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A 'brilliant alaptation' Frozen JR is a combination of an iconic Disney movie and Broadway show by MARQUITA GRIFFIN & ALISHA MCMILLEN

'FROZEN JR' DETAILS

Showtimes:

- Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 8, 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m.

Production Team:

- Sarah Patterson director / music director
- Mandy Seymore-Sensat artistic director/co-choreographer;
- Annelea Bootle co-choreographer
- Diamond Morgan stage manager
- Lily Delahoussaye student assistant stage manager
- Reese McGrenera student assistant director
- and Madison Willett dance captain

Inspiration Stage is offering special holiday appearances by the "Frozen JR" cast on Dec. 6 at The Sugar Land Tree Lighting ceremony; Dec. 7 at Miracle on Morton Street in downtown Richmond; and Dec. 7 at The Sweet Jamboree at the Sugar Land Heritage Museum. For more information visit inspirationstage.com/shows/disneys-frozen-jr

Courtesy of Sarah Patterson | Lizzie Tyer, 16 years old, as Elsa in a former performance of "Frozen JR"

en shows. Two weekends.
And a performance perfect
for the holiday season —
Inspiration Stage's
production of Disney's "Frozen JR."

"I am thrilled to be directing Disney's "Frozen JR" at Inspiration Stage this December," said Sarah Patterson, the show's director and music director. "This brilliant adaptation combines the best of the iconic Disney movie and Broadway show into a delightful, all-ages friendly, 70-minute stage production."

The show runs Dec. 6 though Dec. 15 at the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, 226 Lakeview Drive in Sugar Land.

Disney's "Frozen JR," based on the 2018 Broadway musical, brings Elsa, Anna and the magical land of Arendelle to life onstage. The

show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

"The show brings the fictional kingdom of Arendelle to life with your favorite characters: Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff and more," said Patterson excitedly. "As music director for the show, I'm excited to lead the challenge of presenting well-known numbers like, 'For the First Time in Forever,' Love Is an Open Door, 'In Summer,' Fixer Upper,' and, of course,' Let It Go', with new musical arrangements to our audiences.

"Our young actors are extraordinarily talented and bring fresh energy to familiar material."

The main roles of Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Olaf and Hans have been double-cast in this group of 61 local youth. Cast member Hayden Colledge of Woods Edge Estates, for one, is excited about the show's opening. The 13-year-old Briscoe Junior High student plays a guard and is part of the "Frozen JR" ensemble.

"People should see 'Frozen JR' not only to get into the holiday spirit, but also because it is a totally different experience than watching the movie."

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, Disney's "Frozen JR" expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood.

"I am so excited for 'Frozen JR' because we have such wonderful cast members and directors," Colledge said. "Everyone puts in so much effort to make a great show."

COMING SOON: INTO THE WOODS, JR.

Following its "Frozen JR" production, Inspiration Stage will open the new year with "Into the Woods, JR" Jan. 3 through Jan. 5, 2020 at the Sugar Land Auditorium.

The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

"Into the Woods, JR" is a rare modern classic created by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim who took popular storybook characters and brought them together.



Hayden Colledge will perform in his fourth iStage show.

"People will see some of their favorite storybook characters come to life and see a story about how characters journey and adventure in search of their dreams and to have their wishes come true," said Fieldstone residentAlexandria Gomez, 13, a homeschooled seventh grader. "The lesson for me is to never stop wishing and following my dreams even if my journey into the woods of life is full of obstacles. I need to just keep dreaming and working hard and things will work out in the end."

With a cast of 44 local youth, ages 10-18, "Into the Woods JR" runs four shows over the weekend of Jan. 3, 2020. Showtimes are Friday, Jan 3, 7:30 p.m.;Saturday, Jan 4, 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.;and Sunday, Jan. 5 3:30 p.m. Visit inspirationstage.com/shows/into-the-woods-jr/

for more information.

Inspiration Stage will take an abbreviated version of Into the Woods JR to Sacramento for adjudication at the Junior Theatre Festival West, Feb. 7 - 9.

The production staff includes: Mandy Seymore-Sensat, Inspiration Stage artistic director, and the show's director/co-choreographer; Sarah Patterson, music director; Annelea Bootle, co-choreographer; Brianna Escobedo, stage manager; and Courtney Sackett, assistant stage manager.

"I'm so excited for my friends and family to get to see this show," Gomez said. "It's fantastic!"



Alexandria Gomez, 13, will perform in her 12th iStage production.



Alling Happenings

A home tour, miracle and festival of lights Christmas celebration are abound in Fort Bend and beyond

ince August the Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Christmas Home Tour committee was devotedly preparing for its 28th annual Christmas Home Tour happening this month for a simple, but important, reason — because the children need them to.

For the past 28 years, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, a non-profit agency that advocates for and provides services to abused and neglected children in the county, has acted on its mission to end the cycle of child abuse by providing its Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, Children's Advocacy Center and more than 200 trained community volunteer advocates to children in need.

Since its opening, Child Advocates has served more than 16,500 children.

The agency's home tour event started 28 years ago as a means to raise money to keep the agency's doors open and has since become a Fort Bend County holiday tradition.

"A group of volunteers, many of whom are still involved, opened their homes, decorated them for Christmas, baked some cookies and charged admission in an effort to keep Child Advocates of Fort Bend's doors open," said Lisa Moore, Child Advocates of Fort Bend Development Officer and event chair. "Thanks to those generous ladies and many others who have participated through the years, this event not only kept the doors open, but it has allowed the agency to increase its programming and staff in order to meet the needs of the Fort Bend community."

Since its inception, the Christmas Home Tour has raised more than \$4 million. This year's tour will take place Dec. 13 and 14.

Over the two days of this event, more than 2,000 guests will tour private Fort Bend County homes all decked out for Christmas. The homeowners included in the tour are from Alkire Lake, Sienna Plantation, Sugar Creek and Sweetwater.

"Homeowners are so special to us," Moore said. "We wouldn't have a tour without them. Each year we are able to showcase an assortment of neighborhoods, displaying the variety of Fort Bend County. We try to find a new twist each year to keep the tour fresh. This year, nearly all of the homes are completed renovated."

One ticket allows entry to all homes during tour hours. The Tour runs Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a candlelight showing from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 1,000 volunteers will help as hosts and hostesses in the homes, serving as entertainers or by baking cookies. While the Home Tour is a spirited community event, it is foremost a fundraiser, with 94 percent of all of the money raised going directly to programs and services that benefit the children served by Child Advocates of Fort Bend.

In 2018, the agency served 2,586 children and families, which was 23 percent higher than the prior year due to a huge increase in reports of child abuse. Nationally, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18 and it is estimated that only 1 in 10 ever tells anyone.



Shown with the door swags that she donated for the 6th Annual Wreath raffle is Lin Wooten. From left are Irene Wisner, Wooten and Lisa Moore. Participants in the wreath raffle can choose the wreath that they hope to win.

""By sponsoring or participating in the Home Tour, you can help us ensure that all child victims of abuse get the therapy and healing services they desperately need," said CEO Ruthanne Mefford.

Sponsorships of \$100 - \$10,000 are available. To become a sponsor or for more information, contact Lisa at lmoore@cafb.org.

For more information about Child Advocates of Fort Bend visit www.cafb.org.

-MORE HOLIDAY EVENTS TO ENJOY-

Miracle on Morton Street

The Historic Richmond Association is inviting the public to its 17th Annual Miracle on Morton Street. Taking place Saturday, Dec.7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Richmond, the event will feature family-friendly activities throughout the day. There will be live entertainment, shopping opportunities at unique vendors in the area and the chance to grab a bite to eat at one of the food trucks. The Gingerbread House Display and a kids' zone will be on site. Plus, the association is offering tours of historic Richmond.

The day before — Friday, Dec 6. at 6 p.m. — the association's Tree Lighting ceremony will take place at City Hall Park and Morton Street. Following the lighting, the public is encouraged to join the community Christmas Walk, complete with caroling, a Gingerbread House contest and holiday decor tours at local businesses until 8 p.m. For more information visit HistoricRichmond.org.

Rosenberg Christmas Nights

hrough partnerships with the Rosenberg Main Street Program and the Rosenberg Cultural District the city of Rosenberg will hold its Rosenberg Christmas Nights Dec. 6 and Dec. 7.

The holiday celebration is a weekend of nightly activities to enhance the magic of the season. Set against a backdrop of spectacular holiday lights, the city invites the public to explore downtown Rosenberg's eclectic shops, cultural exhibits and restaurants during the special season, and throughout the year. The public will also get the chance to view the works of the Deck the Downtown decorating contest. There will be 20 life-size wooden trees decorated by local artists on display in the downtown area.

Additionally, on Dec. 6 of Rosenberg Christmas Nights, the Dinner Under the Stars event will commence at 6 p.m.. Cast Theatrical Co. will provided the performance and Ol' Railroad

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Cafe, Old Main Street Bakery and Bob's Taco Station will cater the meals. Tickets to the performance are \$50, with limited seating.

For more information visit rosenbergtx.gov

Festival of Lights

The City of Fulshear and the Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce will be co-hosting the annual "Fulshear Festival of Lights" on Dec. 7at Fulshear High School from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. The location has been changed from prior years due to the construction in the downtown area and other mobility issues.

The Festival of Lights Parade will begin at 6 p.m., traveling south on Charger Way, and Santa will arrive during the parade. Festival patrons can meet Santa afterwards.

The YMCA is sponsoring and featuring a large children's area, plus event will also feature vendors — crafts, clothing and jewelery — food trucks and a short Christmas themed fireworks presentation during the evening.

For more information visit www.FulshearKaty.com.

Project Noel

For more than 40 years, the Richmond State Supported Living Center has been delighting visitors of all ages with Project Noel, a collection of holiday displays featuring favorites from Santa Claus to Rudolph. These celebratory lighted displays again can be viewed starting Dec. 6, through Jan. 6, 2020.

Children who first saw the project blossom in the early 1970s now bring their children and grandchildren to see the more than 40 holiday scenes that adorn the 241-acre SSLC campus, which is located at 2100 Preston in Richmond. This festive family outing is free and will be open daily from 6 to 9 p.m.

Santa and his elves will visit this event the first two weekends in December. Give Santa your wish list and have a picture made to remember the wonderful evening. Printed pictures will be available for \$5 each - or you can bring your own camera.

Sugar Land Holiday Lights

The sixth annual Sugar Land Holiday Lights returns to Constellation Field through Jan. 5, 2020. This sparkling wonderland features more than three million lights, a carnival and numerous themed displays throughout the ballpark. You can also get some holiday shopping done with a variety of vendors, enjoy great food, and even meet Santa Claus himself.

The hours are: Sunday through Thursday: 6 - 9 p.m.; Friday through Saturday: 6 - 10 p.m.; and on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,

New Years Eve, New Years Day: 6 - 10 p.m. It will be closed Dec. 2.

Tickets available online and at the TDECUTicket Office at Constellation Field. Ticket discounts available for kids, military (active & retired) and seniors. All tickets are general admission and prices vary by night.

Carnival admission is not included with ticket purchase. Full schedule and ticket prices available at SugarLandHolidayLights.com

Christmas Tree Lighting 2019

ugar Land Parks and Recreation will host its tree lighting Dec. 6 from 5 - 8 p.m. at Sugar Land Town Square Plaza. Families are invited to enjoy some of the community's most popular musical performances and theatrical acts at this magical holiday celebration. The evening includes: holiday crafts and activities; face painting; performances by local artists and choirs; photos with Santa; and food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public. www.sugarlandtx.gov/918/Christmas-Tree-Lighting.

Campfire Christmas

he Fort Bend History Association and George Ranch Historical Park will host the annual Campfire Christmas at the George Ranch Historical Park in Richmond Dec. 14 and 21 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with the last entry at 8 p.m.

Journey back in time to experience Christmas celebrations of the 1830s through the 1930s. This family-friendly holiday evening tour culminates with cowboy songs, stories and hot cocoa around the campfire.

Unlike previous Campfire Christmas events, this year's format will feature holiday tours at each of the main historic sites: celebrate a simple pioneer Christmas with the Jones family in their 1830s log cabin; visit the 1860s Ryon Prairie Home to discover what Christmastime was like after Civil War; tour the 1890s Davis Victorian Mansion and enjoy its resplendent turn-of-the-century holiday trimmings; tour the George Ranch Home to see family heirloom ornaments and decorations from the 1930s and 1940s; and don't forget to join the George Ranch cowboys and cowgirls for songs, stories and hot cocoa around a roaring fire.

A tram will be circling the Park at regular intervals so you can hop on and hop off to visit each site at your own pace.

If you've been to Campfire Christmas before, you may notice a few things that are different this year. Based on visitor feedback, the park was opened to include all four of the major historic sites and lowered ticket prices to accommodate a wider range of family budgets. Unlike previous Campfire Christmases, there is no formal dinner aspect, so guests can arrive on their own schedule and tour the park via the hop on/hop off tram.

View our calendar for more holiday themed events!

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Svet Holday Treats

THE STICKY CHOCOLATE GINGERBREAD

Makes an 8-inch cake

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/3 cups dark molasses
- 6 ounces dark chocolate (60 to 70 percent cocoa solids), grated
- 13/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 5 ounces whole pieces preserved stem ginger, drained and roughly chopped
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar, sifted (to remove lumps)
- · 2 medium eggs, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons milk, warmed

- · A pinch of salt
- Extra-large crystallized ginger pieces, to scatter (optional)
- A deep 8-inch square cake pan or 8 x 6 x 3-inch oval cake pan

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Grease and line the base and sides of the cake pan with nonstick parchment paper.

Put the molasses in a pan and heat gently until hot, but do not allow it to boil. Remove the pan from the heat and add the chocolate. Stir until melted.

Sift the flour, ground ginger and salt together in a bowl. Add the stem ginger and toss it around in the flour until every piece is coated.

Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl. Beat in the eggs, then the molasses and choco-

late mixture and finally the flour mixture. Dissolve the baking soda in the milk and gradually beat this into the batter.

Pour into the prepared cake pan, scatter with the crystallized ginger, if using, and bake for 45 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 300 F and bake for another 30 minutes. (If using the oval pan, cook for about 45 minutes at the higher temperature, then about one hour at the lower temperature, as it will be deeper.) A metal skewer inserted into the center should come out clean.

5 Let cool for five minutes in the pan, then turn out onto a wire rack and let cool completely.

6 When cold, store in an airtight container for at least a couple of days to mature and become sticky. Don't worry if it sinks a bit in the middle — this is normal



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THE WHITE CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE

Prep: 1 h Cook: 1 h Ready In: 10 h

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup chocolate cookie crumbs
- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen raspberries
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 cups white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup half-and-half cream
- 3 (8oz) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1 In a medium bowl, mix together cookie crumbs, 3 tablespoons sugar, and melted butter. Press mixture into the bottom of a 9 inch springform pan.

2In a saucepan, combine raspberries, 2 tablespoons sugar, cornstarch, and water. Bring to boil, and continue boiling 5 minutes, or until sauce is thick. Strain sauce through a mesh strainer to remove seeds.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). In a metal bowl over a pan of simmering water, melt white chocolate chips with half-and-half, stirring occasionally until smooth.

In a large bowl, mix together cream cheese and 1/2 cup sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs one at a time. Blend in vanilla and melted white chocolate. Pour half of batter over crust. Spoon 3 tablespoons raspberry sauce over batter. Pour remaining cheesecake batter into pan, and again spoon 3 tablespoons raspberry sauce over the top. Swirl batter with the tip of a knife to create a marbled effect.

5 Bake for 55 to 60 minutes, or until filling is set. Cool, cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate for 8 hours before removing from pan. Serve with remaining raspberry sauce.

THE BOURBON SWEET POTATO PIE

Prep Time: 1 hr Cook Time: 1 hr 45 mins Total Time: 2 hr 45 mins

INGREDIENTS

- 1 3/4 lb sweet potatoes about 3 medium
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 2 tbsp bourbon
- 3/4 cup half and half
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 3 large eggs

- · 1 large egg yolk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 tsp table salt
- 1/4 tsp allspice
- 1 dash cardamom
- 1 9-inch pie crust

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425F.

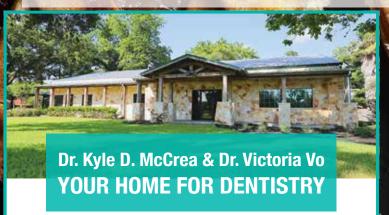
2 Scrub the sweet potatoes, pierce them with a 2 fork, and bake them until they are completely tender. This will take anywhere from 45-60 minutes, depending on the size and thickness of your sweet potatoes. Let the potatoes cool completely. Potatoes can be baked the night before.

Preheat oven to 400F.

A Scrape the sweet potatoes out of their skins and into a food processor. Add the orange juice and bourbon and process until the sweet potatoes are completely smooth.

Transfer the sweet potatoes to a large bowl, and add the half and half and the remaining 7 ingredients. Whisk all the ingredients together until combined. Pour the sweet potato filling into the prepared pie crust.

Bake the pie until the filling puffs up and the center is set, 45-50 minutes. Set the pie on a rack and cool to room temperature and then into the refrigerator until it is cold, 3-4 hours. Serve with whipped cream and a dusting of allspice.



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THE GINGERBREAD COOKIE

Prep: 15 m Cook: 10 m Ready In: 50 m

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup margarine, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 tablespoons white sugar

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Sift together the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, then stir in the water and molasses. Gradually stir the sifted ingredients into the molasses mixture. Shape dough into walnut sized balls, and roll them in the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Place the cookies 2 inches apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet, and flatten slightly.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.



Richmond residents help Mt. Vernon church rebuild after devastating flood

Story & photo by QUALA MATOCHA

Then God closes one door, he opens another. Like so many who lost their homes to Hurricane Harvey's ravages in 2017, Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church in Glen Flora sustained damage from flood waters, forcing the congregation to close its doors. With no flood insurance, rebuilding the church was going to take a donor - or a miracle.

"We had insurance, but not flood insurance," Deacon Lloyd Aldridge said. "We started to go through the FEMA program. They gave us the runaround for nine months. Finally, they said they couldn't help us."

This isn't the first time Mt. Vernon parishioners have been through difficult

"The church burned down in 2005," Aldridge said. "But we rebuilt. 2017 Hurricane Harvey came.

Hell was on our back."

Johnson visited with CPA Rebecca Beard Junker of Richmond in early 2018.

"On Feb. 21, 2018, Robbie Johnson came in for her tax return preparation. Her family was one of the founders of the church," Junker said. "Her house was swept away."

Johnson, who lives less than a mile from the church, lost the home that had been in her family for more than a century as well as the place where she said her prayers."It was just terrible. That home was my roots," Johnson said. "I lost all I had except for some clothes that were up high in the closet."

GOD CALLED

Junker, who was going through trials of her own with her second bout of cancer, said she felt like God was tugging at her heart.

"I don't want to leave this earth without doing something good," she said.

Junker knew firsthand the difficulties of losing a home because her son's Sugar Land home flooded during Harvey.

"He did not have flood insurance. So I understood the emotional and financial toll that a flood takes," Junker said. "Even if they did have flood insurance and financial means, the emotional toll was great."

Junker helped her son as well as Johnson and eight other clients whose homes had flooded. And she decided to help the congregation of Mt. Vernon to rebuild the church.

"When I went to the church for the first time, I knew that I had had a relapse of lymphoma," Junker said. "But, I had been fortunate to get into a trial program for a new drug at M.D. Anderson that was very promising."

Familiar with the history of Glen Flora, Junker knew the community was not a wealthy one and, Mt. Vernon, founded in 1901 by Rev. S.M.



"It was like holding on to Heaven while With plenty to be thankful for, the congregation of Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church in Glen Flora received help in rebuilding their church that was damaged from Their prayers to rebuild again were Hurricane Harvey's flood waters in 2017. Pictured, from left, meantime, the congregation was able to answered when church member Robbie are Deacon Lloyd Aldridge, Elomia Gibson, Cora Langston, hold worship services at First Baptist in Lillie Sanford, Robbie Johnson, Felisha Knight and Deacon **Marvin Smith**

Anderson, was no exception. Anderson, known to many in the Glen Flora as Uncle Sam, started it going house to house for prayer services until "Mr. Bishop" donated land for the first church in 1902.

"The church had no means for the repair because they did not have flood insurance and FEMA does not help churches, only individual homeowners," Junker said. "The church would not have reopened without outside help. I live in Fort Bend County, which has 800,000 residences. Our county received a lot of help. Wharton County has 50,000, and percentage wise, had more flooded homes and damage. They did not have near the help that Fort Bend did."

Junker began to solicit help from friends and her church family.

"Most everyone said yes. Most gave me \$500 to \$1,000," Junker said.

MORE GENEROSITY

Aldridge said "other donations came from other churches," some as far away as New Jersey and some as close as Seven Star Baptist Church in Hungerford. In the Glen Flora on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

"We had a lot of members leave, but they're slowly coming back," Aldridge said.

More help came from Rev. John Lockhart, Junker's pastor at First Baptist in Richmond, who serves on the Fort Bend Recovery committee.

"Rev. John Lockhart, he made it happen. He helped with the request for Fort Bend Recovery," she said. "His church paid for the tables and chairs in the kitchen and classroom area. He also encouraged me and told me I could do this. I did get turned down by some, including foundations and so forth, but I just moved on. It was pretty scary at first, but I felt like God's hand was in it and he would provide."

Lockhart was also able to secure some materials to help with the project.

"John was able to get the sheetrock and insulation from Fort Bend Recovery," Junker said. "This was sheetrock and insulation sent to Fort Bend County by some members of the Detroit Lions. One of the team members had family in Fort Bend County." Even with the donations of goods and money, it still wasn't enough.

"When John Lockhart said he would help me, I jumped right in. I didn't intend to renovate the whole church, but I rationalized," Junker said. "I had saved money for a rainy day, and the church qualified for that. If I did not survive the cancer, I would not need the rainy day money and, if I did survive, I would be able to make the money back."

AN EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING

Renovations were going to take at least \$200,000, Junker said. So that's when she decided to become a primary donor and help oversee the project.



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"We at the church knew that she was God sent," Aldridge said. "I tell her all the time that I thank God for her."

The church had 9 to 18 inches of water inside, depending on which area of the church you stood in, he said. But not all was lost. The congregation was able to salvage the pews, pulpit, organ and some other furniture original to the church. Junker and Aldridge oversaw the project.

"Lloyd and I were the general contractors," she said. "We fired the first set."

Junker set up a construction account at Lowe's and ordered flooring, cabinets, appliances and other items. Then they hired another general contractor to oversee the labor and installation. After several months of work, the church was able to open its doors for the first time and hold services on Easter Sunday this year.

"It's important to have local churches with small memberships," Junker said. "The church is the foundation for our lives. If you take a child to church, he or she may stray, but they can always come back. Pastor Mac (the Rev. C.E. McWashington, pastor of Mt. Vernon for the past 41 years) puts the young boys on the front row of this church, and that's how it all begins. The revolving prison door is not the answer."

KEEPING THE FAITH

"If you believe in God, all things are possible," Aldridge said. "The slogan at Mt. Vernon is 'God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.' We've been blessed. Not because we are worthy. All because of God's grace and mercy."

Junker, whose cancer is now in remission, is thankful for the opportunity to help the small Glen Flora church. "I continually thanked Mt. Vernon for allowing me to participate," Junker said. "The joy I receive is boundless."

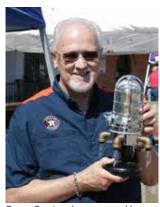


Crafters thrilled with 1st-ever Rosenberg Artisan Market

Story & Photos by SCOTT REESE WILLEY | swilley@fbherald.com



Angela Elliott of Richmond makes unique cutting boards, serving platters and other objects of art out of old wood. See her crafts online at angela@ whiskey-furniture.com.



Doug Gant makes unusual lamps out of unusual objects, such as wine and whiskey bottles, or even industrial objects found around the garage. Email him at sdgant@usa.net for more information.

ngela Elliott of Richmond remembers growing up watching do-it-yourself programs about woodworking — and falling in love with the idea she, too, could fashion unique creations out of wood. As a teen she began making cutting boards and platters out of wood for her friends and family. By the time she was in her mid-20s she decided to start selling her crafts.

Elliott was among 40 or so local crafters who took advantage of the first-ever Downtown Rosenberg Artisan Market to sell her creations, meet new customers and pass out business cards.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather to spend the day in Historic Downtown," said Jackie Wehring, Tourism and Rosenberg Main Street Manager, who helped organize the event. "Rosenberg Main Street appreciates the support of the community and we look forward to future events in downtown."

Wehring said she counted hundreds of visitors strolling along Third Street during the time the event took place.

A lot of them also visited stores lining the streets downtown, she noted. Among the local crafts people was Ana Payne, 31, of Rosenberg, who fashions customized door mats in her home shop. She was selling mats with Astros, Texans and Dallas Cowboys logos for \$30-\$40 each, and handed out business cards in hopes shoppers wanted custom mats for their homes and offices.

Doug Gant, of Rosenberg, and wife Janet, were selling his unique lamps made from whiskey and wine bottles, and "anything else laying around the house or garage."

Newly retired from Fluor, Gant said he got the idea for the lamps by reading stories online.

"I thought to myself, hey, I can do that!"

It took him about two weeks to figure out how, he said. One day, while discussing his crafts at a bar with friends, the bartender overheard him and handed him a box of empty wine and whiskey bottles. He turned the bottles into unique lamps.

Gant said he can fashion lamps out of anyone's favorite beverage bottle. He turned a gumball machine complete with colored gumballs into a lamp as well.

Like Gant, Elliott is self-taught.

"I didn't have anyone to teach me, and I didn't have any tools at first,



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FAITH PARLE TO APPEAR IN NATIONALLY **TELEVISED SHOW**

by Marquita Griffin | mgriffin@fbherald.com



Faith Parle with Ethan Bortnick.

aith Parle of Greatwood was recently filmed in the redesigned PBS studios in San Bernardino, California as a finalist in the national Celebration of Music Talent Competition, and it was a welcomed surprise for the 11-year-old singer.

Last year Parle was one of 22 contestants in the Celebration of Music, a nationwide talent search series, that came to Houston and was hosted by teenage superstar Ethan Bortnick. She didn't win, and yet, the producers invited Parle to sing in the nationally televised event.

"It was the experience of a lifetime," Parle said of the California filming. "I enjoyed meeting Ethan and the many talented people there. My goal for 2019 was to be on TV and I was so proud to have accomplished it."

The Celebration of Music, which was inspired by Bortnick, is a talent search that showcases the best in young musical talent dancers, bands, musicians and singers between 4 and 25 years old from across the nation.

During the filming, Parle sang "Never Enough" from the Greatest Showman and performed "New York State of Mind" with Bortnick and several other finalists.

The Celebration of Music show will air nationally on PBS in late Spring 2020 or early Summer 2020. Aside from being involved in the filming of Celebration of Music, Parle has made local appearances.

This past summer she sang the National Anthem for the Houston Astros, was selected to participate in the intermediate to advanced songwriting camp at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville —"Where I got to perform my original song 'Anyway;" — Parle interjected — and she sang the National Anthem for the Meet of Champs where members of the Greatwood Gators were swimming.

Then in November she opened up for the Will Carter Band at the Firehouse Saloon in Houston and will perform at Miracle on Morton Street in Richmond on Dec. 7.

"We are so proud of Faith," said her parents Joe and Suzan Parle. "She was one of the only contestants selected nationally who did not win a local Celebration competition. When we set our family goals for 2019, Faith said she wanted to perform on TV and we were very pleased that she accomplished that goal.

"We look forward to seeing her when the show is on air. We are thankful that God continues to open doors for her."

JOY TO THE WORLD

THE FORT BEND BOYS CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS MUSICALE

by TIANA MORTIMER

o you hear what I hear? It is the sound of singing boys bringing ou good cheer!

Attend the Fort Bend Boys Choir's annual Christmas Musicale concert on Saturday, Dec.7 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church-Missouri City.

Three treble choirs - Training, Town and Tour - will be showcased along with Music Magic, the organization's class of six and seven year olds. Tickets are available on the choir website or at the door. Adult admission is \$15 and children 12 and under are \$5. All proceeds from the Christmas Musicale are used for program support, operational expenses and scholarships.

Visit the Fort Bend Boys Choir's website at www.fbbctx.org or call 281-240-3800 for more details.

OPEN AUDITIONS SET FOR THE FORT Courtesy of Terri Cannon | Choirboy Landon Bynum BEND BOYS CHOIR



Boys 8 years old and older ,with unchanged voices who love music and singing, can audition for the Fort Bend Boys Choir. No previous experience is necessary.

Open auditions will be held at the First United Methodist Church Missouri City, 3900 Lexington Blvd., Missouri City, TX from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Special appointments are available if a boy cannot attend the open audition date.

The Fort Bend Boys Choir can help with scholarships and carpool assistance too. Be sure to also ask about Music Magic, the choir's music enrichment class for six and seven year old boys starting March 2020.

Boys from all over the Fort Bend and the Houston metro area have the opportunity to learn more about music and singing as well as many of life's important lessons like leadership, making friends and building self-confidence and self-esteem - all in a safe, proactive setting.

Take advantage of this life-changing activity now before your boy's voice changes.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.fbbctx.org; or, call the choir office at 281-240-3800 to schedule an audition time.

THE FRIDAY FILM SERIES

The University Branch Library is hosting its Friday Film Series this month with the following selections, each one shown from 1 - 3 p.m. in Meeting Room 1:

Dec 6: In this comedy movie from 1958, an orphan goes to live with his free-spirited, eccentric, madcap aunt, who detests nonsense in others, but loves it in herself. Conflict ensues when the executor of his father's estate objects to the aunt's lifestyle and unconventional perspective on life. Based on a 1955 novel written by Patrick Dennis, a musical version of story was later adapted for Broadway. The movie is not rated.

Dec 20: Based on a novel by Louisa May Alcott, this 1994 romantic family drama is set in the 1860s during the American Civil War. With their father involved in the war, sisters Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth are at home with their mother, a very outspoken women for her time. The story tells of how the sisters grow up, find love, and find their place in the world. This movie is rated PG.

JOIN THE CRAFT SQUAD AND MAKE HOLIDAY CRAFTS AND CARDS

eople who enjoy crafts are invited to join the University Branch Library's Craft Squad, where they can make new crafty friends, • learn a new craft or two, and share tips, tricks, and resources with fellow crafters. In December, earn the "Holiday Crafts & Card-Making" badge by making greeting cards and gift tags for the holidays and exploring unique ways to wrap gifts at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room 2.

The Craft Squad, which has met quarterly in the past, will begin meeting weekly in January 2020.

Each month will have an instructional meeting introducing a new craft on the first Friday of the month, and badges can be earned for each new craft that is learned. The rest of the Fridays will be devoted to "Craft-Squad Meet-ups," where patrons can bring their own to craft to work on while networking with other crafters.

TALK OF THE TOWN Continued from page 16

but I loved working with wood and knew it was something I would enjoy," she said.

Elliott, 31, makes the unique cutting boards and platters in her garage in Pecan Grove.

"I'm here to offer emotional support," said husband Brandon. Sisterin-law Kristin Elliott-Gann helped with that day's sales.

Later that Saturday, Angela and her husband were showing off her unique crafts at the annual Motown on Morton Street event in downtown Richmond.

ANNOUNCING ANNUAL AUTISM LUNCHEON

pope For Three Autism Advocates has also announced Mary and Tom Solcher will return as Presenting Sponsors for its Annual Autism Luncheon on Feb. 13, 2020.

The Mardi Gras themed event will be held at Safari Texas Ranch, 11 a.m. to 1p.m. Guest speaker and honorary chairs, Sarah and Greg Swindell will share their personal journey living with autism. Greg, a former Major League Baseball player and World



Presenting Sponsors Tom and Mary Solcher.

Series Winner and, Sarah, an actress and author of the recently released book, "Rounding Home," will provide a real, raw look at the challenges and rewards of having a son with severe autism.

For more information call 281-245-0640 or visit hopeforthree.org.

GOLF "FORE" AUTISM A HIT

ool weather and peaks of a bright sun made for a good day on the greens.

Nearly a 140 golfers gathered in late October for the Fourth Annual Hope For Three Golf "Fore" Autism Tournament. The event, presented by Timewise, was held at Sweetwater Country Club. Along with swinging the irons, golfers used the power of the pen as various items were up for grabs



with swinging the irons, Courtesy of Debi Beauregard, Custom Minds golfers used the power of the pen as various of the pen as various items were up for grabs.

Courtesy of Debi Beauregard, Custom Minds golfers used the power Photography | From left: first place winners Team Ocusoft — Steven Orphey, Elijah White, Eric Montgomery and Antonio Biggs.

during the live and silent auctions, as well as, raffles.

Golf "Fore" Autism is one of the many autism awareness campaigns held each year to assist autism families living in Fort Bend County.

COMMITTEE FORMED FOR 2020 CENSUS

by CHAD WASHINGTON | cwashington@fbherald.com

In its effort to encourage county-wide participation in the 2020 U.S. Census, the Fort Bend County commissioners have formed a committee to spread the word.

A Complete Count Committee was approved by county commissioners, which will advise and assist Fort Bend County to obtain the most accurate and complete count of the population through a focused, structured program.

The committee will include individuals from local governments, community and faith-based organizations, businesses and the media to educate the public about the census and why full participation vital.

The census is "so important to us to count every person," County Judge KP George said.

The 2020 Census is key to helping the federal government determine where and how much aid an area receives in many different ways, and an accurate count is key for a rapidly-growing county like Fort Bend.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales said that the committee will consist of only volunteers and individuals, since the state has not sent funding to any local areas to assist the census count.

Anti-human trafficking language added to documents

Fort Bend County also officially came against human trafficking after commissioners approved a resolution requiring anti-trafficking language in all contracts.

County Judge KP George said that the county has spent millions of dollars to fight human trafficking.

"The commissioners court and Fort Bend County recognize the serious nature of human trafficking, which is why we're adding this language," George said. "Fort Bend County spends millions of dollars on projects and services, and adding this language to all our documents enforces our vision of a human-trafficking-free future."

The county's purchasing department will post the phone number to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center on its website, and all county procurements and contracts will have a disclaimer that says Fort Bend County is opposed to human trafficking and no county funds will be used with anyone involved in human trafficking.

By adding the language, the county hopes that it can promote awareness about human trafficking and encourage contractors who want to work with the county to follow proper labor laws.

If citizens have any information regarding a possible trafficking situation, they are urged to call the NHTRC 24-hour tip line at 1-888-373-7888.



Lamar Consolidated ISD Students named National Hispanic Scholars

leven Lamar CISD students have been named National Hispanic Scholars by the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Each year, the program identifies academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students and honors about 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from more than 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT.

These students are from the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Mariana Islands and the Marshall Islands, as well as U.S. citizens attending schools abroad.

Lamar CISD qualifying students are Manuel Arca, Sydney Delgado, Jake Hernandez, Bianca Jabaroghli, Marisa Liang and Andrew Reid from George Ranch High School; David Garza and Sophia Lazcano, from Foster High School; Liany Serrano Oviedo, from Fulshear High School; and Katherine Giron and Gemali E. Martinez, from Lamar Consolidated High School.



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Local Students celebrate new-age manufacturing opportunities

onica Raumaker, a senior at Cinco Ranch High School and Miller Career and Technology Center in Katy, was one of nearly 200 local high school juniors and seniors who attended Manufacturing (MFG) Day at Texas State Technical College. The 17-year-old, said the event was an eye opener for her in regards to manufacturing in the 21st century.

"This event was a great opportunity for students like me," she said. "I learned about so many different career paths that I can take within the industry and it was amazing to see that what I'm learning in class is all applicable to the real world."

The Katy native added that she is excited to enter an industry with so much opportunity.

The community event hosted in partnership with the Central Fort



At least 20 industry partners visited with local high school juniors and seniors during MFG Day hosted on Friday by TSTC and the Central Fort Bend Chamber.



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Bend Chamber, is part of a national celebration that launched annually on the first Friday of October.

Among the relevant manufacturing programs offered on the Fort Bend County campus include Precision Machining Technology and Industrial Systems.

The halls at the TSTC Brazos Center were lined with nearly 20 industry partners who were ready to network with high school and college students, educators, and leaders and members of the community.

Central Fort Bend Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Kristin Weiss said this is the first time the event has been put on by the Industrial Division of the Central Fort Bend Chamber.

"I am on cloud nine right now.The event was a great success," said Weiss. "Seeing students excited, interacting with the companies and telling us that they're learning so much makes me so happy. That is what this event was all about."

The event held from 9 a.m. to noon included campus tours, industry visits and a panel discussion with industry specialists and former career technology education students including TSTC Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) alumnus Brandon Felts.

Kellen Dorman from Gurecky Manufacturing in Rosenberg said there is a misperception about what manufacturing careers entail, and with an increase in demand for skilled technicians in the industry this has been a great event to educate and increase awareness about how the growing industry is vital to the economy and provides a number of career opportunities.

"Hosting this type of event was a great idea," she said. "It's so important to show our future generations that there are other options outside of a four-year university and how manufacturing is evolving."

Dorman also added that she was excited to see so many young girls

interested in pursuing careers in the manufacturing industry and she hopes that she was able to encourage them.

"We have two women at Gurecky, one of them is a machinist," said Dorman. "That just goes to show that there is room for women in this industry, especially as the industry's technology becomes more sophisticated."

TSTC field development officer John Kennedy said the day was wildly successful for TSTC.

"To have so many students and potential employers in one place was fantastic," said Kennedy. "The support we received from educators and the community regarding this event was overwhelming. I can already see this event grow annually."

Kennedy and Weiss said they hope to continue working together to make MFG Day even bigger and better for years to come.

Arch Masons donate money to kindergarten teachers

Story & Photo by AVERIL GLEASON | agleason@fbherald.com

Elementary school teachers spend a lot of their own money decorating classrooms and buying supplies for students. Which is why the Richmond Chapter No. 467 Holy Royal Arch Masons presented checks to the entire kindergarten team at Jane Long Elementary School.

"It's always been our plan to do something for the community," said Don Hernandez with the Royal Arch Masons. "And we thought it would be a good idea to give back to the teachers in our area." Kindergarten teachers Kristi Barr, Basali Jones, Megan Stevenson,

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The Richmond Chapter No. 467 Holy Royal Arch Masons presented checks to the entire kindergarten team at Jane Long Elementary School Monday. Pictured from left is Risa Crosby, Don Hernandez, Megan Stevenson, Basali Jones, Kristi Barr, Adriana Fernandez, Rachel Sanchez and Dwight Hollon

Rachel Sanchez and Adriana Fernandez said they were thrilled when they were told the news.

"It's amazing," Jones said. "I already have a lot of things planned to use it for." Barr agreed. "It's just so cool that we were chosen," she said.

"It could have been any school, any grade level. And [the Royal Arch Masons] chose us. I'm very grateful."

Principal Risa Crosby said her school is lucky to be the first-ever recipient of this donation.

"We believe in helping the schools," Dwight Hollon with the Royal Arch Masons told the teachers. "We know you can use the money. My folks were school teachers and I know how much money from their own pocket they put into their classrooms and their students.

"You deserve this."

Hollon said the Royal Arch Masons have a great interest in the school system.

"We love to support public education," he said. "It's part of our fraternity's mission.

"Jane Long is the closest school to our lodge, which is why we came here first. Our plan is to provide funds to every school in our radius."

Crosby said the teachers deserve this.

"We're honored that our kindergarten teachers were able to receive such a generous gift. "This money will allow our teachers to create a great learning atmosphere for the students."

Mullen honored with Connie Wootton Excellence in Teaching award

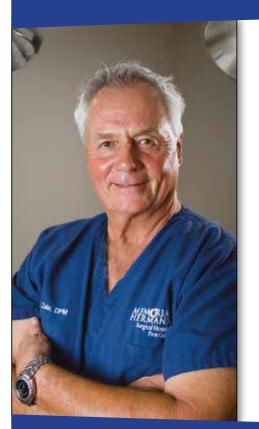
alvary Episcopal Preparatory is proud to announce that one of its teachers, Chris Mullen, was honored with the "The Connie Wootton Excellence in Teaching" award.

Mullen was presented this award, specific to Early Childhood, on Oct. 25 at the SAES (Southwestern Association of Episcopal School) Convention in Houston. This award identifies an exceptional teacher his \$5,000 check by The Rev. David working with Pre-Kindergarten Madison, the Executive Director students.

As stated by SAES, the recipient



Mr. Chris Mullen (left) is awarded of Southwestern Association of Episcopal School.



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Mullen has had a positive influence on our young learners as an early childhood teacher at Calvary for the past nine years.









TOP LEFT: Photo by Scott Reese Willey | Hutchison Elementary School kindergartener J.J. Meltzer, 5, checks out the re-created skull of a T-Rex during the traveling Dinosaur George exhibit at Hutchison Elementary School. Exhibit owner George Blasing and his two-member staff visit elementary schools statewide to show off the fossils, some fabricated, some Blasing unearthed, some he bought and some he traded for.
TOP RIGHT: Courtesy of Rhonda Taomina | Lamar Consolidated High School Fillie Arianna Joseph shows "Future Fillies" Riley Hernandez (blue hairbow)

and Nyla Osei (white hairbow) a routine during the halftime performance at Saturday's game between the Mustangs and A&M Consolidated Tigers at Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg.

BOTTOM LEFT: Courtesy Of Denise Adams/Teny High School | Students taking photojournalism at B.F. Teny High School participated in a photo competition for the first six weeks. Brandon Campbell with BAC Photography and Design in Rosenberg, judged the contest. Winning gift cards were, from left, Cheyenne Schmidke, Joshua Rosas, Jeremiah Follins and, seated, Elena Buentello.

BOTTOM RIGHT. Needville resident Edee Sinclair is sworn in as the newest member of the Wharton County Junior College Board of Trustees by Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Jared Cullar during a brief ceremony at the board meeting. Sinclair works for the Needville Independent School District and was appointed to Position 8, formerly held by Öliver Kunkel Jr., who resigned earlier this year after serving on the board since 1996. A mother of three, Sinclair is the current precinct chairman in Needville for the Fort Bend County Republican Party, has been an election judge in Needville for 25 years, has served as the president and secretary of the Development Corporation of Needville and is the assistant director for the All Stars Youth Banjo Band of Houston.



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

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Houston Methodist Sugar Land welcomes Dr. Margaret Umah



ouston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital is pleased to welcome Margaret Umah, M.D., boardcertified family medicine physician.

Umah began seeing patients last month at the Houston Methodist Primary Care Group practice located on the hospital's campus at 16605 Southwest Fwy., Medical Office Building 3, Suite 400 in Sugar Land.

She specializes in men's and women's health issues, adolescent health, preventive medicine, chronic conditions

such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol disorders, and common illnesses and conditions. Umah also offers wellness exams, annual physicals and adult vaccinations.

Umah earned her medical degree from the University of Missouri School of Medicine and then completed her residency in family medicine at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. She has been serving the health care needs of the Fort Bend community as a family physician since 2012.

"I have always had the greatest respect and admiration for Houston Methodist Sugar Land and its commitment to high-quality patient care," said Umah. "I share my new colleagues' approach in providing personalized, compassionate care to improve patients' overall well-being through communication and partnership. I am very pleased to be joining Houston Methodist Primary Care Group, where my patients will have access to the full range of technology, expertise and resources that the hospital offers."

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Umah, visit houstonmethodist. org/pcg/southwest or call 281-930-6639.

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

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The muscle aches. The fever. The tiredness. No one likes having the flu. If you do catch the bug, it's important to know how to care for yourself. It's also important to learn how the flu virus spreads and how it can be prevented.

FLU BASICS

"The influenza virus, more commonly known as the flu, is contagious and usually spreads through the air, by coughing, sneezing, talking or touching a contaminated surface," said Asisat Ope, M.D., board-certified primary care physician with Houston Methodist Primary Care Group in Sugar Land.

People who catch the flu have different symptoms, but many



complain of a fever, cough, muscle aches, headache and sore throat. Some adults feel better in a week or two, while others, including small children, the elderly and the chronically ill, may have a harder time recovering.

STOP FLU IN ITS TRACKS

You can help guard yourself against the flu. "The best methods are getting a yearly flu vaccination and keeping your immune system healthy." One said.

Get a flu shot. A flu shot can lower your risk of catching the virus. It's best to get the shot by the end of October, before the flu season reaches its height. A flu shot is especially important for people at high risk for flu complications, including adults age 65 or older, children younger than age five, pregnant women and those with chronic health problems.

Steer clear of germs. Unfortunately, sick people don't always keep their germs at home. You can help keep yourself flu-free by washing

your hands frequently and following a healthy lifestyle. Carry hand sanitizer with you in case you can't wash your hands right away after being around those who are showing signs of being sick. You may also want to use disinfecting wipes to wipe down surfaces or shopping carts when you're out and about.

If you do get the flu, drink plenty of fluids. Your doctor can prescribe antiviral drugs that may make the illness milder and shorten the time



you are sick if you go in right away.

If you have questions about the flu shot, talk to your doctor. To schedule an appointment with Asisat Ope, M.D. or another primary care physician at Houston Methodist Primary Care Group, visit houstonmethodist.org/pcg/southwest or call 832-416-1678.

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

2019 Patchwork Of Life Event Raises \$350K

akBend Medical Center's seventh annual Patchwork of Life event was another very successful fundraising event for the hospital. The event raised more than \$350,000 and those funds will be used for a 3D Mammography machine for the Women's Imaging Department at OakBend's Jackson Street Campus.

With a crowd of over 650 attendees, this year's live auction brought in more than \$100,000, with popular items like a Tuscan villa vacation, and African Safari and a Houston sports ticket package causing some friendly competition.

"This year's Patchwork of Life event was a fantastically successful evening," said Beth Johnson, event chair. "The Fort Bend community continues to provide great support to OakBend Medical Center. We are so appreciative of those who made it out and for their wonderful generosity."

Guests also had the opportunity to purchase and personalize a quilt





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Sugar Land: 6903 Brisbane Crt, Suite 100, Sugar Land, Tx 77479 Wharton: 979-282-6151 • 416 N. Alabama Rd., Wharton, TX 77488 square for the annual dedication quilt made by Pat Hebert. Pat has made a quilt for each Patchwork of Life event since 2013 and this year's quilt will hang in the Women's Imaging Department upon completion.

"Patchwork was energetic and the audience was very generous," said May Tape, OakBend Medical Center Board President. "The personal testimonies from community members in the audience were one of the highlights of the evening for me. I love hearing how OakBend has impacted their lives. I'm proud to be associated with OakBend."

Four Houston Methodist hospitals recognized by Vizient

Tizient announced that four Houston Methodist hospitals have received a 2019 Vizient Bernard A. Birnbaum, M.D., Quality Leadership Award. Houston Methodist was the only hospital system in the country to receive four awards.

The award recognizes hospitals for demonstrating excellence in delivering superior quality and safety as measured by the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, which has been conducted annually since 2005.

Vizient recognized Houston Methodist Hospital in the comprehensive academic medical center category; Houston Methodist Sugar Land in the specialized complex care medical center category; and Houston Methodist Willowbrook and Houston Methodist The Woodlands in the complex medical center category.

"Having four of our hospitals on this list is extraordinary. Receiving such national recognition is an honor, but I'm most proud that the reason for these awards is our concerted focus on quality patient



Representatives from Houston Methodist accepted the awards for each of our four hospitals at the 2019 Vizient Connections Education Summit in Las Vegas. From left: Chris Siebenaler, regional vice president and CEO of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital; Janet Leatherwood, CNO of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital; Diane McGraw, and patient centeredness. RN, MSN, CNS-CH, CPHQ, CCM, Director of Quality Management, Infection Control, Risk Management, Accreditation, and Patient Safety Officer at Houston Methodist Sugar Land patient-level Hospital; Jeffrey A. Jackson, MD, FAAN, CQO; Marc L. Boom, president and CEO of Houston Methodist.

care," said Marc L. Boom, president and CEO of Houston Methodist.

This year, 349 participating hospitals were divided into four cohorts for the Vizient Quality Accountability Ranking.

The ranking measured performance based on safety, mortality, clinical effectiveness, efficiency The ranking's composite scoring system uses performance data from a variety of sources including the Vizient

Clinical Data Base, core measures data, the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network.

The Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking helps participating hospitals and health systems understand their performance against their peers and identifies structures and processes associated with high performance in quality and safety across a broad spectrum of patient care activity. The recognition period is for work spanning from July 2018 through June 2019.



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NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DIRECTORY



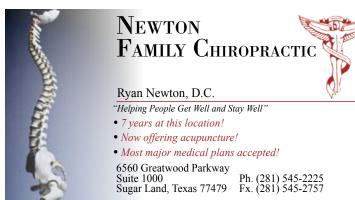






"BEWARE OF LITTLE EXPENSES. A SMALL LEAK WILL SINK A GREAT SHIP."









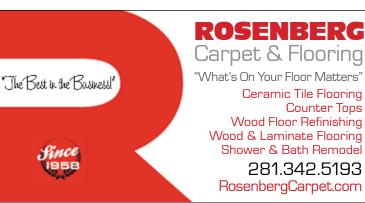




NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DIRECTORY



















December 3

Connections: Meet Someone New

Meet new people and make new friends at this casual, come-and-go social hour at the George Memorial Library at 7 p.m. in Room 2A. Enjoy music while getting to know one another over a game of cards, chess, checkers, or other board games the library has on hand. This activity is suitable for adults aged 18 and up. Another Connections will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 2A.

Veteran Financial Fitness

Impact a Hero will host a free introductory course on the principals of financial fitness for veterans at the Mamie George Community Center in Richmond from 6 - 8 p.m. Visit www. impactahero.org.

December 4

Nature Park Bird Hike

A monthly bird hike will be held at 8 a.m. at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, 3831 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg. All ages and levels of birders are welcome. Binoculars and weather-appropriate clothing and footwear are recommended. The next hike is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2020 Visittxmn.org/coastal.

December 6

Sharpen Your Marketing Message

SCORE mentor Jeffrey Jones assist small-business entrepreneurs develop or sharpen a strategic marketing plan in a special workshop at the University Branch Library from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Meeting Room 1. This program is presented in partnership with SCORE, the non-profit mentoring arm of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

2019 Holiday Market

Vintage Market Days of SW Houston

Coastal Plains will holid its holiday market — "Merry & Bright" — Dec. 6 - Dec. 8, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. Visit vintagemarketdays.com.

Sounds of the Season

The Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce will host its Sounds of the Season with Frank Billingsley from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Constellation Field in Sugar Land. Visit www. FortBendChamber.com for tickets and to register.

Needville Country Christmas

Started as a way to promote local businesses, the Needville Annual Country Christmas will be held in Downtown Needville Dec. 6 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Candlelight Tours

The Fort Bend Museum Docents will hold its Candlelight Tours at the 1883 Moore Home 6 - 8 p.m., Dec.6 and 4-8 p.m. Dec. 7. Festive tours of the historic home, plus cookies and wassail will be featured. Visit www. fortbendmuseum.org.

Nutcracker on Ice

Sugar Land Ice and Sports Center is presenting its 22nd annual production of the Nutcracker on Ice at 7 p.m. Dec. 6, and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Dec.7 at the center. Tickets available at www.etix.com.

December 7

2019 Run Houston! Sugar Land Get in the holiday spirit by taking on the final event in Run Houston! from 5 - 10:30 a.m. at Constellation Field, with distances of 10K, 5K, and a Kids 1K, as well as a virtual option.

All registrations include free highresolution race photos, custom shirt, custom finisher's medal for all distances, custom race bib, and complimentary parking. Participants will also enjoy special access to the Holiday Lights Festival and a post-race party inside the stadium. All ages and abilities are welcome, including strollers. Visit http://bit.ly/RunSugarLand.

Jingle Bell Run - Sugar Land
The Arthritis Foundation's Jingle
Bell Run is the original festive race
for charity. The Sugar Land race
will be held from 7 - 11 a.m. at the
University of Houston- Sugar Land
campus. Visit events.arthritis.org.

Winterfest

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 at the George Memorial Library from 10 a.m. - noon in the Meeting Room. The performance will begin at 11 a.m. This event is made possible by the Friends of the George Memorial Library.

Cookies with Santa

Houston Museum of Natural Science - Sugar Land will host Cookies with Santa from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. Enjoy holiday crafts, the tradition of cookies and milk and a take away photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. You can also stop at the reindeer station, too, for a fun holiday selfie. \$5 for members; \$5 for non-members plus purchase of \$5 exhibit halls ticket. Jingle Tree Events: www.hmns.org/hmns-at-sugar-land/events/jingle-tree/

Holiday Open House

The University Branch Library will hold a Holiday Open House from 2:30 - 4 p.m. in Meeting Room 2. Music, refreshments, and craft activities will be available for the whole family to enjoy as they catch the holiday spirit. Books on holiday entertaining, decorating, and cooking will be available for check out, along with seasonal music CDs and movies.

Read to a Cat

Fort Bend Pets Alive is hosting a Read to a Cat event at Half Price Books - Sugar Land from 1 - 4:30 p.m. Read to homeless cats and have the option to adopt one for 50 percent off.

Holidays in the Plaza

Two of the groups from Houston Show Choir, Vocal Impact and Vox Evolution, will create a journey through the holidays with pop, country, disco, rock, show tunes, jazz, and more, with fun for everyone from 5 - 7 p.m. at 2700 N Town Center Blvd. in Sugar Land.

December 8

African Hymn Fest and Health
Fair

New Wine Chapel invites the public to celebrate "Christmas in Africa" featuring vibrant musical performances from 4 - 7 p.m. in Sugar Land Town Square. You will also have the opportunity to browse through their health fair on site.

December 10

Book Exchange

The Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce will host a book exchange from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wrap your favorite professional book to give away, and share how it has deeply impacted your life. The exchange will run similarly to a white elephant exchange. Lunch is included. Visit www.FortBendChamber.com.

December 11

Food Bank

A food bank will be at KRB Dentistry, 5110 Ave. H in Rosenberg, from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Everyone is welcome. All this is needed is your name and phone number.

Winter Holiday Mini-Concert

Students from the Austin Elementary School Cosmic Choir will sing an assortment of holiday carols at the George Memorial Library at 11 a.m. in the Lobby.

Toy Giveaway

Mountain Top Ministries, 4310 Ave H. Suite #12 in Rosenberg, is hosting

a Toy Giveaway from 7 - 9 p.m. All types of toys ages from 3 years to 17 years old. Visit www.mtopm.org

Young Adult Book Club

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 at the George Memorial Library at 5 p.m. in Room 2B. This month, readers are invited to bring their favorite nonfiction book to talk about.

December 12

Coffee with the Court

The Fort Bend County Bar Association is hosting its 5th Annual Coffee with the Court from 9 - 10 a.m. at the Fort Bend County Justice Center.

Garden Railroad Run Day

The Houston Area G Gaugers will be running trains on the garden railroad, weather permitting 1-4 p.m. at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum. Regular museum admission required.

Young Adult Advisory Council

Teens in grades 9-12 who are interested in an exciting new and leadership opportunity volunteer-service hours are invited to attend at 5 p.m. in Conference Room 1 at the University Branch Library. Members will have a chance to share ideas about library programs, to help out at events, to give suggestions for teen services, books and movies and to meet new people.

December 14

Winter Book Sale

The Friends of University Branch Library will hold its Winter Book Sale from 10 a.m. - 2p.m. in Meeting Room 1 at the library. Prices range from \$0.25 to \$3. Numerous items will be available for sale, such as DVDs, CDs, magazines, and a variety of books, including children's, teens', mystery, computer, special interest and romance.

Holiday Dance Showcase

The public is invited to enjoy a holiday dance showcase by local dance companies from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Sugar Land Town Square.

Christmas in Katy

Join Common Ground Community Church at No Label Brewery from noon to 5 p.m. to celebrate Christmas. The event includes live Christmas music, food trucks, market vendors, a Kidz Zone and pictures with Santa.

Popsicle Ornaments

Teens in grades 9-12 will create ornaments using Popsicle sticks and other crafty items at 2 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 at the University Branch Library. Snacks and materials are provided by the Friends of the University Branch Library. Registration is required.

Holiday Market

Troop 801 is hosting its Annual Troop 801 Holiday Market from 9 a.m. -4 p.m. at the KC Hall in Rosenberg. There will be vendors from our local area (Rosenberg, Richmond, Sugar Land, Needville and more) with unique gift items, holiday decor and much more. At the end of the day, there will be a drawing for a hand crafted quilt, fine writing instrument and other door prizes. Visit ww.brazostroop801.org.

A Christmas Night of Hope

This adult-only second annual gala is being hosted by Project Clothe A Child from 6 - 11 p.m. a Hilton Garden Inn Sugar Land. A guest speaker, entertainment and giveaways will be featured. All ticket proceeds benefit PCAC and are tax deductible. Visit www.projectclotheachild.org.

Holiday Movie Under the Moon "The Grinch" will be shown from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Sugar Land Town

Square. Free and open to the public.

December 15

32nd Annual Fort Bend Kia 30K Join Finish Line Sports for the 32nd Annual Fort Bend KIA 30K Run from 7 - 11 a.m. in Sugar Land Town Square. Register at www. slfinishlinesports.com/sugar-landfinish-line-sports-30k.

December 16

LEGO Club

Families with kids of all ages will have an opportunity to get creative with LEGO building blocks at the University Branch Library from 4:15

p.m. - 5 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Different-sized LEGO pieces will be available for the varying ages in attendance.

December 18

Culinary Book Club

This club of the University Branch Library will meet at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. This month, the group will have a Cookie Exchange for the holiday. Cooking enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels from beginners to advanced — are invited to join in this monthly potluck and recipe exchange.

Young Adult Advisory Council

Teens in grades 9-12 who are interested in an exciting new leadership opportunity and volunteer-service hours are invited to attend this meeting of the Young Adult Advisory Council at the George Memorial Library at 5 p.m. in Room 2B.

December 19

The Spirit of Christmas Market 2019

Organization supporting students in North Richmond will host this market benefitting Pink Elementary students from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. . Christmas gift donations will give community children an opportunity to shop for their parents and siblings for their Christmas gifts. Donations can be dropped off at Friends of North Richmond and Del Webb. Call 832-877-1084 for more information.

Story Spinners Writing Club

This month's topic at the George Memorial Library will be "Pacing." 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 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 2C. This program is recommended for adults and teens aged 14 and up.

December 22

Photos with Santa

Sugar Land Town Square and Fort Bend Rainbow Room will host a Photos with Santa event from 1 - 5 p.m. in Sugar Land Town Square. Enjoy a free holiday photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus at 2180 Lone Star

Drive (former Z Gallerie space). New stuffed animals for the Fort Bend Rainbow Room's Christmas Project will be collected. All donations will go to children and adults referred by caseworkers from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

December 24

Christmas Eve & Childrens Mass

Holy Rosary Catholic Church and School and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church will hold a Christmas Eve Mass and Childrens Mass from 4 - 5 p.m. at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1416 George Street in Rosenberg, A Christmas play will be performed by children during this Mass.

December 27

F-R-I-E-N-D-S Holiday Binge

Get in the spirit of the season by binge-watching 11 holiday episodes of this popular '90s sitcom at the University Branch Library from noon - 4 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Light refreshments will be available, as well as holiday card-making activities, adult coloring sheets, and trivia.

December 28

Vintage Bike Ride

Handlebar Cyclery will hold a noncompetitive, 28-mile, vintage bike ride, 28 miles from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.. The ride starts at Essence House Cafe located in Fulshear. Visit www. handlebarcyclery.com.

December 30

Winter Craft Express

Families with children of all ages will have an opportunity to participate in different winter-related craft activities while watching a popular holiday film at the University Branch Library from 2-4 p.m. in Meeting Room 1.

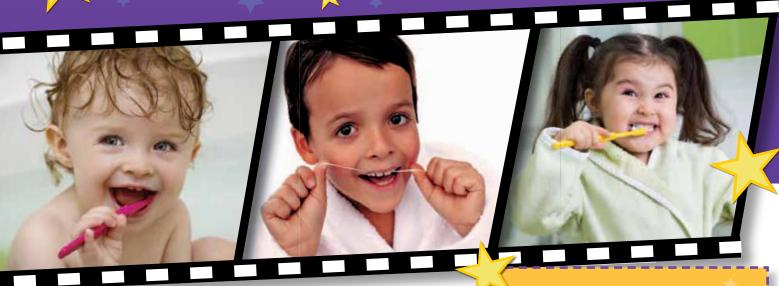
January 18

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Hope for Three will hold its third annual Jigsaw Puzzle competition at Gallery Furniture, 7227 Grand Parkway South in Richmond. Teams will compete to complete a 500-piece puzzle in two-hours. Visit visit hopeforthree.org/events

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