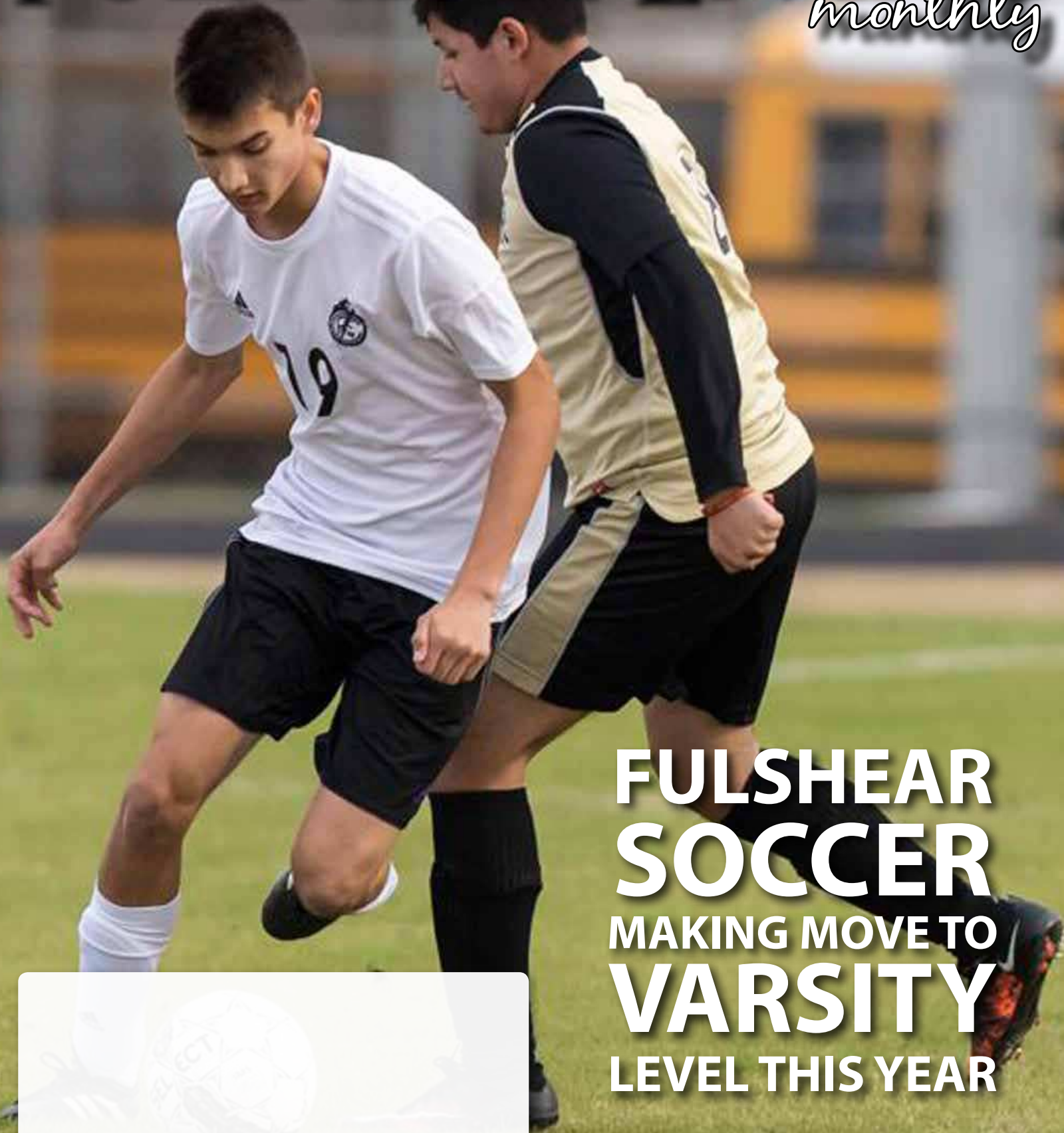


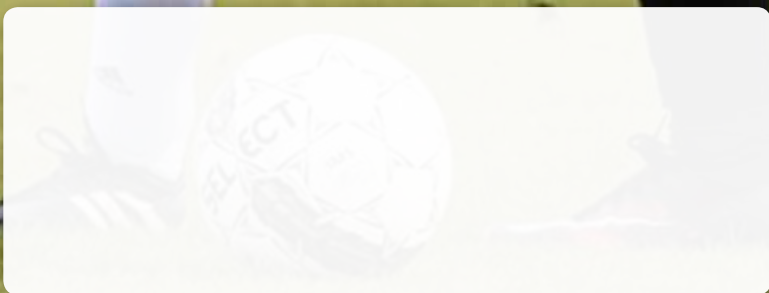
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FULSHEAR SOCCER MAKING MOVE TO VARSITY LEVEL THIS YEAR

By Tom Behrens

Both the girls and boys soccer teams at Fulshear High School are ready to move on to their first year in varsity competition this school year. The teams finished last season with identical 14-1-1 records and JV championships to their credit.

Last year's team rosters were filled with freshmen and sophomores as Fulshear High School continues to evolve. This year's enrollment is predicted to be around 650, adding a junior class. A senior class is still another year away. The Charger soccer teams are a part of District 27-5A.

Soccer is gaining interest in the Fulshear area, but not quite the same level of club soccer activity that you have in close-by communities, such as Katy.

"I think as the different subdivisions grow, and more people move in, the sport will catch on," said girls' head coach Mark Kluppel.

The big win for the girls last season was a 3-2 defeat of Foster High School after coming back from 0-2 deficit.

"We really pulled together after we gave up that second goal. We actually tied the game at half time, and got the win in the

second half," Kluppel said. "The second time we played Lamar Consolidated, the girls won the game with a goal with 20 seconds left in the game, 1-0."

That game clinched the district JV championship for Fulshear.

The winning goal was scored by Hannah Ajilore, who finished out the season with 14 goals, 3 assists for 31 points.

"Hannah obviously did a great job, but it was a good team goal," said Kluppel. "The other team had a free kick. Ingris Cortez won the free kick out of the air and sent it to Iza Gonzalez at midfield; she put a great through ball into Hannah. She just outran everybody and finished the shot. Karsen Jones was our central defender and played a key role in organizing the defense. We had a lot of young kids playing that had never played before. Having a kid like Karsen was like having a coach on the field."

The Charger goalkeeper was freshman Shelby Mcpherson, who played every minute of every game, the only goal keeper for the team.

"For a kid who had not played goal keeper before, she did just a great job for us," Kluppel said.

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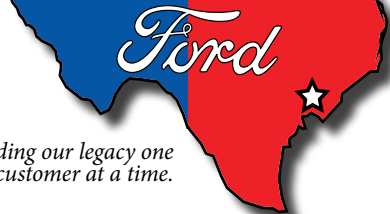
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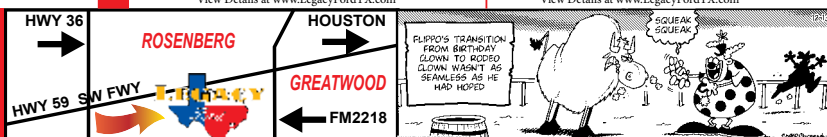
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Continued from page 6

Entering its first year at the varsity level, Kluppel said he believes the team is ready for the challenge ahead of them.

Reset and reevaluate, picking up some new players from the incoming freshmen and others who try out for the first time. Kluppel hopes to have enough kids to make two teams.

As Kluppel stated, the obvious goal for this past year was winning games, but the goal was really building toward their first varsity season and "trying to get the kids to realize the fitness that's needed, the strong technical skills they need to acquire, and the tactical part of the game."

Hopefully this past year the Lady Chargers got a good understanding on how to work together.

"We worked really hard in the weight room during the season," Kluppel said. "Hopefully we will pick it up when we get back from the summer and take it from there. The goal for this year is to finish in the top four and make the playoffs."

The small enrollment at Fulshear High School does present some challenges but is also opens the door for opportunities for

players.

Some of Fulshear's athletes play multiple sports.

"We had two kids that played volleyball, three or four that either ran cross country or track," Kluppel said. "We had kids in the band, in theater. There's a ton of opportunity to do lots of things. They can be in clubs, choir all sorts of things. We even had a kid come in on the soccer team when the basketball season concluded."

It was just at the right time as the team was experiencing injuries.

"We picked up Angelina Duerto. She really helped us for one game. We were down to only 12 players," Kluppel said. "She finished her basketball season and asked if she could play soccer. It just happened that the day before we had suffered a couple injuries. We needed more kids, and that worked out well for us. We were able to get Angelina for the last four soccer games in the season. Hopefully this year we will have more kids coming to try outs, but I still anticipate we will have kids coming from other Fulshear sports."

The varsity schedule looks very challenging for Fulshear this year.

Fourteen district games and two tournaments (Spring Branch and I-10 Shootout) and Kluppel has scheduled one non-district game against Bellville, a 4A club that he thinks will be in Fulshear's district the following year after UIL re-alignment. Bellville won their district last year.

In non-district games the Chargers will be playing mainly 6A schools just because there are more 6A schools around than 5A. He said preseason this year is going to be difficult for a reason - to get ready for district.

"I'm hoping that if we work hard and everybody stays healthy we should have good results. Hopefully we will be playing in April next year. I think we have a pretty good core of kids coming in and should be able to compete on any level," Kluppel said.

Kluppel, before coming to Fulshear was the head coach at Katy Taylor from 2005-2016. In his 12 seasons at Taylor, he was a

Continued on page 10



Mark Kluppel



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Continued from page 8

part of 11 playoff teams, including six regional tournament teams and two state tournament teams, winning the state championship in 2006.

On the boys side, Fulshear Head Soccer Coach Ricky Konkolweski believes his team is more than ready for the varsity challenge ahead of them.

Konkolewski shared that his Charger team last year was mainly made up with freshman.

"We came from behind seven times...pretty proud of those guys," Konkolweski said.

The Chargers had 40 kids come out for the team, about 20 percent of the boys enrolled at Fulshear allowing Konkolewski to have two teams.

"One was kind of a reserve team, give the guys a chance to get the feel of everything." He had a lot of inexperienced kids catching up to the few experienced kids that were on the team," Konkolweski said.

The Fulshear boys, a JV team, didn't play any varsity teams, "but once we played a team the second time around they dropped a handful of varsity players on to their JV team to try to beat us, and we were still able to take them. It was pretty cool to be involved in that kind of situation."

The team had to be "road warriors" to fill out their 2016-2017 schedule, traveling to Angleton, Port Lavaca and Victoria for games. Konkolewski shared that in one two week period last year the team logged around 800 miles in travel.

Konkolweski said the team has developed a passion for soccer.

"These kids eat, dream soccer. I think I'm very fortunate at this point. I have a group of boys that are all really good friends away from the fields. They get together on their own, are extremely close, and extremely, extremely competitive. When they are that competitive it makes a coach's job considerably easier. If you have kids out there that really want to win, you just can't ask for more," Konkolweski said.

Konkolweski said the move up to the varsity level this year will challenge his young squad.

"I think it's going to be a pretty big handful for us; a difficult position," Konkolweski said. We are going to be playing schools way larger than us. We are projected to have only about 650 students when school begins. We will be going against schools like Foster that has 2,000. The numbers are going to be a (depth)

difficulty, our biggest problem."

Konkolewski has been studying Tompkins, Ridge Point, Tomball Memorial, any of the new schools that have recently opened up, looking at what their plans were, how they scheduled, what teams looked good, what teams looked bad, what he could apply to making the Chargers a winning team.

"We will be able to field a pretty good starting roster," Konkolewski said.

This season's goal is aiming for that fourth spot in playoffs.

"If we can get that fourth spot, that would be great. Our district is really difficult. We're pretty proud of what we were able to accomplish," Konkolewski said.

Konkolewski before coming to Fulshear coached girls soccer at Foster High School, compiled a 12-6-2 record overall, and 7-2-1 in District 24 5A. Foster finished second in District in his final year at Foster.

Tennis and cross country are also starting their first year as varsity sports.





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LEADERSHIP HIGH *provides* GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE *for* FULSHEAR STUDENTS

By Valerie Sweeten

The future is closer than you think when students go to high school so embracing the chance to learn about possibilities is a great opportunity.

Leadership High School, hosted by the Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc. (FBRC) along with Fort Bend County community leaders this summer, took on the task of providing an exceptional experience to Lamar Consolidated Independent School District youth.

Students from throughout the district, including Fulshear High School students, learned about professions, county government, economic development and volunteerism. This weeklong program, which is an eight-hour a day commitment, also had students participating in fun competitive activities such as canoeing, relay races and paintball as well as a beautification project at Bowie Elementary in Rosenberg. They also self-produced micro-documentaries to capture the most memorable moments of their weeklong adventure.

John Robson, chief operating officer of FRBC, said Leadership High School began in 2010 and welcomed FHS students for the second year in a row. Their goal is to expose young adults to community leaders in different fields at onsite locations to get them thinking about their future.

“They get to connect with leaders and talk with them. This is to get them thinking where am I going to be in 15 years, and why is getting career skills important. There are a lot of careers they were exposed to. It’s very hands on,” Robson said.

The career exposure was wide and varied from law enforcement to crop dusters, furniture builders and the water treatment plant.

“Things like this can broaden their knowledge of life and

maybe a career they want to pursue. It gets them thinking to have a lens inside the future,” said Robson.

Dr. Erin Forbes, associate principal at Fulshear High School, joined Leadership High School on the last day of session with librarians, counselors, and principals. She said the best part of the event wasn’t only the chance for students to meet new friends, but also to see the leadership potential for kids.

“It’s real powerful networking for them,” said Forbes. “Our kids grow as leaders and have them not only on our campus, but in the community. There were really cool things the kids got to learn about different professions and opportunities that are out there. It’s always beneficial for kids to open their eyes and broaden their horizons.”

Tenth-grader Trei Parker, who is 15, said the “great experience” at Leadership High School was an excellent way to start off summer in “a positive direction.”

“I learned that when you communicate and work as a team you can get jobs done that were unimaginable. I also think this will give me more patience when situations are difficult so I react in a better way and learn so I can do better in the future,” Parker said.

For more information on the Leadership High School program, go to www.fortbendcouncil.org/portfolio-item/high-school-leadership.

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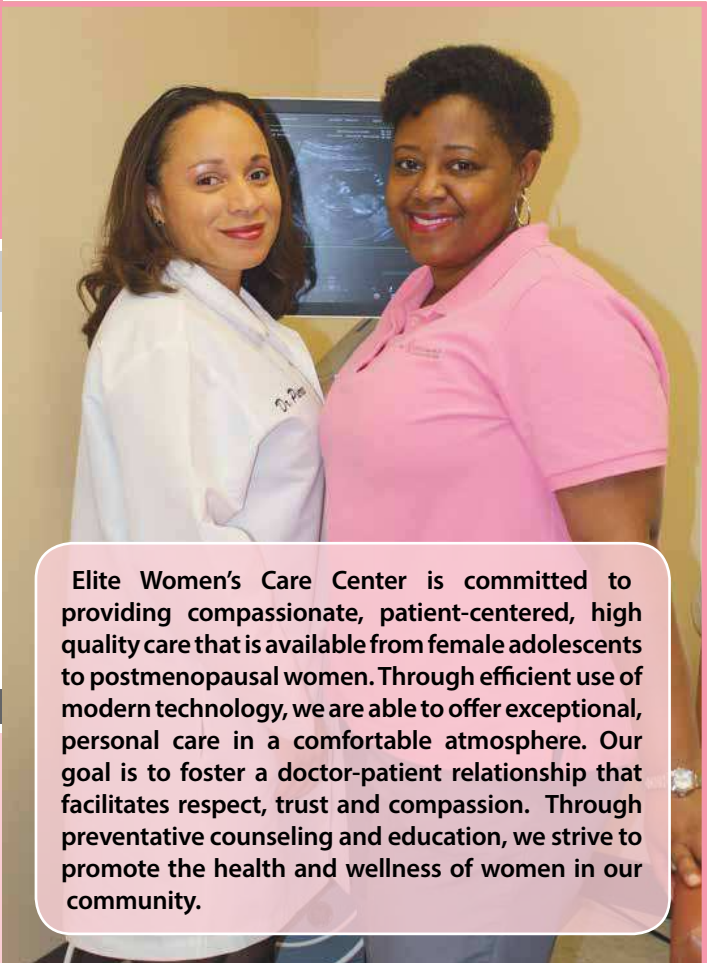


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Firethorne to cap off 1,400-acre community development with family pool and aquatic play area



Jefferson Development will cap off its 1,400-acre Firethorne master-planned community in Katy/Fulshear with the construction of a family pool with a 19-1/2-foot-tall tubular water slide and aquatic playground, marking Firethorne's final major amenity. The colorfully appointed aquatic play area and pool, designed and built by Sunset Pools Inc. of Katy, is slated for completion later this summer and will be Firethorne's third swimming pool amenity, along with a resort-style pool and regulation lap pool. For further information on Firethorne, go www.firethorne.info.

Jefferson Development will cap off its 1,400-acre Firethorne master-planned community with the construction of a family pool with a 19-1/2-foot-tall tubular water slide and aquatic playground, marking Firethorne's final major amenity. The colorfully appointed aquatic play area and pool is slated for completion later this summer.

"This family pool and aquatic play area perfectly round out our swimming pool offerings at Firethorne, adding to our resort-style pool and competitive swim center with regulation lap pool," said Firethorne Marketing Director Janet Burkett. It will feature Firethorne's first-ever tower slides, water cannons, a water hoop, spray fountains, a swim-up playground and wading areas specifically designed for families with young children.

Adam Traugott, CBP founder and president of Sunset Pools Inc., the project manager, designed the new family-friendly swimming area. The play area, 45 feet by 45 feet, and the pool area, 30 feet by 30 feet, are located adjacent to the resort-style pool. The Katy-based company, founded in 2001, has designed several private pools in Firethorne.

"This project was special to me," said Traugott, a father of five who lives in Firethorne. "We designed the space with

Splashtacular brand customized slides and play units -- brightly colored, interactive water features, small slides for little kids and a wading space for kids, moms and dads to have fun and splash around a lot," he said. "I think it will be a big hit."

In addition to its swimming facilities, Firethorne's major amenities include a scenic 12-acre lake with surrounding greenbelt, hike and bike trails, parks and playgrounds, sports fields, tennis courts, a Community Center with a meeting room and fully equipped fitness facility and a Clubhouse for residents' private functions.

Firethorne is home to Ray and Jamie Wolman Elementary in Katy ISD, with the new Lamar Consolidated ISD's Katherine Lindsey Elementary set to open in August 2017.

The Firethorne new homes are built by Ashton Woods Homes, Coventry Homes, Highland Homes, Perry Homes, Plantation Homes, Ravenna Homes and Saratoga Homes. The homes range in price from the high \$100s to the mid-\$800s. The builder team, which has homes in Firethorne Model Home Parks, was selected based upon the highest standards for design, quality, customer satisfaction and reputation.



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SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS for Fulshear LIBRARY

Fort Bend County Libraries' Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library, 8100 FM 359 South in Fulshear, presents a variety of free children's programs, adult computer classes, book clubs, and special programs for people of all ages each month.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library at 281-633-4675 or the library system's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734. The September schedule is as follows:

REGULAR HOURS

- Mon** - 12 noon - 8 p.m.
- Tue, Wed** - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Thur** - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Fri** - 12 noon - 5 p.m.
- Sat** - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Sun** — CLOSED

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

- Sept. 4** - Labor Day
- Sept. 29** - Ft. Bend County Fair Day

SPECIAL EVENTS

Photo Contest: "Capture Fort Bend County" –Sept. 4-29; all FBCL locations.

The theme of the contest is "Capture Fort Bend County." Amateur photographers of all skill levels are invited to enter



original photographs that portray the culture, nature, people, and places of Fort Bend County - from hidden gems in our communities to favorite places and scenes around town. Entries can be submitted at any of the libraries in the Fort Bend County library system beginning September 4; the deadline for entries is Sept. 29, at 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place entries. Winners will be announced at a special reception and awards ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 28, at George Memorial Library in Richmond.

All photographs will be displayed in the Bohachevsky Gallery at George Memorial Library from Oct. 28 through Dec. 1. Winning photographs will be determined by a panel of judges, who will make their determinations based on the following criteria: relationship to contest theme, composition, focus, lighting, emotional impact, and creativity.

Photographs will be anonymous until after the judging is complete. All entries must be original, unpublished, and the work of the person submitting it. Only one photo may be entered per person. Photographs should be printed on photo-quality paper, and must be no smaller than 8"x10" and no larger than 11"x17."

Photos may be in color or black-and-white. FBCL reserves the right to print or display any entry to this contest indefinitely.



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Entries will be exhibited for the general public to see, so they should be appropriate for all ages to view.

The photographer is responsible for obtaining verbal or written release for public use of the photo from all identifiable individuals in the photograph submitted; the photographer accepts all liability from the use of a photo where this release has not been obtained. The contest is open to amateur photographers only. Professional photographers, who earn a living by selling their photographs, are not eligible to participate. There is no fee

for entering the contest. Library employees and their immediate families are not eligible to win.

“Family-History Research: Intro to DNA for Genealogy” – Monday, Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m., meeting room.

Various different resources are now available that can provide genetic DNA testing that will provide insight into one’s ancestors.

Daniel Sample, manager of the library’s genealogy and local history department, will discuss the different testing options that are available and how to decide which one will provide the type of results that the family researcher can use.

Learn about what genetic DNA testing does and does not do. Sample will also provide tips on how to use the results to provide further insight into genealogy research.

“Social Security 101” – Monday, Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m., meeting room.

Andrew Hardwick, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration, will provide an overview of Social Security retirement and the Medicare program. Learn how and when to apply for maximum Social Security benefits; when to file for Medicare; and how to use online tools at the Social

Continued on page 20

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Continued from page 19

Security Administration's website.

Hardwick will also talk about disability, survivors, and spouse benefits. Those attending the program are encouraged to go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to create an account and print out a Social Security statement prior to the program.

BOOK CLUBS

Fulshear Book Club – Monday, Sept. 18, 12 noon, meeting room. The book to be discussed is *A Man Called Ove*, written by Fredrick Backman.

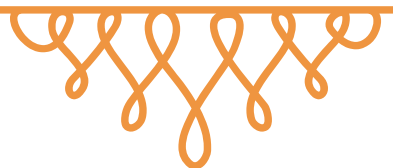
Fulshear Night Readers Guild – Monday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m., meeting room. The book to be discussed is *Best Boy*, written by Eli Gottlieb.

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Toddler Time – Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. — Caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 12 to 36 months of age.

Story Time – Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. — Stories, movies, and age-appropriate craft activities for children 3 to 6 years of age.

After-School Breaks – 2nd Thursday at 4:30 p.m. — Crafts, movies, stories for school-aged children in grades 1 through 5. The program on Sept. 14 will be "We All Scream for Ice Cream."





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NOW OPEN

EXPERTS IN
EYEBROWS



Fulshear House Concerts will welcome

The Young Fables



↳ Katy's own
Savannah Adkins
as the opening act

Sunday, Sept. 24

The Young Fables are the promising country duo comprised of three-time American Idol vet Laurel Wright and accomplished guitarist and vocalist Wesley Lunsford. The act hails from Maryville, TN and the team has already collected impressive accolades including the Grand Prize of the Texaco Country Showdown which landed Laurel on the Ryman Auditorium Stage at age 16.

Today, The Young Fables can be found playing all over the country supporting their debut release "TWO", as well as gracing the pages of many country music columns including the world renown "The Boot."

Laurel and Wes are recognized for their prolific online presence, featuring numerous video collections, including the fan favorite "Covering Your Tracks" series. Since winning the Nashville finals of NASH FM's countrywide NASH NEXT competition, the radio giant has embraced the duo as an America's Morning Show

favorite, regularly highlighting The Young Fables' songwriting strength in the Ten Minute Tune segment.

It is not hard to understand why Laurel and Wes have been turning heads. Country music staple Keith Urban claims Laurel's voice "had me immediately" and BIG MACHINE CEO, Scott Borchetta went as far as to label her tone and control, "a flawless vocal".

Laurel Wright is from Maryville Tennessee, a beautiful little city nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. She started singing in church when she was just 3 years old.

"At age 10, the loss of my great papaw inspired me to pick up my first guitar, and with mom's help, I wrote my first song," Wright said. "During my sophomore year of high school, I got really serious about my music. It quickly became apparent to me that I would need to devote hours per day to practice and writing.

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 22

I wanted to focus more on my music, which led me to quit the high school basketball team and become homeschooled.”

At age 16, Wright was the youngest winner (a record that stands to this day) of the Texaco Country Showdown. That specific year, about 50,000 people nationwide entered the competition. Out of those 50,000, the top five would perform their original music on the Ryman Auditorium Stage.

LeAnn Rimes hosted the event and Wright won the grand prize of \$100,000. The day after she turned 19, Wright moved to Nashville.

“I worked as a restaurant hostess while pursuing my goal of earning a full-time music career,” Wright said. “In less than a year, I was able to accomplish just that alongside guitarist



Wesley Lunsford.”

“I’ve been a semi finalist on American Idol Season 13 and 14 and in the final Season 15 I made it into the top 48,” Wright said.

“Wes and I have opened for some amazing artists: Sara Evans, Randy Houser, Scotty McCreery, The Band Perry, Joe Nichols, and more.

“Meeting Wes was a serious game-changer for my music career and me. When my former lead guitarist backed out of a gig at the last minute, my drummer said he knew “a guy named Wes”. From the first moment I heard Wes play, I’ve never wanted another guitarist,” Wright said. “He’s not only one of the most talented people I’ve ever met, but also one of the most hardworking people I’ve ever worked with. Wes was my lead guitar player for about a

year and a half before I moved to Nashville. Just before I moved, Wes told me he wanted to be a part of anything and everything

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in which I was involved. We haven't played a show without each other in over a year, we write all of our songs together and he brings something completely unique to our songs."

Lunsford was born in Tallassee, Tennessee - East Tennessee.

"At age 9, Mom made me take piano lessons for a year, which then led to a second year," Lunsford said. "When I was 14, Mom knew I wanted to learn guitar, so for Christmas she gave me my first guitar. Back then, I loved The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Black Sabbath, Pink Floyd... (I still love all of those). At age 15, I started a band and I was the lead vocalist and lead guitar player."

About four years later they were offered a deal, but they turned it down. Shortly after that, the band split and went our separate ways.

"I studied music business for a year at MTSU, but decided that wasn't really what I wanted to do," Lunsford said. "In 2009 I earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee with a concentration in Studio Music and Jazz. During, and after college, I free-lanced for various bands around the Eastern United States. I had the opportunity to play music in China for 6 months, 7 days a week, with some of my closest friends.

"Oddly enough, while in China, I started listening to (and loving) country music," Lunsford said. "I was offered another contract to stay in China, but declined because I wanted to come back to play country music. After returning to the states, I played country music for a small label's various artists in East Tennessee. Some of the people I met during that time knew Laurel. It was a friend from that group who called me that night to fill in on guitar with Laurel. I come from a music loving family; I have very supportive parents, stepparents, brothers and grandparents. I've worked with a lot of musicians, but knew from the moment we started working and writing together that Laurel and I had something very special."

The Young Fables will feature an opening act of Savannah Adkins. Adkins is a 16-year-old singer/songwriter from Katy and is presently a junior in high school. Adkins mostly plays pop/country but sometimes likes to drift into other genres.

Adkins discovered the beauty of music a few years ago and it has driven her to want to share it. Right now, Adkins has been and



still is playing for local restaurants like Wild Wing Café and Agave Rio. She has also performed at trade shows and festivals.

In the summer of 2016, Adkins won the Acoustic Throw Down at Wild Wing Café in Katy. It was an eight-week competition where she went up with some really talented artists.

Aside from playing, Adkins practices Krav Maga, which is reality-based self-defense that has influenced some of her music, like her original "Throat Punch."

Photos on Page 26 & 27

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Fulshear House Concerts is a neighborhood concert series for music lovers and live music supporters in Fulshear and the surrounding area.

Each concert features a quality live music performance, and a suggested donation of \$20 - \$30 per person goes entirely to the musician(s) to help support their art. House concerts have become a primary source of sustainability for many musicians in today's changing digital music environment.

Fulshear House Concerts is a laid back venue — shows are held in the family room with the furniture cleared out the day of the show. Doors open ½ hour before each show for us to socialize, share food, mingle with the artist. Address and food details are shared with committed attendees prior to each show, and food is potluck — bring a dish to share and the chair will be provided.

There are two 45 minutes sets while we are in “listening room” mode for the performance, and there's a break in the middle to refresh beverages, use restrooms, reconnect with artist or buy cd's and other merchandise.

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Pauline Reese

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This will be an evening honoring heroes on Veterans Day filled with music, fun and entertainment for the entire family. Come hear great music from Mary Sarah, Pauline Reese, Freddie Pate and Moses Rangle. This event will be held in the comfort of the state of the art Churchill Fulshear High School Theatre.

Mary Sarah has more than 10 years of performing, you could say this young woman has been given a “coat of many colors.” The fabric of her life brings forth a vast array of opportunity and experience.

Mary Sarah was raised in the Texas Opry circuit where she first began defining and honoring her traditional country roots. She then went on to land a major touring role with Kidz Bop at the

age of 12. Combining her touring experience with her love of traditional country music gave way to a once-in-a-lifetime album - duets featuring Country Music Legend’s like Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Ray Price, and much more - all before the age of 18.

In 2016, America embraced her on the No. 1 rated TV show in the country, The Voice. Her blind audition garnered her a 4-chair turn singing country’s iconic “Where The Boys Are” by Connie Francis - a tune that continues to garner standing ovations and whispers of the greatness of her mentors; Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton and the likes of Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert.

She quickly advanced onto Team Blake.

Continued on page 30



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Continued from page 28

Her undeniable talent and infectious spirit have since kept her in the spotlight. Since finishing fifth on *The Voice* (Season 10) and serving as *The Kohl's Greenroom Host* (Season 11), the Texas ingenue's opportunities have only expanded coming off the show to include her Grand Ole Opry debut, Ryman stage appearances and continuing to tour across the United States to this day. She has recently been cast as a lead in the play "Road to Nashville" which features the hits of country music. She is set to debut September 2017.

Mary Sarah exudes patriotism. She continues to bring that love and respect to her National Anthem appearances across the country by opening her shows with God Bless America. In her own words, "It is the least I can do for the men and women of this country who put their lives on the line for our freedom. Using the platform I have been given to let them know I support their efforts to keep my dream, and the dreams of millions of American's alive is an honor."

"Timing is everything and you cannot rush creativity", finds Mary Sarah on the cusp of releasing a new single she wrote after experiencing the fallout of a failed relationship. "I do hope it helps others who find it hard to see the positive in a breakup," she reveals, "The beauty of the poetic words is that finding yourself through a broken relationship is a very empowering

thing to do". Her genuine disposition lends to a true honesty and a vulnerable transparency that belies her age as a songwriter. Her feet grounded in the traditional sound that she holds so dear. The new tune embraces her old soul that comes with honoring her roots, naming her a "Modern Traditionalist."

If Pauline Reese had been born in the 1800s, she would have used a plow and a Henry rifle to carve her place the Wild West. Instead, she's slinging a guitar and sharp-edged lyrics to blaze a trail in a man's world of outlaw country music and staking milestones along the way, including praise from Willie Nelson as his favorite female vocalist and from the Texas Music Awards as the reigning entertainer of the year - the first woman to earn that honor.

Legends were born when Pauline rode her horse Blue Diamond into shows at famed dance halls across Texas and sang the National Anthem from the saddle at rodeos and sporting events, including one for 83,000 people at a University of Texas football game.

Pauline served as an inspiration as the only woman in Texas Music - a no-holds-barred blend of alternative country, rock, Western swing, honky-tonk, folk and Tejano - going head-to-head with Jack Ingram, Kevin Fowler, Cory Morrow, Roger Creager, Reckless Kelly and the Randy Rogers Band. Her advice was sought by the likes of Miranda Lambert, Sunny Sweeney and Bonnie Bishop.

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At age 15, she joined a band composed of men in their 40s. Two years later, she fronted it as The Pauline Reese Band. About the same time, she met Willie Nelson and was welcomed into his inner circle of friends including legendary songwriters Sonny Throckmorton (George Strait's "The Cowboy Rides Away") and Merle Haggard sidekick Freddy Powers ("Natural High").

While writing songs with them and studying their music and the artists they admired, she toured and worked odd jobs, from fixing guitars and selling hot dogs on a stick to making titanium kneecaps in a machine shop. Honing songwriting, guitar, vocals and showmanship while performing more than 170 concerts a year, Pauline steadily earned a fan base that allowed her to grow from opening act to headliner. She performed at two of Willie's Farm Aid festivals that included Dave Matthews, Neil Young and John Cougar Mellencamp and six of Willie's fabled Fourth of July Picnics.

These days there's so much noise, it's hard to break thru the clutter. But Freddie Pate is about to resurrect the past by inventing the future.

His new single, "All Watered Down," has touched a nerve and the single is one of the top requests in Louisiana radio stations.

To purchase tickets, call 832-600-3221 or visit www.FulshearAreaChamber.com for more information.



Mary Sarah



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SCARECROW FESTIVAL



The thrill of victory awaits as straw champions from all walks of life take shape during the 2017 Olympic-themed Fulshear Scarecrow Festival, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in Cross Creek Ranch, 6450 Cross Creek Bend Lane.

Creative teams in peak condition will go for the gold — and a \$1,000 grand prize — in the annual scarecrow-decorating contest. Registrants will be given \$100 toward their creations.

In addition, activities worthy of Olympic champions will take place including a carnival, live music, food trucks and free activities for the children.

The scarecrow competition is just the start. Scarecrow Fest is all about family fun – carnival rides, music, food trucks, a variety of performances and free activities including bobbing for apples, face painting and pumpkin decorating for kids. New this year is a Best of Living tent where prospective homebuyers will be able to meet with award-winning builders in Cross Creek Ranch to see the spectrum of floor plans, architectural styles, incentives and upgrades available.

The festival is free and open to the public. Wristbands for carnival rides will be \$10 per person for unlimited rides.

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