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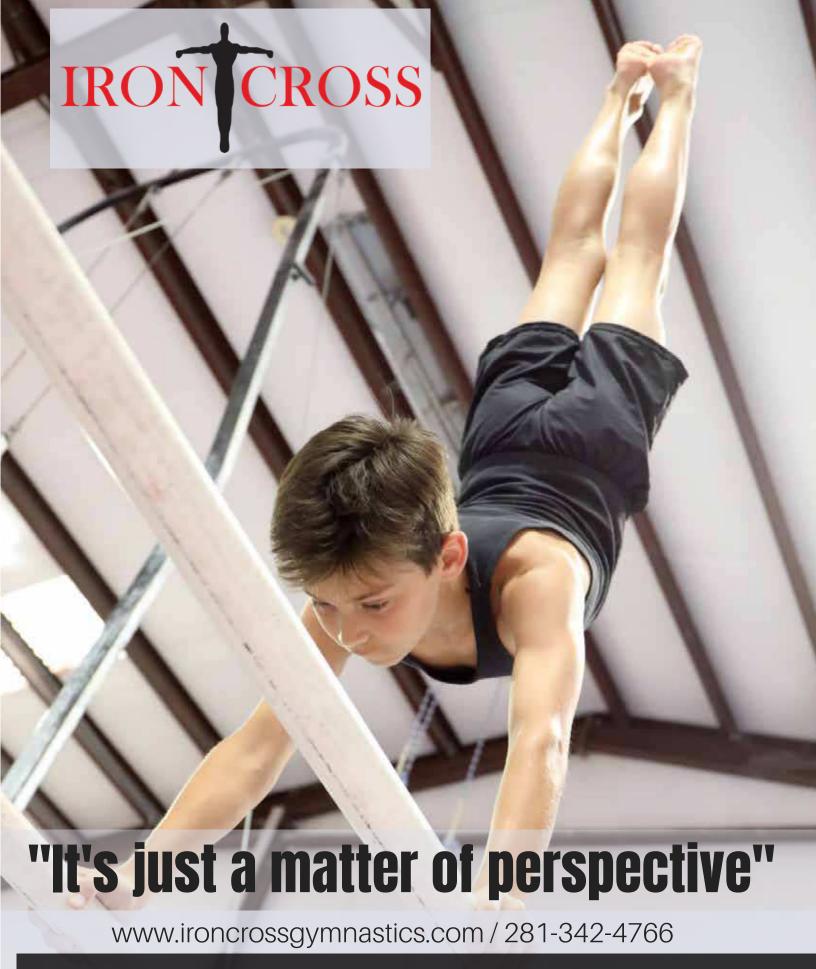
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udolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a staple story of the holiday season. The beloved tale is more than its memorable title character or the accompanying catchy melody that has been sung, performed and parodied throughout generations, though. It's a story about overcoming adversity. It's a story about triumph, friendship and forgiveness. It's about how being different can translate into being wonderfully special.

From beginning to end, it is a story in perfect tune with the meaning of the holidays, which is why it is no surprise that of the two holiday productions being put on by Inspiration Stage this month, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, JR." is included in the line-up.

Inspiration Stage, with and at the invitation of iTheatrics and Music Theatre International, will cooperatively develop, produce, and present the junior adaptation of the musical version of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, JR., as its second pilot production of the season.

The show runs through Dec. 9 at the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, 226 Lakeview Dr.

"We're thrilled to have been chosen to pilot a second iTheatrics/MTI show this season, after our successful Matilda JR. pilot production in October," said Mandy Seymore-Sensat, Inspiration Stage's artistic director. "It's a huge honor and a lot of fun to get to pilot this fast-moving, fun, musical presentation of a holiday classic."

Known as the company that "wrote the book on musical theatre," iTheatrics adapts main stage Broadway musicals so they can be performed by children in school and after-school settings. iTheatrics also creates these adaptations for a distinguished list of clients, including Music Theatre International, one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies.

Through the pilot process, the new Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR. adaptation will eventually be available for all theaters to license in the future.

Dickinson Elementary fifth grader Elise McDavitt, who has been cast as a reindeer, is thrilled to perform in her first musical ever.

"I'm so excited to be a part of Inspiration Stage," said the 10-year-old Greatwood resident. "I love the great costumes. The dancing and singing are my favorite parts of being in a musical."

The musical will feature all the favorite characters from the special including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable

Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and, of course, Rudolph.

The new junior musical is based on the animated television special Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the stage production directed and conceived by Jeff Frank and First Stage.

Also joining Inspiration Stage for the first time, is Greatwood resident Valeria Alcala, 9, who has been cast as an elf.

"The elves make many appearances in the musical, and we have a bunch of dances," said the St. Laurence fourth grader excitedly. "Even though it's a lot of hard work, we have lots of fun. I've made new friends and the directors are super nice. This is not a school play, but a real production, in which you can show your potential."

A MUSICAL THEATRE TRADITION

The second holiday classic coming to the stage is "Fiddler on the Roof, JR." in four shows Dec. 14 - 16.

A student adaptation of the nine-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, "Fiddler on the Roof JR." tells the story of a poor dairyman, Tevye, who in the little village of Anatevka, tries to instill in his five daughters the traditions of his tightly-knit Jewish community in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia.

The traditions of his ancestors are shattered as his daughters assert their independence and government troops brutally force Tevye and his fellow villagers from their homes. The curtain falls on Tevye's uplifting determination to create another life in the New World

"I'm honored to direct this beloved classic with a unique cast that represents the immense cultural diversity in Fort Bend County," said Sarah Patterson, the musical's director and music director. "Fiddler is a story of a people finding their way in a dynamic world that constantly challenges their beliefs and values. Though set over 100 years ago, the musical is timeless in its themes of family, tradition, and change."

Based on the award-winning, iconic Broadway classic, this universal drama is considered a true musical theatre tradition, including classics like "Matchmaker," "Sunrise, Sunset," and "If I Were a Rich Man."

Greatwood's Mei Lynn Fridge, 12, is fired up to act in "Fiddler," which will be her second Inspiration Stage performance.

"I had been planning to audition for "Fiddler on the Roof, JR." since it was announced," said the home-schooled seventh grader. "I'm excited for the music, the choreography and the set, which will have moving parts.

"I love the opportunity that I get at Inspiration Stage to perform in such amazing shows," Fridge added.

Fellow cast member Abby Nelson, 12 of Greatwood, agrees. "Fiddler," will be Nelson's second performance with Inspiration Stage.

""Fiddler on the Roof" is a classic, well-known musical and I'm excited to be part of it. The period costumes and involved dances make it a unique production," said the Reading Jr. High seventh grader who will play a priest and daughter in the production. "I look forward to spending more time with the cast, getting to know them, and learning from the 'veterans."

While the cast is diligently preparing to move the audience

with the story, director Patterson said what is equally important is that the young cast learn important lessons themselves.

"A few of our cast members are of Jewish faith, but the majority of these students are experiencing this culture and its customs for the first time," she said. "It is important to our production team to not only do justice to this terrific music, awe-inspiring choreography, and touching story, but to also immerse ourselves in the culture and historical context of this pieces — hopefully leaving our actors and audiences with an appreciation for Jewish culture, Judaism, and the exceptional hardships of the Semitic people during the Russian Pale of Settlement — the historical context of the piece."



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, JR.

Saturday, Dec 1 at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Director: Mandy Seymore-Sensat Choreographer: Annelea Bootle Stage Manager: Charlotte Harris



Fiddler on the Roof, JR.

Friday, Dec. 14 at 7:30pm Saturday, Dec. 15 at 3:30pm & 7:30pm Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3:30pm Director & Music Director: Sarah Patterson

Choreographer: Annelea Bootle Stage Manager: Brianna Escobedo





Inspiration Stage's cast of Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.



Daughters Hodel (Maddy Marlowe), Bielke (Megan Marlowe), Tzeitel (Reese Warren), Chava (Alexandra Champion) and Schprintze (Gentry Claire Lumpkin) surround Tevye (Evan Blackwell) and Golde (Abigail Cooney).

Inspiration Stage is a national award-winning performance arts studio located in the historic Sugar Land Auditorium at 226 Lakeview Dr. The 2018/2019 season includes youth and adult productions, as well as acting and production classes. Tuition assistance is available to qualifying participants. For tickets and information, visit www.inspirationstage.com.



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the holiday season begins in late November and runs through New Year's Day. It is marked by various gatherings of friends and family, decadent foods, cocktails, traveling, and gift exchanges. The National Retail Federation says consumers will spend an average of \$967 during the holiday season. However, the joy of the holidays also is about all of the memorable experiences that tend to make the season so beloved.

With that in mind, here are 30 ways to make the holiday season that much more merry.

- 1. Visit with an elderly or housebound neighbor and share conversation.
- 2. Donate gently used toys to a children's hospital.
- **3** Research the history of the holiday and share it with people you care about.
- 4. Make handmade Christmas tree ornaments.
- Donate money to a charity or other good cause.
- **()** Encourage "pay it forward" movements in your community. Start by doing something simple like buying a coffee for a complete stranger.
- Feed birds facing the cold, winter weather.
- 8. Take a ride or walk around the neighborhood to look at decorated houses.
- **J.** Make a fire in a fire pit in the yard and toast marshmallows while sipping hot chocolate.
- 10. Binge watch holiday movies.
- 11. Attend the concert of a children's choir.
- 12. Help a friend decorate his or her home.
- R. Host a tree-trimming party.
- 14. Schedule a day for baking cookies.
- 15. Sing Christmas carols at a nursing home.
- 10. Put together care packages of items and send them to

- troops overseas.
- 17. Share the holidays with a military family whose spouse is in service and can't make it home.
- 18. Offer to shop for someone who is homebound due to age, a chronic illness or injury.
- 10. Visit a large city to look at Christmas window displays.
- 20_{ullet} Buy and hang real mistletoe ... and use it.
- **21.** Make a new friend and invite him or her to a holiday party for the first time.
- 22. Babysit a newborn so his or her parents can get errands done or just catch up on rest.
- **23.** Volunteer at a soup kitchen.
- 24. Share the religious traditions of your holiday with someone of a different faith.
- **25.** If weather permits, go sledding, build a snowman or have a snowball fight.
- 20. Share favorite memories at family holiday dinners.
- 27. Remember a deceased loved one with a special tribute.
- **28.** Construct a gingerbread house.
- 20. Teach someone how to make a cherished family recipe.
- **30.** Surprise a distant relative with an impromptu visit.

Timeless Holiday Films

Many families have their own unique holiday traditions, but some traditions transcend familial lines to become an integral part of many people's holiday celebrations. One of the more popular traditions during this festive time of year is to watch a favorite holiday film with family and friends. With that in mind, the following are some of the most beloved holiday movies ever to make it onto the big screen.











"It's a Wonderful Life"

Perhaps no holiday film is more beloved than this 1946 Frank Capra-directed classic. Screen legend Jimmy Stewart plays a desperate businessman contemplating suicide during the holiday season. But a guardian angel helps him realize all the good fortune in his life by showing him what life might have been like if he had never existed.

"White Christmas"

This 1954 song-and-dance film stars Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye as a pair of longtime friends and ex-military men who fall in love with a sister act team that includes famous singer (and aunt to George Clooney) Rosemary Clooney. Crosby and Kaye join forces to save the failing Vermont inn of their beloved former commander.

"Miracle on 34th Street"

Natalie Wood stars in this 1947 classic that follows the trial of Kris Kringle, who claims to be Santa Claus and must prove otherwise to avoid being institutionalized. Nominated for Best Picture at the 1948 Academy Awards, "Miracle on 34th Street" won three of the prestigious statuettes, including a Best Supporting Actor Oscar® for Edmund Gwenn, who played the jolly old man in the red suit.

"Bad Santa"

Though not quite as heartwarming as many holiday films, this 2003 black comedy stars Billy Bob Thornton as miserable, alcoholic con man "Willie," who poses as a mall Santa Claus so he can rob a department store safe on Christmas Eve. But in spite of its rather raunchy take on the holiday season, the film is ultimately a story of redemption as Willie befriends a bullied youngster and begins to turn his life around. (Note: Not suitable for children)

"A Christmas Carol"

Those looking for a more traditional take on holiday films need look no further than this 1951 adaptation of the Charles Dickens novella, which tells the tale of bitter miser Ebenezer Scrooge as he is haunted by three ghosts on Christmas Eve.

The Greatwood Monthly staff's pick of favorite Christmas Films **Cartoons**

Holiday Inn (1942) The Bishop's Wife (1948) Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964) A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (1966) Frosty the Snowman (1969) The Bear Who Slept Through

The Year Without a Santa Claus

Christmas (1973)

(1974)

Bugs Bunny's Christmas Carol (1979)The Snowman (1982)

A Christmas Story (1983) Mickey's Christmas Carol (1983) Trading Places (1983) *

Lethal Weapon (1987) *

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) Die Hard (1988) *

Scrooged (1988)*

Prancer (1989)

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Home Alone (1990)

Die Hard 2 (1990) *

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Batman Returns (1992) * Miracle on 34th Street (1994 version)

The Santa Claus (1994) The Ref (1994) *

Jingle All the Way (1996)

Reindeer Games (2000) * 8 Women (2001) *

About a Boy (2002) * Love Actually (2003) *

Jack Frost (1998)

Elf (2003)

The Polar Express (2004)

Christmas at the Kranks (2004) The Chronicles Of Narnia: The

Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (2005)

Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (2005) * Bah, Humduck! A Looney Tunes

Christmas (2006)

The Holiday (2006) *

Shrek the Halls (2007)

The Perfect Holiday (2007) *

In Bruges (2008) *

Four Christmases (2008) *

A Christmas Tale (2008) *

Kung Fu Panda Holiday (2010)

Arthur Christmas (2011)

Saving Santa (2013)

* adult movies

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Christmas Cocktails (and non-alcholoic drinks, too)



White Christmas Martini

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INGREDIENTS

2 ounces vanilla vodka2 ounce white chocolate liqueur

1 ounce white creme de cacao

1 ounce half-and-half

Honey and coarse sanding sugar for rim garnish

DIRECTIONS

Pour the honey into a shallow dish and put the sanding sugar in another shallow dish. Coat the rim of the glass in the honey; then dip the rim in the sugar to coat evenly. Set the glass aside.

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, add the vodka, white chocolate liqueur, creme de cacao, and half-and-half. Shake vigorously and strain into the prepared martini glass.



Rudolph-Tini

INGREDIENTS

2 fluid ounces vodka

- 1 fluid ounce hazelnut liqueur, such as Frangelico
- 1 fluid ounce coconut flavored rum
- 1 fluid ounce half-and-half cream
- 2 (4 inch) cinnamon sticks 1 maraschino cherry

DIRECTIONS

Pour the vodka, hazelnut liqueur, rum, and half-and-half into a cocktail shaker over ice. Cover, and shake until the outside of the shaker has frosted. Strain into a chilled martini glass; garnish with the cinnamon sticks to look like antlers, and the cherry on the rim to look like a nose.



Apple Barley Old Fashioned

by SteakBar in Chicago

INGREDIENTS

1 oz strong-brewed chilled barley tea bag (poured from 10 oz of hot water brewed with two tea bags)

1/3 dropper Angostura bitters 5 dashes molasses bitters

.25 oz simple syrup .5 oz apple cider

.5 oz apple cider Splash of club soda – optional

DIRECTIONS

Stir ingredients and garnish with an orange swath and two Luxardo cherries.



Cggnog
by LACEY BAIER of
A SWEET PEA CHEF

INGREDIENTS

2 cups milk

5 whole cloves

1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/4 cup sweetened, condensed milk

4 egg yolks

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 cup heavy whipping cream

1 tsp ground nutmeg, plus more for garnish

1 tsp vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Combine milk, cloves, cinnamon and condensed milk over low heat in a deep sauce pan until the mixture is no longer chilled and is heated through. Slowly increase the heat to medium and bring the mixture to a low boil, careful not to allow a rolling boil.

2In a medium bowl, combine the eggs and sugar. Beat eggs until lightened in color and fluffy. Slowly temper the eggs by adding about 1 tbsp. at a time of the hot milk mixture into the egg and sugar mixture. Once enough of the milk is in the egg mixture, pour it all back into the saucepan.

Heat over medium heat for 3-5 minutes, stirring frequently, until thickened enough to leave a clean line on the back of a spoon. Add the heavy whipping cream, nutmeg and vanilla extract to the mixture and heat through. Do not bring to a boil. Strain the mixture using a fine mesh strainer to catch the spices.

Place in an airtight container in the refrigerator and let cool for at least one hour, preferably longer. Serve cold. Garnish with additional nutmeg if desired.







andmade gifts, trinkets and treats help make the holiday season special. Although cookies and other baked goods are some of the most popular homemade creations this time of year, gift-givers young and old can put their talents to use with various craft projects.

Ornaments and decorations are one such idea. Here are some clever and, not-too-time-consuming craft projects to try this holiday season.

MINI SLEIGHS: Create miniature replicas of Santa's famous sleigh. Paint several popsicle sticks to form the main body of the sleigh and glue them together. Put one at the top perpendicular to the others to serve as the steering rudder. Two silver-painted popsicle sticks placed on their thin sides act as the blades of a sled.

POPCORN GARLAND: Garland made of popcorn is a classic handmade holiday project. For a new twist, toss the popcorn with food coloring and allow it to dry before stringing for some bright color on the tree.

PHOTO ORNAMENTS: Print out several different photos that you love. Purchase round or square thin wood pieces from a craft store and attach the photos with Mod Podge®. When dry, drill a hole through the top and thread with twine.

ADVENT CALENDAR: Make an Advent calendar to count down to Christmas by covering a foam board with fabric. Use paper tags or small ornaments and write a number on each for each day of the month. Hang these all from the board. As each day passes, move the tag or ornament to the tree.

WOODEN SNOWFLAKES: Have children collect small twigs from outdoors, as well as holly leaves and some sprigs of evergreen. Arrange similarly sized twigs in the shape of snowflakes and glue together, or tie with twine. Embellish with stickers, glitter, dried berries, and more.

DOUGH ORNAMENTS: Anyone can have fun molding their own ornaments, letting them dry and then painting them. Use cookie cutters to get perfect holiday shapes. Craft stores sell various types of modeling clays and lightweight modeling materials. Or, make your own salt dough.

REINDEER BOTTLE TOPPER: Put to use any wine corks you have lying around. Attach googly eyes and a small fuzzy nose to the front of a cork. Insert twisted, brown pipe cleaners to make the antlers up top. Add ribbons, small snippets of faux fur or any other extras you desire.

SWEET SENTIMENTS: Use old Scrabble® letter tiles to form a favorite holiday phrase, like "Joy to the World." Glue the tiles together and hang from the tree on a piece of ribbon.

Get into the Spirit with these fun Christmas Tidbits

the holiday season has arrived, and millions of people across the globe will be celebrating Christmas with their families and friends. The following are some interesting tidbits to share with your loved ones this holiday season.

Each year, more than three billion Christmas cards are sent in the United States alone.

In 350 AD, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birth of Jesus Christ. Many historians and theologians have surmised that Christ really wasn't born this time of year, thanks to imagery and information from the Bible.

Christmas carols began as an English custom called "wassailing." Individuals toasted neighbors to a long and healthy life.

Despite the common tale that three wise men paid homage to baby Jesus, the Bible never specifically calls out a number. Similarly, there's no specific indication that they visited the infant Jesus. Their visit may have occurred when Jesus was older.

Santa Claus' modern look was inspired by writings from The Knickerbockers of New York and imagery from Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Moore denied authoring the famous poem for 15 years after it was published anonymously, feeling the poem was beneath his talents.

Santa has his own official postal code. It's H0 H0 H0.

The song "Jingle Bells" was originally written for Thanksgiving and not Christmas. People loved it so much that the lyrics were changed to fit Christmas.

Christmas trees typically grow for 15 years before they're cut and sold. This means the trees sold today were likely planted in 1999.

Christmas was not declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.

Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal served in England was a pig's head and mustard.

Male reindeer tend to shed their antlers in the winter. This means Santa's reindeer are likely female.

Christ may have been born in a cave rather than a manger.

According to the gospel of Luke, the shepherds that helped find shelter for Mary to give birth kept their flock in a cave. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is built over a cave called the Grotto of the Nativity, where Jesus is believed to have been born.

Many people may be less inclined to stand under mistletoe waiting for a kiss if they knew what "mistletoe" means in the ancient Germanic language. It literally means "dung on a twig," for the bird who eats the berries and then leaves seeds in droppings to propagate new plants.

Each holiday season, PNC Wealth Management calculates the costs of the gifts in the song, "The 12 Days of Christmas." The price index for the gifts went from \$12,673 in 1984 to more than \$24,000 in 2011. The most expensive gift is the swimming swans.

GET THIS: Rudolph almost had a blue nose and was named Reginald.

Adults and children alike are familiar with the tale of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Popularized by the song written by Johnny Marks and sung by Gene Autry, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer dates back to 1939.



A copywriter named Robert L. May created the story of the misfit reindeer in 1939 when working for Montgomery Ward. The retail giant was producing marketing holiday coloring books for children and wanted to come up with a clever character.

Although Rudolph is now beloved, May's original ideas included Rollo and Reginald.

Also, Rudolph's famed red nose almost didn't come to be. Because a red nose at the time was viewed as a sign of alcoholism, Montgomery Ward was hesitant to be on board with the bulbous, red snoot.

A blue nose was considered, but later changed. In its first year of publication, Montgomery Ward had distributed 2.4 million copies of Rudolph's story.

The catchy tune came thereafter, followed by a cartoon short in 1948. In 1964, the stop-motion animated television special further propelled Rudolph to celebrity and became the most recognizable Rudolph adaption.

Today, Rudolph is known across the globe as the reindeer responsible for navigating Santa's sleigh through tricky weather on Christmas Eve.





4 Excellent & Easy Last-minute Gift Ideas

any holiday shoppers adhere to the timehonored tradition of last-minute shopping. The perfect gift can sometimes prove elusive, especially as the sand in the holiday hour glass keeps dwindling. These last-minute gift ideas may be just what shoppers need to put smiles on the faces of their loved ones this holiday season.

hotspot restaurant or specialty grocery store for the perfect gift. Take them out for a night on the town or give a gift card they can use at their convenience. The craft beer boom has created a host of devoted and knowledgeable beer drinkers, so a gift card or growler from a local craft brewery is sure to please people who love hoisting frosty pints.

FOOD / BEVERAGE

Television channels such as The Food Network have changed the way many people look at food. When gifting the family foodie, last-minute shoppers may not need to look further than the latest

EXPERIENCES

A 2017 survey by the global research firm NPD Group found that roughly 40 percent of holiday shoppers planned to give

Continued on page 17



GREATWOOD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

At Greatwood Veterinary Hospital, we are dedicated to providing excellent and compassionate care for your furry, family friends. We offer full veterinary services in our new, spacious 6,500 square foot facility. Our experienced and caring veterinarians and staff strive to provide the best quality care available for your pets, with an emphasis on client education and an understanding of your pet's specific needs. We would like to be partners with you in ensuring your pet's good health and well-being. In addition to full medical, surgical, and dental veterinary care, we also offer boarding, grooming, and cremation services. Greatwood Veterinary Hospital has been providing affordable and quality veterinary care to the Fort Bend area for over 15 years. It is our hope that we can meet all your animal's health care needs with our warm, friendly, and knowledgeable services.

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Holiday Happenings

Through January

Project Noel

The Richmond State Supported Living Center's Project Noel will run through Jan. 6, 2019 from 6 - 9 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Santa and his elves will visit the first two weekends in December. Visit govsc.org for details.

December 1

16th Annual Miracle on Morton Street 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Shopping, live entertainment, food and Santa will be featured at the 16th Annual Miracle on Morton Street t in the Downtown Historic Richmond District (between 2nd and 5th Streets). Visit www.historicrichmond.org for more information.

Fulshear Festival of Lights

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Held on Main Street in Downtown Fulshear, the evening will include ice skating, tree lighting, a parade and fireworks.

DECEMBER 2

Photos with Santa

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Guests can take a free photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the lobby of 16190 City Walk in Sugar Land. You can also donated new and unwrapped toys for the Fort Bend Rainbow Room's Christmas Project. All donations will go to children and adults referred by caseworkers from Texas Department of Family & Protective services. You will have more opportunities on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16.

DECEMBER 7

Christmas Home Tour

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Child Advocates of Fort Bend showcases homes lavishly decorated for the holidays as a way of raising money to support their programs. The Candlelight Tour will be held from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Dec. 7 and another tour is set for Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visitwww.cafb.org.

Rosenberg Christmas Nights

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Hosted by Rosenberg Parks and Recreation, the city will host its annual holiday celebration Dec. 7 and at 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Dec. 8. featuring a tree lighting, Santa Selfies, ice skating, a snow slide, vendors, children's activities, and live performances.

Needville Country Christmas 5 p.m.

The city's 23rd Annual Country Christmas will be held around the Needville City Hall parking lot and will feature entertainment, vendors, a Christmas tree lighting, a treasure hunt, a horse drawn wagon, a children's train ride, photos with Santa and more.

DECEMBER 8

Holiday Dance Showcase

11 а.т. - 4 р.т.

Local dance companies will present a holiday showcase in Sugar Land Town Square.

Holiday Movie Under the Moon

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Bring your family, friends and lawn chairs to Sugar Land Town Plaza to enjoy a free Movie Under the Moon, sponsored by First Colony Church of Christ. This month's movie is holiday favorite Elf, and there just might be a "real" one in attendance passing out candy canes.

Winter Fest

11 a.m. to noon

Visit the George Memorial Library, in the Meeting Room, to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays with refreshments, family activities, and festive music performed by the Second Street Brass Ensemble during this fun open-house event.

DECEMBER 10

Winter Holiday Mini-Concert

10 a.m.

Visit the George Memorial Library, in the lobby, to hear students from Austin Elementary School Cosmic Choir sing an assortment of holiday carols.

DECEMBER 13

Holidays in the Plaza ft. Travis High School Orchestra

6:30 р.т. - 8:30 р.т.

Get into the spirit as the Travis High School Orchestra takes the stage to play your favorite holiday tunes.

Santa's Workshop Christmas Parade

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The East Bernard Chamber of Commerce will host its special Christmas parade in East Bernard followed by a Christmas Light Contest. For more information visit ebchamber.com.

DECEMBER 14

Music & Mistletoe Concert ft. RPC's Warehouse School of Music

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Bring your friends and family to Sugar Land Town Plaza for an evening of holiday entertainment from River Pointe Church's Warehouse School of Music.

DECEMBER 15

Holiday Music with First Colony Church of Christ

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

First Colony Church of Christ's band will be warming up Town Square with the sound of its blended contemporary and classic Christmas music as it performs modern and acappella versions of Christmas favorites.



Continued from page 15

experiences as gifts last year. Experience gifts open up a host of possibilities for last-minute shoppers stuck on what to give those loved ones who seemingly have it all.

BOOKS

Books are often overlooked, especially now that so many readers use e-readers. But books can be an ideal gift and especially convenient for last-minute shoppers, who can even gift e-books. For example, Amazon, which has thousands of e-books in its online library, makes it easy for shoppers to gift e-books to Kindle users, who will simply receive an email on Christmas morning informing them that their books are ready to be downloaded to their devices.

STREAMING SERVICE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many people are cutting the cord with their cable companies in favor of streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu. Subscriptions to such services can make ideal and affordable holiday gifts. A six-month or yearlong subscription likely won't break shoppers' budgets and will provide months of entertainment to loved ones.

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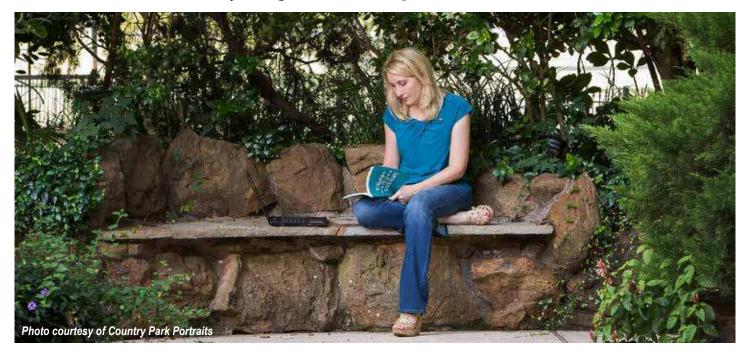
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Author releases second book in a unique children's series

by MARQUITA GRIFFIN | mgriffin@fbherald.com



riting feels second-nature to Terri Sabol, and the entire process — from developing an idea and peer-editing to completing the story and searching for an illustrator — brings her immense satisfaction. Even as a child she found a joy in writing. In fact, she preferred writing letters to her parents instead of arguing whatever point she was trying to make.

"That's how I expressed myself," Sabol said with a light laugh. "Instead of just saying what I wanted to say, I would write it out and hand it to them."

Sabol feels that writing — even to communicate with one's parents — can help a person filter their emotions, organize thoughts and offer a sound way to entertain or educate.

While in college, Sabol mastered journaling and writing techniques which served her well during her years as an elementary school teacher.

And it was in the classroom where Sabol began to develop an interest in writing specifically for children.

"As a teacher I loved reading picture books to my students," said Sabol. "I loved finding that perfect book and if I couldn't find that perfect book I would say: 'I wish they had this book available."

But one day Sabol stopped wishing and started writing.

In 2016 Sabol released her first book "Oscar and Emmy Get Rescued," which explored the topic of pet adoptions in the way a elementary-aged child could understand. The characters in her book — Oscar and Emmy — were based her own experience adopting her beloved kittens (named Oscar and Emmy) from Sugar Land Animal Services.

This past summer, Sabol continued her Oscar and Emmy series with her newly released book: "Oscar and Emmy Weather a

Hurricane."

The book debuted in September and covers importance of natural disaster emergency preparation kits for animals. "Oscar and Emmy Weather a Hurricane, is based on Sabol's experiences, with the record-breaking destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The 32-page book, which is available on Amazon.com, includes three pages of Hurricane Harvey facts as well as a pet-centric disaster kit checklist.

"As a teacher, I was looking to not just entertain, but to inspire and inform," Sabol said of how she chooses topics for her books. "I wanted to write a series where the main characters were pets in realistic situations. Although each book stands alone, but with common characters and nods to the other books, the series shows the compassion elementary-aged children have for their pets and how the family unit works together to support and care for their pets in a variety of situations.

"Even though the pets in my series are cats, the same themes apply to dogs," she noted with a light laugh.

A SPECIAL MEET

Sabol's book couldn't be complete without keen illustrations, and since her first illustrator, Greatwood resident Anna Edwards, was away at college, Sabol found Natalie Merheb through a Facebook group for writers and illustrators that boasts more than 20,000 members.

"I loved the style of her artwork," Sabol said. "She kept standing out to me, both with her art she posted, and how she responded to other people's posts. She was very knowledgeable and professional in her answers and feedback."



Terri Sabol and the illustrator of her newly released book, Natalie Merheb, at the Safari Park in Dubai. Photo courtesy of Bret Brogoitti

Merheb illustrates digitally with Kyle brushes, which Sabol said is extremely appealing.

"She did a sample illustration of my cats, and I hired her," Sabol said, adding that Merheb lives in Dubai.

As chance would have it, Sabol was able to meet face-to-face with Merheb while on a cruise that stopped in Dubai overnight. It was a rare, but special, meet for the Dubai illustrator.

"Natalie told me she never gets to meet an international client in person," Sabol said. "We met up for the day and went to the Safari Park Zoo with her twin girls. We have a more special connection now. I was very fortunate to be able to meet her in person."

COMBINING TWO PASSIONS

Sabol, doesn't stop when her books are published. She eagerly offers author visits, traveling around Fort Bend County, the nation and even other countries to read the adventures and lessons of Oscar and Emmy to students. To date she has visited more than 250 classes in four states and four countries, reading to children as young as a year old to students in 12th grade.

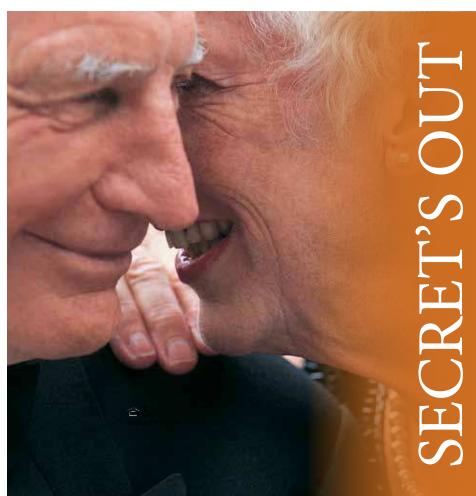
"As an indie author, I wear many, many hats," Sabol said. "I book my own visits by I contacting people I know, librarians and even PTO members. Sometimes I even know a parent at the school."

With her first book, Sabol secured a reading in Dallas, Texas because of friends who live in the area. Another time, she turned a road trip to visit family and friends as a chance to reach children along the East Coast.

"It's all about networking," she said. "And taking advantage of opportunities."

She laughs at a fond memory.

"I even did, what I like to call, my 'European Tour,'" Sabol said. "I have an American friend who lives in Paris and another who lives in London. I also have a cousin who lives in Frankfurt, so while I was visiting them last year I made appointments to read to 22



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---Talk of the Town



Terri and her husband Bret, and the real life Oscar an Emmy.

English-speaking classes."

And the reception is always welcoming and warm, she said.

"The main feedback is that both children and adults — the teachers and librarians — are surprised by how much they learn about the adoption process. During author visits, the students really love when I show them pictures of the real life Oscar and Emmy."

"Traveling is such a huge passion of mine," she added. "Now I combine my trips with my other passion, which, of course, is being an author."

BOOK NO. 3 IN THE WORKS

With her second book in circulation, Sabol is currently revising

MEET EVERYONE'S FAVORITE FELINES: **OSCAR AND EMMY**

Oscar and Emmy turned 3 years old in September.

"We also celebrate the date that we took them home — December 4, 2015," Sabol said. "They are doing great. Although they aren't glued to the hip like they were when they were kittens, they are still so loving to each other and are often in the same room giving each other cat baths, taking turns eating, and sharing our attention."

Although Sabol relishes the memories she has made with Oscar and Emmy, she stresses that adult cats make excellent adoptions as well.

"If we were to ever expand the fur family, I would want an adult cat," she said. "They stay in the shelters too long. Plus, with an adult cat, you get to see their personality [immediately.]"

In addition to signing up for Terri Sabol's monthly newsletter at bit.ly/terrisabol, people can follow Oscar and Emmy on Instagram: @oscar_and_emmy or Facebook:@OscarandEmmy Books.They can follow Terri Sabol on Twitter: @terrisabol. For more information visit terrisabol.com or oscarandemmybooks.com.



Terri Sabol at the The Harvey Experience hosted by Fort Bend Recovers. "Fort Bend County is the only place I've lived — outside of college and I'm very proud of this community. It was very moving to see the variety of pieces submitted- poetry, short stories, art, sculptures and

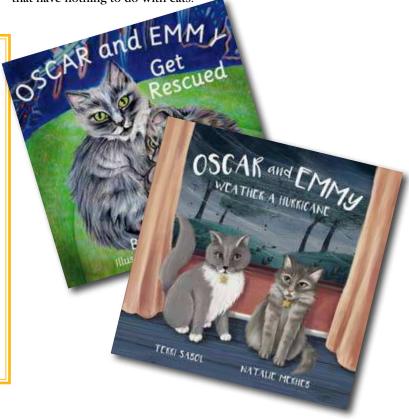
the next book in her Oscar and Emmy series — "Oscar and Emmy stay with Grandma."

The book is set to release by Summer 2019.

"This book is to showcase what to do with your pets when you go on vacation," Sabol said. "It also highlights the importance of the elderly being careful around pets and how they can be a tripping hazard."

Following the third book, Sabol plans to write a Christmas story featuring her favorite felines, which is set to debut next Fall.

"My purpose is to share with people and I don't think I can stop writing," Sabol said with a laugh. "I'm inspired by so many things. While cats are my favorite topic, I have a bunch of ideas that have nothing to do with cats."



Life Scout sets up Little Free libraries around Greatwood

Story & Photo by TYLER JOHNSON | sjohnson@fbherald.com

Becoming an Eagle Scout takes time and hard work.
Greatwood Boy Scout Caleb Degeyter has been in scouting since the first grade.

Last week, he moved a step closer to achieving the Eagle Scout honor when he built a couple of Little Free libraries around his neighborhood for his project.

"It was just to help the neighborhood and provide another aspect to Greatwood," he said. "The neighborhood loves it. We have books showing up on our doorstep. The idea was that it would be a constant flow of books and you wouldn't have to go that far.

"For most people in the neighborhood, these are walking distance from their houses."

Degeyter said he got the idea from a passage in the STAAR test he took a few years ago.

It explained how a Little Free Library has provided books to communities around the world that don't have easy access to them.

Degeyter is a junior at George Ranch High School and is also a Life Scout, which is the rank just ahead of the desired Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout Project is required for all scouts to complete before becoming an Eagle Scout.

It's a way for the scouts to demonstrate leadership while performing a project for the benefit of the community, Degeyter explained.

One of the requirements for the project is to be leaders for younger scouts, so Degeyter had a few lower ranked scouts help him, including his brother Hayden.

"He listened a little more than the others did, but it was nice being a leader to the younger scouts," he said.

Before the project could begin, Degeyter needed to jump through some hoops.

He filled out paperwork for the project, more paperwork for the

Eagle Scout rank, and then once that was completed, Degeyter went before the board of Troop 1630 to present the project.

He created a model out of sturdy poster board to demonstrate what the Little Free Libraries would like.

Once board members reviewed the project, they went before the council, which ultimately decided that Degeyter was ready for the Eagle Scout rank.

^aIt's like an interview to see if you're qualified, but everyone has to do a project," said Caleb's mother Monique Degeyter.

Once the Little Free libraries were finished on Aug. 23, Degeyter placed one at a park across the street from Campbell Elementary and the other at one of the neighborhood pools.

Since then, the Degeyter family has received hundreds of donated books from neigh-

"I learned a lot from doing this project," he said. "Especially with the construction and logistics. There was a lot of trial and error.

"But let me tell you, the second one we built was a lot better than the first"



Troop 1630 Boy Scout Caleb Degeyter from Greatwood replaces books in the Little Free Library he built and set up in his neighborhood.

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HGI accepting donations for Fort Bend Feeders

by MARQUITA GRIFFIN | mgriffin@fbherald.com

GI Counseling Center in Richmond said it "is just being a good neighbor" through its current relationship with Fort Bend Feeders, a local group of people who have united to feed and care for homeless cats.

"As far back as I can remember, we have had large resources that have donated dry and wet can food to our group on a regular basis," said Lyn King, 67, who spearheads the group, which has been active for about 15 years. "But we've been without donations for more than two months now."

King said Fort Bend Feeders is receiving wet can food but "dry food is what we are desperate for."

Understanding the group's plight, HGI, a nonprofit counseling center, is accepting donations for Fort Bend Feeders at its office at 2116 Thompson Road in Richmond.

The office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "I think it is great and I appreciate HGI's help with our problem," King said. "We feed around 250 cats a night, so you can understand why we appreciate any help we can get."

Rebecca Maitland, who handles publicity for HGI, said dry food donations as well as monetary contributions can be brought to HGI for Fort Bend Feeders, which doesn't have a website or social media page.

"HGI will accept dry cat food on an on-going basis," Maitland said. "And Fort Bend Feeders will be coming by every other day to pick up any donations."

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FORT BEND FEEDERS IS A SOLUTION, NOT A PROBLEM

The cat-caring group comprises 12 dedicated volunteers who not only feed homeless and often feral cats, but also capture the cats, have them spayed or neutered and given shots through the nonprofit Citizens for Animal Protection, which is based in Katy.

And through their relationship with the Rosenberg Animal Shelter, Citizens for Animal Protection and other rescues, Fort Bend Feeders assists with finding homes for the cats that are adoptable.

The felines that are too feral to home are given to people with barns, farms or warehouses to control pests.

"We are always looking for those interested in barn cats," said King, who also uses Craigslist to adopt out the cats.

"Our rescuers are also fostering sweet, little kittens and tame cats of all ages that people have dumped at different locations throughout the area. So, if you are interested in adding furry family members to your farm, barn or home, please let us know."

King can be reached at 832-274-9900.

While King loves the work she has been conducting with the other members around Fort Bend County, she knows too well the frequent knee-jerk reaction some people have to Fort Bend Feeders' efforts: "That we contribute to the problem [of overpopulation of homeless cats] and not the solution."

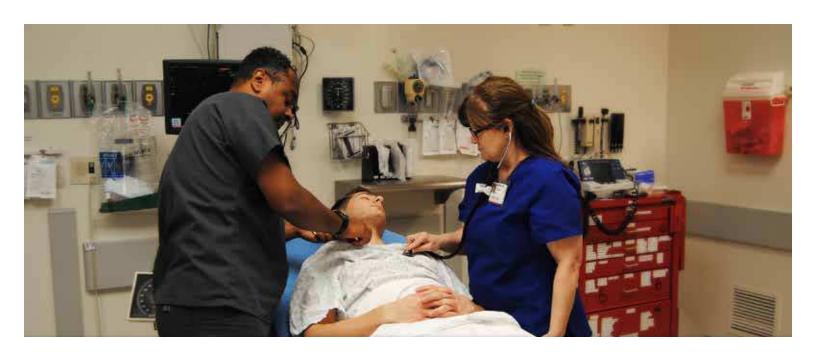
"Through our work in the community with various rescues and organizations, we actually clear out the places where [the homeless cats frequent] like vacant parking lots, areas behind businesses and in neighborhoods," she explained.

"It has been seven or eight years since I have heard a complaint from someone who has a problem with what we do."

"We feed these cats, care for them, fix them and get them off the streets," she stressed. "We're not only caring for the cats, but the community, too."

Fort Bend Feeders anticipates its original resources will have restocked their pet food bins by the end of the year.

"But we are in a tough spot right now," King said. "We need help, and we need it quick."



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The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra's Annual "Deck The Halls" Concert

eck the Halls" is FBSO's most popular concert of the year. This year's celebration by the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is Sunday afternoon, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. in the Stafford Centre.

All of FBSO's concerts are family-friendly, and those of all ages will enjoy this year's theme of "Home for the Holidays".

A special group of talented students will be featured as guest artists for this concert — the full ensembles of the Katy Youth Orchestra and the Katy Youth Chorus. The junior Katy Youth Symphony will perform a pre-show concert, and the junior Katy Youth Chorus (Prima Voce) will entertain the audience during intermission.

Prior to the performance and at intermission, patrons will enjoy shopping at the FBSO Holiday Marketplace. FBSO

members create a variety of handmade items for your gift-giving needs. Selections range from jewelry to tree ornaments to wearable items and more. All proceeds benefit FBSO.

Each year, FBSO Music Director Dominique Røyem selects a program filled with both familiar carols and new holiday-themed



From left, back row: Jordon Nickerson, David Flores, Tofik Khanmamedov; front row: Andrea Cope and Patricia Kelley. *Photo by Susan Lynch*

music.

This year's selections include "O Holy Night," "Variations on Jingle Bells," "Sleigh Ride" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." A Christmas Festival features carols such as "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Good King Wenceslas," "Silent Night" and more.

New for this year are Christmas Morning, an original song for children and chamber orchestra, about the excitement of discovering gifts (and a red-coated visitor) on Christmas morning.

Next are "Believe" and "The Song in Your Heart."

From the silver screen comes "Somewhere in My Memory" from Home Alone. Christmas on Broadway sparkles with holiday tunes, including "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas," "My Favorite Things," "We Need a Little Christmas" and four other selections

from Broadway musicals. And finally, there is the haunting Spanish melody, "A la Nanita Nata," which is often sung as a carol during the holiday season as a lullaby to the baby Jesus.

More details available about the concert are available at www.fbso.org, as well as ticket pricing information.

More Arts & Entertainment Happenings Near You

HEAVY INKS GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

Readers of all ages who enjoy illustrated novels, manga, webcomics, and comic books are invited to join this book club at the George Memorial Library, held specifically for graphic-novel enthusiasts. The meeting is set for Dec 15 at 11 am in Room 2B. This month, readers will talk about Watchmen by Alan Moore.

BOOK BREAK

On Dec 20 at noon in Room 2A at the George Memorial Library readers are encouraged to bring their favorite book for discussion, excluding self-published books. Those attending may bring a lunch.

STORY SPINNERS WRITING CLUB

This month's topic at the George Memorial Library will be "Immersive World Building." The program — recommended for adults and children ages 14 years and older — will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 20 in Room 2C. 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.

"COOKIN'THE BOOKS" BOOK CLUB

At 6 p.m., Dec. 27 in Room 2B, people who enjoy cooking and want to expand their culinary experience are welcomed to join this book club at the George Memorial Library. The theme for December's meeting is "Festive Finger Foods." Cooking enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels – from beginners to advanced – are invited to join. The club meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. Different cooking genres are explored each month.





A Century and Counting

Fort Bend County man celebrates his 100th birthday

Story & Photo by TYLER JOHNSON | sjohnson@fbherald.com

ozens of people gathered in the movie theater at Clayton Oaks Living a couple of months ago to celebrate the newest centenarian in Fort Bend County.

John Madonna was born on Oct. 9, 1918, in Louisville, Colorado. Madonna's son Tom Madonna and his wife Gayle, their daughter LuAnn and Madonna's son-in-law Henry Mondragon accompanied him to celebrate his century mark. His daughter Connie, who was married to Mondragon, passed away in 1992.

A slide show was put together to showcase his life and memorable moments.

He's a Navy veteran, and served 29 months overseas during World War II. Madonna married his wife Belle on July 7, 1941 and was happily married for 69 years before she passed away in 2010.

He spent 14 years as a coal miner in Colorado and moved to Fort Bend County three years ago.

Madonna is a passionate fan of the Denver Broncos and the Houston Astros. Madonna still vividly remembers attending an NFL game that took place in Denver in 1984, known as the Blizzard Game. The Broncos were hosting the Green Bay Packers and it was the 200th Monday Night Football game. Madonna said the snow was up to his shoulder, and the Broncos won the game 17-14.

"The Broncos scored two touchdowns in the first five minutes and won the game," he said.

He also predicted the Astros will repeat as World Series champions this season.

As far as giving away any secrets to his longevity, Madonna won't budge.

His granddaughter LuAnn said they've been asking him that for years.



Fort Bend County resident John Madonna celebrated his 100th birthday at Clayton Oaks Living in October. From left are Henry Mondragon, Gayle Madonna, LuAnn Park, John Madonna and Tom Madonna. Playing the keyboard in the back is Matthew Gonzalez.



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Bark in the Park draws pet owners and their furry friends to downtown

by AVERIL GLEASON | agleason@fbherald.com

ions and tigers and bears, oh my! Or rather, dogs dressed up as lions and tigers and bears.

Downtown Rosenberg was dog-friendly at the Bark in the Park with Antiques and Art event.

"This thing has really grown," Main Street Program Manager Dan Kelleher said.

"Since its inception three years ago, the residents really took a liking to the Bark in the Park portion of the fall festival, so this year, we made it our top priority."

Dogs and their owners arrived downtown early that Saturday morning to sign in for the dog parade and costume contest.

The Bark in the Park dog parade featured canines dressed as a lady bug, a mer-dog, a skeleton, a dinosaur, Super Dog, a shark and a ballerina.

Dogs weren't the only ones wearing costumes. Kids and adults took full advantage of the Autumn Arts Festival to dress up. People costumes included a Wednesday Addams, a cowgirl, a princess, a bumble bee and even a cat.

Cisco Kolkmeier led the parade, which hundreds of Rosenberg residents and visitors took part in.

Before and after the parade, guests had the opportunity to listen to live music, performed by the First United Methodist Church Youth Choir, Notion 4, Kayla Gulley, Rosenberg Symphonic Band and the Bluegrass Pickers.

A cowboy juggler on stilts performed up and down Third Street, while a unicycle-riding, fire-juggling performer rode around Av-

"This is amazing," Rosenberg resident Machaell Hearlson said, with pups Charlie and Jabik rested atop her shoulders.

"We just moved here about a year ago, so it's our first time at this event. I'm so happy we decided to come this morning."

Kids had the opportunity to meet the Autumn Queen, portrayed by Valerie Hill, and the Autumn Fairie, otherwise known as Kenali Kendrick.

Kelleher said part of the fun of the downtown Rosenberg events is that the whole community gets involved.



Cast Theatrical Co. rebuilding following destructive fire

ast Theatrical Company, Inc, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit theatre in Rosenberg suffered major damages following a Sept. 10 Ifire. The theater is located on the second floor of the Vogelsang Antique Emporium, a Rosenberg icon, and because of the firewall, the fire was unable to damage the rest of the building before first responders arrived.

There was no one in the theater at the time and no injuries were reported. Fire crews from Rosenberg and Richmond were the first to show up and fire departments from Missouri City, Willow Fork, Stafford, Sugar Land, Needville and Fulshear also responded.

Bob Vogelsang, owner of the building, thanked the first responders the morning following the fire.

"They responded so quickly," he said. "I just want to thank them for everything that they've done."

Vogelsang also reassured listeners that the theater would be back.

"We've been open for 27 years," he said. "We'll be open again after we finish repairs."

The theatre company is seeking donations — "large or small" — as it works to replace "everything at the theatre: lights, cabling, seating, stage floor, curtains, props, technical equipment, etc."



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Until further notice, performances will be held at First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall at 4th Street and Avenue J in Rosenberg.

To donate to Cast Theatrical Co. visit www.casttheatrical.com *Tyler Johnson contributed to this story.*



Rosenberg Fire Marshal Justin Jurek explains the importance of having firewalls, noting the fire that occurred in downtown Rosenberg could've been much worse. *Photo by Tyler Johnson*

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Seventh

FREE FITNESS

Visit Sugar Land Town Square every Friday in November for free fitness in the plaza with Zumba from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and CIDA Fitness from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Occurs again on Dec. 14 and 21.

SEIGHTH WHERITAGE HIKE

The Sugar Land Heritage Foundation will hosts its Heritage Hike at 10 a.m. at the Sugar Land Heritage Foundation Museum at 198 Kempner Road. Children younger than 12 years old get in free. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 through 18 years old.

FAMILY-HISTORY RESEARCH: HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

At 10 a.m. in the computer lab of the George Memorial Library, Carol Beauchamp from the library's Genealogy and Local History Department will demonstrate how this online resource can help you get results tracing your family history. Learn about the different collections included in this resource, such as the US Census, Revolutionary War pension files, and the Freedman's Bank Records. Tips and strategies for a more efficient search will be demonstrated. Reservations required.

SEleventh RESUMÉ WORKSHOP

The George Memorial Library will hold a resumé workshop at 2 pm, in the computer lab. Learn the basics of putting together a resumé. Those attending this informal program will receive one-on-one help formatting a resumé. For assistance on a pre-existing resumé, please have a digital copy available on a USB flash drive, saved to the cloud, or have access to it via email. Registration required.

STWelveth 2

The Sienna Branch Library at 8411 Sienna Springs Dr., Missouri City will hold a story time event at 10:15 a.m. featuring stories, crafts, and a movie for preschool children. Recommended for ages 3-6 years. The program is unable e to accommodate daycares and school groups. Occurs again on Dec. 19.



Sourteenth of Friday Night Bites

A fleet of rolling restaurants will be serving food from 6-9:30 pm at The Club at Riverstone, 18353 University Boulevard. A DJ and a bounce house for the kids will be featured. Attendees are advised to stop at the ATM as not all food trucks accept credit cards.

Sixteenth 2

31ST ANNUAL FORT BEND KIA 30K

This event will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m at Sugar Land Town Square. The run is a three-loop course along Palm Royale Blvd. in Sweetwater.

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR

Start your week off by sharing a cup of coffee, exchanging news or a corny joke, and chatting with friends at 9 a.m. in the meeting room of the George Memorial Library to celebrate the multitude of diverse cultures found in Fort Bend County. People of all nationalities are invited to this informal gathering to get to know one another, share cultural experiences, and learn something new and fascinating about each other in a casual and comfortable environment.





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SCAMPBELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by ALEINI LACOMBE

Remember Campbell is Paperless

Check out our Campbell PTO website and communication site. You don't have to be a PTO member to view the site, but membership will give you a lot of additional benefits that are only available once you log into the system with your personal PTO account. Register for your account at www.campbellpto.org.

You will receive an email asking you to confirm your account. Simply click on the link to confirm your account log in information and you'll be able to explore the new system. You will love it and all of its amenities.

"The Giving Tree" - Benefiting Local Children in Need

The Campbell PTO will be sponsoring our annual Giving Tree, beginning Dec. 1 through Dec. 15. Once again, we will be collecting items for students, and siblings, in need at a nearby elementary school.

The counselor at that school will provide a list of items needed for each child. These items will be listed on the ornament tags on the Giving Tree and can be chosen by anyone interested in filling that specific need.

If you select a tag, please wrap the items, attach the tags and return them to the tree by the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 15. The gifts will be delivered to the counselor later that afternoon. Please consider helping make this holiday extra special for a child who is just around the corner from us.

Boot Scootin' Boogie Chili Cook-Off and Carnival

Save the date for the Campbell Boot Scootin' Boogie Chili

Cook-Off and Carnival set for 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. February 8, 2019.

We are so excited about this year's award-winning Spring Fundraiser which will feature the following events:

- Chili Cook-Off Competition: Cook-off results and awards will be announced during the event
- Boot Scootin' Boogie: Music, carnival games, mechanical bull, cake walk and so much more will be featured. Plus there will be silent and online auction.

Boot Scootin' Boogie Sponsorship

Are you (or someone you know) interested in sponsoring or donating auction items to our Boot Scootin' Boogie Carnival and Auction Event? Email Alisha Roberts at alisha.roberts84@gmail. com if you are interested or if you have any questions. Thanks.

DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

12/3: UIL Awards

12/6: Progress Reports go home

12/13:Teacher Luncheon

12/18: 3rd grade Program (8:30am and 6pm)

12/20: 4th grade Alamo Field Trip

12/21: Grade Level Holiday Parties (Free Dress / Sing Along: KG 10-11am, 1st 10:15-11:15am, 2nd 10:30-11:30am, 3rd 10:45-11:45am, 4th 11am-12pm, and 5th 11:15am-12:15pm)

12/24/2018 - 1/4/2019: Winter Break

SDICKINSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by DANIKA HOLT

PTO Board Message

We hope to see you on Wednesday December 5th at Sweets with Santa and want to wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sweets with Santa

Have you been naughty or nice? Better make the nice list because our favorite jolly old elf is coming to Greatwood.

Enjoy Sweets with Santa on Wednesday December 5th at Rec Center #1 from 5-7pm. We'll have a fun craft, letters to Santa, sweets, and photo op with Santa. Tickets are on sale now at dickinsonpto.com.

Sugar Land Holiday Lights at Constellation Field

Take your family to see the fun and magical holiday lights at Constellation field and give back to our Dolphins at the same time. Each ticket purchased will provide \$2 back to Dickinson PTO.

To purchase tickets visit ticketreturn.com and use the code DickinsonPTO or mention Dickinson PTO at the TDECU Ticket Office at Constellation Field.The holiday lights run through January 1. Hours are Sunday-Thursday 6-9pm and Friday, Saturday, and Holidays 6-10pm. Hope to see you there.

Yearbooks

There are so many wonderful memories being made at Dickinson this year. Be sure to get your yearbooks. Contact Giselda at yearbook@dickinsonpto.com with any questions and/or photos of Dolphin happenings.

CALENDAR

All of December: Sugar Land Holiday Lights at Constellation Field*

Dec. 3: PTO Executive Board Meeting - 3pm - Science Room*

Dec. 4: Night Out with Specials 2:40-5:30pm

Dec. 5:AR Free Dress (if goal met)

Dec. 6: Progress reports go home

Dec. 13: Russo's Spirit Night* - lunch or dinner

Dec. 14: Rudolph Day

Dec. 18: Spelling Bee for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades

Dec. 20: Holiday parties - 1:15-2:15 - individual classrooms

Dec. 24 - Jan. 7: NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Jan. 8: First day back after Winter Break

Jan. 16: El Vaquero Spirit Night*

Jan. 17: General PTO Meeting

Jan. 18: Wear Orange for Fairness

Jan. 21: NO SCHOOL - MLK Day

* PTO sponsored events. Questions about all other events should be directed to the front office.

Social Events for your student <</p>

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB

On Wednesday, Dec 12 at 5 p.m. in room 2B of the George Memorial Library, teen readers in grades 9-12 will have an opportunity to meet with others who share the same love for good books, and have a lively discussion on the reasons a book or its characters were liked or disliked. This month, readers will talk about the nonfiction book of their choice.

YA PROGRAM: PAINT WITH BOB ROSS

On, Friday, Dec 21 at 2 pm, Room 2C of the George Memorial Library, an instructor trained in the "Bob Ross" method will demonstrate how to paint "happy little trees." This workshop is intended for teens in grades 9 through 12.

TODDLER TIME

Thursdays at 10 am at the George Memorial Library. This program offers caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 12 to 36 months of age. Toddler Time will not take place on Dec 20 or 27.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Wednesdays at 10 am at the George Memorial Library. This program presents stories, movies, and age-appropriate craft activities for children 3 to 6 years of age. Story Time will not take place on December 19 or 26.

PAJAMA NIGHT STORY TIME

Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Meeting Room at the George Memorial Library. This program gives families an evening option for some activities presented during the day time. Pajama Night Story Time will not take place on Dec 20 or 27.

FAMILY STORY TIME

Saturdays at 10 am in the Meeting Room at the George Memorial Library. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and enjoy stories, movies, and crafts together. Family Story Time will not take place on Dec 22 or 29.

AFTER-SCHOOL BREAKS

The George Memorial Library will offer crafts, movies, stories, and more for school-aged children in grades kindergarten through 3. This program takes place on the third Thursday beginning at 4 pm, in the Meeting Room. The program on Dec 20 will be "Make Your Own Tissue-Paper Bowl and Party Poppers."

THE CREATIVE CONNECTION

The George Memorial Library offers activities specially designed for kids in grades 4 through 8. The program is normally planned for the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, beginning at 6 pm, in the Middle Grades department. The special schedule for December is as follows: Dec 12 – Elementals.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

This program is held on the first an third Mondays at 6:00 pm in the Middle Grades department of the George Memorial Library. Activities for youth in grades 6 through 8. The schedule is as follows: Dec 3 - Cookie Decorating and Dec 17 - Holiday Movie & Hot Chocolate.



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On The Fort Bend Scene——

















1 Greatwood residents Emma Verhalen, 8, and Gabby Veasey, 8, from left, explain how they prepared their grilled grilled cheese sandwich, grilled tomatoes and grilled avocado during the Lil' Ranglers Junior Cookoff at the 2018 Fort Bend County Fair. Photo by Scott Reese Willey

The Houston Grand Opera's "Opera to Go!" production of "Cinderella in Spain," was shown at the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library in November.

Emilia Villarreal a Webelos Scout from Holy Rosary Pack 1583, puts new

3 Emilio Villarreal, a Webelos Scout from Holy Rosary Pack 1583, puts new Ju.S. flags on veterans tombstones at Davis Greenlawn Cemetery one Sunday

afternoon in honor of Veterans Day. Photo by Rhonda Taormina

1. O. Murray tells Santa what he wants for Christmas this year: a great holiday season for everyone. Murray, pastor of Texas Cowboy Church, along with staff and volunteers, sponsored a Country Christmas Craft Show fundraiser on Saturday at the K.C. Hall in Rosenberg. Proceeds from the silent auction and sale of barbecue will go to help less fortunate families this holiday season.

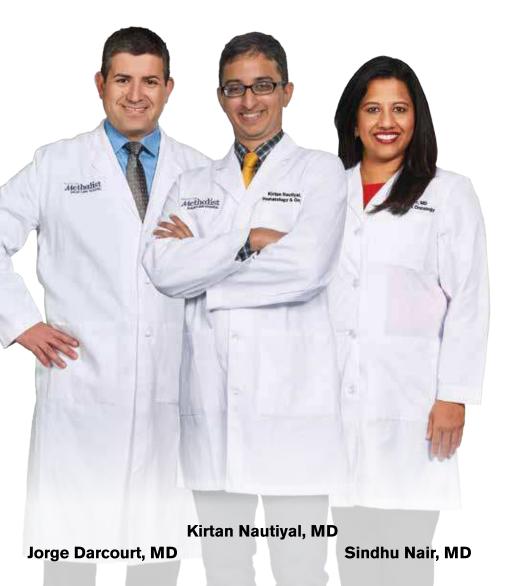
5George Ranch High School senior Justin Surovik found a magic lamp and after rubbing the lamp, out popped four beautiful genies, from left, Callie Prejean, Aria Patel, Arianna Selph and Katie Armstrong. They granted him three wishes. He wished for a Mercedes convertible, a dog and a successful evening at Senior Serve in November.

Needville High School senior Maggie Wandell as Ursula the sea witch sings "Poor Unfortunate Souls" during the Theatre Arts Department's production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid."

Savannah Gless, center, was crowned 2018 Needville Harvest Fest Queen at the 35th annual event. With her are second runner-up Bailey Bernshausen, left, and first runner-up and top ticket seller Cami Buell, right.

The 2018 Foster High School Homecoming king and queen were selected before the Falcons' game against Angleton High School at Guy K. Traylor Memorial Stadium. The king was senior Cade Sitka and the queen was Aniya Powell.

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—On The Fort Bend Scene**—**











1 Keith Bollom, aka Doc Parker, shows off his hand guns to students at Texian Market Days. Photo by Tyler Johnson.
2 Foster Theater Program member Aiden Kennedy demonstrates how to rope cattle at Texian Market Days. Photo by Tyler Johnson.
3 Colisa Mahurin shows students the different kinds of fur and what they're used for at Texian Market Days. Photo by Tyler Johnson.
4 Travis High School students Jocelyn Frank and Savanna Smith wear their "Crush Cancer" t-shirts during a Friday night football game at Marcer Stadium Mercer Stadium.

5 Milana Guerrero celebrates with two Houston Texans cheerleaders as the winner of the Ashley HomeStore Kickoff Kid program. Milana's name was drawn for the opportunity to run on the NRG Stadium field and pick up the opening kick off tee at the Houston Texans game against the Miami









6George Ranch High School junior Ariel Joseph and mom Donna were among a dozen or more cheerleaders and their moms performing on the sideline one Friday night at Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg. They wore pink in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. *Photo by* Scott Reese Willey

7Christy Keating and daughter Ryan, a junior at George Ranch High School, pose for a photo during a Friday night's game at Traylor Stadium

in Rosenberg. Photo by Scott Reese Willey
Renowned archaeologist Dr. Sarah Chesney searched for artifacts at the San Felipe de Austin State Historical Site. She discussed her findings with members of the Fort Bend County Archeologial Society.

HOUSTON METHODIST SUGAR LAND HOSPITAL

-welcomes new electrophysiologist and neurologist-

Board-certified cardiologist and electrophysiologist Dr. Apoor Patel, M.D. is joining Houston Methodist DeBakey Cardiology Associates in Sugar Land and board-certified neurologist Jinal Shah, M.D., is joining the staff of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Neurology Associates.

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGIST DR. APOOR PATEL

Patel specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of irregular heart rhythms via electrophysiology testing and ablation – a minimally invasive procedure that uses heat or cold to create scarring in heart tissue that stops abnormal electrical signals and restores normal heart function. He also specializes in the WATCHMANTM procedure, an implantation of pacemaker and defibrillators.

Patel comes to Houston Methodist Sugar Land from New York, where he served as director of complex ablations and attending physician in cardiology/electrophysiology for North Shore – Long Island Jewish Hospitals. He also served as assistant professor at Hofstra University School of Medicine.

He earned his medical degree with honors at UCLA Medical School in Los Angeles and completed his residency in internal medicine at Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He then completed a fellowship in cardiology/ electrophysiology at Weill Cornell Medical School/New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.

Patel's office is located on the Houston Methodist Sugar Land campus in Medical Office Building 3 at 16605 Southwest Freeway, Suite 420.

"I am thrilled to be at Houston Methodist Sugar Land and excited about the opportunity to contribute to the thriving cardiology services that the hospital and my new colleagues have created," Patel said.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Patel, call Houston Methodist DeBakey Cardiology Associates at 281-326-9195.

NEUROLOGIST DR. JINAL SHAH

Shah comes to Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital from CHI St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan, Texas.

Shah is a graduate of Saba University School of Medicine in Netherland-Antilles, Caribbean. He completed both his residency and internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi, before joining St. Dominic Hospital, also in Jackson.

"I am pleased to be part of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Neurology Associates," said Shah. "Houston Methodist Sugar Land has a reputation for delivering complex and sophisticated neurological care here in the Fort Bend community, and I welcome the opportunity to work alongside my new colleagues in serving our patients."

Shah will treat common neurological diseases including stroke, Alzheimer's disease, headaches, Parkinson's disease, sleep disorders, multiple sclerosis and more. He joins Carisa Liew, D.O., Rony Ninan, M.D., Larry Tran, M.D., and Toby Yaltho, M.D. on staff.

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Neurology Associates is located in Medical Office Building 3 on the Houston Methodist Sugar Land campus, 16605 Southwest Freeway, Suite 600. To make an appointment with Dr. Shah or another neurologist with Houston Methodist Sugar Land Neurology Associates, call 281-201-6052.

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



63 local business take part in Central Fort Bend Chamber Business Expo

Story & Photo by TYLER JOHNSON | sjohnson@fbherald.com

ixty-three local businesses their products and services during a business expo at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds Building C recently. Hosted by the Central Fort Bend Chamber an d presented by Legacy Ford, the business expo was a way to connect chamber members to the community, according t o President and CEO Kristin Weiss.

"We also want to get the word out on the resources our c o m m u n i t y provides," she said.

Weiss said the



Former Houston Oilers quartback Dan Pastorini talks with Fort Bend County Treasurer candidate Bill Rickert at the Central Fort Bend Chamber Business Expo.

Central Fort Bend Chamber has hosted these business expos for about 12 years. They were originally conducted across the street at the Rosenberg Civic Center, but outgrew it in 2008.

The business expo continued to grow this year with about 15 percent more businesses participating than last year.

One of the new entries at this year's business expo was Mainstream Boutique, which is located at 5530 Long Prairie Trace Suite No. 600 in Richmond.

It opened on July 2 and owner Michael Henning said the Central Fort Bend Chamber asked his business to come and sell some of its products.

"I don't think they've ever had anyone selling something here before," he said.

"This is just a great way to let people know who we are and getting the Mainstream Boutique name out there," said Jackie Durham, who is in charge of business operations.

Another popular booth at this year's expo was Insperity, a human resources service company based out of Sugar Land.

Former Houston Oilers quarterback Dan Pastorini signed autographs, took pictures and spoke about some of the services Insperity provides.

"Insperity supports local, small business and this business expo is a great way to reach out to everyone at one time rather than go to each one individually," said Pastorini, a consultant for the company. Insperity Business Performance Adviser Philip Rodriguez said that the Central Fort Bend Chamber is a client and Insperity was there to support the chamber and local business as well.

Rotary Club of Richmond also attended the event for the first time.

"We wanted to tell more people about who we are and the kinds of services we provide and try to get more members," said Treasurer Jolea Pingleton.

Other local businesses in attendance were Gilbreath Family Insurance,

AccessHealth, Stewart Tile, SCORE, Fastsigns, Fort Bend Herald, Assisted Living Locators, Infintech LLC, Rainbow of Love Adoption Agency, Inc., T2 Bookkeeping and Tax Service, Dentists of Fort Bend, Rosenberg Dermatology and Aesthetic Center, Carrus Care Emergency Room, Houston Federal Credit Union, City of Richmond, Richmond Market H-E-B, Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, OakBend Medical Center, Staff Force Personnel Services:

Also, Needville ISD, Westpark Springs, CRG Texas Environmental Services, Inc., MD Anderson Regional Care Center in Sugar Land, Texas State Technical College, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston, BBVA Compass Bank, Texas Insurance and Financial Services, Inc., Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sugar Land, EPIKKON, Inc., Studio Dental of River Park;

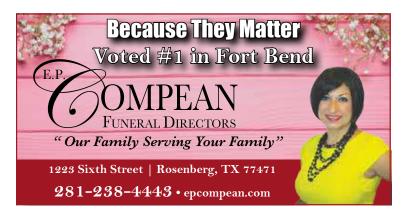
Also, Another Time Soda Fountain and Old Main Street Bakery, The Blaze Planner, Moody National Bank in Sugar Land, The Lost Cajun, MedExpress Urgent Care, Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, Reliable Oaks Supreme Memory Care, UH Bauer College SBDC Fort Bend County, Holy Roast Coffee House;

Also, Zach Muzzy from State Farm, Spring Hills Suites by Marriot, Hero Signs and Marketing, Ice Blue Advertising, GiGi's Playhouse Sugar Land, Hospitality Crew, Wells Fargo Bank N.A., Gillen Pest Control, Inc., Rosenberg Health and Rehabilitation Center, Josh Merritt Creative, Fort Bend Services, Inc. and Mighty Moose Screen Printing.

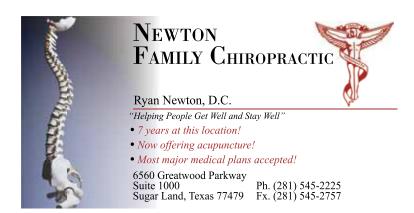
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