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NEW TERRITORY
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FEATURE STORY WALKER STATION ELEMENTARY

The elementary's PTO is again hosting its popular Stallion Stampede fundraiser this month.

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CENTERPIECE THE ROSENBERG SYMPHONIC BAND

Although a community band for the City of Rosenberg, the Rosenberg Symphonic Band welcomes all musicians from anywhere, just as long as they have a passion to play.

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ON THE FORT BEND SCENE

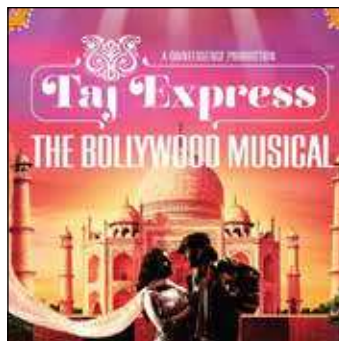
A look back at the 25th Annual Boot Scootin' Ball and the talented actors of "Madagascar — A Musical Adventure JR."

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LOOK WHO'S COMING

Plenty of entertainers will perform in Sugar Land this month.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

16th Annual Hands and Hearts Golf Tournament

On Monday, May 1 the Hands and Hearts Foundation of Sugar Land, Texas, will host its 16th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament at Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club, 3000 Plantation Drive in Richmond.

For registrations received prior to April 25, the individual player fee is \$150, including the Advantage Package: two Mulligans, a “Huge drive on Par 5” and a putting contest entry. The cost per player increases to \$175 on April 26. The Single Player fee includes the box lunch, a Mexican buffet dinner, and drinks on the course, as well as a Golfer Goody Bag along with raffle tickets and great give-aways.

Check in for the tournament begins at 11:00 a.m., when the driving range and putting green will open. After a putting contest, a box lunch will be provided at noon, with a Shotgun Start at 1 p.m. Dinner, an awards ceremony and silent auction follow tournament play. Each team is given the opportunity of a group photo prior to the tournament start, with the prints delivered at

the dinner.

Silent auction chair and board member, Evelyn Martin, promises a large selection of items, including rounds at local golf courses, as well as gifts which will make Mother’s Day and Father’s Day shopping a breeze.

Stan Wilkening serves as Hands and Hearts board president as well as chair of the golf committee. He invites individuals, companies and corporations to support this fundraising event. Sponsorships range from a Tournament Co-Sponsor at \$3,500 to Hole Sponsor levels of \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500.

Hands and Hearts Foundation (“HHF”) was formed in April, 2002, as a Christian-based, 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation. With no paid employees, volunteers carry out all operations and activities of the foundation, which provides support, assistance and encouragement for a variety of projects. HHF has also funded individuals who seek to improve the lives of people in under-resourced areas, both locally and worldwide, by serving as teachers, Christian evangelists, and volunteers on mission trips to Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Tibet, Africa and the Netherlands.

For additional information, please contact the tournament committee by mail at Hands and Hearts Foundation, 5826 New Territory Boulevard #600, Sugar Land, Texas 77479-5948; or by

email at contact@handsandheartsfoundation.org. For credit card payments, please contact Mike Baker at 713-725-8762. Stan Wilkening can be reached directly at 713.304.3247. For a tournament signup sheet visit www.handsandheartsfoundation.org.

NONPROFITS



Sugar Land’s Ammie Blahuta joins the George Foundation

The George Foundation is excited to announce Ammie Blahuta as director of special programs.

In this newly created position, Blahuta will be responsible for leading the Foundation’s special programs including Youth in Philanthropy, Leadership Excellence for Nonprofits, and the Foundation’s scholarship programs.

Blahuta will also support the mission by strengthening the foundation’s relationships with nonprofits and other community stakeholders through collaboration and community engagement.

“We are thrilled to bring Ammie’s talent and passion for community service to the Foundation to help continue the

George’s legacy of giving,” said Roger Adamson, CEO of The George Foundation.

“Ammie will work closely with long-time Foundation employee, Dee Koch, over the next year to transition leadership responsibilities of these special programs in anticipation of Dee’s retirement.”

Blahuta is a Fort Bend County native and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Consumer and Family Science from Purdue University.

Upon graduation, Blahuta served in a variety of marketing and management roles with Sysco Food Services and Strake Jesuit College Preparatory before joining Hudson Building Systems as the company’s Business Development Manager in 2009.

Blahuta is also the co-founder of Gigi’s Playhouse Sugar Land, a nonprofit organization with the mission to empower individuals with Down syndrome to reach their highest potential.

Gigi’s offers 30 direct educational and therapeutic programs to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the Fort Bend community in an inviting and uplifting environment — all free of charge.

Blahuta lives in Sugar Land with her husband Keith and their two children, Keaton and Sadie.

Carrie Fix Named Child Advocate of the Year

Carrie Fix was named Child Advocate of the Year for 2016 at Child Advocates of Fort Bend’s Annual Volunteer Celebration held March 2 at Sweetwater Country Club. The event was attended by more than 175 volunteers, community partners and staff.

Continued on page 8



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Continued from page 6



“Carrie exemplifies the ultimate in volunteerism to the agency – going “above and beyond”, donating her time, her talent and support across many different areas to make a lasting difference for children,” said Child Advocates of Fort Bend Chief Executive Officer Ruthanne Mefford. “In every way, Carrie has been a friend of our agency, a dedicated advocate for the children and a humble and selfless servant.”

Other honorees at the volunteer celebration included Margie Adolph and Sue Crookson (CASA Volunteers of the Year), Dorothy Huang (Children’s Advocacy Center Volunteer of the Year), and

James Steenberg (Voices for Children Ambassador of the Year). Suzy Morton was the recipient of the inaugural Mariel Barrera Champion for Children Award. The Award was re-named in honor of long time employee Mariel Barrera who passed away earlier this year. To see a list of all of the honorees or to learn more about volunteer opportunities with Child Advocates of Fort Bend, go to www.cafb.org.

Youth in Philanthropy Participates in the Texana Amazing Race

Students from different Fort Bend County high schools gathered together recently with clients of the Texana Center at their Rosenberg location to participate in the “Texana Amazing Race,” event.

The student participants were

volunteers assembled by Youth in Philanthropy (Y.I.P.), an organization funded by The George Foundation, in a partnership with Fort Bend Chamber Commerce, to assist high students in volunteering with local non-profit organizations in their community.

Each Y.I.P. volunteer was paired with a child or teen from Texana’s Autism Social Skills Group and After School program, creating a team identified by their different colored bandanas.

As soon as they were told to begin the race, streaks of bright orange, green and other colors blurred through the campus as they began the competition.

For more than two hours, nearly a dozen teams of two raced to finish different team-building activities. Each activity served to help build social skills for the Texana Center’s clients. By completing each game, such as a water balloon toss and blind-folded obstacle course, the teams worked together to gain as many points as possible.

At the end of the event, the top three teams received ribbons and candy, but the real winner was the purpose behind the activities; to practice social skills and interacting, solve problems as a team; gain knowledge, experiences and meet new friends. If you are interested in volunteering for the Texana Center, please contact Andi Wallis at andi.wallis@texanacenter.com.



Peyton Wallis has a great time at The Exchange Club of Sugar Land Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Photo by Larry Pullen

Friday, April 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Fluor Corporation Cafeteria, 1 Fluor Daniel Drive in Sugar Land.

Local law enforcement agencies and fire departments prepare a variety of spaghetti sauces, competing to win the cook-off trophy. This family oriented dinner features great raffle prizes, a live auction, silent auction and kid’s area with fun and games.

The funds raised allow The Exchange Club of Sugar Land to continue supporting local non-profits including Child Advocates of Fort Bend, Fort Bend County Women’s Center, Texana Center for Autistic Children, Fort Bend Council on Substance Abuse, Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, Crime Stoppers, YMCA, Literacy Council of Fort Bend, The ESCAPE Family Resource Center and many others. These funds also supports Exchange Club of Sugar Land community service projects.

Help the club support the Fort Bend Community by donating \$25 for an adult dinner ticket, \$5 for a child or \$100 for a raffle ticket which includes 2 adult and 2 children’s spaghetti dinners. For more information visit www.ecsl.org.

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land’s 30th Annual Spaghetti

Are you looking for a fun family evening? Join The Exchange Club of Sugar Land’s 30th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on



Photo Courtesy of Allison Hess

From left to right: Krysten Khang and Hunter Breeze push Namir Manasiya and Lyndon Johnson on carts during the “Amazing Race”



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Fort Bend Cares 4th Annual Doggone Fun Run

For the past 13 years Fort Bend Cares has taken under its wing the underprivileged children of Fort Bend County by awarding its financial resources to other support nonprofits dedicated to serving children. Since its inception the nonprofit has raised more than \$1.5 million for several dozen different charities such as the Fort Bend Rainbow Room, TW Davis YMCA, DePelchin, Lunches of Love, Hope for Three, Catholic Charities and A Childrens House for the Soul.

In 2016, 29 local charities received grants from Fort Bend Cares, including the Texana Center, which was awarded \$18,000 earmarked for a playground specifically designed for children with autism.

Fort Bend Cares kicked off the new year with its annual Road Trip fundraiser, which attracted more than 500 people, and it's picking up momentum with its second annual fundraiser the Doggone Fun Run.

Leave it up to Fort Bend Cares to create an event that is both compelling and extremely purposeful because one look at the 4th Annual Doggone Fun Run reveals that it goes beyond a fundraiser. Not only is the event a chance for people to connect for a common cause, it welcomes family participation in a fun atmosphere that also welcomes the attendance of the family dog.

There are even "spokesdogs" — Shih Tzus Annie and Lilly — designated for the event.

"Annie and Lilly aren't just cute, they are specially trained therapy dogs that have provided over 300 hours of emotional support

and smiles to patients at Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital," said Melinda Henry, Fort Bend Cares publicity chair of the Shih Tzus, who belong to Mike and Linda Ruggeroli of Richmond.

Upon retirement the Ruggerolis welcomed Lilly into their home to investigate the steps required to train therapy dogs. Lilly, now 5 years old, has served as a pet therapy dog since she was four months old. 3-year-old Annie also passed therapy training.

"Annie and Lilly are no strangers to cuddles, so if you see them at the Doggone Fun Run show them some love," Henry said.



Photo courtesy of Robbin Mallett
Linda Ruggeroli holding Annie and Mike Ruggeroli holding Lilly.

Underwritten by Top Dog sponsor Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital and Leader of the Pack sponsors Sunoco Logistics and Travis' Red Bandana Brigade, the 4th Annual Doggone Fun Run is set for Saturday, April 22, at the Village of Sawmill Lake in Sienna Plantation, 9807 Cameron Way in Missouri City.

The event includes a competitive chip timed 5K Run (without dogs) and a 5K Run and a 1 mile Fun Run/Walk (with or without dogs), so there is something for every person and pup, Henry said.

There will be medals for age group winners of the competitive 5K Run along with prizes for winners of the Canine Costume



Photo courtesy of Patty Ward
Group Costume Contest winners 2016 - Cooper, Brett Martin, Chewy, Lauren Martin, Ahana Gavrelos, and Yanni.

Competition. The event will also feature vendor booths and live music and the Sienna Plantations Canine Carnival, which features dog-friendly activities including performance dogs, pet adoptions and food trucks.

For event registration, more information, or to become a sponsor, visit www.fortbendcares.org, email funrun@fortbendcares.org, or call 832-819-2005.



Photo courtesy of Melinda Henry
Dogs and owners in the 1 mile Fun Run/Walk.

EVENT BREAKDOWN

- 7 a.m.** On-Site Packet Pick Up opens
- 8:30 a.m.** Chip-Timed 5K – people only
- 8:45 a.m.** Chip-Timed 5K – people and dogs
- 9 a.m.** One Mile Fun Run/Walk – people and dogs
- 9:45 a.m.** Awards Presentation
- 10:30 a.m.** Costume Contest
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** Sienna Plantation's Canine Carnival

Event swag includes a T-shirt and dog bandana while supplies last. Dog owners must ensure canine participants have a current rabies vaccine and are on a non-retractable leash.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- \$30** – 5K races for ages 12 and up
- \$30** – Adults for 1-mile walk
- \$30** Group Registration (1) Adult with (1) child free for 1-mile walk
- \$10** – Each additional child with group ticket for 1-mile walk
- Early Bird Registration** – goes until April 10. Prices increase \$5 per category on April 11.



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The 5th Annual Stallion Stampede supports education & community unity

BY Marquita Griffin

This is for the kids, has been a catchphrase used in popular media repeatedly of the years, but at Walker Station Elementary in New Territory, the saying is expressed with honest devotion. The parents and teachers who have carved a special nook in their heart for Walker Station are all looking years down the line into a time when their elementary students will inherit, improve, develop and lead the community and society.

So this — the 5th Annual Stallion Stampede — truly is for the kids.

“The event was created to be a community event that brings together students, families, runners and businesses in an effort to support the school and enhance the learning environment of our future leaders,” said Kathleen Randall, a member of the Walker Station PTO.

The Stallion Stampede, which is hosted by the PTO, is a certified 5k run, 1 mile run/walk event that will feature plenty of children

favorites like a dunk tank, games, rides and food concessions.

“The carnival is fun because there are a lot of games,” said third grader Mark Randall. “Last year, they had a basketball game.”

In the past more than 400 walkers and runners have participated in the Walker Elementary tradition — with the event getting “bigger and better each year,” Randall said, adding that “aside from being a lot of fun, this event is a school fundraiser.”

The year’s goal is to raise at least \$30,000 with 100 percent of



Photo Courtesy of Sonal Shah

Runners prepare to shine at the 2016 Stallion Stampede

the proceeds earmarked for educational support for teachers, staffs and students at Walker Station, and that is a cause parent Kimberly Johnson enthusiastically supports.

“The Stallion Stampede helps supplement federal and state funds so the school can purchase items such as new school playground equipment and expensive new learning technology, which benefits a STEM curriculum,” she said.

For the Community, By the Community

The event, which is open to the public, will be held at Walker Station Elementary School, 6200 Homeward Way in Sugar Land on Saturday, April 29. The certified, chip timed 5K race begins at 8 a.m., the certified and chip timed, 1 Mile Fun Run starts at 9 a.m. and the Pony Trot — designed as one lap around the track for pre-kindergartners — will kick off at 10 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded for the overall top male, female and age group competitors. Plus top high school, middle school and Walker Station grade level competitors will be recognized.

The carnival is set from 9 a.m. to noon and will feature games, rides and inflatables, a cake walk, silly string station and local food vendors. Tickets and wristbands may be purchased for the carnival. Additionally a silent auction —

including items like birthday party packages, restaurant gift certificates and summer fun camps — will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Finally, the raffle will include kid-friendly prizes. This year a PlayStation4, American Girl Doll and LED Smart TV are among the items being raffled.

The raffle and auction will start at the school on April 24 during school hours and is open to the public. The auction and raffle will conclude on April 29 at 11 a.m. at the event.

In a time when people are becoming more and more disconnected thanks to the latest technology, parent Angela Baxter said events like the Stallion Stampede allow neighbors, friends, strangers, peers and families to connect with one another out in the community they call home.

“It’s a fun outdoor event for the community,” she said.

And while the Walker Station tradition is for the community, it’s also by the community, Randall added.

“Teachers, parents, students, staff and neighbors all work together to host this event,” she said. “We could not do it without the donations and sponsorships of businesses and local families. It ends up being a very fun day that everyone looks forward to attending. Our family has participated in the Stallion Stampede the last several years, and it is always a great event.”



Photo Courtesy of Sonal Shah
Rain did not deter any runners at the 2016 Stallion Stampede



Cake Walk volunteer Laurie Klein with son Caden at the 2016 Stallion Stampede



Mark Randall climbing the indoor rock wall at last year’s carnival. The PTO funded the rock wall with money raised during previous Stampede races.



Anya Somico signing in for her chance at the friendly community competition.



Photo Courtesy of Sonal Shah
Winding up for the perfect pitch at the dunk tank.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Early registration guarantees a T-shirt, swag bag and five concession tickets. Early registration will last through April 14, but late and onsite registration will be available.

To register visit: runsignup.com/Race/TX/SugarLand/StallionStampede5K1Mile

5K Run = \$24

(price increases to \$35 after April 14 and onsite registration will be \$40)

1 Mile Fun Run = \$20

(price increases to \$30 after April 14 and onsite registration will be \$35)

Pony Trot = \$12

(price increases to \$20 after April 14 and onsite registration will be \$20)

Both the 5K and 1 Mile race courses start and end at Walker Station Elementary School. Runners will enjoy running through the beautiful New Territory and Pecan Parks. The Pony Trot will be one lap around the newly resurfaced WSE track. Please note: for the safety of all participants, skateboards, skates, heeies, and dogs are prohibited in this event. Strollers and wagons are welcome and will start behind runners.

For additional information, to donate an auction items or sponsor the event, please contact Kimberly Johnson, Silent Auction Chair (832) 633-0880 or see the Walker Station PTO Facebook page (WSE PTO).



This Community Band Strives to Connect People Through Music

By Marquita Griffin

In today's world there is no limit to the ways a person can express the artist within himself or herself, considering the barrage of options from theater, sculpting and photography to writing, dancing and painting, but in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg, Texas, one ensemble of talented men and women has found a way to channel their inner artist as members of the Rosenberg Symphonic Band.

On Tuesdays, as they have every Tuesday for the past four years, the 30 or so members meet in the fellowship hall to let free, and train, the instrumental artist within themselves and if you find yourself witnessing one of their performances, chances are you'll feel the absolute devotion and

excitement they have for their art. French poet and novelist of the Romantic period Victor Hugo characterized music as an element that "expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." Members of the Rosenberg Symphonic Band would agree.

There is just something special about music to these members. Maybe because music has the ability to transport people to other times without them having to move an inch. Maybe because it communicates emotions and memories better than words. Maybe because music is simply aesthetic.

"We feel it is our responsibility to provide musical entertainment other than what people hear on the radio," said Roger Bauer, the trumpet-playing Rosenberg Symphonic Band president. "We want to give them something to dream for."

Dreaming of Something Beautiful

In 2013 band director Ben

Ware, who for the past seven years has been Director of Bands at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School in Houston, Texas, had a dream to start a community band in a city that did not already have one. As it turns out, the City of Rosenberg — which was awarded the title as a Cultural Arts District that same year — was receptive to the idea of a community band.

"After performing with the Houston Symphonic Band, a Houston-based community band under the direction of mentor Robert McElroy, for 10 years, I attended graduate school to earn a degree in instrumental conducting," Ware said. "After returning to reside in Rosenberg, I wanted to give back to this great community through community band performances and provide an outlet for members of the

community to play their instrument and use their talents to share with others through concerts.”

The band’s platform consisted of fall and spring concerts, holiday and patriotic concerts, both for the city and greater community of Rosenberg, plus the overall goal

of playing family-friendly music that both performers and audience members would enjoy, Ware said.

After conducting for the first two years, the baton, so to speak, was handed down Justin Allen so Ware, who also serves as the Chair of the Fine Arts Department at Strake Jesuit, could work on his Doctorate of Education from Saint Louis University. Allen, who conducted the band for a year,

“ We want to give them something to dream for. ”

Roger Bauer,
Rosenberg
Symphonic Band
president

then handed the position to the current conductor Robert Cappa, who is the choir director for Wharton High School.

The Rosenberg Symphonic Band is simplistic in nature, but has a powerful impact on not just the community, but to musical artists who want to express

themselves. While many of the band’s members are musical professionals or educators, the professions of the members range from doctors and lawyers to pilots and students, as well as, your average man or woman who just enjoys playing music.

Ware, who attended a the recent

Continued on page 16



The French Horn section



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Continued from page 15



Conductor Robert Cappa leads the band in one of its many Tuesday practices.

Rosenberg Symphonic Band’s Winter Concert with his wife Sarah, said the original aspirations he had for the band have “absolutely” become a reality.

“We were very impressed by the sound, programming and growth,” Ware said. “We are very proud of all Rosenberg Symphonic

Band and its members have accomplished.”

A Musical Connection

Music connects people, Bauer said, and quite possibly that may be the most appealing aspect of the band. It connects fellow musicians. It connects the public to the band. It connects the people who live in the community.

Clearly devoted to their artistic endeavors, members of the band practice every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg, founded at 1127 3rd Street in Rosenberg, which is where most of the band’s concerts are held. And although the name of the band is the Rosenberg Symphonic Band, a member does not have to live in

Rosenberg to join.

“The beauty of the band, and what we are extremely proud of, is that all you have to have is passion and commitment to play,” said Bauer, who lives in Cypress, Texas. “We don’t even hold auditions. We don’t have any limitations or qualifications, except that you have to be at least 16 years old, but we’re serious about our music.”

Music for the Masses

A community band is vital and unique addition to a community, said Michael Gallegos, of Houston, who said being a member is “extremely personal” to him.

He recalls his youthful years growing up in Alice, Texas in a “hard working family with limited

funds” and his mother taking him to free musical events to expose him to the arts.

“It was due to my mother, that I would have a love for music,” said Gallegos, who enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old and toured throughout Europe with The 3rd Infantry Division Band based out of Wurzburg Germany.

Gallegos, who said he “dropped the horn for 25 or 30 years,” picked up his euphonium again when the band was formed and “[hasn’t] let go of it since” because he believes in the purpose of the band.

“This band is for the people who don’t have the financial access to hear quality music [that requires payment]; this is for those hard working single parents; this is for people who just want to enjoy a variety of music,” he said.



Soloist Lacy Orsak

“And we pride ourselves in our ability to provide that.”

Gallegos and Bauer are also members of Second Street Brass Quintet, which Gallegos endearingly refers to as a “tactical unit” of the Rosenberg Symphonic Band.

“I like to call it our tactical unit,” Gallegos said teasingly. “We perform more often and where a smaller group is needed as opposed to a larger symphonic band, like during events in Downtown Rosenberg.”

While most of the band’s concerts are held at First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg, other concerts are scheduled throughout the city at fundraisers, community events and at the parks. The concerts are always free and open to the public but donations are absolutely welcome.

The Rosenberg Symphonic



The Tenor sax and trombone players

Band performs for the public on average about four times a year, presenting a variety of genres including popular tunes, theatrical themes, show tunes, classical

music and even a bit of marching music to its audience.

“We are just trying to highlight different music for different tastes,” Gallegos said. “And it

makes us feel good to do what we do.

“Primarily the Rosenberg

Continued on page 18



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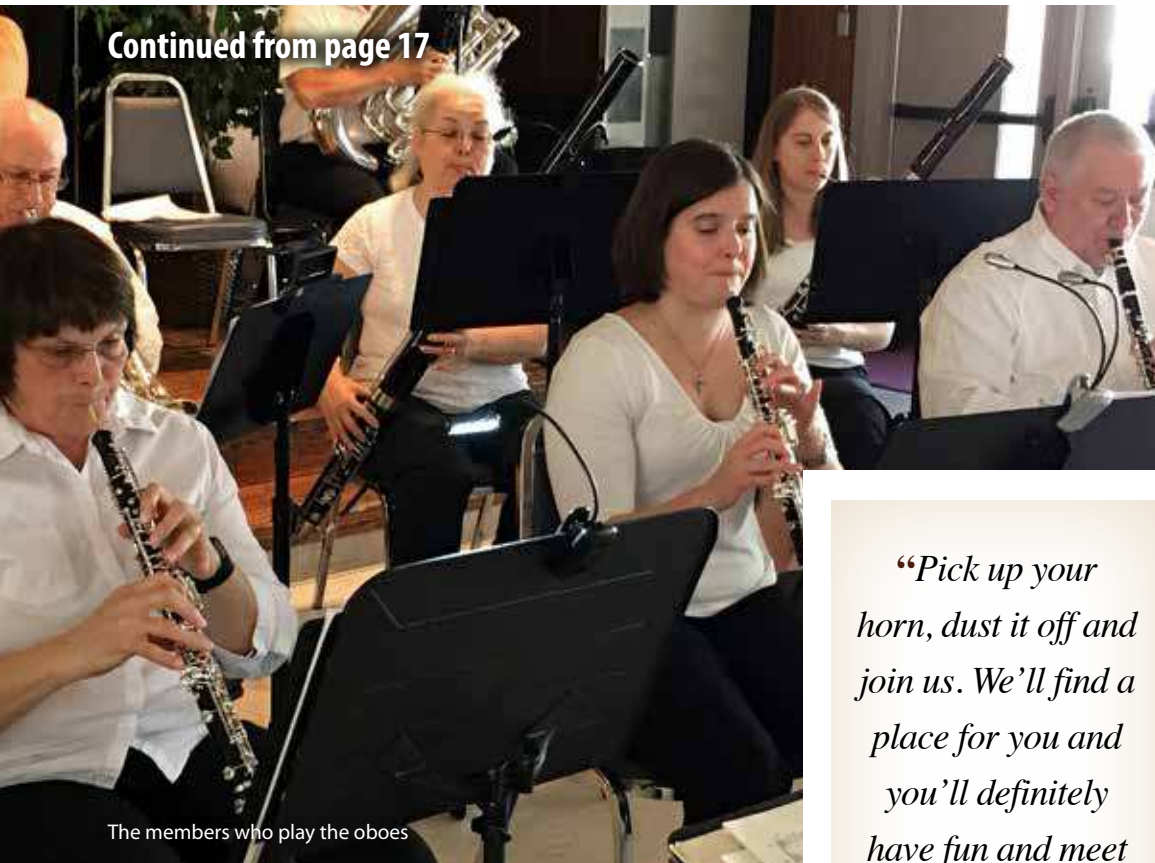
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Continued from page 17



The members who play the oboes

“Pick up your horn, dust it off and join us. We’ll find a place for you and you’ll definitely have fun and meet new friends.”

Michael Gallegos,
euphonium & trombone
player

awakening of the too often dormant musician within people.

“So many members of communities have played an instrument growing up. It’s a shame to spend all that time practicing, playing, and learning, all just to put the horn away in a closet,” Ware said. “Community bands provide an outlet for all citizens an opportunity to dust off the horn and improve on their instrument and with the group. Not only will the member feel they are giving back to their community through their talents, but they will also find that a community is truly built within the band itself. These friendships run deep and can result in life-long relationships. We don’t just grow as band, we also grow as people.”

Bauer said anyone wanting to join can simply show up to a Tuesday practice or contact the band by visiting www.rosenbergsymphonicband.com or visit the band’s Facebook page. Bauer added that the band is particularly interested in woodwind players as the band’s major goal this year is expanding its woodwind instruments section.

“Think about how great you feel when you play an instrument or listen to music. Add to that, great people, fun, and like-minded musicians. When you join a community band, you are part of something much bigger than one individual,” Ware said of joining the band. “A large team all pushing to the same intangible goal is truly awe inspiring. If you can find a couple of hours one evening a week, you will be surprised how much fun you have. After all, when playing an instrument, we get to do the opposite of work - we get to PLAY!”

Symphonic Band is a community musical organization and if a potential musician has the desire, commitment, motivation and passion to perform, then we will gladly accept that potential musician, regardless if that person has not played in the last 30 days or 30 years,” he added. “Pick up your horn, dust it off and join us. We’ll find a place for you and you’ll definitely have fun and meet new friends.”

A Place To Play

If you have the itch to play, then do it, said Ware. Re-connect with something that undoubtedly brought you joy. The beauty of the Rosenberg Symphonic Band, he said, is that it encourages the

Bauer, who was one of those musicians who dusted off the case, said the Rosenberg Symphonic Band “is the place to play.”

“There is a true camaraderie among us,” he said. “And we do have our fun, but once the baton goes up, it’s time to get serious.”

CONTACT & FOLLOW

THE ROSENBERG SYMPHONIC BAND

Website:

www.rosenberg-symphonicband.com

Facebook Page:

"Rosenberg Symphonic Band"

Upcoming performances:

April 1 at the Art Park on Third Street in Downtown Rosenberg

May 20 at the First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg



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ENTERTAINMENT

Inspiration Stage Presents 13, The Musical

Sugar Land's national award-winning community theatre, Inspiration Stage, opens *13, The Musical* on April 21 in the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, 226 Lakeview Dr.

Geek. Poser. Jock. Beauty Queen. Wannabe. These are the labels that can last a lifetime. With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer, Jason Robert Brown, (*Parade*, *The Last Five Years*, *Bridges of Madison County*) *13* is a musical about fitting in – and standing out!

Following a move from New York City to small-town Indiana, young Evan Goldman grapples with his parents' divorce, prepares



for his impending Bar Mitzvah, and navigates the complicated social circles of a new school. *13* is the only Broadway musical ever with a cast and band entirely made of teenagers.

Inspiration Stage's youth production, featuring a live band,

showcases talented teenagers from the Sugar Land and Houston area, with two evening shows and two matinees the weekend of April 21-23. *13* is directed by Lex Laas, with support from music director Heather Tipword and choreographer Monica Malone.

"This amazingly talented troupe of teens are rocking out to this score and digging their teeth into these characters," says Mandy Seymore-Sensat, Inspiration Stage's artistic director. "It is a joy to watch them bravely take on themes that are important to young teens in a positive and inspiring way."

Tickets are available now at www.inspirationstage.com.

Inspiration Stage is a national award-winning performance arts studio located in the historic Sugar Land Auditorium at 226 Lakeview Dr. The 2016/2017 season runs through the summer and includes adult and youth shows. Upcoming youth shows: *13, The Musical*, April 21 - 23; and *Legally Blonde, Jr.* May 12 - 14. Upcoming adult shows: *Sweeney Todd*, *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, March 31 - April 9; and *Hairspray*, July 28 - Aug. 13.

The 2017 summer schedule includes 21 youth summer camps for ages four through 18, including *The Lion King*, *Madagascar*, *Into the Woods*, *The Little Mermaid*,

Wizard of Oz, *Annie*, *Shrek*, *James & the Giant Peach*, *Harry Potter* and more. For more information, visit www.inspirationstage.com.

Coming to the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land

Bastille: Wild, Wild World Tour

Bastille will kick off their "Wild, Wild World Tour" in early 2017, with special guest Mondo Cozmo. The extensive run will take the GRAMMY®-nominated U.K. band to arenas and theatres across the U.S. and Canada, including an April 6 show at the Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land.



The band is touring in support of its sophomore album, *Wild*



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World (Virgin Records), which debuted in the Top 5 of the Billboard 200 and spent two weeks at No. 1 on the U.K. albums chart. "Good Grief," the first single from Wild World, has more than 39 million streams globally on Spotify to date, including seven million in the U.S. alone. In the U.K., the track reached No. 1 on Apple Music's Hot Tracks chart and the Shazam chart.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

Steve Martin & Martin Short: An Evening You Will Forget



Comedy icons Steve Martin and Martin Short will share the stage for a one-night only performance of their comedy show "An Evening You Will Forget for the Rest of Your Life" at the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land on Friday, April 7, 2017 at 8 p.m. The duo will also be joined by the GRAMMY Award-winning bluegrass band The Steep Canyon Rangers.

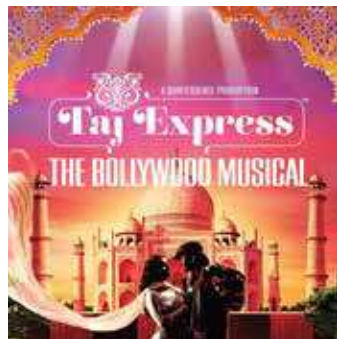
Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

Taj Express: The Bollywood Musical Revue

TAJ EXPRESS: The Bollywood Musical Revue is a Broadway-style Bollywood production touring 60 U.S. cities through Columbia Artists Management Inc. It is a high-energy celebration of India's pop music and Bollywood culture with vibrant dances and thrilling live music. It

will show at the Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land on April 8.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.



Adam Sandler & Friends: Here Comes The Funny Tour

Adam Sandler, David Spade, Nick Swardson & Rob Schneider will perform on April 11 as part of the Sandy Wexler's Here Comes The Funny Tour showing at the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

A Perfect Circle

A Perfect Circle, the band helmed by Maynard James Keenan (Tool/Puscifer) and Billy Howerdel (Ashes Divide), return to Houston with a April 27 date at Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land.

The date is the first since the band's 2011 tour and arrives with the news of the band's return to the studio, working on their first new album since 2004's eMOTIVE.

A Perfect Circle is Maynard James Keenan (Tool, Puscifer), Billy Howerdel (Ashes Divide), James Iha (Tinted Windows, ex-Smashing Pumpkins), Jeff Friedl



(Puscifer, The Beta Machine) and Matt McJunkins (Eagles of Death Metal, The Beta Machine).

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

Arijit Singh: Live in Concert

Arijit Singh is a trained classical Indian Playback Singer. His family had musical background which eventually led to a music career. He was first seen on the TV reality show "Fame Gurukul" and made it to the finals. He will perform at Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land on April 18.

He came into the limelight after



the release of Tum hi ho from Aashiqui 2. This song earned him numerous awards and nominations. Songs like Kabira and Illahi from Yeh Jawani hai Deewani are also the biggest hits in Bollywood.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.



Dan TDM: US Tour

Kids across America will have a night to call their own when Dan TDM, one of the world's biggest YouTube creators, embarks on his first North American tour this Spring.

Continued on page 22



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Continued from page 21

The tour features the YouTube star and his digital friends on a 21-city run, including Smart Financial Centre on April 29. The show takes families on a journey through the digital world as Dan, his online and real life friends and maybe even a few audience members try and save the day, solving puzzles and playing games as they go. See Dan live in action with his pugs, Dr Trayaurus, Craig the Mailman and lots of other well-loved friends, for an amazing Diamond Minecart adventure.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

Dileep Show 2017

Presented by St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Dileep Show 2017 is an Indian cultural extravaganza featuring Mega Film Star Dileep and over 20 South Indian film artists. The evening of entertainment will dazzle with dances, songs, and skits for the entire family to enjoy.

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral is proud to bring this amazing evening of family entertainment to Houston, TX. Proceeds benefit the St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral Community Center Construction. More information can be found at www.smartfinancialcentre.net or www.hstoc.org

Carlos Vives: USA TOUR 2017



Cardenas Marketing Network (CMN) announces the most anticipated tour of the year “Carlos

Vives - USA Tour 2017” where one of Latin Music’s most beloved Artists, Carlos Vives, returns to the US with his spectacular show after a successful tour in 2015.

He will play Smart Financial Centre on May 4.

Singer, songwriter, actor, entrepreneur and ambassador of USAID, Carlos Vives is one of the most emblematic artists of Colombia and one of the most important figures in Latin music. With over 30 million records sold worldwide, he is considered a pioneer in Colombian pop music. He was the first Colombian artist to win a Grammy Award and to date has taken home 2 Grammys and 11 Latin Grammys.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

Jay Leno



Acclaimed TV late night show host and admired stand-up comedian, Jay Leno will bring his latest comedy tour to the brand new Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land on Friday, May 5 at 8 p.m.

Following in the footsteps of NBC’s legendary late night hosts Steve Allen, Jack Paar and Johnny Carson, Leno dominated the 11:35 p.m. hour as the host of NBC’s “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” for 19 years. His “everyman” style and personable approach helped him clench a firm leadership in all demographic categories, a winning streak exceeding 50 consecutive quarters, and earning him the Emmy award for “Outstanding Comedy, Variety and Music Series” and TV Guide

Awards’ “Favorite Late Night Show” trophy.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

H-Town 90’s Block Party

Guy feat Teddy Riley, creators of the New Jack Swing style, will be headlining this year’s H-Town 90’s Block Party on May 6. Founded by super-producer Teddy Riley, Guy’s 1988 self-titled debut album became an instant smash with R&B hits such as “I Like”, “Groove Me”, and “Teddy’s Jam”. The group’s producer, Teddy Riley, became an in-demand songwriter and producer working with artists like Bobby Brown, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, and Keith Sweat, among others. Joining Guy and Teddy Riley on this year’s lineup is Monica, Ginuwine, 112 & Next.

Visit www.smartfinancialcentre.net for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

University Branch Library,
14010 University Blvd. Sugar Land
281-633-5100

Fort Bend County Libraries will be closed April 14 through April 16 in observation of the Easter Holiday.

Create Your Own Website

Are you looking to start your own website? Learn how to build and customize your own website using free online tools from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 20 at the University Branch Library. To participate, you will need to have a Google account. Registration

required; register online, in person, or call 281-633-5100. Registration opens April 6.

Credit Reports and Scores

Are you interested in learning about your credit report and score? Susan Hillebrandt, manager at Money Management International, will discuss credit scores and your recourse against misinformation in your credit report from 10:30 a.m. to noon on April 7.

This program is given in conjunction with SCORE. SCORE is a network of volunteers who offer small business entrepreneurs practical business advice at no charge. No registration required.

Transparent Language/ Pronunciator

Interested in learning a new language? Try this fun and informational class from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. April 27. This class will teach you how to use FREE databases available through the Fort Bend County Libraries website. These language learning programs cover materials for 80 languages; many different aspects of language are covered: speech, grammar, pronunciation, writing, vocabulary building, and much more! Registration required; register online, in person, or call 281-633-5100. Registration opens April 13.

“Bard & Bar” Event

The Fort Bend County Law Library will recognize the influence of literature on law, lawyers, and the Bar with a special “Bard & Bar” event on Thursday, April 13, from 10 to 11 am.

Enjoy a lively roundtable discussion on Chicago attorney Ronald H. Balson’s debut novel, *Once We Were Brothers*. This fast-

paced legal thriller tells the story of two young boys struggling to survive in war-torn Poland – one would eventually be incarcerated in a concentration camp and the other would become the Nazi officer who betrayed him. Sixty years later, their paths collide once again at a gala in Chicago. Delving into the horrific details of the story,

fledgling attorney Catherine Lockhart finds herself facing not only a powerful adversary, but her own self-doubts as well.

Balson is a Chicago trial attorney whose practice has taken him to several international venues, including to villages in Poland that inspired this novel. An adjunct professor of business law at the University of Chicago for 25 years, he now lectures on trial advocacy in federal-trial bar courses.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available. For more information, call the Law Library at 281-341-3718. The Law Library is located in the Fort Bend County Justice Center at 1422 Eugene Heimann Circle, Room 30298, in Richmond.



Want to share your community news?
Email Marquita Griffin at mgriffin@fbherald.com

COMMUNITY CALENDER

Events from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Fort Bend County

Gardening with Confidence Series

(fortbend.agrilife.org/gwc/)

April 8 – Warm Season Vegetable Gardening
May 20 – Gardening with Children

Home Food Preservation

(fortbend.agrilife.org/fcs/preserving-giving-the-bounty/)

April 19 – Tomatoes
May 10 – Freezing & Dehydration

Food Handler/ Manager Courses

(fortbend.agrilife.org/fcs/food-handlers-class/)

April 21 – Food Handler
May 22 – Food Handler

Private Pesticide Applicator

(fortbend.agrilife.org/event/private-pesticide-applicator-training-11/)

May 19 – Private Pesticide

Applicator Training Parenting Connections Workshop

April 25 & May 23-24

Summer Youth Camps

(fortbend.agrilife.org/youthcamps/)



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The 25th Anniversary Boot Scootin' Ball

Photos by By DIANA NGUYEN | dnguyen@fbherald.com

The Houston Metro Go-Texan Committee 25th Annual Boot Scootin' Ball was held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg.

Proceeds will go to Lamar CISD and Needville ISD high school scholarships.

In 2016, a total of \$180,000 in scholarships were awarded to Lamar Consolidated and Needville ISD students. This year, W.A. Parish Generating Station donated \$5,000 and through the live auction alone, a total of \$16,650 was raised. As of press time the ticket sales and silent auction proceeds were still being counted.



Jennifer Warnash smiles with Lamar/Needville Committee Capt. Alan Macik..



John Harden of Houston and Mitch King of Rosenberg, who previously was in the band Derringer, chat it up.



Briscoe Junior High School Principal Jose Pineda and Houston Metro Go Texan Committee board member Tim Bristol showcase the handcrafted coffee table made by Briscoe Junior High ag students in Jaycee Claybaker's classroom.



At left, Jackie Seawright of Sealy, with mom and dad, Monte and Gina Gonzales of Richmond, have fun dancing to the "Copperhead Road."



The live auction raised more than \$16,000



Father and son Theo and Taber Kovasovic, left, of Rosenberg dance the night away to music by Horizon.



Demetri Tsika of Richmond, gets his groove on.



Neil O. Yelderman and Tuan-Anh Nguye had a good time.

Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.

Photos Courtesy of Erika Waldorf

Inspiration Stage had a great weekend with a record-breaking attendance of 1,104 guests coming to see its five shows of Madagascar — A Musical Adventure JR. which ran March 2-5. There were a total of 49 cast members including Sophia DeOliveira (Ensemble) and Isabella Marino (Ensemble) of Telfair.



Photo Courtesy Erika Waldorf
Alex, the lion, (Jackson Champion) dreams of a juicy steak while stuck in the home of the Madagascar lemurs that only provided seaweed on a stick to eat.



Leading the way for Inspiration Stage's production of Madagascar, A Musical Adventure JR were Michael Olinger, Baylee Morales, Jackson Champion and Jonathan Bynum. Inspiration Stage is a national award-winning performance arts studio located in the historic Sugar Land Auditorium at 226 Lakeview Dr.



King Julien (Cameron Krouch) and Maurice (Addy McMillen) show the newcomers to Madagascar that the lemurs like to "Move It, Move It", the signature show-stopping number for this production.



New York Central Park Zoo's main attractions, Alex, the lion (Jackson Champion), Gloria, the hippo (Baylee Morales), and Melman, the giraffe (Michael Olinger), celebrate the 10th birthday of Marty, the zebra (Jonathan Bynum), whose birthday wish takes the four on a journey across the ocean to the land of Madagascar.



Photo Courtesy Erika Waldorf
Skipper, the captain of the penguins (Andy Lucas), explains to Marty the zebra (Jonathan Bynum) that the penguins are escaping the New York Central Park Zoo to go "home" to Antarctica!

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Join Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital as they raise funds for infant health in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies

Kyndal was born at Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital four weeks early, to a young, first-time mom named Jazmin Hosea.

Like many premature babies, Kyndal had a number of serious health issues, and she required an extended stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Houston Methodist Sugar Land.

“Premature birth is the leading cause of death for infants in the U.S.,” said NICU nurse Beth Kennedy.

“Because of the seriousness of the issues these babies face, and because they are so small and vulnerable, the NICU can be a scary, intimidating environment for parents – especially for young moms.

“But Jazmin was here every day for hours, and she worked hard to learn everything she could from the nurses so that she could eventually care for Kyndal herself.

“Thanks to the outstanding care she received, today Kyndal is nearly two years old and is happy



From left, Jazmin Hosea, Beth Kennedy, RN, and Kyndal Silva.

and healthy.”

And as her way of saying thanks, Jazmin is serving as the 2017 Patient Ambassador for Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital’s March of Dimes Walk for Babies.

The hospital has a team participating in the first-ever Fort Bend Walk for Babies, scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 29 at Constellation Field, 1 Stadium Drive in Sugar Land.

Fort Bend residents are invited to join our team and participate in the 3.2-mile walk to raise funds that support healthy childbirth and babies.

Easily sign up at marchforbabies.org/team/Houston-MethodistSugarLandHospital and click on the pink “Join This Team” button on the right.

“Or, you can donate to our team by clicking on the orange “Donate” button.

“March of Dimes does a fantastic job of working to support healthy lives for newborns,” said Kennedy.

“Proceeds from the annual Walk

for Babies are used to fund research into understanding premature births and how to prevent them, as well as actually supporting moms like Jazmin – and their families – who are struggling with the stress and difficulty of having a premature baby.

“Participating in the walk is our way of giving back and working toward reducing or eliminating premature births here in Fort Bend.”

“Kyndal is healthy and active today because of the care and support that Houston Methodist Sugar Land and March of Dimes provided,” said Jazmin.

“Participating in the Walk for Babies can help other new moms gain the skills and confidence they need to care for their premature babies and create even more success stories like ours. I encourage everyone to join our team or make a donation today.”

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



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Oakbend Medical Center volunteers schedules second "Power of the Pur\$e" fundraiser

The Volunteers of OakBend Medical Center are holding their second Power of the Purse fundraiser to raise money that will be donated to the renovation of the hospital's Skilled Nursing Unit.

Each year, the volunteers donate money that has been raised through various events such as craft and bake sales and through the sales of popcorn, pickles and items in the gift shop.

Last year, the volunteers raised \$17,000 at the Power of the Purse to help with renovations in the Skilled Nursing Unit, the only part of the original hospital.

This year's event will take place on Thursday, April 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Safari Texas.

The Power of the Pur\$e event will include lunch and a silent auction of a variety of purses to

designer bags.

Melissa Wilson of Fox 26 will be emceeing the program.

The keynote speaker this year will be LaDonna Gatlin.

LaDonna, a native Texan, is the sister of County Music's Gatlin Bros. and is a performer, professional speaker and author.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.oakbendmedcenter.org under the events section or call



LaDonna Gatlin

(281) 341-2864.

For additional information for tickets or sponsorships email ldrummond@obmc.org.



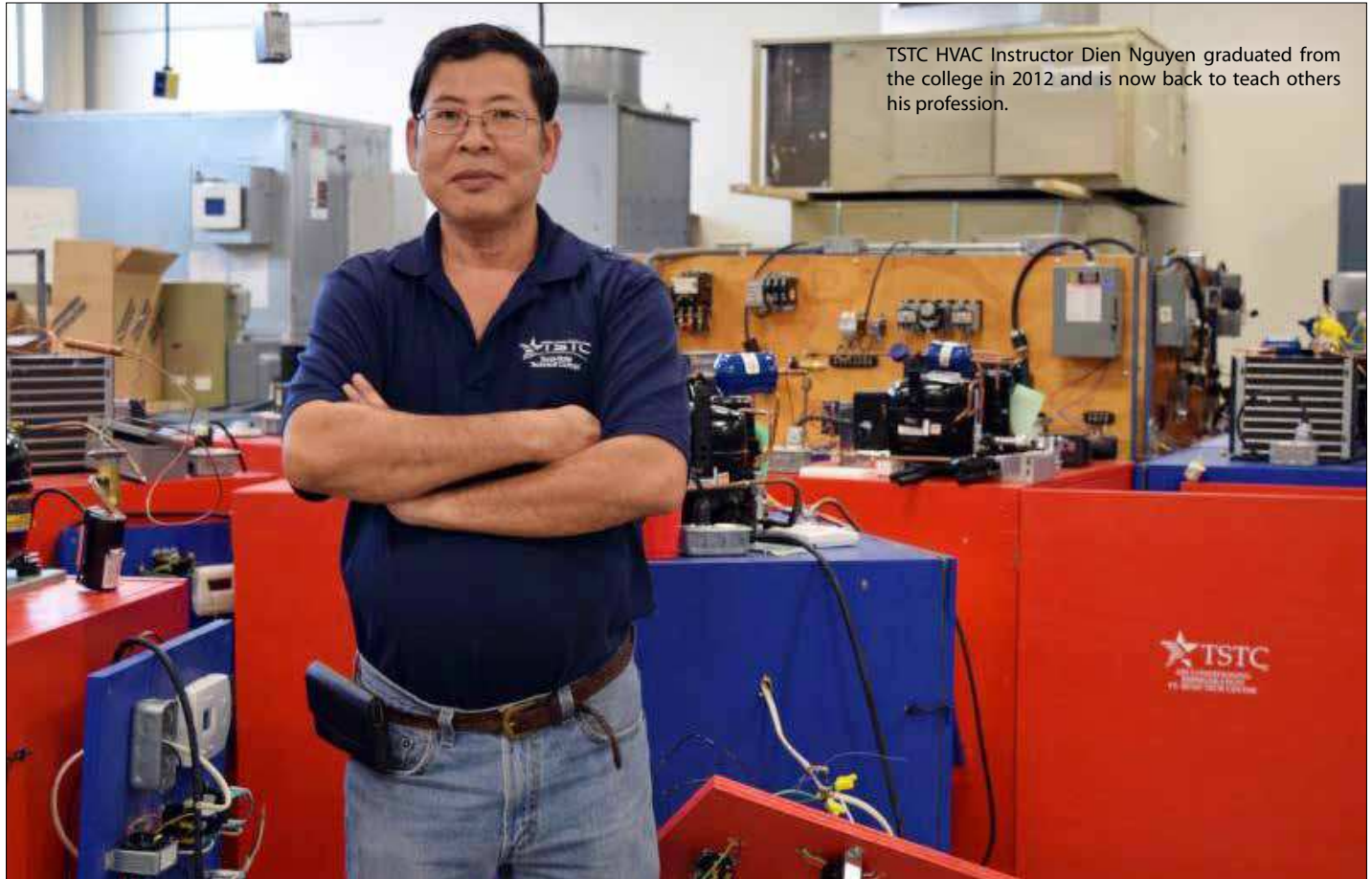
PHOTO CONTEST

We asked and you answered! Several of you submitted photos for our photo contest and winners will be announced in the June edition.

There is still time to submit your photos. For a look at the contest themes visit our Facebook page for details.

Winning photographs will be determined by members of the magazine team, who will base their rulings on the following criteria: relationship to theme, composition, focus, lighting and creativity. Photographers will be anonymous until after the judging is complete.

A 1st place and 2nd place winner will be identified, with the first place winner receiving a free copy of the magazine that showcases his or her photo. Winners will be contacted by email. Additionally, all photographs will earn recognition on the magazine's Facebook page and on The Fort Bend Herald website.



TSTC HVAC Instructor Dien Nguyen graduated from the college in 2012 and is now back to teach others his profession.

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HVAC Instructor Hopes to Inspire New Generations

Dien Nguyen graduated from Texas State Technical College in 2012, and is back at the college in his new role as the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) instructor at TSTC's Fort Bend County Campus.

"I have the passion to teach and help students," said Nguyen. "I want to be their guide to a successful career and help grow

TSTC's HVAC program."

However, HVAC was not the Richmond native's first career choice. Nguyen spent 22 years working as a Senior Systems Analyst in the computer systems field after earning an associate degree in Computer Science from a college in Nebraska.

The 55-year-old said with a changing economy and the outsourcing of software, he eventually got laid off, forcing him to change paths.

Nguyen said it was his brother-in-law, who owns an HVAC company in Houston, who introduced him to the HVAC field and all of the career opportunities available.

"My brother-in-law opened my eyes to the HVAC field and all of its possibilities," said Nguyen. "If you go into HVAC you can have a good-paying career that you know will not be outsourced. There's job security."

It was after this revelation that Nguyen enrolled at TSTC first

earning a certificate, then an associate degree in HVAC Technology. Immediately after graduating as a Board of Regent graduate with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, he got hired at a Houston area college as an HVAC Technician.

"The education and hand-on experience I got at TSTC prepared me for my new career," said Nguyen. "I received the foundation I needed to feel confident and prepared to join the HVAC workforce and be successful. TSTC changed my life."

Now, Nguyen said he hopes to change the lives of the newest HVAC generation.

"When I saw the job opening at TSTC I knew I had to apply," he said. "This is such a good program and I want to be a part of its future, helping students get a good-paying career in the HVAC field."

Nguyen said HVAC professionals are in high demand and his goal is to provide the

market with knowledgeable and qualified employees, while placing his students in good-paying jobs, and keeping the program's placement rate over 90 percent.

He said students who graduate from HVAC Technology can also work toward additional certifications that will allow them to someday own their own business.

When Nguyen is not busy teaching or learning more about the HVAC field, he is spending time with his wife and four children. He also practices photography as a hobby.

"It's been a long road, but with commitment and dedication I was able to learn all about my field and its equipment," said Nguyen. "I want students to know that if I did it, they can too. It just take time, patience and practice to grow in this field."

For more information on HVAC Technology in Fort Bend County call 346-239-3435.



Student Veteran Gets Chance of a Lifetime

ball, but because of protests they were unable to attend those events.

“I was disappointed that we had to alter our schedule,” he said. “We were really looking forward to it, but in the end I still got to experience Washington, and for that I’m fortunate.”

It was not too long ago that Cannon thought he would never get to experience anything again. His life changed forever in December 2006 during his tour of duty in Iraq. He was serving as a military police officer when a sniper shot him in the neck, shattering a portion of his spinal cord.

“In a split second everything changed,” said Cannon. “You live the first 20 years of your life being able to do everything, and suddenly you’re wheelchair-bound.”

Cannon said he had to relearn how to do simple, everyday things such as writing, driving and cooking.

“Basically, I had to learn how to live again,” he said.

This is Cannon’s second semester at TSTC, making it his first time back in school in 11 years. He said that at this point in his life he is ready to pursue a college education and a new career.

As a Cyber Security Technology student, he gets to explore his love of computers and technology while working toward his goal of finding employment with the FBI or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

“I’ve always loved computers, and I’m hoping to use that skill to stop hackers and reduce identity theft,” Cannon said.

Cannon is also an active volunteer with TSTC’s Veterans Center and other military and veteran organizations in Fort Bend County. He works closely with disabled veterans and children, showing them that they can live a normal life and do whatever they set their minds to.

“I see Dillon achieving anything that he focuses on in his future. He always has an infectious attitude whenever he’s around,” said Reginald Dunn, TSTC Veteran Services representative. “Dillon has honorably served our great nation, and it is a pleasure to ensure that we provide a great service to him by way of his educational benefits in return.”

TSTC’s Veterans Center is a centralized resource department that assists veterans and their dependents with admissions, financial aid, GI Bill and

Hazlewood benefits and provides support with internal and external referrals.

Cannon said if he has learned anything at all from his experiences it is that life is short and meant to be lived to its fullest.

“We all just have to get through life the best way we can,” he said. “We can’t let anything stop us. We have to go out and do it.”

He said he tries every day to follow his own advice and does everything he can to remain active because he is working toward one big goal.

“Whether on my own or with the help of technology, I will walk again,” he said.

For more on the services offered at TSTC’s Veterans Center, call 346-239-3425. For more information on TSTC’s Cyber Security Technology, call 346-239-3449 or visit tstc.edu.

Learning to live again, Dillon Cannon, a United States Army veteran and now a student at Texas State Technical College, just had the experience of a lifetime.

The Cyber Security Technology student recently attended the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. The invitation came from Helping Heroes, an organization that provides military and veteran support programs and donated a house to Cannon several years ago.

The Sugar Land native had the opportunity to sit nearly 30 feet from the podium where the newly elected president took his oath.

“This experience left me speechless,” said Cannon. “There is so much history in Washington, D.C., and to be a part of it was amazing. It was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There’s no other way to describe it.”

The 30-year-old and the group he was with were scheduled to have lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and attend a military

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By DIANA NGUYEN | dnguyen@fbherald.com

A grand, gated entrance admits guests to a rustic yet elegant limestone ballroom at the Briscoe Manor in Richmond. The Briscoe Manor provides an elegant taste of Texas and is miles away from the ordinary.

With its limestone architecture and country setting among the pecan and oak trees, Briscoe Manor offers guests an exceptional place to hold their special events. Located in the heart of Fort Bend County, Briscoe Manor can be a final destination for anyone dreaming of indoor and outdoor entertaining at its best.

A variety of venues, each reflecting true Texas sophistication, allows guests to create a custom backdrop for any upcoming celebration. The extensive grounds provide the perfect locale for every special event – wedding ceremonies and receptions, galas, award ceremonies, corporate luncheons,

holiday parties and more.

Community events held at the Briscoe Manor include the 2016 State of the City of Richmond and Lunches of Love's Taste of Fort Bend fundraiser.

The team behind the greatness of Briscoe Manor are: Director of Operations Jorden Mahler, Event and Sales Coordinators Jamie Eggleton and Stephanie Mahler, Director of Accounting Frances Gross, Manager of Business Development Ashley Manchaca and Operations Assistant Luis Magana.

As for what they love about Briscoe Manor? "The people," said Jamie. "It takes a village to pull off what we do and we have



one heck of a village.”

“My first attraction was the heart of the business, the men who created this great place,” said Stephanie.

Jorden shared that he loves that “we’ve created a place where not only our brides and grooms believe in what we are doing here, but I also think our employees really enjoy what they do here, we try to keep it simple!

“Every weekend is different, always and that’s what keeps us going! It is weekend work constantly, but at the same time, very rewarding. When we have families that come back for other weddings for their family or personal parties, that confirms that we’re doing things right here.”

Ashley recalled being married to her college sweetheart in the Briscoe Chapel in 2010. “Since that day, I was drawn back here. The feeling of home and comfort exudes in the beauty of Briscoe Manor. I take pride in what we are able to offer and want every girl to have exactly what I had on my wedding day: elegant perfection. A day she will never forget.”

Celia Jean of Katy said she could not have chosen a better venue for her big day. “I fell in love with this place when I attended another wedding only to get engaged in their chapel six months later,” she said. “Jamie helped coordinate the surprise engagement so I was hopeful she would be my day off coordinator and was so excited when I found out she was.

“The planning is made super easy and everyone is super helpful with any and all questions. The day of my wedding went so smooth. From the time we got there until we got in the getaway car, I could not have asked for anything better.

“Also, the food is to die for. Rachel and Behind the Bash know how to please! Love, love, love Briscoe Manor!”




“It takes a village to pull off what we do and we have one heck of a village.”

Jamie Eggleton - Event & Sales Coordinator



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Share Your News!

As we have for many years, we welcome your submissions to the magazine, be it a photo, story idea, announcement or event promotion. This magazine is not just our pride, we hope you feel it is your community magazine as well, and with each edition we hope to create a tighter bond within the New Territory community.

To help us achieve this goal, we have outlined our requirements, practices and deadlines for submitting material.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

If you would like to send us community information or photos here are the following deadlines for the next editions:

June Edition: May 5, 6 p.m.

July Edition: June 2, 6 p.m.

August Edition: July 2, 6 p.m.

September Edition: Aug. 2, 6 p.m.

STORY IDEAS

Do you know someone, an organization or an event that would make a great feature story? Please email your story ideas directly to Marquita Griffin at mgriffin@fbherald.com.

Stories must revolve around a connection to New Territory, whether the person lives in New Territory, works in New Territory or attends any New Territory neighborhood schools, or school New Territory students attend.

When emailing please provide contact information in the email and in the subject line of the email please put "New Territory Monthly."

You can also send us ideas by messaging us on our New Territory Monthly Facebook page!

As we often receive several story ideas at a time, we schedule them over the editions. We promise we will get to every story. We have a series of protocols in place for choosing what feature story will appear in which edition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Want to spotlight your child or a student in your community for a job well done? Want to wish someone a happy birthday or anniversary? Shoot us an email to mgriffin@fbherald.com.

PHOTOS

We absolutely love showcasing photos from community events and moments in the magazine. It is a great way to keep up with the happenings in the area and share fun moments with the community at large. If you would like to send a photo, please send it directly to Marquita Griffin at mgriffin@fbherald.com. Photos should be at least 300 dpi and those in the photos must be identified from left to right by first and last name. Please do not send photos of people or children who have not given you permission to share the photo.

Ideally we are looking for photos from community gatherings, fundraisers, events and fun neighborhood happenings.



Again, please indicate the photo is for the New Territory Monthly.

OWN A BUSINESS?

If you would like to promote or showcase your business, we offer paid options to have your business spotlighted in the magazines.



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ONLINE ACCESS

The magazine is always available online at www.fbherald.com before it makes it to your mailbox. To view and download it for free on the website you will need the ability to download an Adobe PDF.

FEEDBACK

Please share your feedback with us! We strive to make this community magazine something to look forward to each month and your opinions have and will continue to shape what this magazine showcases. Feedback can be sent to Lee Hartman at Leehart@fbherald.com or Marquita Griffin at mgriffin@fbherald.com.



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