

www.LonestarBraces.com

SUGAR LAND OFFICE 4645 Sweetwater Blvd, Ste 100 Sugar Land, TX 77479

(281) 980-3900

ROSENBERG OFFICE

24004 Southwest Freeway, Ste 502 Rosenberg, TX 77471 (832) 586-9500



NEVER WAIT FOR EMERGENCY CARE

Grand Parkway ER

Grand Parkway & W Bellfort

Jackson Street Hospital ER

HWY 90A (Jackson Street)

Williams Way Hospital ER

HWY 59 & Williams Way







Contents & Staff December 2018



6 FEATURE STORY

Pecan Grove author Terri Sabol continues her Oscar & Emmy series with a new book.

10 HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Christmas drinks, movies and more to get you in the spirit of the season.



18 TALK OF THE TOWN

Find out how you can help Fort Bend Feeders with its mission to save homeless cats.

20 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Inspiration Stage presents "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, JR." and "Fiddler on the Roof, JR."



22 LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Check out the fun events coming your way.

24 HEALTH

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital welcomes new electrophysiologist and neurologist.



26 ON THE FORT BEND SCENE

Fun, silly and inspiring moments from around the county.

28 BUSINESS

The Fort Central Fort Bend Chamber
Business Expo draws in 63 companies.

PECAN GROVE

GENERAL MANAGER
Lee Hartman
leehart@fbherald.com

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR Marquita Griffin mgriffin@fbherald.com

COMPOSITION & GRAPHICS MANAGER
Alfred H. Dubé
adube@fbherald.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Melinda Maya mmaya@fbherald.com

Rachel Cavazos rcavazos@fbherald.com

WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Averil Gleason Michelle Cornell

TO ADVERTISE

If you are interested in advertising in the Pecan Grove Monthly, please call 281-342-4474 for rates, information and deadlines.

PHOTO & ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We are looking for fresh story ideas and enjoy publishing your articles in the Pecan Grove Monthly. If you have an story idea or photo to publish please send your information to mgriffin@fbherald.com with "Monthly" in the subject line.

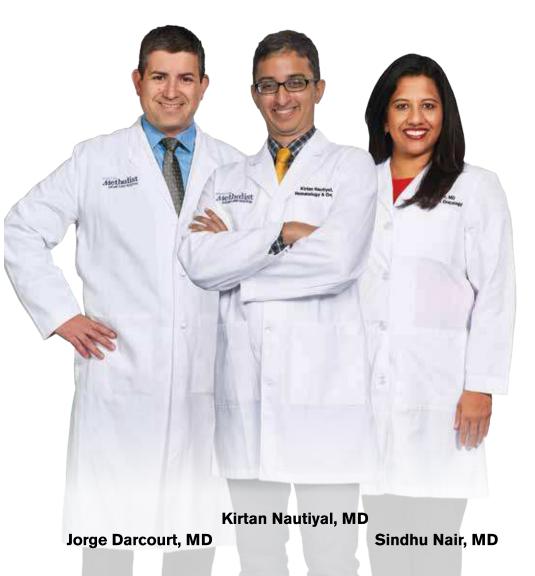
°2018 Pecan Grove Monthly. All Rights Reserved. Pecan Grove Monthly has 30,000 print circulation and is a sister publication of Fulshear Living Monthly, Greatwood Monthly, New Territory Monthly and is a Publication of the Fort Bend Herald. Our publishing headquarters is 1902 S. Fourth Street, Rosenberg Texas 77471





Tell us how we're doing! Email: mgriffin@fbherald.com

HOUSTON METHODIST ONCOLOGY PARTNERS AT SUGAR LAND



The doctors and staff of Houston Methodist Oncology Partners at Sugar Land are committed to treating your cancer in a collaborative and compassionate environment.

Their integrated, team approach addresses each patient's unique needs, delivering individualized therapies, innovative research and clinical trials, all backed by the advanced technology of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital. They are dedicated to providing comprehensive, world-class cancer care, close to home.

Services we offer:

- Oncology and hematology treatment
- Clinical trials on-site
- Genetic counseling and testing on-site
- Treatment planning
- Second opinions

To schedule an appointment, call **281.201.6669**.

Methodist SUGAR LAND HOSPITAL

16659 Southwest Fwy.
Medical Office Building 2, Suite 131
Sugar Land, TX 77479

houstonmethodist.org/spg







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



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 photos."

riting feels second-nature to Terri Sabol, and the entire process — from developing an idea and peerediting 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. "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 who lives in Pecan Grove. "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. Just like, "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 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."

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

.Feature Story.

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

The book is set to release by Summer 2019.

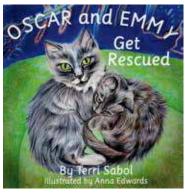
"This book is to showcase what to do with your pets when you go on vacation," Sabol said. "It also highlights the importance of the elderly being careful around pets and how they can be a tripping hazard."

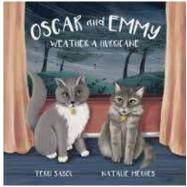
Following the third book, Sabol plans to write a Christmas story featuring her favorite felines, which is set to debut next Fall.

"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."



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





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







WE'RE CELEBRATING BLACK FRIDAY ALL MONTH LONG AT FINNEGAN!



AT FINNEGAN, BLACK FRIDAY ISN'T ONE DAY OF THE MONTH-IT'S ALL MONTH LONG! 281-342-9318 • FinneganDodge.com • 26433 Southwest Freeway Rosenberg, TX 77471





CELEBRATE BLACK FRIDAY DEALS ALL MONTH LONG AT FINNEGAN!



FIND NEW ROADS

CALL US FOR DETAILS! 281-342-4200

THIS IS A LIMITED TIME EVENT–DON'T MISS IT!





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.
- Make handmade Christmas tree ornaments.
- **S** 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.
- **7.** Feed birds facing the cold, winter weather.
- 8. Take a ride or walk around the neighborhood to look at decorated houses.
- **9.** 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.
- 20ullet 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 Pecan Grove 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 Christmas (1973)
The Year Without a Santa Claus

(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 (1992)

Batman Returns (1992) *

Miracle on 34th Street (1994 version) The Santa Claus (1994)

The Ref (1994) *

Jingle All the Way (1996)

Jack Frost (1998)

Reindeer Games (2000) *

8 Women (2001) *

About a Boy (2002) *

Love Actually (2003) * 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





Christmas Cocktails (and non-alcholoic drinks, too)



Cranberry Martini

by ED GRIVNER

INGREDIENTS

1 (1.5 fluid ounce) jigger vodka

1/2 fluid ounce orange liqueur

1/2 fluid ounce dry vermouth

2 (1.5 fluid ounce) jiggers cranberry juice

1 cup ice Cranberries

DIRECTIONS

1 Combine vodka, orange liqueur, vermouth, cranberry juice, and ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake vigorously to chill. Pour into martini glasses, and serve.

2 Garnish with cranberries.



The Grineh Cocktail

by NICOLE with THE SALTY MARSHMALLOW

INGREDIENTS

8 Scoops Lime Sherbet

4 Ounces Vodka

4 Ounces Blue Curacao Ginger Ale, To Fill Glass

DIRECTIONS

Place 2 Scoops of sherbet in the bottom of each glass. Top with the vodka and blue curacao. Fill each glass with ginger ale soda to the top.



Hot Buttered Rum

by MARY of BAREFEET IN THE KITCHEN

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup butter, softened 1 cup dark brown sugar

1 cup Monk Fruit In The Raw bakers bag (or 24 packets of Monk Fruit In The Raw)

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg 1/8 teaspoon ground

cardamom 1/16 teaspoon ground cloves Boiling water

Half and half or heavy cream

DIRECTIONS

1 Combine the butter, sugar, Monk Fruit In The Raw, cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamom, and cloves in a mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until thoroughly combined. Use immediately, or transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to use.

2To make each drink, scoop 1 1/2-2 tablespoons of the buttered spice mixture into a small mug. Pour 1/4 cup of boiling hot water into the cup and stir or whisk to dissolve completely. Add 1-2 tablespoons of half and half or cream, and stir once more. Taste, add more water or cream, as desired.



Paradise City

by the NOMAD in

NEWYORK CITY

INGREDIENTS

.5 oz vanilla syrup

.5 oz passion-fruit puree 1 oz grapefruit juice

1 oz cream

2 oz club soda

DIRECTIONS

1 Combine vanilla syrup, passion-fruit puree, grapefruit juice, and cream in a cocktail shaker over ice.

Pour club soda into a highball glass, then slowly strain the contents of the cocktail shaker over the club soda, allowing the head of foam to rise above the rim of the glass.







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.

Christnas Holiday Happenings Win 11 a. Visit the George II

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

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.



HELFMAN

FORD - MASERATI - FIAT - ALFA ROMEO

Serving Sugar Land & SW Houston





SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • COLLISION CENTER

SUGAR LAND

281-530-3673

11819 Southwest Frwy. Inbound Feeder - Before Murphy Rd.

Before Murphy Rd. Short 24./7

HelfmanMaseratiofSugarLand.com

Shop 24/7

HelfmanFIATofSugarLand.com

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 I.-1. 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 time-honored 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.

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.

experiences

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

FOOD / BEVERAGE

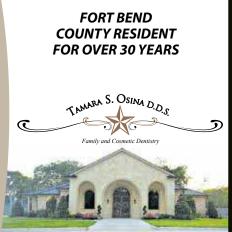
Television channels such as The Food Network have changed the way many people look at food. When gifting the family foodie, last-minute shoppers may not need to look further than the latest

Tamara S. Osina, D.D.S. James R. Tejada, D.D.S.

Mon.-Thurs.8-5 • Fri.7-3 (Early morning appointments available)

1320 THOMPSON RD. RICHMOND, TX

281-342-5022



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.

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.

Specializing in Adult and Geriatric Medicine

Accepting New Patients!



Syed Gardezi, M.D. *Internal Medicine*Primary & Preventive Care Physician

Office Services:

In house lab drawn
General and sports physicals
State immunizations and vaccines
Male and female wellness exams
Cardiac workup, ultrasound, and EKG

Greatwood

Preventive Care

1628-B Crabb River Road Richmond, TX 77469 281-545-8090

dicaid, and all major insurance plans accepted

Get a free cholesterol and diabetic screening with this ad!

Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department earns 2 ISO rating

by MICHELLE CORNELL

ongratulations to the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department for achieving an ISO rating of 2. This is an improvement over the last rating of a 3 and is one of the highest public protection classification ratings awarded by the Insurance Services Office.

ISO is an independent organization which evaluates the quality of a community's fire protection service. It does so by using a PPC system incorporating standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association.

The State Fire Marshal's Office, which works under the Texas Department of Insurance, has oversight into the process used in an ISO evaluation. They inspect the fire department's staffing, training of personnel, vehicles/apparatus and fire station locations.

They also look at the water supply with a critical part being the number, locations, and maintenance of fire hydrants. Lastly, they look at the fire alarm and communication systems.

All of those scores factor into a final rating with 1 being the best and 10 being the worst.

This rating distinction of earning a 2, can effectively lower the cost of property insurance rates for the community because of the quality of service provided. Be sure and check with your insurance company and make sure they have their information correct. It could save you

Thank you PGVFD for years of hard work and dedication to making this community a safer place to live and work.

Pecan Grove Women's Club Undates by SHERYL FAIRCHILD

he Pecan Grove Women's Club meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club. We welcome you to join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and visiting. The program will begin at 10 a.m. followed by our business meeting.

The program will be the Golden Heirs Choir from the Calvary Baptist Church in Rosenberg — so let's get festive. We will also be collecting cake and brownie mixes as well as cake frosting for Helping Hands.

Please join us for this special Christmas lunch by calling or emailing Kay McNinch at 281-238-4002 (kkmcninch@yahoo.com) or Linda Saad at 281-342-8575 (lindasaad@gmail.com) to make reservations. Reservations need to be made by Friday, Dec. 7. The program is free and the cost for lunch should you like to stay, is \$15.

A country club membership is not necessary to visit or join the Women's Club.

We welcome all women in the Pecan Grove area who enjoy laughter, conversation and who want to become further involved in their community.



Focused on Trusted Vision Care

For more than 65 years, we've been providing quality eye care for patients of all ages. Give us a call today!











Larry Wilkinson O.D. Ouida Middleton O.D. Grace Tran O. D

Our full range of comprehensive eye care services at family-friendly prices, including:

- Eye health care for all ages
- LASIK evaluation and co-management
- Treatment of eye diseases
- Specialists in contact lens fit and comfort
- Immediate care for eye emergencies
- Most insurance plans accepted
- Full line of fashion and budget eyewear



281-342-4664 4000 Avenue I • Rosenberg, TX www.VisionTrends.com



Your Community Healthcare Leader

Salman Aly, MD PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

- **Board Certified in Internal Medicine**
- **Experienced in Geriatric and Hospital**
- · Botox, Dermal Fillers, Low T Syndrome
- . Hyperbaric & Advanced Wound Care

Call Dr. Salman Alv at 832-886-4774

- Board Certified in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine
- Travel Medicine

Call Dr. Sarfraz Aly at 832-886-4994

Sarfraz Aly, MD INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST

Coming Soon New Office in Sugar Land 6903 Brisbane Court Sugar Land, TX 77479



Now Accepting New Patients At Both Locations In Sugar Land And Wharton

Sugar Land: 1201 Creekway Dr. • Suite B • Sugar Land, Texas 77478 Wharton: 979-282-6151 • 416 N. Alabama Rd., Wharton, TX 77488

Rotary Club of Richmond partners with Abigail's Place

The Rotary Club of Richmond has continued to provide storm damage relief for more than a year after Hurricane Harvey struck. Most recently, the club partnered with Abigail's Place to provide short-term housing assistance for single mothers battling episodic homelessness.

Abigail's Place, a nonprofit organization, was working with two families left temporarily homeless after Hurricane Harvey. Although Abigail's Place was able help these families find temporary housing, they were without most of their belongings and basic necessities.

With the help of Jose and Vilma Penate of Viva Plus Furniture in Rosenberg, the Rotary Club of Richmond was able to purchase furniture, bedding, televisions and other accessories for the two families. In addition, the Penate family continued their generosity by stretching the financial assistance to secure more necessities.

After Hurricane Harvey stormed through the Gulf Coast, Rotary clubs from around the country activated to assist local Rotarians in their efforts.

Knowing Fort Bend County had been impacted, the Rotary club from the towns of Old Saybrook, Old Lyme and Westbrook in Connecticut reached out to the Rotary Club of Richmond President Larry Pittman to offer \$5,000 to support impacted families. The only stipulation was that the money must be

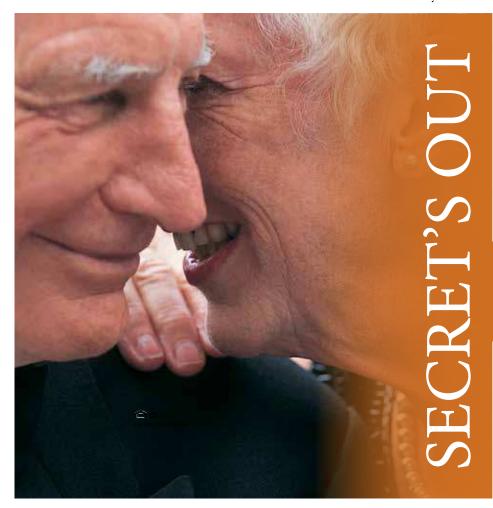


The Rotary Club of Richmond partnered with Viva Plus Furniture to provide furniture for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Pictured from left are Shereen Sampson of Abigail's Place, Sussan Martinez and Larry Pittman of Richmond Rotary, Jose and Vilma Penate of Viva Plus Furniture and Karen Bell of Richmond Rotary.

used for Richmond families.

The Rotary Club of Richmond worked with Fort Bend Recovers to identify a family on Riveredge Drive in need of bedding and furniture.

The club partnered with the Viva Plus Furniture to provide the family's needs on the same day at no charge.



Clayton Oaks Living is proud to announce it's new Owner & Management Company, Retirement Center Management. Clayton Oaks Living provides beautiful assisted living and memory care suites, as well as individualized care, superb services, remarkable amenities, and stimulating programs.

CALL TODAY ABOUT OUR GRAND RE-OPENING (281) 201-1038



21175 Southwest Freeway Richmond, TX 77469 www.claytonoaksliving.com

Inspiration Stage presents two family musicals in time for the holidays

Story by MARQUITA GRIFFIN & ALISHA MCMILLEN | Photos by SARAH PATTERSON



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

In cooperation with and at the special invitation of iTheatrics and Music Theatre International (MTI), Inspiration Stage will cooperatively develop, produce, and present the junior adaptation of the musical version of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, JR., Inspiration Stage's second pilot production of the season through Dec. 9.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jr. is one of the two family-friendly shows Inspiration Stage is presenting for the holiday season at the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, 226 Lakeview Dr.

iTheatrics adapts main stage Broadway musicals so they can be performed by kids in school and after-school settings. They create these adaptations for a distinguished list of clients, including MTI, 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.

"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."

Ashley Gilberg, 12, of Pecan Grove is playing Clarice in half of the shows. The Bowie Middle School 7th grader was double-cast alongside Abby Deloney of Sienna Plantation.

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer has always been a favorite Christmas Special of mine," Gilberg said. "It is truly a Christmas wish come true my first lead role to be Clarice. It is also very exciting to be a part of a pilot of a children's stage musical, being able to contribute for other to do this show in the future."

Rudolph will be Gilberg's sixth show with Inspiration Stage. She has also participated in school theatre and choir.

"I love the life-long friendships I've made with the other kids at Inspiration Stage," she said. "They all come to love and support each other through the shows they do together, and also the ones they do apart.

The musical has all of 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.

It's a story that speaks to the misfits in everyone and shares the lesson that what makes a person different can also be what makes them special. 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.



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).

Fiddler on the Roof, Jr. completes the holiday season

Inspiration Stage fans will have another chance at viewing a holiday classic with the theater's production of Fiddler on the Roof, Jr. with four shows Dec. 14 - 16.

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

"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."

This special 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.

"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," said Patterson. "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."

Harvest Green resident and Ft. Bend Christian Academy senior, Abigail Cooney, 18, is excited to be cast as Golde.

"I am usually cast in the more ingénue type roles (the innocent young girl), having played Liesl in The Sound of Music and Cinderella in Into the Woods, so taking on the role of Golde has been a completely new experience for me," she said. "She is a character so unlike myself, and I love her strength and sarcastic wit, which makes her so much fun to play I am so honored to get to portray this iconic role in one of my favorite shows."

For tickets and more information, visit inspirationstage. com/shows/.

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 Avenue G.

"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.



MON. - FRI. 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM · SAT. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- One Day Service Available
- Expert Alterations
- Professional Shoe Repair
- We Recycle Your Bags & Hangers
- Saturday Drycleaning In by 9am out by 2pm
- GO WITH THE PROS!
- 100% SATISFACTION **GUARANTEED!**

П

FULSHEAR

8411FM 359 Road Suite D 281-533-9148

FIRST COLONY

4550 Sweetwater Blvd. @ Colony Meadows 281-265-4400

NEW TERRITORY

6350 Hwy 90A @ The Country Store 281-265-1004

ш

П

PECAN GROVE

3031 Plantation @ FM 359 281-341-9066

SUGAR LAND

345 Southwestern Blvd @ Sugar Creek 281-242-0495

ROSENBERG

3926 Avenue H 281-341-0280

MEN'S OR LADIES' 2-PC SUITS DRY CLEANED. FANCY, SILK LINED OR PLEATED SLIGHTLY MORE. Good for 6 visits. Expires 1-15-2019

MEN'S BUSINESS **SHIRTS** LAUNDERED ON HANGERS WITH DRY CLEANING. EACH • NO LIMIT Good for 6 visits. Expires 1-15-2019

LADIES' DRESSES DRY CLEANED, FANCY, SILK LINED DRY CLEANED, FANCY, SILK LINED

OR PLEATED SLIGHTLY MORE. EACH • NO LIMIT Good for 6 visits. Expires 1-15-2019 123456 123456 123456

MEN'S OR LADIES' PANTS

OR PLEATED SLIGHTLY MORE. EACH • NO LIMIT Good for 6 visits. Expires 1-15-2019

BLOUSES, SKIRTS & SWEATERS DRY CLEANED FANCY SILK LINED

OR PLEATED SLIGHTLY MORE. Good for 6 visits. Expires 1-15-2019

Coupons must be presented when order is left for processing • Not valid with any other offer,

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.





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.

Eighth CHERITAGE 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 2 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.



STWEIVE THE

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.

STOURT CENTRY 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.

☼Thirty First ₹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.

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 fire. 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

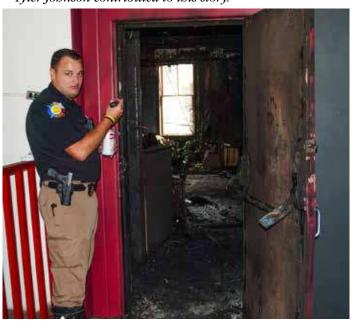
"We've been open for 27 years," he said. "We'll be open again after we finish repairs."

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."

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*



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.





WE BRING YOU THE FINEST FURNITURE OF QUALITY, FUNCTIONALITY, AND DESIGN



MADE IN ITALY

AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE!

















SHOWROOM 3819 FONDREN RD (WESTPARK & FONDREN) HOUSTON, TX 77063

CALL: 832 201-1000

www.CastleFurniture.com

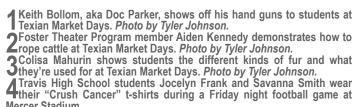
On The Fort Bend Scene.











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.

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.

Richmond. TX 77469



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.

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DIRECTORY







Kyle D. McCrea DDS Your Home for Dentistry 601 South Second St. Richmond, TX 77469 281-342-2121 www.mccreadds.com



Mobile and Shop Mechanical Services

24/7 Emergency Road Service

DLSFleetServices.com dean@dlsfleetservices.com

Providing Quality and Affordable Mechanical Services

832-222-2056

4110 FM 723 Road, Suite A Rosenberg, TX 77471 • Fax: (713) 714-2916









NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DIRECTORY













* Getting your kids to * * BRUSH & FLOSS

has never been so easy!



Our patient and friendly staff will coach your child on how to brush and floss properly to prevent cavities and have healthy teeth and gums.

\$99

A \$330 | VALUE

EXAM, X-RAYS, CLEANING & FLUORIDE TREATMENT

New patients only.

Must present coupon to redeem.



Ben Villalon, DDS

Pediatric Dentist

Over 25 years experience



103 Fluor Daniel Drive Sugar Land, TX 77478



Amber Callis, DDS, MS

Pediatric Dentist

Board Certified





WORLD-CLASS TREATMENT FOR NECK AND BACK PAIN — CLOSE TO HOME.

Living with neck or back pain can be a daily struggle. Whether you've experienced pain for a few days or a number of years, you want answers and effective treatment, and you want it now.

The Houston Methodist Neuroscience & Spine Center at Sugar Land has board-certified physicians who utilize state-of-the-art technology to diagnose your condition and offer you personalized care and treatment options.

You will have access to world-class specialists and subspecialists, including neurologists, neurosurgeons, orthopedic spine surgeons and pain management specialists. Our team of physicians and rehabilitation therapists will work together to provide you with the comprehensive, individualized care you need to help you return to a productive lifestyle.

Expedited appointments and second opinions are available.

STOP ENDURING PAIN. Request an appointment online at houstonmethodist.org/neuro-sl or call 281.274.7979.

