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JULY 2019
monthly

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Photo by Diana Nguyen | Latorsha Perry was awarded the Fort Bend Rainbow Room Lasting Impression Award for the 2016 Department of Family and Protective Services staff member of the year. From left, are: Master of Ceremonies Justin Stapleton, Alex Lewis, Latorsha Perry and FBRR Executive Director Tonya Lewis.

🦋 The Butterfly Project 🦋

helps young girls discover their purpose

by **MARQUITA GRIFFIN** | mgriffin@fbherald.com

When Latorsha Perry was around 16 years old, she and a group of her friends decided to check out a new program called The Butterfly Project.

A mentoring program specifically for Lamar Consolidated ISD high school girls, the Butterfly Project was started, and continues to grow, solely to provide positive influence and guidance for girls from all walks of life. Race doesn't matter. Socioeconomic background doesn't matter. Grades don't matter. Looks don't matter. The only thing that does, is a girl's desire to set goals and soar to them.

WOMEN OF PURPOSE

The program made its debut in 1996, created by a group of concerned parents in the Lamar Consolidated ISD who wanted to focus on the wellbeing and empowerment of girls from 14 to 18 years old.

Perry, who was a B.F.Terry High School student at the time, joined the organization with her friends and it was a decision

Perry said she will forever be grateful for.

"I was just excited to get to know these women who were willing to invest their time into us," said Perry, who is now 37 years old and a mother of three. "Without the Butterfly Project in my life, I would not be where I am today."

For the past five years Perry has been a CPS investigator and mentors and trains incoming CPS workers. In 2016 Perry earned the Lasting Impression Award from the Fort Bend Rainbow Room, and the following year became the opening face of the Proud to Protect video for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

"I felt so fulfilled when they selected me to be [included in the video]," said Perry. "I'm so proud."

She pauses for a moment, thinking over her next words:

"Without the Butterfly Project, I wouldn't be where I am today," she said. "No matter how we started out we developed into something beautiful. They helped us become women of purpose. They showed us we could soar into the sky."



Dr. Ana Refinetti (center) presented a presentation on breast cancer for Butterfly Project members.



Former members of the Butterfly Program — “The Girls with Pearls” — from left, front row: Nejra Cilas, Osoro Jiwuaku and back row: Emily Otto, Destiny Flores, Krystle Ike, Obumneke Jiwuaku and Precious Ikeokwu.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITIES

The reality of Perry’s life is a distinct contrast from the overwhelming prediction that surrounded her when she was a girl.

Perry’s future was deemed to be stagnant and bleak. She grew up without knowing her father and her mother passed away when she was 9 years old. Perry lived with relatives, some of whom never graduated high school. Her uncle, who is a pastor, and her aunt raised her but did not have the means to devote time and money to options that would follow graduating high school, Perry said.

“College was never a topic in my family,” she explained. “My uncle and aunt gave me a strong spiritual upbringing, which I am grateful for, but they didn’t know much about college because no one had ever gone to college.”

Perry turned out to be the first person in her family to do so.

She studied nursing, as well as psychology and criminal justice, for two years at Stephen F. Austin University, but left after an experience with domestic violence. Following her departure, Perry then enrolled in a nursing program at Prairie View A&M University and while she enjoyed the work, a significant part of her past reared its head.

“During clinical rotations we saw the best and the worst [of the medical industry],” she said. “When I had to work with patients who were dying, especially the kids, and there was nothing we could do for them, I realized that from an emotional standpoint I could not do this job because I never really dealt with my mother’s death.”

Perry ended up leaving the program but she refused to stop searching for her perfect fit in society.

“I just had this need to help people,” she said.

Perry’s next step was getting accepted into the police academy, but one day while she was jogging a driver hit her. “I thought I was going to die,” she said. “Because of my injuries my dream of becoming a police officer was gone.”

These seemingly rapid-fire setbacks could have easily derailed her, had it not been for the Butterfly Project, Perry said.

“They completely changed me,” Perry said of the program’s mentors, namely Rita Miller, the project director, and Melinda Morgan, the project advisor.

Through the program, Perry said she learned how to handle ad-

versity and adapt to whatever changes life brought her. So when she could no longer pursue the police officer route, Perry considered other options where she should demonstrate her skills.

“When I was 15 years old I wanted to be a social worker,” Perry said, adding that she did graduate from the University of Houston with degrees in psychology and criminal justice.

“And now I’m a caseworker stopping the cycle of abuse,” she said. “My dream was to be able to help people and that is what I do.”

That drive to serve others, Perry considered, probably stemmed from seeking help from as many “warm, positive women who could point [her] in the right direction” following her mother’s death. And that is exactly who she found in the Butterfly Project.

“A lot of my friends who were in the program came from homes where one or both of their parents had gone to college and were successful,” Perry continued, explaining that her childhood was quite different.

“Sometimes we barely had running water. I was responsible for myself at a young age and had to work when I was in school. But in the Butterfly Project I was treated no different from the girls who were better off. We were all treated with kindness, love and respect.”

And that is what Perry said she pours into her efforts as a CPS worker. Although her services are lent out to other counties, like Montgomery, Brazoria, Matagorda and Washington counties, she primarily works in Fort Bend. She currently lives in Sealy, Texas but she drives “to Fort Bend County every day to make sure the county I grew up in, and that has done so much for me, can benefit from my work.”

‘MENTORING WORKS’

Rita Miller happened to run into Perry one day, and to hear how much a former student supported and respected the program nearly took her breath away.

“Listening to her proved that mentoring works,” said Miller.

The program is in its 23rd year and averages about 20 girls each year who participate in group bonding activities, community volunteering and meetings that teach the girls how to build, and act on, self-confidence.

“Girls come to the program not knowing what they want, just

the impulsion for something new. While in the caterpillar stage, inside the cocoon, they are changing,” Miller explained, likening the girls to butterflies. “By the time they complete the program, behaviors that served them when they were caterpillars are no longer helpful. Their transformation is complete [and] the butterfly emerges into a new world. They graduate high school, some go on to graduate from college, get master’s degrees, while others go directly into the work force. They get married and start families ...”

“They go on to become productive members of society.”

However, Miller also admits that despite the program’s efforts in “making a difference in the lives of young women,” not every girl who participates in the program completes it.

“There have been girls who have come to the program and did not stay after deciding that it was not for them,” she said.

But of those who did stay in and commit themselves to the program’s guidance, they went on to become teachers, nurses, certified public accountants and HIV health planners.

Others have become high school head trainers, school cheerleader coaches, bank tellers, nutritionists, court clerks, postmasters, EMTs, bodybuilders, child care providers, military personnel and store managers.

“Among them are also four former butterfly members who have returned to the program to serve as mentors,” Miller said. “And we now have girls in our program who are the children of former Butterfly members — we are working with the second generation of girls.

“Mentoring develops lifelong relationships,” Miller said with a smile. “Twenty-three years later, they still call us when they have questions, encounter problems or need help.

“Like I said: mentoring works.”

BEING A BUTTERFLY

As much as it stresses academic success — the program even hosts report card parties — the Butterfly Project also focuses on providing its members with enriching social experiences.

Part of those experiences include serving their community. Over the years Butterfly members have become regular supporters and contributors to local nonprofits like Lunches of Love, Common Threads, Light the Night and the Special Olympics. They’ve volunteered time to the city of Rosenberg and Sugar Land, as well as local churches like River Pointe Church and Friendship Baptist Church.

“Community service is our cornerstone of our organization,” Miller said. “Since the beginning of the program the girls log a total of over 100 hundred community service hours each year.”

Then there are the plethora of bonding activities, like getting their nails done together, going out to eat together or even spending Spring Break together.

“We have a motto: ‘We work hard. Then we play hard,’” Miller said, adding the project has sponsored several out-of-the-state Spring Break trips. “The girls are rewarded for their hard work with holiday parties, outings and other incentives.”

Like visiting Atlanta, Georgia where the girls toured CNN and the World of Coca-Cola. The girls also visited New Orleans by train where they toured the city, Mardi Gras World and participated in the Hurricane Katrina Tour.

“We tell our kids to dream,” Miller said. “But how can we tell them if some of them have never been outside of their neighborhood?”

The efforts of the Butterfly Project, Miller said, are put forth to prove to each girl they are worthy. They are important. That someone cares for them.

“Butterfly mentors monitor classroom behavior and grades, arrange for tutoring and we help with school projects. We show up for sports activities and events, award ceremonies, dance shows, school plays, and happy occasions as well as sad ones,” Miller continued passionately. “And if girls miss a number of meetings, we go looking for them.

“Young people need to have adults in their lives that are genuinely concerned for them ... someone who lets them know that they matter.”



Latorsha Perry (bottom, left in the striped maroon shirt) during her initial days as a member of the Butterfly Project. “To see [the Butterfly Project] still going strong gives me the encouragement to keep pushing forward,” Perry said.



Butterfly members at a Sugar Land Kite Festival.



Butterfly Project members during one of the organization’s meetings.

Become a Butterfly

Girls interested in joining the Butterfly Project, or anyone who wants to become a mentor or sponsor, can contact Project Director Rita Miller at 832-790-8138. Butterfly members meet twice a month, on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the George Memorial Library. The first Saturday is set as the regular meeting, the second Saturday the group participates in a community service activity.

For more information visit thebutterflyprojectinc.org or on Facebook @thebutterflyprojectinc.

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the world around her

Artist Nina Struthers illustrates the sights of Fort Bend County
by **MARQUITA GRIFFIN** | mgriffin@fbherald.com

Having moved around quite a bit as a child, Nina Struthers may not personally know the feeling of being bonded to a hometown artifact or landmark, where upon seeing it memories of childhood surface.

"I'm from New Jersey, but I was raised in England. I moved there when I was five and had my formal education there. Then I came back to New Jersey, got my degree in art and then I lived in Canada for 12 years."

She, pauses, considering how her upbringing influences her perspectives. "I moved around so much that I didn't really get the chance to attached to anything."

Still, 60-year-old Struthers understands the emotional connection that often exists between art and its viewer. The strength of a work to spark memories and emotions in a person.

Artists document life, said Struthers who has lived in Richmond for the past 16 years. Since moving to the downtown Richmond area, Struthers has illustrated local sights around Richmond, Rosenberg and Sugar Land, from the old Richmond courthouse, trains and the Brazos River bridge to local churches like Sacred Heart and St. John's Methodist Church in Richmond or Holy Rosary in Rosenberg.

"I like things with character, with charm and even a little age," Struthers said. "Being raised in England I was surrounded by structures, barns and so much scenery, so I'm drawn to that. Wherever I have lived, I have drawn what was around me, what I loved."

Understandably, much of her work decorates the walls and small studio in her home, but her art is also found on many walls around Fort Bend County as well, displayed and for sale throughout the community including at the Fort Bend Museum, the Rosenberg Railroad Museum and the George Ranch Historical Park.

Struthers has also completed commission work for Fort Bend County Precinct 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales and the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce. Just last year the chamber used Struthers' drawing of the courthouse to create a collectible Christmas decoration.

So when a native to the area sees her local work and gushes over it, that reaction brings Struthers a sound satisfaction.

"Artists record things. An event, a building, a person," she said. "We put love into our work and bring it to everyone's eyes. [The

art] comes from our heart. It reveals things or places, people may take for granted or don't consciously think about, so when they like my work, [those remarks] are a true compliment."

DESTINED TO BE AN ARTIST

Since she was a little girl, Struthers has been an artist — "There was no question I would go to art school," she said.

In the 80s she earned her fine arts degree from the Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, the flagship public arts conservatory of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Following graduation, Struthers started her career in newspaper layout and freelance magazine work, but she also designed woven labels and developed a gig of her own making.

"I had this side business when I was 19 or 20 years old where I would draw people's homes," Struthers said. "A neighbor saw one [portrait] and it just went from there. And that's what got me into drawing architecture."

From 1984-86, she served as a teaching assistant in the printmaking department at Glassell School of Fine Arts - Houston and while living in Canada in the late 90s she sustained a printmaking studio — picking up intaglio printmaking while living in Alberta— and participated in Canadian festivals and galleries.

Struthers even sold hand-knit designs in boutiques until she returned to the US in 1997 to care for her parents who were living in Houston, Texas.

About three years following the move, Struthers started drawing in the style of pointillism, a neo-impressionist technique of using small, distinct and pure dots of color in patterns to form an image in the viewer's eye.

By the time she moved to Richmond in 2002, she had begun illustrations of local places and although she doesn't have the time for it now, her works

appeared in popular Texas festivals like the Rockport Art Festival, Bayou City Arts Festival and Artoberfest in Galveston.

"I have done festivals all over the place," she said. "But since I'm working, I don't have a lot of time these days. It's been a while. Right now I'm compiling my Fort Bend illustrations into a book."

Already Struthers has eight coloring books for sale at the Fort Bend Art Center in Rosenberg.

"[The coloring books] are filled with old trucks, houses, dogs,



Illustrator and printmaker, Nina Struthers-Macejewski, creates artwork capturing images around Fort Bend County, namely in Richmond, Rosenberg and Sugar Land. Nina — who has a grown daughter, Sarah, who is a doctor — lives in Richmond with her husband Larry Macejewski.

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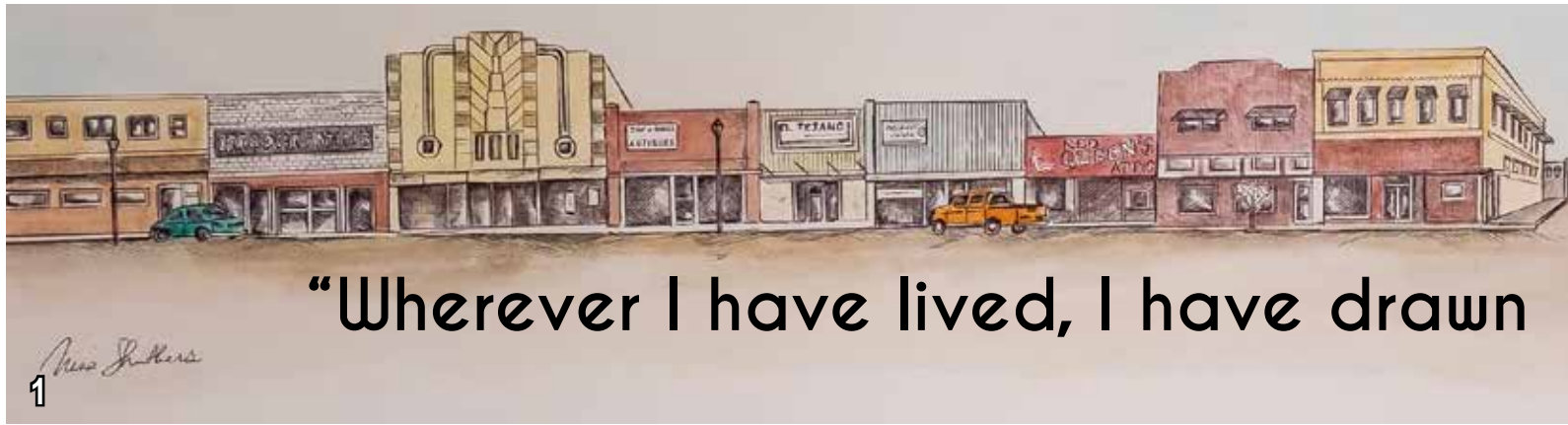


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“Wherever I have lived, I have drawn

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cats, churches and all different kinds of subjects,” she said, adding that a lot of her artwork is sold in the form of greeting cards.

All eight coloring books are also available on amazon.com and range from \$8 to \$12.50.

“My work is here and there,” Struthers said.

Sometimes it’s hanging on a wall in a gallery or a displayed on the front of a greeting card. And sometimes her influence is found within the community itself.

Last year Struthers, along with local artists Suzanne Sylverston, Kimberley Clelland and Allehseya Hawk, assisted Jane Long Elementary School’s Art Club students paint a mural on the sidewalk of Clay Park, a Richmond city park in the Edgewood community. Allehseya Hawk had suggested to the Keep Richmond Beautiful organization that painting a new mural with children who enjoy the park would transform the painting into a community centric project.

The painting began Memorial Day weekend 2018 and was complete Labor Day weekend.

“What I love about Richmond is there are a lot of artists supporting each other,” Struthers said.

“I JUST NEED TO DO IT”

While art has always been a career for Struthers, upon moving to Richmond she also worked at Home Depot, as a substitute and at Lamar Consolidated ISD’s Alternative Learning Center for five years. Currently Struthers is a paraprofessional at Jackson Elementary where she works with special needs students.

Struthers is also a member of The Art League of Fort Bend where a collection of her local work is on display for the summer and she is leading a printmaking workshop at the 310 Gallery in Richmond, where she has also shown her work.

Most of Struthers’ art is primarily historic buildings — “my illustrations started with history because I love history,” she said — so it’s fitting that she is currently working on a collection of historical churches in Texas, which she hopes will be her next showing.

Between her printmaking and drawings, Struthers estimates that she has created 400 to 500 works of art to date, and plans to continue adding to that total.

“It’s something I need to do. I just need to do it,” she said. “It’s part of my life, it’s like breathing. I can’t sit in front of TV — that’s a waste of time. I like to recreate and that’s why I draw.”



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Follow Nina Struthers





what was around me, what I loved.”

—Nina Struthers



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1. Downtown Rosenberg 2. Fort Bend County Courthouse 3. The iron bridge over the Brazos River. “I like rivers and I started thinking: I like the town with the river, the courthouse and those big oak trees,” Nina said. “So in 2002 I bought a fix-me-up and made my roots here.” 4. Railroad tracks crossing in Rosenberg 5. Jane Long Elementary student Angel Miranda’s winning design for the mural in Richmond’s Clay Park. 6. Jane Long Elementary Art Teacher Janis Knuckols with students Yvonne Rojas, Eduardo Huerta, Sophia Rojas, Andy Gonzales, Ryder Brothers, Ian Paniagua, Rylan Ricklefson, Elizabeth Martinez, Maggie Martinez; back row: Diego Rojas, Angel Miranda, Cesar Alanis and Abigail Ricklefson during the mural painting in Clay Park. 7. In 2018 the Central Fort Bend Chamber released its inaugural Fort Bend County commemorative ornament — the first of many collectible ornaments — featuring the historic Fort Bend County Courthouse designed by local artist Nina Struthers. From left, top row: Beth Johnson, former Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert, Cindy Reaves; bottom row: CFBC President / CEO Kristin Weiss and Alicen Swift.

BREAKING NEWS

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Hands and Hearts raises \$30K at golf tournament

by **MARQUITA GRIFFIN** | mgriffin@fbherald.com

The result of the Hands and Hearts Foundation's 18th Annual Golf Tournament was quite satisfactory for the non-profit, which has been supporting application-based community projects in Fort Bend and abroad since 2002.

The yearly golfing tournament, held at the Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club, raised \$30,000 and drew 104 golfers as well as 25-plus volunteers "to make the 18th annual event one of the most successful to date," said Hands and Hearts Foundation board member Anna Baker.

The foundation has no paid employees, so all of its projects and operations are made possible through volunteers and donations, which is why the golfing tournament serves as the foundation's primary fundraiser.

"Thanks to the support from generous golfers, sponsors, and donors, the foundation has been able to fund local youth to attend a 10-day Guatemala mission trip, and support local initiatives like work with Creative Dreams, Intervarsity, and Habitat for Humanity for almost 20 years," she said.

Hands and Hearts has also financially supported people who want to improve the lives of people in under-resourced areas, both locally and worldwide, by serving as teachers, Christian advocates and volunteers on mission trips to Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Tibet, Africa and the Netherlands.

The 2019 tournament included golfer goody bags, a barbecue lunch, complimentary beverages and snacks on the course and a Mexican buffet dinner served to participants and volunteers

while they browsed and bid on silent auction items put together by auction chairs Jim and Kathy Horcica.

Auction items included an Amazon Echo, handmade jewelry for Mother's Day, golf foursomes, and various wine and liquor baskets.

The event also featured a live auction for the first time, allowing golfers to bid on Astros tickets, weekend getaways and hand-carved benches.

"We are so grateful and truly humbled by the incredible support of our golfers and volunteers every year. We also appreciate the partnership with Pecan Grove Country Club," said Stan Wilkening, the president of the Hands and Hearts Foundation.

"We strive to make our tournament one that players look forward to by promoting an environment of fellowship and fun while sharing our passion for community projects with those who support us."

For more information about the Hands and Hearts Foundation visit www.handsandheartsfoundation.org.



From left, Hands and Heart Foundation board member Anna Baker, president Stan Wilkening, secretary of the board Evelyn Martin and board member Mike Baker.



From left Stan Wilkening, President of Hands and Hearts Foundation, golfer Dale Davison, golfer Jeff Masek and golfer Rudy Hernandez.



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Earthcare wins Tacky Pants golf tourney

The day was beautiful and the competition was fierce at the Central Fort Bend Chamber's Business Links Golf Tournament — the Tacky Pants Open — which was presented by Finnegan Auto Group at Black Hawk Country Club.

The day began with a Tough Putt Competition, and the winner was Daniel Ruggles with Finnegan Auto Group. The 2 p.m. shotgun start was the beginning of the two 9-hole scrambles that ran throughout the afternoon. The First Place team for the Front Nine was Earthcare Management which included Holden Abshire, Cory Schneider, Cade Roberts and Jason Roberts. The First Place Team for the Back Nine was Silver Eagle Distributors which included Austin Sherrill and Noe Negrete.

While out on the course, players were able to compete in a Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive competition. The winners of Closest to the Pin for the Front Nine was Cory Schneider with Earthcare Management and Back Nine was David VanFleet with Vulcan Materials.

The winners of the Longest Drive for the Front Nine was Cade Roberts with Earthcare Management and Back Nine was Steven Ramirez with Memorial Hermann Sugar Land.

In the weeks, days, and minutes leading up to the 5:05 After Party, presented by Insuperity, golfers and chamber members were able to purchase a "money ball" to be dropped from the Windstream Communications bucket truck during the 5:05 After Party.

The goal was to have their ball be the one to make it in or closest to the hole in order to win half the pot.

Dominic Anderson of CenterPoint Energy and Marty Schmitt of

AG|CM were the winners of the Money Ball Drop.

In keeping with the name of the tournament, there was also a "tacky pants" walk-off. The winner of the tackiest pants was Jason Scholtz with Colliers International.

Additional sponsors that made the day possible. Silver Eagle Distributors made a beverage donation, McDonald & Wessendorff Insurance and EHRA sponsored the Beverage Carts and CenterPoint Energy sponsored the Money Ball. The Business on the Green sponsors were Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, Caliber Collision, Carlton Staffing, First Community Credit Union, National Senior Care Home Health and SportClips Haircuts. Food Tent sponsors were Hickory Barn BBQ, The Lost Cajun and Rico's Authentic Mexican Restaurant. The EMS Tent was manned by Carrus Care ER.

The Central Fort Bend Chamber is a 109-year old non-profit membership organization dedicated to creating a strong local economy where businesses can prosper. The Central Fort Bend Chamber advocates for over 1,000 local businesses led by a volunteer board of directors who are dedicated to sustaining Fort Bend County's quality of life, and keeping our community and economy vibrant.

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1 CenterPoint Energy sponsored the money ball drop contest. From left are Dominic Anderson with CenterPoint, Kristin Weiss with the Central Fort Bend Chamber and Windstream Communications team George Lewis, Mike Jolley, Luc Sanderson, Joe Garza and Bill Taylor. 2 Kristin Weiss, CEO of the Central Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, presents a plaque of appreciation to Dave Davis of Finnegan Auto Group, which was the tournament's presenting sponsor. 3 Jason Scholtz with Colliers International had the tackiest pants at the Tacky tournament. 4 First-place winners of the front nine holes was Earthcare Management. Playing for Earthcare were, from left, Cory Schneider, Jason Roberts, Holden Abshire and Cade Roberts. Kristin Weiss of Central Fort Bend Chamber joins them in the winner's circle.



1



2



3



4



5

1 Amber Leung, a past president of the Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Bend Prairie chapter in Fort Bend County, discussed fungal disease in snakes last month. She shows off a healthy rat snake during a program at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. 2 Atry McNeal and Brooklyn Gordon making cards at Gingerbread House Day Care Center in Rosenberg. 3 Julie Lewis demonstrates how to make decorative pancakes with just a little food coloring and imagination at the Third Annual Pancake Festival on Saturday at the Mamie George Community Center in Richmond. This year's festival was held on June 8 with all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage and orange juice for five bucks. Activities include games, live music, dancing and fellowship. 4 City of Richmond employees honored during Public Service

Recognition Week are, from left, Gage McAfee, Lori Bownds, Maritza Salazar, Donnie Kovar, and Katelynn Sturgis. 5 Photo By Rhonda Taormina | Holy Rosary Scouts placed new U.S. flags on gravesites in the Veterans Section at Davis Greenlawn cemetery in honor of Memorial Day. Pictured are Ben Kirkpatrick, Ethan Gomez, Ethan Velarde, Emilio Villarreal, Ryan Respondek and Anthony Taormina.



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DANCING QUEENS TAKE THE STAGE IN MAMMA MIA!

Sugar Land's national award-winning community theatre, Inspiration Stage, is excited to present MAMMA MIA!, with 12 shows over three weekends, July 26 through Aug. 11 at the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, 226 Lakeview Dr.

A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show.

"We have a strong, solid cast of local actors bringing the characters of this romantic comedy to life. With its unforgettable ABBA score, our staging promises the enchanting tale of eternal laughter, enduring love, explosive choreography, and a walk down the aisle for a daughter and three possible dads...and a walk down memory lane for a mother and her true love," said guest director Nathan C. Hand.

Hand is no stranger to the stage, both as a performer and as production staff. He has collaborated in professional, non-profit and educational theatre for more than 25 years. He previously co-directed and co-choreographed The Producers with artistic director Mandy Seymore-Sensat at Inspiration Stage in the summer of 2015.

With dozens of acting and directing credits, Hand's favorite

collaborations are directing/choreographing a run of Aida, co-starring Tony Award winner Jarrod Emick, directing/choreographing the South Texas premiere of Disney's Tarzan, and productions/projects with Broadway's Richard H. Blake, Anthony Rapp (Broadway's RENT), Adam Jacobs (Broadway's Aladdin) and soap/serial veterans Robin Mattson (All my Children) and Catherine Hickland (One Life to Live).

"I am very excited to be back at Inspiration Stage this summer to direct and choreograph the campy, clever, family-friendly musical," Hand said. "The story unravels against the white-washed, blue-doored buildings of an enchanting Greek island with waters so blue, it aches your eyes."

MAMMA MIA! has an energetic cast of talented adults, ages 16 and above, from around the greater Houston area. MAMMA MIA! also marks the last show of Inspiration Stage's 2018/2019 season.

THREE WEEKENDS: 12 PERFORMANCES

July 26 at 8PM

July 27 at 8PM (No Matinee)

July 28 at 3PM

August 2 at 8PM

August 3 at 3PM and 8PM

August 4 at 3PM

August 8 at 8PM

August 9 at 8PM

August 10 at 3PM and 8PM

August 11 at 3PM

For tickets and information, visit www.inspirationstage.com.

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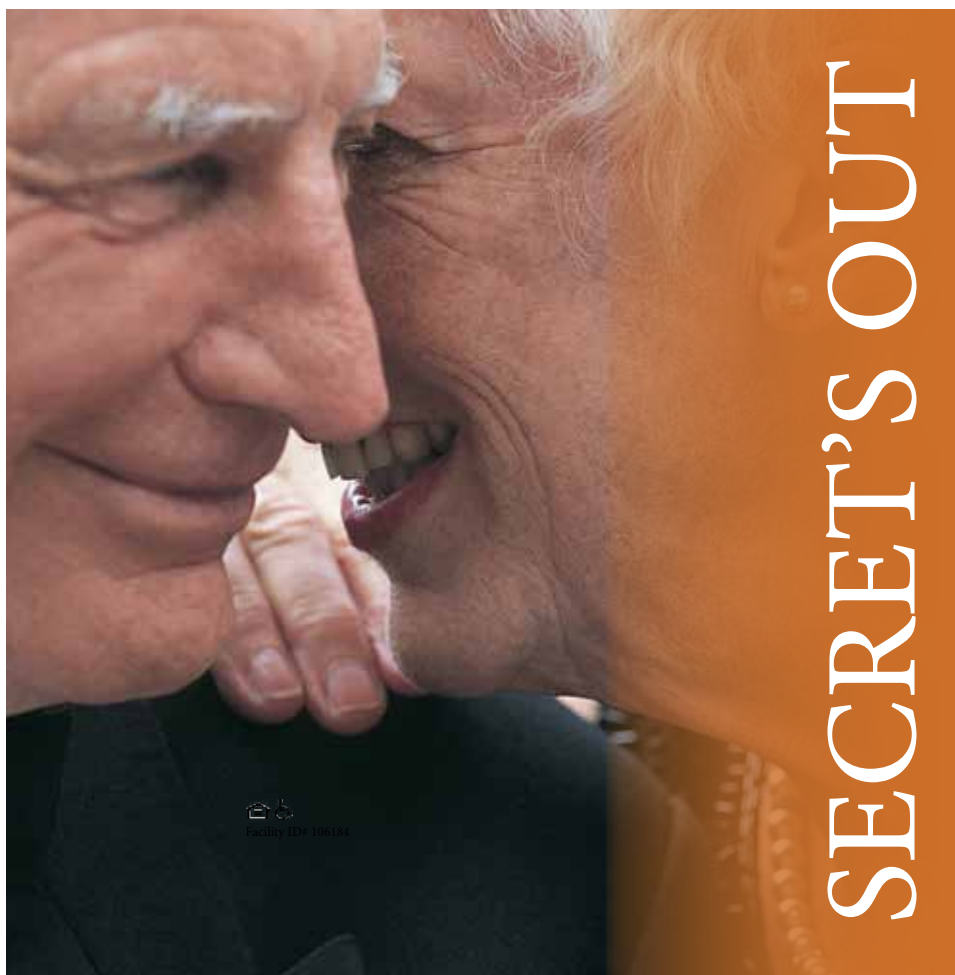




Sam (Max Morgan) and Donna (Megan Haines) in Inspiration Stage's MAMMA MIA!



Sky (Kiefer Slaton) and Sophie (Haley Hussey) in MAMMA MIA!



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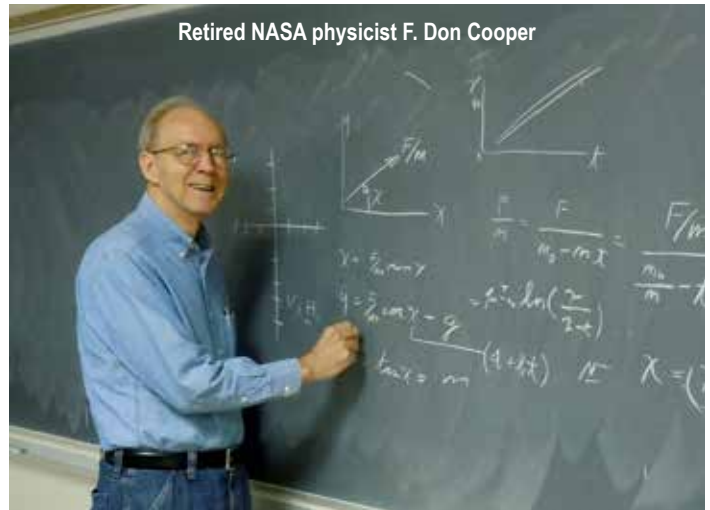
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MOON LANDING 50TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing, the George Memorial Library has a number of family activities planned to celebrate the momentous occasion from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, July 20 in the Meeting Room. Relive the memories of that historic day when man first set foot on the moon, and share them with younger generations.

The schedule of activities for the day is as follows:

- 11:00 a.m. - Doors open.
- 1:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. - Watch a timely documentary film, released in 2019, that focuses on the 1969 Apollo 11 mission - the first spaceflight to land men on the moon. Directed by Todd Douglas Miller, this cinematic event was crafted from conventional archival materials as well as a newly discovered trove of footage and more than 11,000 hours of uncatalogued audio recordings that were previously unreleased to the public. The absence of feature narration or present-day interviews allows viewers to experience the proceedings and emotions as they might have during the actual event. The documentary is rated G.
- 12:45 p.m. - Announcement: The Eagle has separated from the Command Module!
- 1:00-2:45 p.m. — “The Apollo Space Program” Retired NASA physicist F. Don Cooper will share his experiences creating the technology that helped launch Apollo 11 in 1969, and the efforts that his team went through to successfully bring the Apollo 13 crew home safely in 1970. He will also talk more specifically about how geometry, algebra, calculus, and classical mechanics were used to produce the Saturn V guidance equations.
- 3:00 pm - Watch “live” streaming of the original moon-landing



Retired NASA physicist F. Don Cooper

footage. Enjoy popular snacks from the summer of 1969 while counting down to the lunar landing at 3:17 pm. Refreshments are provided through the generous support of the Friends of the George Memorial Library.

Don Cooper will also give a presentation about the history of U.S. rockets, his role in the Apollo 11 and 13 missions, as well as how geometry, algebra, calculus, and classical mechanics were used to produce the Saturn V guidance equations, at the University Branch Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 on July 27.

SUMMERTIME HIGHLIGHTS

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

GEORGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The George Memorial Library will host several young adult programs, starting with **Board Game Day**, Wednesday, July 3 at 2 p.m. in Room 2C of the George Memorial Library. Teens who enjoy the challenge, excitement and competition of playing tabletop games or card games are invited to test their skills against one another at this special event for young adults entering high school in the fall. Games such as Munchkin®, Risk™, Clue™, Monopoly™, Codenames™, and Betrayal at House on the Hill™ will be on hand, but those attending the event are welcome to bring their own favorite games as well.

On July 10 and 24 at 2 p.m. in Room 2C, teens in grades 9-12 can explore their inner artist and discover new ways to express themselves during the library's **YA Art Hour**.

Teenagers who enjoy reading will enjoy the library's **Young Adult Book Club** which meets Wednesday July 10 at 4 p.m. in Room 2B. Teen readers in grades 9-12 will have an opportunity to meet with others who share the same love for good books, and have a lively discussion on the reasons a book or its characters were liked or disliked. This month, readers will talk about “Eleanor and Park,” written by Rainbow Rowell.

Then on July 17 at 2 p.m. in Room 2C, teens in grades 9-12 will

create wall art with glowing constellations in the library's craft program, **YA Constellation Wall Art**.

The month wraps up with **College Success: Effective Study Skills** on July 27 at 2 p.m. in the computer lab. Students will get tips and gain insight into ways to study more efficiently and



At 11:30 a.m. July 6 in the Meeting Room of the George Memorial Library. Members of the Second Street Brass ensemble will perform a selection of patriotic tunes representing past and present Americana. Second Street Brass members, from left are: Roger Bauer, Austin Reyna, John Hebert, Michael Gallegos and Mickey Tate.



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UNIVERSITY BRANCH LIBRARY PROGRAMS

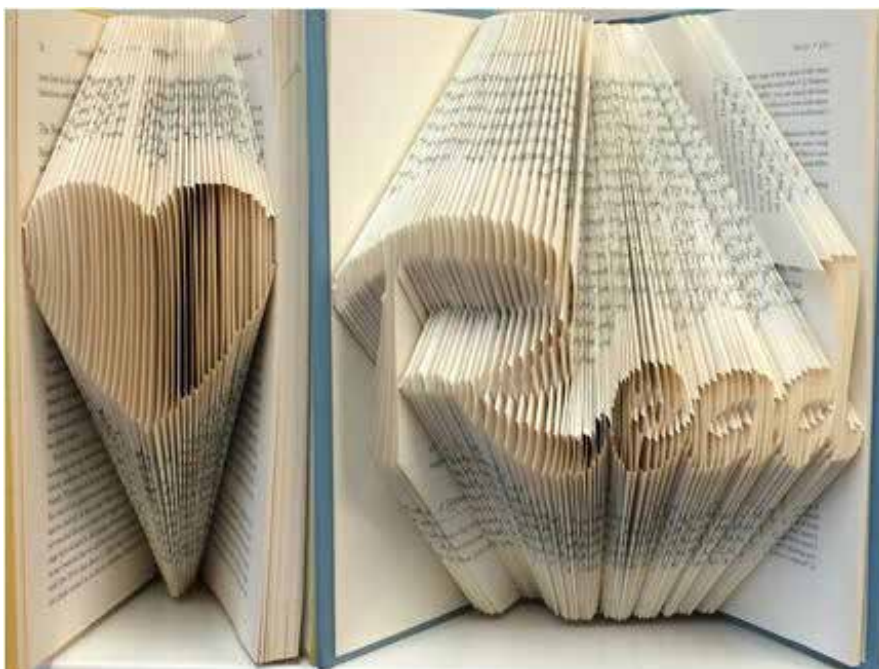
The University Branch Library will also offer youth-centric programs this summer, starting with **The Fairest Flip-Flop of Them All: A High School Craft Workshop** on July 11 at 3 p.m. in Meeting Room 2. Teens entering grades 9 through 12 can celebrate summertime by personalizing a fun pair of flip-flops. Bring a standard pair of rubber flip-flops to the workshop, and use accessories and adornments to create a unique pair of summertime footwear that will reflect the wearer's personal style. A limited number of flip-flops will be available for those who can't find any at home. Then on July 18 and Aug. 1, teens will have a chance at the **YA Summer Gaming Tourney** at 3 p.m. in Meeting Room 2. This summer-long teen-gaming tournament encompasses video games, board games, and card games. At each session, participants earn points toward their ranking. At the end of the summer, the points will be totaled and the top three gamers will be awarded a prize. The young adult program will wrap up with **Cookies & Canvas: A YA Painting Party** on July 25 at 3 p.m. in Meeting Room 2. Teens will enjoy snacking on cookies while learning to paint a simple beach scene. Materials and refreshments will be provided.

Master Gardeners plan kids camp

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners announce their Junior Master Gardener Earth-Kind Kids' Kamp to be held July 22-26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Bldg D in Rosenberg. The Kamp is open to children ages 8-12 and entering grades 3 through 6 for the 2019-2020 school year.

Master Gardener volunteers will mentor each group and lead daily activities which will include several guest speakers during the week. Space is limited so remember to register early. The \$75 fee for the Kamp includes activities, a T-shirt, snacks, and drinks.

Kampers should dress for gardening and outside activities, including closed-toed shoes, and bring a sack lunch each day (no microwavable food). Visit fbmg.org/youth-education/ to print



The University Branch Library will present "Folded-Book Hearts" on July 20 at 2 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 when library staff will demonstrate how to take an old book and make words and images by folding the pages. No cutting, gluing, or special equipment is needed for this simple craft project. The project is a fun way to re-use old books and give them a new purpose. The resulting piece of art can be a great gift for someone who loves to read. Reservations required.

and complete the EK3 Kids' Kamp Participation and Waiver. For questions or additional information contact Margo "Mac" McDowell at mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu or 281-633-7033.

Summer Reading Challenge underway

Fort Bend County Libraries presents special reading challenges during the summer to encourage reading among children from birth and up, as well as teens and adults. "A Universe of Stories" is the theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Online registration for the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge began in May and will continue through Aug. 31, at all Fort Bend County Libraries locations. Library programs and activities for children begin during the week of June 3, and continue through July 27.

Adventurers Wanted: A Summer D&D Event

On Saturday, July 27 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., adults and teens aged 13 and up who are fans of the Dungeons & Dragons® fantasy, tabletop, role-playing game, are invited to stretch their imaginations and practice their problem-solving skills while meeting and socializing with others who enjoy role-playing games. In this 3-part summer adventure at the George Memorial Library in Room 2B, eight brave adventurers are tasked with solving the mystery of why constellations have been disappearing from the sky. Each month will feature a different, stand-alone part of the mystery, so adventurers may choose to attend individual sessions or the whole series to enjoy the full story. All experience levels are welcome. Characters will be available for use, but participants may bring their own character as long as they are level 1. Registration required.

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The George Memorial Library host Family Story Time on Saturdays at 10 a.m. when families with children of all ages are invited to come and enjoy stories, movies and crafts together. On July 13 Professor Hughdini will perform his magical "Show of Wonders."

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY BRANCH LIBRARY

Mother Goose Time: Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Provides caregiver/infant multisensory circle-time activities — including simple sign language, folksongs and lullabies, and finger plays — that are especially designed to stimulate babies' social, emotional, and physical development through rhythm and music. Mother Goose Time is intended for infants from age 1 month to 12 months. This activity will not take place on July 29.

Toddler Time: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Offers caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 12 to 36 months of age. This activity will not take place on July 30 and 31.

Preschool Story Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Presents stories, movies, and age-appropriate craft activities for children 3 to 6 years of age. This activity will not take place on July 4.

Pajama Night Story Time:

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Gives families an evening option for some activities presented during the day time. This activity will not take place on July 31.

Rise & Shine Family Story Time:

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Families with children of all ages are invited to come and enjoy stories, movies, and crafts together.

Special Family Programs:

Mondays at 2:30 p.m.

Activities for families with children of all ages in Meeting Room 1. The library is not able to accommodate daycares or school groups at these activities. The July schedule is as follows: July 1 - Amazing Magical Balloon Show; July 8 - Tom's Fun Band; July 15 - Free Play LEGO® Day; July 22 - Craft Carnival.

Middle School Programs:

Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

The July schedule is as follows: July 2 - Connect-4 Tournament; July 9 - Knick-Knack Know-How; July 16 - Comic-Book Creations; July 23 - Back to the Bone.

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GRHS 'Law Day' attracts future peace officers

Story and photos by **AVERIL GLEASON** | agleason@fbherald.com

Police officers from Rosenberg, Meadows Place, Houston and Fulshear, the Fort Bend County EMS and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, surrounded George Ranch High School one Tuesday morning, and for three hours, hundreds of students from George Ranch, Terry, Texas City and Angleton high schools had the opportunity to participate in the Law Day.

The idea of Law Day started with George Ranch law enforcement teacher Claudia Urbina six years ago.

"I went to a magnet high school that focused on law enforcement, and they held a Law Week," Urbina started. "Of course, we're not going to do a whole week. So, in January, I started contacting different departments and agencies to make sure they could attend.

"The kids love this. They learn so much."

Urbina explained that Law Day gives students the opportunity to see the different types of not only agencies, but divisions of what they actually do.

Senior Thomas Castellano said when he graduates, he will begin working in law enforcement.

"I want to work in the Rosenberg jail," Castellano said. "And then once I turn 21, I'll go to the police academy so I can become a police officer."

Senior Dalen Swain said when he graduates, he's going to join

the U.S. Army.

"I'm all about coordination around here," Swain boasted. "I definitely helped set things up. I make sure everyone is where they should be."

Rosenberg Police Community Resource Officer Mike Bradley offered free mugs to students who answered law-related questions correctly. When asked the blood alcohol content level was considered as intoxicated, sophomore Anthony Leon originally said 0.8.

"That's when you're dead," community resource officer Justin Rogers interjected with a laugh.

"Oh, uh, 0.08," Leon said, correcting himself. Leon left the RPD tent with a mug in his hand and a smile on his face.

"It's great seeing these kids want to learn about safety and law enforcement," Bradley said. "I see a lot of bright futures here."

Students also had the opportunity to sit inside the SWAT truck and climb aboard the Fort Bend County EMS Am-Bus.

After Law Day, the George Ranch culinary class prepared a lunch for the law enforcement officers.

"I joke that the different departments and agencies come back every year because we feed them, but this year the U.S. Army sponsored the luncheon," Urbina revealed. "They like coming back just as much as we enjoy having them here."



1 George Ranch High School senior Miles Davis checks out a Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle at Law Day Tuesday.

2 Thomas Castellano, law enforcement teacher Claudia Urbino and Dalen Swain smile on Law Day.

3 George Ranch High School senior Maria Gleason shows off a pen she received from the Rosenberg Police Department tent.

4 George Ranch High School senior Sophia Sharp texts and drives in a distracted driving course

5 Garrett Arredondo tries out an impaired driving simulator.

6 George Ranch High School junior Julian Flores lifts weight at the Army tent.



Dept. Chief Mike Nixon speaks to Ethan Garcia, Madeline Roberts and Sadaka Arastu about the Fort Bend County EMS Am-bus.



George Ranch High School sophomore Anthony Leon talks with Rosenberg Police Officer Mike Bradley

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Calvary Episcopal Preparatory

Calvary Episcopal Preparatory One Act Play State Competition results

by KRISTA KUPERUS

It is not often that a middle school has the opportunity to compete for, much less capture, a state title in academics, sports, or the arts. This year, was the year it happened for Calvary Episcopal Preparatory's new 3 year old competitive group. From the first level of competition, Calvary's one act play won the district 1st place and on April 13th CEP competed against 6 district winning private schools throughout Texas for the state finals. Calvary is pleased to announce that students, performing *The Yellow Boat*, won first place OAP in the state. Last year, when Calvary won 3rd place in the State the judges recognized Paul Lazarou as Best Actor. This year, he received that award for a second consecutive year.

Calvary students worked countless hours to prepare what one



Cast Crew & Directors – left to right – Co-Director Troy Menn, Jade Holloway, Kenzi Patton, Nadya Golovine, Aubree Kuperus, Dori Soward, Stacey Smith, Immanuel Fadaïro, Karsyn Jones, Paul Lazarou, Genesis Griffin, Rachel Lazarou, Maddie Iversen, Drove Churchwell, Irene Farris, Sasha Golovine, Kate Wheelless, Langley Guidry, Charlie McDonald, Co-Director Paula Smith and Emily Mandery

of the judges described as the “best part of my day,” and another said “...breathtaking and beautiful.”

Additional state awards include: Best Actor, Paul Lazarou; All Star Cast, Rachel Lazarou; All Star Cast, the entire ensemble (which is very rarely awarded): Aubree Kuperus, Irene Farris, Kenzi Patton, Stacey Smith, Emily Mandery, Karsyn Jones, Dori Soward, Kate Wheelless, Langley Guidry, and Nadya Golovine; Honorable Mention, Immanuel Fadaïro.

There were also outstanding performances by supporting actors Maddie Iverson and Drove Churchwell And, our tech crew provided beautiful lighting and music for our production: Charlie McDonald, Genesis Griffin, Sasha Golovine and Jade Holloway.



Paul Lazarou receiving his award for PSIA State Best Actor in the One Act Play presentation of the “Yellow Boat” by David Saar

Holy Rosary Catholic School

holds 8th-grade graduation exercises

On May 23, families and friends gathered to honor the Holy Rosary Catholic School Eighth grade Class of 2019.

The evening began with a Mass officiated by Father Orrin.

At mass the graduates were presented with their diplomas.

The mass was followed by dinner and an awards ceremony in the parish hall.

At the awards ceremony the graduates were recognized for their many accomplishments. Gracie Stavinoha earned the honor of Valedictorian and Fabiana Bracho earned the honor of salutatorian.

Every year the Award of Excellence is given to eighth grade students chosen by their teachers and based on their demonstration of faith, strong work ethic, courage, and fortitude.

This year's recipients were Lauren Morrison and Logan Vacek.

Each year this award is given in honor of a different Holy Rosary Catholic Church family who exemplify the spirit of faith, a giving spirit, and for their support of parish and school.

This year's Award of Excellence was given in honor of the Al-Jazrawi Family.



Lauren Morrison and Logan Vacek earned the Award of Excellence trophies. This year's award was named in honor of the Al-Jazrawi family. From left are Morrison, Vacek, Principal Linda Bradford and Gina Nelson representing the Al-Jazrawis.



Holy Rosary Catholic School eighth-graders graduating were, front row, from left, are Alex Smith and Elisa Collins. Second row, from left, are Lana Samora, ShayAnn Boettcher, Lauren Morrison, Gracie Stavinoha. Third row, from left, are Fabiana Bracho, William Wymack, Jonathan Koliba, Breccan Healey, Rudy Barragan, Anne New. Back row, from left, are Anthony Taormina, Alberto Moran, Logan Vacek and Joseph Engelking.



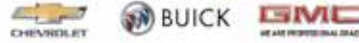
Fabiana Bracho was named class salutatorian. From left are Principal Linda Bradford, AnneMarie and Rick Hail representing the Knights of Columbus, and Bracho.



Gracie Stavinoha was named valedictorian. From left are Principal Linda Bradford, AnneMarie, Stavinoha and Rick Hail representing the Knights of Columbus.

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July

RICHMOND

July 2

SUMMER JUNIOR GOLF CAMP

Presented by PGA Golf Director Dave Esch, the Pecan Grove Country Club is hosting golf summer camps every week in July and most of August from 9 a.m. to noon. July's camps are 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Contact Dave Esch at 281-342-9945 or desch@pecangrovecc.com with questions.

July 6

TEXAS TALKS: FAMOUS TEXAS RANGERS

Dr. Nicholas Cox, a U.S. History professor at Houston Community College and the University of Houston-Victoria, will share fascinating stories of some of the most notable Texas Rangers throughout the history of the organization at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the George Memorial Library.

MEET THE ARTISTS

The 310 Gallery in Richmond will host Meet the Artists Reception from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. The artists will be on hand to meet and mingle. Refreshments will be served.

July 11

LET'S LEARN ORIGAMI!

From 5:30-7 p.m. in Room 2C of the George Memorial Library, learn how to make an elegant decoration or gift from a simple piece of paper. Library staff will demonstrate how to create a flying swan and a dolphin by simply folding and twisting paper into whimsical shapes.

July 18

STORY SPINNERS WRITING CLUB

From 5:30-8 p.m. in Room 2C of the George Memorial Library's Story Spinner Writing Club will discuss the topic "Flow." From beginning blogger to published novelist, writers of all genres and experience levels are welcome to write, share, learn, support, network, and critique each other's work. Writing prompts, brainteasers, and brief exercises will be available to ignite the imaginations of any and all wordsmiths who wish to hone their craft. This program is recommended for adults and teens aged 14 and up.

BOOK BREAK

"My Name is Lucy Barton," written by Elizabeth Strout will be the book discussed at the George Memorial Library at noon in

Room 2A. A variety of popular fiction is discussed in this book club, which meets on the third Thursday of every month. Those attending may bring a lunch.

July 20

HEAVY INKS GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

At 11 a.m. in Room 2B of the George Memorial Library, readers of all ages who enjoy illustrated novels and comic books are invited to join this book club specifically for graphic-novel enthusiasts. For July, readers will discuss *The Amazing Spider-Man: Kraven's Last Hunt*, by J.M. DeMatteis. This book club meets on the third Saturday of every month.

July 23

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BUSINESS

At 2 p.m. in the computer lab of the George Memorial Library, library staff will provide an overview of different online, social-media platforms that can be used to grow a business, connect with existing customers, reach new customers, and increase brand loyalty. Learn about the differences between sites such as Yelp, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Snapchat. Get tips on how to choose which platform to use based on how much time, energy, and money is available. Registration required.

July 29

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR

Start your week off by sharing a cup of coffee, exchanging news or a corny joke, and chatting with friends at the George Memorial Library's monthly social hour celebrating the multitude of diverse cultures found in Fort Bend County at 9 a.m. in the Meeting Room. People of all nationalities are invited to this informal gathering to get to know one another, share cultural experiences, and learn something new and fascinating about each other in a casual and comfortable environment. The International Coffee Hour will take place on the last Monday of every month.

ROSENBERG

July 2

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION & SENIOR TALENT SHOW

Seniors from across Fort Bend & Waller counties will come together at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, at 1330 Band Rd. in Rosenberg, to celebrate the 4th of July and participate in a senior talent show from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

July 4

BINGO KNIGHT

Join the Knights of Columbus Fort Bend for Bingo every Thursday night this month with max payouts. Doors open at 5 p.m., first games starts at 7:15P p.m. at 2007 Kay Cee Drive in Rosenberg, Food and bar will be available.

July 16

YOUTH FASHION WEEK SUMMER CAMP PLANNED

The Fort Bend County Texas AgriLife Extension Service will host a Youth Fashion Week summer camp on July 16-19 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Extension Office, 1402 Band Road, Suite 100, in Rosenberg. The event is open to all youth ages 10-17 years of age. Cost is \$95. Forms can be found online at fortbend.agrilife.org/fch/youth-camps/ or by calling 281-342-3034.

FULSHEAR AREA

July 6

CROCHET WORKSHOP: AMIGURUMI

A crochet workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library. Amigurumi is the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting small stuffed animals or figures. In this hands-on adult craft class for individuals aged 16 and above, novices and experienced crafters alike can learn how to create these imaginative toys. Library staff member Marie Picon will demonstrate the simple stitch that is needed to crochet the small, stuffed figures in the Japanese pop-art-inspired style known as amigurumi. Learn the secrets to stitching perfect spheres and other shapes. Discover how a variety of characters can be made, including adorable tiny animals, people look-alikes, or colorful monsters. No previous crochet experience is necessary.

July 10

YA: PATCHES-PALOOZA

At the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library from 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room, teens entering grades 9-12 will find inspiration for creatively embellishing clothing with sew-on patches. Learn appliqué sewing techniques and get ideas for personalizing a jacket, jeans, or other items of clothing with fun patches. Those attending this hands-on workshop are encouraged to bring an item of clothing for embellishment (with parents' permission). All materials for this workshop will be provided.

July 13

WALLIS AMERICAN LEGION CRAFT SHOW

The 16th Annual Wallis American Legion Craft Show will be held Saturday, July 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall Post 200, 330 Legion Road in Wallis. Over 30 vendors offering a wide variety of handmade crafts and canned goods. The Legion will be selling hamburgers and barbecue sandwiches for lunch each day and the Ladies Auxiliary will have a bake sale. Admission is \$1 for hourly door prizes. For information on booth spaces call Joyce at 281 743-3678.

July 15

FULSHEAR BOOK CLUB

Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library's Fulshear Book Club will meet at noon in the Meeting Room to discuss "When Breath Becomes Air," written by Paul Kalanithi.

July 22

FULSHEAR NIGHT READERS GUILD

Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library's Fulshear Night Readers Guild will meet 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room to be discuss "The Razor's Edge," a novel written by W. Somerset Haugham.



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JULY 4TH EVENTS NEAR YOU

RED, WHITE AND BOOM | The City of Sugar Land's Red, White and Boom Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, July 4, from 4-10 p.m., at The Crown Festival Park, 18355 Southwest Freeway. Information will be updated at www.sugarlandtx.gov/915/Red-White-and-Boom

JULY 4: AN AMERICAN TRADITION | The George Ranch Historical Park celebrates the country's annual birthday with some old-fashioned game play from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on July 4. All activities are included with general admission. For more information, call 281-343-0218 or email info@georgeranch.org.

JULY 4TH BASH | Held from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy, this celebration, featuring radio partner 104.1 KRBE, includes live music by Velvet Punch and Darwin Macon Band, an interactive kids zone and food and drink for purchase from several of our restaurants. The evening wraps up with a spectacular 20-minute firework show beginning at 9:15 p.m.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION | Missouri City's annual 4th of July Celebration will feature a variety of entertainment, activities and tasty treats. Seating is available in the Thurgood Marshall High School stadium. Fireworks show beginning at 9:15 p.m.

FAMILY 4TH CELEBRATION | The City of Rosenberg will host the Family 4th Celebration at Seabourne Creek Nature Parks from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on July 4. The Kids Zone will have inflatable bounce houses and activities. There will be face painting along with horse-drawn wagon rides through the Nature Park. Food vendors will be lined up selling cold treats and patriotic eats. Steel Country is this year's band and will perform on the main stage from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The much anticipated firework show will end the evening.

FULSHEAR FREEDOM FEST | Hosted by Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fulshear Freedom Fest is set for 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. in Downtown Fulshear.



Molly and Ryan Thompson's daughters Anna Kate Thompson, 5 and Harper Thompson, 4, of Greatwood are excited for the July 4th holiday.



SUGAR LAND

July 7

FARMER'S MARKET

Experience the Sugar Land Farmers Market every Sunday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Edward Mercer Stadium, 16431 Lexington Blvd, Sugar Land, Texas. Hosted by Farmers Market Partners, the market will feature fresh produce from the farm, pasture raised eggs/beef/chicken and more. Local honey direct from the bee farm, artisanal foods, gourmet treats, food trucks and more. Pets welcome.

July 18

SUMMER WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Hosted by Ivory & Noire, this class will be held from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at 7225 Greatwood Parkway. Learn to create a summer wreath with faux florals to decorate your home from instructor Anna Watts who has been a floral designer for over 20 years. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-wreath-making-workshop-tickets-55605909773

July 27

MINION DOMINION

Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center will present Minion Dominion from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. You're invited to go bananas during an epic day of despicable fun and indecipherable nonsense. Head to the Museum, at 198 Kempner St. in Sugar Land, for a one-in-a-Minion chance to

meet your favorite goggle-wearing henchmen and the not-so-evil Gru from "Despicable Me" during a fan celebration. Participate in Minion-inspired activities including building your own Minion. Visit www.childrensdiscoveryfb.org/event/minion-dominion.



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Fort Bend County pays tribute to those who paid the ultimate price for freedom

Photos by **SCOTT REESE WILLEY**

More than 100 young men from Fort Bend County made the ultimate sacrifice for their country — their lives. Their 125 names are etched on a granite marker standing beside the county courthouse in Richmond. Fort Bend County residents gathered in front of the marker during a solemn Memorial Day ceremony to remember those who paid the highest price for freedom. “We cannot thank them enough,” said Richmond Mayor Evelyn Moore. “I have never had the privilege of serving, but I have enjoyed the fruits of their sacrifice. We are eternally grateful.”





9

- 1 Veterans Roy Clark and Tim Krugh place a wreath in front of the granite memorial commemorating Fort Bend County's war dead during a solemn Memorial Day ceremony at the County Courthouse.
- 2 Veteran Bobby Rohan salutes during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. He'll shortly take over as commander of American Legion Post 271 in Rosenberg.
- 3 Bob Smith plays "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipe during a Memorial Day ceremony.
- 4 At right, veterans Abraham Boettcher, right, and Juan Diaz place a wreath for the Richmond American Legion Post 567 at the foot of a memorial marker at the Fort Bend County Courthouse.
- 5 Ken Dillon and Brian Satsky set a wreath at the base of the memorial marker standing beside the Fort Bend County Courthouse.
- 6 Fort Bend County veterans of foreign wars stand at ease during the first-ever city of Rosenberg Memorial Day ceremony at the civic center. From left are Brian Satsky, Ken Dillon, Tim Krugh, Graham Baer, Roy Clark and Ed Kegley, all members of the VFW Post 3903 in Rosenberg.
- 7 The Terry High School Air Force Junior Reserve Office Training Corps served as honor guard during the first-ever city of Rosenberg Memorial Day ceremony at the Rosenberg Civic Center. From left are Mattew Martinez, Chris Ryan, Carlos Flores, Jacob Romero, Michala Borowiak, Katelyn Ybarra, Isabella Brammer, Angelica Romero, Destiny Burnham and Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Bellard.
- 8 The Wallis American Legion Post No. 200 Ladies Auxiliary co-hosted the Memorial Day ceremony. Standing, from left, are Mickie Poliquin, Annie Mae Korenek, Mary Kulhanek, Alice Gabrys, Tillie Sell, Joyce Giese, Mary Watkins and Barbara Hubenak. Sitting, from left, are Pauline Alvarado, Patricia "Mama Pat" Byas and Delores Felcman. The post celebrated its 85th anniversary this year.
- 9 Veterans Doug Ledkins, left, Andy Anel and Kenneth Jan, salute the flag during a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday at the Fort Bend County Courthouse.



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Coffee with the Court

Photos by **SCOTT REESE WILLEY**

Fort Bend County Court-At-Law No. 4 Judge Toni Wallace, who took office in January, introduced herself and her courtroom staff to members of the public, courthouse staff, defense attorneys and prosecutors during the Coffee with the Court event.



1 Veronica Pina, left, and Pina's mother Carmen Pina, presented a plaque of appreciation to Fort Bend County Court-At-Law No. 4 Judge. Toni Wallace, center. Veronica Pina is president of the Fort Bend County Tejano Democrats, which supported Wallace in her race for office last November. Carmen is the chapter treasurer.

2 Randy Morse with the Fort Bend County Attorney's Office and attorney Ariel Harris ask Wallace a few questions about her role as judge.

3 Judge Wallace, right, explains her duties during trial to Stephanie Clark Davis and Lorretta Owens.

4 Judge Wallace poses for a photo with Eva Howard, 3. Eva's dad, Eugene, brought his daughter from Brazoria County to meet the judge. Eugene is president of the Brazoria County NAACP chapter and was hoping a meeting with the judge would be an inspiration to his daughter.

5 Lee King shares a laugh with Judge Wallace. King was among two dozen or more attorneys, prosecutors, courthouse staff to attend the get-together.

6 Attorney Mario Martinez with the Katy law firm of Martinez & McGuire introduces himself to Judge Wallace.

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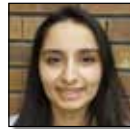
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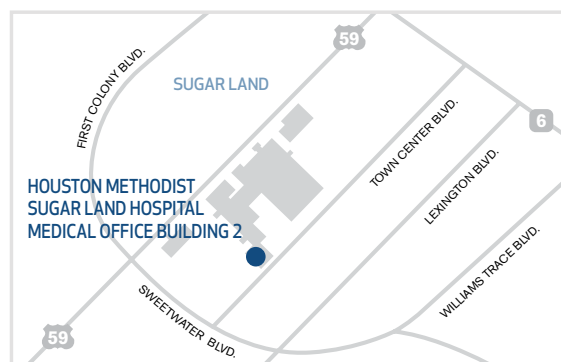
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WCJC Associate Degree Nursing Program graduates 28 students

Twenty-eight students have earned their Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing from Wharton County Junior College.

A pinning and lighting ceremony was held on May 15 at the Pioneer Student Center on the Wharton campus. Valedictorian of the Class of 2019 was Jocelyn Drawhorn of Palacios. Salutatorian was Jadie Morales of Richmond.

Graduates named to the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society included Drawhorn, Morales, Amanda Cortez-Garza of Bay City, Alexandria Hinds of Sugar Land, Shana Lara of West Columbia, Melanie Middleton of Katy, Jeremiah Moore of Pledger and Kaitlyn Noiseux of Needville.

Other graduates were Adewale Adegboyega of Houston, Chris Arevale of Richmond, Jessica Arrott of Sugar Land, Elizabeth Boyd of Katy, Maria Colunga of Rosenberg, Luis Contreras of Richmond, Jennifer Corbett of East Bernard, Sarah Deleza of Bay City, Wendy Frank of Sealy, Viridiana Garcia of Richmond, Lindsey Gonzalez of Needville, Karina Lopez of Bay City, Jailene Pena of El Campo, Reba Rios of East Bernard, Ryan Samuel of Rosenberg, Mary Elizabeth Segura of Rosenberg, Lydia Thomas of Richmond, Monica Vargas of Boling, Veronica Vega of Rock Island and Shelby Wingfield of Missouri City.



Twenty-eight students earned their Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing from Wharton County Junior College. Front row, left to right, are Amanda Cortez-Garza of Bay City, Alexandria Hinds of Sugar Land, Jocelyn Drawhorn of Palacios, Karina Lopez of Bay City, Viridiana Garcia of Richmond, Maria Colunga of Rosenberg, Jailene Pena of El Campo, Shelby Wingfield of Missouri City, Reba Rios of East Bernard and Veronica Vega of Rock Island. Middle row, left to right, are Adewale Adegboyega of Houston, Monica Vargas of Boling, Shana Lara of West Columbia, Mary Elizabeth Segura of Rosenberg, Lydia Thomas of Richmond, Jessica Arrott of Sugar Land, Melanie Middleton of Katy, Elizabeth Boyd of Katy, Lindsey Gonzalez of Needville and Jennifer Corbett of East Bernard. Back row, left to right, are Kaitlyn Noiseux of Needville, Chris Arevale of Richmond, Luis Contreras of Richmond, Jadie Morales of Richmond, Wendy Frank of Sealy, Sarah Deleza of Bay City, Ryan Samuel of Rosenberg and Jeremiah Moore of Pledger.

New 3D technology helps doctors identify early-stage lung tumors

Doctors at Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital are using innovative 3D mapping technology to identify lung tumors at their earliest stages, increasing the ability to successfully treat the disease.

The new navigation system, uses electromagnetic sensors – placed on a patient’s chest throughout a regular CT scan — and proprietary software to navigate the bronchoscope through the lungs, even incorporating the patient’s breathing patterns. The result is an exceptionally detailed pathway to potential lesions.

“Because of the complexity of the bronchial system and movements related to breathing in and out, navigation with a bronchoscope can be a challenge,” said Priya Oolut, M.D., board-certified pulmonologist with Houston Methodist Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine Specialists. “The navigation system gives us a detailed, 3D roadmap that is in synch with the patient’s breathing movements and even calculates the shortest path to a lesion. This makes it easier to identify and reach potential tumors for



biopsy or removal, even the smallest nodules at the periphery of the lungs.”

The SPiN Thoracic Navigation System, by medical manufacturer Veran Medical also includes sensor-tipped instruments that give doctors precise location information as they move the bronchoscope and associated tools through the lung. Since it can be used for screening, biopsy and tumor location marking can be done in a single procedure, reducing the need for multiple hospital visits and lower patient risks.

“In the past, lung cancer often went undetected until it was significantly advanced and difficult to treat,” said Suneesh Nair, M.D., board-certified pulmonologist at Houston Methodist Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine Specialists. “The new navigation system is a major step forward, enabling us to identify, locate and biopsy tumors at their earliest stage. Studies show that when lung cancer is found early, the 10-year survival rate is higher than 90%, significantly better than at later stages when the cancer has likely spread. At Houston Methodist Sugar Land,

the navigation system is a critical tool in our efforts to screen and diagnose high-risk patients earlier than ever before.”

For more information on this 3D mapping technology, call our oncology nurse navigator at 281.672.8585 or to schedule an appointment with Houston Methodist Pulmonology and Sleep Med-

icine Specialists call 281.325.0005.

To learn more about Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, visit houstonmethodist.org/sugarland or our Facebook page at fb.com/methodistsugarland for the latest news, events and information.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHT

Community-wide baby shower set for Aug. 1

Houston Methodist Childbirth Center at Sugar Land invites new and expectant moms — along with their partners and babies — to the annual Community Baby Shower from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m on Thursday, Aug. 1.

This event will be held in the Brazos Pavilion Conference Center on the Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital campus.

The event will feature demonstrations on how to safely use baby carriers, presentations on the importance of safe sleeping practices, and a Sugar Land police officer will speak about car seat safety. In addition, lactation consultants from the Childbirth Center will be available to talk one-on-one with moms and provide guidance and support.

“This is a great opportunity for new moms to speak directly with someone who understands their concerns,” said Donna Timmer, lactation consultant. “There will be great discussions and information provided at this event; it’s been a very beneficial experience for our attendees in previous years.”



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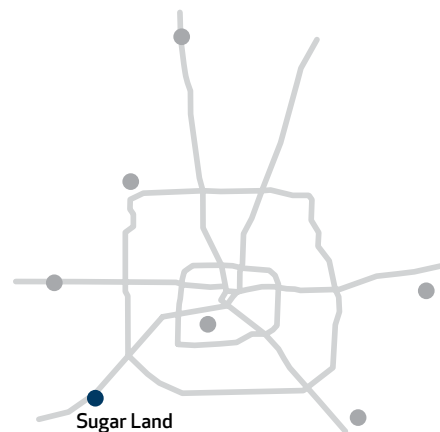
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