

JULY 2019

# PECAN GROVE

monthly

## NINA STRUTHERS

continues to illustrate sights  
around Fort Bend

**PLUS** One family's drive  
to find a cure for  
the rare GNAO1 mutation



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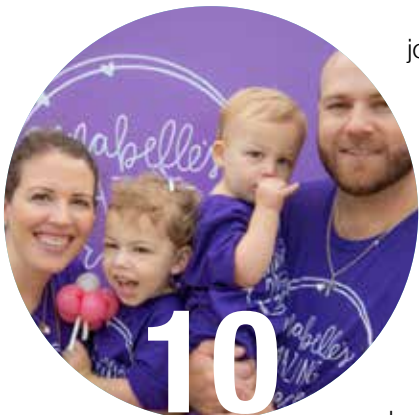


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monthly™

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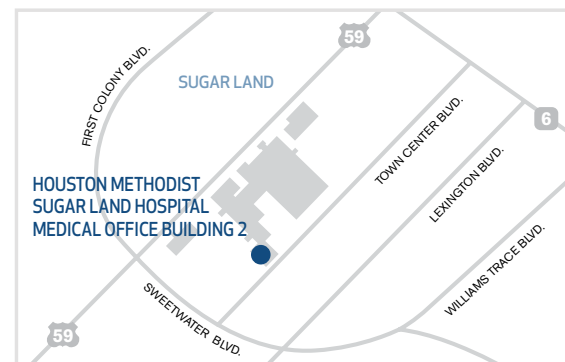
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## Being an *artist* was never a question for Richmond illustrator Nina Struthers

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.

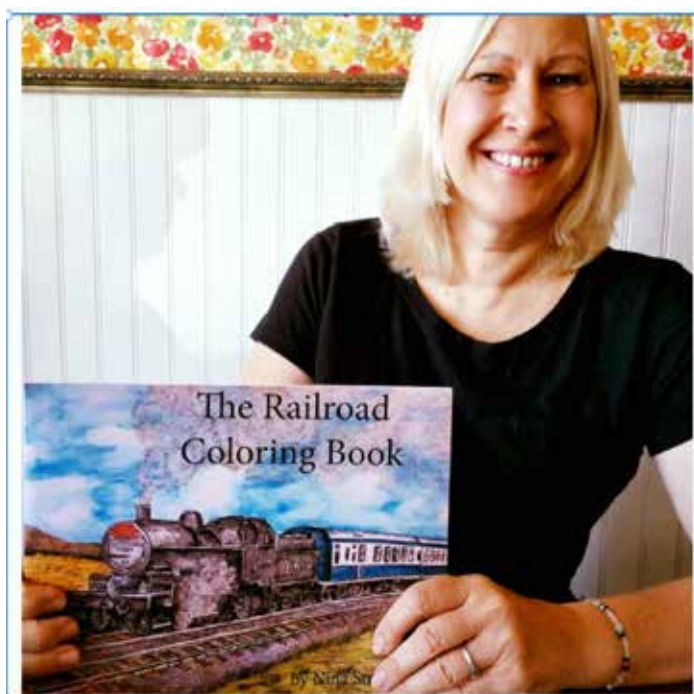


Illustrator and printmaker, Nina Struthers-Macejewski, creates artwork capturing images around Fort Bend County, namely in Richmond, Rosenberg and Sugar Land. Nina — who has a grown daughter, Sarah, who is a doctor — lives in Richmond with her husband Larry Macejewski.





Downtown Rosenberg



Nina has a collection of coloring books available for sale on amazon.com and locally.

"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, 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 Silverston, 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.

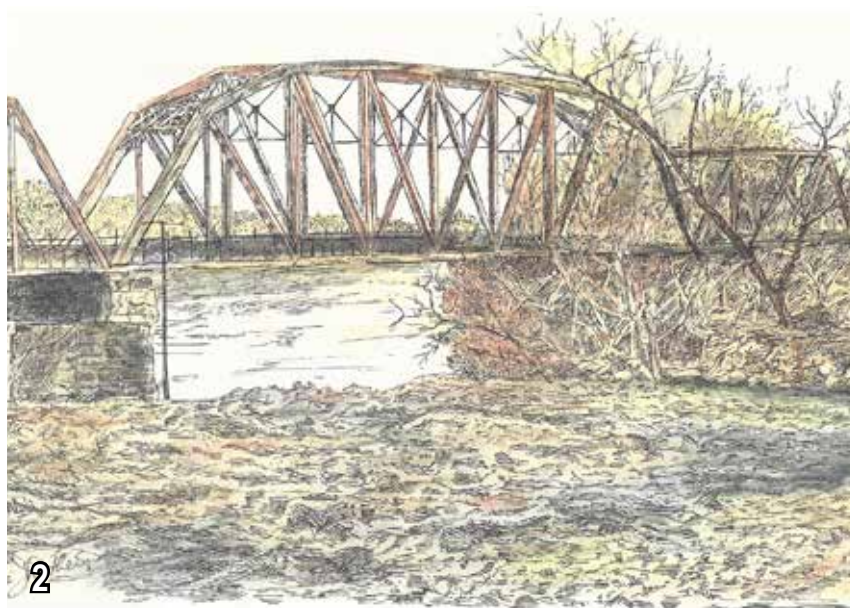
Struthers is also a member of The Art League of Fort Bend where a collection of her local work is on display for the summer and she is leading a printmaking workshop at the 310 Gallery in Richmond, where she has also shown her work.

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."





1. Fort Bend County Courthouse

2. 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."

3. Jane Long Elementary student Angel Miranda's winning design for the mural in Richmond's Clay Park.

4. 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.

5. 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.

## Follow Nina Struthers







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Photo courtesy of Kelly Anne Barron Photography | Annabelle van Deursen with her little brother James. "From day one she has been so lovable and patient with him. They are best friends, two peas in a pod. Annabelle has made tremendous progress since James has been born, a little sibling rivalry has been the best thing for her," said their mother Shelley with a smile. "They play so well together, I'm so thankful for their relationship."

## Amazing Annabelle

A daughter's rare disorder sparks the search for a cure

by **MARQUITA GRIFFIN** | [mgriffin@fbherald.com](mailto:mgriffin@fbherald.com)

It took a year for Daniel and Shelley van Deursen to receive the answer to the question that had been gnawing at their minds. The couple wondered if there was a developmental delay they were witnessing because, at six months old, their daughter Annabelle wasn't sitting up on her own.

"I felt she was a little behind [but] I was told a lot that I was a first-time mom and every child develops differently, which I understand to a point," said Shelley. "This continued and she still wasn't able to sit up on her own at nine months which resulted in us having a consult with neurology."

Still the answer wasn't immediately revealed. It remained obscured, while every conceivable concern and worry plagued Shelley and her husband.

"Every single test we were doing, almost monthly, was coming back negative," she said. "As she got older, I started to really see how behind she was than other kids her age. She never regressed, but very slowly made progress. So slowly that I knew it was something serious."

After weekly physical therapy, scores of tests, consults with a neurologist every three months, and fighting with insurance over a Trio WES, Annabelle, who is now 3 years old, was diagnosed with a GNAO1 mutation, a rare neurological disorder that can cause, among other symptoms, developmental delays, abnormal movements, early infantile seizures, irregular muscle contractions

(chorea), involuntary movements of the face and tongue (dyskinesia) and poor muscle tone (hypotonia).

To date there is no cure.

"Through research and more children being diagnosed, we are finding out that GNAO1 is a little trickier than just a simple diagnosis," Shelley said. "Within the diagnosis there are different variants, and each child seems to be different, even if they have the same variant."

The disorder has caused Annabelle to have developmental delays and dystonia, which is a movement disorder.

"She doesn't walk or talk, although she is completely cognitively appropriate for her age," Shelley said, noting that the disorder "seems to affect these children on a cellular level in the brain."

Considering her and her husband's experience, Shelley offers advice to others parents who may be concerned with what their child is, or isn't, doing: "Follow your instinct more than anything, and push for tests to be done for your child."

"There may not always be an answer," she continued. "We were warned her results might come up as not diagnosed. There are a lot of disorders that have not been found yet, but as parents we must never give up on helping our children live their best lives with the support or resources they need."



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The van Duersens family at Annabelle's Amazing Graces benefit held in April. Proceeds from the event were donated to research for a cure to GNAO1 mutation. "We pray and believe that with God and modern medicine, we will have a cure for GNAO1 one day," Shelley said.

## A FLOURISHING FAITH

The day the phone call came providing Annabelle's diagnosis, the van Deursens were shattered.

"The only question I had was life expectancy," remembered Shelley, who was pregnant with her second child, James, at the time.

But the doctors couldn't answer Shelley because they didn't know, so the hysteria flowed out, right along with Shelley's tears. Still, the van Deursens didn't abandon hope. Shelley said she and Daniel already had a solid Catholic faith foundation, but following Annabelle's diagnosis, their "faith in God increased abundantly."

"The most important lesson we have learned is to turn to God with everything," Shelley said. "He will never leave you. We wouldn't be able to get through such a hard time without God and God's help daily."

The van Deursens have also learned not "to not sweat the small stuff so much."

"Most things that go wrong or break or fall apart are material things that can be replaced; none of that really matters," she said. "What matters most are people and those around you who you love. Life gets put into perspective real quick when you have a medically complex child with whom you can't cure."

## SUPPORTING RESEARCH FOR THE CURE

As a registered nurse, Shelley has witnessed advances in the medical field which gives her hope that the cure to the GNAO1 mutation will be discovered.

"We are truly blessed to be diagnosed in a time with medicine and resources and equipment to help Annabelle, but I have also learned that medicine can only do so much and then comes God," Shelley said. "Medical professionals, especially in the beginning, gave us limitations for her life and things she would never do; she has done more than they ever said she would and I truly believe in miracles and that God is bigger than medicine."

During the journey of Annabelle's diagnosis and therapy, the van Deursens founded, and run, a 501c3 nonprofit called Annabelle's Amazing Graces.

"After I was able to grasp Annabelle's diagnosis and the fact that there is no cure, I decided to do something about changing that and helping to find a cure," Shelley said of the inspiration behind Annabelle's Amazing Graces. "I am not able to actually do the research and find the cure for her, it's too complicated for me, but what I can do is raise money to give to the research being done and help in that way."

Following conversations with a friend, Shelley decided to host an annual benefit through Annabelle's Amazing Graces to fund research for the cure for the GNAO1 mutation.

This year's benefit, held in April at No Label Brewery in Katy, Texas, was a triumph.

"The event turnout was wonderful, exceeded my expectations," Shelley said. "We have amazing support from our families, friends, and community. They have really rallied behind us and have been so helpful and supportive. We have seen all the love and prayers from those around us, it has been amazing to live out."

The event raised \$51,020, all of which was donated to The Bow Foundation — an organization started by two families, who like the van Deursens, want a cure for their children who were also diagnosed with the GNAO1 mutation.

"We found out about the Bow Foundation the same night Annabelle got diagnosed and they have been a tremendous support for us," said Shelley, stressing Annabelle's Amazing Graces is "working very closely with the Bow Foundation to support research and families for the GNAO1 mutation."

Money raised through Annabelle's Amazing Graces will continue to support The Bow Foundation.

"They find and approve appropriate research needed to cure the GNAO1 mutation," Shelley explained. "And they have put together an annual conference with these researchers, physicians, and families to better understand and learn about GNAO1."

The next Annabelle's Amazing Graces benefit is scheduled for April 4, 2020, again at No Label Brewery.

## THE AMAZING ANNABELLE

As far as family and friends are concerned, Annabelle is not defined by her disorder. "She is sweet, kind, observant, loving, smart, hard working, and she has the most beautiful smile, and if you are lucky enough to see it, trust me it will make your day," Shelley said. "She helps us get through each day just being her. I could go on forever talking about how amazing she is."

Currently Annabelle participates in speech therapy twice a week, occupational therapy twice a week and physical therapy three times a week. And if her movement disorder gets worse, medicines and surgery are options to try to help control them.

The van Deursens also recently bought a one-story home in a school district that supports Annabelle's needs and instead of playdates with friends, Annabelle, her little brother James and Shelley, who is pregnant with her third child, go to therapy for three-plus hours in the mornings.



“As parents we must never give up on helping our children live their best lives with the support or resources they need.”

*Shelley van Deursen*



Photo courtesy of Kelly Anne Barron Photography | Daniel and Shelley van Deursen of Fulshear with their children Annabelle and James.



Daniel and Shelley van Deursen with their daughter Annabelle. “We have God to lean on in the good and the bad times. I would say that He is truly the reason we have been able to get from day to day,” Shelley said. “We know no matter what happens in Annabelle’s life or our life, we will all be in Heaven together.”

“They are both troopers,” Shelley said joyfully.

The van Deursens also bought and modified certain chairs and furniture for Annabelle to use, as well as a walker and communication board.

“As a parent and child grow together you learn to understand and communicate with each other even if one party can’t speak,” Shelley said. “I feel that we have a pretty good understanding of what Annabelle wants or at least we can guess until we finally get it right.”

Despite the obstacles that come with the GNOA1 mutation, the van Deursens have goals for their daughter. They are working to get her to the point where she can stand in a free space, walk with little or no assistance and for her to fully communicate via her electrical communication board — “But we will never give up on the goal of her talking,” Shelley stressed.

In fact, there is nothing Daniel and Shelley have given up on.

“I hope she never puts limitations on herself, that she always knows how much she is loved and how valuable she is to our family. And I hope she is happy,” Shelley said. “My dreams for Annabelle are for her to do and become anything she wants. I don’t want a wheelchair or communication device to hold her back from what she has to offer the world.”



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[annabellesamazinggraces.org](http://annabellesamazinggraces.org)

[gnao1.org](http://gnao1.org)



## 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 nonprofit, 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](http://www.handsandheartsfoundation.org).



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

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





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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 Insperity, 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.



1



2



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.



3



4

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.



## Richmond's Larry McDougal Sr. elected State Bar of Texas president-elect

Texas attorneys elected Larry P. McDougal Sr. of Richmond to serve as president of the State Bar of Texas.

McDougal received 52 percent of the 24,252 votes cast during the month-long voting period that ended April 30. His opponent Jeanne Cezanne "Cezy" Collins of El Paso received 47 percent of the votes. Write-in candidates accounted for less than 1 percent of the votes cast.

McDougal was sworn in as president-elect during the State Bar's annual meeting on June 14 in Austin and will serve as president of the State Bar of Texas from June 2020 to June 2021.

"This is a huge honor," McDougal said. "I competed against 100 of the best lawyers in the state, and just to be nominated was exciting. To win, was amazing."

Of the 100 attorneys competing, McDougal and Collins were nominated in August and the state board approved their nominations in September.

McDougal and Collins then criss-crossed the state to meet with attorneys and judges to win votes.

McDougal said he focused his platform on "Lawyers Cares" and "Lawyer Reform," and figures he visited at least 100 counties over the past eight months.

More than 24,000 attorneys statewide voted in the election.

"We've been campaigning since September so I'm just glad it's over," he said.

McDougal is certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and the founder of a namesake law office where he practices with his son.

McDougal, who previously served as a police officer, firefighter, and an assistant district attorney, has served on the State Bar Board of Directors from 2012 to 2015 and continues to serve on the State Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee.

He is the District 5 Grievance Committee chair for the State Bar and District 5 nominating chair for the Texas Bar Foundation, and he also serves on the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Ethics Committee, Ethics Hotline, and Strike Force.

Additionally, he teaches legal ethics to lawyers around the state and is a member of several professional associations.

McDougal won the President's Award from the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in 2009, TexasBarCLE Standing Ovation Award in 2014, and the Outstanding Third-Year Director Award from the State Bar of Texas in 2015, among other accolades.

He earned his J.D. from South Texas College of Law in 1990.



Larry McDougal

### Hurricane Season Has Arrived



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## Steve Onstad named Morton Lodge's 2019 Community Builder

The Community Builder Award was designed by the Grand Lodge of Texas to enable constituent Lodges to recognize outstanding non-Masons who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community, to the lodges' local, state or national government, to their house of worship, or to humanity. Thus, the award is presented to individuals who, although they have never been initiated into Masonry, have followed the same precepts, ideals and standards that have been established for Masonic behavior.

This year's 2019 Community Builder Award recipient is Steve Onstad, who, for over 45 years, has generously given his time and treasure to those in our community that need it most.

Born in Houston on April 25, 1953, Onstad moved to rural Richmond as a young boy with his family. The Richmond of Onstad's youth was not like the Richmond we know today.

"Moving to Richmond was a big culture shock," Onstad recalled. "It was big time to go to Schultz's store to get a Coke and an ice cream sandwich."

The barn-shaped house that Onstad and his four siblings were raised in still stands today on FM 359 next to his restaurant, which is a Fort Bend landmark: The Swinging Door.

Living in the country taught Onstad many lessons, the most important of which was to help your neighbors.

"Growing up, we weren't just part of a family; we were part of a neighborhood," Onstad said.

"Everybody knew everybody, and one of the first things my dad taught me was that when somebody was sick or needed help, you helped out. It was standard issue to help your neighbors in times of trouble."

In 1973, Onstad and his dad, Ward, built a small, wood frame business on FM 359 in anticipation of a 1,000-acre subdivision scheduled to be built by Friendswood Development in the area.

The development project fell through.

Onstad stood in the empty, newly built 800-square-foot shack on FM 359 in Richmond and wondered what he was going to do with the place. The year was 1973.

A few days later, a local farmer stuck his head in the door and asked, "Y'all got anything to eat?"

"Well, what do you want?" Onstad asked.

"How about a barbecue sandwich," the farmer replied.

"Come back in two weeks," Onstad replied.

The Swinging Door opened on Labor Day in 1973.

That seemingly innocuous question asked by a now long-forgotten farmer would forever change the community and ultimately enrich the lives of countless people in Fort Bend County.

By the mid-1970s, Onstad had turned The Swinging Door into one of the Houston area's most famous barbecue joints.

Bum Phillips, head coach of the "Luv Ya Blue"-era Houston Oilers, lived nearby and brought players and coaches there every Thursday for "strategy sessions" (mostly beer drinking).

Local oil companies were flush with cash, and Onstad cleared two nearby fields so executives could fly their helicopters in for business lunches.

Later, during the "Urban Cowboy" craze of the 1980s, Onstad added a dance hall that became a famous destination for Houston's jet set who didn't want to bother with the crowds at Gilley's in Pasadena.

The Monday Night Football crew — Don Meredith, Howard Cosell and Frank Gifford — all came out to The Swinging Door, and Earl Campbell spent the night celebrating after he became a Houston Oiler at the Richmond institution with buddies.

Onstad's friend, Dan Pastorini, brought a special guest to the "door one night when he was on a date, and the restaurant was closed for a private party. Onstad led the party of two to the back, and his customers nearly fell out of their chairs when those two walked in." Pastorini's date was in incomparable Farrah Fawcett.

Other special moments during Onstad's career revolve around his long list of community service.

A past president and member of Rotary Club of Richmond for nearly 40 years, Onstad has made his mark with food not only at The Swinging Door, but at charity events for years.

One of the Rotary Club's largest fundraisers each year is selling turkey legs at the Fort Bend County Fair during the 10-day event, and Onstad is the man in charge.

A fellow Rotarian said, "Onstad almost unilaterally gets everything together for our booth at the fair — supplies, food, equipment literally everything."

She adds, "Onstad's generosity and willingness to do anything for the community and our charitable organizations is what makes him special. He's not afraid of hard work and will roll up his sleeves to



Morton Lodge Worshipful Master Chip Entz presents the Community Builder Award to Steve Onstad.

help out whenever he can."

Onstad is a member of numerous philanthropic organizations and has served or currently serves as a board member of many others.

But the groups that have had the most impact on Onstad have been his involvement with organizations supporting individuals with disabilities.

Onstad hosted a bowling banquet for Richmond State Supported Living Center for over 10 years.

The residents traveled to a bowling alley then out to The Swinging Door for a good time.

Onstad was profoundly moved by the joy he brought into the lives those very special people.

When he's not volunteering or running his restaurant, he's acting as a mentor for the over 1,500 people — many young — who have worked at The Swinging Door over the years.

"Impacting youth in a positive way during their formative years is a special thing," Onstad said.

"I take pride in the fact that I have former employees introducing me to their children telling them that when they get old enough to work, this is the first place they would let them



work.”

Many of Onstad’s former employees have expressed their appreciation as a positive influence on their lives, and some of his employees are third generation employees.

While Onstad has served as a role model to many, his role model was his dad.

Onstad notes, “Dad was a worker; he believed in hard work and

getting it done. That’s how he had to live, and that’s how he raised five kids. We were well taken care of, but he sacrificed a lot so we could have the things we had.”

Onstad’s philosophy of service is straightforward: “I’ve always been willing to help out when I could for the right cause, and I tried my best to make a positive difference in the community.”

## Community Snapshot



Autry McNeal and Brooklyn Gordon making cards at Gingerbread House Day Care Center in Rosenberg.

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City of Richmond employees honored during Public Service Recognition Week are, from left, Gage McAfee, Lori Bownds, Maritza Salazar, Donnie Kovar, and Katelynn Sturgis.

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.



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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.



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](http://www.inspirationstage.com).



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



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

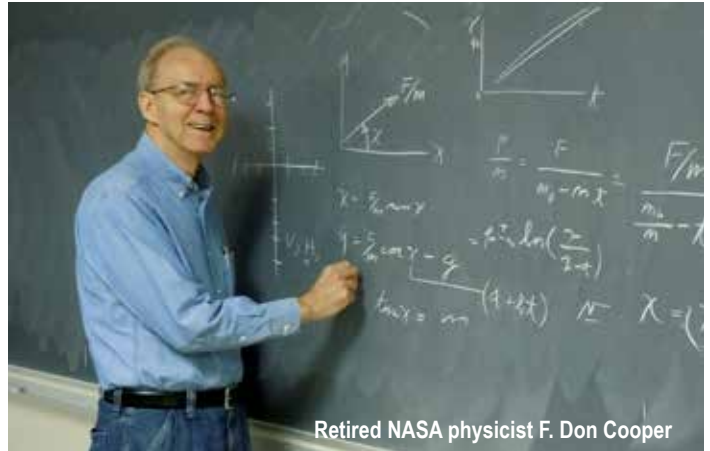


## MOON LANDING 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

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 footage. Enjoy popular snacks from the summer of 1969 while



Retired NASA physicist F. Don Cooper

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.

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## 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 table-top 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**.

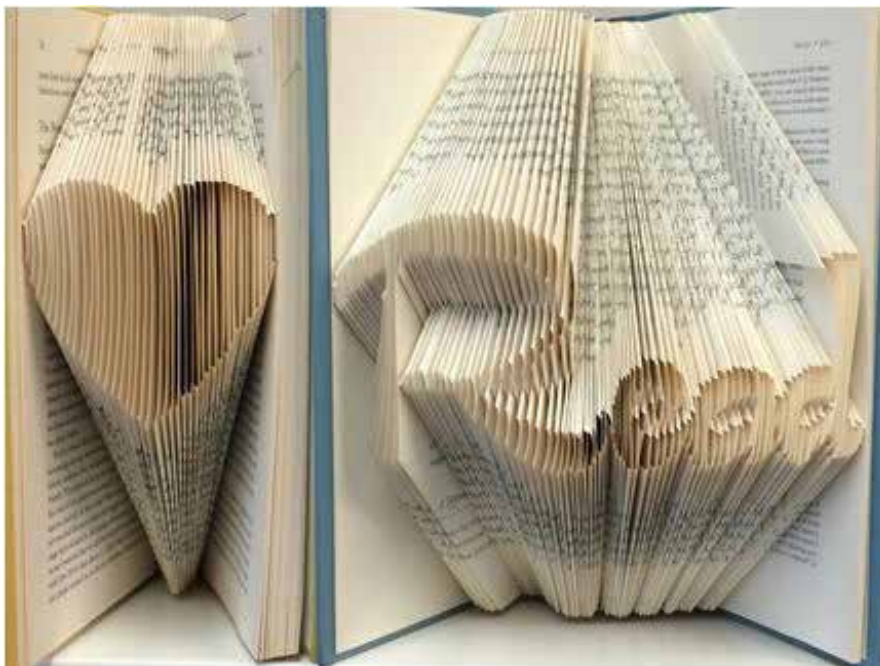
Teenagers who enjoy reading will enjoy the library's **Young Adult Book Club** which meets Wednesday July 10 at 4 p.m. in Room 2B. Teen readers in grades 9-12 will have an opportunity to meet with others who share the same love for good books, and have a lively discussion on the reasons a book or its 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 achieve greater success in high school and college classes. Learn how to manage time and money, take better notes, and improve study methods. Registration required.

#### 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.



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.

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/](http://fbmg.org/youth-education/) to print and complete the EK3 Kids' Kamp Participation and Waiver. For questions or additional information contact Margo "Mac" McDowell at [mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto: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, table-



top, 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.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE GEORGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### **Toddler Time: Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

Offers caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 1 to 3 years of age. This activity will not take place on July 4.

### **Story Time: Wednesdays at 10 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 31.



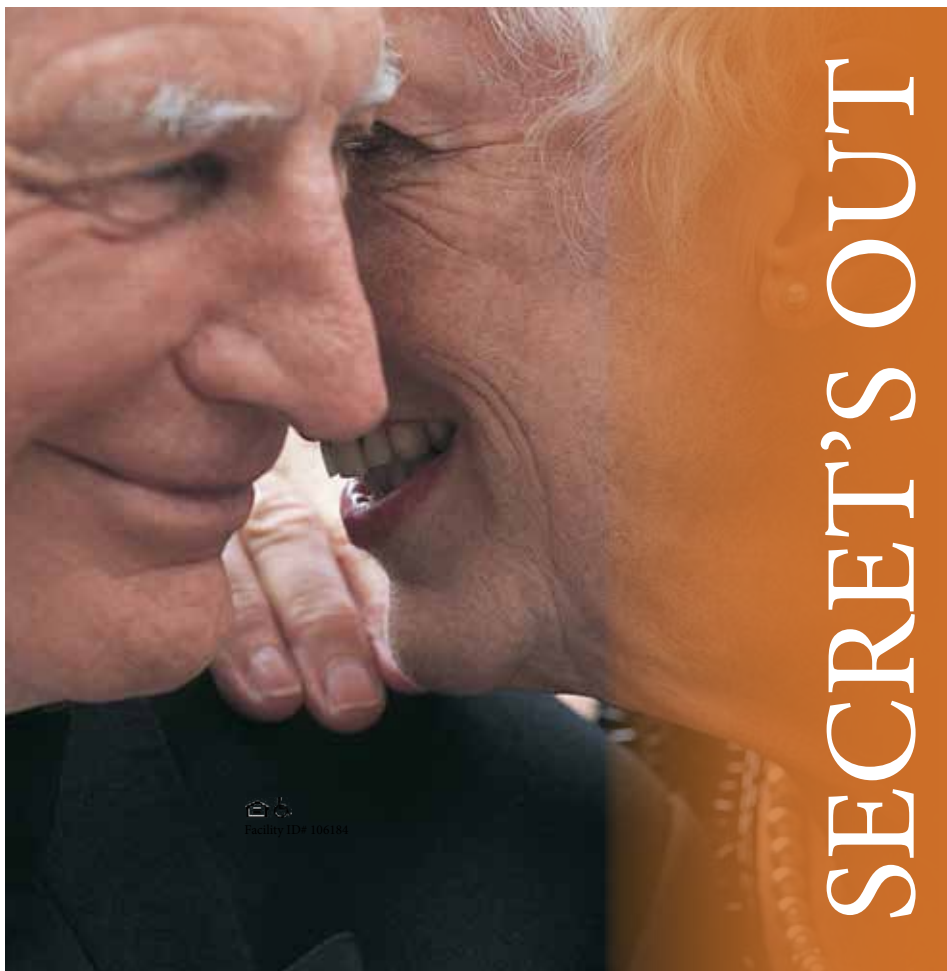
At 11:30 a.m. July 6 in the Meeting Room of the George Memorial Library. Members of the Second Street Brass ensemble will perform a selection of patriotic tunes representing past and present Americana. Second Street Brass members, from left are: Roger Bauer, Austin Reyna, John Hebert, Michael Gallegos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

### **Pajama Night Story Time: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.**

Gives families an evening option for some activities presented during the day time. This activity is for all ages. This activity will not take place on July 4.

### **School-Age Programs: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.**

Crafts, movies, stories, and more for school-aged children in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade. The July schedule is as follows:



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July 2: Family Movie; July 9: Yoga with Ashley; July 16: Craft Carnival; July 23: Helping Hands: Dogs at Work (presented by HMNS Sugar Land). There is no program for July 30.

### **Middle School Program: Thursdays at 2 p.m.**

Activities for youth in grades 6 through 8. The July schedule is as follows: July 11: No-Bake Desserts; July 18: Craft Tournament; and July 25: Pizza Party. There will be no program on July 4.

## **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.

## **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE BOB LUTTS FULSHEAR/SIMONTON BRANCH LIBRARY**

### **Toddler Time: Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m.**

Caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 1 to 3 years of age. This activity will not take place on July 30.

### **Story Time - Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.**

Stories, movies, and age-appropriate craft activities for children 3 to 6 years of age. This activity will not take place on July 31.

### **School-Age Programs: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.**

Crafts, movies, stories for school-aged children in grades 1 through 5. These programs are made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library. The July schedule is as follows: July 2: The Musical Adventures of Will Parker; July 9: Star Wars Science Variety Show (presented by Mark Shepherd); July 16: Bubble-ology: The Science of Bubbles!; July 23: Comedy Magic of John O'Bryant. There will be no program on July 30.

### **Middle Grade Programs: Thursdays at 3 p.m.**

Activities for students in grades 6 through 8. The schedule for July is as follows: July 11: Paper-Airplane Palooza; July 18: Memory Books & Button-Making; July 25: Let Go with LEGO! There is no program for July 4.

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."





## 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 Stavinocha 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.



1 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.

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

3 Gracie Stavinocha was named valedictorian. From left are Principal Linda Bradford,

AnneMarie, Stavinocha and Rick Hail representing the Knights of Columbus.

4 Holy Rosary Catholic School eighth-graders graduating were, front row, from left, are Alex Smith and Elisa Collins. Second row, from left, are Iana Samora, ShayAnn Boettcher, Lauren Morrison, Gracie Stavinocha. 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.



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# ~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 of the judges described as the "best part of my day," and another said "...breathhtaking 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



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



# Longtime educator Maxine Phelan given key to the city

by AVERIL GLEASON | [agleason@fbherald.com](mailto:agleason@fbherald.com)

**M**axine Phelan has spent a lifetime unlocking knowledge in the minds of her students.

And in doing so, the longtime Rosenberg educator has endeared herself to generations of pupils and parents.

Phelan is so well loved throughout the community, Lamar Consolidated ISD trustees decided in April to name an elementary school after her. So it was only fitting that the city of Rosenberg honor Phelan as well.

At a special Rosenberg City Council meeting Tuesday, Mayor Bill Benton declared April 30 as Maxine Phelan Day.

"This means everything to me," Phelan told The Herald.

"It is the most incredible honor I've ever received. I haven't slept in a week in a half. Just teaching was honor enough. Much less, receiving this.

"I've been crying happy tears for a week and a half. It's so touching."

Phelan taught English at Lamar Consolidated High School from 1971-2003.

"Maxine was honored by the school district and will have a school named after her," Benton told council. "That is an honor.

Not too many people have schools named after them."

Benton said Phelan was a matriarch of the English department at Lamar.



"Ms. Phelan cared deeply for her students and pushed them to go beyond what they thought they were capable of learning," Benton continued.

"(She) was said to be tough and fair in her expectation of her students. Phelan was heard giving good advice regarding her students, sticking to the basics in English, because trends and fads come and go.

"It is our great pleasure to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Maxine Phelan by declaring April 30 Maxine Phelan Day.

"It is an honor for the city and the citizens of Rosenberg to have one of its own citizens be honored with having a Lamar Consolidated ISD (school) named in her honor."

Benton then presented Phelan with a plaque and a key to the city.

Both Phelan and council member Lisa Wallingford couldn't help but shed tears of happiness.

"I think about the thousands of hours (Maxine) spent at home grading papers," husband Herb said. "She earned this."

## Hands-On, Mind-Opening Summer Fun

**It all starts in June with our  
SciTeens high school volunteers!**

Visit Monday through Friday from 11 am to 3 pm  
for special fun at activity stations throughout the museum.  
Museum Docents will also be on hand to give you a  
behind-the-scenes look at science.

**Summer hours begin Monday, May 27th :**

**Weekly Monday - Saturday from 9 am – 5 pm,  
and Sunday from Noon to 5 pm**

**[hmns.org/sugarland](http://hmns.org/sugarland)**  
*the Houston Museum of natural science*  
**At Sugar Land**





# 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@pecangrovec.com](mailto:desch@pecangrovec.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/](http://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

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## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:info@georgeranch.org).

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**4<sup>TH</sup> 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 4<sup>TH</sup> 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, are excited for the July 4th holiday.



Want to see  
your event listed in  
the next edition?  
Email Marquita Griffin  
at [mgriffin@fbherald.com](mailto:mgriffin@fbherald.com)  
with *Monthly Calendar*  
in the subject line.



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.

## SUGAR LAND

### 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.

### 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](http://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](http://www.childrensdiscoveryfb.org/event/minion-dominion).



# ON THE FORT BEND SCENE

## 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.*



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

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

**4** Judge Wallace poses for a photo with Judge 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.



6

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

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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.”*



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**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 Matthew 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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## WCJC Associate Degree Nursing Program graduates 28 students

**T**wenty-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.

lyn Noiseux of Needville.

Other graduates were Adewale Adegboyega of Houston, Chris Arevalo 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 Arevalo 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

**D**octors 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 ap-

pointment with Houston Methodist Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine Specialists call 281.325.0005.

To learn more about Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, visit [houstonmethodist.org/sugarland](http://houstonmethodist.org/sugarland) or our Facebook page at [fb.com/methodistsugarland](https://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.”



Business

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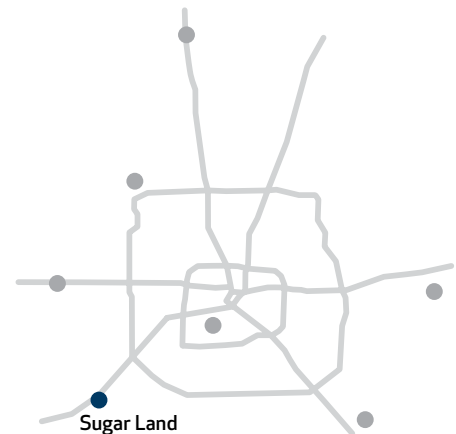
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