

May 2018

PECAN GROVE

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Contents & Staff

May 2018

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PECAN GROVE monthly™



6 FEATURE STORY

PGVFD Fire Chief Joe Woolley, who battled cancer, explains why cancer screenings are so important, especially for firefighters.



10 SEABOURNE CREEK NATURE PARK

A place that was once called the “best kept secret” is no longer a secret, nor should it be.



16 IN & AROUND PECAN GROVE

Richmond World War II Veteran honored.

22 ENTERTAINMENT

The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas has a spring treat for the community.



23 EVENTS

Don't miss out on a cool car show and the Motor Madness & Art Walk.

24 LIBRARY NEWS

You'll love the library's Graphic Novel Day.

28 SCHOOL NEWS

Austin Elementary students learn about farming and ranching.

36 KIDS CORNER

Get ready for Mother's Day with fun and meaningful crafts!

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JOE WOOLLEY:

'GO GET CHECKED'

*Pecan Grove VFD fire chief stresses
the importance of cancer screenings*

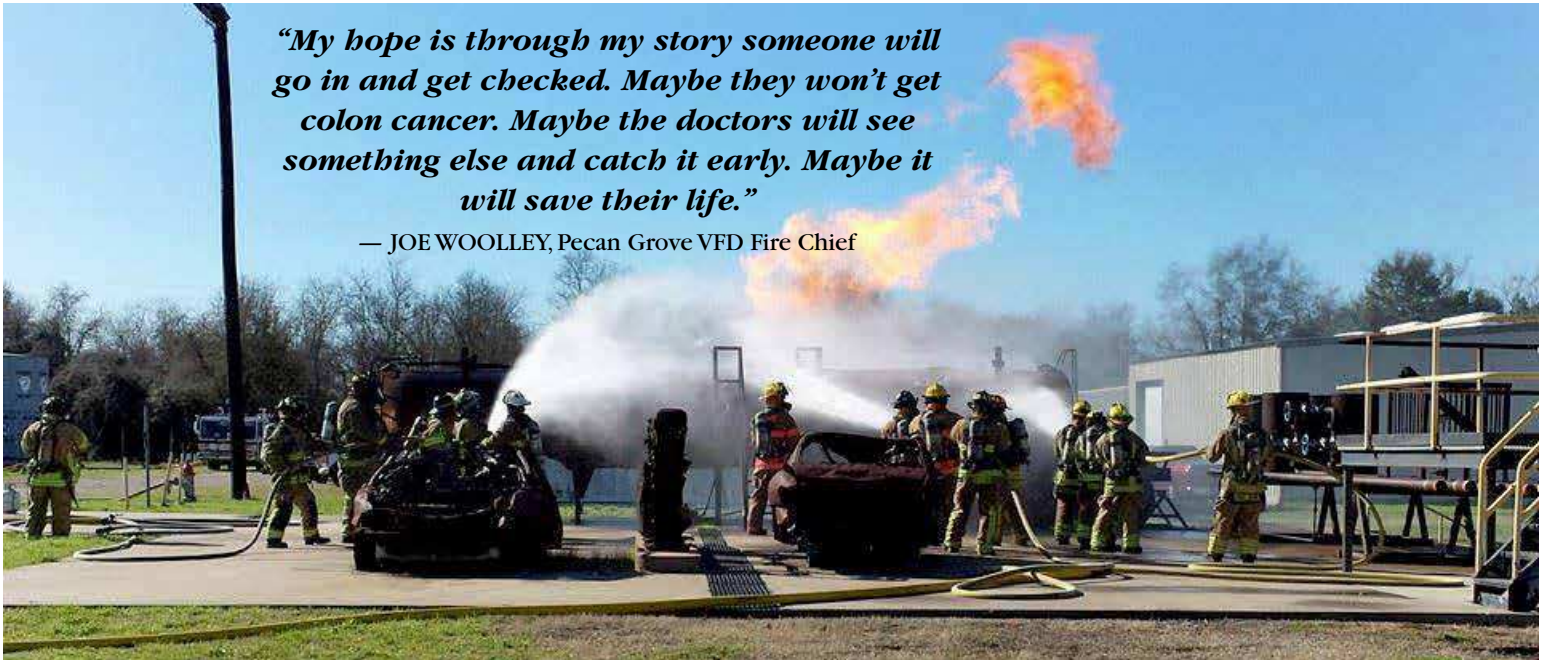
by MARQUITA GRIFFIN



Pecan Grove VFD Fire Chief, Joe Woolley.

“My hope is through my story someone will go in and get checked. Maybe they won’t get colon cancer. Maybe the doctors will see something else and catch it early. Maybe it will save their life.”

— JOE WOOLLEY, Pecan Grove VFD Fire Chief



It still baffles Joe Woolley that a person could unknowingly have a tumor the size of a cantaloupe in his or her colon, but the stark fact was he did have a tumor that size removed from his colon more than three months ago.

And he had no indication it was there.

As 2018 opened Woolley, who is the chief of Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department, visited his doctor with complaints of abdominal distress, and the doctor immediately realized something was off, possibly a spleen issue, but the Jan. 30 diagnosis Woolley received was something he didn’t anticipate — colon cancer, specifically a Spindle cell tumor.

“It’s not the normal garden variety of colon cancer,” the chief said, explaining that not only is the cancer extremely rare — with only 900 documented cases in the world — but also because it is typically found in teenagers around 15 years old.

“How I could have something that large in my colon ... I still don’t know how that was possible. And then it is a type usually found in teens ...” he said. “All of it was weird to me.”

In early February Woolley endured an 8-inch incision in his abdomen and had 10 inches of his colon removed and reconstructed to rid his body of tumor. His only requirement now, is that he receive check ups and scans every six months for the next two to three years.

If he stays clear for five years, he will be determined as in remission.

The chief, a married father of two adult children, said, despite how contradictory it may sound, the rare cancer plaguing his system was also “a blessing.”

“The good part about all of this is that right now I do not need chemo, praise God,” Woolley said. “They think this tumor had been growing in me for five to 10 years and had I gone in for a colonoscopy at 50, they may have caught it sooner, when it was smaller.

“Here I am, 55 years old, and they had to slice into my belly to get the thing out,” Woolley said, citing insurance obstacles as a

major reason for not going in sooner. “I did [have a colonoscopy] when I was 40 years old, just to check everything out, and I was OK.

“But I certainly wish I had gone in when I was 50.”

“My hope is through my story someone will go in and get checked. Maybe they won’t get colon cancer. Maybe the doctors will see something else and catch it early. Maybe it will save their life.”

STOPPING THE WRONG ATTITUDE

Woolley freely admits there is prevalent attitude among most men to avoid a colonoscopy, especially if they feel they are in good health. But this needs to stop, he stressed. “I wasn’t having any symptoms either at the time,” Woolley said. “I was 50 years old, I had just retired from the City of Sugar Land and I was only concerned with going to the doctor for my meds check.

“I do think about if had gone then, you know,” he said.

Woolley is no stranger to the impact a cancer diagnosis can have on a family, though.

His wife Marie battled breast cancer, ultimately having to retire from Fort Bend ISD after 17 years. Marie now volunteers at Austin Elementary and tutors children.

His youngest son Jacob, 28, who currently works for Lamar Consolidated ISD, was diagnosed with and beat testicular cancer when he was 21 years old.

His oldest son, Jesse, 34, who is a Houston firefighter, is the only member of their immediate family that hasn’t been touched by cancer.

“Even though his mother and brother had cancer, my oldest son will not go get checked,” Woolley said. “I’m not sure why.”

But Woolley has his suspicions. He believes most of the avoidance — aside from insurance issues — stems from the procedure being “simply invasive.”

While the procedure isn’t as uncomfortable as it was in the

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

past, Woolley, agrees the procedure is disagreeable. Still, he noted, having a colonoscopy is preferable to the alternative.

“Trust me, it’s better to have a colonoscopy than to deal with 27 stabes and an 8-inch slice in your stomach.”

‘THEY REALLY STEPPED UP’

Months after his procedure, Woolley feels good. He feels positive. And the gratitude he has for his wife, who “completely supported [him] the entire time,” is almost too profound to put into words.

The chief also has an overwhelming appreciation for the community support that flocked to his family during their time of unnerving possibilities.

“I cannot tell you how wonderful this community [the fire department] serves is,” Woolley said. “They really stepped up.”

Members of Pecan Grove VFD — who Woolley affectionately calls “my millennials” started a YouCaring fundraiser at youcaring.com to raise money for medical expenses.

“I remember fundraisers being car washes and barbecue plate sales,” he adds with a laugh.

Members of the Pecan Grove community even started a meal train, where someone would bring meals every evening to the Woolley household.

“Anything I or my wife needed ...” he pauses, the emotion heavy in his voice. “They just showed up.”

“Initially I was horrified [at the diagnosis], Woolley said. “I thought I was going to have to have a colostomy bag. I thought I was going to miss too many days at the fire department and worried what would happen there, I worried about all the bills we were going to have.

“Then the community stepped up,” he said, his voice saturated with appreciation. “That was a huge relief, and here I am back to work and moving forward. At this point I don’t have to worry about chemotherapy, so I’m taking the review mirrors off. I’m not looking back. I’m looking forward.”

FORGET THE GENERAL RULE

While Woolley is humbled by the support of the surrounding community, he isn’t satisfied with just accepting a positive turn of events; he wants to use every iota of his energy to emphasize the importance of getting screened.

“The doctors say you should go in when you’re 50 years old, unless you have precursors or there is a history [of cancer] in your family,” Woolley said. “But I’ve known some in their 20s and 30s who go. While the general idea is to go when you are in your 50s, you can definitely go before then.”

He pauses a minute to consider his next point.

“My wife developed breast cancer at 36 [years old] and there was no history of it in her family,” Woolley said in regards to the push for women to start getting mammograms in their 40s. “After my wife got cancer I saw those [mammogram check-up] posters and I wanted to tear all of them down. Women can absolutely go in before then.

“So I’m telling everyone [to get screened],” Woolley added. “It’s not that big of a deal and it’s much better to catch something early.”

PROTECTING FIRE FIGHTERS

To his fellow fire fighters Woolley also has a special message: 86 percent of firefighters will develop occupational cancer during their career.

“Think about that for a minute. That is a huge percentage,” he said. “If you are a firefighter you might as well say: I’m going to get cancer.”

The statistic, Woolley said, is due to the toxins firefighters are exposed to while in the field.

Woolley recalls his initial years in the fire service industry in late 80s and admits the attitude at the time was to be “the macho guys.”

“It was macho to go in and get smoked up,” he said. “And there we were continuously breathing in hydrocarbons.

“We breathed in a lot of stuff,” he said. “But times have changed. You cannot go into a situation without the proper breathing protection. We know more now and we don’t do stupid stuff anymore. The industry is changing.”

As a member of the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section — more commonly called VCOS — of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Woolley said he is serious about trying to educate everyone about the hazards firefighters face, and to help prevent other firefighters from being included in that daunting statistic.

Woolley said departments have already taken steps lower that statistic, for instance, by pushing its Pink Ribbon Campaign, which encourages firefighters to get screened regularly and to push cities to take a more proactive position in taking care of its firefighters.

“Even if you wear the right equipment, you can still breath in those chemicals if that suit is on you,” he explained.

Overall, Woolley said his message applies to men and women, firefighters and non-firefighters.

“If my experience can prevent someone from going through this, I will let God use me to share the message.”



The Woolley family: Joe, Marie, Jesse and Jacob.

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Seabourne Creek Nature Park is a sweet secret no longer

by **MARQUITA GRIFFIN**

There is this quiet spot in Fort Bend County where weary souls, exhausted by the daily trappings of life can visit to recollect their thoughts, bask in the sunlight or go for a walk and reconnect with the living, breathing growing world around them.

It's a place where one can find solace in the crunching dirt beneath their shoes, witness various birds take flight at a moment's notice or watch ducks slide gracefully on the water.

It is a place where you can pick a mulberry from a tree to taste nature at its best, catch catfish, perch or bass in a 12-foot lake, or feel the slight shiver of shock at a snake crossing your path.

It could be easy to overlook Seabourne Creek Nature Park if you are unaware of the gems hidden on this unique property in Rosenberg, and consequently the park could remain one of the county's sweetest secrets, but the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, don't want it to be a secret.

They want to tell it all, like gossip shared between sips of tea while sitting on the front porch.

"We want to show our appreciation of nature and share that knowledge with public while spotlighting local wildlife," said James "Jim" Butcher, a member of the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

"There is such value to a place like this," he added. "Value for a person, for families, for a community."



In every walk with nature, one receives
far more than he seeks.

John Muir

Highlighted Ecological Areas

Within Seabourne Creek is 164 acres dedicated to the nature center of the park, which features four distinct ecological areas: the wetlands, the prairie restoration area, the woodlands and the Seabourne Lake.

Sponsored by the Rosenberg Development Corporation, the park not only provides the perfect setting for community events — like the FISH-tastic children’s fishing tournament, the Prairie Heritage Festival and monthly bird hikes — is also serves as a classroom, of sorts, allowing visitors to learn about various plants as well as the wildlife attracted to those distinct areas.

The development of the park’s nature center began in 2009 to the delight of nature enthusiasts from all corners of the county.

Identification signs are found throughout the park, offering knowledge of plant and wildlife species, including the complex migration patterns of a Monarch butterfly; hundreds of native trees have been planted and continuously grow; there are clearings ideal for cover bird watching; and the lake is alive with a variety of asctetically pleasing aquatic life.

The upkeep and potential of the park is due, highly to, its avid volunteers, Butcher said.

While the volunteers for the park are typically present on Wednesdays, Diane Russell and Linda Rippert, were dressed in their gardening attire one Friday, when the weather was absolutely perfect following a recent thunderstorm.

The two retired women, also master naturalists, chatted away while planting in the bordered butterfly garden, explaining which plants attract pollinators, which plants are most beneficial and which ones bring a garden to life.

“People can also get plenty of ideas about what would work best in their own gardens,” Russell pointed out.

Rippert teasingly added a person who doesn’t want to know the hows or whys of gardening, could easily take a seat on one of the comfortable benches and simply enjoy the sights.



Where the Magic Happens

The Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Natural Naturalists — which is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department — celebrated right before the start of the year because nearly 3,000 plants were added to the progressing prairie restoration area.

Additional small plantings by individual Master Naturalist members over the year, that were not accounted for, are estimated to be 80 to 100 more.

In 2017 more than 2,800 prairie plantings and 16 planting events occurred.

Butcher also mentioned there were more than 3,000 bump ups, which is moving plants to larger container to allow for growth, were also recorded.

“This,” Butcher said, pointing to the greenhouse in the park’s prairie restoration area, “is where all the magic happens.”

While some of the plants need to be grown from seed, just about all of the plants are native to the area, minus a few invasive plants, and are vegetation that would have been around hundreds of years ago.

If you get a chance to listen to a master naturalist, chances are he or she will be able to give you information beyond the scientific and/or common name of plant. They can tell you why this particular vegetation thrives, they can tell you how the people of that time used it and how it still benefits us today.

Take the Osage tree, for example. This is a tree known for its use as a living fence, Butcher explained.

“This is what inspired barbed wire,” he added. “A lot of people don’t know that.”

He shrugs slightly with a wide smile.

“Just one of the many fun facts you can learn out here.”

For some time Butcher has made it a personal project to recreate a living fence in the park so the public can actually see with their own eyes how it works.

These types of demonstrations, a variety of which are found throughout the park, are meant to educate and spark the curiosity of the public, especially children.

“So many of them spend much more time inside with technology,” Butcher said. “And sadly some of us have forgotten everything available to us out here.”



Richmond photographer and Texas Master Naturalist Amber Leung took a photo of the beaver at Seabourne Creek Nature Park after its initial sighting.

A Beaver in Rosenberg, You Say?

Months ago Texas Master Naturalists shared exciting news: A beaver had taken up residence at the park.

“When we first heard about it, I didn’t believe it was a beaver,” Butcher said. “I figured it was really a muskrat, however ...” — Butcher points to the mud lodge found in the wetlands area of the park — “Muskrats don’t build that.”

He laughs.

For those interested in seeing the lodge, it’s located about 10 yards from one of the floating docks. The beaver, as it turns out, was spotted following one of the regular bird hikes through the wetlands.

“It is the coolest thing,” he said. “And it further proves that this [the ecological development of the park] is working.”

By and for the Community

Butcher encourages those who haven’t visited Seabourne Creek Nature Park to make the drive to 3831 Highway 36 South in Rosenberg and prepare for a treat.

On the day Butcher offered a tour, families were spotted throughout the park, searching for the perfect place to take photos among the numerous buttercups.

“This park is our signature project,” Butcher said looking around at the children donned in their Sunday’s best, smiling for their parents as dozens upon dozens of photos were being shot.

Nearby an elderly couple, dressed smartly in their jogging suits, enjoyed their daily dose of exercise, and around the edge of the lake teenage sons sat with their fathers, bonding over a bit of fishing on a sunny day.

Butcher smiles wide.

“And I love that it is.”

Scott Reese Willey and Diana Nguyen contributed to this story.



Texas Master Naturalists, Coastal Prairie Chapter

The Master Naturalists Training is held once a year. Classes are on Saturdays and nights to accommodate work schedules. The classes cover ecology, birds, insects, mammals, geology, climate and weather, nature interpretation, native plants, archeology and more. For more information visit txmn.org/coastal



The 20-year vision of the park.

2018 Fireball Classic

The Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department is gearing up for its annual Fireball Classic Golf Tournament set for 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 7. Sign-in begins at 10 a.m.

In April the department received a \$10,000 donation from Fluor, which is sponsoring the tournament.

All proceeds from the golf tournament will support the Pecan Grove VFD.

Sign-up sheets are located at the Pecan Grove VFD Station 1, 727 Pitts Road in Richmond. The tournament will be a 4 Man Scramble that costs \$125 per player, and includes: player's entry; unlimited range balls; a free golf cart; awards dinner buffet, gift bags and 18 holes of golf.

Prizes will be awarded to the longest drive and the putting contest plus the day will include a silent and ticket auction.

The tournament is open to the public. For more information visit www.pecangrovefire.org.



From left, Assistant Fire Chief Dean Hamrick, Barbara Jones with Fluor and Fire Chief Joe Woolley, are excited about the \$10,000 donation from Fluor which is the 2018 Fireball Classic sponsor.



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**Richmond World War II veteran honored
Congressman presents certificate of
service to Pearl Harbor survivor
by AVERIL GLEASON**

When George Griffin joined the Navy in 1941, he never suspected he would become a war hero.

He awoke on the USS Curtiss on Dec. 7, 1941 like it was any other Sunday.

But it wasn't any other Sunday. It was the beginning of the attack on Pearl Harbor that would plunge Griffin and his country into World War II.

A kamikaze plane bombed the Curtiss that morning, killing 23 men.

But that didn't stop Griffin and the ship's other seamen from fighting for their lives, and more importantly, fighting for their country.

On Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Pete Olson met with Griffin at his Richmond home.

Olson presented Griffin with a certificate of recognition to honor him for his years of service.

Friends and family gathered around, eager to support Griffin.

"You, my friend, are a hero," Olson told Griffin.

"You didn't want to be a hero, it was thrust upon you, but you stood up and you protected our country.

"And I thank you."

Griffin, now 97, served in the Navy until March of 1947, when he was honorably discharged.

"I served with a bunch of good people," Griffin said. "A bunch of good people. There ain't many of us left.

"This brings back a lot of memories."

Friends listened intently as Olson and Griffin exchanged stories about the war.

"I wanted to recognize a hero," Olson told The Herald.

"My kids have no idea about any of this, and we have a man in our midst who literally saw the first bombs fall."

Griffin's daughter Brenda Bowker said that her dad taught her that everything will always be all right.

"Dad always said to take the good with the bad," she said.

"He spent his years in the Pacific, and he said he doesn't like to remember some things.

"But he's such a strong man."

Friend Mabel Cole said she couldn't believe Griffin still remembered so much from the war.

"Thanks to him, we're free and safe and sound," she said.

The certificate recognizing Griffin reads:

I, the honorable Pete Olson, Member of Congress, thank George Griffin for his extraordinary efforts to protect his nation and serve its people. Seaman First Class Griffin, stationed aboard the USS Curtiss in Pearl Harbor, defended his vessel admirably in the face of the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941.

Following the attack, SN1 Griffin was transferred to the USS Hornet, serving on the gun crew through the critical battles of Iwo Jima and Saipan.

Mr. Griffin served his nation honorably and with the type of bravery that can only be shown through the trials of combat. Our nation can never repay what was lost by those who fought the Second World War, but we can honor their sacrifices.

I wish the best for Seaman Griffin for years to come. It is an honor to serve him in Congress.



Congressman Pete Olson shows World War II veteran George Griffin a map of the Pacific. Pictured next to Griffin is friend Roy Cole. Behind them, from left, are Ray Valenta, Brenda Bowker and John Paul Anders. Photo by Averil Gleason

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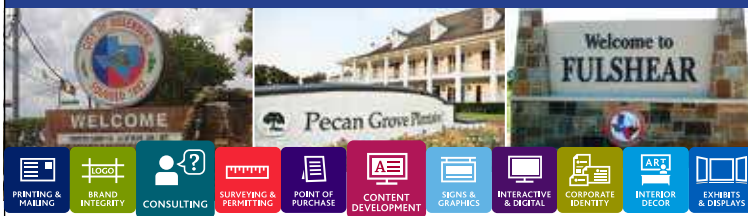
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Community leaders deliver meals to local seniors

by LEAH HALLEY

Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels (FBS) recently participated in the 16th Annual March for Meals – a month-long, nationwide celebration initiated and sponsored by Meals on Wheels America. After packing up meals for their route and learning about the different services FBS offers to support aging seniors, “community champions” hit the road to deliver meals and visit with seniors in Fort Bend County.

The community leaders not only had the opportunity to give back to their community, but appreciated seeing first-hand the condition of seniors in their own neighborhoods and hearing from them the difference that Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels has made in their lives.

“The support we provide the seniors of Fort Bend and Waller counties are critical – both for the seniors and the communities in which they live – and the need continues to grow as the population ages,” said Manuela Arroyos, Chief Executive Officer of FBS. “Through their participation, the champions saw the difference a hot meal and a smile can make in the lives of area seniors, and ultimately how these services keep seniors living healthier at home and more connected to their community for as long as possible.”

Community Champions Commissioner James Patterson (Pct. 4); Mandi Bronsell, representing Fort Bend County Commissioner Vincent Morales (Pct. 1); Matt Minor, Chief of Staff for Texas State Representative Phil Stephenson; Fort Bend County Constable Mike Beard (Pct. 1); and Deputies Chris Carlson and David Craven of the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office, joined the celebration alongside

FBS board members and fellow champions Ray Aguilar, Sugar Land Assistant Police Chief Eric Robins, Rick Forlano, Sandi McNeil, and Greg Schockling, by delivering meals to homebound seniors in the area.

Meals on Wheels of America has led the annual March for Meals campaign since 2002, in which hundreds of local Meals on Wheels programs, like FBS, go out to their communities with the help of local leaders, to build awareness of the state of senior hunger and isolation in their own neighborhoods.

Through that awareness, these programs gain the additional support they need to deliver nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks to area seniors all year long.

Individuals or groups that are interested in supporting Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels efforts — either by volunteering or through in-kind or financial contributions — can visit www.fortbendseniors.org or call 281-633-7049.



Community Champions prepared to deliver Meals outside of the FBS Bud O’Shieles Center.



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Oh, the Fun You'll Have at the 2018 Sugar Plum Market

The Fort Bend Junior Service League's Sugar Plum Market is excitedly preparing for the holiday season.

What fun it will be to raise money for Fort Bend County's charitable organizations, which provide for those most in need.

Since its inception in 2001, the Fort Bend Junior Service League has found purpose in giving back to our community. Through funds raised at the popular holiday shopping event, the Sugar Plum Market has donated an impressive amount of nearly \$2.5 million to various Fort Bend County charities.

Presented by FBJSL and Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital, the 18th Annual Market will take place at the Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Center Friday, Nov. 2 and Saturday, Nov. 3. Market hours will be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

A special Preview Night shopping event will be held Thursday, Nov. 1 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Unique vendors from across Texas will fill the Stafford Centre for this ultimate one-stop holiday shopping extravaganza.

General Admission tickets for Friday or Saturday are \$12 each. A limited number of Preview Night tickets are available for \$75 each and include an exclusive experience.

Preview Night patrons will be treated to live entertainment, advance shopping Thursday night, a drink ticket, delicious catered hors d'oeuvres, and Market entry Friday and Saturday. Tickets may be purchased online beginning Sept. 1 at www.sugarplummarket.com.

A variety of sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are offered for both businesses and individuals, with specially tailored packages available to be customized.

Sugar Plum Market sponsors receive marketing benefits, with some packages including social media posts, Facebook Live opportunities, event signage, and website and program recognition.

New to the 2018 market, certain sponsor and underwriting levels gain access to the exclusive Preview Night VIP lounge area.

For more information, including sponsor opportunities, visit www.sugarplummarket.com or contact the Market Co-Chairs by email at information@sugarplummarket.com.



2018 Sugar Plum Market Co-Chairs, from left in front: Jaime Harris, Sarah Kuehl, Heather Brown; and back: Brittany Cope, Kimberly Camp and Heather Allen.



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Inspiration Stage Receives Top Honors at the iTheatrics Junior Theatre Festival West

Local national award-winning community theatre, Inspiration Stage, attended the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) West in Sacramento Feb. 10 - 11, bringing home the festival's highest award for Outstanding Performance.

Inspiration Stage, in its first year to attend JTF West, performed a 15-minute cut of Annie JR. Out of the 37 attending companies performing for adjudicators, Inspiration Stage was one of only six groups to receive the highest honor.

On Sunday, the Annie JR. company performed "Hard Knock Life" on the main stage for the festival's 1,500 attendees.

"It was such an honor to be awarded with an Outstanding Production for Annie JR. at our first JTF West," said Mandy Seymore-Sensat, Inspiration Stage's artistic director. "With such a young and eager company of actors I was delighted with their passion and drive to perform. This group awed the judges and the audience with a heartfelt and feisty Annie JR."

Erin Brogan (Annie), 11, was recognized for Excellent Individual Female Performance. Brogan and Holden Hagelberger (Company), 9, also received All-Star Awards, while troupe members Drew Doyle (Company), 12, Clayton Evans (Company), 14, and Keira Wagner (Company), 12, were chosen to perform in a special musical SLAM performance.

"Taking a classic, iconic musical like Annie and presenting it in

a 15-minute cut is challenging," said Music Director Sarah Patterson. "Our young actors rose to the occasion and brought a heartwarming story new life with their powerful voices and youthful enthusiasm. I couldn't be more proud to be a participant in their journey as Music Director."

Eight Inspiration Stage youth received Golden Tickets — special invitations to audition for the opportunity to appear in MTI instructional guide choreography DVDs distributed with its Broadway Jr. series of shows. Three iStagers — Anna Baden (Molly), 13, Andrew Sackett (Lt. Ward), 14, Madison Willet (Mrs. Hannigan), 14, received callbacks for second round auditions.

Inspiration Stage is a national award-winning performance arts studio located in the historic Sugar Land Auditorium at 226 Lakeview Dr. The 2017/2018 season includes youth and adult productions, as well as acting and production classes. Summer 2018 offers 19 theatre camps for kids of all ages. For more information, visit www.inspirationstage.com.



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**The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra
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In every concert, the orchestra and chorus have celebrated the wonders and the diversity that make up this American land we call home. For these final concerts, the orchestra teams up with a source of national pride in Houston: NASA.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

On Saturday, May 19 at 7 p.m., the Fort Bend Symphony Chorus, now in its second year, visits the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, a perfect venue for its season finale, "Out of the Stars: Songs of Creation." This free concert celebrates heaven, earth and everything in between, through a selection of musical works that is truly breathtaking.

The program begins with music that focuses around stars and planets. Daniel Elder's arrangement of "Twinkle, Twinkle," the children's folk song, is a sparkling open to the concert. The celestial theme continues with "Choose Something Like a Star," the beloved Robert Frost poem set to music by Randall Thompson.

David Ashley White penned "The Blue Estuaries: Evening-Star." Vince Peterson's arrangement of Erika Lloyd's "Cells Planets" finishes the heavenly tour.

FBSOC addresses the area in between heaven and earth with Paul Winter's "Mystery," a beautiful, lyrical poem to the multitude of miracles that make up our daily lives. "Past Life Melodies," a highly-acclaimed choral work written by Sarah Hopkins for her father, "At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners," Willametta Spencer's adaptation of the sonnet by John Donne, and Paul Halley's adaptation of the Gregorian chant "Ubi Caritas" (Where There is Love) bring the audience back to Earth.

And on earth, we address our challenges. Frank Ticheli's "Earth Song" is a cry for peace in a world torn apart by strife.

Vocal ensembles around the world have performed the flowing melodies of "Sure on this Shining Night" by Morten Lauridsen. "Kasar mie la gaji" (the earth is tired) is written in African dialect by one of the leading personalities in the world of contemporary Venezuelan music, Alberto Grau. And finally, "Lay Earth's Burden Down" by Caldwell and Ivory is a concert work based on a traditional spiritual encouraging us to restore our planet through environmental advocacy and repair.

This will truly be a concert to remember. No tickets are required as it is a free concert.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

On Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m. at the Stafford Centre, FBSO closes their season with a breathtaking performance of Gustav Holst's "The Planets."

The female members of the FBSOC join the orchestra for this concert. A space-themed video created by the art design students of Harmony Science Academy Houston will be projected during the concert.



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“The Planets” is a seven-movement orchestral suite, with each movement named after a planet in our solar system. Each movement conveys the ideas and emotions associated with the planets on the psyche through its corresponding astrological character. Almost 100 years later, it remains Holst’s most popular work, and one of the best-known pieces of classical music.

There will be science and space-related activities for families and children during intermission. We encourage you to bring your family to these two intriguing, entertaining performances.

More details about the concerts are available at www.fbso.org.

More information about special season ticket pricing and performances is online at www.fbso.org. Single tickets for “The Planets” begin at \$15 for adults. Children 12 and under are \$5 each, and teens are \$10 per ticket. Discounts are available for college students, seniors 55 and over, military personnel, and groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available online at www.fbso.org or by calling 281.276.9642.



Photo by Susan Lynch
From left, Elyssa Munden,
Joe Freilich, Dan Patterson

The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas presents its Spring Concert

by MARQUITA GRIFFIN

For as long as the Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas has been in existence, it has held a special concert each spring — appropriately called the Spring Concert — as a fundraiser for the choir but also to show the public the growth of talent of each choirboy.

“It is the perfect time to showcase the talents of our choirboys, after they have worked so hard all semester to learn and memorize their music,” said Tiana Mortimer, the choir’s executive director, who noted the choir’s gala dinner and auction in February raised more than \$32,000 for the organization.

The Spring Concert, she adds, also provides “valuable performance experience for the boys.”

This year’s performance is set for May 12 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston. Mortimer notes the Spring Concert has been held in many different venues, but Grace Presbyterian has “been a gracious host off and on for many years.”

For those who have followed or have been involved with the choir over the years know exactly what kind of treat they are in for. For those unfamiliar with the works of the choir, they will undoubtedly be impressed, Mortimer promised.

“The Spring Concert is the culmination of hard work by young, talented boys that have a single purpose: to create music that challenges not only their minds, but their hearts as well,” Mortimer said proudly. “It is quite unique to experience a full length concert performance by young boys with unchanged voices. That alone is impressive.”

A DIFFERENT KIND OF EXPERIENCE

It is just different hearing choirboys’ voices live, Mortimer said. “Live music, especially music sung by our choirboys, is best experienced in person,” she said. “While a digital recording can be pleasant to hear, there is nothing like live music to create connections with others in a deep, powerful way.

“This is especially true with our Tour Choir’s performance of ‘Dream A Dream’ where they go into the audience, hold a patron’s hand and sing to them while looking them in the eye. It’s all about personal connections.”

And connection, particularly with the community, is one of the many perks the Fort Bend Boys Choir has to offer through its Spring Concert.

“Sitting in an audience with others offers a sense of community, almost like sharing something exclusive that others do not get to experience.”

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Spring Concert will feature performances by all four ensembles of the choir.

“Music Magic, our music enrichment class for 6 and 7 year old boys will perform first. They will sing three to four cute, age appropriate songs. Then, our three treble choirs will perform. The Training Choir will have four to five songs then our intermediate choir, the Town Choir, will perform next with four to five songs as well,” Mortimer explained.

The Tour Choir will perform about 10 songs, including some recognizable music like Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World” and Bruno Mars’ song “Count on Me.”

The Tour Choir will also sing a selection of music that will be performed during their summer performance tour to Western Canada including a Swahili Folk Song called “Jambo Bwana” as well as their signature songs “Show Me How” featuring sign language and “Dream A Dream.”

Around 102 boys total will perform in the Spring Concert.



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MAY 9

Superstar Auditions

Sugar Land's American Idol-like competition is kicking off another summer showcasing local talent with open Superstar auditions. The 2018 winner will receive a prize package featuring items from Town Square retailers and the opportunity to perform live at future events. All participants should be prepared to sing for 60 to 90 seconds without musical accompaniment. In addition, contestants must be over 14 years of age and residents of Fort Bend County to be eligible for competition. Note: only one audition allowed per performer during the audition. Visit www.sugarlandtownsquare.com/events

MAY 12

Charity Car Show

The Joe Joe Bear Foundation Charity Car Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. The Joe Joe Bear foundation provides children with life threatening illnesses in the hospital with a new teddy bear. This is a charity event to support the mission. It is a family fun event! food trucks, up to 300 cars, 50 vendors, bounce house and live music. Free admission for spectators. Visit www.joejoebear.org.

Motor Madness & Art Walk

Historic Richmond Association, in Partnership with the City of Richmond and the Morton Street Merchants bring back Motor Madness & ArtWalk 2018 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Historic Downtown Richmond.

Motor Madness car show will take place at City Hall with a live DJ . Awards will be given at 5 p.m. Participating Historic Richmond merchants invite art lovers to shop and sip wine while meeting with artists. Outdoor vendors, specializing in hand-crafted/artwork, will be located throughout the event. Visit www.historicrichmond.org/motor-madness-art-walk

MAY 19

Gumbo & Chili Cookoff

Morton Lodge's 5th Annual Gumbo & Chili Cook-Off will benefit Fort Bend County first responders through Behind the Badge Charities. The event will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at 211 Morton Street in Richmond. Visit www.mortonmasons.com/gumbo-home or call (281) 206-0031.

COMING SOON

JUNE 7

Fort Bend Seniors Meals 1st Annual Luncheon

Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels inaugural luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at River Pointe Church, 5000 Ransom Road in Richmond. Fort Bend Seniors will be honoring Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert and his wife Pat for their service to the county, who will also speak to the need for FBS' programs throughout the community. Visit fortbendseniors.org

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LIBRARY CELEBRATES GRAPHIC-NOVEL DAY WITH AUTHORS & BOOK-SIGNINGS

Fort Bend County Libraries will celebrate the art and authors of the graphic-novel literary world on Sunday, May 6, from 1:30 to 4 pm, at George Memorial Library in Richmond. The “Graphic-Novel Day” family event will feature special guest appearances and book signings by popular graphic novelists Mike Maihack, Charise Harper, and George O’Connor.


Families are welcome to dress up as their favorite superheroes for the event. Each child will receive a free comic book as part of the National Free Comic Book Day celebration.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the George Memorial Library and Bedrock City Comics, the event is a great opportunity for fans of children’s graphic novels to interact with a variety of literary creators. Books will be available for sale and signing in the first-floor lobby of the library throughout the afternoon. A portion of the sales will benefit the Friends of the Library organization.

The graphic novelists will also make appearances in the Meeting Room of the library to talk about their individual experiences as graphic-novel creators. Hear about their love of the genre, how they began writing graphic novels, and how their characters came into being.

From 1:30 to 2:15 pm, Charise Harper will talk about her graphic-novel series, *Crafty Cat*, *Fashion Kitty*, and *Just Grace*. An author/illustrator of more than 50 books for children, Harper has also been a freelance editorial illustrator for many national magazines and newspapers, created a weekly comic strip that ran in multiple alternative newspapers, and earned a business degree in Marketing.

From 2:15 to 3:00 pm, Mike Maihack will talk about his award-winning series, *Cleopatra in Space*, published by Graphix/Scholastic. Enjoyed by readers of all ages, the series follows the adventures of young Cleopatra, who was zapped away as a teenager from her home era of 52 BC and thrust into the future, where she must battle against the evil Xaius Octavian to become the savior of the Nile galaxy. Cleo must learn what it takes to be the great leader she is destined to become while still trying to



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Olympians graphic-novel series, which retells the classic Greek myths in comics form. O'Connor is also the author of several picture books for children, including the New York Times bestseller Kapow!, Ker-Splash, Uncle Bigfoot, and Sally and the Something.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call George Memorial Library at 281-342-4455 or the library system's Communications Office at 281-633-4734.

George Memorial Library is located at 1001 Golfview in Richmond.

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figure out how she's ever going to pass her classes, make friends, avoid detention, and all of the other important things that come with being a reckless, fifteen-year-old future queen of the universe.

A graduate of Columbus College of Art & Design, Maihack is also the creator of the popular webcomic, Cow & Buffalo, and has contributed to a number of other books, such as Jim Henson's The Storyteller, Sensation Comics Featuring Wonder Woman, Parable, Cow Boy, and Geeks, Girls, and Secret Identities.

From 3:00 to 3:45 pm, George O'Connor will talk about his

Fort Bend County Libraries' First Colony Branch Library will present a performance of classical music from India, on Saturday, May 19, beginning at 2 pm, in the Meeting Room of the library, located at 2121 Austin Parkway in Sugar Land.

Sangeeta Panse, Varad Gaikwad, and Govind Shetty - members of the Indian Music Society of Houston - will perform classical Indian music on the sitar, tabla, and flute.

Established in 1992, the Indian Music Society of Houston is a nonprofit organization consisting of individuals who are committed to preserving and promoting the myriad of centuries-old classical Indian music.

The performance is free and open to the public. For more

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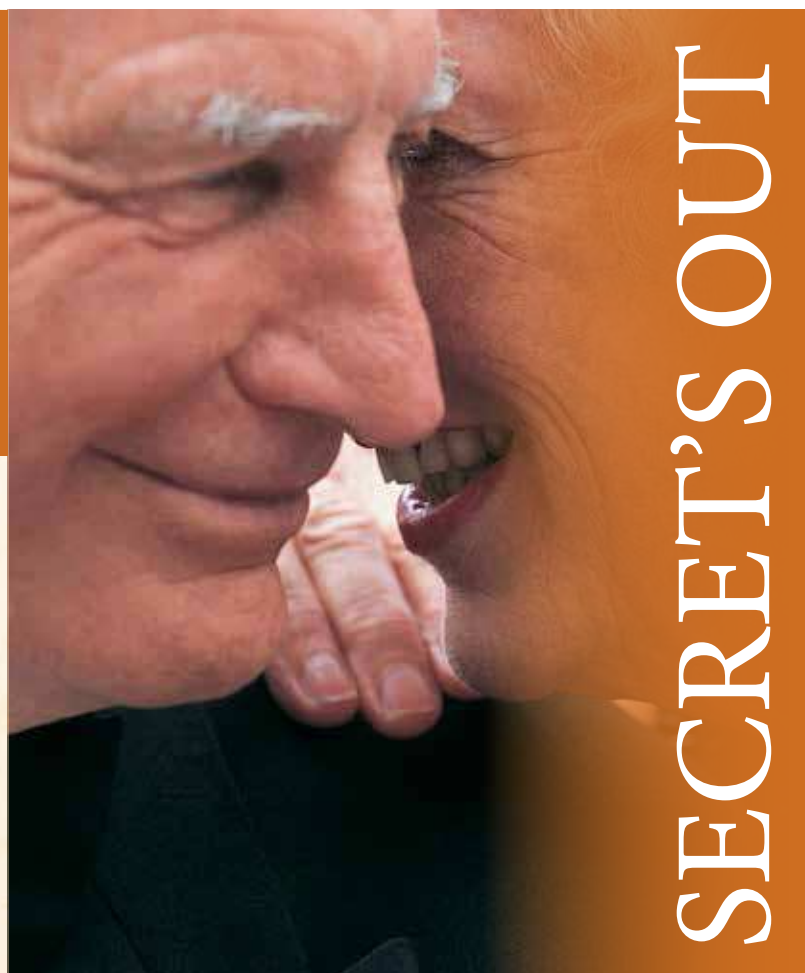
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information, call the First Colony Branch Library at 281-238-2800, or the library system's Communications Office at 281-633-4734.



Varad Gaikwad

SPECIAL EVENTS AT GEORGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Thai Fruit Carving

May 12, 10:30 am- noon, Meeting Room

Learn about the traditional Thai art of carving fruit into beautiful shapes.

Facebook: Intermediate

May 15, 2 pm, Computer Lab

Learn how to use more advanced features of this popular social-media website, such as using Facebook Messenger and groups, uploading photo albums, and making Event pages. Those attending this class must have a personal Facebook page already set up before the class. Reservations required.

Open-Mic Night

May 16, 6:-8: pm, Meeting Room

Open-Mic Night is a casual event for amateur performers to take the stage and express themselves! Step into the limelight to share original poetry, music, comedy, or one-act plays, or to showcase any other unique talents. Performances are limited to

five minutes or less, and they must not contain any profanity or other insensitive topics. This event is for adults and teens aged 14 and above. Registration is required.

Story Spinners Writing Club

May 17, 5:30-8 pm, Room 2C

This month's topic will be "Character Arcs." 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.

Art & Culture: Gothic Cathedrals

May 19, 1-3pm, Room 2A



Sheba Akhtar

Former architecture professor Sheba Akhtar will talk about Gothic architecture and art, which flourished in Europe during the High and Late Middle Ages, originating in 12th-century France and lasting into the 16th century. Hear about how characteristics of the Gothic period, including urbanization, economic prosperity, professional guilds, the crusades (1095-1291), and the veneration of the Virgin Mary, influenced the design of structures such as the Basilica of St. Denis, Chartres Cathedral, and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Akhtar will also talk about Abbott Suger and the incorporation of stained-glass windows in structures.

Cookin' the Books" Book Club

May 24; 7 pm, Room 2C

This monthly book club is for people who enjoy cooking and would like to expand their culinary experience by sharing their interest with other food lovers. The theme for May's meeting is "Brunch." Members are invited to select a cookbook from a display at the library, try out a recipe or two, and report back on whether it was liked or disliked. Samples of the dish may be brought to the meeting for others to try. Cooking enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels - from beginners to advanced - are invited to join. Share tips, get ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie of other individuals who have an interest in cooking and good cuisine! Meets on the fourth Thursday of every month; different cooking genres are explored each month.

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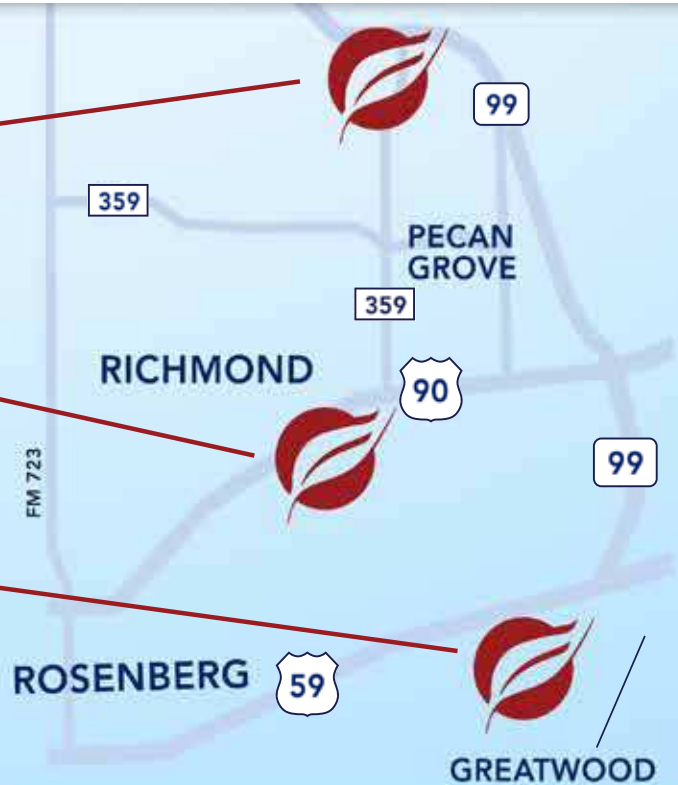
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AUSTIN ELEMENTARY

Austin Elementary School teaches students about farming and ranching

by **DIANA NGUYEN**
dnguyen@fbherald.com

Barrel racing, lassoing a rope around a wooden horse, sitting atop of a giant orange tractor, and interacting with cattle, horses, goats and chickens.

Austin Elementary School kindergarten students had the chance to experience it all during the school's Farm and Ranch Day.

Various volunteers throughout the community brought their own chickens, goats, bunnies, cattle and horses to teach the little ones about farming and ranching.

Robert Cook, a former Fort Bend County constable, brought a golden-brown Palomino horse, teaching kids how to care for horses and noting that some dirt actually helps protect the horses from infections.

Arianna Arney brought her fluffy grey-and-white 3-year-old bunny Bugz, Nicole Nix brought her black bunny Ninja, and Anthony Garcia taught kids how to lasso a wooden horse.

Farm and Ranch Day, volunteer Danette Fennesy noted, has become the school's approximately 20-year tradition.

"It started with me bringing all my own animals," she recalled.

It began around the time her son, Kyle, was in kindergarten at Austin Elementary when she owned all sorts of farm animals.

"But now that my kids are grown, I don't have anything anymore. Now it's just cats, and dogs and my turtles," she shared with a laugh.

But in the past, she recalled riding her horse to the school, while having her children help bring her chickens, "baby chicks, rabbits,

goats, I had all kinds of things."

The whole idea of Farm and Ranch Day, she explained is show "this is what they do on farms and ranches."

"[The volunteers] have farm animals and cattle, and some raise rabbits for meat actually, and chickens."

She related the learning day to the rodeo, which is filled with farm animals and ranching traditions.

"Judy, the lady [who brought] the chickens, God bless her. She lives down the street and they raise cattle and she drives the tractor here," said Danette.

"Her son helped her bring her chickens here, so she'll drive the tractor home."

Danette looked around at the kids playing with the animals, running around the barrels and learning about farming.

"This is really great. It's a big event for them."

Kindergarten teacher Pam Hobson added, "None of this would be possible without Danette."

See ON THE FORT BEND SCENE on page 30 for photos from the day.

Lamar CISD enters Memorandum of Understanding with Nanjing

Go to your map of the world and locate The People's Republic of China. On the coast of the East China Sea, you will find Shanghai. Slide about 200 miles due west and you will locate the city of Nanjing. Stick a pin in the map designating another Asian city that has sent educators to Lamar Consolidated School District.

Teachers and school officials from Nanjing visited Hubenak Elementary, Lamar Junior High and Lamar Consolidated High School on March 2.

Campus visits continued on March 5 when the Nanjing contingent visited Ryon Middle School, Reading Junior High and George Ranch High School.

"It was a great opportunity for our Lamar CISD schools to showcase our highly successful career and technology programs with a focus on math, science and engineering skills," said Leslie Haack, Lamar CISD's Executive Director for Secondary Education.

Representatives of the Nanjing Municipal Education Bureau of the People's Republic of China co-signed a memorandum of understanding between Fort Bend County and Nanjing. Lamar CISD Superintendent Dr. Thomas Randle and Fort Bend County Judge, Robert Hebert signed the MOU for Fort Bend County.

Both parties agreed to future educator exchange opportunities including a collaborative partnership designed to further develop teaching and learning skills among teachers from both countries.

This is the third group from Asia to visit Lamar Consolidated ISD. Prior exchanges include the George Ranch and Terry high schools' student and staff exchange with Foshan, China and the Foster High School - Dong Gang High School in Ping Tung, Taiwan student and staff exchange.

Foster High school students and staff visited their sister school in Taiwan and departed for Beijing, China in March for the second part of the exchange trip.



Teachers and staff from Nanjing visit a class at Lamar Junior High School in Rosenberg.



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FOSTER HIGH SCHOOL
 Sonali Puri earns \$20,000 for
 Houston Rodeo painting
 by **DIANA NGUYEN**

“It’s so nerve-racking when you’re waiting for your turn to go, but once you step on that stage it’s all smiles and honestly so amazing.”

This was how Foster High School junior Sonali Puri described her experience at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Show.

Puri’s knife-painting “Winter Coat” — illustrating a cowboy on a mahogany horse against a grey-mountain backdrop — was auctioned off for \$20,000 at the rodeo.

“The auction is such a heartwarming experience because it really shows how much art is still relevant and appreciated in the modern world today,” Puri reflected.

“I got my inspiration to do a knife-painting when I did one for my sketchbook assignment in art,” she said. “I used oil paint to mimic texture and give a 3D effect.”

The painting took around two and a half months to complete. But Puri wasn’t continuously working on just that one painting alone.

“I was working on other pieces [too],” she added.

And the 2018 HLSR Art Show wasn’t her first rodeo.

“I was at the rodeo auction last year and [my piece] auctioned off for \$17,000,” Puri shared. “So I was hoping to surpass that amount this year. My parents went with me for the second time.”

As a junior, Puri has entered her art into the HLSR competition a total of three times.

“This time around, I learned how to play with a new medium of art,” she said.



Foster High School junior Sonali Puri, surrounded by the School Art Auction Committee, stands by her knife-painting piece “Winter Coat,” which was auctioned off for \$20,000 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Auction.

Oil paint used to be her weakness, but after finishing this painting, “I feel like I have grown as an artist as well as moved out of my comfort zone and experimented with a little bit of realism,” she said.

“Mostly, the whole process was super enjoyable because I was doing a style that I love. Using a palette knife instead of a brush and slapping on paint just makes the painting process so much more fun.”

Puri describes her style of art as “out-of-the-box.”

Continued on page 33

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Austin Elementary's Farm & Ranch Day

Photos by **DIANA NGUYEN**



1 Austin Elementary School kindergarten student Heston Graham brushes a Palomino horse during the school's Farm and Ranch Day in March.

2 Austin Elementary School kindergartner Annie Johnson learns how to lasso with help from volunteer Anthony Garcia.

3 Austin Elementary School kindergarten student Khylie Garcia has fun pretending to drive a tractor.

Coffee with a Cop

Photos by **DIANA NGUYEN**



1 Richmond Police Lt. Lowell Neinast and Freddie Rychik, a father of a Richmond police officer, have a conversation over coffee.

2 Central Fort Bend Chamber Membership Director Heather Reichert and her daughter Sydney, with Richmond Police Lt. Diana Butinski.

3 Jess Stuart and Richmond Police Lt. Jesse Martin share a laugh.

4 Richmond Police Chief Gary Adams and Riki Graves s at March's Coffee with a Cop event at Joseph's Coffee & Cigars in downtown Richmond.



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Literacy Council of Fort Bend's Party with a Purpose

Photos by AVERIL GLEASON



1



2



3



4

1 Executive Director Kelli Metzenthin has a glass of rose during Literacy Council of Fort Bend's Party with a Purpose event in March.

2 Ruthann Johnston and Carleena Jones talk about the upcoming Reading Between the Wines event at Party with a Purpose.

3 Darla Fanta and daughter Liz talk with Sam Wood.

4 Jeff Deurlein chooses a vinyl to play at Party with a Purpose. Behind him is Jim McClellan.

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Continued from page 29

“Last year for my rodeo art, I did a purple cow. And this year, I did a knife-painting. Both of those styles have never made it to the auction before, so it was a great honor to have had mine chosen into the auction!”

After all the bids were called, Puri said the art students headed to the back room and met with the buyers to take pictures with them.

“They are so sweet and wonderful,” Puri expressed. “We shook hands and talked for a little while and they told me how they are planning to frame it in their home.

“It’s so amazing to see my artwork go from a blank canvas into someone’s home where it’ll be appreciated.”

Puri said out of the \$20,000 auctioned, she will receive only \$2,500 of it, “which is the set amount of money everyone from lot 18-72 get no matter how much they auction for.”

When asked if she considers herself a country girl herself, she laughed.

“No, I just like western art as a subject itself because it honors Texan culture,” she said.

She advises other student aspiring to enter the HLSR Art Auction to “go out of the box and be creative.”

“The judges/buyers aren’t always looking for the most picture-realistic artwork. They look for something different that has never been done before necessarily.”

Puri’s goal is to one day become a veterinarian to help animals. She hopes to minor in visual arts in college so she can “keep [her] artistic techniques throughout college and life,” and plans to use the money she earned to pay for college.

“Since I plan on becoming a veterinarian, I [will] have a lot of school left to pay for,” she said with a laugh.

Her favorite artists include Joshua Miels, a knife painting artist Puri

said “creates amazing paintings that look 3D all with just a palette knife.

“They are huge paintings that have a meaning behind them,” she added.

She also admires Inkquisitive, who she describes as “an amazing artist that uses lively colors and inks to create his work.

“Both of their unique art attracts me,” she said.



Lamar CISD students had a record 15 works of art judged at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Student Art Show. From left, are: Foster High School’s Xienna Khim and Sonali Puri, Terry High School’s Roman Orellana, and Foster’s Semaj Brown and Michael-David Archibong.



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HOUSTON METHODIST SUGAR LAND HOSPITAL *National Cancer Survivors Day will be celebrated June 1*

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital is joining nearly 15.5 million American cancer survivors celebrating the 31st Annual National Cancer Survivors Day this year.

Also being recognized are the many family members, caregivers and health care providers whose contributions to, and support of, cancer survivors help make the celebration possible.

“A diagnosis of cancer can generate many emotions but survival is about embracing life and living each day to the fullest,” said Amy Sebastian-Deutsch, director of oncology services.

“You will find our Cancer Survivor’s Day celebration and resource fair filled with laughter, camaraderie, hope, compassion, faith, love and music as we honor cancer survivors for their strength and courage.”

Anyone living with a personal history of cancer — from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life — is a cancer survivor, according to the National Cancer Survivors Day Foundation.

“National Cancer Survivors Day is a great opportunity for cancer survivors, caregivers, friends and family to come together and affirm there can be quality of life after a diagnosis of cancer,” said Clive Shkedy, M.D., medical director of radiation oncology.

Additionally, the foundation says that more people are

surviving cancer than ever before, thanks to advances in prevention, early detection, treatment and follow-up care.

Cancer, however, does come with many challenges, such as hindered access to cancer specialists and promising new treatments, inadequate or no insurance, financial hardships, employment problems and psychological struggles.

“Despite these difficulties, cancer survivors can live active, productive lives with the support of other survivors,” said Shkedy.

Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Sugar Land welcomes all local cancer survivors and a guest of their choice or one caregiver each to join its faculty and staff as they honor cancer survivors.

“It’s Not About the Destination...It’s About the Journey,” the Cancer Survivors Day Celebration and Resource Fair will have a travel theme and be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 1, at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square.

News anchor, Shern-Min Chow from KHOU 11 will emcee the event and this year’s keynote speaker is Sally Baskey and her popular character Ida Mae Fudpucker.

Guests will also be able to have a photo taken at the photo booth, and visit the resource fair. Recognizing the importance of wellness, guests will be invited to participate in a fun activity prior to enjoying a globally inspired lunch. Registration is required. Register online at events.houstonmethodist.org/survivorluncheon-sl or call 281-274-7500.



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Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital celebrates National Cancer Survivors Day on June 1.



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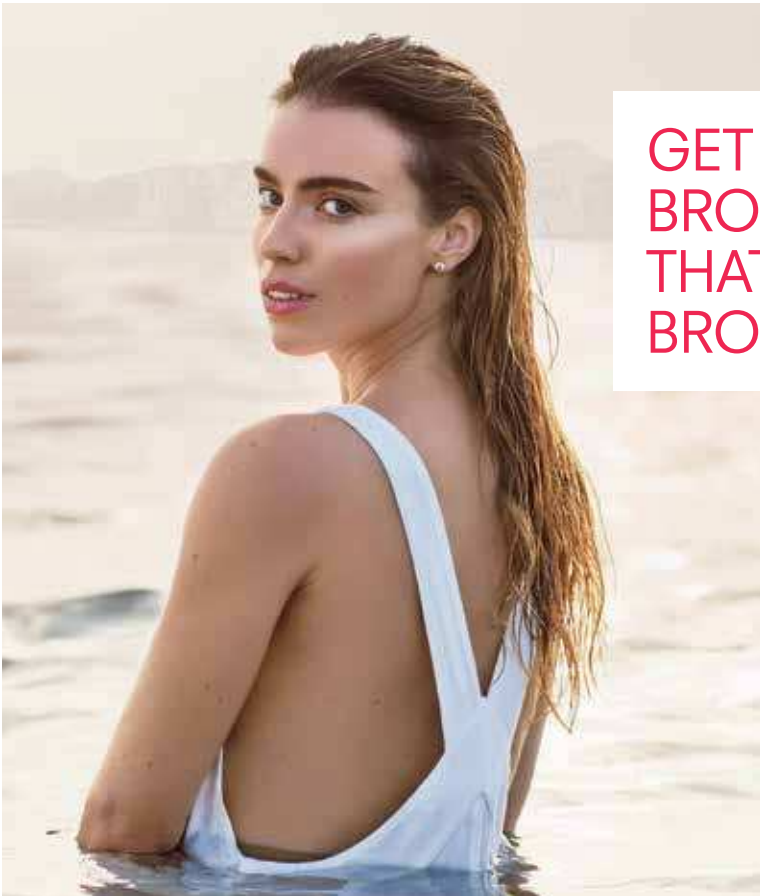
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Parents may need to help/supervise younger children with this craft.

1. Lay out the newspaper on the work surface so as not to get paint on the furniture.
2. Select the paint colors you would like to use and pour onto the paper plates.
3. Start with the green paint. Place hand in paint so palm and fingers are covered and then place hand on paper or canvas. Then wash your hands.
4. Using your thumb or index finger in yellow paint press onto the top of each finger print on canvas.
5. Choose the flower colors and for each petal use your index (pointer) finger or thumb to press around the yellow centers.
6. Cut out a flower pot shape and glue onto the bottom of the handprint.
7. You can handwrite or type out the poem if you would like:

*I've made some May flowers
With my finger and thumb
So you'll have these memories
For all the years to come!*
8. After it is dry gift it to your mom for Mothers Day!



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