Thursday, April 3, 2025

Email: mvnews@southbeltleader.com

Bleach leak closes Dixie Farm

On Monday, March 31, the Pearland Fire Department, with support from the Harris

County HazMat team, responded to a slow leak of liquid bleach at the Longwood Wa-

ter Reclamation Facility on Dixie Farm Road between Blackhawk and FM 518/Broad-

way. The surrounding area was in no immediate danger, officials said. Pearland police

are shown above directing vehicles away from the spill, as Dixie Farm Road was closed

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 50, No. 10

Leader seeks submissions

The South Belt-Ellington Leader encourages local schools, groups and individuals to continue sending story ideas and photos they'd like to see included in the newspaper. Submissions have declined following the death of Leader publisher Marie Flickinger in November. Contributions may be submitted to mynews@ southbeltleader.com.

Knights sell fish during Lent

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold a weekly fish fry at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, each Friday during Lent from 4 to 7 p.m.

Dinners will include fried, grilled or baked fish with fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea for \$15. Dine-in or takeout dinners will be available.

Desserts will also be available for purchase at the events, courtesy of Catholic Daughters

Freeway Manor to meet

The Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Bible Way Church, 10120 Hartsook. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley and Gulfway Terrace are encouraged to attend.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/ Calder/Brittany Bay in League City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Deats Road in Dickinson to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access in Texas City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 519/Main Street in La Marque to Tiki Drive in Galveston daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

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

New Covenant feeds needy

Each month, New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have food distribution events the first and third Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. The purpose of the events is to provide food to people in need. For additional information, contact the church

Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, March 31. Significant delays are expected.

The closures are associated with the ongong project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.

For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, April 12, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or

City to collect heavy trash

City residents living in the South Belt community south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 10 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua (and west of the Gulf Freeway) will have heavy trash pickup Friday, April 11 (second Friday of the

April is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/ solidwaste or call 311.

Virtual learning moves forward for local ISDs

Bettencourt bill passes state Senate, heads to House for consideration

State Sen. Paul Bettencourt recently advanced Senate Bill 569 through the Texas Senate, expanding access to virtual and hybrid learning for

"We're going to dramatically increase the scores for these 51,884 students already enrolled, and expect over 100,000 students to benefit when the bill is finally passed into law and signed by Gov. Abbott," said Bettencourt. "This bill empowers students, parents and teachers with the tools for success.

According to Bettencourt, SB 569 builds on previous virtual learning reforms and incorporates key recommendations from the 2022 Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

Key features of SB 569 include the following:

because of the leak.

27, in the 7800 block of Beltway 8 at SH 35/

Telephone Road, where the same suspect al-

legedly robbed another convenience store. Ac-

cording to Houston police officials, the unknown

male entered the store, walked up to the counter

- Delivers more access to advanced coursework: SB 569 allows students to enroll in up to three individual virtual Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual-credit courses, and specialized electives that may not be available at their

The Voice of Community-Minded People

- Provides faster pathways to graduation and college readiness: SB 569 gives students more flexible time to pursue work based learning like apprenticeships, early graduation, and access to college credits while in high school, reducing time and costs of earning a degree.

- Enables high school students to earn an associate degree: SB 569 allows students to complete up to two years of college coursework while in high school through virtual course offerings and dual-enrollment opportunities.

- Maintains families choices and teacher rights: SB 569 prevents school districts from requiring virtual enrollment and from forcing in-person teachers to teach virtual classes without proper training or consent.

- Creates clear standards and accountability measures: SB 569 upholds quality curriculum for virtual education providers.

SB 569 modernizes Texas' approach to digital learning and responds effectively to increasing demands for flexible learning options.

"Customizing learning options to meet unique needs is a good thing for all Texas kids and families," said Bettencourt. "There is a cohort of stucourses, programs and campuses.'

Passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate, SB568 has now been sent to the Texas House where state Rep. Keith Bell is the House sponsor. The bill will first head to the House Public Education Committee for consid-

In recent years - more so since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic - both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD have launched virtual learning programs, allowing students to take select courses remotely.

Pasadena ISD Continued on Page 3

Murder-suicide attempt kills 2, injures 1

Initially declared dead, shooter survives incident outside theater Two women are dead and one man criticalthe media that all three died from their wounds

ly injured following a murder-suicide attempt Monday, March 31, outside a movie theater in the 20900 block of the Gulf Freeway at NASA

Webster police responded to the shooting around 9:45 p.m. in the parking lot of the Cinemark NASA to find two females and a male suffering from gunshot wounds, the male's being

All three were transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition. Webster police initially told

while at the hospital but later retracted, saying the male shooter had survived his gunshot and remained in critical condition.

A BMW SUV with a shattered front passenger window could be seen in the parking lot protected by crime-scene tape.

At press time, it remained unclear what led up to the shooting.

Led by the Webster Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division, the investigation was ongoing at press time.

Arrest made in missing UH student's death Body of Payas Deo found near Genoa; motive remains unclear

An arrest has been made in the death of missing University of Houston-Clear Lake student

Payas Deo, whose body found Saturday, March 1, in a field on Dumas Street near Almeda Genoa, located east of the Gulf Freeway near the Genoa Post Of-

According to Pasadena Police Department officials, Nickalous Ahmed Benjamin, 20, was arrested March 20 Nickalous Benjamin and charged with murder and tampering with a corpse. No additional de-

Photo by Cindy Medina

tails were available at press time. Deo, 20, had been missing since Feb. 8 roughly three weeks earlier before his body was discovered.

According to the Harris County Institute of

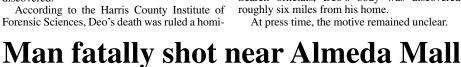
Houston Police Department officials said

Deo's body was in an advanced stage of decomposition when discovered. At press time, it remained unclear when exactly Deo was killed. Deo was last seen at his home in the Clear

Lake area near Space Center Boulevard and Sunrise Lake Drive. The following day, his vehicle - a gray 2015 Toyota Camry - was found abandoned near the intersection of Allen Genoa Road and Smith Avenue in Pasadena.

According to Pasadena Police Department officials, the vehicle had a cracked window and blood on the front seat. Deo's shoes, which he usually wore, were found inside the car, leading investigators to believe he hadn't walked away from the vehicle. The car was examined by Pasadena PD for any possible evidence.

Volunteers from Texas EquuSearch assisted in the search for Deo. According to Texas Equu-Search officials, Deo's body was discovered



Latest murder at complex renews subsidized-housing concerns

A man was fatally shot around 11 p.m. on son dead. Sunday, March 23, outside an apartment complex in the 10950 block of Tanner Park Court ments determined Thompson got into a verbal al-

Joseph Thompson, 27, was pronounced dead

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting at Almeda Park Apartments at the above address and found an unresponsive male in the parking lot suffering from a gunshot wound.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced Thomp-

A preliminary investigation and witness statewere fired. The suspect then fled the scene on foot and was last seen running north across the apartment complex. Anyone with information in this case is urged

to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Construction of the government-subsidized

Continued on Page 4



pictured below.)

Anyone with information on these incidents or on the suspect's identity is urged to contact the Houston Police Department Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477)





Dobie's Garza makes hole-inone

J. Frank Dobie High School senior Max Garza made a hole-in-one shot Tuesday, April 1, on Day No. 1 of the district golf tournament being held at Wilderness Golf Club in Lake Jackson. The 204yard drive was a Par 3

In My Opinion

O'Brien backs Harrison

I support Judy Harrison for Position 3 on the Board of Trustees of San Jacinto College District. I have known Judy Harrison as a friend and colleague at San Jacinto College and in the South Belt for some 30 years. We worked in the same division (Math, Science, and Physical Education) on the South Campus. When I moved to the district as As-. sociate Vice Chancellor for Curriculum and Assessment, I worked directly with Judy as she developed the dance program and the personal trainer program. I have observed her organizational skills firsthand. I have watched as she developed the soccer and softball programs on the South Campus. Her dedication to physical fitness has been exceptional, but Judy has always been as concerned about the students' education as she was their athletic abilities. In her capacity with the Chamber of Commerce, I remember when she worked on a project to gather backpacks for students who needed them to start school.

As the athletic director of the Health and Fitness Department, Judy has knowledge of the inner workings of the college budget process, and she knows how to organize fundraisers. Judy has organized many Fun Runs in the community. In today's climate, funds to operate a community college are essential for a good trustee. And Coach Harrison has the team building skills required to work with businesses in our community.

Judy's experiences stretch beyond Texas. She has served as a USA Olympic Track and Field Coach, including serving at the 2000 Olympics in Australia, and more recently has served as a coach for Paralympics, working with many disabled veterans.

Judy Harrison has always been a dedicated educator and understands how important it is for students to complete their certificates and degrees as quickly as possible. Her knowledge of the role of community colleges in supporting workforce education and building a strong economic base well-trained employees make her an ideal candidate for Position 3, Board of Trustees at San Jacinto College

Catherine O'Brien

King kicks off review initiative: city first

All governmental entities in Texas are required to issue an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) within six months of the end of its fiscal year. These reports must comply with the Government Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) rules. For larger entities, the reports are very lengthy, running hundreds of pages, and written in accounting and financial jargon that requires specialized knowledge to decipher. As a result, the reports are rarely used by the public or even those in the

At the Center for Tax and Budget Policy at the Baker Institute, we have decided to begin reviewing the ACFRs for the City of Houston, Harris County, Houston ISD, Metro, and the Harris County Toll

a.m. - 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

Thursday, April 3, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Friday, April 4, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy. Friday, April 4, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Lego club.

Friday, April 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. AARP free tax services.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks

Instagram com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary

Road Authority on an annual basis. To Drainage & Street Renewal Fund (DDSkick off this initiative, we have just re-leased our first review, which is of the City of Houston's most recent ACFR.

The City's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. It issues its ACFR about six months after the close of the fiscal year. In January, the City issued its ACFR for 2023-2024. While the reporting period straddles the Turner and Whitmire administrations, the report reflects the last budget, which was adopted under the Turner administration in the spring of

We synthesized the 358-page ACFR down to a 20-page review and attempted to simplify it as much as possible.1 However, I will have to warn you that it is impossible to avoid the use of many technical accounting terms, and because the City's finances are so wickedly complex, it is still a difficult read. For that reason, we plan to hold town hall-type meetings to review each of the ACFRs as they are released, where citizens can ask questions. The review of the City's audit is scheduled for this afternoon at the Greater Houston Partnership's offices downtown. But unfortunately, it is already sold out. In the future we will get you more notice and schedule larger venues for the meetings

East Water Purification Plant, originally built in 1954.

Here are some highlights from our re-

The City ended the year with a nearly \$5 billion unrestricted deficit. This has come down over the last three years. however, mostly as the result of a torrent of federal assistance.

- The City continues to be hobbled by its pension obligations. Even though the pensions' investments have performed well over the last several years, reducing the likely future liability, the City is spending over half a billion dollars annually to make contributions to the plans and payments on pension bonds issued in the past to shore up the plans.

While the City, like most other major cities, has long received federal grant funds regularly, the amount of those funds increased dramatically in the last few years. In 2021 and 2022, federal funds made up more than 30% of the City's revenues. In total, from 2021 through last year, the City received \$6.1 billion in grants. However, that has already begun to recede and given the current political climate in the Washington is likely to continue to do so.

 The City's population has flatlined since 2016. If this trend continues, it will be difficult for the City to expand its tax base. - The City's General Fund, which pays for most of the services the City provides to its citizens (e.g., police, fire, EMS, gar-bage disposal) has been and continues tion. sales tax receipts have shown only tepid growth over the last decade.

crease with the City's loss in a lawsuit alleging that the City failed to make the required contribution to the Dedicated

RF) as mandated by the City Charter. The court found that the City had been shortchanging the DDSRF by approxi-

mately \$100 million annually.

- The City continues to grossly underinvest in the upkeep of its infrastructure. Last year, the City resurfaced only 131 lane-miles of its streets. That is the lowest level since the City began reporting this metric, and it is less than half of what engineering standards require to maintain the streets.

The City's water and sewer system, which is financed through a segregated fund, has seen its fund balance rise significantly over the last several years thanks to aggressive rate increases.

However, regulatory scrutiny by the EPA of the wastewater system, combined with the rapidly deteriorating condition of the City's principal freshwater plant, suggests that the fund will be financially strained for many years.

I wish I could bring you less gloomy news, but unfortunately, the City has, over several decades, worked itself into a very difficult place. Many of these problems would have come home to roost in the last administration had it not been for the largess of the federal government. With the likelihood of those funds drying up, the city will be forced to address the structural deficit that many have been warning about for some time.

Sanchez headlines CCRW meeting April 4

The Clear Creek Republican Women group (CCRW) is holding their monthly luncheon meeting on April 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Brisa Mexican Grille, 501 N. Wesley Drive, League City. Founder of Texas Latino Conservative (TLC) Orlando Sanchez, will be the guest

speaker. Register today at https://clearcreekrw.org. Cost of the luncheon is \$20.

Seniors Helping Seniors seeks seniors in need

Organizers of the annual Seniors Helping Seniors event are seeking input in identifying local parties deserving of a free home overhaul.

Now in its 17th year, the charitable program pairs area high school seniors with local senior

citizens in need of minor home repairs, primarily exterior painting.

The endeavor is a joint project between Dobie High and local sponsors, including Sagemont Church. Students provide the manpower, while sponsors provide the necessary materials. Each year, approximately 100 student volunteers step up to help restore the homes of three to five local senior citizens. The event will take place Friday, May 2. Military veterans are also eligible to participate in the program.

Anyone who knows of a potential recipient may contact Jimmy Sawyer at 281-382-1217.

Moore attends PISD STEAM fair



Meador Elementary students participated in Pasadena's STEAM fair 2025. Shown left to right, are third-grader David Priestley, third-grader Lorelai Mayorga, fourth-grader Samuel Gonzalez Ardevol, fourth-grader Sofia Arzate and third-grader Mariana Anderson.



Physical Science-Energy category.

Atkinson Elementary officials announced their stu- These students were selected for showing responsibility

dents of the month for March from each grade level. kindness and hard work around the classroom.



third in Physical Science-Energy category.

Atkinson announces March students of the Month



Pre-K student



Kacev Robinsor



Kindergartener Aurora Martinez



Kindergartener Becky Vazquez

FREE EVENT



First-grader Olivia McMullen



Gael Corado

to be under considerable stress. The two principal sources of General Fund revenue are property and sales taxes. Property tax receipts have consistently increased, but sales taxes declined slightly last year. When discounted infla-Second-grader

- The stress on the General Fund will in-





Ariel Hernandez



Third-grader



Third-grader Huy Hang



Fourth-grader Anehli Martinez





Alessa Gamez







based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

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10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089 Blackhawk @ Kirkfair



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST Catholic Church Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd. www.stlukescatholic.com

7 p.m.

Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.* 1 p.m. Misa en Español* Sunday Monday, Wednesday & Friday Tuesday & Thursday

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

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE CENTRAL CAMPUS (PARKING LOT OFF SPENCER HIGHWAY)

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505



FOOD

IENINGITIS SHOTS



10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Monday, April 7, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Laser cutter craft: custom puzzle. Registration required. Monday, April 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Book buddies. Registration required. Tuesday, April 8, 10:15-10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books. Wednesday, April 9, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi. Wednesday, April 9, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Sewing with Bianca. Registration required. Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up" – After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870. - Have a library card number and PIN handy. - A pickup time and instructions will be given. Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds. Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification. Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1– 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library for details. Online services Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi. - Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net. - Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube. - Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels. - Stream classic films, Indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital

materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at https://www.hcpl.

net/services/iknow-card for a HCPL card. For details, visit https://www.hcpl.net.

Local library events set In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details. **Bracewell Branch Library** Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/. For online learning, visit https://houstonlibrary. org/online-learning-7556 or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10

Thursday, April 3, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Monday, April 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. AARP free tax services.
Monday, April 7, 1–2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required

Thursday, April 3, 5 – 6 p.m. Weekly English language classes. Registration required. Monday, April 7, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required. Visit https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events for more library events

Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should

Parker Williams Library Parker Williams Library is open. Visit https://www.hcpl.net/reopening for reopening inforation or the main website at https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library.

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and

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

Thursday, April 3, 4-5 p.m. Family Storytime. Registration required.



nounced dates for its April and May fine arts performances.

Melillo Middle School Beginner Band spring concert – Thursday, April 3, 6 – 7 p.m., at Melillo Middle School cafe-

High School Dank Concert and Sight Reading – Friday, April 4, 7:30 a.m. – p.m., at Dobie High School.

Thompson Dance/Cheer Invitational p.m., at San Jacinto Intermedia.m. - 4 p.m., at Thompson Ina ette spring show - Wednes-

Melillo Middle School April 9, 4:45 - 6:45 p.m., Do-

Big Art Day - Friday, April 11, 5 - 8 p.m., at Veterans Me-S&E not going to state - Saturmorial Stadium. South

School Dance spring show – Friday, April 11, 7 – 8 p.m., South Houston High School Intermediate Auditorium

Intermediate Orchestra Auditorium. Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m. – 2 S&E – Saturday, April 12, 8

day, April 16, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Dobie High School Auditori-Intermediate Choir S&E – Dobie High School Lari-

Band solo night – Wednesday, Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Queens Intermediate School High School Orchestra

Pasadena ISD fine arts releases April, May dates

day, April 12, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Intermediate Band S&E -Saturday, April 26, 8 a.m. - 5 Houston High at Memorial High School. South Houston High p.m., at Bondy Intermediate School Dance spring show – Saturday, April 12, 7 – 8 p.m.,

Melillo Middle School Or-South Houston High School chestra spring concert – Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Dobie High School Lariat Melillo Middle School cafe-

Morris Middle School Band spring concert – Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.,

High School Auditorium.

at BHI Auditorium. Melillo Middle School Honor Band spring concert -Tuesday, May 1, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., at Thompson Intermedi-

Choir spring concert - Thursday, May 1, 7 – 8 p.m., at South Belt cafeteria.

aette spring show – Thursday, April 17, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Dobie Beverly Hills Intermediate Band Spring Concert – Tuesday, May 6, 7 – 8 p.m., at BHI

Auditorium. Morris Middle School Orchestra spring concert and awards - Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at BHI.

sic program - Thursday, May - 8 p.m., at South Belt cafeteria. Thompson Intermediate

South Belt Elementary mu-

Dance spring showcase Thursday, May 8, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Thompson gym. Robert Middle School

Choir spring concert - Monday, May 12, 6 - 7 p.m., at Roberts Middle School cafete-

CCART hosts Ezhevskaya

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its April meeting on Tuesday, April 8. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, in Seabrook. The featured speaker is Russian translator, Anya Ezhevskaya, presenting "Taking the Next Step." The association will conduct a book sale with proceeds going to the Children's Book Project.

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.

Frazier recognizes staff members of the year



sistant principal Isaac Romero, first year teacher Ka- tina Ponce.

Frazier Elementary officials recognized their Para-trina Mitchell (New Teacher of the Year), Kaly Franprofessional of the Year, New Teacher of the Year and co (Paraprofessional of the Year), Candace Kliesing Teacher of the Year. Left to right, are (front row) as- (Teacher of the Year) and (back row) principal Kris-

Virtual learning moves forward

World geography.World history.

Sociology.Spanish I, II and III.

on Pasadena ISD's Pasadena

Virtual School program, vis-

it virtualschool.pasadenaisd.

Clear Creek ISD

two options for students

to take virtual high school

courses outside of their reg-

school graduation require-

portunity to recover course

campus counselor.

Clear Access

- Psychology.

Continued from Page 1

The Pasadena Virtual School program allows Pasadena ISD students to take select online courses through the Texas Virtual Schools Network.

Taught by Texas-certified teachers, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-aligned courses offered by the Pasadena Virtual School courses meet NCAA eligibility requirements.

According to Pasade-na ISD officials, its virtual ular schedule to meet high learning program specializes in teaching small groups, al- ments. lowing students easy access to their teachers.

The following is a list of online courses offered by Pasadena ISD (not all courses are offered each session):

- English I, II and III. Speech.Business
- information management I and II. Computer science
- Health.
- Principles in informational technology.
- Principles of business,
- Algebra II.
- Geometry. - Environmental systems.
- Biology. Chemistry
- Physics.
- Government Economics. - U.S. History
- Lifetime fitness (PE).

 Music appreciation. their course work early, par- student's GPA. ticipate in other academic marketing and finance. opportunities and gain expe-

credits

environment. Clear Access courses are developed with the same registration. requirements as traditional low the district curriculum, state TEKS and national

with experienced and welltrained CCISD teachers as they master course content, and develop communication, collaboration and creative For additional information problem-solving skills.

Grades for Clear Access classes completed outside of the school day will show up on the transcript but are not calculated in a student's Clear Creek ISD offers GPA.

Clear Stars gives CCISD students the opportunity to recover credits to meet high school graduation requirements outside of the school day at home or another loca-Clear Creek ISD's Clear tion. Credit recovery courses Access program offers stu- in the program are online dents the opportunity for courses taught through the original credit courses, while credit recovery system with the district's Clear Stars pro- a CCISD teacher. Students gram offers students the op- are enrolled in one credit recovery course at a time. If the student finishes a course by These fee-based programs the midpoint of the session, are available for registration they can be enrolled in anoth-

through the student's home er credit recovery course. As with Clear Access enables courses, grades for Clear Clear Creek ISD students to Stars classes will show on the obtain credits to complete transcript but are not part of a

Clear Creek ISD students interested in taking either rience in an online learning Clear Access or Clear Stars courses should contact their home campus counselor for

To learn more about Clear high school courses and fol- Creek ISD's Clear Access and Clear Stars virtual learning programs, visit www. standards. Students interact ccisd.net/clearaccess#access.



put cancer behind you.

Fighting cancer starts with having the right team beside you. And at Memorial Hermann, we're here for you every step of the way. As one of Houston's leading providers of cancer treatment, we offer advanced care from screening and diagnosis to treatment and survivorship. With locations throughout Greater Houston, you can find care close to you. This is comprehensive cancer care designed for you.

memorialhermann.org/cancer

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Dobie soccer visits Melillo, offers motivation



Recently the Dobie High School soccer team visited Melillo Middle School students to motivate them on upcoming STAAR testing season, Shown are, left to right, (front row) Lilliana Monita (sixthgrade counselor), Cruz Jasso, Julian Calderon, Allen Campos, Jacqueline Carmona (fifth-grade counselor) Jennifer Sauceda (school principal), Kelsey Campos (parent coordinator), (middle row) Me-

gan Medina (campus reading coach), Heather Kaboutari (campus math coach), Daniell Velasquez, (back row) Rebecca Castaneda (campus science coach), Josh Kluka (varsity boys' head coach). Diego Reyes, Mikeal Pantaleon, Franchesco Torres, Emmanuel Vazquez, Jezreel Ramales, Pavel Gonzalez, Angel Hernandez and Matthew Sanchez (fifth-grade assistant principal).

Stuchbery recognizes Stallions of the Month



Stuchbery Elementary School announced their Stallions of the month for March. Left to right, are (first row) Sergio Paredes, Daniela Hernandez. (second row) Josiah Donham, Kareem Ghneim, Ivy Nguyen, Alijah Arizmendi, Lexy Quiroz, Jonathan Montoya, Delilah Terran, (third row) Samantha Arboresi, Jade Garrett, Kamila Alfaro, Gianna Vidal, school counselor Alyssa Valdez, (fourth row) Javier Rodriguez, Julian Mier, Kahlia Jarvis, Daniella Okoro, Abigail Castillo, (fifth row) Elizabeth Verdecia, Miguel Perez, Aryana Johnson, Chris Cahee, Adilene Tovar, Emmanuel Saldana, (sixth row) Khloe Davis, River LeBlanc, Vv Le, Renatta Baca, Paulino Tovar and Luca Flores. Not pictured, are Sky Smith, Cameron

Meador takes on district Olympiad



Officials at Meador Elementary are proud of the fourth- sar Hernandez, PE aide Vianney Trevino, (back row) PE grade students who represented Meador at the district coach Stephanie Bounds, Jonathan Figueredo, Joshua Bil-Olympiad. Left to right, are (front row) Nicolas Ramirez, lups, Angela Nunez, Evelyn Alanis, Adriana Cortez-Reyes Isabelle De La Cruz, Aylin Chairez, Caleb Marcano, Ceand PE coach Malorie Ehlrich.

MHSH's Cardenas named ACHE chair-elect CEO to assume chair position next year

Memorial Hermann South- educational. has been named chair-elect Annual Congress in Houston, which took place on March 22.

pleted serving a three-year term on the ACHE Board of Governors, previously served as vice president of operations and chief operating officer of Memorial Hermet with opposition from mann Northeast Hospital in many community leaders, Humble and has nearly 25 years of executive leadership experience. He has overseen operations for outpatient clinics, surgical centers, hospitals, medical centers and and internationally. Prior to joining Memorial Hermann, he served as CEO and hospipital in Fort Sill, Okla.

Noel Cardenas, senior an outstanding professional years has shown my support vice president and CEO of organization that provides and commitment to ACHE's east Hospital and Memorial networking and service op-Hermann Pearland Hospital, portunities," Cardenas said. "I have been fortunate to in 2025 and chair in 2026 serve ACHE on numerous of the American College boards and committees, Healthcare Executives as the Army regent and as (ACHE). The announcement president of the Southeast was shared at the ACHE's Texas Chapter. My service health care executives who

mentorship, vision, mission and values, in these leadership roles over the next three years."

international society of more than 48,000 advance health care manage-health care executives who ment excellence through ed-

tems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE creand I look forward to serving dential, signifying board management. The Founda-The American College of tion of the American College Healthcare Executives is an of Healthcare Executives was established to further

Cardenas, who just com- Man killed near Almeda Mall

Incident marks 3rd murder at low-income complex

Continued from Page 1

Almeda Park Apartments was who argued that such complexes, which allow qualipay a discounted rent, are a

The issue of governhealth systems, nationally ment-subsidized housing has long been a controversial one in the South Belt community. A primary concern is the

tal commander for the Reyn- high concentration of existolds Army Community Hos- ing low-income apartment complexes already in the "I am honored to be trust- area, with at least 10 such ed with a prestigious role in apartment complexes be-

tween Almeda Mall and Dixie Farm Road. Developments receiving

state support traditionally put an extra strain on local fire departments and law enfying low-income tenants to forcement agencies. According to officials from the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District, the local Highland Meadow Village apartment complex has roughly five times more annual calls for police and ambulance service than traditional single-family residences in the community.

place at the local apartment Most recently, a 57-yearold woman was gunned down outside her apartment unit

around 11:25 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. Police said there was no known motive in the shooting and no immediate arrests were made. Back in 2012, a man was found dead around 8 p.m.

Friday, March 2, in the apartment complex's playground, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Again, Houston police said there was no There have been at least known motive and no immetwo previous murders take diate arrests were made

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

The \$1.66 million city of Houston road project under not expected to be completed until April 1981.

The Pasadena Independent School District board was still considering bids to repair fire

Pasadena Independent

School District trustees, in an unprecedented move, reduced the administration-recommended contract length of six district employees, two of those being assistant superintendents.

sceondary school west of I-45. A 2-month old dalmatian Houston Police's Vice Squad. was donated to Fire Station 70 on Beamer by Sharon Macha. 35 Years ago (1990)

the possible construction of a

Clear Creek ISD discussed

Round two of the Slaughter v. Monsanto Brio-related lawsuit began while an additional 20 suits were underway.

Farm and Home, developers of the Southbend subdivision, offered to pay a portion of the cost of relocating Weber Elementary.

Weber third-grader Jeffery Steinsholt was removed from school by his parents because of health concerns. His parents claimed if he attended for more than three days his nose became congested.

30 years ago (1995)

The Pasadena Independent School District board accepted the resignation of Genoa Elementary Principal Don Profitt.

J. Frank Dobie Latin Club students won their 15th state title in Amarillo, with the highest score ever recorded at state level.

A Sagemont man received stab wounds from his stepdaughter's ex-boyfriend.

A South Belt man was shot outside his home on Bazin Street after being questioned about the bludgeoning death of

his former wife. 25 years ago (2000) A total of \$5,000 reward

was offered in the Jonathan Barrica case shooting. A South lieved the youth was a target members meeting on the 10900 block of Beamer. Davis Belt community reward of an unsuccessful abduction. grounds where the building was found hiding in the park-Belt community reward of of \$1,000 from Crime Stop-

mentary teacher of 25 years, damage done to Burnett Ele- the school year. A memory quilt was being put together in

20 years ago (2005) PISD Superintendent Dr. Rick Schneider ordered copies Hughes Road. of the book, "Forever," by Judy Blume, be removed from dis-

trict schools. Ninety eight-line video gambling machines were removed from, and two arrests made in, a business on Kingspoint as a result of a raid by

An 11-year-old Kirkmont

The boy was playing basketball in his driveway when pers in the shooting of Barrica. a black car stopped and the Elementary after reaching an Ron Shafer, Frazier Ele- driver ordered the boy into the car. The car sped away as the Independent School District. planned to retire at the end of mother approached it. A group of volunteers from

resident and his mother be-

Servant-Savior Church, previously known as Sagemont Presbyterian Church, was destroyed by fire. Houston Fire Department officials deter-

went as scheduled with church the O'Reilly Auto Parts in the once stood. Subsequent services were held at Stuchbery agreement with the Pasadena robbery.

10 years ago (2015) who was promoted to presi-15 years ago (2010) dent of the South Region for A Community of the Memorial Hermann Health System. Price had previously served seven years as the hos-

pital's chief operating officer. Trevion Jerrell Davis, 22, was arrested and charged with mined the blaze to be caused aggravated robbery with a by arson. No immediate arrests deadly weapon for his alleged for the inaugural meeting of

ing lot of the nearby Beamer Place apartment complex during a manhunt after the

5 years ago (2020)

San Jacinto College's May dent of the South Region for 15 commencement ceremony was postponed until further notice.

1 year ago (2024)

Dozens of community leaders, public servants and area residents gathered at The Gardens Tuesday, March 26, were made. Sunday services role in the April 6 robbery of the new South Belt Commu-

Ranch, Sageglen, Sagemeadow, Sagemont and Sagemont ing forward. Park. These eight communities would currently serve in a car crash early Saturday, as the group's team leaders. Attendees at the function discussed the group's ambitions

nity Partnership. The brain-child of longtime resident way between Hobby Airport Seth Webb – who serves as and Baybrook Mall. The group Sagemeadow HOA chairman identified four primary areas and Sagemeadow MUD vice of focus: safety, quality of life, president – the event was also the environment and youth supported by representatives development. Also contribfrom at least eight other local uting toward the group's first The first known COVID-19 community groups. Accord- meeting were The Gardens, Kyle Price was appoint- cases were reported in the ing to Webb, the organization Rep. Dennis Paul's office, Sagemont Civic Club, Super ed chief executive officer of South Belt community, with will serve more than 80 area Rep. Mary Ann Perez's office, Houston Beautiful, met to east Hospital on April 5. Price local stores and a METRO bus the kickoff event were comclean up along Beamer and succeeded CEO Erin Asprec, line associated with the area. munity leaders from Clear Garcia, the South Belt-Elling-Brook Meadows, Kirkwood, ton Chamber of Commerce Lake at Golfcrest, Riverstone and the Leader. The group called to regularly meet, mov-A teenage girl was killed

> March 30, when the car she was driving crashed in the 1800 block of FM 1959/Dixie and attempted to establish its Farm Road between Beamer boundaries - loosely covering and the Gulf Freeway. According to Houston Police Department officials, Marissa Romain, 17, was was driving a 2009 black Mitsubishi Galant east near the above address when she struck a curb and lost control of the vehicle. The Mitsubishi veered to the right, where it struck a concrete ditch and a tree. The driver was partially ejected from the vehicle. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced the female driver, later identified as Romain, dead at the scene. No other vehicles were involved in the crash. The stretch of Dixie Farm Road where the fatal crash took place has been a concerning issue for several years for many South Belt residents, who complain that the unlit road is dark and dangerous. The Leader had received reports from numerous residents over the years who expressed concerns about the area road, which is clustered with potholes and has no shoulder, as it is lined by a concrete ditch. While known to be a safety issue for years, repairing the area road has proven somewhat challenging, as it falls on the cusp of the city/ county line, calling into question which authority is responsible for the necessary work.

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Over The Back Fence by Nicole

ELLIANA TURNS EIGHT!

Happy birthday wishes are sent April 4 to Elliana Abarca who turns six years old from parents Natalie and Jose Abarca; brothers Kelvin Lopez and Noah Abarca; and sister Isabella and husband Sebastian Delgado niece Esme Delgado; grandparents David and Ellie Flickinger; and great-grandparent David Flickinger.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 3 through April 9.

Burnett Elementary Light the birthday candles on a cake for Erica Cantu April 8.

Frazier Elementary Sing a happy birthday song to **Isaac Romero** April 3. Birthday wishes go out to

Felicia Olivares April 5. Genoa Elementary Join in the birthday celebration April 9 for

Lisa Hance. Hancock Elementary Send a humorous birthday card April 9 to

Socorro Tavera. Meador Elementary

a celebration for Loreno Lucio Moore Elementary

Send a birthday greeting April 9 to Maria South Belt Elementary

Send a humorous birthday card April 6 to Kristian Williams. Stuchbery Elementary

Remember to wish Patti Roe a wonderful birthday April 3. Sing a happy birthday song to Alyssa Keim April 5. Light the birthday candles April 6 for Javier Guerra. Robin Salinas celebrates a birthday April 8.

Melillo Middle School Blow out the candles April 6 for **Genesis** Torres.

Beverly Hills Intermediate Best wishes for a special birthday April 3 are sent to Alejandra Roman Salinas. April 8 is the day for a fun celebration for Laura

Thompson Intermediate Break out the balloons and party favors for James Washington April 6.

Dobie High
Saul Blair and William Daugherty celebrate a birthday April 3. Give a birthday shout-Break out the cake and ice cream April 6 for out April 4 for **Jessica Castillo**. Cheers for a

and Lorena Calderon April 8. Break out the balloons and party favors April 9 for Michael **Sparks** FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

happy birthday are sent to Anyssa Arispe

Thursday, April 3: Erika Saavedra, Lillian

Lee, Aimee Salazar-Arroyo, Maria Keim and Sharon Rhoads; Friday, April 4: Debbie Pitre, Monika Sandridge, Jenn Copeland, Wendy Banh Nguyen, Travis Doe and Katie Burns; Saturday, April 5: Chris Gehringer, Davis Borsché, Jennifer Smith, Teri Polluck, Debbie Trellue, Cindy Russell and Don Adam; Sunday, April 6: Carol Barber, Jason Weston, Lena West and Jerry Devila; Monday, April 7: Deborah Belmarez, Larry Higgs and Jeff White; Tuesday, April 8: Adriel Rodriguez, Alexander Restrepo and Ruth Scotton: and Wednesday, April 9: Greq Black, Jennifer Pareya, Victoria Grissom, Yvonne Longoria and Keith Harrison. LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email announcements of anniversaries.

vacations, and graduations to mynews@south beltleader.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.

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES



The Dobie boys dominated the 3,200 distance at the district 22-6A track and nings to earn the victory field championships March 31 at Pearland ISD Stadium. Longhorn senior Chris Torres (center) was the gold medalist in the event, with freshman teammate Jordan Roman (right) second for a silver medal. Freshman Cruz Jasso in control of a Division 1 (left) was fourth as he also qualified for the area championships

22-6A track underway at The Rig

onships began March 31 qualifier in the long jump schools. after press time with the a season ago as a junior

Track and Field Champi- Harris was a regional er four Pasadena ISD high third with an 8-3 record.

field events as well as the and will face stiff com- each event will qualify to the Longhorns. Shadow running event preliminar- petition from the current advance to the 22-6A/23ies at The Rig in Pearland 22-6A alignment that 6A area championships, as the postseason began also includes state power hosted April 9-11 within for athletes aiming to Shadow Creek in addition Fort Bend ISD. Times to which would be in the Di-

JFD softball headed down playoff stretch The Dobie varsity soft- In the first year of the be looking to turn the table at home April 4. second round matchup ment, Pearland has conputed to the properties of the belooking to turn the tables at home April 4. The properties of the propertie

against undefeated District trolled the action within class of the district to this a setback in a rivalry that 22-6A leader Pearland the league, but Dobie will point with an undefeated has decades of history. April 4 with plenty of confidence after crushing rival Pasadena Memorial 16-1 March 31 to improve to 8-2 overall within league

The first time the Longhorns met up with the Mavericks, the outcome was much closer as Dobie came away with a 1-0 victory, but this time the locals left no doubt in the game while cruising to the

The Longhorns scored five runs in the first inning and added nine more in the top of the fourth inning to close out the victory in four innings. Alexis Martinez and Natalie De Hoyos both drove in three runs in the win over the Mavericks, with De Hoyos smacking a home run along the way.

Dobie had 18 hits in the game, led by De Hoyos with three. Leslie Sarduy, Martinez, Amaya Corona, Persephone Soria and Jackie Peralta all had two hits.

Vanessa De La Fuente pitched the first three infor the Longhorns.

Dobie is very much postseason berth with its 8-2 mark Pearland holds the league lead at 11-0, with the Longhorns second Dobie senior Stacie Manvel, Alvin and the oth- at 8-2 and Alvin sitting

Alvin does own a first The top four finishers in round district victory over Creek and Dawson both have five losses in the race for the fourth playoff seed,



Senior Leslie Sarduy and her Dobie teammates dealt with a pair of rainouts ahead of a second round matchup against Pasadena Memorial March 31. After also going up against Shadow Creek after press time, the Longhorns will host first-place Pearland April 4 at Dobie main. Game time is 4 p.m.

Regardless, standards

Simply put, the Long-

within the program will

coaches and players begin

Cowboys offer Fitzmorris family scholarship

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls are now accepting applicants for the fourth Annual Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is dedicated to honoring the lives of two members of the organization, the parents of Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris.

In honor of Mary Beth and Tom, the organization will award a scholarship to a former participant of the Cowboys/Cowgirls program. Class of 2025 high school graduates who are former Cowboys or Cowgirls, having been part of the organization for at least four seasons, are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit an essay explaining their time with the organization, what they are planning to study in college, including their career path after graduation. Each applicant will also be required to submit a copy of their high school transcripts with their essay. All paperwork/documents must be submitted to

the Sagemont Cowboys' organization no later than Submit all information to dwranich82@gmail

Brook camps set

The summer youth camp circuit is beginning to take shape as both Clear Brook varsity baseball head coach Gene Flores and Mileka Loydrake, varsity girls head coach, have announced plans for their camps coming in June.

Flores and his staff will lead the Wolverines baseball camp June 2-4 at the school as hitting and defensive drills will be featured from 9 a.m. to noon, with pitching and catching drills to follow from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Students ages 7 to 14 are eligible to attend, including incoming second-grade through incoming freshman students. The cost is \$120 for the hitting and defensive drills and \$80 for the pitching and catching drills, or \$175 for both. Direct email to euflores@ccisd.net for additional details.



Dobie football anticipates program-building spring opportunity

By John Bechtle **Sports Editor**

There is little doubt that what happens out on the football field beginning will go a long way toward Longhorns' program.

Team 57, referring to the 57th varsity football group in the school's history, will take to the field for the preseason beginning Aug. 11 and then open the 2025 regular season Aug. 28-30 against the Clear

ans Stadium in Pasadena. As excited as the Long-

important than anything sessions within the prothat occurs in the August gram. preseason.

This spring is simply that important.

of this month. Longhorn

Danny Fitzmorris and his time. staff will lead the school's horns might be about all of returning players through then Dobie head coach Dethe buzz coming in August, spring football practice mond Stafford was the man team's returnees had gone since 2004. April 15 at Dobie main the progress made and any that will culminate with in charge as the Longhorns home for the summer, Fitzquestions answered during a to-be-determined game conducted spring practices. morris had to feel like he shaping the future of the the April 15 to May 15 that will celebrate what spring practice window everyone believes will be Stafford was named varvery well could be more a month of building block sity head football coach at

Brook Wolverines at Veter- varsity football head coach with his guys for the first

By May 6 of last year, was running behind lead- always be high as the Northbrook. Fitzmorris, a Dobie graduate who had Fitzmorris, heading into been an assistant at Pasadehis second season as the na Memorial, was officialschool's varsity football ly hired as the Longhorns'

April 15 to May 15

2025 preseason: Aug. 11

Opening Week 2025: Aug. 28-30

Hired last summer well At this time last year, spring football workouts has not reached the area and essentially after the round of any postseason

> outs in August. Despite the late start from a staff standpoint, the Longhorns in 2024 rallied from a slow start for a 6-4 overall push that included

> ing into preseason work-

working toward the 2025 campaign. horns will be looking to restock the talent pool at the varsity level after the Beginning on tax day head coach, will have the varsity football head coach a playoff matchup against this month, Longhorn benefit of spring practices May 28.

Ridge Point. upcoming graduation of so many playmakers on both Dobie Spring Football 2025

sides of the football who were seniors during the 2024 season. Senior-to-be Da'Marcus Hodges figures to be the key performer from an offensive skill standpoint role as he will assume the responsibility as the prima-

ry ball carrier. Hodges was the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year in 2023 as a sophomore, running for nearly 800 yards and nine scores during the regular season before burning North Shore for a long scoring run in the bidistrict playoff game.

Dealing with bumps and bruises as a junior, Hodges still ran for 755 yards and 11 scores, and

Dobie has not won a days that Hodges will no

after the completion of class 6A playoff game and doubt be relied on heavi-**Continued on Page 6**



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Officially hired May 28 of last year, Dobie varsithe 2025 campaign.

time as the program continues its build up toward

ty football head coach Danny Fitzmorris will lead Dobie offensive lineman Camron Robertson was a first team all district selecspring practices with the Longhorns for the first tion after the 2024 season and will certainly lead things up front once again for the Longhorns as the varsity football program begins preparation for the 2025 season with spring practices beginning April 15.

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Dobie students take a bow during National Athletic Training Month

By John Bechtle **Sports Editor**

Much like Dobie Class Nguyen of Dobie is a Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame academic college scholarship winner for this school year and can say she has given her all within the school's athletic

training program. Dobie head athletic trainer Jesse Lopez teaches the school's sports medicine program and also oversees the Longhorns' group of roughly 35 or so student athletic trainers stand on the sidelines each

Spring break? There is no spring break for athletic trainers, nor those for Thanksgiving or Christ-

While the Dobie baseball, softball, track and signed to those programs. program.

"It's a big commitment front when they decide to become part of our program," Lopez said.

"Being a student athletic trainer is a very rewarding role, but at the same time it's a huge respontrainers to be our eyes and big part of the action. ears within the program. and personal with the athletes on a daily basis.

"In today's world

the first game of a two-

Houston. The Longhorns

and will host the Trojans

before going up against a

regular season against the

Manvel Mavericks.

Battling to hold on to

April 4 at Dobie main.

game set against South seeds in 22-6A.

to-back, two-game series close in recent games.

on from a physical stand- the field. point with these athletes.

of 2024 graduate Jordan interact with the athletes or recover from events Leahman before her, Anh every day and can typi- but also to provide prop- school year that number cally have a better under- er rehabilitation practices is in the twenties for a vastanding of exactly what's when necessary to help riety of reasons," Lopez going on with an athlete them get back out on the said. from a health standpoint, field as soon as possible. no matter the type of injury or nagging issue on the such a thing as a 7-year warding and can be a very field that an athlete might flame out scenario within nice career for the right

Athletic Training Month, a is a ton of responsibility bie, and really within othtime to recognize the vital that comes with the job, er high school programs role of athletic trainers in combined with not always across the nation, is to health care, focusing on enough recognition." their expertise and injury prevention, treatment and 10 of his senior student if they so choose," Lopez who do much more than rehabilitation while pro- athletic trainers have gone added. moting their contributions on to receive the prestiletes and others.

Almost every high school across the state of Fame. Texas has a student athletic program. Lopez, a graduate of the University of ceived \$2,500 toward ac- certainly better commu-Texas, is in his 14th year ademic expenses at the nication skills and allows field and boys' and girls' at Dobie and leads a stu- collegiate level, includ- young people in general to soccer programs were in dent athletic program that ing things like tuition and action on the field during has contributed greatly to books. the spring break holiday all of the successes as well last month, so were the as the comeback stories school's student athlet- of generations of athletes ic trainers who were as- within the Longhorns'

Freshman for these students, and we first take sports medicine program, but it is certainly make sure that they under- courses both semesters a nice honor for the high the football or throwing stand that commitment up and then are eligible to school students who con- the softball across the become in-action athlet- tribute so much of their playing field, but they are ic trainers within Lopez's program.

From prior to the start craft. of school sometimes in July to well past the end ic trainers in high school of school in May or early will continue the degree in the student athletic pro- 2025. sibility. We rely on our June, student trainers are a

'It's a lot more than fill-They are the ones up close ing water bottles or sim- versity of Houston beginply taping ankles," Lopez ning this fall.

"There's a big responsiwhere communication is bility within our program in her pocket, Nguyen almost always via text and to ensure that the student certainly has a set of tools very very little by voice athletes at Dobie are best that relate to the medical time no doubt, but I realand personal conversa- prepared to compete out field through her expetions, we rely on our stu-there on the field. In order riences. It will certainly and the things that you can dent trainers to keep us informed about what's going able to do our jobs well off

where the field profession and the field profession about what's going able to do our jobs well off

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where the field profession about the field profession abou

"They get a chance to them prepare for events gram of 30 or more kids,

athletic training, and the person. Each March is National biggest reason is that there

ships from the Pasade-

Last year and now this year, the recipients re-velop interpersonal skills,

It may not be much collegiate athletes are lionaires courtesy of the students name, image and likeness

Certainly not all athletprogram in college. Nguyen, for example, plans to study nursing at the Uni-

letic training background

"It's not only helping and athletic training proand by the end of the

"It's a big job. There is ing field can be very re-

"Our job here at Dohelp prepare students for Lopez says more than a future in the program

"Yes, it's a big job, but to the well-being of ath- gious academic scholar- I really feel like it helps a lot of students in ways that na ISD Athletics Hall of you don't really see physi-

> "I think it helps kids delearn how to work together to achieve a common goal.

"I try to remind our stumoney in an era where dent trainers that they are very much a part of the sometimes becoming mil-team no matter the level of success.

"They may not be the ones out there throwing free and spare time during certainly a big part of the the school year to their final outcome for a given

"We're proud of what we've been able to do here gram at Dobie. Again, it is not a field for everybody, but it can be very rewarding and really give some-

"Being an athletic trainer takes up a lot of your of first-year receivers.



Dobie Class of 2025 senior and student athletic trainer Anh to right, Jesse Lopez (Dobie head athletic trainer), Dr. There-Nguven (third from left) was honored with a collegiate academ- sa Phan (Houston Methodist Primary Care Physician), Emma ic scholarship during the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame Hernandez (Dobie assistant athletic trainer) and Kristin Howbanquet last month. Those with her at the event included, left ard (Houston Methodist Outreach Athletic Trainer).

Dobie spring football to provide early look at 2025 team

Continued from Page 5

Elsewhere, the Longhorns will again employ Senior-to-be Titus Randle body an opportunity at a tops the depth chart today But now with her ath- career that is in need of and will have competistaff members nationwide. tion. The football, when thrown, will go to a bevy

> While as many as five ly believe that the rewards offensive lineman return with experience at the varsity level, the team must also replace a 3-year

senior from 2024.

But Camron Robertson help us. was a first team All-Dising into 2025. Alonzo Chapman, who

man and will also help for- difference for our football tify things up front. The same goes for

the defense, where 2024 very well could see action gram. on the offensive side of the

gust in preparation for the kids." 2025 season.

to the athletic period with yards and 50 touchdowns. the intention of giving Fellow senior Bryce those guys a good look at Evans assumed a larger the varsity level, and right role in the backfield with the coaching staff hosts a \$25 cash only.

standout at tackle as well now I'd say 17 of them Hodges sidelined and also they can contribute. Deas at least one other key have really put themselves had a huge final season fensively, you're always in a position to be able to with the Longhorns.

"You never want to say voted a team captain head- roster in terms of the start-

like Robertson will be a around the fact that we senior, was a second team lost a lot of playmakers All-District offensive line- and guys who made a big program in all phases of

"But the thing we need linebacker everyone to understand is Desmond Talib is set to that there are opportunities move to safety and be out there for the next wave heavy offense with Hodgjoined by returning soph- of talent within the Dobie es and other guys getting omore Adrian Taylor, who High School football pro-

"We are going to give our kids every opportunity Fitzmorris acknowl- to be successful out there, edges that guys who show and we are going to adjust skills out on the field in what we do on the field the spring will certainly schematically to fit the get a great look come Au- skills and talents of our

Cameron "There's no doubt that headed to Memphis, bethis spring is key for our came the program's allprogram," Fitzmorris said. time leading rusher with We elevated 21 freshmen more than 5,000 career a one-time chance to take have their necessary pa-

Markel Terry heads to

Blinn College in Brenham a first year quarterback. trict offensive lineman a transition, but we have as one of the most accomseason ago and has been some holes to fill on the plished offensive linemen in Riley is on his way to Mary "There's no getting Hardin-Baylor as a big play receiver threat. Senior James Spivey was also in on quite a few big plays in the

passing game in 2024. Heading into the spring, the next wave of playmakers will be welcomed.

"We at this point feel like we will be a runopportunities to run the football," Fitzmorris said.

"At the same time, we will certainly take advantage of the skill sets of guys who show us that field."

looking for guys who are going to rally to the football and make plays. "Just like on the offensive side, there are opportu-

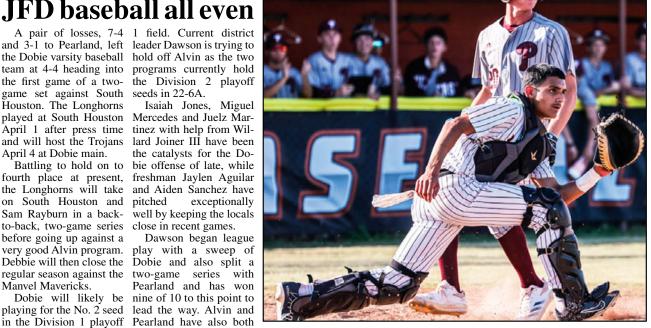
program history, and Tariq nities on defense for some of the younger guys or maybe guys who haven't had a huge opportunity at the varsity level yet to contribute to what we're doing. "As a head coach or

even as an assistant leading a position group, you're always excited about the spring because you get a good look at what your future looks like out there on the field.

"It's been a tremendous offseason for us to this point, and it'll be nice to get outside and see how some of it translates to the

BHI to host physicals April 7

Beverly Hills Interme- session with a physician diate student-athletes in- in the gymnasium April volved in any sport as well 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. as/or the cheerleading or Students must be academdance programs will have ically eligible and should care of their required ath- perwork on file with the letics physical for the coaching staff prior to tak-2025- 2026 school year as ing the physical. Cost is



bracket, with Pearland separated themselves Senior Julian Valencia (4) has continued to excel behind the plate for the Longalmost assured of the top from the rest of the pack horns as the locals have split eight games to complete the first half of District seed representing District as the playoff stretch hits 22-6A play with a favorable schedule coming down the back stretch.

Photos by Gloria Wallace



Dobie senior Miguel Mercedes (34) is in the midst of a terrific final season with the Longhorns, driving in 10 runs and scoring five more during a recent two-game stretch to help the locals to a 4-4 league mark.



Dobie freshman pitcher Jaylen Aguilar went five innings against current Region 3 champion Pearland, allowing just two hits while fanning eight. While the Oilers' Nicholas Partida tagged Aguilar for a three-run homer in Pearland's eventual 7-4 win March 25 at Dobie, the freshman has continued to turn heads within the program.



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This property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien Sale to be held online at www.bid13.com. Facility is Boat and Camper Storage, Inc. located at 9021 Almeda Genoa Bd. Houston, TX, 77075. Bidding will open (4/8/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (4/15/25 10 a.m.)

Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property in cludes the contents of spaces of the following tenants Jeffrey D. Blackshear: 94 Champion 19'0"

(TSB21620G495), '95 Mercury 200HP (0G375120) and '06 HMDE trailer (82YZKJ). Eunice Del Bosque: appliance, tires, tools and misc

Hector Zelaya: plumbing supplies, pipes/plastic and

metal fittings and etc. Ruben Rabago: tools, icebox, metal, iron and misc.

BNC - George Brown: antique furniture, baskets, TV art, tires, bar, antiques and misc. Mark W. Vance: pool table, bikes, air pump, AC units

furniture, cabinets, minifridge and toolbox.

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contents of spaces of the following tenants: BNC - George Brown: various antiques, furniture, and miscellaneous.

Eunice Del Bosque: 4 wheeler (parts only), car parts, tools and miscellaneous.

Joseph P. Halligan: slot machine, furniture and shelves.

Vernon L. Williams: 1990 Hydrasports 16'4" (HSX A9162K091), '06 HMDE trailer (76690G) and outboard motor parts only.

Elma R. Correa: furniture and miscellaneous. **Juan C. Sanchez:** 1999 F-150 (VIN: 1FTZX1729XKB51000).

Rusty Nelon: lawn equipment and parts.

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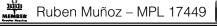
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imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vig-

ilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday,

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

7285 prior to coming.
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m., Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/ meetings/.

7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland -Check website for time and location https:// pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.

9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. FRIDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill. See Thursday's notice.

See Thursday's notice. Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/

Wednesday and Friday. 8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets

See Thursday's notice 9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum

9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom -See Friday's notice.
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church – offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-

- See Thursday's notice.

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. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-

479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by 5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous See Friday's

Jill at 646-489-4367

MONDAY, APRIL 7 5 p.m. **New Directions** – Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573 (community room). For further information, call

6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday

at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com 7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meet-

room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801. 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 at 832-858-4617 or

Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820. 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Drive. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.

7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

10 a.m. CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002

See Thursday's notice.

10:30 a.m. Tri County Republican Women General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$20. Exact cash or a check

requested. To RSVP, visit www.tricountyrw.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston

Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston. toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn, at 832-722-9061 for information. 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Fri-

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." See

Thursday's notice. 9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum See Thursday's notice.

Carmeliters - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland For details, call Marilyn at

713-444-6744.

Noon **Ballroom Dancing** – A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, one may ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180. 7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's

8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - See Friday's

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/. 7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland -

pearlandotary.com/events/calendar or call 9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a

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turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Ópen Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at notice CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243. NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt notice THURSDAY, APRIL 10 Pavilion. Texas-retired school employees from **SATURDAY, APRIL 5** surrounding school districts welcome. Annual AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." 9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum

11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.

Toastmasters - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth

Hydraulic equipment repair technician needed.

Page 8, South Belt-Ellington Leader, Thursday, April 3, 2025





Dobie's Lauren Garza (center) was the gold medalist in the 3,200 at the District Dobie distance runners, from left, Jordan Roman, Lauren Garza, Chris Torres and Cruz Longhorn junior Da'Marcus Hodges is on his way to the next 22-6A championships with a time of 11 minutes, 34.63 seconds as she advanced Jasso each qualified for the area round in the 3,200 on the first day of the district 22-6A round of the track and field postseason after he claimed the fourth to the area track and field round. The sibling duo of Jannie Cardenas (left, championships. Torres and Garza were the respective boys' and girls' district champions and final qualifying spot in the triple jump at 43 feet, 9 inches at second at 11:35.20) and Jessica Cardenas (right, third at 11:39.76) also moved in the event, while Roman was the boys' silver medalist and also was fourth in the event to Pearland ISD Stadium March 31. Hodges was sixth in the long



jump at 21-0 1/2.

Giron tops hoops career at Weatherford



Dobie Class of 2023 graduate Jacque Giron finished with a team-high 15 points and four steals in mid-March as her Weatherford College women's basketball team was eliminated by New Mexico, 76-66, in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region 5 postseason tournament. With Giron leading the Coyotes in scoring and assists during the 2024-2025 season, the program reached the postseason for the first time in three seasons and put together a 20-11 overall record, collecting the most wins in five seasons for the program. Giron, a former District Most Valuable Player at Dobie, will now look to continue her collegiate career at a four-year program.



Miah Hypolite of Dobie threw the discus 108 feet for the silver medal in the District 22-6A championships March 31 at Pearland ISD Stadium. With a top-two finish, Hypolite will now represent the Longhorns in the area championships later this month within Fort Bend ISD.



Longhorn throwers Cedric Gillespie (left) and Markel Terry finished the regular season with medals in Baytown but found the competition strong as the postseason began with the 22-6A championships at Pearland ISD Stadium. Terry has signed to play football beginning this fall at Blinn College.

Dickson is SEC's co-Runner of the Week

Davis shines with UTRGV track and field



Clear Brook Class of 2024 graduate Jizzale Davis continued to shine early on during the collegiate outdoor track and field season as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros tallied three top-10 finishes March 28 during day two of the Bobcat Invitational at the Texas State University Track & Field Complex. Competing in the 200, Davis delivered a time of 24.12 seconds to finish ninth overall. On the final day in the 100, Davis was in at 11.89 for 20th place.

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— coupon — — — Bowlers roll on at state

The Dobie boys finished 13th and one spot out of the final 12 qualifiers for the state tournament championships March 29 in San Antonio during the Texas State High School Bowling

Zaniya Franklin of Dobie made her way to the state semifinals and the individual girls' state championship before bowing out.

The Clear Brook girls finished 18th in the team championships to close out the 2024- 2025 season.

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co-Runner of the Week following her two-win weekend at the UTSA Invitational, the league announced March 25. Dickson, a Clear Brook graduate and former three-time state meet qualifier, started the 2025 outdoor season strong with a pair of victories and two national-leading marks in San Antonio. Her first win came in the 4x100 relay, as the team crossed the line in 43.43 seconds to convincingly take the event and claim the No. 1 spot in the nation. She tallied her second victory of the day in the 100, where she put up a personal best time of 11.06, which also ranks her at the top of the national leaderboard. At the Louisiana State University Battle on the Bayou, the TAMU women's 4x400 (Latasha Smith, Bria Bullard, Dickson and Jasmine Montgomery) secured the gold March 29 with their time of 43.44.

Texas A&M track & field's Camryn Dickson was named SEC Women's