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Contents & Staff

FULSHEAR LIVING *monthly*™ | December 2017

Features



6

Christmas events in Fulshear



8

Fulshear High adding more classroom space and natatorium



12

Fulshear community stand in support of Brookwood



18

Partnering with the community in youth sports



22

Fulshear House Concerts will present its 4th annual Christmas Show



32

It's the season of giving at River Bend Baptist Church

FULSHEAR LIVING *monthly*™

The Fulshear Living Monthly is a publication of the Fort Bend Herald and the Katy Times.

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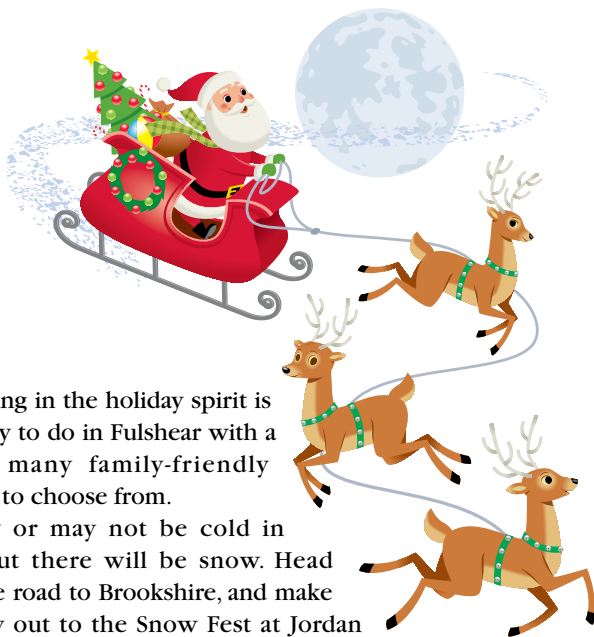


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Christmas events planned in Fulshear area



Getting in the holiday spirit is easy to do in Fulshear with a so many family-friendly activities to choose from.

It may or may not be cold in Texas, but there will be snow. Head down the road to Brookshire, and make your way out to the Snow Fest at Jordan Ranch on Saturday, Dec. 9, from noon to 3 p.m. The free and open-to-the-public event will return to Jordan Ranch for winter fun for everyone.

Snow Fest, held at The Shed at Jordan Ranch at 30757 Jordan Crossing Boulevard, is slated to have 70,000 pounds of frosty snow to experience first-hand. Take in music provided by a DJ as you and your family create snow angels, slide down a three-lane slide all while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate.

Additional activities include an ice carver performing on-site, bounce houses, face painters, food trucks and a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves. Nine seasonally decorated model homes will be open for touring.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Downtown Fulshear will be kicking off the holidays from 6-9 p.m. with their Fulshear Festival of Lights, presented by the Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Fulshear and M.D. Anderson.

This year's Festival of Lights Christmas event will include Santa, live music by Saenz of the Times, a live nativity, frozen sisters along with a snowy children's activity area with bounce houses, vendor booths and a parade according to Don McCoy, president of the Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce.

"The Festival of Lights is a much anticipated event every year,"



said McCoy. "The atmosphere is always festive, and everyone has a great time from the shopping, food and entertainment. We do have the 'real Santa' sponsored by Keller Williams for the third year in a row, and he is very popular with all. We will also have once again the live nativity scene brought to us by Liberty Star Mortgage. There is something for everyone at our Festival of Lights Christmas Celebration," McCoy said.

New this year will be a float contest in the parade with entry of floats free to participants.

"The Festival of Lights this year will begin with what we hope will become an annual tradition: a parade float contest. We look forward to seeing some fantastic floats as they compete for first, second and third place," said McCoy.

Temporary road closures for the event include: All lanes of FM 359 will be closed between Front St. and Second St. between 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 16 and 1 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. Front Street will be closed between Wilson St. and Harris St. for the duration of the event.

Detour routes and parking information can be found on the City of Fulshear website at www.fulsheartexas.gov.



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Fulshear High School adding more classroom space and natatorium

By Tom Behrens



The present enrollment is 734 at Fulshear High School.

The students coming back to Fulshear High School after summer vacation will have a surprise waiting for them.

What they only saw as locked doors in several locations in the school during this present school year will open to four new sections with additional classrooms and labs.

What is now behind the locked doors are four different shell spaces — two downstairs and two upstairs that are not currently built out. Construction is scheduled to begin in May, continuing through the summer, and should be ready for the students in September for 2018-19 school year.

Construction budget is \$2,983,781; project architects are PBK

Architects.

Dr. Erin Forbes, Ed.D, Associate Principal at Fulshear, describes the present locations within the building as giant rooms with spray insulation all over the walls, visible wiring and concrete floors.

“The framework is all there,” said Forbes. “This summer it will be just building the walls, the cabinets, laying the tile floors, turning the space into compartmentalized classrooms. Our students don’t know the spaces are there. From the hallways everything looks normal. When you open the door you see an empty shell space. Each space will hold six classrooms when

Continued on page 10

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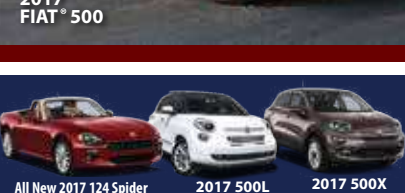
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Continued from page 8

finished.”

The build-out is part of the approved 2014 bond election.

Fulshear High School has different sections for the different academic areas. There is one for social studies, English section has one; science and technology has one, and a math section... two downstairs and two upstairs, all equipped with the same technology as present classrooms have.

Average classroom size is anywhere between 20-30 students.

Specialty areas such as health science, culinary, welding, computer labs were part of the school when it opened.

Will these new classrooms be for additional subject matter classes that are not presently taught, such as higher levels of math?

“No,” said Forbes. “The new rooms will just be additional labs and classrooms for student population growth.”

The additional space will add 21,460



The additional build-out at Fulshear High School will add 24 new classrooms and labs.

square feet to the present school footprint. The total square footage, including the field house is 3,081,522.

Another part of the voter approved 2014 bond is a natatorium, which is under construction at Fulshear. The pool will allow swim practice and programs without having to leave campus, and also help facilitate the LCISD’s fourth-grade swim program. As part of the regular PE program, each fourth-grade student receives two weeks of swim instruction during the school day.

“As the district grew, it became harder and harder to find time in the school year for every school to attend swim lessons,” said Phillip Sulak, communications coordinator for LCISD. “The new pool will help alleviate that problem, also reducing travel time for many students.”

Other high schools receiving pools are George Ranch and Foster. The Fulshear High School pool is scheduled to be ready for the 2018-19 school year.

In the voter approved 2017 bond election, Fulshear High School will be getting an all-weather synthetic athletic field surface. Also approved is a 2,000-square-foot new multipurpose space with a high ceiling to accommodate various group activities. Technology systems will be upgraded.

“We get more students every year,” said Forbes. Lamar CISD is one of the fastest growing school districts in Texas. Over the last decade, the school district has added, more than 10,000 students — with another 11,000 to 23,000 projected to arrive over the next 10 years.

Fulshear High School started with only two grade levels, freshmen and sophomore. This year a junior class was added. For the 2018-19 school year, the school will have freshmen through seniors. Currently student population is 734. When the space is completely built out, the school will have a capacity for 2,500.

Looking into the future, will this class space be sufficient for



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Class size at Fulshear High School is between 20-30 students.

the future?

“It’s really hard to tell,” said Forbes. “According to the demographers, we are scheduled for steady growth. Lamar built their schools based on a 2,200-2,500 student capacity. We don’t expect to have more than that. We don’t see a huge boom, but this whole area is growing, and we get more kids every year. We are building for projected growth in our currently standing school.”

Photos by Justin Terry



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Members of the Dream Team include Stuart McTaggart, Richard Cross, Jason Rogoff and Mark Hymes.

Fulshear community

STAND IN SUPPORT OF Brookwood

BY TRACY MANESS

Brookwood is a community in Brookshire for adults with disabilities, who work and live on the campus. The community has 115 residential adults, also known as citizens who live on campus, as well as 110-day program citizens who come to work during weekdays.

Last month, the Brookwood Community was looking to raise \$1 million at its 2017 Annual Golf Benefit at Fulshear's Weston Lakes Country Club.

Senior Marketing and Advancement Officer Jennifer Tiedt said the fundraiser, which is in its 32nd year, is the community's largest fundraiser each year. The benefit has raised more than \$14 million since 1985.

This year's event had the nautical theme of "Set Sail." Fundraising team captains were paired with citizen sea captains, who will be the community's representative for each team.

"Basically we bring families, supporters and friends together to set up fundraising teams to raise money for the golf benefit," Tiedt said. "Each citizen is a part of the team."

The organization encourages individuals, schools, churches, organizations and groups to participate. Each fundraising team captain will play a round of golf with the Brookwood Dream Team teeing off at one hole. The Dream Team is made up of four citizens, and Tiedt said they represent the donations given to the community as a whole. Donations can be

Continued on page 14

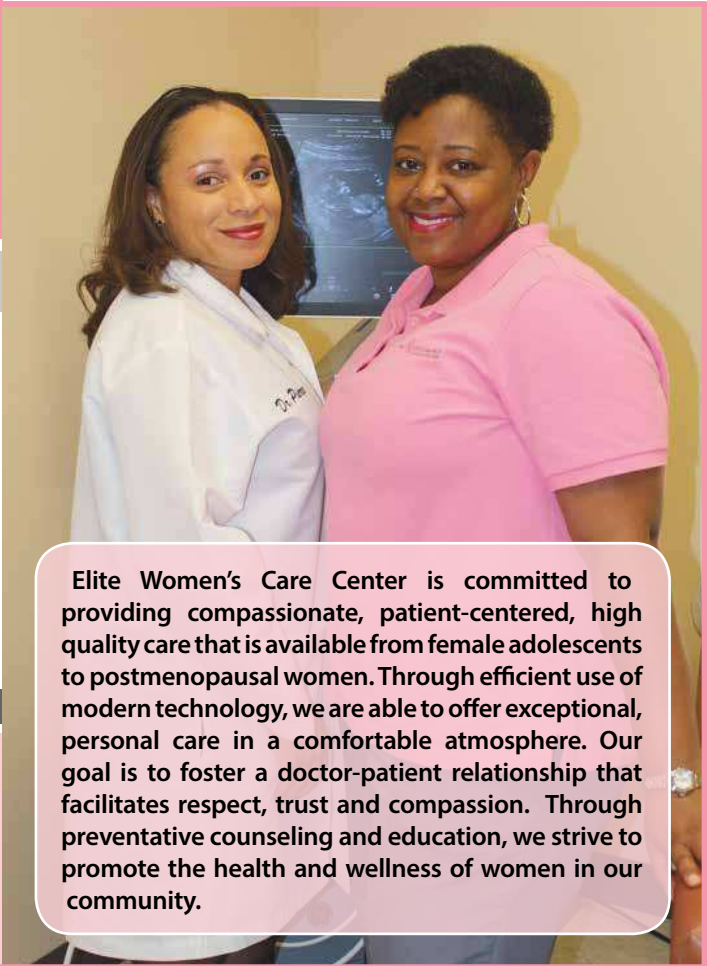


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Continued from page 12

made to a specific team or to the general fund.

The event's fundraising efforts will continue through the end of the year. Tiedt said some team captains start their teams as late as early December, when the holiday giving season really starts to kick in.

"We provide fundraising support and tips along the way, and we create an online page for them to send out the link to their friends and family," she said.

Tiedt said \$.97 of every dollar raised directly benefits the programs and services of the community's citizens, including underwriting scholarships, staff salaries, citizens' jobs and other general operating expenses.

A "SAIL-ebration" event will be held in January to show appreciation for the fundraising team captains. That event will include a pinning of the stripes ceremony for its citizen sea captains.

Tiedt said that because adults with disabilities age out of the public school system at age 22, there is a high demand for a place like Brookwood that provides work, care and purpose for them when many families are left with few options.

"There's so much focus on children and teenagers and inclusion programs in the schools, which is great," she said. "But then as our founder says, 'That's only a fourth of your life.'"

Citizens work in several areas on the campus, including the café that serves lunch to the public daily and the ceramics, stone



casting and horticulture shops. Some citizens work at packaging food items like salad dressings that are then sold.

Tiedt said the horticulture shop grows 48,000 poinsettias each year for selling during the holidays. Items are sold at The Brookwood Gift and Garden Center, which is located on the campus, as well as a few other area locations.


Brookwood and its citizens are very grateful for its fundraisers, Tiedt said.

"The fundraising team captains' commitment to this event year after year is what has allowed us to raise as much money as we have in the past 32 years," she said. "Captains continue to approach their own networks of friends and family and stand behind Brookwood's mission."



Emory Black is one of the many residents of the Brookwood community.

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Family Hope
 lends hand to
tight-knit
 Fulshear community
 By Valerie Sweeten

Help is never far away in a tight-knit community such as Fulshear where it's not uncommon to see "neighbor helping neighbor" no matter what the needs are.

When it comes to the important necessities such as sustenance to keep a family fed and spirits up, this is the place to be.

Dr. Dale Olson, executive director at Family Hope, continues to grow their outreach to the expansive community since their opening in 2014. Three years later, the demand is still there for assistance especially when a disaster such as Hurricane Harvey strikes.

To date for 2017, Family Hope has served 6,800 people, and in 2016, they served 4,200 people. On average, they serve more than 250 families which equals out to nearly 900 people at each Food Fair according to Olson.

Family Hope was founded when a group of pastors and community leaders came together to address the need of family services in the Fulshear-Simonton area. As a result, Family Hope was formed to be a place of compassion and transformation for Fulshear and Simonton.

On Dec. 9, Family Hope will continue to help provide for their neighbors in their time of need. Family Hope's Food Fair is held on the second Saturday of the month from 9-10:30 a.m. The event is made possible with Family Hope's partnership with Second Mile and Houston Food Bank.

The December event will be held at Parkway Fellowship's parking lot located at FM 1093 and FM 1463.

Olson said it's not uncommon to see cars lined up as early as 6:30 a.m. before they get started. Attendees receive fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as non-perishable items to take home.

"They get a combination of a lot of things. We try to keep a diverse menu. People really appreciate it. The hurricane made people more needy," Olson said.

The volunteers are what an amazing part of Family Hope with 2,350 volunteers working the first 10 months of 2017.

"The community has been amazing to support the Food Fair," Olson added.

In addition to the Food Fair, the organization has been able to offer flu shots recently, diapers along with the perishable goods and gift cards for area grocery stores for the holidays.

"We really try to care for the whole person," said Olson. "People go through tough times. We have job seminars, counseling and

Continued on page 19

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Partnering with the community in youth sports

By Tom Behrens



Quad Sports, a youth sports program for ages 3-14 years old, is expanding its operations base from Katy to Fulshear and the surrounding area. The focus of the program is to promote youth sports participation and promote healthy development of our youth.

Quad Sports is a nationwide program. The website, www.quadsports.net, says the goals. "As former collegiate and professional athletes, we understand the importance of children learning the basic skills necessary in their sport. We understand that the best way for kids to develop their skills and talent is through a structured, yet fun environment that allows each child to grow without the win at all costs mentality. Our program is designed for kids to maximize their fun and potential. Quad Sports operates to ensure short term and long term success, not only on the playing field, but off."

Yves Stewart, program administrator for Quad Sports in Katy, and now Fulshear, adds that additional core values are teaching parents how to properly gain the skills and have the knowledge that's available for them to play sports correctly, how to prevent concussions, injuries, how to negotiate when kids are being recruited by colleges.

Said Stewart: "We have volunteers that have that expertise or background, whether they were high school, collegiate athletes,

or professional athletes themselves. We focus on teamwork. We focus on giving back, and we focus on academics for the youth."

Currently for Fulshear, Quad Sports offers NFL Youth Flag Football, but next year will be adding soccer and track clinics.

"We want to have things available in our backyard in Fulshear," continues Stewart. "Often times you have to travel to Katy, Houston and Sugar Land. We have a wonderful community in Fulshear. We want to give kids in their own neighborhood exposure to these sports at affordable costs."

Presently Stewart and her Quad Sports partners are working with the LCISD to provide athletic fields for practices and games. Currently there is a program at Briscoe Junior High School.

Quad Sports can provide contributions to the athletic programs or to the school funds. "We want to give back right there in the community."

Stewart said there are already quite a few families from Fulshear that come to Briscoe to participate in the program. Another plan is to locate land in the Fulshear area to build a facility.

Scholarships are available:

"Our goal is that no child should be denied access to the

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 16

training for various things people might need. We're here to serve and help them. I have the best job in the world. I get to share and help people with their lives."

For more information, go to www.familybopefulsbear.org.



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Continued from page 18

program because of lack of funds. We also provide scholarships for our program," said Stewart.

Stewart works with the schools in identifying a student or students who want to participate, but can't because of lack of funds.

The Quad Sports website explains how parents can apply for scholarships. Information is also available on the different social media the program participates with for individuals to reach out, "and they do," said Stewart.

"Maybe there are multiple children in a family and not all can play. We have them fill out a one page document to verify the need.

"We work with churches in the area. This past spring we handed out about 15 scholarships to children who came out of the Fulshear area so they could participate in our program."

"We get a lot of parents reaching back to us telling us how this program has assisted their kids in attitude, or coming out of their shell and making friends, how they see things in a broader sense. To me that says a lot."

Competition:

Competition, winning, is a big part of sports. But Quad Sports doesn't focus strictly on winning.

"We really focus on kids learning skill sets that they can use in their lives; assist them in building their confidence."

Quad Sports works with the athletic programs at the schools,



especially at the junior and high school levels. What would the coaches like to see us add to our programs to help youth be successful when they reach high school sports?

"We work with the Briscoe and Fulshear High School coaches," said Stewart. "We talk with everyone to get an idea what they would like to see the kids learn. We definitely focus on teaching them the drills. Maybe they haven't played tackle football, but they know the drills, how to attack the ball ... build confidence."

Quad Sports is a 501(c)(3) non-charitable youth sports program serving boys and girls ages 3-14 in the Fulshear, Katy, Richmond and Rosenberg area. The focus of the program is to promote youth sport participation and promote healthy development in our youth. More information is available at quadsports.net, or 832-280-6660.

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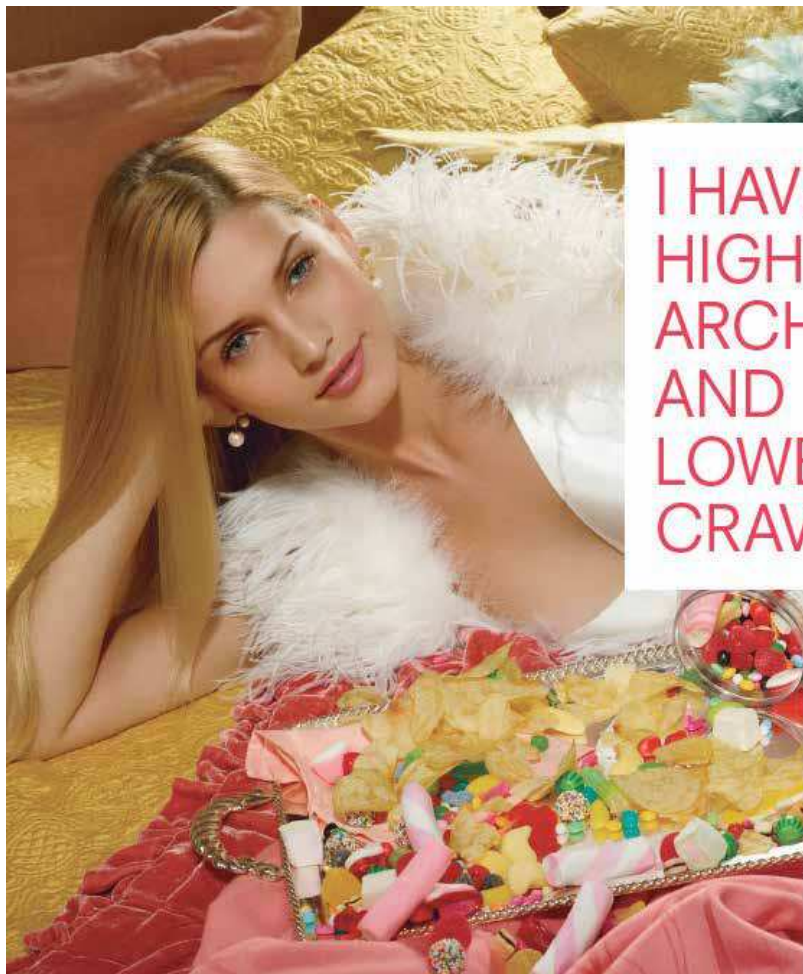
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You may have heard Danika on Sirius XM's Coffee House station or on one of 150 radio stations around the US spinning her tunes. Or maybe you saw her opening for acts such as Dierks Bentley and Phil Vassar. Or in theaters, wineries, clubs and living rooms around the US, UK and Europe in one of over 400 shows since 2010 when she decided to pursue music full time, abandoning her PhD, only a dissertation short of becoming "Dr.

Holmes." But that's a different story...

In 2010, Danika joined forces with guitarist Jeb Hart, a phenomenal player who's not afraid of shredding on an acoustic guitar. Jeb's clean and sophisticated style of playing along with Danika's smooth, soulful vocals has created their own unique blend of acoustic pop. Fans come to Danika shows expecting to hear Jeb Hart on guitar the same way they know they're going to get Slash at a Guns N' Roses concert.

While the music is positive and encouraging, an occasional song veers to the dark side, addressing heartbreak and death, in particular the loss of Danika's dad to cancer, while showing a very real and genuine side to the singer-songwriter. "Balance Vol. 1" (2014) is the Nashville duo's most recent release and was generously fan funded through kickstarter, as was their most recent full band release "Living Your Dream." (2010) Danika grew up as one of five kids on the Mississippi River in a little piece of heaven known as "Iowa."

Continued on page 24

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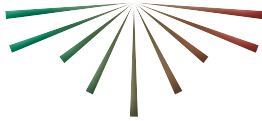
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Continued from page 22

Jeb Hart is the creator of Six Month Guitar.

Jeb started playing music at age 9, starting with saxophone and then later adding guitar, bass, and drums. Throughout the years he has learned many more. In his college days he spent many hours in the studio writing and recording songs.

Jeb also filled in with hundreds of bands including blues, rock, metal, country, and even a 2 1/2 year stint with a big band. He has taught for 16 years, and has decided to perform full time with Danika Holmes. Jeb stated, "It's taken a long time to find a band that was worth pulling away from teaching for. I'm excited to see where we go in the next few years."



PHOTOS Continued on page 26

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Continued from page 24



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 Fulshear House Concerts will provide a chair.

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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Continued on page 30



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Continued from page 28

SPECIAL EVENTS

“YA: Making Holiday Ornaments”

Monday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m., Meeting Room.

In this Young Adult program, teens in grades 9 through 12 will learn how to make holiday ornaments using clear balls, old CDs, and other interesting items. Materials for this program are made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library.

BOOK CLUBS

The book clubs will not meet in December. They will resume their regular schedule in January.

WEEKLY CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

(Abbreviated December Schedule)

Toddler Time

Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m.

Caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 12 to 36 months of age. This activity will not take place on Dec. 19 and 26.



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Story Time

Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.

Stories, movies, and age-appropriate craft activities for children 3 to 6 years of age. This activity will not take place on Dec. 20 and 27.

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 Dec. 14 will be "Sweet Sleighting" Those attending the program will make a candy sleigh upon a "snow"-covered cupcake "mountain." Materials for this program were made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library.



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The Season OF Giving

Todd Melton, minister of education and worship

From sewing blankets to Christmas caroling with senior adults, Fulshear's River Bend Baptist Church is serving the community this holiday season in a variety of ways this year through its Season of Giving.

In its fourth year, Season of Giving involves 12 different projects that either directly meet people's needs or to remind the community of the reason for Christmas.

For seven years, River Bend had hosted Celebrate Christmas, a large drive-thru event that depicted scenes from the life of Christ, but after 2013 the church decided to try something new due to traffic concerns the event caused on FM 1093.

Minister of Education and Worship Todd Melton said the change had been a positive transition because instead of asking people to come to the church, the new volunteer initiative sent church members beyond the church building.

"[With] the Season of Giving, the goal is to still show people God's love but to do it out in the community, to go into where they are instead of having to come to us," Melton said.

This year's first event was serving a community Thanksgiving

Continued on page 34

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Continued from page 32

meal at Zion Chapel in Simonton, and the last event will be caroling at nursing homes Dec. 17.

Melton said the church plans to assemble about 100 blankets for the homeless in surrounding areas.

"We end up getting blankets from Walmart or wherever that are of cheaper quality [and] sewing them together to make them thicker blankets," he said. "We put a little patch on there that has a scripture verse to encourage folks, and then we work with different ministries to get those blankets in the hands of families that are in need."

Volunteers will prepare a meal and provide a mini concert and sing-along at The Ballard House, which provides a home for those receiving long-term medical care.

"There are people that come there from all over the country to Houston for treatment from all backgrounds, different ethnicities, different religious backgrounds," Melton said. "And even though there are a lot of differences, we come together and we're there to encourage them, just smile, to hear their stories and to even pray with them."

Families can volunteer with their children to gather and sack food for the FaithFULL Kids program, which gives take-home bags of food to children in need at Huggins Elementary. Melton said he believes that parents should teach their children the value of giving while they are still young.

"We need to train our kids and make it a priority from a young

age, whether that is serving people, whether that is our faith, education [or] whatever it is, that needs to be a priority when children are young and not just waiting until they are teenagers or when they're 18," he said.

The prayer project team will visit local businesses, hand out goody bags with cookies and literature about Christmas and Jesus and pray for employees. Melton said the ministry has been well received in the past.

"It's neat to see the response from these businesses because we're not going in and asking them for anything," he said. "We're wanting to give them something. We don't take much of their time, just a brief prayer."

Other teams will sort and load food for the Family Hope Food Fair, help with assemble a mail-out for local Christian radio station KHCB and provide Christmas gifts for several Venezuelan refugee families as well as men working to overcome substance abuse at Manna House in Brookshire.

By participating in the Fulshear Christmas parade and displaying its nativity scenes that are large painted plywood panels on its property, Melton said the church hopes to remind those who attend the parade or drive by the church that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

He emphasized that many of the Season of Giving's projects are with organizations that need help all year long.

He said, "A lot of these ministries are operating year-round, so

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even if people don't plug in with us, they can contact the Manna House, Ballard House or others throughout the year and say, 'We want to help out in some way.'

Melton said approximately 200 church members will serve for this year's Seasons of Giving, but others are encouraged to join the efforts. He said he hopes it will inspire people to help others.

"We're being less selfish and more selfless. We're looking toward other people and [saying], 'How can I meet a need in your life?' instead of thinking, 'Man, I wish I could have this or have that.' How can I meet someone else's need?" he said.

Those interested can learn more or sign up to volunteer by visiting www.riverbendbc.org/season-of-giving-2017 or call 281-346-2279.

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December Events

Dec 3-5	Prayer Project
Dec 6	KHCB Radio Project
Dec 6	Ballard House Project
Dec 9	Family Hope Project
Dec 17	Caroling Project

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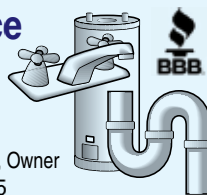
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Advertiser Index

Castle Furniture	2	Johnson Dev./Veranda	15	Champion Real	28
Timeless Plastic Surgery	3	Fulshear Elite	16	All Out A/C & Heating	28
Finnegan Chevy	5	Kolache Boss	17	Silex Systems	28
Finnegan Dodge	5	Met Plumbing	17	Fort Bend HealthCare Center	28
Lone Star Floors	6	U of H Houston - Victoria	18	Kyle D. McCrea	28
Legacy Ford	7	Fulshear Animal	18	Westside Brick & Masonry	29
King Auto Sales	8	National Tractors, Inc.	19	Master Psychic	29
The Athlete Shop	8	Brazos Valley Services	20	Lone Star Solar	29
Helfman Ford/Fiat	9	Los Cucos Mexican Cafe	21	Custom Comfort	29
Clear Choice Orthodontics	10	Well Pet Center	22	Ranger Plumbing Company	29
Holiday Cleaners	11	Katy Tile and Marble	22	Rosenberg Carpet & Flooring	29
EB AIR	12	Tegeler Chevrolet	23	Final Touch Roofing	30
Cane Island Outfitters	13	Dentist at Grand Parkway	24	Alpha 4 Real	30
Watercrest at Katy	13	El Dorado Insurance	25	Office Makers	30
Capital Internal Medicine	14	Katy Optiks	26	Christian	30
Don's Pest	14	Bull Creek Cafe	27	Villalon Callis	31
Katy Plumbing	15	Texas Apache	28	Gary Greene Better Homes	32



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