COMMUNITY BRIEFS

By Annette BAird

UHCL STILL HAS OPENINGS FOR CAMP

It’s not too late for children ages 3 to 5 to enroll the University of Houston-Clear Lake’s Kids U summer program, which runs through mid-July.

The program is meant to help prepare children who will be transitioning into early childhood programs, while providing engaging, creative play-based experiences involving math, science and literature. Staff are experienced early-childhood teachers who will be working under the direction of the university’s faculty. They focus on helping children develop conceptual skills that promote problem-solving, imagination and language. The camp runs from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays in the Arbor Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Kids U runs camps targeted at different interests at different ages, through 12th grade.

For more information, visit http://kidsu.uhcl.edu or call 281-283-3530.

HOUSTON DISTRICT ATTORNEY KIM OGG CALLS FOR TOLERANCE AT RAMADAN DINNER

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg along with speakers Rice University professor Craig Considine and Shaykh Waleed Basyouni, Imam at the Clear Lake Islamic Center, stressed the importance of celebrating diversity at a recent Ramadan celebration in the Clear Lake area that

Courtesy Photo

Nemo is hoping someone will find him soon and take him home. The almost year-old kitten is waiting at Friendswood Animal Control, 3000 W Parkwood Ave. Playful and mellow, Nemo gets along well with other cats, including the shelter’s younger kittens. For more information, visit Animal Control or call 281-996-3390. An adoption fee of $25 includes vaccines, microchipping, neutering and free vet exam.
drew more than 350 people. The Muslim community of southeast Houston hosted the fourth annual event.

Ogg, the keynote speaker, reminded the audience that Houston is an international community with a diverse ethnic population where each person should be treated equally, stressing that fairness transcends all cultures and that the current climate of fear and hatred is crippling.

The Muslim American Society, the Clear Lake Islamic Center, the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church, ViaQuest Financial Group, Dr. Amro El Feki, Dr. Zohra Siddiqi, Dr. Hanan Hussein and others sponsored the dinner as a way to reach out to members of the wider Clear Lake community and build relationships by sharing conversation, food and friendship.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims through fasting, prayer and charity.

**CITY OF KEMAH OFFERS FUNDING TO BOOST CITY**

Prospective applicants have through June 30 to apply for funding from the City of Kemah to be used to promote overnight stays in the city. The city recently released the 2017-2018 Hotel Occupancy Tax funding application packet. According to the tax code, the funds must be used to promote lodging accommodations and overnight stays in Kemah. Funding is limited, and the process is competitive. For information and to apply for funds for fiscal year 2017-2018, visit [www.kemah-tx.gov](http://www.kemah-tx.gov). Completed applications should be sent to the City of Kemah, 1401 Hwy 146, Kemah, TX 77565 no later than June 30.

**REGISTRATION OPEN FOR COM FALL CLASS-ES**

Registration for fall classes has opened at College of the Mainland for associate's degree and certificate programs. The college offers 16-week classes and eight-week classes starting Aug. 28. Fall second eight-week classes begin Oct. 23.

Courses are offered on campus or online. To view the fall schedule, visit [www.com.edu/register](http://www.com.edu/register). This fall, the college is launching the Finish Faster Program to help students who are not quite ready for college level English or math to earn degrees or certificates more quickly. Prospective students must apply to the college at [www.com.edu/apply](http://www.com.edu/apply) apply before registering. An open enrollment college, COM admits all students who submit necessary documentation.

For payment options, visit [www.com.edu/paymentplan](http://www.com.edu/paymentplan), and for information about scholarships, visit [www.com.edu/scholarships](http://www.com.edu/scholarships) scholarships. For general information, call 409-933-8663 or email admissions@com.edu.

**UTMB RE-CERTIFIED AS A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER**

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston has been recertified as a Level I Trauma Center by the Verification Review Committee of the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. The hospital is one of 19 Level I trauma centers in the state and one of four in the Houston-Galveston region. It was first designated as a Level I trauma center in 1999 and was considered one of the best in the nation. Hurricane Ike in 2008 caused the hospital to lose the designation but the university officially regained its top level trauma center status in 2011 and has been continually recertified since then.
Being a Level I trauma center means UTMB’s emergency department is able to handle major traumatic injuries, including mass casualty situations, and has 24-hour coverage by general surgeons and care in a number of different specialties. A Level I center must also have a burn unit or a transfer agreement with another hospital to provide burn care. UTMB also takes a lead in public education with programs such as the Save-a-Life tour, a day-long program for area high school and college students about the deadly ramifications of distracted and impaired driving. UTMB is also participating in a new nationwide campaign titled Stop the Bleed, designed to teach people how to control bleeding.

COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND LAUNCHES FAST TRACK PROGRAM

College of the Mainland has initiated a program that allows high school students to begin college at the same time as they are completing their English or math requirements for college. The Finish Faster Program will allow students to take a college prep course at the same time as a college-level English or math course. Students will be able to earn credit for the college course while having extra instruction, tutoring and resources in the college prep course to ensure they succeed.

The Finish Faster Program is part of a national trend toward an accelerated learning plan. More than 200 schools have adopted some type of accelerated learning program. To also help students reach their goals more quickly, COM offered more summer courses this year. For more information, visit www.com.edu.

SAN JACINTO TRUST-EES SWORN IN

Erica Davis Rouse and Dr. Ruede Wheeler were sworn in as trustees of San Jacinto College at the June 5 board meeting. Davis Rouse was elected to Position 1, and Wheeler was reelected to Position 2.

Davis Rouse, of South Belt, worked as manager for John Wiley & Sons and has a passion for community and education. She has volunteered with several nonprofits and organizations, including the Pasadena Independent School District and New Covenant Church, and she is an advisory board member of Smahrt Girl Foundation. She serves in various leadership roles in the community and is an ambassador for the Houston Texans. Wheeler, a retired dentist, has served on the board of trustees since 1986 after nine years as a board member of La Porte ISD. He is chair of San Jacinto’s finance committee. He owns and operates Wheelstone Auto Sales in La Porte and is a member and past president of the La Porte Rotary Club.

During the meeting, the board voted on a new slate of officers: Marie Flickinger is chair; Dan Mims is vice chair; Keith Sinor is secretary; and Davis Rouse is assistant secretary. Trustees serve a six-year term. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/board-trustees.

PEARLAND ISD SCHOOLS NAMED “NO PLACE FOR HATE”

For their efforts to create an inclusive environment where students feel valued and respected, four Pearland Independent School District campuses recently earned the Anti-Defamation League’s “No Place for Hate” designation.

These 2016-17 No Place for Hate campuses include; Alexander Middle School, Berry Miller Junior High, Leon Sablatura Middle School and Sam Jamison Middle School.
Established in 2001, No Place for Hate provides educators and students with anti-bias and diversity education resources. Throughout the school year, campuses held activities, such as international festivals, to encourage students to learn about other countries and appreciate cultural differences. The goal of No Place for Hate is to create and sustain inclusive school environments that promote respect for individual differences while challenging prejudice.

PEARLAND TEACHERS

OF THE YEAR RECEIVE LOANER CARS

Pearland Independent School District Teacher of the Year winners, Dawson High School’s Diana Gano and Alexander Middle School’s Amanda Roberts, each received a loaner vehicle from Bayway Chevrolet for the month of June. For the ninth consecutive year Bayway Chevrolet has provided the district elementary and secondary Teacher of the Year winners with a loaner car as recognition for their accomplishments.

ROBOTICS TEAM FINISHES FOURTH AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Pearland Independent School District’s robotics team Pearadox recently took fourth place at the UIL Robotics State Championship, held May 19-20 in Austin. Students from Dawson, Pearland and Turner high schools participated in the competition.

Teams qualify for the state championships through a point system at different competitions with 32 teams advancing. Points are given for: rank, placement on an alliance going into playoffs, playoff win and for awards earned. Points are then averaged between the events attended and any bonus points, if applicable. Pearadox received an average of 38.5 points for awards won, ranking and playoff performance at events in Houston and Waco.

Students were guided through the building and competition process by mentors from area industries.

FAMILY COMPANY NAMED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Hill Sand Company, Hill Waste Services and Dixie Farm Road recently was named Friendswood Chamber of Commerce’s June “Business of the Month” for their commitment to the community. Located at 4649 Dixie Farm Road in Pearland, Hill Sand Company Inc. was founded by Arden C. Hill, Jr. and Fleta A. Hill in 1969. Over the years, the company expanded and founded Hill Waste Services and Dixie Farm Road Landfill. Arden C. Hill Jr. passed away in 1989, and his son, Arden C. Hill, III “Trey” and daughter Anita Hill Griffon, who were already working for the company, took over operations.

For more about Friendswood Chamber of Commerce, call 281-482-3329, email info@friendswoodchamber.com, visit www.friendswoodchamber.com.

LA PORTE TO ENFORCE SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS DURING SUMMER

To ensure the safety of students attending summer school at campuses in La Porte Independent School District, La Porte Police Department is reminding commuters to obey school zones traffic signs. Summer school programs will continue through July 27, which means school zone signs with flashing beacons will be active and enforceable.
A city ordinance stipulates that school zone signs equipped with flashing lights in lieu of posted school zone hours may be activated any time classes are in session, including summer school hours, early dismissals or other special functions. A school zone activated in this manner is enforceable under the terms of the ordinance.

La Porte patrol officers also will increase their presence near district campuses during the beginning and the end of each school day. In addition, the city ordinance prohibiting the use of electronic communication devices, such as cell phones, within school zones will be enforced.

**PASADENA CHAMBER TAKES ON LOCAL FOR NEW ROLE**

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce has brought on Jamie Huffar to take on the newly designed role of financial administrator. Huffar brings more than 16 years of experience in both commercial and nonprofit accounting. Huffar served as a bank reconciliation specialist, accounting and purchasing agent, payroll administrator and office manager with oversight of general ledger account analysis, financial statements and management of personnel.

A lifelong resident of the city, Huffar has contributed to the community, having volunteered with the Pasadena Strawberry Festival. She is a graduate of Sam Rayburn High School and San Jacinto College.

Huffar will be responsible for providing all record keeping, bookkeeping, payroll and operations management while also serving in a supervisory capacity in the absence of the president.

Contact Huffar at Accounting@pasadenachamber.org.

**THETA MASTER MEM-BERS WIND UP YEAR**

Theta Master members wound up the year with a meeting and awards luncheon hosted by Diane Gordy at Perry's Steakhouse in Friendswood. Chapter President Dian Thomasson conducted the meeting, which saw the award for best program go to Judy Hotman.

Thomasson was recognized for her leadership this year.

Theta Master is a daytime chapter whose members meet in each other’s homes. This year’s International theme is “Beta Sigma Phi-In Touch with Tomorrow.” It describes how the members are prepared for the challenges they will face in the future. For more information, contact Jean Kern 281-992-9813.