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## WEATHER



82  
55

Readings for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today:

**TONIGHT:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Low 66. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.  
**Saturday:** Thunderstorms in the morning, then skies turning partly cloudy late. A few storms may be severe. High near 80. SSE winds shifting to W at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 90%.

## DEATHS, 3A

- Richard Royall V
- Dorothy Vogler

## SPORTS, 6A

Buccaneers blow past Alvin for doubleheader sweep.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### State fights U.S. House request over bungled voter roll

AUSTIN — Texas' attorney general is challenging efforts by Democrats in Congress to obtain documents related to the state's bungled search for voters who aren't U.S. citizens.

Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office Thursday released a statement saying that a House oversight committee "appears to be inserting itself" into the state's efforts to prosecute non-citizen voters.

Texas' botched search for illegal voters began when the state released a list that called the U.S. citizenship of 98,000 registered voters into question. But the list wasn't vetted and included scores of naturalized citizens.

## HERE & THERE

Happy birthday today to CARLY SIGALA and MIKE RUFFINO ...

## TODAY'S VERSE

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:10

## WATER USAGE

Lake Somerville full stage: 238.0.  
Lake level at 7 a.m. today: 238.53.  
City of Brenham water usage:  
April 11: 2.688 million gallons  
Rainfall this month: 2.70".  
Rainfall this year: 12.44".  
Average annual rainfall: 45.34".

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## Bill would end driver fine program

AUSTIN — A Texas senator is proposing to eliminate a state program that penalizes drivers for traffic violations and accidents.

The state's Driver Responsibility Program (DRP), which has been heavily criticized for the financial burden it places on those affected, would be repealed under a bill considered by the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday.

Known as the "points system," the program adds compounding penalties to drivers as they are convicted of traffic violations. A driver who commits a moving violation can get two "points" on their driver's license, and three if the violation results in a car crash.

Points stay on a license for three years and if a license accrues six points, the driver is assessed a \$100 surcharge at the end of the year. That fine goes up \$25 for every additional point above six.

There are additional surcharges for more serious violations — \$1,000 for a driver's first intoxicated driving

conviction and increasing for each subsequent conviction. Driving with a suspended license or without insurance incurs \$250 surcharges.

This program has been widely condemned for many sessions by citizens and lawmakers alike for putting unreasonable financial burdens on drivers, who can lose their license until they pay off all their DRP fines. For 15 years, the Legislature has made various attempts to repeal the program, but the problem is that it helps to pay for trauma care at Texas hospitals, some \$300 million per biennium.

Lawmakers worry how that loss of money will impact the care of 130,000 people every year who need critical trauma services in the state, and so the program has remained. In the hearing Thursday, Houston Sen. Joan Huffman offered a bill that would end the DRP while covering nearly all of the loss in revenue to the state trauma fund.

Her bill, SB 918, would

DRP continued on A2



Lydia Hill/Banner-Press

A camper ventures out on the high ropes Thursday at Camp S.M.I.L.E. held at Camp For All.

## FUN FOR ALL

### Camp For All, Westview School host Camp S.M.I.L.E. for children with autism

By Lydia Hill  
lifestyles@brenhambanner.com

For many, summer camp is a fundamental childhood experience. But for the numerous children living with disabilities, including the 130,000 children in Texas with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), camp is something

they are never able to experience because the activities involved can be difficult or impossible. For the students at Westview School, however, this isn't a problem at Camp S.M.I.L.E.

Held Wednesday through today in recognition of Autism Awareness Month, the camp is a joint effort between Westview and Camp For All, a 206-acre, barrier-free camp located in Burton. It offers the 40 campers — all high-functioning children with ASD who are in elementary or middle school at Westview — an opportunity to meet others like them and build social skills through participating in numerous camp activities.

"The activities are universal in design, meaning that everybody can do everything," said Pat Sorrells, Camp For All's president and CEO. "We're not just accessible; we're barrier-free, which is very unusual. We're barrier-free in our thinking and in every capacity you can think of."

The experiences offered, which include zip lining, rock climbing, horseback riding, archery, canoeing and art, among others, allow the campers to develop confidence, said the head of Westview School Donna Marshall.

"Camp For All is a great place for so many different kids," she said. "And our children need this opportunity to just realize how capable they are. They're afraid to do things. But we want them to be out in the world one of these days; we want them to

be independent, having jobs, and this is getting them ready for that. This is showing them you can do hard things."

"We want our students to become independent, we want them to become just as independent as possible, and working through our school, working through camp, it helps," added Trey Clark, music teacher and summer camp director at Westview.

The private, non-profit Houston school for high-functioning kids with autism offers its 150 students ranging from 2 years old to middle school numerous resources in order to promote development, including occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, a therapy dog, a diagnostic center and, of course, Camp S.M.I.L.E. (Students Maturing In Life Experiences).

The camp was started by the school 13 years ago, when Westview teachers began discussing a partnership with Camp For All.

"We just thought this would be a great opportunity for our students to get out of their normal routine of going to school and come out to the camping experience — to see all the opportunities they have at camp S.M.I.L.E. — the zip lining, the riding horses, the archery," Clark said. "(These are) things that typical students are able to do at camps during the summer that children with autism might not be able to experience. But in a controlled situation where if

S.M.I.L.E. continued on A3



Lydia Hill/Banner-Press

### Westwood work

Traffic was backed-up Thursday morning as workers restored the light at the intersection of U.S. 290 and Westwood Lane. The street was cleared shortly before 10 a.m.

## BS&W-Brenham opens new cardiac rehabilitation clinic

*Hospital here offers services to improve heart health, recovery*

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Brenham has opened a new cardiac rehab clinic.

The new clinic offers rehabilitation services to improve health and regain strength after a heart attack or other form of heart disease or surgery.

"We are excited for this continued growth," said John O'Hearn, vice president of operations, Baylor Scott & White-Brenham. "We want to meet the needs of Wash-

ington County and are glad we can do that with this new service offering."

At the cardiac rehab clinic, patients are part of a customized outpatient program of exercise, education and counseling, a combination which hospital officials said helps reduce the risk of future heart problems.

Physical exercise and training is aimed at getting the heart working to strengthen

HOSPITAL continued on A3



Arthur Hahn/Banner-Press

### Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.

In full costume, third and fourth graders at St. Paul's Christian Day School gave parents a brief glimpse Thursday of their upcoming musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.," which they will perform next week. The students will present the musical Tuesday at the Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center on the Blinn campus here.

## DAILY BRIEFS

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Redeemer Church Brenham, in conjunction with Back Lot Gallery, will present "Stations in the Street," a public display of the Stations of the Cross exhibit created by artist Scott Erickson. The Stations of the Cross began as a remembrance that pilgrims had when they were retracing Jesus' final steps in Jerusalem up to the hill where he was crucified. The exhibit, displayed on the north wall of Back Lot Gallery, opens on Palm Sunday at 5 p.m. (between the gallery and Ant Street Inn) and will continue to be available for public viewing and meditation throughout the Easter season.

### BLINN LIONS CLUB HOLDING EASTER EGG HUNT

The Blinn College Lions Club will sponsor a communitywide Easter egg hunt Wednesday on the intramural field on the campus here (behind the Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center and a parking lot near the baseball field). The hunt is for children ages 2-10. Children can arrive beginning at 4:30 p.m. The hunt will begin at 5 p.m. and will be divided into two sections (ages 2-5 and 6-10).

### REMOTE-CONTROLLED AIRPLANE CLUB

The Brenham Remote-Controlled Airplane Club will host a model airplane fly-in Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at its airplane field at 2080 Old Navasota Road. All types of aircraft are invited.

### EASTER BAKE SALE

A bake sale to benefit Adam's Angels will be held April 18 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) and April 19 (9 a.m.-noon) at Brenham National Bank. Money raised will go toward the ministry's efforts to help families dealing with childhood cancer. The bank is also accepting monetary donations this month for Adam's Angels.

### HAPPY COUSINS DANCE CLUB

The Happy Cousins Dance club has been operating for 45 years and providing a fun place to meet with friends. They provide a variety of music for all and place to dance. Club is operated by volunteers so they will have a place to dance. Dance is the second Saturday of each month from 8-11:30 p.m., at The American Legion Hall in Rosenberg on Highway 36. For more information call Jerry Faldyn at 281-232-3531.

### TEXAS C-STEP TO OFFER COLORECTAL, MAMMOGRAM SCREENINGS

Texas C-Step will be offering colorectal and mammogram screening services to uninsured or underinsured people who reside in Brazos, Burleson, Lee, Waller and Washington counties among others. To speak with a community health worker about financial assistance for colorectal screenings, call 979-426-0443 or 979-436-0449.

### PFLAG BRENHAM CHAPTER

PFLAG Brenham Chapter meetings are held the second Sunday each month at 5:30 p.m. Meet new friends at this local meeting for families and allies of LGBTQ people. Part support group, part social group. For more info, visit [www.facebook.com/PFLAGBrenham](http://www.facebook.com/PFLAGBrenham) or send an email to [pflagbrenham@gmail.com](mailto:pflagbrenham@gmail.com).

Articles in Daily Briefs should be limited to non-profit, community events or activities. Items should be brief and will be edited.

## Hospital

Continued from A1

the cardiovascular system.

Patients are taught exercises promoting heart health. Education will also revolve around how to live heart-healthy, how to manage risk factors, how to quit smoking and how to make healthy nutrition choices.

Counseling is also offered to help patients identify

stressors, which can have a negative impact on the heart, and find ways to reduce them.

"This allows us to make health care more accessible to Washington County's residents, workforce and visitors," said Michael Schlabach, MD, chief medical officer at Baylor Scott & White-Brenham.

Patients can be seen Wednesdays and Fridays in the cardiac rehab clinic.

## S.M.I.L.E.

Continued from A1

they need somebody — need some assistance working through — we can work with them."

For children living on the autism spectrum, an interruption of their normal schedule is one difficulty they face.

"A lot of our students are routine-based," explained Clark. "From the time they wake up to the time they go to sleep, they want the same things every day. And that's what Westview School is very good at — putting schedules together and putting order in the day, but also being good about putting those things in there that might change up the schedule and working with our students."

Another aspect that is more challenging for children with ASD is social interaction.

"Our kiddos are much like other kids," said Marshall.

"Their biggest struggles are with their communication skills and their social skills. So giving them the opportunity like this to let them work on that is really, really important. This is one of the most anticipated times of their year and they look so forward to it."

Several of the children have been to the camp before, and for many, it is the highlight of their year, said Sorrells.

For 12-year-old Billy Macey, who has attended the camp for four years, it is a place to have fun and get to know other students better.

"It's just really fun," he said, reflecting the opinion of many of the students. "It's just a really fun place. I can't choose just one (favorite ac-

tivity)," he added, though he did note that as an animal lover, he especially enjoyed the horseback riding.

The camp is not only an opportunity for students to enjoy themselves and develop social skills, but is also beneficial to their parents by teaching them to give their children a little more freedom.

"(Students) are away from parents, so parents get the opportunity to have respite," said Sorrells. "And they have the opportunity to know that their child is okay and safe, and the kids learn independence, they learn pragmatics, they learn how to live in the real world without mom and dad around all the time."

"Some of (the students) come with some trepidation, having never really spent the night away from home before," Marshall said. "So this is just such a growth experience for them and for mom and dad. It's liberating for a lot of moms and dads, but it's also a big step for them."

"When you have a kiddo with a disability, you really do tend to keep them really close

## Funeral Notices



### Royall

Richard Royall V, 77, of Round Top, Texas, passed away on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Richard was born on May 22, 1941, in Richmond, Virginia.

A national merit scholar, he graduated from St. John's School in Houston. He then attended and graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Biology. After completing his degree, he was a Rotary International Fellow at Heidelberg University in Heidelberg, Germany. Once

he returned from Germany, he enrolled in and received a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

He was the founding managing director and treasurer of the Round Top Festival Institute. Mr. Royall served on the board of directors of the James Dick Foundation since the Institute's founding in 1971 and during that time, he held the positions of treasurer and secretary.

His influence can be seen everywhere at Festival Hill, especially in his gifts of architectural objects to the Concert Hall, Herzstein Plaza, Menke House, Clayton House, Bybee Library and his favorite, Kaffee Kaffeine on the Plaza.

He was an ardent supporter of the arts in Fayette County and how the arts and culture would be a unifier of society. He always made you laugh

and made the world a better place.

He is survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other loving family and friends. He will be deeply missed by his "Festival Hill" family of the past 50 years.

He is preceded in death by his mother Blanche Allbritton Royall Gore; his father Richard Royster Royall Jr.; and step-father William Frank Gore.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2019, from 12-7 p.m. at Koenig-Belville Funeral Home & Cremations. Family will receive friends from 4-7 p.m.

Graveside services will be held on Monday, April 15, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Forest Park Lawndale in Houston. Interment will follow.

A memorial service at Festival Hill is being planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his memory may be directed to the James Dick Foundation, Round Top Festival Institute, P.O. Box 89, Round Top, Texas 78954.

These funds will go toward scholarships in his honor.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Koenig-Belville Funeral Home & Cremations, 208 W. Pearl, in La Grange, Texas. Family and friends can view and sign the guestbook online at [www.lagrangefunerals.com](http://www.lagrangefunerals.com)

### Vogler

Dorothy Zwahr Vogler, 83, widow of Rudolph Vogler, passed away Thursday morning at Brenham Nursing and Rehab.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Brenham Memorial Chapel.

A full obituary will be published in the Sunday edition of *The Banner-Press*.

# Burton students joining state literacy campaign

*Monday marks start of Texas Reads One Book celebration, attended by thousands across state*

Burton Elementary third graders will again be participating in a statewide literacy celebration.

The students Monday will join tens of thousands of other students in the state in kicking off the Texas Reads One Book effort.

They will watch a videotaped reading by Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett of the first chapter of Betty G. Birney's "Friendship According to Humphrey." Various school staff and community members will be available to read chapters throughout the next few days.

"We all talk about needing more parent involvement, but most educators struggle with how to get parents engaged," said Burton Superintendent Edna Kennedy. "Parents need resources that will allow them to help their kiddos. We need to provide parents access to tools that will help their students be more successful and keep the conversations ongoing about getting a good education."

"Texas Reads One Book 2019 has given us a mechanism to show parents how they can work with their kids through the enjoyable experience of reading which becomes a lifelong skill."

Across the state, elementary schools will all read "Friendship According to Humphrey" at the same time, making reading the hot topic of conversation in communities statewide for almost a month.

For the fifth consecutive year, Garrett will kick off this statewide family literacy initiative.

"If you want to become a better football player, you have to practice," says Garrett in the video. "If you want to become a better reader, you have to practice. It's fun to read! It's fun to find out about these characters and many others."

Texas Reads One Book offers a model for engaging parents in family literacy activities. Through the program, every elementary family in participating schools will receive a copy of the book, meaning that even reluctant readers and parents who don't normally participate in school activities can get involved.

Spanish-language copies of the book are available for Spanish-speaking families.

By stimulating family involvement in the reading process and boosting student engagement with books, the Texas Reads One Book program can contribute to breaking the cycle of illiteracy — and therefore poverty — that exists for many low-income families, supporters said. Reports from districts across the United States that have used the "one book" model for several years indicate higher test scores and increased interest in reading among students.

Texas Reads One Book is a project of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), with support from the non-profit family literacy organization Read to Them.

and you try to do so much for them, but we know that all kids need to get out there and stretch their wings and learn how to do it on their own. And they need to gain the confidence that gives them.

"That's what Camp For All especially does for our kids. It lets them know, 'You can do it.' I want them to come out saying, 'Man that was hard, but I did it.' They need to do that over and over to build that sense of self up as a successful, can-do kind of person. That's what camp really fosters and gives to them in a way nothing else really can."

While many of the parents are initially nervous about the prospect of being away from their children, Marshall said that it is empowering for them when they hear of their children succeeding on their own at camp. This year, the school is even uploading pictures so parents can stay up-to-date on their activities.

For Sorrells, Clark and Marshall, working with the children is an extremely rewarding experience they wouldn't trade for anything. They all agreed that the little

victories — whether it's seeing the joy on a child's face when he first catches a fish, watching someone overcome her fear to sing karaoke in front of fellow campers or just experiencing how children gain confidence through the camp — is worth all the difficulties that come along with the job.

"It's not work," said Clark. "It's something I want to go to every day."

"I love seeing the campers and the joy in what they accomplish here," Sorrells added. "It is an amazing experience. I have the best job in the whole world."

While autism is currently one of the most underfunded developmental disorders, finances are not a problem for parents sending their kids to Camp S.M.I.L.E., where Camp For All pays half of the price for each camper and Westview supplies the other.

Through partnering with 64 different non-profits, Camp For All is able to offer camping experiences year-round that are completely free of charge not only for children with autism, but

also for adults and children with special needs and challenging illnesses including cancer, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, kidney disease and hearing and sight impairments, as well as numerous other conditions.

Camp For All provides the facilities and a professional staff to run the activities, while its partners, such as Westview School, bring the campers and any needed medical supplies.

Local community members will be able to experience Camp For All for themselves during Family Day on Sunday, April 28 from 2-5 p.m. This open-house event will allow families to see what

Camp For All has to offer. Reservations are appreciated and can be made by calling Camp For All at 979-289-3752.



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Darrell Schmidt at 979-251-0032 or [dschmidt@dsetechnologies.net](mailto:dschmidt@dsetechnologies.net)

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