

EAST END THIRD WARD

★★ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007 • chron.com

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Photos from you

Exxon Mobil Corp. employee Shameka Nelson, her husband, Roderick Nelson, and daughter Raven enjoy the festivities at the 22nd annual United Negro College Fund Walk-A-Thon at MacGregor Park. ExxonMobil has participated in the UNCF annual fundraiser since its inception in 1985 by Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis. In 2006, more than 300 Houston and Baytown-area employees raised close to \$97,000 in donations with matching gifts. This year, Exxon Mobil has contributed more than \$1 million to the fund. Find out how to share your photos and see others offered by local readers at chron.com/east.

ONLINE TODAY

EAST END BLOG: Visit www.blogs.chron.com/eastend to catch up, or comment, on recent posts from correspondent Douglas Britt.

Magenta

Yellow

7 8 9 10 11 12

Cyan

HOMECOMING ROYALTY



MAGIC MOMENT: Yates High School students Desmond Spivey and Precious Lowe were crowned 2007 homecoming king and queen Saturday. **KIM CHRISTENSEN** : FOR THE CHRONICLE

Yates introduces king, queen

YATES homecoming king Desmond Spivey and queen Precious Lowe are all smiles after their coronation during halftime of the Lions' dominating 60-0 victory over Reagan last weekend at Barnett Stadium. Yates left no doubt about whose party it would be early on, scoring 33 points in the first quarter alone and leading 46-0 at the half. Eight separate Lions scored touchdowns in the game. Yates returns to action at Barnett against longtime rival Washington Saturday at 6 p.m.

Scott named Blue Ribbon School

■ Houston ISD elementary school one of 287 in nation to be selected for honor

The Houston school district's Scott Elementary School has been named a prestigious Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School award was given to 287 schools across the nation.

The Blue Ribbon award honors schools for helping students achieve at high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

"The National Blue Ribbon award is considered by some to be the highest honor that an American school can achieve. We are humbled to be among the 23 Texas schools to receive this awesome recognition," said Artice D. Hedgemon, principal, Scott Elementary School, 3300 Russell St.

"It is a wonderful testament to the commitment and dedication of the entire school community," Hedgemon said.

"The teachers, staff, students, parents and business partners at Scott Elementary hold teaching, learning and accountability in high esteem."

Selection process

The award honors public and private elementary, middle

and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: ■ Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; and ■ Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally normed tests.

The award-winning schools will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 12-13.

HOUSTON ISD

Board president says new buildings in store if voters pass \$805 million bond measure

■ Patterson, Lewis elementary schools would be replaced

By **DOUGLAS BRITT**
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Lewis and Patterson elementary schools in southeast Houston will get new buildings and Garden Villas Elementary will undergo needed renovations if voters pass an \$805 million bond measure in November, said Houston Independent School District board President Manuel Rodriguez Jr. at the Oct. 3 gathering of the Greater Hobby Area Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Mitchell Elementary, 10900 Gulfdale, will get a "relief school" to handle its overflow of students, said Rodriguez, calling Mitchell "the most-overcrowded school in the district."

"It's got over 1,100 students; it was built for 650," said Rodriguez, adding the new facility may be built at Almeda and Valentine, but that a final decision has not been made on the site.

The bond issue will also help upgrade science labs at secondary schools, Rodriguez said, saying the district did similar work on the labs in elementary schools and saw an improvement in Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills scores.

Noting that HISD has the lowest property taxes of any of

ELECTION DATES

- **Early voting:** Oct. 22-Nov. 2
- **General election:** 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Nov. 6

For more information and polling station information, visit the Web site at www.harrisvotes.org.

the 54 Houston-area school districts, Rodriguez said the bond issue will fund infrastructural improvements without a tax hike.

"This will be at zero cost to our taxpayers," he said.

It would also help Houston school district students get an education on par with their counterparts in more affluent suburban communities, he said.

"We need to reinvest in our infrastructure," he said.

"We need to make our schools the best we can to provide that quality education that everybody talks about that is out in the suburbs and not here in town."

This year's bond is the third and final phase of a bond program that started in 1998, Rodriguez said.

"There's 134 schools that have been waiting 10 years to be touched by one of the bond programs," he said.

"We're trying to (keep) the promise that we made to the schools, the communities and the teachers to come in and finish the final phase of this three-phase program."



MATTHEW WHITE : FOR THE CHRONICLE

Going upstairs

STERLING'S Cameron Bolar and the Raiders will face Wheatley Friday night in the Neighborhood Football Game of the Week. **STORY ON PAGE 5**

FACES IN THE CROWD

Artist at work

Milby graduate Betty Morgan Bennett works days at an Inter-Tel Technologies in Memorial, but spends her off time at the easel. **PAGE 2**

EDUCATION

Grant recipient

Jane Taylor, a robotics teacher at Hartman Middle School, is a 2007 recipient of the \$14,000 Inspiration Grant from the Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program. **PAGE 4**

COMMUNITY

Gallery seeks artists' works

Blaffer Gallery, the art museum of the University of Houston, is accepting submissions for the 2008 Houston Area Exhibition, which will be on view May 9-Aug. 2, 2008.

Artists over the age of 18 and living within a 100-mile radius of Houston are invited to submit recent works that have not been previously exhibited in the area.

All media will be considered.

Artists should send a résumé and up to 20 slides in a slide sheet or images on CD-Rom or DVD for consideration. VHS tapes will not be accepted.

A phone number and e-mail address also need to be included. Images must be labeled with the artist's name, title, year of work, media, dimensions and orientation.

Deadline for submissions is Nov. 15.

There is no entry fee.

Submissions should be addressed to Claudia Schmuckli, curator, Blaffer Gallery, 120 Fine Arts Building, Houston, TX 77204-4018.

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of materials.

E-mail submissions are accepted at

cschmuckli@uh.edu.

Visit www.blaffergallery.org or call 713-743-9530.

UT-Houston makes top 10 List

The September issue of Hispanic Business magazine ranks The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston as having one of the top 10 medical schools that promote and encourage a diverse community where Hispanic students can thrive.

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston was ranked 7th rising from its No. 8 spot on last year's top 10 list.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment," said Judianne Kellaway, M.D., assistant dean for admissions at the UT Medical School at Houston.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Milby High graduate taps creative side

Paints African American folk art using watercolors

By KIM HUGHES
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

BETTY Morgan Bennett loves the brightness of primary colors, and she also is a huge fan of the African American culture.

So she's combined these two things to create a series of folk art featuring elongated, brightly-colored ethnic women carrying urns, baskets or bowls.

"I've always been fascinated with collecting African American things, and I just kind of incorporated it into my artwork," said Bennett, whose day job is in telecommunication equipment sales for Inter-Tel Technologies, 1140 W. Loop North.

She began painting while a student at Milby High School.

"That really started off in high school with some art classes," said Bennett, a 60-year-old grandmother of 10 who lives in League City.

"I painted a picture that ended up traveling across the country with artwork from other students, and that kind of sparked something in me."

Bennett attended Sam Houston State University where she earned a degree in home economics, following in the footsteps of her mother, who was an interior designer.

While Bennett herself enjoyed a stint as an interior designer in the former family business, she continued to dabble in painting.

Bennett mostly focuses on watercolor still life now, but there was a time when she enjoyed oil landscapes — one of which she said is hanging at Prosperity State Bank in Hempstead. Her current work can be found at 2411 Strand in Galveston.

"Customers like her use of color and her subject matter," said Teresa Ouellette, store owner. "Betty is a very bold art-



ARTIST AT WORK: Milby graduate Betty Morgan Bennett works days at a Inter-Tel Technologies in Memorial, but spends her off time at the easel. WENDY RUDNICKI: FOR THE CHRONICLE

ist, and she just absolutely loves what she does."

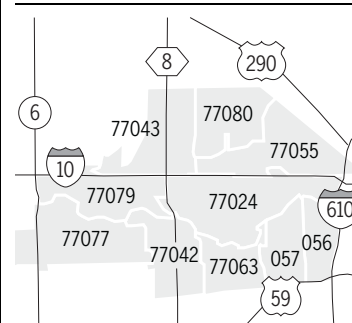
Send "Faces in the Crowd" profile suggestions to Donna Hatch at donna.hatch@chron.com.

BETTY MORGAN BENNETT

■ **Community connection:** Graduate Milby High School class of 1965

■ **Quick quote:** "When I am painting, I don't think of anything else. It's very relaxing." — Betty Morgan Bennett

WHERE TO FIND US



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Send us your news

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor about local issues in this section's coverage area may be sent by e-mail to neighborhoods@chron.com.

The neighborhood news sections' letters policy mirrors the Chronicle's policy for letters that appear in the daily Viewpoints section with one exception.

Letters to the neighborhood sections must be about local issues focused in the area and include the author's name, area of residence and telephone number for verification.

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MEMBER FDIC

New management district aims to forge 'real identity' for Hobby area

■ Uptown seen as a model for beautification, community improvements

By DOUGLAS BRITT
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

If the newly created Hobby Area Management District joins forces with civic organizations like the Rotary Club of Gulfway-Hobby Airport and the Greater Hobby Area Chamber of Commerce, the area stands to gain not only capital improvements, but a sense of community, a district board member said at the chamber's Oct. 3 luncheon.

"This part of town has no real identity," said George M. Yeiter, who holds Position No. 3 on the district's board of directors.

"We have nobody, really, that has the ability to speak to City Hall, representing us as a group. We don't have a sense of community here."

Yeiter, a former president of the Galleria Chamber of Commerce, said the Uptown Houston District's success at working with the Galleria chamber and Rotary Club to transform the Uptown area could be a

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Greater Hobby Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its next luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 7 at the Hilton Houston Hobby Airport, 8181 Airport Blvd.

■ **To RSVP:** Contact chamber board member Sue DeHaven at 713-970-6205

To learn more about the chamber, visit www.hobbyarea-chamber.com.

model for Hobby counterparts to follow.

"Look at what they've done," he said, pointing to a slide of an immaculate Galleria-area streetscape.

"Don't you go to the Galleria and say, 'Wow, this is a nice place; I like it; I want to live here; I want to work here; I want to do business here?'"

The Hobby district wants to beautify thoroughfares such as Broadway and Telephone Road to similar effect, he said.

Once the Hobby district completes its petition process, holds public hearings and is able to begin assessing commercial properties, it is expected to bring in \$1 million that can be used for public safety, business

development, transportation planning, visual improvement and cultural promotion in the area.

But the impact of that money can be multiplied by "leveraging that million dollars," said Yeiter, noting that the Uptown Houston District collects about \$13 million in annual assessments but attracts more than triple that amount in grants from city, county state and federal governments.

"Now, we're dumb if we don't do this, if you ask me," he said. "We're just dumb."

Yeiter asked chamber members to approach commercial property owners with copies of the district's petition for services and improvements. Twenty-five owners must sign the petition, "or we're out of business," he said.

Yeiter said the district and civic groups can also bolster the area's identity by creating an annual community event with a small-town to bring residents and businesses together.

He cited Alvin's Annual Frontier Days Celebration and the North Shore Rotary Club's Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil as examples of events that foster a sense of community while raising thousands of dollars for charitable causes or infrastructural improvements.

COMMUNITY

Ask Your Nurse celebrates five years

Five years after it began its pilot operations, the Harris County Hospital District's Ask Your Nurse health care telephone hotline continues to fulfill its mission to provide residents with a free connection to expert medical advice.

The hotline received more than 186,000 calls in its history and saved more than \$14 million in avoided emergency care costs to hospitals throughout the county, particularly at Ben Taub and LBJ general hospitals, according to a press release.

English/Spanish bilingual

nurses who also have access to multiple language services, including Vietnamese and Chinese, staff Ask Your Nurse.

Today, Ask Your Nurse averages 5,000 calls a month. Call 713-633-CALL.

Officers elected to Jack & Jill Inc.

Lesa M. Rice-Jackson, Sabrina Hill Loeb and Shirley J. Mathis Carter have been elected officers for the South Central Region of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.

The family organization pro-

vides enrichment programs for predominantly black families.

Rice-Jackson, the newly elected regional director, resides in Pearland.

Hill Loeb, who is a pharmacist at St. Luke's Hospital, was elected the regional secretary and treasurer.

Mathis Carter, a learning and development consultant with Avis Budget Group, is the new regional foundation member-at-large.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.jack-and-jill.org/sc.htm.

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HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS

Sam Houston 1948-1952: Wednesday at Grace United Methodist Church, 245 Heights Boulevard in the Fellowship Hall starting at 11:00am with lunch at noon. For more information, or to update

contact information, call Wylie Maxfield at 713-686-8947 or Margaret Wacker Hall at 281-646-0071.

Clements 1987: Oct. 12-13. Meet and greet Friday at Baker Street

Pub in Sugar Land. Reunion Saturday at The Swinging Door in Richmond. Contact www.clements87.com.

Bay City 1967: Oct. 19-20. See bchs-67-reunion.com or contact Lynn at 713-465-9932.

Lodge to host dance Saturday

The Houston Heritage Chapter of the Cajun French Music Association of Louisiana will host a dance 7:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Lodge No. 2917, 607 East Whitney.

Music will be provided by Jackie Caillier and the Cajun Cousins. Admission is \$7.

The Cajun French Music Association is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, promotion, and appreciation of Cajun French music and culture. Call 281-480-1130.

MILITARY

1st Marine Division Association, Houston chapter: The group meets the third Saturday monthly. Newcomers welcome. For more information, call T.J. Hanley at 281-324-7026.

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READING IS FUN: Second graders from MacGregor Elementary School met Downtown Aquarium mascot Sharky the shark at a Sept. 27 Reading Rally sponsored by the Executive Women International.

MacGregor pupils treated like 'stars' at Reading Rally

■ Event aims to bring gift and excitement of reading to all children

By KIM HUGHES
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Patricia Allen, principal of MacGregor Elementary School, 4801 La Branch, said when she and 21 of the school's pupils entered the banquet room at Hilton of the Americas Hotel for the 2007 Corporate Reading Rally, it was walking into a child's dream.

The event, which took place Sept. 27, is a philanthropic initiative of Executive Women International, an organization with more than 3,500 members across the United States,

Canada and Europe.

The goal is to bring the gift and excitement of reading to all children and to demonstrate an excitement for reading through chapter and community volunteers.

More than 350 members attended the event at which nine costumed mascots from several companies — including Jack the Dog from Wells Fargo, Sharky from the Downtown Aquarium and Octavius Octopus from Landry's Restaurant — lent a hand to author/illustrator Kay Douglas, a member of Executive Women International, who read to the children.

"The children were the stars of the day," Allen said. "They were well pampered, they received T-shirts, had several stories read to them, received stuffed animals, books and a full backpack.

"There were characters ev-

erywhere and they took pictures with them. It was a perfect day."

The Houston chapter of Executive Women International hosted this year's annual conference.

Member Dory Ward, an executive assistant at Price Waterhouse Coopers, 1201 Louisiana St., said her company has "adopted" MacGregor Elementary for the last 10 years.

The company provides classroom volunteers to deliver special programs, help plant vegetables in the school garden, revamp classrooms that need a fresh coat of paint.

Ward joined the pupils at this year's Reading Rally.

"The principal was presented with a \$4,500 check, which I don't think she was expecting," Ward said. "The money is for the school to put towards literacy initiatives."

Hartman teacher receives \$14,000 grant

A grant program created by basketball legend Michael Jordan will help take science out of the textbook and place it in the hands and minds of 6th-8th grade students at Hartman Middle School, 7111 Westover.

Jane Taylor, robotics teacher at Hartman, is a 2007 recipient of the Inspiration Grant from the Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program for \$14,000.

Applying for this award is by invitation only (for teachers who have received \$2,500 Jordan Innovation grants and successfully completed smaller projects) and the average project is funded for \$10,000.

Taylor's submission was among the best in the country for this very competitive selection process.

The regional Jordan Fundamentals Selection Panel and the Jordan Brand in partnership

with COMPASS Consulting have agreed to award \$14,000 for Hartman's Authentic Science program.

Authentic Science is a six-week unit that takes science out of the textbook and places it in the hands and minds of 6th-8th grade students.

Three science teachers representing each grade level will work to combine science with the appeal of LEGO educational robotics.

Hartman's teachers will introduce and reinforce applied physical science concepts such as the physics of motion, engineering design, and programming.

Working together, students will design and construct robots, among other things. The project will end with a robotics competition and engineering fair where students will present

what they have learned.

The fair will take place in the spring of 2008 after end-of-year testing.

"I believe it is critical that we as educators engage middle school urban youth, particularly traditionally under-represented students, in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects," Taylor said.

"Students that find traditional science and mathematics curricula uninteresting and disconnected from their experience should be engaged through learning by doing."

About the grant program

The Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program was born out of Michael Jordan's belief that there are deserving teachers who need additional resources to help their students.

Today

Jingle Bell Market: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. today at 215 E. 10th St. All Saints Third Age Learning Center will host its Jingle Bell Arts and Crafts Market. There will be holiday items and a bake sale. For additional information, call 281-493-4678.

Gulfway Hobby Rotary Club meeting: 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hobby Hilton, 8181 Airport Blvd. Lunch: \$15. For additional information about the Gulfway Hobby Rotary and its mission, e-mail the organization at hobbyrotary@yahoo.com.

Group cycling class: 7 p.m. at South Main Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 4300 Beltway 8 in Pasadena. Cost is \$4 per class. Newcomers are welcome. For additional information, call 281-487-8200.

Friday

Bayou Buddies: 10-11:30 a.m. in the Bayou Barn at the Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center, 3997 River Drive. The Houston Audubon Society program is aimed at youths ages 3-7 classes and explores Texas wildlife from A to Z. A different animal is featured each week for 26 weeks. A \$1 donation for each child is requested. For more information, call 713-640-2407.

'Feast with the Beasts': 7-10:30 p.m., 1513 N. MacGregor. The

Houston Zoo will host its second annual event in conjunction with the Houston Originals. Tickets are \$75-\$100. Visit the Web site at www.houstonzoo.org.

Jazz series: 8 p.m., Da Camera of Houston kicks off its 2007-2008 jazz series in the Cullen Theater of the Wortham Theater Center with a performance by violinist Regina Carter. Tickets are \$26.50-\$45. Call 713-524-5050 or visit www.dacamera.com.

WHAM benefit concert: 7:30 p.m., 10570 Westpark Drive. First Methodist Houston Westchase will host the second annual WHAM benefit concert featuring the Houston Civic Symphony. For tickets, visit www.whaministries.org or call 832-553-1671.

Caesar Salad Competition: 5-8 p.m., 400 Dallas St. Houston's top chefs and restaurateurs will compete for the title of Best Salad Chef at the 23rd annual event at Allen Center. Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$35 and include food and wine.

Weekend

Women's summit: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, 815 Crosby St. The Journey to Wholeness Women's Summit will be at the Houston Housing Authority. Conference topics will include HIV and AIDS, preventive and holistic health care, financial

awareness, career development, faith and family. Registration is \$5-\$40 for girls ages 12-17 and women. Call 281-558-6959 or visit the Web site at http://www.journeyto-wholeness.com.

Monday

Jazz Jam: 8 p.m.-midnight at Smitty's Café and Bar, 3333 Raleigh. The original Monday Nite Texas Jazz Jam has resumed at a new location, featuring special guest artists each week. The event is open to the public. There is no cover charge. For additional information, call 713-901-4863.

Group cycling class: 10:15 a.m. Monday at South Main Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 4300 Beltway 8 in Pasadena. Cost is \$4 per class. Newcomers are welcome. To join at any time. For additional information, call 281-487-8200.

Tuesday

Young women cancer support group: Noon-1 p.m. at 4101 Greenbriar and U.S. 59. The facilitator is Gail Overland, licensed clinical social worker. For additional information, call 713-520-9873.

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SOUTH CAVALCADE SUPERFUND SITE PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. EPA Region 6 Completes Second Five-Year Review of Site Remedy September 2007



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) has completed the Second Five-Year Review of the remedy for the South Cavalcade Street Superfund site. The site is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Cavalcade and Maury Streets, two miles south of Loop 610 North, Houston, Harris County, Texas.

The review evaluated the ability of the remedy to protect public health and the environment. The results of the second Five-Year Review indicate the soil remedy and ongoing operation and maintenance activities continue to be protective of human health and the environment. Given the current land and water use there are no ground water exposure pathways. Future protectiveness of the ground water needs to be evaluated further.

The results of the Second Five-Year Review are available to the public at the following information repository.

**Houston Central Library
Government Documents Area
500 McKinney Street
Houston, Texas 77002**

Information about the South Cavalcade Street site is also available on the Internet at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0602895>.

Questions or comments concerning the South Cavalcade Street Superfund site should be directed to Raji Josiam, Remedial Project Manager, at 214.665.8529 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll free).

AVISO AL PÚBLICO SOBRE EL SITIO SUPERFUND DE SOUTH CAVALCADE STREET La Región 6 de la U.S. EPA Termina la Segunda Evaluación de Cada Cinco Años del Remedio del Sitio septiembre del 2007



La Región 6 de la Agencia para la Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) ha terminado la segunda evaluación realizada cada cinco años del remedio para el Sitio de Superfund de South Cavalcade Street. El sitio está ubicado en la esquina de la intersección sureste de las calles Cavalcade y Maury, dos millas al sur del Loop 610 North en Houston (el Condado de Harris), Texas.

Este estudio evaluó la capacidad del remedio para proteger la salud público y el medio ambiente. Los resultados de la Segunda Evaluación de Cada Cinco Años indican que el remedio del suelo y las actividades de operación y mantenimiento continúan a proteger la salud y el medio ambiente. Dado el uso actual de la tierra y agua, no existen medios para exponer agua subterránea. Se necesita ampliar la evaluación de la protección de agua subterránea en el futuro.

Los resultados de la Segunda Evaluación de Cada Cinco Años están disponibles al público en el siguiente depositario de información:

**Biblioteca Central de Houston
Área de Documentos del Gobierno
500 McKinney Street
Houston, Texas 77002**

Información sobre el Sitio de Superfund de South Cavalcade Street también está disponible en el Internet a la siguiente dirección: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0602895>.

Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre el Sitio de Superfund de South Cavalcade Street por favor contactar a la Sra. Raji Josiam, Gerente del Proyecto, al teléfono 214.665.8529 o al 1.800.533.3508 (llamada gratis).

MAKING THEIR PUSH

Austin on verge of playoff berth

■ Mustangs hoping to secure their second consecutive trip to the postseason

By JEFF JENKINS
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

THE Austin girls volleyball team got a taste of the Class 4A playoffs a year ago, and coach Tomlisha Randle says the Mustangs liked it.

In fact, Austin would like nothing more than to repeat their postseason run with a top three finish in District 20-4A.

"The only thing that matters is getting to the playoffs," Randle said. "That's our goal. We have to make it."

A few weeks ago, the prospects looked dim for the Mustangs after back-to-back league setbacks to Reagan and Davis. With a 2-3 district record at the time, Randle knew Austin's margin for error was slim.



RANDLE

Please see RANDLE, Page 8

AUSTIN FILE

■ **Back for more:** After guiding Austin to the Class 4A playoffs in her first season, coach Tomlisha Randle expects the Mustangs to make it back to the postseason again.

■ **Coming up:** Austin will face Reagan at 5:15 p.m. Friday at Barnett Sports Complex in a match that could determine the District 20-4A playoff seeding.



VIEW TO A KILL: Austin's Serena Narcisse and the Mustangs are hoping to secure their second consecutive playoff berth this season. KENZIE de la TORRE: FOR THE CHRONICLE

FOOTBALL GAME OF THE WEEK

Raiders, Wildcats battle for an edge

■ District titans to face off at Delmar Friday

By TIM TURNER
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Wheatley has lost three of its last four games, including a 38-36 decision to Worthing. Sterling has one just once in five games. The Raiders' lone win was over Worthing 20-12.

ABOUT THE GAME

■ **Matchup:** Wheatley (3-2, 1-1) vs. Sterling (1-4, 1-1)

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m., Friday

■ **Where:** Delmar Stadium

■ **What's at stake:** Wheatley and Sterling are tied with Worthing and Kashmere for second place in 19-4A, a game half game behind Furr and Jones (1-0).

■ **Wheatley players to watch:** QB Kendrew Daniels, RB Johnson Rodrick, RB Tyrone Cooper, WR John Boutte, WR Clifford Baker

■ **Sterling players to watch:** QB James Banks, RB Remond Silas, Rakheen Jones

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

■ **Wheatley:** Holding a lead has been a problem for the Wildcats. Against Worthing it led by 14 in the fourth quarter only to give up the lead and the game by allowing 26 unanswered points. The Wildcats will need another big game from Daniels, who ran for a score and threw for another.

■ **Sterling:** The Raiders' game almost mirrored Wheatley's. It led going into the fourth quarter and lost the lead and game thanks to a couple of Quentin Russell TD passes, the last a 67-



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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Here are this weekend's local high school football games:

TODAY

Chavez vs. Bellaire, 7 p.m., Butler Stadium
Sam Houston vs. Milby, 7 p.m., Barnett Stadium

FRIDAY

Lutheran South vs. Second Baptist, 7:30, Eagle Stadium, Houston
Westside vs. Madison, 7:30 p.m., Butler Stadium
Mount Carmel vs. Faith West Academy, 7:30 p.m., Faith West Field
Wheatley vs. Sterling, 7:30 p.m., Delmar Stadium
Kashmere vs. Worthing, 7:30 p.m., Barnett Stadium

SATURDAY

Furr vs. Jones, 6 p.m., Dyer Stadium
Scarborough vs. Austin, 6 p.m., Delmar Stadium
Washington vs. Yates, 6 p.m., Barnett Stadium

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The Harris County Municipal Utility District #382 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2007 on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 4:30 p.m. at the offices of Allen, Boone, Humphries, & Robinson, L.L.P., 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Clarence Rogers, Amada Rodriguez, Matthew Herring, Avery Plank

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: August Lander

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Tax rate	\$0.69000/\$100	\$0.69000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$137,532	\$141,264
General Exemptions Available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average taxable value	\$137,532	\$141,264
Tax on average residence homestead	\$948.97	\$974.72
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$25.75
and percentage of increase (+/-)		2.71%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.



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Sterling spikers hope to play spoiler role in District 19-4A race

Madison wary of Westside's scoring skills

By JASON HARGRAVES
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

The Sterling volleyball team has been eliminated from the District 19-4A playoff race, but coach Rachel Mackey still views her team as a possible spoiler.

Sterling, which met first-place Kashmere earlier this week, will take on Wheatley,



MACKEY

another post-season contender, at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Barnett Sports complex.

The Raiders end the regular season against Worthing at 4 p.m. Oct. 19 at Barnett.

"The kids still come to practice and are working hard, which is a credit to them," said first-year Sterling head coach Rachel Mackey. "We're just trying to keep our spirits up and finish strong."

Sterling, 3-8 overall, dropped a pair of league matches last week to slip to 3-6 in District 19-4A. The Raiders lost to Furr in five games 29-27, 25-27, 25-23, 19-25, 15-10, then fell to Scarborough 26-24, 25-23, 25-18.

"If we had won those two matches, we'd still be in the playoff picture," Mackey said. Sterling was without two starters against Scarborough, middle blocker Natisha Lavalais and setter Whitney Price. Lavalais sprained her knee against Furr and sat out as a precautionary measure.

"Not having those girls hurt us," Mackey said.

Lavalais, a 5-foot-8 senior captain, has been Sterling's offensive catalyst, averaging six kills and three blocks per match from her middle blocker position.

"Natisha is our best overall player," Mackey said. "She leads us in kills and blocks. She's also our leader on the

HONOR ROLL

Austin

FOOTBALL

■ **Athlete:** Joseph Cole

■ **Achievement:** The senior running back ran 22 times for 92 yards and a touchdown in the Mustangs' 35-17 loss to Waltrip.

Chavez

FOOTBALL

■ **Athlete:** Andre Kelly

■ **Achievement:** The sophomore quarterback completed 5 of 6 passes for 130 yards and four touchdowns as the Lobos beat Sam Houston 66-0.

Madison

FOOTBALL

■ **Athlete:** LeDarryay Groover

■ **Achievement:** The senior running back ran 21 times for 141 yards, two touchdowns and a pair of two-point conversions to power the Marlins past Bellaire 23-14.

Sterling

VOLLEYBALL

■ **Athlete:** Natisha Lavalais

■ **Achievement:** The senior middle blocker had five kills and four blocks in the Raiders' five-game loss to Furr.

won, like against Furr and Scarborough. Maybe we're not fighting hard enough. It's hard to say."

Madison aims at Westside

Madison head football coach Ray Seals isn't sure there is a way to stop Westside, but his Marlins will give it their best shot when the teams meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Butler Stadium.

"I've watched their last two games, and I don't think they've had a drive longer than seven plays," Seals said. "They're pretty explosive. They sure can score in a hurry."

Westside (3-2, 2-0) is averaging more than 400 yards and 36.4 points per game, tops in District 20-5A. The Wolves dominated their first two District 20-5A opponents, beating Milby and Westbury by respective scores of 35-6 and 49-33.

Seals said Westside simply has too many weapons, includ-



SEALS

ing quarterback Mike Goodnight (1,064 yards passing, 10 touchdowns), running back Frank Williams (700 yards, seven TDs) and receivers Mike Smith, Arvin Jackson and Kevin Brooks.

Goodnight is the scariest of the bunch. Just ask Westbury, which saw him complete 16 of 21 passes for 221 yards and four touchdowns. Goodnight also ran for a score.

"Our best chance is to keep those guys off the field as long as possible," Seals said. "We need to control the clock offensively, and the defense has to play well."

But Seals is feeling slightly more relaxed about the Marlins (2-3, 1-1), who held off Bellaire 23-14 last week. Madison trailed 7-0 at half-time before outscoring the Cardinals 23-7 the first

of the way.

"I don't think we took Bellaire lightly, but we just didn't play well the first half," Seals said. "Fortunately, we regrouped at halftime and went back to the basics and focused on the little things we weren't doing well."

LeDarryay Groover, Madison's all-district running back, rushed 21 times for 141 yards. Groover broke loose on a 49-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and added a four-yard score late in the game. He also ran for a pair of two-point conversions.

"LeDarryay played like he should have been all year," Seals said. "He did an outstanding job."

Madison's defense also held the Cardinals to only 143 yards. Rover Jeffrey Shelley, up from the junior varsity, made his first start, coming up with several big tackles.

"The Bellaire game was one

we absolutely had to have to make the playoffs," Seals said. "Now we have to play Westside, which might be the best team in the district. It doesn't get any easier."

District 20-4A showdown

The Yates-Washington rivalry is one of Houston ISD's most historic, making Saturday's 6 p.m. showdown between the Lions and Eagles at Barnett Stadium a must-see game for area football fans.

Yates (4-0, 2-0) ripped Reagan 60-0 last week, while Washington (3-2, 2-0) edged previously unbeaten Davis 13-12.

Quarterback Darveon Trahan led the Lions last week, throwing for 103 yards and a touchdown and rushing twice for 79 yards, including a 59-yard score. Six different players ran for touchdowns and the defense scored twice on fumble recoveries.

Geneva Industries Superfund Site Public Notice

**U.S. EPA Regions 6 Begins
Third Five-Year Review of Site Remedy**
October 1, 2007

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has begun a Third Five-Year Review of the remedy for the Geneva Industries Superfund site in Houston, Harris County, Texas. The review will evaluate the ability of the remedy to correct contamination problems and protect public health and the environment. The site is located at 9334 Canniff Street in Houston, Texas, immediately adjacent to the city limit of South Houston. The Site is within one-mile of Interstate Highway 45 and within two miles of Hobby Airport. Once completed, the results of the Third Five-Year Review will be made available to the public at the following information repository.

**M.D. Anderson Library
University of Houston
Main Campus
4800 Calhoun Road
Houston, Texas 77004
(713) 743-9772**

Information about the Geneva Industries site is also available on the Internet at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6st/pdffiles/0602809.pdf>.

Questions or comments concerning the Geneva Industries Superfund site should be directed to Gary Miller at (214) 665-8318 or 1-800-533-3508 (toll free).

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RANDLE: Mustangs in playoff push

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"I think those two losses woke us up, especially the Davis match," Randle said.

Austin crushed its next two opponents, beating Sharpstown 25-10, 25-18, 25-12 and Washington 25-11, 25-12, 25-8. The Mustangs also won a match at last month's Houston ISD Invitational.

Last week, Austin even took a game off Austin before losing in four, 25-17, 25-14, 21-25, 25-15. That Left the Mustangs at 20-7 overall and 4-4 in District 20-4A.

"We've had a lot of success so far," Randle said, noting that Austin finished second at the Sam Houston Tournament and posted wins over Pasadena and Aldine.

Austin has one of the league's top players in senior Jessica Hernandez, a 5-foot-8 outside hitter. Hernandez is averaging close to eight kills per match to lead the Mustangs.

"Jessica has been our go-to player," Randle said. "She usually leads us in kills most nights."

Angelica Delgado, a 5-8 junior, is the other outside hitter, while Melissa Chatman, a 5-11 senior, and Cassie Guerrero, a 5-7 junior, start at middle blocker.

"Melissa is an exciting player," Randle said. "She's had some big-time blocks for us."

Mia Lopez, a 5-7 junior, and Annette Gaona, a 5-9 senior, have gotten plenty of playing time at outside hitter and right



KENZIE deLATORRE FOR THE CHRONICLE

COMING TOGETHER: Austin's Kimberly Escobedo and the Mustangs face always-tough Reagan Friday at Barnett Sports Complex.

side hitter, respectively.

A difference-maker for the Mustangs is Cynthia Miramontes, a 5-7 junior. Miramontes is Austin's defensive whiz, providing reliable support at the libero position.

"Cynthia can neutralize teams with her defense," Randle said.

"She's had some amazing digs," Zada Castillo, a 5-4 senior, has the tough challenge of playing setter and has done a commendable job so far.

"When Zada is on top of her game, we're like clock work,"

Randle said.

Adding depth are 5-5 senior Serena Narcisse, the back-up setter, and 5-8 junior Kimberley Escobedo, a right side hitter/middle blocker.

Randle said it will be virtually impossible for Austin to catch District 20-4A front-runner Waltrip, but the Rams could take one of the next two playoff spots if they play well during their final four league matches.

"We've got the talent," Randle said. "We proved it last year. Hopefully, we can do it all over again."

SPORTS CALENDAR

Upcoming

Semi-pro tryouts: A semi-pro football team is holding tryouts for the spring season Saturday. Call 832-527-8908.

Fall ball registration: The South Central Little League in the Third Ward/Sunnyside area is seeking girls and boys ages 5-14 for its fall ball season. Call 832-723-9882.

Heavenly Hoopz tryouts:

Heavenly Hoopz basketball is holding tryouts for boys and girls of all ages from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 19 and Oct. 26. Contact heavenlyhoopz@aol.com or 281-844-1956.

Angels girls hoops: The Houston Angels is starting up a girls 12U basketball team (born 1995). Call 832-577-9689 or e-mail pamlap95@yahoo.com.

Street Olympics golf: A golf

tournament benefiting Harris County Precinct 1's Street Olympics will be played Oct. 18 beginning at 11 a.m. at Wildcat Golf Club. Call 713-898-9700 or e-mail vbequette@aol.com.

Send listings at least two weeks in advance to Regional Editor Martin Hajovsky at:

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