.
30 years ago (1992)
 Johnny MacMitchell, a Dobie graduate, was shot and killed while working at the Stop N Go on Scarsdale Boulevard. An unknown assailant shot him in the chest and then stole the store's cash drawer.
 Leslie Barr, a former colonel in the Dobie Ladies' Auxiliary, was selected to the Olympic dance team which performed at the closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.
 Dobie senior Candy Merrill signed a scholarship agreement to play golf for Texas Tech University.
25 years ago (1997)
 Dobie secured its fourth consecutive District 23-5A baseball championship with a 3-2 win over Pasadena High School.
 The first-ever Silver Spectacular BBQ Cook-off and Family Fun Day raised \$4,000 toward the July 4 fireworks display. Winning the People's Choice cook-off award was Mintz Meat Cookers, which included Henry Mintz, Ryan Mintz, David Mintz, Jeff Sconyers and Ray Bishop.
20 years ago (2002)
 Pasadena Independent School District officials re-evaluated the growth that was occurring in the South Belt area and consequently decided not to change the boundary lines between Moore and Frazier elementary schools.
 Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League joined thousands of Little Leagues worldwide to honor all of the heroes of South Belt.
15 years ago (2007)
 The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* announced that its archives would be saved onto microfilm. The project would be a joint venture between the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the State and Local Records Manage-

ment Commission and San Jacinto College South.
 Longtime Sagemeadow resident David Wasson became a naturalized citizen after residing here for 32 years. Originally from Canada, Wasson is a member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.
 Stuchbery Elementary special needs teacher Johanna Hinton was named the Pasadena Independent School District's First-Year Teacher of the Year.
 Second-grade Frazier teacher Kelly Lohse was named the Pasadena Independent School District's Teacher of the Year.
10 years ago (2012)
 Dobie High School was ranked in the Top 10 of a list of Greater Houston's Best Urban Comprehensive Schools, as compiled by the Children At Risk, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization based in Houston. To be classified as "urban," a school had to have a low-income population exceeding 50 percent of total enrollment.
5 years ago (2017)
 Dobie student Nikkole Ballard, 15, was reported missing Wednesday, April 19, after failing to return home from school the previous day. She was found safe the afternoon of Thursday, April 20.
1 year ago (2021)
 Pearland City Council on Monday, April 19, approved a Conditional Use Permit that allows a 21-acre plot of land on Hughes Road to be used for a public school, paving the way for construction to begin on the new Thompson Intermediate campus. Council voted 6-1 in favor of the measure, with the lone dissenting vote coming from a member who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Originally to be constructed on Highland Meadows Drive in the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek subdivision, the project was met with opposition from residents of both the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek and Green Tee Terrace subdivisions, which would have bordered the campus. To rectify the problem, Pasadena ISD officials proposed a land swap with Meritage Homes, the developer in the area surrounding the school. New plans call for relocating the Thompson campus to a piece of property in the 8700 block of Hughes Road in the Pearland city limit. The current Thompson campus suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Harvey. Following the histor-



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAY!
 Best wishes are sent April 27 for a wonderful birthday to former *Leader* staffer, Dobie graduate and UT student Jay Do from friends and the *Leader* staff.
SCHOOL DAZE
 The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 21 through April 27.
Atkinson Elementary
 Ana Garza enjoys a birthday April 21. Birthday greetings go out to Jessica Kidd on April 25.
Genoa Elementary
 Remember to wish Debbie Blair a happy birthday April 23. Join in the birthday celebration April 26 for Portia Alvaro.
Meador Elementary
 Ana Moreno celebrates a birthday April 22.
Moore Elementary
 Send a happy birthday greeting April 25 to Dee Dee Pitts.
South Belt Elementary
 Give a birthday shoutout to Lesley Cooper on April 23. Blow out the birthday candles for Roseann Herte April 26.
Stuchbery Elementary
 Best wishes for a great birthday April 23 are sent to Charyl Lyons. Happy birthday wishes are sent April 27 to Iris Montemayor.
Fred Roberts Middle School
 Special birthday wishes go out to Allie Perry April 24.
Melillo Middle School
 On April 24, light the birthday candles for Nicole Ram. The day for a birthday celebration for Jacqueline Carmona is April 27.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
 April 21 marks a special birthday for William Anders. Criselda Bocanegra celebrates a birthday April 24. Break out the cake and ice cream April 27 for Lancey Graves.
Thompson Intermediate
 Special birthday greetings are sent to Daniel Birch-Merillas April 21.
Dobie High
 Blow out the birthday candles April 24 for Lynn Capell.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
 Thursday, April 21: Michael Barlow and Carol Talbot. Friday, April 22: Barbara Eikenburg, Jenny Nguyen and Dawne Goforth; Saturday, April 23: Mandy Lewis and Ashley Coppens; Sunday, April 24: Theresa Flower, Lisa Castellano and Claudia Espinoza; Monday, April 25: Steve Jones, Misty Kuehn and Liana Pena; Tuesday, April 26: Traci Thompson, Stephen Brady and Dan Fortson; Wednesday, April 27: Emily Walker, Amber Allan and Penelope Villeda.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD track and field to test elite area mix

The Dobie boys' and girls' squads will look to extend the 2022 track and field postseason April 22 at the District 21-6A/District 22-6A Area Championships in Deer Park.

Dobie, second as a team in both divisions at the 22-6A meet earlier this month, will have a handful of district champions in the mix as one of the most competitive area round meets figures to unfold at Abshier Stadium.

The top two finishers from the area level of meets will automatically qualify for the Region III Championships, set for April 29 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium.

For the Lady Longhorns, senior Denim Boone will be aiming to continue her career as she sprints for the locals in the area round.

At district, Boone won

gold medals in both the 100 and 200 races, and handled the key second leg as the Lady Longhorns won the 4x100 relay.

Boone clocked in at 12.63 for the 100 gold and doubled her fun with a 200 gold at 26.01, with teammate Mia Sanchez second in a time of 26.46.

In the 4x100 win for Dobie, senior Doneya Porter joined Boone, Sanchez and freshman Stacie Harris for the win at 50.46.

Seniors Natalie Onozie and Victoria Ramirez also earned district championships en route to the area round.

Onozie's leap of 16 feet, 9 inches won the gold medal in the long jump, while Ramirez turned in a 1,600 time of 5 minutes, 46.32 seconds to continue her season with a gold medal.

Continued on Page 6



Dobie's Izzy Padilla (left) and Victoria Ramirez came up big for the Lady Longhorns at the District 22-6A Track and Field Championships April 12 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena. Ramirez claimed the gold medal, with Padilla third for bronze as both qualified for the District 21-6A/District 22-6A Area Championships April 22 at Deer Park ISD's Abshier Stadium. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

April 22 at Crump CB tracksters head to areas

The dash to state continues April 22 at Alief ISD's Crump Stadium as qualifiers from Clear Brook are among those in the mix at the District 23-6A/District 24-6A Area Track and Field Championships.

Competitors will vie for berths in the Region III Championships April 29 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium, with the state round the ultimate goal.

At each of the state's area championship meets, the top two finishers in each individual and relay event will automatically move on to regionals.

Clear Brook's Camryn Dickson, a 2021 state medalist in the 100 and 200, leads the Lady Wolverines' crew at the 23/24 area meet as she figures to go head-to-head with Shadow Creek junior Sydney Bryant.

While Dickson, a state bronze medalist as a junior, won the 24-6A 100-meter crown at 11.772 seconds April 11, Bryant was the 23-6A champion at 12.304.

At the 200 distance, 2021 state silver medalist Dickson won top honors in 24-6A in a time of 24.023, while Bryant championed the 23-6A event at 24.60.

Dickson and Bryant are real threats to reach the Region III Championships, while athletes from Clear Brook and a host of elite programs will look to also advance.

Clear Brook senior Kennedy Thompson is the 24-6A champion in the discus at 109 feet, 1 inch as she prepares to go up against an exceptional field of competitors from the 23-6A ranks in the area round.

The Lady Wolverines will be among the eight



Clear Brook sprinter Camryn Dickson began her quest for a return to state by taking gold in the 100 and 200 at the District 24-6A Championships. Next, it's on to the 23-6A/24-6A area meet April 22 at Alief ISD's Crump Stadium. Continued on Page 6

Lady Longhorns have second seed down stretch run

An 8-3 victory over rival Memorial has secured the No. 2 playoff seed for the Dobie varsity softball team, which has also now won at least 20 overall games for the fourth consecutive full season.

The Lady Longhorns, 20-12 overall and 8-2 in District 22-6A action, had remaining games against Rayburn and South Houston before the start of the postseason comes.

In the win over Memorial, Sandra Quiroz-Catalan and Bella Perez each drove in three runs as the locals used a four-run first inning and another three-run outburst in the sixth inning to win the game.

Junior pitcher Marisa Perla scattered seven hits

and allowed three earned runs to take the victory in the circle.

Perla also had two hits

and scored two runs while Karlie Barba was 1 for 3 with two runs scored and a run driven in.

Dobie previously lost a 6-4 decision to District 22-6A champion Deer Park April 12 as the Deer

scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to sweep the season series and secure the top seed heading to the playoffs.

Dobie's Aliyah Barajas had three hits and drove in two runs, while Gabby Galvan also had three hits and scored a run.

Barba also had a pair of hits and scored a run as the Lady Longhorns pushed state-ranked Deer Park to the final frame before the outcome was decided. Deer Park is now 30-2.



At right, Dobie second baseman Claire Ramirez (with ball) turns to fire toward first base and recording a force-out on a Memorial runner April 14 at the Pasadena ISD Complex. Ramirez had two hits, scored a run and drove in another as Dobie won 8-3 to lock up the No. 2 playoff seed. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Coyotes stay atop R14 South Zone

Eight games, four doubleheaders to be exact, remain in the Region 14

South Zone race for first-place San Jacinto College as the Coyotes aim to repeat as champions.

At 32-13 overall and now winners of three straight league games for a 12-4 mark, the locals played at Angelina April 20 after press time and will next host Lone Star-Port Arthur April 23 on the South campus in a 3 p.m. first game start.

San Jacinto won three of four overall against Alvin April 13 and then against Trinity Valley April 15.

Alvin plated the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth inning to win 5-4 in the opener, with Dobie

graduate and current Dolphins' sophomore pitcher Miquela Guajardo earning the win in the circle.

In an 11-2 second-game victory, the Coyotes used five runs in the fourth inning and two more in the fifth to shorten the game to five innings via run-rule.

San Jacinto, third nationally in 2021, came back April 15 to sweep Trinity Valley 8-1 and 7-1 as Maggie Childs homered among her three hits, scored three runs and drove in two more runs.

Ronni Grofman went 3 for 4, scored twice and knocked in two runs, and Emily Garcia also drove in two runs.

San Jacinto starting pitcher Daryn Grams went six innings to get the win, fanning 11 along the way.

In the 7-1 nightcap win, San Jac got home runs from Taniece Tyson, Abbie Forrester and Maddy Bailey to power the offense.

Christin Haygood allowed a run and struck out eight to earn the pitching win.

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JFD baseball, Mavs split key 22-6A pair

Playoff seeding in the District 22-6A varsity baseball race figures to again go down to the final set of series this season.

Dobie won the first game of the series 5-4 April 12 as Ian Johnson improved to 2-0 and Manny Contreras got the save over the Mavs.

Christian Medina doubled and drove in a run for the Longhorns, and Daniel Delgado stole three bases and scored three runs.

In the series finale April 14, Memorial's Hayden Stallings spun a four-hit shutout in a 5-0 win over the Longhorns while Jake Creason had a double and two runs batted in.

Memorial was 6-2 at press time with series against Pasadena and then Deer Park to close out the season.

At 5-3, Dobie has series with Sam Rayburn and South Houston to end the regular season.

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May 1 deadline

Cowboys offer Fitzmorris funding

The Fitzmorris family, in conjunction with the Sagemont Cowboys youth football organization will present the first annual Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris Memorial Scholarship in honor of the long-time South Belt residents and lifelong Cowboys supporters.

For 2022, the Sagemont organization will present a \$500 education scholarship to deserving class of

2022 high school graduates who were also either members of the Cowboys or Cowgirls in their youth – one each to a male and female.

To qualify, applicants must have completed at least three seasons within the Cowboys' or Cowgirls' groups.

Prospective scholarship applicants are asked to present an essay detailing their experience with

the organization, including planned field or collegiate study and career path post-college.

Applicants must also include a copy of their high school transcripts with the essay.

Scholarship entries may be directed to Cowboys' president Denny Wranich Jr. at denny@sagemontcowboys.com. Entry deadline of May 1, 2022 is quickly approaching.

Wolverines to area track meet

Continued from Page 5
qualifiers in the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 relays after a solid run of things at the 24-6As.

It was Azayla Smith, Dickson, Julisa Hudson and Jizzale Davis in the 4x100 for second place in a time of 47.172, while Ja'Delle Major, Twyla Penn, Davis and Kailyn Hinch were in at 1 minute, 45.329 seconds in the 4x200, also good for second place.

Elsewhere in the girls' field from the 24-6A finals, Clear Brook's Raina Cantu advanced as the bronze medalist in the discus with a throw of 33-9 1/4.

Smith made her way to the area round as the 24-6A bronze medalist in the 400 with a clocking of 1:00.238, while Hudson and Penn joined Al-

ana Fontenot and Alexis McLaurin in the 4x400 for a fourth-place and area-qualifying time of 4:14.484.

At 25.994, Davis moved on to areas courtesy of fourth place at the 24-6As in the 400.

In the final 24-6A girls' team standings, Clear Brook was fifth with 90 points. Clear Springs held off Dickinson for the team championships, with its 140 points edging the Lady Gators' 138.

Clear Lake dominated the boys' division, scoring 170 points to easily out-distance second-place Clear Springs (101.5).

Clear Brook, fifth in the team standings with 69 points, figures to have a few solid contenders for advancement at areas.

The Wolverines' 4x200 relay squad is moving on

as the 24-6A championship foursome.

At district, the Wolverines came to the tape first at 1:27.918 as Joshua Okinola and Raymond Felton teamed with Colby McCalister and Jaylon Owens.

A time of 49.699 scored Cam McCalister a silver medal and an area round berth in the 400, and he teamed with Jesse Shelton, Aidan Tran and Christian Wright for third place in the 4x400 at 3:25.776.

The Wolverines will also look to Felton in the sprints as he was fourth in both the 100 (11.153) and 200 (22.289), while Colby McCalister was third for a bronze medal at 22.239.

Sophomore Joseph Trevino has also extended his season after taking fourth in the 3,200 with a timing of 10:02.170.



Natalie O for the win

At right, Dobie's Natalie Onozie continued her stellar senior season in the long jump as she went 16 feet, 9 inches to claim the District 22-6A championship in the event. Onozie's 10 points for the win helped the Lady Longhorns place second overall in the team standings behind Deer Park. Onozie will now take part in the 21-6A/22-6A Area Championships headed to Deer Park April 22.

JFD's Drain a top hurdler

At left, Dobie's Emmanuel Drain was second in the 110 hurdles and third at the 300 distance as he made his way to the area round. Drain also anchored the team's 4x400 relay win at 3:35.00.

Photos by Donna Alsdorf



JFD track and field aims at regional berths

Continued from Page 5
Izzy Padilla, another big-time performer for the Lady Longhorns in cross-country as well as the track, was third at the 22-6A Championships at 5:55.07 for a bronze medal and area round ticket.

The Lady Longhorns also posted gold in the 4x400 relay in a time of 4:21.07 as Sanchez teamed with junior Sophia Perez, senior Dataysia Cisneros and Stacie Harris, a freshman who has had a terrific debut season within the program.

Harris earned herself a bronze medal for third place and is off to the 21/22 area meet in the 400 with a time of 1:02.32.

Ramirez was also fourth in the 800 to qualify for regionals. Dobie freshman Bre'Yanna Williams qualified for areas in the 200 following her fourth-place time of 27.39.

While the Lady Longhorns were second to Deer Park in the team standings, Dobie's boys' squad pushed Channelview to the final event as well, eventually bagging second.

Senior hurdler Lukas Sliva was the 22-6A champion in the 300 hurdles as he came to the finish line at 39.81.

Senior teammate Emmanuel Drain, a Dakota State University football signee, grabbed bronze

for third place in a time of 41.37.

At the 110 distance, Drain took the silver medal in a time of 15.91, with Sliva third in a time of 15.92.

Dobie is off to the 21/22 area meet with the 4x200 relay best time of 1:31.38 after seniors Brandon Miranda and Terrand Booker joined junior Jeremiah Jackson and Cameron Mathews, a freshman.

As for Mathews, the speedster is headed to the 21/22 area meet in the 200. At district, he was second for a silver medal in a time of 22.27.

The Longhorns also came up with gold in the 4x400 relay finale as

Shanklin, Jackson, Trevon Johnson and Drain clocked in at 3:35.60.

In the 4x100, the Longhorns wound up second behind Channelview with a time of 43.42, with that foursome including Miranda, Booker and sophomore Ethan Nguyen

Jaden Shanklin, a stand-out basketball player for the Longhorns, won the 22-6A championship in the 400 with his brilliant time of 52.67.

Teammate Joshua Rodriguez also advanced with a fourth-place time of 56.86. Miranda qualified for the area championships courtesy of his 22-6A fourth-place 100 time of 11.39.



Clear Brook sophomore distance runner Joseph Trevino will be part of the talented field in the 3,200 after taking fourth at the District 24-6A Championships April 11 at Challenger Stadium in Webster. The 23/24 area qualifiers will then head to the Region III Championships April 29-30 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium.

Dobie's Moreno reflects as spring tennis campaign closes with 22-6As, regionals

Dobie senior Brian Nguyen closed out his playing career at Dobie with an appearance in the Region III tournament April 12 at Deer Park High School as the Longhorns officially put the spring season in the year-book.

Yet while Nguyen carried the torch for the Longhorns at regionals, long-time Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno was left to reflect on several near misses from the District 22-6A Championships.

The top two finishers from each of the state's districts automatically qualify for the regional event.

Nguyen was the top overall seed in the District 22-6A boys' singles event and was favored to advance to the regional round. He did just that,

eventually dropping the singles final but snagging the 22-6A No. 2 seed at regionals before his first-round loss to Lucas Hornung of Clear Falls.

Moreno also had high hopes for the mixed doubles pairing of Megan Rodriguez and Lael Martinez as they entered the 22-6A Championships as the second overall seeded team.

In the end, the Dobie duo saw their standout playing careers end via a third-place finish, but Moreno won't soon forget their overall contributions to the program.

The Dobie mixed doubles group lost a 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) match in the semifinals, a match Moreno said boiled down to as few as two points going awry at the wrong time in the match.

"In my 23 years at Do-

bie, Megan Rodriguez and Lael Martinez are easily at the top of the list of my all-time favorite kids to have in the program," Moreno said.

"They both worked hard at the game and gave everything they had, but their leadership and just true commitment to the team concept here at Dobie is what really stands out. There's no doubt we will miss the qualities that Megan and Lael brought with them every day as student-athletes. They contributed everything they could to the program."

Martinez has Lamar, Texas State and a couple of other colleges on his list of possibilities beginning this fall, while Rodriguez plans to join the engineering program at Texas A&M University in

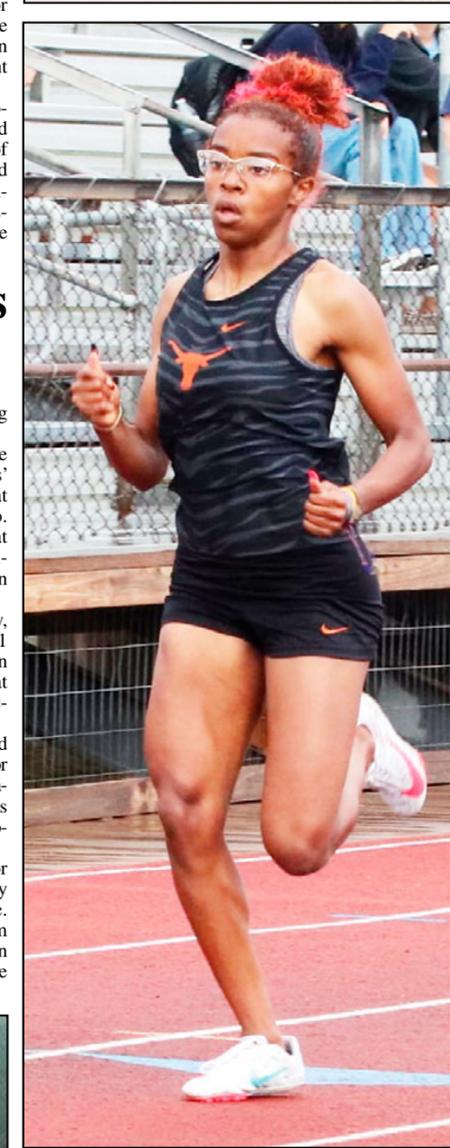
College Station, according to Moreno.

Looking ahead to the 2022 fall season, the boys' draw will lose Nguyen at No. 1, Martinez at No. 2 and Andrew Huynh at No. 6. Huynh and Dominic Ortiz finished third in boys' doubles at district.

As for the girls' draw, Rodriguez exits at No. 1 while seniors Tracy Tran and Violet Tran were at No. 3 and No. 4, respectively.

"Violet and Tracy formed a good doubles team for us, and Hailey Maldonado wound up third for us in girls' singles as a sophomore," Moreno said.

"We have heavy senior losses, and as always they will be difficult to replace. Overall, the results from district could have been better. But we will move forward to improve."



Denim Boone came up huge for the Lady Longhorns, accounting for 25 points individually to help Dobie to second place overall in the team standings. The senior won gold medals in the 100 and 200 and also was part of the program's 4x100 relay win. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Lajaunie tennis event to start play April 29

Registration is ongoing for the 11th annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament, returning April 29 through May 1 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

Event organizers are also continuing event sponsorship and fundraising efforts as the 2022 tournament nears, with auction items being collected to assist with opening night activities.

The tournament honors Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and adult tennis enthusiast who died following a bout with cancer in 2011.

The tournament scholarship fund annually pro-

vides college scholarship monies for Dobie graduates/varsity tennis players as well as youth camp scholarships for HTTC candidates.

To register for the 11th annual event, visit the tournament website at DLTennisScholarships.com or go to universaltennis.com/events/82455.

Fees for singles are \$35 and fees for doubles teams are \$45. There is an additional \$10 fee for non-UTR members.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available on the DLTennisScholarships.com website, or call tournament founder Camille Lajaunie at 281-480-6933.

LSA doubles squad wins state



The Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' doubles duo of Chase Turley (left) and Michael Barton came away with the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state championship earlier this month at the Waco Regional Tennis Center.



Several of the Dobie High School tennis players had the opportunity to meet professional player Taylor Fritz during the U.S. Clay Court Championship in Houston earlier this month. The Dobie players include,

left to right, (front row) Tracy Tran, Ryan Le, Kayla Tran, Amalia Reyes, Titus Giang, (back row) Brian Nguyen, Leena Pham, Fritz, Nestor Garza, Andrew Huynh, David Caballero and Eric Huynh.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m.
Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter - Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.
FRIDAY, APRIL 22
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society - meets either online or at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Virtual attendees

need to register for each webinar session. Visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, APRIL 23
7:30 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787.
1 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
8 a.m./10:15 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - Meets Sunday at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m.
AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, APRIL 25
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.
AA - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, APRIL 26
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
8 p.m.
AA - Meeting. See Friday's Notice.

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22-6A boys' soccer champion Dobie paces 2022 all-district picks

District 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year Ronaldo Guzman and 22-6A Newcomer of the Year Victor Hernandez headlined a stellar list of standouts as the league's 2022 All-District varsity boys' soccer picks were unveiled following the season.

Guzman, a junior, exploded for 22 goals this season, giving him a share of the program record for single-season goals while leading the Longhorns to a current Region III best eighth consecutive 22-6A championship.

Hernandez delivered a team-high 12 assists as he was another key contributor to the Longhorns' 10-1-1 title march within the

22-6A ranks. The Longhorns had five first team all-league performers, five more on the second unit and three additional honorable mention choices. With only a single loss to Deer Park and a tie against Pasadena, both in the first round of league play, the Longhorns cruised to the crown in 22-6A.

Head coach Justo Manrique, who earlier this season grabbed career win 200, took over the Dobie program in 2014 and has guided the Longhorns to district titles each season since 2015.

Dobie won the 2017 Region III title.



Horns' Guzman is OP/Y

At left, Dobie junior Ronaldo Guzman (9) tied a program record with 22 goals in a single season and added seven assists for 51 points on his way to being named the District 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year.

JFD's Victor H. top NC

At right, Victor Hernandez was awarded the Newcomer of the Year honor within the 22-6A ranks as he played a big role in the Longhorns' eighth consecutive District 22-6A crown with a team-high 12 assists and eight goals.

Photos by Donna Alsdorf



22-6A Boys' Soccer All-District Selections

Most Valuable Player
Steven Calderon, Channelview, Sr.

Offensive Player/Year
Ronaldo Guzman, Dobie, Jr.

Defensive Player/Year
Ian Seagler, Deer Park, Sr.

Newcomer/Year
Victor Hernandez, Dobie, Jr.

Coach of the Year
Carlos Manrique, Sam Rayburn

Senior/Year
Uriel Lopez, Deer Park

Co-Utility Players/Year
Dario Martinez, Deer Park, Sr.
Alejandro Cabello, Pasadena, Jr.

First Team Selections

- Eris Acosta, Dobie, GK, Sr.*
- Miguel Bazaldua, Dobie, DF., Sr.*
- Daniel Blanco, Dobie, DF, Jr.*
- Isaac Cortez, Dobie, FW, Sr.*
- Jordi Garcia, Dobie, FW, Jr.*
- Victor Lopez, Pasadena, FW, Sr.*
- Rene Jaime, Pasadena, DF, Jr.*
- Jason Leon, Pasadena, DF, Jr.*
- Giovanni Prieto, Pasadena, DF, Jr.*
- Fabio Salas, Deer Park, MF, Sr.*
- Cesar Garcia, Deer Park, MF, Jr.*
- Cristian Loera, Deer Park, DF, Sr.*
- Alfredo Aleman, Deer Park, GK, Sr.*
- Eduardo Arellano, Channelview, MF, Jr.*
- Denis Fuentes, Channelview, DF, Sr.*
- Mario Guevara, Channelview, DF, Sr.*
- Jordy Pineda, Rayburn, DF, Sr.*
- Jesus Mendoza, Rayburn, FW, Jr.*
- David Alvarado, Memorial, DF, Jr.*
- Manlio Arango, Memorial, GK, Soph.*
- Moises Contreras, S. Houston, DF, Jr.*
- Roney Perez, S. Houston, MF, Fr.*

Second Team - Dobie

- Kevin Guzman, DF, Jr.*
- Emerson Saravia, MF, Jr.*
- Alex Escobar, FW, Soph.*
- Andres Hernandez, MF, Soph.*
- Juan Pablo Rodriguez, DF, Soph.*

Honorable Mention - Dobie

- Dieby Cortez, FW, Sr.*
- Levani Pelaez, MF, Sr.*
- Juan Lopez, DF, Jr.*



The Longhorns allowed just 11 goals in 12 games on the way to a 10-1-1 championship run, with junior defender Daniel Blanco (5) earning first team all-district accolades for his outstanding play on that end of the field.



Miguel Bazaldua (4) led the Longhorns' efforts from his defender slot as he finished his career as a first team all-district selection on the defensive end. He also added three goals and three assists for the league champions.



Jordi Garcia of Dobie (11) kept the pressure on opposing defenses throughout the 2022 season with eight goals and nine assists over 25 total matches as he helped the Longhorns capture yet another District 22-6A title.



The team's leading scorer in 2021, Isaac Cortez of Dobie (10) had to battle back from injury for a good portion of the season but garnered District 22-6A first-team honors as he tallied four goals and five assists down the stretch to key the team's 22-6A title run.

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