

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Beltway 8 closures set

At least one lane on both the eastbound and westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads from Blackhawk to Scott Street/Fellows Road will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, April 30.

Both the Blackhawk exit and Monroe entrance on Beltway 8 will be closed through Saturday, July 8. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Knights hold fish fry

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring its last Lenten fish fry dinner Friday April 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road. The menu includes a breaded catfish fillet, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob and iced tea or lemonade. The cost is \$10, eat in or take out. Limited baked fish fillets are available.

Gulfhaven opens food bank

Gulfhaven Church, 10716 Sabo Road, is opening a food bank each Wednesday for the first three weeks of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The food pantry will be open the fourth Thursday of the month from 2 to 7 p.m. For those in need of food subsidy, come by on one of the above scheduled days and time. Bring personal documentation to register. For additional information, contact 713-562-4580 or gulfhavenchurch@txsda.org.

Lariaettes hold Spring Show

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold their annual Spring Show from Thursday, April 6, through Saturday, April 8, in the school auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each.

Moore scholarships available

Moore Elementary Student Council will offer four scholarships to graduating seniors at Dobie High School who attended Moore in fourth grade. Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Thursday, April 13.

Weber vendors sought

Weber Elementary PTA is seeking vendors for its Spring Carnival set for Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is \$25 per exhibit space. Bring a set-up (table and chairs) which must fit in the space provided. Anyone interested in renting a space, should contact Kelly Jo Henry at KHENRY@ccisd.net.

Beverly Hills to meet

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will meet Monday, April 10, in the recreation room at Beverly Hills Park, located at 10201 Kingspoint, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Vendors market planned

The Guadalupe's Society at Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, located at 10727 Hartsook St., will have a vendors market Sunday, April 9. All community vendors are welcome to sell homemade crafts and jewelry, Home Interiors etc or introduce their business. The fee for an exhibit space is \$20. A table may be provided for an additional \$5. To reserve a space or for additional information, call Eva Ornelas at 713-826-1635.

Highland Meadow to meet

The monthly meeting of the Highland Meadow HOA is set for Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be at the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. Questions prior to the meeting may be directed to Sherrida Williams with C.I.A. Services, 713-981-9000 or CusotmerCare@ciaservices.com.

Kirkmont I HOA meets

The Kirkmont I HOA will hold a board meeting Wednesday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. All homeowners are invited and urged to attend.

Lake of Golfcrest meets

Lake of Golfcrest is having its annual HOA meeting Monday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park community center. All member residents are urged to attend this important meeting to discuss decisions for this neighborhood.

Melillo carnival planned

Melillo Middle School, 9220 Hughes, will hold its ninth annual Spring Carnival on Friday, April 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. Carnival highlights include a dunking booth, obstacle course, rock wall, cake walk, disc jockey and silent auction baskets. Concession items include turkey legs, sausage on a stick, snow cones, nachos, popcorn and chopped barbecue sandwiches.

Weber carnival scheduled

Weber Elementary will hold its Spring Carnival Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wristbands, which include all games and rides, are \$15 in advance (\$12 per sibling) or \$20 on the day of the event. Contact khenry@ccisd.net for more information.

More storms strike South Belt community

Twice in less than one week the South Belt community was struck by fierce storms, causing widespread damage.

While the first storm, which primarily took place early March 25, caused extensive wind damage (see related story and photos in last week's *Leader*), the second storm, which whipped through the area the afternoon of March 29, resulted in rampant flooding throughout the community.

High water was reported throughout the South Belt area, including on major thoroughfares, such as Hughes Road, Hall Road and Fuqua. Sever-

al drivers were forced to seek higher ground, as many streets were impassable, especially in smaller vehicles.

According to the Harris County Flood Control District, the rain gauge at the Beamer Ditch at Hughes Road recorded 2.84 inches of rainfall during the peak of the storm.

Despite the large amount of rain, the *Leader* heard no reports of houses flooding.

A pastor from Sagemont Church was featured in a Channel 13 news report after rushing to the rescue of a woman who was stranded with her two young children in front of Stuchbery Ele-

mentary.

"We're taught to be light in the darkness," said Matt Armendarez, junior high associate minister at Sagemont. "When we see those in need, we reach out."

More heavy rains were forecast for both Saturday, April 1, and Sunday, April 2, but the South Belt area was spared any further damage, with only one half inch of rain being reported over the two-day period.

Hughes project nears completion

After multiple setbacks, the project to reconstruct Hughes Road from Beltway 8 to Sagecanyon is scheduled to be complete in mid-April, according to City of Houston Public Works and Engineering spokeswoman Alanna Reed.

The project had originally been slated to be complete by the end of 2016.

Begun in June 2015, the \$11.7 million Hughes Road Drainage and Paving Project will remove existing paving and replace it, along with curb, gutter and sidewalks on both sides of the street and provide necessary storm sewer upgrades and street lighting.

Part of the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the undertaking was initially proposed in

1999, while Rob Todd served as the South Belt area's city council member.

The ongoing project has drawn the ire of many local residents and business owners, who say the project has caused widespread confusion and traffic congestion.

The construction has also been blamed for causing multiple automobile accidents, particularly at the corner of Beamer and Hughes.

Sagemont project

Reed further told the *Leader* a second project to make similar improvements to other parts of Sagemont, as well as the Kirkwood South subdivision, is expected to go out for bid on Friday.

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Hummer hits high water



For the second time in one week, the South Belt community was pounded by severe storms on Wednesday, March 29, causing extensive flooding in the area. While many area streets were impassable for smaller cars, larger vehicles such as the Hummer shown above at the intersection of Sagewind and Kirkfair were able to maneuver through the high water. See related photo on Page 6A.

Photo by David Flickinger

Splash pad to open at EFL Park

The new splash pad at El Franco Lee Park, located at 9400 Hall Road, will officially open for the season on Saturday, April 8, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony held by county officials.

The 2,778-square-foot water park will feature several children's attractions, including Fill 'n' Spill, Water Sprout, Jet Way, Mushroom Maze, Baseball Spin 'n' Spray and others. The splash pad will also feature two covered picnic areas equipped with tables.

The facility will be open from April to October from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In the works for roughly two years, the new splash pad is the last project former County Commissioner El Franco Lee secured for the South Belt community before his unexpected death in January 2016.

The *Leader* is seeking to make contact with a female Riverstone Ranch resident who served as the impetus for the project. Well before the county approved of the splash park's construc-

tion, the woman in question reached out to the *Leader* to report she felt the need to avoid driving down Blackhawk while her son was in the car out of concern he would see the newly constructed Kirkmont water park that was reserved for only residents of that specific subdivision to use.

While other parts of the county had similar facilities in place, none were easily accessible for all South Belt residents to utilize. After being contacted by the *Leader* about the possible construction of such an endeavor, Lee seemed eager to assist. And although Lee didn't survive to see the project to its fruition, his successor Rodney Ellis followed through on the promise to construct a community facility that was available to all local residents.

Anyone who knows how to contact the resident who originally inspired the splash pad project is urged to email mynews@southbeltleader.com.

South Belt cook-off approaches

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, set to take place April 27 through April 29, at El Franco Lee Park, is quickly approaching.

Now in its 21st year, the event is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks display. In past years, the event has also raised thousands of dollars to donate to local youth organizations and scholarships.

Trophies will be awarded for best margaritas (Thursday), chili (Friday), beans (Friday), chicken (Friday), brisket (Saturday), pork ribs (Saturday) and chef's choice (Saturday).

The event will cater to families on Saturday afternoon, with children 12 and under being ad-

mitted for free. A Kids Fun Zone will take place Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. featuring several free activities for children, such as inflatables, a petting zoo, pony rides and an obstacle course.

A live auction will take place Saturday at the time of the award ceremony at 6 p.m.

Event organizers are currently seeking volunteers.

At press time, three cooking spots were still available. Cooking spots are \$175 for a 40 foot by 40 foot space.

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

Art murals added to intersections

Many South Belt residents may have recently noticed a splash of color in the community, as several electrical boxes have been transformed into works of art at various intersections throughout the area.

The art, however, is not the work of a vandal but rather part of a new city program aimed at beautifying the community.

The Traffic Signal Control Cabinet Art Program is an initiative to bring public art to parts of the city not traditionally known for having it, primarily sites outside the loop. It is also designed to curb illegal graffiti.

The project uses traffic signal control cabinets (also referred to as electrical or utility boxes) as blank canvases on which to paint "mini murals." Many of the artists involved in the program are former graffiti artists now hired to do legal pieces. Participating artists include Alex "Zu" Arzu, 2:12, Ana Maria, Anat Ronen, Dual, Gabriel

Prusmack, GONZO247, Tra' Slaughter, Jessica Guerra, Lee Washington, Sebastien "Mr. D" Boileau, Pilot FX, Shelbi-Nicole, w3r3on3 and Wiley.

"It's a great way to give back to the community, while also beautifying the landscape of the city," said Slaughter, who painted the mini mural at the intersection of Almeda Genoa and Rowlett (see photo at right).

The program is overseen by the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. The city collaborates on the project with multiple local art groups, including UP Art Studio, Fresh Arts and the Houston Art Alliance. All art pieces are funded through various sponsors, including Houston City Council member offices, management districts, nonprofit organizations and local businesses.

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Sagemont participates in Gage event

Sagemont Church will be among the roughly 40 area churches to participate in the Go Tell Bay Area Crusade, set to take place Friday, April 7, through Sunday, April 9, at the Clear Creek ISD Challenger-Columbia Stadium at 1955 W. NASA Blvd. in Webster.

Internationally known evangelist and founder of Go Tell Ministries, Rick Gage, will serve as the keynote speaker of the event.

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Constable's office seeks suspects

The Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office is seeking the public's assistance in identifying two suspects wanted for allegedly committing recent crimes.

One of the suspects being sought is wanted for burglarizing two local businesses.

The first reported burglary took place at the Kwik Kar Lube & Ocean Car Wash in the 11200 block of Scarsdale on Thursday, March 30, while the second incident took place at the Elite Dry Cleaners in the 10300 block of Blackhawk on Sunday, April 2.

Investigators said surveillance footage indicates the same suspect was responsible for both burglaries. Both incidents took place at roughly 11 p.m., and entry was gained by throwing a

rock through the store's window.

The suspect is described as a white male between 40 and 50 years old with blond hair and glasses. He was reportedly driving a white four-door Pontiac Grand Prix (possibly a 2008) with a large black racing stripe.

The second suspect being sought is accused of shooting someone Tuesday, April 4, around 10:30 p.m. at the Highland Meadow Village apartment complex in the 10900 block of Highland Meadow Village.

The shooting occurred outside the complex following a disturbance between two teenage males. The victim, an 18-year-old black male, was shot in the stomach and transported to the

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Chamber, MUD hold fun fest, dog show

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will host the second annual South Belt Family Fun Fest and Strut Your Mutt dog parade on Saturday, April 8, at Clear Brook City Park, at Blackhawk and Scarsdale, from 4 to 8 p.m. The pavilion and parking lots will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday through Saturday. While the two events were held separately last year, they have been combined this year to form one larger festival.

The Family Fun Fest will feature a 1.5- and 3-mile fun run/walk, KidsSafe fingerprinting, a

disc jockey, a live band, inflatables, workshops, games, disc golf and more.

Just added to this year's event is a distracted driver simulator. The device will give participants a hands-on experience with the dangers of distracted driving, especially texting and driving.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, an estimated one in five traffic crashes in the state is caused by distracted driving, and the problem is getting worse.

Last year, there were 108,962 distracted driv-

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Area electronic recycling continues

The *Leader* would like to remind South Belt residents of the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The program was placed on hold for several months last year due to contract disagreements

with CompuCycle, the company responsible for doing the recycling.

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

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Murals bring color

The mural artwork shown to the left, located at the intersection of Almeda Genoa and Rowlett, was recently painted by Houston-based artist Tra' Slaughter. The art piece, which depicts the Houston skyline combined with a geometric, multicolored background, is part of a city program that transforms utility boxes into works of art. The "mini mural" is one of 120 that can be found citywide and one of five that can be seen in the South Belt community.

Photo by Jonathan Chapa



In My Opinion

Cardenas figures math

No taxation without representation. It is as old as the Boston Tea Party. Rhode Island, which is the smallest state in the country, has a border with Massachusetts.

Rhode Island is being represented very well by two senators, just like the rest of the states. Rhode Island's two senators can very easily criss-cross the entire state and hear the needs and aspirations of all the citizens of that state.

In comparison we have our state of Texas and the state of California, the two largest and most populous states in the country. We also have two senators each.

By doing the math there is no way that our two senators can criss-cross our state and listen to the concerns and aspirations of all the citizens of our state.

How many Rhode Islands can fit in the state of Texas or California? Two senators cannot very adequately represent the entire state of Texas. No taxation without representation.

It definitely is necessary for more than two senators to properly represent all the corners of the states of Texas and California, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota.

President Obama has three of my let-

Gordon seeks witness to auto accident

I was involved in an accident on March 12th around 2:20 to 3 p.m. at Astoria and Beamer. There was a witness to the accident that helped me out of my vehicle that stated the other car had ran the red light that the witness was sitting at. She witness left the scene before talking to the police.

I am being blamed for the accident and would like to get in touch with the lady that helped me or see if she will come forward.

She was African American and wearing purple scrubs with a white flowered top. She may work at the Memorial Herman hospital on Astoria.

I was driving a 2014 white Ford F-150 and the other driver was driving a red Toyota Camry.

Can this be posted in your paper? I need help I did not run a red light if the witness comes forward then I can give her contact information to my insurance company so they can investigate.

My phone number is 832-929-8234. Your help would be appreciated.

Thank you, Dawn Gordon

Elected officials share their words

Commissioner Ellis files amicus brief in case vs. Harris County

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. and Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis filed an amicus brief in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in support of a preliminary injunction to immediately halt Harris County's practice of jailing people charged with misdemeanors solely because they are unable to pay bail. The brief explains Harris County's bail structure "constitutes a blatant and unlawful penalty for poverty" that is not only unconstitutional, it has a disproportionately harmful effect on

black, poor and disadvantaged Harris County residents.

"Justice cannot depend on how much money you have in the bank," Ellis said. "But poor people all across Houston - Texans who are supposed to be presumed innocent - far too often get second-class justice just because they can't afford to pay bail. Harris County's abusive system privileges the privileged and punishes the poor. This discriminatory bail system is an affront to justice and must end now." The LDF/Ellis brief was filed in support of O'Donnell v. Harris County, a lawsuit that seeks an immediate

end to the practice of wealth-based detention of people charged with misdemeanors in Harris County. Because Harris County bail determinations are made based on a pre-determined schedule that does not account for ability to pay bail and does not offer a timely opportunity to address inability to pay bail, poor people charged with misdemeanors are held in jail solely because they are unable to pay bail.

"The constitution applies equally to the rich and the poor," said Christina Swarns, Director of Litigation for LDF. "So no one should lose their freedom, their job, and/or their home just because they don't have the money to pay bail for a minor offense."

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold its next community meeting on Monday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. For more information on the local meetings, visit the *Sagemont Civic Club* Facebook page or sagemontcc.org.

According to the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page, an accident involving a motorcycle and a pickup truck occurred Monday, April 3, at the Blackhawk Blvd. median near H-E-B, 9828 Blackhawk. The man on the motorcycle has been confirmed okay. For additional information, a photograph of the accident has been posted on the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page.

A member of *The Mont!* Facebook page reported a black car was shot with a paintball gun at Armadilla Lanes II, 10055 Fuqua. For more information, photographs of the vehicle have been uploaded on this Facebook page.

book page.

The home of a member of Nextdoor.com was broken into by three armed men for the third time in three months in the Clearwood Landing subdivision. Photographs of the suspects were posted on the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page as well as footage of the suspects walking to their two vehicles. For more information visit the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page.

A member of Nextdoor.com witnessed a purse snatching Tuesday, April 4, around 3 p.m. at the Chevron on Fuqua and King-point.

The member reported that the woman who was robbed parked in front of the entrance of Chevron and went inside while allegedly leaving her daughter inside the truck with a baby. The suspects reportedly looked into the truck, broke the window, took the purse and ran off.

For more information, visit Nextdoor.com.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. TaxAide is available Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through April 17 (except for April 14). Volunteers from AARP will assist with federal income tax preparation, tax questions and filing tax returns at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a photo-ID, Social Security card and any other official documentation for oneself and all dependents, a copy of last year's income tax return, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements and other necessary forms. Note: There will be no tax assistance on Good Friday, April 14.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be at the library on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April 8. VITA offers free tax assistance for those earning \$54,000 or less annually, persons with disabilities and taxpayers with limited English vocabulary. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Basic computer classes are offered on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. Phone the library for information and registration details, or check the library's home page at www.hcpl.net.

Thursday, April 6, 2 p.m. Movie time for adults has the feature presentation of *The Thin Man* (1943), starring William Powell and Myrna Loy.

Thursday, April 6, 2 p.m. Credit? Credit! Credit, presented by United Way Thrive Center at Bay Area. Understand your credit score as well as how to improve it, dispute resolution, and how to check your credit.

Saturday, April 8, 10:30 a.m. Soils and Composting by Harris County Master Gardeners. Saturday, April 8, 1:30 p.m. Funny Bunny Scavenger Hunt hosted by the Parker Williams Teen Leadership in the children's area, for ages 8 and older.

Tuesday, April 11, 2 p.m. Avoiding Probate: Estate Planning Using the Transfer on Death Deed, presented by William Archer.

Wednesday, April 12, 5 p.m. STEM Time, DNA Explained, for ages 8 and older.

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, Vietnamese learning time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on these programs, phone the library at 281-484-2036. Library hours are: Monday, 1 - 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; All Harris County Public Library branches are closed for Easter from 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, through Sunday, April 16.

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. Knitting and Crochet

Saturday, April 8, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class

Saturday, April 8, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. English learning; 12:30 p.m. Lego playtime

Saturday, April 8, 3 p.m. Citizenship class

Tuesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. Para los niños

Wednesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11:15 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, April 12, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

For more information, call 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

Bracewell hours are: Sunday and Monday, closed; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday, noon - 8 p.m., Friday, 1 - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, call 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

Publisher's Opinion

Flood control, a job for all

Although there is an agency called Harris County Flood Control and the city of Houston helps fight flooding, it is also the responsibility of all members of the community to help in this fight. What we do with clippings and other trash can make a big difference in keeping water out of our streets, vehicles and even homes. Be responsible. Eliminate these issues, don't add to them! Also, drive responsibly. Don't make waves. Thanks to the guys who shared these photos. (See more photos Page 6A.) -Marie Flickinger



This photo, taken near the back of Ace Hardware, submitted by Robert James, is a perfect example of what not to do with clippings. Loose debris and clippings often end up in the drainage ditch next to where they are piled. This type of activity, including blowing grass and tree trimmings down the drain, results in photos like the one below.



The photo, above, shows 14 inches of water from the March 29 rain that accumulated in the middle of the alley behind the Family Dollar store at Sabo Road and Fuqua. John King walked into the alley, measured the water and with an umbrella and broom unclogged the drain that was covered with a thatch roof of leaves and grass clippings. If the water were any deeper, trucks going through the intersection causing waves may have flooded nearby businesses and storage sheds.

Morris places top three in Name That Book



At the Pasadena Independent School District Name That Book competition, Morris Middle School placed in the top three for the fifth year in a row. The competition was held on Saturday, March 25, at Parkview Intermediate. Students read from a list of 20 preselected books. At the competition, a quote is shown and the teams must choose the book in which the quote is included. Morris tied with three other teams in regular play and went to Bonus Rounds, in which Morris and Lomax tied for third place. Shown, seated, left to right, are Oscar Garza, Jennifer Ben-Smith, Haleigh Jones, Emily Reyes and Arianna Rivera. Standing, left to right, are Jacob Montez, Cheryl Patrick (librarian) and Hue Le.

Photo by Tina Jimenez

Bettencourt: Taxpayers should have voice on pension bonds

The Texas Senate last week voted 21-10 to approve Senate Bill 151 by Senator Paul Bettencourt, which would require voter approval for a municipality to issue obligation bonds for a pension fund.

Originally authorized by the Texas Legislature in 2003, pension obligation bonds were created to be one pathway that municipalities could use to help issue debt to repay unsecured pension liabilities; however, voter approval was omitted as one of the requirements.

The city of Houston has issued over \$600 million of pension obligation bonds over seven issuances since the original bill's passage, while Dallas and El Paso have issued an additional \$600 million total in POBs.

The city of Houston's most recently discussed billion dollar POB, by far the largest amount potentially requested by a city for this type of bond since its inception in 2003, caused Senator Bettencourt to file SB 151.

"Early last decade, the state's original pension obligations law left out voter approval. Since then, municipalities have issued more than \$1.2 billion without any voter approval," Senator Bettencourt said. "SB 151 is necessary to put the final de-

cision in the hands of the voters who are affected by municipalities' decisions to issue debt obligations."

"Pension obligation bonds are the only general obligation bonds in the state that don't require voter approval," Senator Bettencourt said in response to a question yesterday from Senator Royce West (D-Dallas).

"Voter approval on pension obligation bonds is good public policy, because it is the taxpayers' property tax monies that ultimately secure them," Senator Bettencourt added.

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted SB 151 favorably from committee on March 20, with public testimony in support of the bill by Houston Retired Firefighters Association Director Steve Williams, Director of the Center for Local Governance at the Texas Public Policy Foundation James Quintero, former Houston CPA Society President Bill Frazer, and independent CFO consultant Bill St. Clair.

"I want to thank Senate State Affairs Chair Joan Huffman for agreeing on the need to have a public vote on pension obligations bonds," Senator Bettencourt said. "A public vote on these bonds is an important check and balance that was left out of the

debate last decade, and that has resulted in rising local government pension debt obligations around the state.

"It is time to stop kicking these billion dollar pension cans down the road, and let the people vote!" he added.

Barbara Roberts



Barbara Roberts died on April 1, 2017, at the age of 85. She was born on April 24, 1931, in Houston and was a 45-year resident of Sagemont. She attended Edingburgh High School.

She married Jack Roberts in 1951 and they made their home in Houston. Barbara stayed at home to raise three children and as soon as they were in school, like many women in that day, knew she could have a career, too.

She worked for Continental Airlines 20 years and went to night school to become a computer programmer. She had a long successful career. In retirement, she did scrimshaw (etching) on handles of the custom knives her husband made and became well-known in the custom hunting knife community as a great maker of custom knives. Many well known people from around the world would request her art work on their knives.

Fun fest, dog parade

Continued from Page 1A
ing crashes in Texas - up 3 percent over 2015. Those crashes killed 452 people and seriously injured another 3,068. These crashes are highest among younger drivers ages 16 to 34.

In Texas, 38 percent of drivers say they regularly or sometimes use a cell phone while driving. Text messaging is particularly dangerous, as reaction times double when drivers read or send text messages. Someone texting while driving 55 mph will lose sight of the road for nearly five seconds, which is comparable to driving the length of a football field while blindfolded.

The Strut Your Mutt dog parade will feature multiple competitions, including

Hughes project

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April 7, and be awarded by Sunday, June 18.

While the construction contract for the project was awarded in April 2014, the contractor failed to begin the required work on time, and the contract was terminated last year. Originally part of the city's 2012-2016 CIP, the Sagemont Drainage and Paving Improvement Project will provide for the construction of storm drainage improvements throughout the community, including necessary concrete paving, curbs, sidewalks, driveways and underground utilities.

Among the area streets to be improved are Sageriver, Sagearbor, Sageorchard, Sagedowne, Sagepark and Sageglen. The \$6.7 million endeavor will be broken down into three separate phases, to be done in succession.

Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Death

She loved the Lord and she loved her family dearly. She is survived by her husband of 66 years; son Mark Roberts and wife Sherry; daughter Stephanie Campo and husband Sergio; son Shawn Roberts and wife Debbie; and grandchildren Tiffany Deal, Grant Roberts, Amber Roberts, Brad Roberts, and Johnny Hogue III.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents Percy O'Dell and Lillie Lewis; sister Willavae Etchison; and brother Jack Lewis. A private memorial will be held.

Guadalupe Benavides

Guadalupe Benavides 54, died Saturday, April 1, 2017, at his residence in the Beverly Hills subdivision where he was a longtime resident.

He was a husband to Sara



Romero; father to Alexis Benavides; and son to Octavio and Jovita Benavides.

Visitation will be held Thursday, April 6, from 5 to 9 p.m. with a service at 7 p.m., at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 8706 Alameda Genoa Road.

Burial will be Friday, April 7, at 1 p.m. at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 8701 Alameda Genoa Road. Guadalupe will be missed and never forgotten.

Suspects sought . . .

Continued from Page 1A
hospital in stable condition.

The suspect fled the scene before deputies arrived. He is described merely as a Hispanic male around 18 years old.

Anyone with any information about either of these incidents is urged to call the constable's office at 281-481-9189.

Art murals installed

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The pilot phase of the mini mural program was launched in June 2015 in Houston City Council District K and consisted of 31

electrical boxes. District K City Council Member Larry Green's district service fund was used to pay for the initial art pieces.

"I'm very excited that our council office is bringing civic art to District K," said Green. "Moreover, I'm thrilled to work with UP Art Studio, which is the conduit for this mini murals project. Council districts outside the loop do not presently have as many artworks as those areas inside the loop. This civic art project will expose these traffic signal control cabinets' mini murals as a legacy initiative toward fostering civic art not only within District K neighborhoods but to the entire city."

The program has now expanded to include 120 electrical boxes citywide. Local utility boxes can be seen at the intersections of Sabo and Fuqua, Clearwood and Alameda Genoa, Rowlett and Alameda Genoa, Easthaven and Alameda Genoa and Monroe and Alameda Genoa.

For more information on the program or to see photos of the boxes, visit www.minimurals.org or www.houstontx.gov/culturalaffairs/tsccarprogram.html.

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CCISD applauded for significant debt payment

In his 25 years in the school bond business, Ryan O'Hara has never seen a school district take such a significant step to pay down its debt principal as the one approved by the Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees on Monday.

"The school district should be applauded for putting \$12 million in cash to pay off debt, early," said Ryan O'Hara, senior vice president of Hutchinson, Shockey, Erly & Company. "This will make news in the bond market."

When property values increased this past year, the district accrued \$12 million in revenue more than what it needed to apply to its annual debt payments associated with previous school bond programs.

Monday, the school board unanimously approved the superintendent's recommen-

dated to apply these funds to pay down the principal of outstanding bonds, no different than if a homeowner paid more towards the principal of their home mortgage than what was required under a repayment plan.

This cash toward debt is unrelated to the current 2017

CCISD Bond program proposal, yet the anticipated move had already been assumed in debt schedule payouts if the May 6 election is approved by voters.

"Essentially what this all means is that Clear Creek ISD takes aggressive steps to be effective stewards of taxpayer dollars," said Paul McLarty, deputy superintendent of Business and Support Services.

Based on the debt analysis and assumptions, the school district's current and proposed debt will be paid off within 24 years, positioning CCISD at the lower end of debt-per-student compared to other fast growth school districts that rely on bond programs.

With more than 1,200 school districts in Texas, the Clear Creek Independent School District is the 28th largest based on student enrollment and ranks 25th based on authorized and issued debt.

This 25th ranking also includes financial projections if the \$487 million CCISD bond is approved by voters on May 6.

If the \$487 million bond proposal is approved by voters, the district would gradually sell bonds at approximately \$162.3 million per year for three years while simultaneously paying off debt at a rate of \$34.0 million

upward to \$76.8 million per year.

Based on this analysis, the highest level of debt the district will accrue is \$1.24 billion in 2019 before it goes down. Over the past 15 years, the school district has refinanced debt to take advantage of low interest rates. This has resulted in \$65.5 million in savings.

As with all Texas school districts, Clear Creek ISD receives a AAA bond rating through the State of Texas Permanent School Fund Guarantee Program.

These financial transactions, along with the district's conservative fiscal practices, have helped Clear Creek ISD maintain a strong underlying bond rating with Standard & Poor (AA), Moody's (Aa2), and Fitch (AA+).

The school district has also released a debt transparency report as of March 15, which indicates existing authorized bond debt of \$814,000,000 is equal to \$3,486 for each person living in the district. The district has a population of 233,523 in 2017.

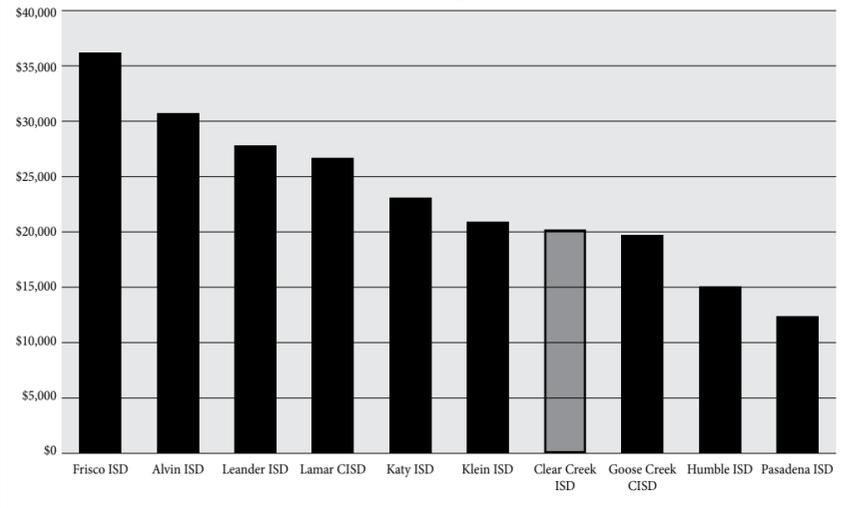
SJC Texana Collection grows



Author Lora-Marie Bernard recently contributed her books "Lower Brazos River Canals," "Counterfeit Prince of Old Texas: Swindling Slaver Monroe Edward" and "Houston Center: A Vision to Excellence" to the San Jacinto College South campus library's Texana Collection. Shown, left to right, Susan Eason, San Jacinto College South campus accounting professor; Bernard; and Richard McKay, San Jacinto College South campus library director. Photo by Andrea Vasquez

CCISD compared to other districts

Comparison of Selected Fastest Growing Texas School Districts
Total Outstanding Debt Per Student



Dobie placed first at PISD Name That Book



Dobie took first place in the high school division for the Pasadena ISD Name that Book competition. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Keara McHugh, Jade Nanez, Jordan Perez, Sophia Hernandez, Angela Macedo, (back row) Bryanna Garcia, Alexander Tran, Benjamin Tran and Nancy Schwab, Dobie librarian. Photo by Melissa Trevizo

Stuchbery honor rolls named

The following honor roll, merit roll and perfect attendance have been released by Stuchbery Elementary for the third nine weeks.

Honor Roll Third Grade

Blessing Akinloye, Pailin Cheawchan, Sydnie Hile, Isaac Mendez, Annalise Pate and Natalie Rangel.

Fourth Grade

Desirae Charles, Ashley Etienne, Joelle Jagdeo, Christopher Lopez, Aden Miranda, Angel Padilla, Bella Sanchez, Tristan Tran and Jaiyah Zeno.

Merit Roll Third Grade

Rhiana Charles, James Constance, Anthony De la Rosa, Jada Moore, Aiden Narcisse, Henry Nunez, Valerie Ortiz, Aaliyah Sepulveda and Nathan Tran.

Fourth Grade

Richard Diaz, Kaden Dillard, Viviana Fernandez, Natalia La Goenaga, Huy Nguyen, Natalie Quiroz and Katherine Sabillon-Velasquez.

Perfect Attendance Pre-K

Pablo Alvarenga Pineda, Aydyn Davis, Ashton Farris,

Kindergarten

Victoria Avina Paez, Jonathan Barber, Emily Castillo, Dylan Chavarria, Dylan Claudio Maldonado, Shaddy Garcia Mena and Jonathan Garza.

First Grade

Fernando Arias, Xavier Arizmendez, Kingston Auzenne, Idnuoluwa Baruwa-

Continued on Page 4A

Bernard donates to Texana Collection

Award-winning crime, public affairs, investigative journalist and author Lora-Marie Bernard recently contributed several of her

books about Texas to the San Jacinto College South campus library's prized Texana Collection.

Bernard writes non-fiction stories about the state's resources and historical figures.

She graduated from the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas then began working at the Pulitzer prize-winning newspaper, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

From there she moved to the Houston/Galveston area where she earned several Associated Press Managing Editors awards for public affairs and investigative coverage and a Robert F. Kennedy Award for her social reporting.

Bernard says that "in the birthplace of Texas, (I) developed a desire to tell historical stories through a modern lens."

Bernard's contribution to the College's Texana Collection include: "Lower Brazos River Canals," an illustrative history of the river and its role in creating the communities of the upper Texas Gulf Coast; "Counterfeit Prince of Old Texas: Swindling Slaver Monroe Edwards," a historical biography of a Texas slave

smuggler who began an international crime spree after his family lost their fortune in pre-revolutionary Texas; and "Houston Center: A Vision to Excellence," a coffee table book that uses lively graphics and storytelling to recount the 33 transformative blocks of downtown's Houston Center which remains one of the largest real-estate transactions to ever occur in the core of a major American city.

At about 15,000 volumes, the San Jacinto College South campus Texana Collection is one of the larger Texana collections for lower-level academic libraries in the area.

Bernard resides in Clear Lake City and is in the process of completing her Master of Liberal Arts in extension studies with a concentration in multimedia journalism and a graduate certificate in museum studies from Harvard University.

She is expected to graduate in May 2018. She is the president of www.Berloma.com, a media outreach firm that specializes in turning traditional storytelling on its head through cutting-edge technology.

Praying on Holy Days

There are four specific Holy Days for special prayers for the dead including the millions of martyrs killed throughout the ages. The last day of Passover is Tuesday, April 18, and there will be a short Yizkor Service for the dead. The service begins at Congregation Shaar Hashalom, 16020 El Camino Real, at 8 a.m. There is also a service Thursday, June 1, at 8 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom is the conservative synagogue of the Clear Lake Bay Area since 1968.

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REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

PISD awards Noon Optimist

Some of Moore Elementary's finest were honored by the Pasadena Independent School District with the Noon Optimist Outstanding Citizenship Award on March 30. Those receiving the honor, shown left to right, were Eduardo Ledezma, paraprofessional; Ava Macias, third-grader; and Joselyn Benitez, fourth-grader. Photo by Jennifer Christen

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CCISD urges community to register, then vote

The Clear Creek Independent School District will hold a school board and bond election on Saturday, May 6, and is encouraging community members to register to vote. The last day to register will be April 6.

One is eligible to register to vote if one is a United States citizen; a resident of the county where one submits the application; at least 18 years old on Election Day; not a convicted felon; and has not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

Voter registration applications are available online at the Secretary of State website or by following the link www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote. The online application is not complete until it is printed and mailed. If one is not sure if one is registered or if one's voter registration information is up-to-date, one can also check one's status on the Secretary of State website.

If a voter will be 65 years of age or older on Election Day, has a disability, or will be outside the county during early voting hours and on Election Day, the voter can apply to vote by mail. Those who qualify may request an Application for Mail Ballot by contacting CCISD Election Coordinator Melody Hermes at 281-284-0181 or email at mhermes@ccisd.net. Those who qualify may also locate the Application for Mail Ballot online at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabm.shtml. The last day to apply for a Ballot by Mail is Thursday, April 25.

Early voting will run April 24 through April 29 and resume May 1 through May 2. Election Day will be held on Saturday, May 6. Find more information about the Bond at www.ccisd.net/bond2017.

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Science Extravaganza sparks student interest

Excitement and curiosity filled the air during the fourth annual Science Extravaganza, presented by the Clear Creek Independent School District and Space Center Houston. A crowd of more than 2,000 intermediate school students and their families enjoyed a night of experimentation and exploration while touring certain areas of Space Center Houston, the official visitor center for the NASA Johnson Space Center and a Smithsonian affiliate.

The free event, previously known as Science Night, was held at Space Center Houston for the second year, which serves as a most fitting backdrop for nearly 30 exhibitors from across the region, live animals and hands-on activities contributed by each

CCISD intermediate school. In an effort to spark student interest in not only STEM, but also in the annual CCISD Science and Engineering Fair, four students presented their winning science fair projects from this year during a Student Showcase, sponsored by Science Applications International Corporation, at the event.

Originally hosted at Clear Creek Intermediate School, Science Night was created several years ago by CCISD Teacher of the Year, Betty McCulloch, and the CCISD Science Department. With the help of more than 200 volunteers and sponsors, the event continues to grow into a family tradition that exemplifies the spirit of learning, creativity and innovation.

Charity bridge set

The Clear Lake Bridge Club will hold ACBL Duplicate Charity games during the month of April.

All games will be extra points, and the games support the ACBL Charity Foundation, with some of the games supporting the club charity.

The Bridge Club is located at 16614 Sea Lark Road, in the heart of Clear Lake City, just a block off El Camino Real.

There are open games at the club Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.; Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 2 p.m. and on Saturday at 1 p.m.

There is also a team game every Sunday at 1 p.m.

The club also has games for ACBL members with fewer than 300 points on Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m., and on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m.

These games are for players with 200 points or less. Every Sunday there is a team game at 2 p.m. Lessons at the club are ongoing, and there are also lab games with a teacher/director to help.

The lab games are on Sunday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.

For more information call the bridge club at 281-480-1911, or the resident teacher, Dave Glandorf, at 281-488-6318.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GRACIE AND ALYSSA
Birthday wishes are sent to Gracie Killingsworth, 9, and Alyssa Gonzales, 19, who celebrate their birthdays on April 9. Mimi and Parpar say of their granddaughters, "Happy birthday! We love you to the moon and back!"

PAMELA IS WISHED A HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Alice Alexander sends a birthday greeting April 6 to Pamela Salyer, "Happy birthday to my best friend. Love you Pammie."

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 6 through April 12.

Burnett Elementary
Erica Cantu marks a birthday for celebration on April 8.

Bush Elementary
Celebrate with a double-layer cake for Jennifer Martinez Chavez and Consuelo Patino De Alvarado on April 9.

Frazier Elementary
A special birthday greeting is sent to Yolanda Barrios April 9.

Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday party for Jennifer Meier is April 11.

Stuchbery Elementary
Happy birthday greetings are sent to

Robin Salinas April 8.
Meilillo Middle School
The day for a double-layer cake for Charlotte Anthony and Charlene Gronewold is April 6. The day for a cake for Therese Gabe is April 9.

Roberts Middle School
April 6 is the day for a birthday party for Candra Maly. A special birthday greeting is sent to Ana Cortes Ramirez April 7. Share in the birthday celebration for Alysia Mauricio April 10.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Enjoy a layered cake April 8 with Laura Dossman and Kathleen Pyle. Light the birthday candles April 11 for Rene Nixon.

Thompson Intermediate
Blow out the birthday candles April 10 for Jennifer Spray and Ashley Vercher. Enjoy a double-layer cake April 11 with Araceli Cavazos and Lenora Dawson.

Dobie High
The day for a celebration for William Daugherty is April 3. Birthday greetings are sent to Tracie Richeson and Pam Salyer April 6. Cheers for a happy birthday are sent to Andrew Barrett and Amrian Millard on April 8. On April 9, Emily Morris enjoys a birthday. April 12 is the day for a triple birthday celebration for Connie Hobbs, Stacey LeBlanc and Bryan McDonald.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS
The *Leader* sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:
Thursday, April 6: Carol Barber, Jason Weston, Lena West, Jerry Devila and Natasha Nazareen; Friday, April 7: Denise Goodwin, Selena Conley, Deborah Belmarez, Larry Higgs, Jeff White and Melanie Clinckscales; Saturday, April 8: Adriel Rodriguez, Tricia Black, April Pool-Baker, Alexander Restrepo and Ruth Scotton; Sunday, April 9: Tan Tai Curtis, Elizabeth Grimaldo, Greg Black, Jennifer Pareya, Victoria Grissom, Yvonne Longoria and Keith Harrison; Monday, April 10: Mackie Caves, Cynthia Balderas-Reyes, Jennifer Spray, Coby Bellamy, April Simmons, Penelope Lester, Melanie Roberts, April Miller, Tami Sales, Kristina Konkaba, Traci Rothermund and Skip Fell; Tuesday, April 11: Quinn Fox, Amanda Mancia, Dian Audas, Matt Black, Ra'Shondra Rae, Josh Bowser, Luke Ditta, Linda Rosas, Celina Monroe and Brandy Kennedy; and Wednesday, April 12: Elysia Thomas and Shelly Little.

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

Stuchbery announces honor, merit, perfect attendance

Continued from Page 3A
-Etti, Lilly Benavides, Jermani Bernard, Branson Britton, Vivian Cai, Raegan Conaway, Francine Cooley, Rebecca Cruz, Frankie De Julian, Santiago Del Villar Rodriguez, A'nya Falls, Carleen-Peters Forcha, Isaiiah Garcia, Sergio Garcia Mena, Enijah Kahsian Ploucha, Jenny Lam, Linh Le, Mallory Lewis, Camila Lopez, Ashley Ly, Julian Marshall and Azhley Mora Campos.

Second Grade
Deacon Akinloye, Reemas Alazeh, Kevin Alfaro, Judith Andrade, Adelle Bongfen, Alexander Brock, Sheridan Brooks, Alexander Castilloy, Steven Corporan, Jarrett Daniels, Stephanie Delgado, Starr Delgado, Joy Denman, James Flores, Luis Gomez, Augustino Guzman, Grace Hernandez, Corinne Jackson, Kaleb Jones, Duy Lam, Michelle Leighann, Wesley Maciel-Rangel, Jesse Marfil, Stephanie Marquez, Dakari Martin, Laila Martin, Ashley Martinez, Samantha Moreno, Nathan Mata, De Moses, Nicholas Neira and Favour Nwaodu.

Manuel Olvera, Jean Perez Cruz, Dylan Pham, Karilyn Quiroz, Romana Rodriguez, Jonathan Rounds, Cathy Sanchez, Eloisa Sanchez, Corey Shular, Arianna Serna, Jacob Solis, Lauren Soto, Ashlyn Terry, Guadalupe Torres, Francesco Torres-Padilla, Danna Vazquez Garcia and Dolton Wofford.

Third Grade
Benita Abulu, Xavier Alvarez, Abel Antony, Avian Arredondo, Jk'kaelah Brown, Jayneria Brown, Jordyn Brown, Ramon Ceja, Taylor Chappell, Ploypailin Cheawchan, Jaydon Chilo and James Constance.

Joseph De Julian, Aiden Diaz, Anthony Flores, Rosalynn Gallegos Molina, Madison Garcia, Mariah Garcia, Xavier Garcia, Christian Glaspie and Abdalrahman Helal.

Sydney Hile, Anthony Jimenez, Nathan Jimenez, Tristan Liceaga and Ragaal Lopez.

Viviana Lopez, Gabriela Matias, Jada Moore, Diana Nguyen, Harry Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen, Henry Nunez, Sebastian Rincon, Nelson Rivera, Jorgen Rodriguez, Neayah Sanchez, Nicholas Sepulveda, Jayden Summerlin, Gabriel Swann-Walker, John Tran, Mike Tran, Keyli Vanhousen-Guerrero and Gustavo Vitela.

Stuchbery students compete in Punt, Pass, Kick

Punt, Pass and Kick is a competition that is sponsored by the National Football League. Below, Aisa Davis is excited to be a part of the competition.



Viviana Fernandez is "all smiles" while she participates with other students. Kaden Dillard is ready for his turn to represent Stuchbery in the competition. Photos by Susan Brady

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)
The New Commitment, a religious-oriented folk group comprised of South Belt and South Houston youths traveled to Corpus Christi to give a concert.

35 years ago (1982)
The San Jacinto College board of regents gave permission to the South campus administration to advertise for nine department chairs, a director for the Weekend College, an academic counselor, and 18 full-time teaching positions.

30 years ago (1987)
A 16-year-old female who was learning to drive inadvertently ended up in the Beamer Road ditch. She was driving north-west on Beamer and hit a stop sign, spun westbound on the eastbound lane of Hughes, then plunged into the ditch. Neither the girl nor her mother, who was accompanying her, was hurt.

25 years ago (1992)
The Dobie academic decathlon team departed for the national championships held in Boise, Idaho. Dobie earlier had won its first state championship in Bryan-College Station.

20 years ago (1997)
Houston Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell was the special guest at the opening ceremonies of the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League. He gave a speech and then threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

10 years ago (2007)
The Pasadena Independent School District announced that its proposed 2007-2008 annual budget was \$30 million in the red. PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis attributed much of this to House Bill 1 that capped school funding at its 2005-2006 level. Lewis is further said that a local tax increase would likely occur. Such an increase, however, would require an election.

5 years ago (2012)
In a memorandum to Mayor Annise Parker, Houston Director of Aviation Mario Diaz recommended the City of Houston work with Southwest Airlines to expand the federal inspection services facility at William P. Hobby Airport to support scheduled commercial international service.

The South Belt area made headlines throughout the city when a 4- to 7-foot alligator temporarily shut down traffic on the Beltway 8 service road near Pearland Parkway. Police were forced to block off two lanes of the feeder until officials from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department were able to remove the animal.

Dobie High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes leaders and school instructors Joseph and Ruth Horton were honored with the Bill Yeoman Coach of Influence Award during the Bruce Matthews Celebrity Golf Classic.

1 year ago (2016)
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District hosted the inaugural South Belt Family Fun Event Saturday, April 9, at Clear Brook City Park.

The event featured a fun run/walk, a disc jockey, line dancing, inflatables, games, multiple demonstrations and food trucks.

Singles dance April 15

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance is April 15, from 7 to 10 p.m. at VFW Lodge at 5204 Highway 3, Dickinson, Post # 6378. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. For more information call 409-948-1156 or 281-337-3112.

Vet, professor presents on Army Lt. General

The life and leadership of U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Harold Gregory "Hal" Moore will be presented by Army veteran, military historian, San Jacinto College history professor and internationally-recognized author Mike Guardia on Wednesday, April 12.

Sponsored by the San Jacinto College chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success and the San Jacinto College Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success, Guardia's presentation "Hal Moore: Lessons in Leadership" will present a rare and interesting look at Moore's heroic leadership principles that saved the lives of most of his out-numbered battalion in one of the earliest battles of the Vietnam War in 1965.

These principles led to his success both on and off the battlefield, perfecting the art of a leader's interpersonal skills. Guardia's first biography about Moore, "Hal Moore: A Soldier Once...and Always" chronicled the life of the Army lieutenant general whose battlefield leadership was first popularized by the 2002 film *We Were Soldiers*, starring Mel Gibson as Moore. Guardia is preparing to release his second book, "Hal Moore on Leadership," on Memorial Day 2017.

Guardia has given presentations at the U.S. Special Operations Command, the International Spy Museum in Washington and the George Bush Presidential Library. His work has been reviewed in the Washington Times, Military Review, Armchair General Magazine, DefenseWeb South Africa and Soldier Magazine UK. He holds a bachelor and master of arts in American history from the University of Houston and currently teaches history at the San Jacinto College South campus.

The "Hal Moore: Lessons in Leadership" presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, from 6 to 7 p.m., in room S12.102 of the Interactive Learning Center (building 12) at the San Jacinto College South campus, located at 13735 Beamer Rd. in Houston.

The event is free and open to the public. Guests may register by April 10 via email at jennifer.clarke@sjcd.edu.

Electronic recycling set

Continued from Page 1A
kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cell phones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The directions to get to the Ellington recycle site from the intersection of Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8 are: Take I-45 south toward Galveston and turn left onto FM 1959/ Dixie Farm Road; proceed to Highway 3/Old Galveston Road and turn right; drive two blocks and turn left onto Brantly; go past a dock with signs to the right and turn left onto Loop Road/Broussard.

The recycling center will then be on the left-hand side.

The next collection event will take place Saturday, April 8.

For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

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SoHo, Pasadena Memorial, Dobie debate teams dominate

The Pasadena Independent School District high schools debate teams have dominated the debate landscape. South Houston High School, Pasadena Memorial High School and Dobie High School debate teams have been competing in Texas Forensic Association and University Interscholastic League competitions.

The South Houston debate team, coached by Maria Garza, competed at the TFA State championship in Plano, Texas, and advanced two students to quarterfinals. The students, Micah Williams and Katia Avalos, advanced and placed in the top 36 out of 84 entries in an event called Duo Interpretation at the largest state championship in the nation.

Also, Garza had two students, Williams and Jennifer Tafolla, place fifth and fourth in poetry at districts of UIL.

The Pasadena Memorial debate team, coached by Anthony Farah, had a debater, Francisco Solis, win first place in Persuasive Speaking at UIL districts at the La Porte High School Tournament. This is only Farah's second year coaching.

The Dobie debate team qualified 11 students for the TFA state meet and two students for the UIL CX state meet. Of the 11 students, 9 advanced to quarterfinals in several different events at TFA state.

Out of 222 schools and hundreds of competitors the following placed in the top 36 in their events:

The Duo Acting Team of Christopher Ke'Mond Scott and Monica Idella Watson.

The Duo Interpretation Team of CJ and Lillian Spigner. Lillian advanced to Quarters in Dramatic Interpretation.

The duo team of Keishon Groves and Legacy Jefferson advanced to quarters and Caitlyn Woitena made it to quarters in Original Oratory.

Rebecca Robertson made it to the top 16 or semifinals

of Humorous Interpretation out of 599 competitors.

Dobie also announced that it had four finalists at the largest state meet for speech and debate in the nation.

Justyce Battles not only made it to top six out of 106 competitors but Battles performed magnificently and placed second overall in prose reading.

Jazmyn Bolden made it to finals in two different events. Bolden placed fourth overall out of 121 competitors in dramatic interpretation and she and her duo partner, Rebecca Robertson, placed second overall out of 84 entries in the state.

For the second year in a row Dobie debate has a state champion. Ariana Okhouzagan finished the state meet in first place out of 104 entries with her original Oratory about revisionist history.

The team placed sixth out of 222 schools in overall sweepstakes points with only 11 competitors. In addition to TFA, the CX debate team of Beatriz Rivera and Beth Early did well at UIL CX state going 2-2 with Early getting almost perfect speaker points.

The Dobie debate team also competed for the UIL Districts. Spigner placed first, Bolden placed second and Woitena placed third in Prose.

Jefferson placed first, Amerson placed third and Scott placed fifth in Poetry Reading. Rivera placed first, Rizvi placed fourth and Reyes placed fifth in Informative Speaking.

Moreno placed second and Sanchez placed fourth in Persuasive Speaking.

The Dobie debate team also competed in the Lincoln Douglas Debate and took first place overall in Speech and Debate. Sweepstakes with every single student who attended making it to finals with two students, River and Moreno, receiving perfect ranks throughout the entire tournament.

Three Pasadena ISD high school debate teams compete in TFA, UIL



Micah Williams, from South Houston High School, competed at the TFA State Championship and advanced to the quarterfinals.



Jennifer Tafolla, of South Houston High School, competed at the TFA State Championship and advanced to the quarterfinals.



The winning Dobie debate students pose together with their badges of honor. Left to right are Caitlyn Woitena, Jazmyn Bolden, Legacy Jefferson, Temaya Amerson, Christopher Scott and Lillian Spigner.



From Pasadena Memorial High School, shown left to right, Tristan Thomas, Anthony Farah (coach), Francisco Solis and Andrew Gil.



Dobie students Alejandro Moreno and Gidahdy Hernandez show off their medals.



Left to right, are Dobie debate students Danyal Rizvi, Beatriz Rivera, Braylan Reyes and Eloy Sanchez.

Meador places third in PISD Name That Book



Meador Elementary won third place at the Pasadena Independent School District Name That Book district competition held on March 25. Shown with their medals, left to right, (first row) Yaeishya Ciudad, fourth grader; Emir Espinoza, fourth grader; (back row) Anycia Hagler, fourth grader; Aleks Saldana, fourth grader; Xavier Martinez, third grader; and Karen Barton, librarian.

GLO finishes Texas Coastal Resiliency plan

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced the General Land Office (GLO) has completed the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, the first inclusive coastal plan for the state with the 6th longest coastline.

The Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan better prepares the state for the next

hurricane to hit the Texas Coast by creating a framework for coastal management, restoration and protection measures.

The plan also guides the GLO in the execution of its responsibilities and provides Texas coastal communities with a set of scientifically sound, feasible and cost-effective coastal resiliency projects.

The GLO is also working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and meeting with members of Congress to move forward with the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study, which will study and make recommendations for large-scale projects, including the coastal barrier system, to protect the densely populated neighborhoods and industries surrounding the Houston Shipping Channel.

To review the executive summary, master plan and technical report, visit the GLO's web page at www.glo.texas.gov.

scale projects, including the coastal barrier system, to protect the densely populated neighborhoods and industries surrounding the Houston Shipping Channel.

To review the executive summary, master plan and technical report, visit the GLO's web page at www.glo.texas.gov.

McConnell named TIFA Educator of the Year

San Jac College speech professor Floyd McConnell was recently named the 2017 Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association Educator of the Year. The award honors excellence in speech and debate teaching and coaching among Texas universities and community colleges. "His level of service is a credit to San

Jacinto College," said M'Liss S. Hindman, TIFA Educator of the Year committee chair and Tyler Junior College speech professor.

"While serving with him as an officer for the Texas Speech Communication Association and Phi Ro Pi national speech organization, I have observed his attention to detail, focus

on teaching students and his professionalism. His service to his students and these state and national organizations is a reflection of his commitment to increasing quality educational practices."

McConnell started debating as a student at the San Jacinto College Central campus in the '90s and says he has

come full circle.

"In total I have coached for 21 years, with 12 of those being at San Jacinto College," said McConnell. "Our students always excel at debate competitions. We are definitely on the map when it comes to speech and debate."

McConnell says that while speech and debate competi-

tions might not be for everyone, the skills learned from speech courses benefit students in numerous ways.

"Speech courses teach you more than just how to speak in front of a group of people" said McConnell. "They can help you in every possible academic and professional scenario. You become a better writer, speaker and communicator. Speech courses also allow you to see an argument from both sides. This vital skill allows you to exercise critical thinking skills to find and sort credible facts that form the basis of your opinion."

Each year the San Jacinto College North campus hosts a fall and spring debate tournament event, with debate teams from Rice University, University of Texas, Baylor University and other Texas universities competing with San Jacinto College. This year, the College will have four students - all freshmen, including one dual credit student - competing at nationals from April 10 through April 15 in Washington.

"The fact that we are a community college competing against these renowned state universities says a lot about our program," said McConnell. "We continue to show that San Jacinto College debate students are on par with their strategies and coaching techniques. They see us as peers and have a new respect for us that they probably didn't have before."

TIFA names McConnell Educator of the Year



San Jacinto College speech professor Floyd McConnell (left) was recently named the 2017 Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association Educator of the Year. Shown, left to right, with McConnell are Jesus Villegas; Atai Trevino; Tyler Cashiola; Dr. William Raffetto, San Jacinto College North campus provost; and Shanna Schultz.

Photo by Amanda Fenwick

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Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Misa en Español
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Heavy rains strike South Belt



Floods hit Connolly

Strong storms hit the South Belt community the afternoon of Wednesday, March 29, resulting in high water in many areas that don't normally experience flooding. Sagemont resident Juliet Connolly said her backyard on Sagewood (shown to the left) has traditionally been spared flooding until construction began on the site of the future RV park at the Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8. Officials from the park told the *Leader* Friday, March 31, steps had been taken to rectify the issue before the expected rains on Sunday, April 2.

Photo by Juliet Connolly

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Holy Week with the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist

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Palm Sunday April 9 **Domingo de Ramos**
 Saturday Evening Masses: 5:30 pm Mass & 7:30 pm *Misa en Español*

Sunday Mass Schedule:
 7:30 am, 9:15 am, 11:15 am & 1:00 pm *Misa en Español*
 7:00 pm Passion Mime *Mimica de la Pasión*

Monday, April 10: Holy Week Evening of Prayer & Reflection, 7-9 pm
Childcare will be provided.

11 de abril: Semana Santa Noche de Oración y Reflexión, 7-9 pm
Se proveerá cuidado de niños.

Holy Thursday April 13 **Jueves Santo**
No Confessions ♦ No Confesiones
 7:00 pm Bilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper
 11:15 pm Night Prayer and close of Night Watch (*in Parish Hall*)

Good Friday April 14 **Viernes Santo**
 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer ♦ Laudes
 3:00 p.m. Veneration of the Cross & Communion Service
 6:00 p.m. English Stations of the Cross
 7:30 p.m. Servicio con Veneración de la Cruz y Comunión

Holy Saturday April 15 **Sábado Santo**
No Confessions ♦ No Confesiones
 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer ♦ Laudes
 8:30 p.m. The Great Easter Vigil ♦ La Gran Vigilia Pascual

Easter Sunday April 16 **Domingo de Pascua**
 7:30 a.m. Mass in the Church
 9:15 a.m. Mass in the Church
 *9:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall

11:15 a.m. Mass in the Church
 *11:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall
 1:00 p.m. Misa en Español en la Iglesia

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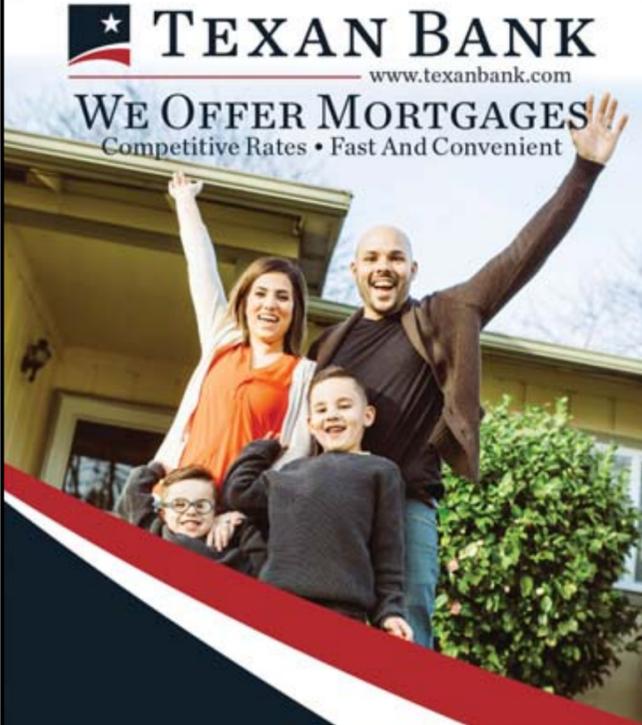
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JFD boys' soccer to Final Four

Region 3 Semis
Dobie vs. Seven Lakes
Friday, April 7
Abshier, 7:30 p.m.
Deer Park H.S.

At right, Dobie's Oscar Trevino (8) fights Brazoswood's Nic Gonzalez (20) for control of the ball during the first half of the Longhorns' 4-1 area round playoff victory March 31, at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson. Kevin Hernandez scored a first-half goal for Dobie to forge a 1-0 advantage, and Hernandez and two others notched second-half goals as the Longhorns reached the regional quarterfinals for the second straight season. After a 2-0 win over North Shore in the quarterfinals, Dobie is headed to the Region III Final Four, where Seven Lakes awaits.



Photo by John Bechtle

With NS down, locals draw Seven Lakes

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Gaining revenge over North Shore is certainly sweet, but the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team still has a taste in its mouth for the program's first-ever Region III championship. That elusive first title is

still within reach after the Longhorns came up with a gut-check 2-0 shutout win over North Shore, which entered the match undefeated at 20-0-3 and had been ranked as high as No. 3 nationally.

Just like in 2016 when Dobie absorbed a 1-0 loss in the same regional quarterfinal playoff round, North Shore was the bigger, faster team on the turf at Abshire Stadium in Deer Park, host site of the quarterfinal battle.

But none of that mattered in the end. Team captain Edwin Saldívar scored on a penalty kick with 14 minutes, 58 seconds to go in the first half after a North Shore foul in the box.

With just under four minutes to go in the first

half, Andy Garcia, also a team captain, fed a beautiful pass to Kevin Hernandez along the right side.

Hernandez beat his defender and hammered home his fourth goal of the postseason, giving the locals a 2-0 lead.

North Shore pushed hard in the second half, but the Longhorns held firm defensively.

As the final horn sounded, Dobie had qualified for its fourth Region III Final Four tournament, its first since 2013.

The Longhorns will now face District 19-6A runner-up Seven Lakes in the second of two semifinal matchups Friday, April 7, back at Abshire Stadium. Match time is 7:30 p.m.

Cypress Ridge and

Channelview will meet in the first Region III semifinal at 5:30 p.m. The Region III championship match at Abshire Stadium is set for Saturday, April 8, at 1:30 p.m.

Dobie head coach Justo Manrique watched as Dobie defeated his MacArthur High School team in the regional semifinals in 2011. It marked the Longhorns' lone regional final appearance.

Taking over the Dobie program prior to the 2014 campaign, Manrique guided the Longhorns to fourth place that season. In 2015, the Longhorns reached the area playoff round and then took things a step farther last season, playing and losing to North Shore in the quarterfinal round.

Continued on Page 6B

JFD netters eye 22-6As

Players from Deer Park High School will no doubt provide quite a challenge across the board, but Dobie nonetheless has high hopes entering the District 22-6A Spring Tennis Championships.

It all unfolds Friday and Saturday, April 7-8 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center at Strawberry Park in Pasadena.

The schedule calls for the respective brackets to play out through the semifinals on April 7, with the finals, third-place and

playback matches to come April 8. Both sessions begin at 8:30 a.m.

Deer Park, which won the District 22-6A championship during the fall team tennis season and eventually conceded the 21/22-6A Area Cham-

Continued on Page 3B

22-6A Tennis Championships
Friday and Saturday,
April 7-8, 9 a.m.
All matches at Harry Taylor Tennis Center

SJC softball nears Blinn showdown; Gonzalez ties career victory record

The team's 12-game winning streak has been snapped but San Jacinto College is still in control of its own destiny as the Region XIV softball season narrows to a handful of regular-season games.

At 15-3 in conference play, San Jacinto trails Blinn (13-1) for first place in the South Zone, but the two teams still must play each other in back-to-back series to close out the con-

ference season, including twice in Houston and twice in Brenham.

San Jac also made an important road trip to Port Arthur April 5, after press time to face a Lone-Star-Port Arthur squad that has crept its way up the standings at 12-4 for third place.

It's also an important stretch of games for stand-out pitcher Niki Gonzalez, who made the trip to Port

Arthur needing one more victory in the circle to take over the all-time lead in

Continued on Page 2B

Wolverine baseballers hang with contenders

A crucial two-game set against first-place Dickinson could very well decide Clear Brook's varsity baseball playoff fate for better or worse.

But right now, the Wolverines are doing a solid job of staying on an even keel with the rest of the teams chasing the Gators.

Through seven games, Dickinson has gone 6-1 despite an April 4 loss to Alvin, with four other

teams sitting at 4-3. With a 9-4 victory over last-place Clear Lake (0-7) March 4, the Wolverines are in prime position to make a move.

The District 24-6A schedule calls for teams to play home-and-home series against one another consecutively. The Wolverines have already split series with Clear Creek, Clear Falls and Friends-

Continued on Page 3B

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District meets up next

Pree, Davis duo deliver big at track and field meets

District track and field championships are right around the corner. The 24-6A meet is April 10 and April 12 at Challenger Stadium in Webster and the 22-6A meet is April 11 and April 13 at Pasadena ISD's Auxiliary Stadium.

With that in mind, quite a few of the area's top individual athletes and teams stepped it up a notch at the highly-competitive Rockhold Relays in Baytown. Locally, both the Clear Brook boys' and girls' teams as well as Dobie's Lady Longhorns were in the field.

Pree leads Brook boys
Kenneth Pree has arguably been the Clear Brook varsity boys' team's top overall performer this season, and he continued his fine season in Baytown. Pree, currently Clear Brook's record holder in the long jump, came up

with a victory in the event at the Rockholds.

In the end, Pree's top leap of 22 feet, 4 inches gave him the victory.

On the track, Pree was just as impressive. He wound up second in the 400-meter dash at 49.99 seconds, and his time of 11.12 was fourth in the 100-meter dash.

Loranzo Thompson also competed in the 200-meter dash for Clear Brook, eventually taking sixth at 22.80.

At 40.05 seconds, the Wolverines' Tyler Garcia placed third in the 300-meter hurdles, and Jake Allison threw the discus 138'10" for third place.

Also taking a bronze medal for third place was John'te Horace, who went 41 feet, 11 3/4" for third place in that event.

In the 110-meter hur-

dles, the Wolverines' Caleb Nettles was fourth with a clocking of 15.51.

Elsewhere, Wesley Barton placed 10th in the long jump with a leap of 19'7 1/2," and his effort of 38' 8 1/2" was 15th in the triple jump.

Brieson Moore was 10th in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.15, and Corey Fairer was one spot behind - 11th at 16.35.

Brook girls finish well
In what has been a bit of a rebuilding season within the Clear Brook varsity girls' program, there has been no shortage of outstanding efforts.

At the Rockholds, Kennedy Crutchfield kept up her fine season to this point, taking fifth overall in the 100-meter dash at 12.81.

Keiara Connor competed in the 200-meter dash, where a time of 26.43 placed her ninth.

Reagan Dunlap turned in a pair of seventh-place finishes for the Lady Wolverines, both coming in distance events.

In the 1,600-meter run, Dunlap's seventh-place time was 5 minutes, 46.41 seconds. She was also in the field in the 3,200-meter event, clocking in at 12:47.28 for seventh place.

In the 100-meter hurdles, the Lady Wolverines' Kayla King was fourth in a time of 16.67, and teammate Riley Halter came to the finish line at 17.42 for seventh place.

Chelsea Joseph was 13th in the 400-meter dash in a time of 1:02.33, with teammate Katy Pyle a slot back - 14th at 1:04.06.

Maya Farooq's best effort of 15'4 1/2" placed her 10th in the long jump, and Joseph went 4'6" in the high jump for 13th place.

Camaya Hayes was eighth in the discus at 99'5 1/2," and she placed 10th in the shot put with a throw of 32'1."

The Lady Wolverines' respective relay teams also performed well. The 4x100-meter group placed fourth in a time of 50.17, and the 4x200-meter foursome placed 10th at 1:48.87.

Dobie girls' excel
Ladajyah Cook came through in a big way for the Lady Longhorns, winning the high jump championship with a leap of 5'4".

Jade Giron delivered a second-place finish in the 200-meter dash, clocking in at 25.56.

Camryn Ridge raised to 7'0" for fifth place in the pole vault, and Camille Singleton was sixth with a time of 12.21 in the 100-meter dash.

Victoria Onozie was fourth in the discus with a throw of 102'3," and teammate Jamesetta Seals placed fifth at 101' 8 1/2." Seals also threw the discus 33'6 1/2" for sixth place.

The Lady Longhorns' time of 50.54 was seventh in the 4x100-meter dash, and the 4x200-meter relay team placed sixth at 1:46.87.

Elsewhere, Cook's time of 1:02.33 was seventh in the 400-meter dash, and Atzirri Galarza was seventh with a time of 2:35.51 in the 800-meter run.

Andrea Perez was solid in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 6:01.06, and Alondra Rios had a time of 6:44.17 in the same event for 14th place.

Ridge's time of 12.59 was 12th in the 100-meter dash.

JFD boys at CLI
The Dobie varsity boys' team continued its final preparations for the 22-6A championships with an appearance at the Clear Lake Invitational, held at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Pearland rolled to the team title with 169 points, and Clear Lake racked up 134 points for second place.

Dobie's squad put together 69 points for sixth place, led by Jeremy Davis' victory in the shot put after a throw of 48 feet, 8 inches.

Jeremy Davis medaled again in the discus as his best throw of 146'5" placed him third overall.

Jacoby Davis, meanwhile, had a fine meet with a pair of fourth-place finishes in individual events.

Jacoby Davis went 40'7 3/4" in the triple jump for fourth place, and his leap of 5'8" in the high jump was also fourth.

With Jacoby Davis in

the mix, the Longhorns' 4x400-meter relay team took fifth place at 3 minutes, 34.398 seconds. That group for Dobie also included Mason Douglas, Daniel Williams and Alford Sears.

Dobie excelled once again in the 300-meter hurdles, led by Williams, who was second at 40.067. Earl Newton's time of 42.072 was fourth, and Douglas clocked in at 43.191 for sixth place.

Williams was also second overall in the 110-meter hurdles at 15.638, with Douglas' time of 16.167

placing him fifth.

The Longhorns' foursome of Jacob Salas, Jordy Reyes, Mike Nwokolo and Sears placed fourth in the distance medley relay in a time of 11:30.00.

Mark Brent, Ke'Monte Lowe-Ali, Jeremiah Hernandez and Segdrick Romar teamed in the 4x100-meter relay, where the Longhorns were fifth at 44.473.

Sixth place went to Dobie in the 4x200-meter relay as Brent, Hernandez, Jeremy Clark and Kris Morris teamed for a time of 1:34.130.

Lady Lions share 4x200 silver



Two Thompson Intermediate tracksters were in on the fun as their 4x200-meter relay team won a silver medal for second place in the intermediate division at the Texas Southern University Relays. The foursome posted a time of 1 minute, 50 seconds. Those athletes included, left to right, Jasmine Flores (Miller Intermediate) Camry Ridge and Janelle Mooney (both Thompson Intermediate) and Jailey Shelton (Westbrook Intermediate).

San Jacinto College keeps pace in Region XIV

Continued from Page 1B
program history with 51.

With 27 wins in 2016 as a freshman, Gonzalez has reached 51 this season with a national-best 24 wins to this point. Current San Jacinto College assistant coach Kelsey McClain Walters, had 20 wins as a freshman in 2008 and then set the Coyote record for wins in a single season with 31 in 2009.

Gonzalez, a graduate of Baytown Sterling High School, already owns the college's single-season records for strikeouts with 302. She has 178 this season, which ties her for the

national lead.

Most importantly, San Jacinto appears to be on track for another late-season run as the team seeks a second consecutive national tournament berth.

San Jacinto ran its winning streak to 12 with a seep of Alvin March 31 and a win over Galveston in the opener of a doubleheader April 1.

San Jac 6 Alvin 0

Dani Damian had a three-run homer to lead the way as San Jacinto defeated Alvin 6-0, with Gonzalez collecting her 50th career win.

Taylor Office doubled in a pair of runs, and Riley Bullen had two hits as the locals coasted.

In getting her 50th win, Gonzalez went seven innings and allowed just two hits while fanning 10. San Jacinto took control of the game with four runs in the third inning.

San Jac 5 Alvin 0

Katlin Kerl drove in three runs in the game, and Katlin Rivera went 5 2/3 innings to get the win as San Jacinto cruised past Alvin once more, this time by a 5-0 count to sweep the series.

Alexis Deleon and Taylor McHenry had two hits each in the game. Gonzalez pitched the final 1 1/3 innings to get a save.

San Jac 6 Galveston 4

Damian and Office slammed two-run homers as Gonzalez tied Walters' mark for career wins with 51 as San Jacinto dropped Galveston 6-4.

Missy Hernandez also had a pair of hits and drove in a run for the victors.

Galveston 6 San Jac 4

Falling behind 6-0 through five, the locals simply could not climb

back in the game. Damian had a two-run single in the sixth, and Tori Ramirez blasted a two-run homer in the seventh inning to lead San Jac offensively.

SJC vs. Blinn

That all-important four-pack of games against Blinn includes an April 13 doubleheader in Brenham. San Jacinto then hosts Blinn in a doubleheader April 21 on the South campus.

The series figures to include a pitcher's duel between Gonzalez and Blinn's Colleen Bentke, who was 15-2 for the Lady Bucs at press time.

Fast Attack 12U wins championship at SBGSA's Trophy Hunter



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 12-under Fast Attack were crowned champions at the SBGSA Trophy Hunter tournament April 1 at El Franco Lee Park. The Fast Attack won four straight games in the single-day event to claim the championship. Members of the team are, left to right, (front

row) Aliyah Caballero, Kaitlyn Olivares, Miriam Castillo, Claire Ramirez, Aubrey Zambrano, Kyanna Hernandez, Alisa Vargas, (back row) coach Robert Ramirez, coach Jaime Olivares, Christina Mejia, coach Cruz Castillo, Melody Guerrero, Brianna Garcia, Maricela Aguilar and coach Jorge Garcia.

Area sports, news

Lajaunie tennis coming

The 2017 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will now be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena formerly known as Strawberry Park, April 28-30. The DLTSF will continue to award college scholarships to the seniors on the Dobie High School tennis team, in addition to qualifying members of the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund volunteers are finalizing plans for its 6th annual memorial tennis tournament, set to make its first appearance at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

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

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

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

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

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

Opening ceremonies, including a scholarship awards dinner and silent auction, will be held Friday, April 28. There will be several camp scholarships as well as two college scholarships awarded to HTTC junior tennis players. Dinner tickets are now on sale and are \$15.

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

Tickets may be purchased at the HTTC or on the DLTSF website at present. In May, the Dobie recipients will be awarded their scholarships at the school. Entry fee for the tournament is: \$35 for singles; \$22.50 per player for doubles. Players may also register at www.setteo.com. Registration deadline is April 14.

The tournament will begin Saturday, April 29, at 8 a.m. and finish the next afternoon, with trophy presentations at the conclusion of each division of play.

Silent auction items this year include an autographed tournament T-shirt from the band Los Lobos, an autographed polo shirt from retired race car driver Mario Andretti and current Indy race car driver Marco Andretti (grandson), an autographed picture from the Houston Rockets, dance lessons from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Clear Lake and much more.

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

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

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

Sosa has 15 home runs

The Paris Junior College women's softball team is struggling this season with a 1-13 record late in the Region XIV season, but it hasn't stopped a Dobie graduate from having a terrific season at the plate.

Suzu Sosa, a 2015 Dobie graduate, has slammed 15 home runs this season for the Lady Dragons while playing primarily at either first base or third base.

Sosa socked 14 home runs as a freshman for the Lady Dragons in 2016.

Arnett named Golfer/Week

For the third time this season, St. Mary's Ben Arnett was named the Heartland Conference Men's Golfer of the Week.

Arnett, a Dobie High School graduate and currently a junior at St. Mary's, finished fourth at the St. Edward's Invitational with an even-par 210. He shot 3-under over the final two rounds to vault toward the top of the leader board and into the Top 5, helping the Rattlers also finish fourth in the team standings. It marked Arnett's fifth top-four finish in eight tournaments this season.

SB Dolphins offer registration

The Southbelt Dolphins of the Bay Area Football League has set upcoming registration dates for the 2017 season, with practices starting in July.

The registration dates include April 22, May 20, and June 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont Community Center. Games begin in August, and the regular season runs into November.

Softball hosts April 8 car wash

The Dobie High School softball program will host a fundraising car wash Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the school. Pre-event wash tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from any softball player. Tickets must be presented at the time of wash. There will also be snacks available for purchase during the event.

Dobie VB sets youth training

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach and staff members will host a series of youth training sessions for current fifth- and sixth-grade students. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m., including April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10, May 17 and May 24.

Staff members will provide training in all phases of the game, including serving, setting, passing, hitting, blocking, etc. Team offensive and defensive concepts will be covered.

Pasadena ISD does not provide medical insurance to students for these types of events, so parents will be responsible for providing their own insurance. For additional information, call Sexton at 832-509-7269 or direct email to her at dgutierrez2@pasadenaisd.org.

Sports Calendar

SOCCER

Friday, April 7

Region semifinal playoffs

Dobie varsity boys vs. Seven Lakes, Deer Park, 7:30

Monday, April 10

Thompson 7th girls at Queens, 5:00

Thompson 8th girls at Queens, 6:00

Beverly Hills 7th girls host Park View, 5:00

Beverly Hills 8th girls host Park View, 6:00

Tuesday, April 11

Thompson 7th boys host Queens, 5:00

Thompson 8th boys host Queens, 6:00

Beverly Hills 7th boys at Park View, 5:00

Beverly Hills 8th boys at Park View, 6:00

SOFTBALL

Friday, April 7

Dobie varsity vs. Rayburn, PISD, 6:30

Dobie JV vs. Rayburn, 4:30, PISD, 4:30

Tuesday, April 11

Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, PISD, 6:30

Dobie JV vs. Pasadena, 4:30, PISD, 4:30

Thursday, April 13

Dobie varsity at Deer Park, 6:30

Dobie JV at Deer Park, 4:30

Tuesday, April 18

Dobie varsity at La Porte, 6:30

Dobie JV at La Porte, 4:30

Friday, April 21

Dobie varsity at Memorial, 6:30

Dobie JV at Memorial, 4:30

TRACK AND FIELD

Monday, April 10

Brook varsity boys at 24-6A meet, Challenger, 2:30

Brook varsity girls' at 24-6A meet, Challenger, 2:30

Tuesday, April 11

Dobie varsity girls at 22-6A meet, Auxiliary, 2:30 p.m.

Dobie varsity boys at 22-6A meet, Auxiliary, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12

Brook varsity boys at 24-6A meet, Challenger, 2:30

Brook varsity girls' at 24-6A meet, Challenger, 2:30

Thursday, April 13

Dobie varsity girls at 22-6A meet, Auxiliary, 2:30 p.m.

Dobie varsity boys at 22-6A meet, Auxiliary, 2:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Friday, April 7

Dobie varsity hosts West Brook, Dobie, 4:00

Brook varsity at Clear Lake, 7:00

Brook JV hosts Clear Lake, 7:00

Brook sophomores host Clear Lake, 4:30

Monday, April 10

Brook JV at Clear Springs, 7:00

Brook sophomores at Clear Springs, 4:30

Tuesday, April 11

Dobie varsity at South Houston, 4:00

Brook varsity hosts Clear Springs, 7:00

Thursday, April 13

Dobie varsity vs. Rayburn, Maguire, 4:00

Brook varsity at Clear Springs, 7:00

Brook JV hosts Clear Springs, 7:00

Brook sophomores host Clear Springs, 4:30

TENNIS

Friday and Saturday, April 7-8

Dobie varsity at 22-6A tourn., Harry Taylor, 8:30

Dobie varsity baseball drops key 22-6A game to MHS Mavericks

The Region III varsity baseball playoffs are still a few weeks away, but the Dobie Longhorns are about to begin playing for their postseason lives now. In what amounted to a big swing game in the District 22-6A standings, the Memorial Mavericks made a big statement April 4 at Dobie, run-ruling the Longhorns to the tune of 12-0. Dylan Sanchez and Kyle Hargrove stroked two-run triples in a five-run second inning for the Mavericks, and the visitors followed up that big

frame with four more in the third inning to lead 9-0. With three runs in the top of the fifth, the Mavericks merely needed starting pitcher Bubba Baxa to close the deal in the bottom of the fifth, which he did. On the same day, Deer Park and La Porte both posted wins of their own to move to 6-1 at the top of the standings. Memorial is third at 5-2. Three teams, including Dobie, are tied for fourth place at 3-4 with seven regular season games to

go. Dobie's playoff fate, or lack thereof, could very well be decided next week as the locals go against the other two teams with identical 3-4 marks. Dobie will host West Brook Friday, April 7 at Dobie in a 4 p.m. contest and will also play at South Houston (3-4) April 11.

The Longhorns defeated West Brook in the first round but then lost to the Trojans. With Deer Park, La Porte and Memorial sitting pretty in the top three spots, it will likely be Dobie, West Brook and Memorial pushing for a playoff spot as the season winds down. The Longhorns defeated West Brook in the first round but then lost to the Trojans. With Deer Park, La Porte and Memorial sitting pretty in the top three spots, it will likely be Dobie, West Brook and Memorial pushing for a playoff spot as the season winds down.

LP trips up JFD
The Longhorns fought back from a 12-4 deficit with six runs in the top of the seventh inning, but fell short in a 12-10 loss at La Porte March 31. Justin Blogg drove in four runs for the Longhorns, and Zach Frias, Jeremy Green and Daniel Garza all had three hits in

the game. Mark Gomez led La Porte's offensive attack against the Longhorns, driving in five runs in the game. La Porte benefited its cause with six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning in what looked to be a blowout before Dobie's late rally.

Now at 3-4, the Longhorns are sitting in a tie for fourth place in the standings. In the second half, the Longhorns will host West Brook, La Porte and Deer Park, thus essentially missing the road the rest of the way in what could be a game-by-game battle to reach the playoffs.



Dobie first baseman Isaiah Vasquez applies a late tag at first base on Memorial's Jon Rodriguez in the top of the first inning April 4, at Dobie. The Mavs didn't score in the first, but put up five runs in the second inning and four more in the third on their way to a run-rule win over Dobie.

CB holds steady in 24-6A baseball

Continued from Page 1B
wood. Now with a victory over winless Clear Lake, the Wolverines have a chance to make some hay. Clear Brook 9 Clear Lake 4

A six-run sixth inning led the way for the Wolverines in a 9-4 victory over Clear Lake.

Jerick Paquinto had three hits and drove in three runs, while Madison Delgado had an RBI. Brandon Valdez pitched four innings to get the Wolverines out in front, and the offense took care of the rest.

The District 24-6A race is now at the midway point, and while Dickinson has set the pace, teams like Clear Brook are making a midseason push.

The Wolverines will host Clear Lake Friday, March 7 and will then close the season with home-and-home series against Clear Springs, Alvin and Dickinson.

Clear Brook 4 Friendswood 3

Stephen Moreno came through with the walk-off hit in the bottom of the eighth inning March 30, giving the Wolverines a 4-3 win at home.

Kyle Knoblock went eight innings to get the victory on the mound, and Delgado also had a big of-

fensive day in the game for the Wolverines. Friendswood 7 Clear Brook 2

Building a quick 6-0 lead, Friendswood opened its home-and-home series with a 7-2 victory.

Teams	W	L
Dickinson	6	1
Clear Brook	4	3
Friendswood	4	3
Clear Falls	4	3
Alvin	4	3
Clear Creek	3	4
Clear Springs	3	4
Clear Lake	0	7

Teams	W	L
Dickinson	6	1
Clear Brook	4	3
Friendswood	4	3
Clear Falls	4	3
Alvin	4	3
Clear Creek	3	4
Clear Springs	3	4
Clear Lake	0	7

Clear Lake at Brook
Friday, April 7, 7 p.m.

Clear Springs at Brook
Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m.

Brook at Clear Springs
Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.

District 22-6A Standings Varsity Baseball (As of April 5)

Teams	W	L
Deer Park	6	1
La Porte	6	1
Memorial	5	2
South Houston	3	4
Dobie	3	4
West Brook	3	4
Rayburn	2	5
Pasadena	0	7



After a string of solid outings to begin his career at the varsity level, Dobie freshman right-hander Daniel Garza lasted two innings against a hot-hitting Memorial team, which went on to pin a 12-0 loss on the Longhorns. Photos by John Bechtel

Dobie awaits DP challenge at 22-6As

Continued from Page 1B
ing well as of late, winning the title at the Peter Sunseri Memorial Team Tournament in Galveston March 23. Then came some solid play at the Beachcomber Classic in Galveston.

Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. admits the Longhorns are going to have to exceed expectations in several of the brackets in order to advance to regionals, but he certainly feels like it can be done.

"The top two finishers advance to regionals in each of the brackets, and with Deer Park holding the top two seeds in all but one of the brackets, that tells you what we have to do to advance. Deer Park rightfully earned those seedings, but I still feel like we can be represented at regionals."

Lady Longhorn junior Leilani Vargas will enter the District 22-6A championships as the No. 2 girls' seed, and Moreno said Vargas is likely to eventually face a tough challenge from the third-seeded player out of La Porte.

In boys' singles, the Longhorns will be represented by Ricky Perez, the No. 3 seed in the draw, in addition to Alex Cuaping. Dobie's boys' doubles teams include third-seeded "Big" Tommy Nguyen and Steven Phan, as well as fourth-seeded "Little" Tommy Nguyen and Adrian Tamez.

Dobie's Tina Ha joins Vargas in girls' singles as the No. 4 seed, and the Lady Longhorns' doubles teams include Mylan Phan and Ann Truong as well as Bao Nguyen and Emily Nguyen.

The locals are also excited about their possibilities in mixed doubles, where Hellen Le and Luis Meira will form one team and Jenny Lu and Roberth Fuel another.

The weather will be ideal for a couple of days of tennis, and the Longhorns are looking forward to extending their season.

The second step of the spring postseason comes Tuesday and Wednesday, April 18-19, at Deer Park High School's South campus.

Dobie's Luis Cabreja, now playing tennis at Schreiner University in Kerr-

ville, advanced to regionals a season ago for the Longhorns. It's been a while since

Dobie has failed to qualify a player for regionals, and the team is not looking forward to a new streak

starting now. It's all about beating Deer Park, something Dobie loves to do in any sport.



Dobie junior and three-year varsity letterwinner Leilani Vargas enters the District 22-6A Championships as her team's top seed. She's at No. 2 in girls' singles, and very possibly represents the Longhorns' best chance to reach the Region III Championships later this month in Deer Park.

Area sports news, notes

CrossRoads Soccer Club seeks competitors

A group from CrossRoad United Methodist Church is having fun playing competitive soccer matches each Saturday at 6 p.m., and additional players are invited to come out and take part. Anyone age 14 or older is eligible to participate. Games are played on the field located at CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale. For more information, call Claudio Soto at 832-247-3168.

Brook bowlers finish strong

The Clear Brook varsity girls' bowling team finished its season with the best outcome in program history. Entering the state tournament, the Lady Wolverines were ranked 27th but played well enough to make their way into the top 16 bracket. From there, Clear Brook finished 12th as a team. The Lady Wolverines won the district title this season, and boys' varsity bowler Vinny Thibodeaux was the individual district champion.

San Jacinto College baseball makes a move

With five consecutive wins in conference play, including four of those coming against Laredo, the San Jacinto College baseball team is beginning to pick up the pace in the Region XIV standings. Now 15-4 overall in league play, the Gators are roughly at the midway point in the conference race.

Luke Watson (.368) and Ryan Johnson (.331) are the two leading hitters on the team among regular players, and pitcher Ryan Cantleberry leads the way on the mound with a 7-1 record.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

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

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

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

CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 281-487-1611.

The Bay Area Writers League - Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome.

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

77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.

Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill", Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

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

Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

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

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

AI-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

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

Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

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

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

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

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

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

ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register.

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

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Continued on Page 4B

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 COMPUTER REPAIR. South Belt Area. Free Estimates. New Computers For Sale. Deal with a Technician Not a Salesman. Call Harry 713-991-1355. 5-11

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

FOUND PET
 FOUND: Small white male dog in Sageglen area. Call Loc 281-484-2158. 4-6

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

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

MONDAY, APRIL 10
Sagmont Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday, 7 p.m., Sagmont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. 7:30 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Russell at 832-483-6715.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.
CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$35.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565. 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 10:30 a.m.
Tri-County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Must have exact cash or a check. For reservations, call Laura Morgan at 281-484-8083. Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For details, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com. 1:30 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #1530 meets at the Sagmont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318. 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.
Houston Space City Lions Club - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Luby's (11595 Fuqua). For details, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.
Young at Heart Club - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for details. 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 1 p.m.
Hometown Heroes Park - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204. 6:30 p.m.
ESL at CrossRoads UMC - Academic ESL classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturninpoint.org for information.
Bay Area New Democrats - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit www.bayareanewdemocrats.org. 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
THURSDAY, APRIL 13
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. Public welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971. 10 a.m.
Fun Bunch - for senior citizens, ages 55 and older, meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call Ronn Canon at 281-610-8999 or the chamber at 281-481-5516.
Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM 518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org. Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 6 - 8 p.m.
CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome. 7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thursdays, at Victor's, 1425 NASA Pkwy., (next to "space" McDonald's). This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For details, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

Second Annual Strut Your Mutt

Presented by
Clear Brook City MUD & South Belt- Ellington Chamber of Commerce

Saturday April 8, 2017 at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
 Clear Brook City Park located at the corner of Scarsdale and Blackhawk Blvd.
 Registration starts at 4:00 PM on the day of the event.
 Featuring: Contests, Pet Information, Demonstrations, Food Trucks, Bouncy Houses, & More.

Second Annual Clear Brook City MUD & South Belt - Ellington Chamber of Commerce Strut Your Mutt Registration Form

Name: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Dog's Name: _____
 Sex: _____ Breed: _____

Contest Categories: (Please Circle)

Prettiest Dog	Ugliest Dog	Biggest Dog
Smallest Dog	Diva Dog	Macho Dog
Best Trick	Best Costume	Best Owner and Dog Costume

I assume all risks in participating in the Strut Your Mutt event. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of accepting my entry, I and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Clear Brook City MUD and the South Belt- Ellington Chamber of Commerce, all event volunteers and all sponsors, their representatives, employees and successors from any claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event or carelessness of the persons named in the waiver. Further, I grant all of the foregoing the right to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for legitimate purposes.

I have read and agree to the above terms.

Signature _____ Date _____

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Dobie four-year varsity letterman and team captain (along with two others) Andy Garcia (7) goes head-to-head with Brazoswood's Ellis Elam (2) in the early stages of the Longhorns' 4-1 area round playoff game victory at Sam Vitanza Stadium March

Dobie boys' soccer rolls to Final Four

Continued from Page 1B

This 2017 season is still going. Dobie has reached its first regional semifinal under Manrique's watch. Three seniors who have been on the varsity team since his arrival - Sabino Lozano, Saldivar and Alejandro Flores, have made their senior season truly special no matter what happens from this point forward.

In all, the Dobie program has come full circle. Jesse Saavedra, now the varsity girls' head coach at Deer Park, guided the Longhorns to each of their first three regional semifinal appearances. The team played for but lost the

2011 Region III crown to Strake Jesuit.

When Manrique took over, he admits to sensing some doubt that the program's success could continue under his watch.

Yet each of his four teams to this point have pushed the proverbial envelope farther and farther.

North Shore won by just the 1-0 count in the quarterfinals a season ago yet dominated the match. The Mustangs also defeated Dobie 4-0 in nondistrict action this season. But revenge has been taken.

"We beat a team that is player for player more talented than we are," Manrique said. "But we are

smart, and we play as a team and for one another. We play together, and have throughout this season."

"We knew it was going to go down to the wire, and North Shore pushed hard to get back in the game. We were able to hang on and get a tremendous victory."

"They scored two goals in five minutes against us earlier this season, so we knew they could get back into it quickly."

Manrique was a bit surprised that North Shore didn't change things up on the offensive end after going down by two goals, but there's no sense in debating that now.

31 in Dickinson. Garcia then came through with an assist on a goal by Kevin Hernandez as the Longhorns handed North Shore its first loss of the season in the regional quarterfinals, earning a trip to the Final Four for the first time since 2011.

The Longhorns are headed to the Final Four. Some of the other big-time programs such as Elsik, Cinco Ranch, Strake Jesuit and North Shore have fallen.

"Of course we want to win these next two," Manrique said. "Our goal has always been to be the best team that Dobie has ever had. We are one step closer to that but still have some work to do. It's on to the next one."



Kevin Hernandez of Dobie salutes the home crowd after scoring a goal to give the Longhorns a 2-0 lead over previously unbeaten North Shore April 4, in the regional quarterfinals at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park. The sophomore forward now has four goals over the course of his team's three playoff wins.

Photo by Gary Williams



Dobie varsity boys' soccer head coach Justo Manrique salutes his team's supporters as the final seconds tick off the clock in the regional quarterfinal victory over North Shore April 4, at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park. The Longhorns are now headed to the Region III Final Four to take on Seven Lakes.

Photo by Gary Williams

Lady Horns continue roll through 22-6A

At this point in the season, it's not a question of whether the Dobie Lady Longhorns' varsity softball team will reach the postseason.

Rather it's whether or not the locals can catch Deer Park for first place. In any case, at 8-1 with five district games remaining, the Lady Longhorns are clicking on all cylinders.

Beginning April 11, Dobie will face fellow playoff contenders Deer Park, La Porte and Memorial over an eight-day span.

For now, though, Dobie has remaining 22-6A games against Pasadena and Sam Rayburn after throttling South Houston 17-1 April 4, at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

Dobie 17

South Houston 1
Dobie wasted little time in getting past South Houston, scoring nine runs in the first inning en route to an eventual 17-1 victory.

Michelle Kristoff, the team's leader in home runs, delivered a big blow in the top of the first inning with a three-run homer. Kristoff then went on to

earn the win in the circle as Dobie coasted.

The Lady Longhorns' 14-hit attack included three from lead-off hitter Yvonne Whaley and two each from Allison Bravo and Camryn Wincher.

Deja Gaines added a triple and drove in three runs in the game, and Whaley also drove home three runs in the win.

Dobie also got doubles from Taylor Pleasants, Madison Taylor and Wincher. South Houston had six hits.

Dobie 13

West Brook 1
The trip to and from Beaumont took longer than it did for the Lady Longhorns to produce a 13-1 win over the Lady Bruins to open the second half of district play.

Whaley and Pleasants again keyed the offensive attack for the Lady Longhorns in this one.

Whaley had three hits and three runs batted in, and Pleasants also had three hits, scored three runs and drove in three runs.

Bravo came up with two hits and two runs batted in.

Dobie started fast with

five runs in the top of the first inning, then scored five more in the sixth inning to secure the easy win.

Pleasants' two-run double was paired with Bravo's RBI single in the first inning.

In the second inning, Kristoff helped out the cause with a two-run homer to left field.

Whaley came up with the big hit in the fifth in-

ning, a three-run triple, and Pleasants had an RBI double.

Playoffs achieved

Dobie has qualified for the postseason, but the objective is to win the league title or snare the No. 2 playoff spot.

It's all going to boil down to those last three games against the contenders, but Dobie has already defeated La Porte and Memorial.

District 22-6A Standings Varsity Softball

(As of April 5)

Teams	W	L
Deer Park	9	0
Dobie	8	1
Memorial	7	2
La Porte	5	4
West Brook	3	6
Rayburn	2	7
South Houston	2	7
Pasadena	0	9

At right, Dobie's rich varsity softball tradition includes three state championship game wins, but junior Yvonne Whaley is currently delivering one of the finest seasons in program history in terms of offensive production. According to statistics compiled by the Dobie coaching staff and posted to GameChanger, Whaley collected 44 hits in 61 at-bats through the team's first 23 games, giving her a batting average a tick above .720. Early in the season, Whaley had a string of six straight games with an extra-base hit, and she has gone hitless in just two of the team's 23 games. Whaley also has collected more than one hit in 16 of the team's 23 games to this point in the season.

Photo by John Bechtle



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Saturday April 8, 2017 at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Clear Brook City Park located at the corner of Scarsdale and Blackhawk Blvd.
Registration starts at 4:00 PM on the day of the event.
Featuring: Contests, Pet Information, Demonstrations, Food Trucks, Bouncy Houses, & More.

Second Annual Clear Brook City MUD & South Belt - Ellington Chamber of Commerce Strut Your Mutt Registration Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Dog's Name: _____

Sex: _____ Breed: _____

Contest Categories: (Please Circle)

Prettiest Dog	Ugliest Dog	Biggest Dog
Smallest Dog	Diva Dog	Macho Dog
Best Trick	Best Costume	Best Owner and Dog Costume

I assume all risks in participating in the Strut Your Mutt event. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of accepting my entry, I and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Clear Brook City MUD and the South Belt- Ellington Chamber of Commerce, all event volunteers and all sponsors, their representatives, employees and successors from any claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event or carelessness of the persons named in the waiver. Further, I grant all of the foregoing the right to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for legitimate purposes.

I have read and agree to the above terms.

Signature _____ Date _____