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november + december 2018

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Photo Credit: Patricia Hudson



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# Greater Fairfield

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LakesOffFairhaven.org

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LongLakeltd.com/neighborhoods/  
villages-of-cypress-lakes-pinpointe

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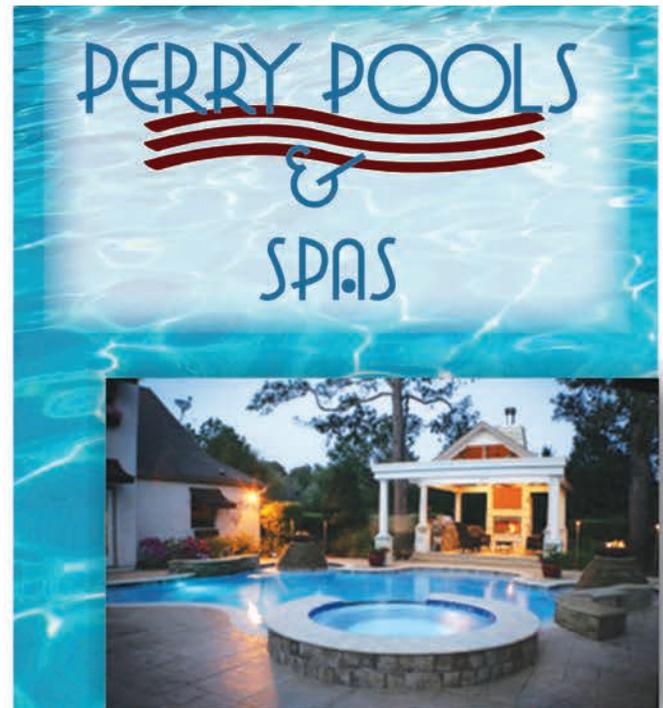
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# Fairfield Siblings Find Success in Free Enterprise

RESIDENT  
PROFILE

By Patricia Hudson



In a day and age when adolescents are glued to gaming controls and monitors, siblings Andrew, 16, and Amanda Nichols, 14, are the exception. They are prime examples of teens with vision, motivation, and determination, each demonstrating maturity beyond their years. Both began their own business enterprise at the ripe age of nine.

“My first cake order was for a friend’s Sweet Sixteen Birthday,” shares 16-year-old Andrew Nichols. News of his baking prowess spread from Facebook to local media. Before long, Andrew began accepting orders for custom made cakes. Among those orders were three wedding cakes. “Due to my dyslexia, I once misspelled the word “birthday” on a cake without realizing it until after the order was picked up.” His solution? He recruited his mom to do the writing for his cakes.

“Our mom is a nonprofit, church and business consultant, and our dad is a financial advisor. They have always told us we had to work for what we want, but they also gave us tools to develop our skills and businesses,” explains Andrew. “Our family is very entrepreneurial. I guess you could say our house runs a little like Shark Tank. My parents taught me how to write a business plan, create profit margins, keep inventory, market my cakes, and research supplies. I then wrote a proposal to my parents, (aka my investors), to help me officially launch Andrew’s Artisan Cakes, (Where Cakes are Art).”

With the sweet smell of success, Andrew jumped at the chance to start a second business enterprise. “I took Concepts of Engineering in 7th grade at Salyards Middle School and made my first pen. I actually used profits from my cake business to buy



The Nichols at their booth at the Judy Dierker Market

a lathe and bandsaw to build a workshop and make pens in the garage. I took my passion to the next level by starting my own business: Andrew's Artisan Pens. I hand-chisel, sand, seal, and polish each pen. My first sale was to a family friend who ordered 13 pens for their company employee gifts. My handcrafted pens are now being sold at Kelly Wade Jewelers in San Antonio's Alamo Heights."

Amanda, 14, began sewing at 9 years old. "I asked to sign up for a sewing class. My parents bought me a sewing machine and it became a hobby of mine. I enjoyed it so much that I created a business: Amanda's Sweet Sewing. I changed the name to Amanda Faith Designs because I wanted to expand my horizons. My first order was for bedside jewelry trays for a friend's Christmas gifts. I earned close to \$500 at my first craft show, and just broke my personal goal of making over \$1,000! One of my latest products is a 6" x 9" cosmetic bag that meets CFISD clear backpack requirements; I hope to get permission to sell them at football games and at social events in the community."



Adversity struck this closely-knit family at a crucial time in the children's lives. The day before Amanda and Andrew entered the 5th and 6th grades, their mom was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of Leukemia; she went through 2 ½ years of treatment at MD Anderson. "Cake decorating, making pens and sewing became an escape for us, giving us both a creative outlet," recalls Andrew.

Recently, Andrew was nominated as Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year. Family friends will help to raise money and awareness of blood cancers. "It gives us a chance to turn our difficult personal experience into something positive and help others in their cancer fight," explains Andrew.

"Andrew and I have a heart for cancer patients; we have recruited friends and family to collect toys for teens over the holidays. In January and February, we will be raising funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS)," comments Amanda.

Andrew is a sophomore at Bridgeland High School and loves math and science. He is a member of the JV Golf team, Robotics, Math Honor Society, Boy Scouts Troop 533, (working on his Eagle Scout project), and youth group. Amanda, a freshman, enjoys theatre and the Drama Club, custom designing, babysitting, pet sitting, and youth group.

The siblings are reaping the benefits of their businesses and work ethic. "I have already, on my own initiative, started a Roth IRA for investments. I just got a car and paid for half of it with my earnings," states Andrew with a hint of pride.



The Nichols family after Susan's chemotherapy

Amanda is currently saving to pay for half of her car and for money for college. She is looking into colleges with an interior design program, and hopes to have her own firm one day. Andrew plans to study engineering and eventually run his own company, but doesn't intend "to sit behind a desk all day."

After spending a few minutes in conversation with the family, it is evident that Susan and Rob Nichols have done an exemplary job in positively impacting their children's lives. "One of our prayers for our children is that they would discover their gifts at an early age so we could help guide them. As parents, we feel like one of our primary roles is to

prepare our children to contribute to their community and the world around them. We encouraged them to explore what they are created to do and then intentionally provided them realistic tools to develop in areas like time, money management and professional and personal relationships. Doing this in the mist of struggle is simply a testimony of the family and friends that loved and poured into the lives of our children," reflects Susan.

To learn more about Andrew and Amanda's business enterprises, go to:

Andrew's Artisan Pens  
[www.andrewsartisanpens](http://www.andrewsartisanpens)

Andrew's Artisan Cakes  
[www.andrewsartiscakes](http://www.andrewsartiscakes)

Amanda's Facebook page  
[@Amanda\\_Faith\\_Designs](https://www.facebook.com/Amanda_Faith_Designs)

For ways you can support the Nichols' efforts supporting Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), Visit their Facebook page [@TeamNicholsLLS](https://www.facebook.com/TeamNicholsLLS)

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# CFISD HEALTH EXPO

## Fills Berry Center

*Story and Photos by Patricia Hudson*

More than 3,000 guests attended the 5th Annual CFISD Health Expo, held at The Berry Center on Saturday, October 13, 2018. Representatives from major community hospitals and health organizations, vendors and businesses filled the center for the event, benefitting the Health Organization of Physical Educators (H.O.P.E). Guests were encouraged to join a health walk held on the concourse on the second floor. The Health Expo was organized by the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce and CFISD, and was underwritten by Memorial Hermann Cypress.



# Cypress

## HAPPENINGS

FOR MORE, GO TO [BESTOFCYFAIR.COM](http://BESTOFCYFAIR.COM)

### VFW Post Steak Night

Friday, November 2, 2018 & Friday, December 7, 2018 • 6:30pm  
VFW Post • 21902 NW Freeway • Cypress, Texas 77429  
Ready for the best steak you've ever had? Served until we run out.  
\$12 Plate: Steak, baked potato & salad with fixings, plus dessert.

### Purple Elephant Art Community Open Studios & Art Show

Saturday, November 3, 2018 • 5-9pm  
12802 McSwain Rd. • Cypress, TX  
Explore the studios of our resident artists: Jerrie Glidden, Shirley Scarpetta, MV Poffenberger, Constance Paul, Marce Maldonado, and Devin Nelson

### Come Together Flashback to the 80's

Saturday, November 3, 2018 • 6-11pm  
Sterling Country Club at Houston National  
16500 Houston National Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77095  
Get your best 80s outfit, tease up that big hair, and join us at the Come Together & Flashback to the 1980s event. Tickets include a seated steak and chicken dinner, open bar, 80s DJ with two big screens of music videos, dancing, raffle, costume contest, auctions, and a totally rad time! Event benefits the Inspiring HANDS Scholarship Fund for individuals with special needs to attend summer camp and equine therapy. Visit [www.gettogethernw.org](http://www.gettogethernw.org) for details.

### 100+Women Who Care - Cy-Fair

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 • 6:30-8pm  
Quench Lounge • 25282 NW Fwy. #155 • Cypress, TX 77429  
Experience the power of collective giving with some great ladies and enjoy networking, connecting with old friends and making new ones. Newcomers are always welcome. [100womencyfair.com](http://100womencyfair.com)

### Get Together NW November NetCaring Lunch

Thursday, November 8, 2018 • 11:30am-1pm  
Trinity Vineyard Church • 17150 Spring Cypress Rd. • Cypress, TX 77429  
\$15 Online | \$20 At the Door Reservations Required. [gettogethernw.org](http://gettogethernw.org)

### Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market

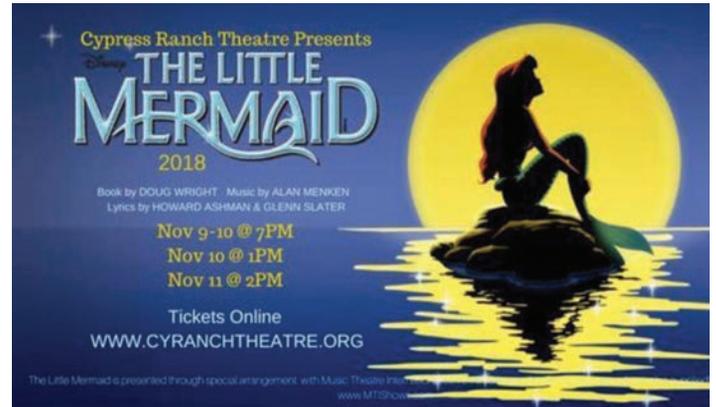
November 8-11, 2018: Thu & Fri 10-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5  
NRG Center • 1 NRG Park • Houston, TX 77054  
Every November, the Nutcracker Market kicks off the holiday season, bringing in hundreds of merchants from all across the country, offering unique items for the entire family, including home decor, gourmet food, apparel, accessories, toys, gifts and much more, just in time for holiday shopping.  
General admission tickets can be purchased at a discount at Houston-area Randalls and online at Ticketmaster. Tickets may also be purchased at the Market for \$20 (CASH ONLY).  
Early Bird tickets are \$50 and allow for 8:30am admission on Thursday and Friday, as well as admission to all four days of the Market!  
[www.nutcrackermarket.com](http://www.nutcrackermarket.com)

### 20th Anniversary Adam J. Skinner Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, November 8, 2018 • 11:00am Shotgun Start  
Blackhorse Golf Club, 12205 Fry Rd. • Cypress, TX 77433  
Underwritten by Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital  
Contact: Co-Chair Mark McShaffry, The Backyard Grill 281.897.9200;  
Eric Dunlap, Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce 281.373.1390  
Email: [mark@mcshaffry.com](mailto:mark@mcshaffry.com); [eric@cyfairchamber.com](mailto:eric@cyfairchamber.com)  
Visit [www.cyfairchamber.com](http://www.cyfairchamber.com) for more information.

### Bridgeland Community Friday Night Bites Second Friday of every month

Friday, November 9 & Friday, December 14, 2018 • 6pm - 10pm  
Lakeland Village Center • 16902 Bridgeland Landing • Cypress, TX 77433  
Grab your lawn chairs, blankets and enjoy great food truck fare!



### The Little Mermaid - Cy-Ranch Theatre

November 9-11, 2018  
Nov. 9 - 7pm, Nov. 10 - 1 & 7pm, Nov. 11 - 2pm  
10700 Fry Rd. • Cypress, TX 77433  
Tickets online at [www.cyranchtheatre.org](http://www.cyranchtheatre.org)

### 28th Annual Texas Championship Native American Pow Wow

November 10, 2018 - November 11, 2018 • 12:30-5pm  
Trader's Village - Houston • 7979 N. Eldridge Rd. • Houston, TX 77041  
Parking: \$4.00 per vehicle • Free Admission  
A two-day Native American Pow Wow with colorful tribal dance contests, an arts & crafts show, tipis, honoring ceremonies, singing and much more will be part of the 29th Annual Texas Championship Pow Wow. Presented by the DFW Inter-Tribal Association.

### The Farmer's Market at Bridgeland

Sunday, November 11, 2018 • 12:30-3:30pm  
16902 Bridgeland Landing Dr. • Cypress, Texas 77433

### Cypress Half Marathon

Sunday, November 11, 2018 • Cy-Woods High School  
13550 Woods-Spillane Blvd • Cypress, TX 77429  
Register: [runsignup.com/Race/TX/Cypress/CypressHalfMarathon](http://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Cypress/CypressHalfMarathon)  
[www.bchalfseries.com](http://www.bchalfseries.com)

### Paws for a Cause

Sunday, November 11, 2018 • 12-6pm  
Rosehill Beer Garden • 14540 Cypress Rosehill Rd. • Cypress, TX 77429  
Beer specials, food trucks, football, music, silent auction, and more!  
Celebrate Veterans Day, have fun and raise some money to help local Veterans. Greenawalds Service trains rescued dogs to support Veterans suffering with depression or PTSD.

### **Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon Business 2 Business Expo & Wreath Auction**

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 • 11:30am-1pm  
Berry Center • 8877 Barker Cypress Road • Cypress, TX 77433  
Expo offers businesses the opportunity to market and sell products or services at the general membership luncheon. Wreath auction helps raise funds for Chamber Herd. Expo table \$150 for members and \$250 for non-members. [www.cyfairchamber.com](http://www.cyfairchamber.com)

### **Dance Showcase**

Friday, November 16, 7:30pm  
Lone Star College CyFair - Black Box Theatre  
9191 Barker Cypress • Cypress, TX 77433  
Irene Ko, Director • [lonestar.edu/boxoffice](http://lonestar.edu/boxoffice) for tickets

### **Cy-Fair Nutcracker Market**

FREE EVENT! Hosted by Cy Fair Holiday Extravaganza  
Saturday, November 17, 2018 • 10am-5pm  
Berry Center • 8877 Barker Cypress Rd. • Cypress, TX 77433  
Come shop over 150 vendors offering Women's and Children's Boutique Clothing and Accessories, Jewelry, Gourmet Food items, Home, Garden and Holiday Decor and more. Strollers Welcomed.

### **USA FIT Cypress Turkey Trot**

Thursday, November 22, 2018 • 6:30am  
Josey Lake Park • 1200 Bridgeland Creek Parkway • Cypress, TX  
Make plans to take part in this year's Cy Fit Turkey Trot and burn those calories before your Thanksgiving Feast! 5k & 10k Options with water and treats at the finish! Invite your family and friends! FREE EVENT!  
The only thing needed by nonmembers is a signed waiver.

### **A Christmas Carol, the Musical**

November 23 - December 16, 2018  
Lone Star College CyFair - Center for The Arts  
9191 Barker Cypress • Cypress, TX 77433  
Tickets \$17 - \$32  
Experience Charles Dickens' most well-known story with this spectacular musical adaptation! Broadway heavy hitters, Alan Menken (Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Little Shop of Horrors) and Lynn Ahrens (Ragtime, Seussical, Once on This Island), breathe fantastic new life into the classic tale of A Christmas Carol. This show will be presented in collaboration with Lone Star College, Cy-Fair, at their beautiful theatre, with Artistic Direction & design by Stageworks. Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International. Directed by Michael Montgomery. [www.stageworkshouston.org/a-christmas-carol-the-musical](http://www.stageworkshouston.org/a-christmas-carol-the-musical)

### **Tamale Festival Houston**

Saturday, December 1, 2018 • 11am-9pm  
2600 Navigation • Houston, TX 77003  
Esplanade between St. Charles & Delano  
Phone: 713-364-4599 Admission: \$5-\$10

### **Symphony Orchestra Concert Jazz Ensemble Concert**

Thursday, December 6 • 7:30pm  
Lone Star College CyFair - Main Stage Theatre  
9191 Barker Cypress • Cypress, TX 77433  
Symphony Director - Brian Herrington, Director  
Jazz Ensemble Director - John Wolfskill  
[lonestar.edu/boxoffice](http://lonestar.edu/boxoffice) for tickets

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## Tomball German Christmas Market & Festival

Friday, December 7 - Sunday, December 9, 2018  
Old Town Tomball, 201 S. Elm • Tomball, TX  
German Christmas Market & Festival Weihnachtsmarkt Texas Style!  
Free Admission, Parking, and Shuttle Herzlich Willkommen! It's a Texas German celebration on the old downtown streets of Tomball, Texas. You don't have to be German to enjoy this festival!  
[www.tomballgermanfest.org](http://www.tomballgermanfest.org)

## Santa Photos / Farmers Market

Sunday, December 9, 2018 • 12:30pm  
16919 N Bridgeland Lake Pkwy. • Cypress, TX 77433  
Children's photos with Santa at the Bridgeland Farmers Market. Member of our group will help setup the booth and take pictures of the children with Santa! Should be fun, bring your business cards if you wish and lets have a Merry Christmas!  
Event for Cypress Photography • Hosted by Mike McCurdy

## Lone Star College - CyFair Library Adult Computer Classes

9191 Barker Cypress • Cypress, TX 77433  
Free computer classes. No registration required. All classes meet in the library in room 105. Call the reference desk with any questions  
For more info, please visit: [www.lonestar.edu/library/15212.htm](http://www.lonestar.edu/library/15212.htm)

## CFISD Substance Abuse Intervention Program Training Cognitive Distortions/ Negative Thinking Patterns

Tues., Nov. 13, 2018 • 6pm • Panther/Eagles Room • Berry Center  
**Assertiveness Training/Understanding Boundaries**  
Thurs., Dec. 13, 2018 • 6pm • 10300 Jones Rd. • Houston, TX 77065  
Contact Navita Johnson at [navita.johnson@cfisd.net](mailto:navita.johnson@cfisd.net) For more info



As the holiday season is rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to the

blessings we have received. Cy-Fair Helping Hands will be providing 300 pantry clients and their families with a Thanksgiving meal in the form of a Blessings Box of food and a \$25 grocery gift card for the purchase of a turkey or ham.

Would you, your business, church, school or organization like to help? Go to: <https://cyfairhelpinghands.org> click on "DONATE," and indicate "Thanksgiving" in the comments area; mail a check for "Thanksgiving" to: 7710 Cherry Park Dr. #T-385, Houston, Texas 77095; or drop by Cy-Fair Helping Hands with your check, 7510 Cherry Park Drive, Suite G, Houston, TX 77095, Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (If these times are inconvenient, please contact us to make other arrangements).

Contact [phudson@cyfairhelpinghands.org](mailto:phudson@cyfairhelpinghands.org) for a list of Blessings Box needs and to sign up as a donor. Deadline for all submissions is Friday, November 9, however, distribution will begin the first week of November.

To learn more about Cy-Fair Helping Hands, go to the website (listed above) or to their Facebook page.

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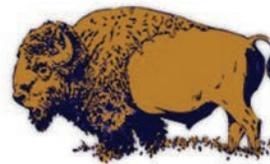
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# BURGERIM

by Patricia Hudson



After working 24 years as an Industrial Engineer in the Oil and Gas industry, Guillermo “Willie” Linares, was prepared to make a change. With no previous restaurant experience, he attended the Franchise Expo in Houston in 2016. “That’s when I first learned about Burgerim; I immediately liked the unique food concept,” relates Linares. Taking the plunge, Linares purchased the first Burgerim franchise in the state of Texas, then chose a prime location for his restaurant: The Boardwalk at Towne Lake.

approach to kicking all of your cravings in one meal.” Customers are encouraged to “choose an uno, duo, trio, or 16 pack of gourmet 3 oz. patties and customize each one.”

“One thing people like is all of the different options we offer; they can try something different every time they come,” explains the franchise owner. “We offer 11 types of patties, including different types of beef, such as the dry-aged beef, spicy beef (Merguez), beef chorizo, wagyu (Kobe beef), as well lamb, turkey, chicken, salmon and our vegan options. People can customize each burger, with all the different fresh cut toppings and sauces. There are actually 41 million flavor possibilities!”

“We also offer chicken wings, sandwiches and a selection of fresh salads. Everything is made to order.”

“We offer a family atmosphere, not only because my wife, Neybeth and my two children work

here with me, but because we treat everyone as family, from all of the employees to every single customer. We have a private room available for community use. It is great for kids’ parties, club or team meetings, and has capacity of 24 people. We also offer a 50% discount to all First Responders in uniform.”

What does Linares foresee in the future for his Burgerim franchise? “Only God knows for sure, but I would like to open up more stores and continue to offer the great product, along with the excellent service.”

Willie, Neybeth, and their children Guillermo and Aimeth moved to Cypress in 2011. The family resides in Bridgeland.

## Burgerim

The Boardwalk at Towne Lake  
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281.246.1235

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Mon-Thurs: 11am-9pm

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The company website defines Burgerim as “...an international fast casual franchise with a shiny new concept. Bursting with flavor, our gourmet burgers apply a unique



# ADRIATIC CAFÉ ITALIAN GRILL

## *The Best of Cy-Fair* PLACES TO EAT

by Patricia Hudson



When in the mood for classic Italian comfort food, diners in Cypress frequently head to the Adriatic Cafe Italian Grill, a family-owned, family-run Italian restaurant located in Jersey Village. Owners Ekrem Hyseni and Alban Bulliqi recently celebrated their restaurant's six-year anniversary with a two-day celebration with Chicken Cordon Bleu and complimentary glasses of champagne.

"Our mission is simple and very straightforward: Quality in our food is the most important thing. Our family members will prepare all your food from scratch while making sure your stay is pleasant as possible."

According to their social media, Hyseni honed his Italian culinary skills in the kitchens of Venice, Italy. It was there that he learned to prepare the savory sauces that enhance the authentic dishes he creates for his customers. Bulliqi studied in Houston, all the while, mastering the art of pizza making. He created his own dough recipe and distinctive pizza sauce.

Adriatic Café's bread, baked fresh daily, tempts with its delectable aroma and crusty exterior. We recommend asking for the dipping oil, (some say it's the best they've ever had), or better yet, sop up the last vestiges of sauce with a tasty morsel of bread! Order the Lobster Ravioli, and share it as an appetizer. Happy Hour is Monday through Friday,

from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., and appetizers are half price.

Lunch specials, served seven days a week, include fresh garlic rolls and salad. Offerings of pizza, calzones, sub sandwiches, and pasta are sure to please. Build your own pizza or pasta using an assortment of ingredients. For dinner, along with the lunch selections, choose from a variety of veal, steak, chicken and seafood dishes. Breaded chicken breast stuffed with prosciutto and mozzarella cheese over Alfredo sauce are worth trying, and the creamy Fettuccine Alfredo is known to amaze with both flavor and portion size.

Loyal customers cite Adriatic Café's authentic Italian fare, generously portioned dishes, affordable prices, great customer service and warm ambiance as reasons for returning, again and again.

### **Adriatic Café Italian Grill**

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Hours:

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# ANDY'S KITCHEN

by Patricia Hudson

*The Best of Cy-Fair*

PLACES TO EAT

"My career in food service began on a milk crate in my parents' South American kitchen in the late 70s. I literally grew up in the business," explains Andy "We Wagon" Correa. Working his way through the industry, Andy filled whatever job was needed: kitchen helper, grill man, sous chef, or server. His quest for culinary excellence took him through Ninfas, Las Mañanitas, Rosas, and the first Fratelli's Restaurant.

"Once, I entered a hamburger contest. There were about 120 entries; I ended up placing 3rd! I loved the art of making burgers! With 23 years of experience under his belt, Andy partnered with Corey Robbins, opening Roosters, a sports bar catering to the community. "My



catering business took off in 1997, and by 2018, We Wagon Catering was voted #1 in Cypress," related the chef proudly. Andy's food truck set up at Rosehill Beer Garden has been a culinary standout with Eddie Jackson's guests.

In mid-October, and with great anticipation from his Cypress following, lottery winners scooped up tickets to be the first to check out

Correa's newest restaurant, Andy's Kitchen, 15202 Mason Road. Metta Archilla, of Cypress Area Eats, helped to fill the tables and bar stools with eager diners, snapping photos and eyeing the plates as they left the kitchen. "I can't say enough about the quality of this home style cooking. Mashed taters with a bit of skin...fresh crisp green beans, Burgers made with love (and a bit of Andy's secret spice). Good rib-sticking food at an affordable price, supporting local!" proclaims Archilla. She also gave high marks to Andy's family recipe for empanadas from Uruguay, handmade with flavorful fillings.

Carlos Garcia praised Chef Correa's "Absolutely amazing food...everything on the menu is incredible! Love the

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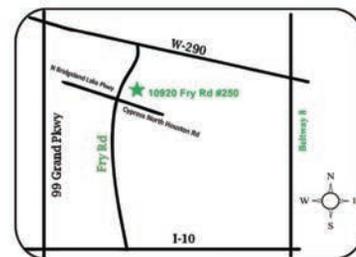
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atmosphere .... and the owners!!! Highly recommend!"

Locally owned and operated, Andy's Kitchen is casual and family friendly, featuring homestyle comfort food that loyal customers have come to enjoy. Check before you go, as hours for a few weeks are limited to Mon-Fri: 5-9pm and Sat & Sun: 1-9pm.

"We are working super hard to make Andy's Kitchen a staple eatery in the Fairfield community

and (in) Cypress, Texas. Our slogan is a small kitchen with a big heart," comments Andy.

**Andy's Kitchen**

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# CYPRESS SCHOOL NEWS

News Source: CFISD News

## Bridgeland Debuts Girls Cross Country Team

The Bridgeland High School girls' cross-country team made an outstanding debut in the state's largest classification, at the District 14-6A Cross Country Championships, held Oct. 12 at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. The Bridgeland girls made the successful jump to 6A by claiming the top three individual spots and placing its top six finishers among the top 13 runners to record a score of 20 points. Cypress Ranch girls finished in third-place, with a score of 76.

The top five Bears were freshman Cassidy Graham, who won the individual championship with a time of 19:09.86, freshman Allison Millan (second overall, 19:25.22), sophomore Natalie Mason (third, 19:38.19), sophomore Athena Reyna (fifth, 20:13.57) and freshman Elisa Grillo (ninth, 20:37.41).

The Bridgeland Bears' boys' cross-country team took third place in District 14-6A competition. Bridgeland's third-place score featured sophomore Randy Smith (14th overall, 17:30.34), junior Dominic Campbell (15th, 17:40.91), sophomore Jorge Cantu (16th, 17:42.74), junior Cody Gambrell (17th, 17:46.26) and junior Gian Baba (18th, 17:50.07).

The top three teams and 10 individuals in each race will advance to the regional championships to be held Oct. 22.

Cypress Ranch High School junior, Ivan Garcia, also advanced to regionals, (sixth, 16:56.58).

## Bridgeland Band Wins "Battle at the Berry"

The Bridgeland High School marching band claimed the Grand Champion award at the fourth annual "Battle at the Berry," which was held Oct. 13 at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium.

The Battle at the Berry featured 15 bands from across the Houston area competing in five different classifications based on marching band enrollments.

Bridgeland claimed first in its division (Enrollment Class IV) in addition to winning the event's grand champion award. The Bears also swept division awards: outstanding music, outstanding visual, outstanding percussion, and outstanding color guard.

The Cypress Ranch High School marching band placed first in Enrollment Class V and finished as runner-up overall at the fourth annual Battle at the Berry. The Mustangs won division awards for outstanding music and outstanding percussion.

The Bridgeland High School drum majors pose with the marching band's

## College Night Draws Large Crowd to Berry Center

Nearly 5,000 guests and patrons visited the Berry Center on Oct. 9-10 for the 24th annual CFISD College Night. Hosted by the guidance and counseling department, College Night helps expose CFISD students and parents to more than 200 colleges and universities, technical and specialty schools and military academies and representatives.

More than 1,800 guests at the CFISD College Night attended the large group presentations, which were held for financial aid, the University of Houston, Rice University, Texas A&M University, University of Texas, Lone Star College and the military academies.

## Salyards Wins at District Cross Country Meet

Salyards Middle School won the eighth-grade girls cross country team championship with a score of 36 points on Oct. 17 at Cypress Woods High School. Salyards' runners to tally the winning score were Brooke Hensley (first overall, 12:45.32), Emily Ellis (second, 12:46.48), Kinleigh Erwin (third, 13:08.19), Macie Johnson (14th, 13:51.67) and Elle Muscarello (16th, 13:53.38).

Salyards took third place in the eighth-grade boys' race, with a score of 105. Alex Macin, Salyards, was a top ten finisher, in 9th place (12:01.95).

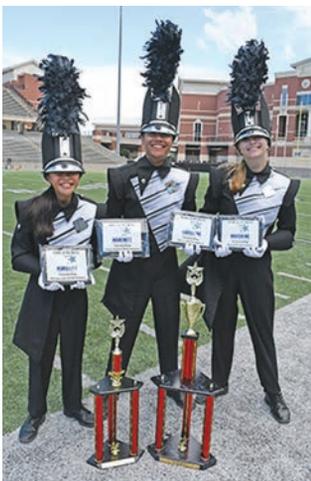
Salyards Middle School won the seventh-grade boys cross country team title with 54 points. The runners that comprised Salyards' winning score were Adin Lathrop (first overall, 11:42.78), James Price (sixth, 12:25.68), Cortlin Salge (eighth, 12:28.76), Adrian Perez (18th, 12:44.05) and Cooper Cuntz (21st, 12:48.08).



Salyards  
8th Grade Girls  
Cross Country  
Team



Salyards  
7th Grade Boys  
Cross Country  
Team



## CFISD Hosts UIL Region 27 Marching Contest

Twelve CFISD Class 6A high schools and four Spring Branch ISD Class 6A high schools participated in the event, hosted this year by the Cy-Ranch High School band and Director Russell Holcombe. Superior ratings at the UIL Region 27 marching contest. Bridgeland and Cy-Ranch advanced to the Area I contest at Katy Legacy Stadium.



Bridgeland High School Band



Cy-Ranch High School Band



## Lady Mustangs Beat Bryan

*Photos & Story by Greg Andrews*

The Lady Mustangs fought a hard battle at the Ranch on a recent Friday night against Bryan, ultimately getting the big W 4-1. Congratulations ladies!! The Mustangs are led by Varsity Coach Candice Silberschatz Fuchs and Assistant Coach Patti Phillips.



## New Bridgeland Associate Principal

Bridgeland High School welcomed their new Associate Principal, Dr. Yolanda Sneed. Sneed has served 20 years in education, beginning as a science teacher at Cypress Falls High School. Her administrative career began as an assistant principal at Bleyl Middle School, serving five years before accepting a position as assistant principal at Jersey Village High School. Sneed received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education from Prairie View A&M University and Doctor of Education in Professional Leadership from the University of Houston.



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## WEWEN Awards Scholarship

The Women Empowering Women Express Network (WEWEN) of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to WEWEN Member Demethra Orion of Odyssey Limousine Services, Incorporated. This scholarship will be used to attend local leadership program, Leadership North Houston.

Leadership North Houston (LNH) was formed in 1995 when several area Chambers of Commerce and the Lone Star College System partnered together to meet the need for a leadership program in the north Houston area. Monthly interactive sessions are held from October through May covering topics such as education, cultural diversity, economic development, health and human services and more. Participants learn more about the key issues facing the community, develop relationships with other influential leaders in the Houston area, make a difference in the future of their community, emerge as a leader rather than a follower, and develop an increased knowledge of leadership styles to better serve their current organizations and communities. The program curriculum also includes a leadership skills enhancement component which is designed to strengthen a participant's foundation as a leader to achieve personal goals and contribute to the success of their organization.



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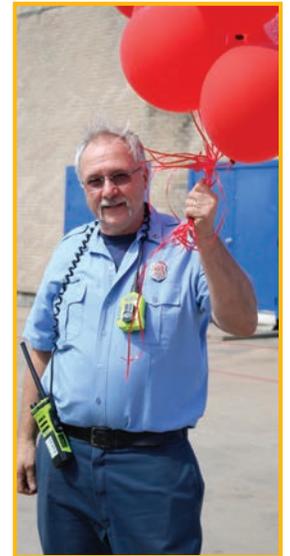
# Station 11 First Responders Host **FIRE FEST UNPLUGGED**

*Story and Photos by Patricia Hudson*



Fire Fest Unplugged, hosted by the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department Station 11, 18132 West Rd, was held Saturday, October 13, 2018.

A family friendly event, Cypress residents met local first responders who serve the Cy-Fair area, toured the fire station, and checked out the equipment used to keep the community safe. Firefighters conducted demonstrations with vehicle fires, vehicle extrication,



kitchen grease fires, CPR, and emergency procedures for leaving a burning house. The Memorial Herman Life Flight helicopter crew fielded spectator questions before efficiently taking off from the helipad.





# Tips From A Personal Stylist

*By Allison Okuneye*

This search will give you options of wearable outfits that you can replicate with what you already have in your closet. This search can also give you an idea of pieces that you can look for the next time you are out shopping.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU START

Don't stress about the process. These are styling suggestions to consider over time. Once you go through the process, you will have an idea of items to look for when you are shopping. Not only will this help you be more intentional about building your wardrobe, but it will keep you from buying clothes that you don't need. You should always have an idea of the key pieces you are missing; in the off season, you can find them at a great price!

## WHO IS YOUR CELEBRITY CRUSH?



If they are having a hard time finding outfits that they love, I always ask clients what celebrity they want to dress like. This is a quick way to get an idea of someone's taste and is also a good place to start for inspiration.

I suggest looking on Pinterest or Google for your favorite celebrity's street style.



## THE PURGE

This is going to take some time for some of you, (Wine helps!), but before you can shop for new pieces, you have to make room for them. I suggest that you go into your closet and flip all of the hangers backwards. As you wear an item, put it back in your closet the right way. At the end of a season, you will have a great visual of what you actually wear and what is just taking up space. Get rid of anything that doesn't fit. After you have purged what you can, make note of what you do NOT have in your closet.

## FOCUSING ON THE POSITIVES

We all have something we do not like about ourselves. For some of us, the list is longer than others. We all have insecurities. Instead of focusing on the body part that we most dislike, focus on what we DO like. If you love your lips, rock a bold lipstick on a Tuesday. If you love your legs, look for skirts that are appropriate for your lifestyle/work/play, and incorporate more of them into your wardrobe. If you style your favorite part of yourself, the confidence will follow.

## DON'T FORGET

A new look can help you feel great and put together...but that alone is not enough. It is MORE important to be a woman who builds up other women, someone who speaks kindly about others, who can find the positives in life. Be a woman of your word who is not afraid to be vulnerable with others. Always come from a place of empathy and understanding. The best look for every woman is her authenticity.

*Stay Fearless.*

*Allison*



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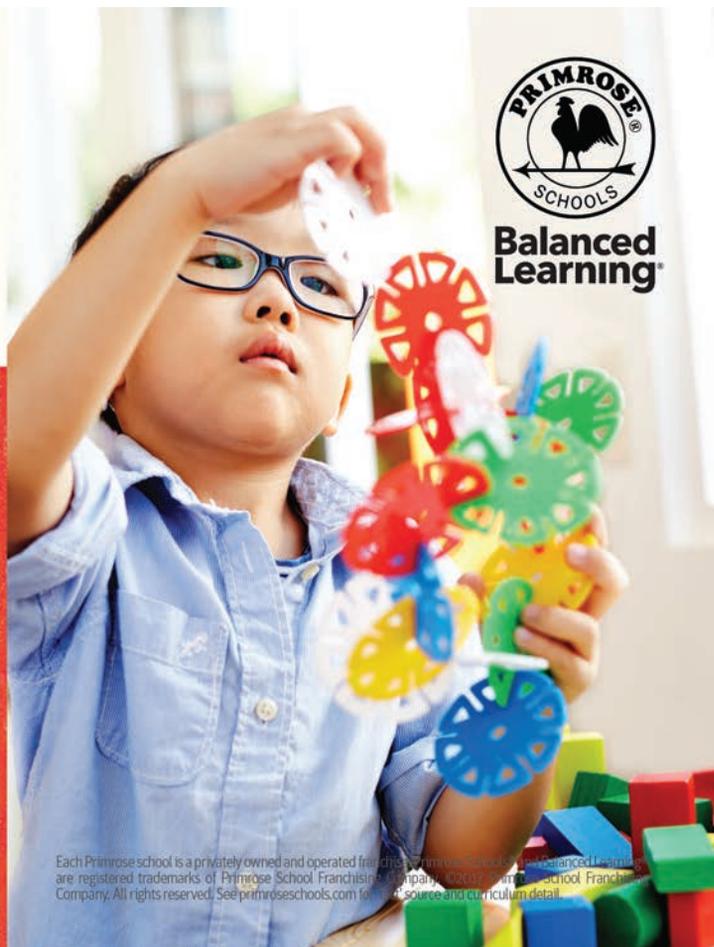
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# Community Supports Cy-Hope Through 2nd Annual **A TASTE OF CY-FAIR**



*Photos and Article by Patricia Hudson*

On a late September evening, and despite the threat of rain showers, the 2nd Annual A Taste of Cy-Fair came off just as planned. For the price of admission, guests strolling through Bridgeland's Lakeland Center Park were treated to tasty food bites from 40 Cy-Fair restaurants, and samplings of over 50 varieties of wine and 70 craft beers. Adult event goers received A Taste of Cy-Fair tasting memorabilia glass with which to sip and savor wine and beer offerings. Young guests were greeted by a host of super heroes and children's characters, while the older set was entertained by The Blue Side, a blues and rock trio.

New this year, was an exclusive VIP tent which included early entry into the event, upscale bites, premium wine and beer, "In and Out" privileges, acoustic music by Tim Perez, and a VIP goodie bag. Community businesses distributed "gimmes," while the silent auction tent items added an air of excitement and anticipation to the evening.





Eric Lippmann, one of the original organizers and A Taste of Cy-Fair board member, appeared pleased with the turnout. "We were concerned about the weather, but the rain passed through early, and the grounds are in good shape. Our restaurants, wine and beer tables and vendors are here, serving the crowds!" As the evening progressed, Lippmann could be seen walking through the venue, smiling, shaking hands, interacting with guests and vendors, alike.

All proceeds from the 2018 A Taste of Cy-Fair were donated to Cy-Hope, an organization that works with children, providing programs and services for those in need in Cy-Fair.





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# Local Artist in Residence Shares Cultural Art Form

RESIDENT  
PROFILE

by Patricia Hudson



(left to right) Daveer, Zohra, and Saniya



**M**y young mother had a beautiful head of chestnut hair, but with time, her “crowning glory” began to fade. Cautious of hair dyes due to allergies, she turned to an effective, but harmless solution that would, if only temporarily, wash away the grey. This was my first introduction to the magic of henna.

The tradition of henna tattooing appears to have dated as far back as Ancient Egypt. It was believed that Cleopatra used it to enhance her

body and that Egyptians used henna to paint the nails of mummies before burial. (Huffpost Style and Beauty, Dec 06, 2017). Through the ages, the flower from which it is derived has been used in making perfume, dying hair, treating skin conditions, and even dying clothing. It is, however, the process of temporarily dying skin that makes henna tattooing such an exotic and intriguing art form.

**Kaneez Zohra Siddiqui** is a multi-talented artist, small business owner, and celebrity makeup artist. As a Texas registered tattoo artist specializing in henna tattoos, she started “Hooked on Henna” twelve years ago, and has been an exhibiting member of the Houston based Islamic Art Society, for the past five years.

## **Why did you become interested in the Art of Henna?**

Henna body art is a special part of my Pakistani culture. I never got the henna design of my dream, so I taught myself the art of henna! I started out by replicating existing henna designs and worked my way up to being able to draw designs without having to replicate. From there, I went onto having my own signature designs that have become my trademark and are now used as inspiration all across the globe!

## **What is the process involved in Henna Application?**

Henna, also known as “Mehndi” is a plant, *lawsonia inermis*, which is prevalent on the other side of the world, and grown in areas with extreme heat. In these warmer countries, the henna plant is readily available. However, these are more utilized in the dehydrated form turned into a fine powder. The powder is then mixed into a paste. People mix special secret ingredients to enhance the natural orange to burgundy stain that is obtained through the Henna. Henna paste is filled into a pipette cone, similar to cake frosting. The Henna cone is then used by the tip and free-hand designs are drawn onto the skin. The paste is applied to the surface of the skin, allowed to dry and flake off, then washed off. The henna paste leaves a stain on the surface of the skin. The stain remains on the skin for approximately one week, depending on the quality and depth of the stain. The henna stain will gradually fade off the skin as if it never was there! Over the years, I have turned my passion for henna art into long-lasting artwork, incorporating henna designs and henna paste.

## **Who gets Henna Tattoos? Is there a significance in a Henna Design?**

Anyone of any age can get henna. It is a special part of some cultures, and closer to the Islamic World, as Muslims believe that their beloved Prophet Muhammad, (Peace be upon him), applied henna paste to his hair and beard. My youngest client was a newborn baby of just a few days old and my eldest client is my mother, who is nearly 70 years old! I’m sure that I’ve done even elder clients, but I didn’t ask their age! Henna is extremely popular in young ladies, however, the young men are also big fans of henna body art!

## **What do you consider to be some of your biggest accomplishments as a Henna Tattoo Artist?**

I have donated over \$50K in artwork to local and international charitable organizations. My artwork has been displayed at Houston City Hall and has been featured in the Houston Chronicle. I have made over





many Bollywood and local celebrities backstage, and have sponsored makeup and hair services to local and national beauty pageants.

**Considering the intricacies of the design and the time it must take to create them, what is the price range of a henna tattoo?**

The price range for a single design starts at \$20. A full bridal design may cost up to \$500. This includes all four sides of both hands, up to the elbows, along with the top of both feet, and up to the ankles.

**What other services do your clients request?**

They request lessons for henna, hair, make-up, as well as art lessons. I have done individual and group events. They ask for one-on-one henna sessions and for small groups for special occasions.



Zohra and her husband, Khalid Mahmood, have been married for 22 years. “We purchased our Cypress Creek Lakes Ashton Woods Model home in Phase 3 three years ago, and were featured on “Hot on Houston,” shares Zohra.

A licensed Vocational Nurse, Zohra is Assistant Director of Nursing and Wound Care Director at Chelsea

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(left to right) Daveer, Asfiya, Daveer, Zohra, and Saniya

Gardens Nursing Home in Missouri City, Texas. Practicing for 6 years, she was a graduate nurse from the LoneStar College System.

Khalid is an Electrical Engineer Project Manager, with an International Sales background. The couple has three children: Daveer Mahmood, Asfiya Zohra, and Saniya Khalid Siddiqui.

Daveer, 20 years old, is a 2017 Cypress Ranch High School graduate. He is currently a student at The University of Houston, working towards an MBA.

Asfiya, age 17, is a junior at Cypress Ranch, where she is enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program and is a violinist in the Cy Ranch Symphony Orchestra.

Saniya, 13 years old, is an 8th grader at Smith Middle School. She aspires to go to law school and become a judge. "So she can tell everyone when they are wrong!" shares her mother.



Zohra and Saniya - Smith Middle School awards ceremony 2017-2018 school year.

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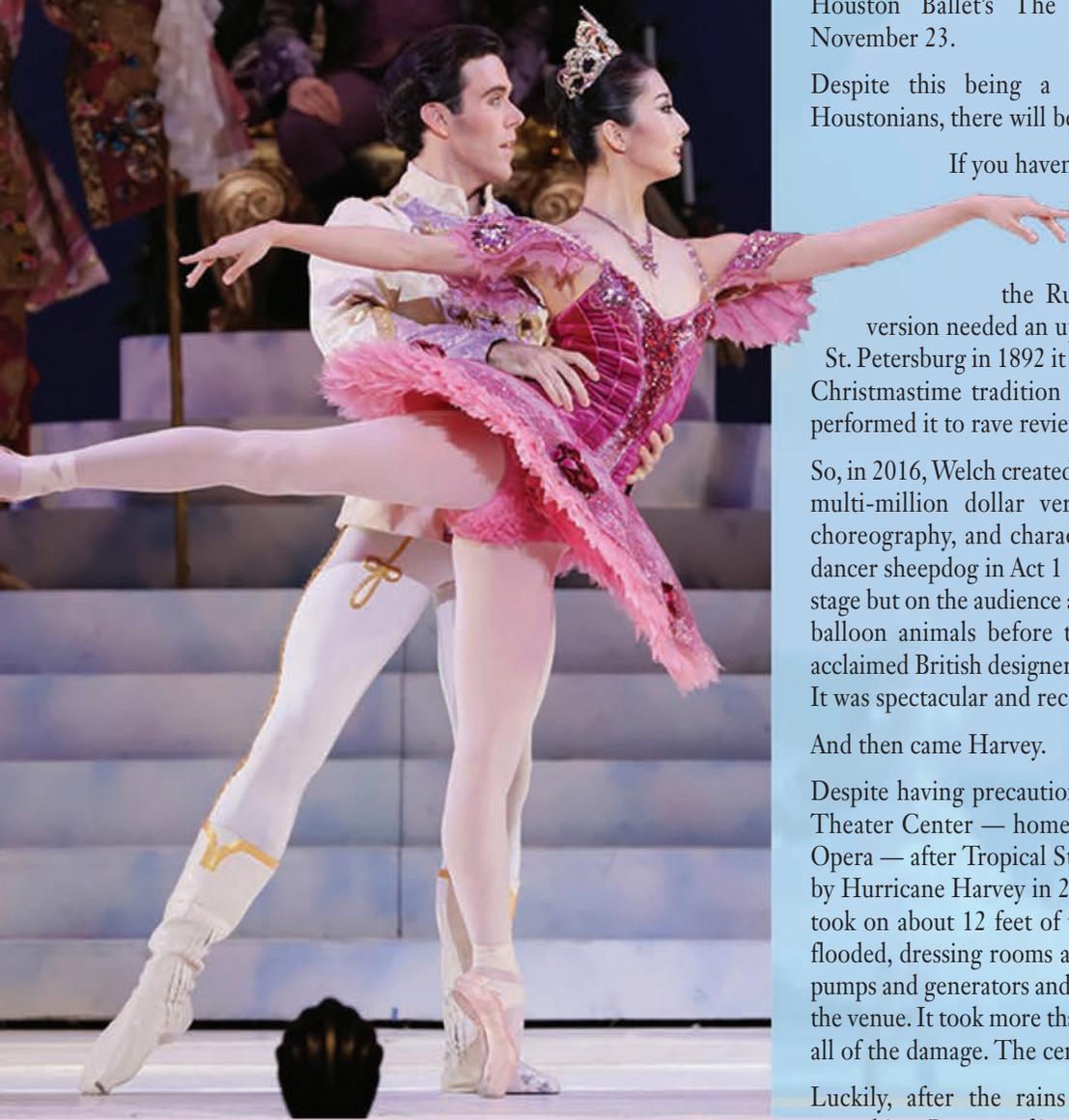
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# There's Nothing Like Coming Home For the Holidays The Nutcracker Returns to the Wortham

by Marene Gustin



It's once again time for dancing sugar plums, and magical toys as Houston Ballet's The Nutcracker dances onstage starting November 23.

Despite this being a holiday tradition for generations of Houstonians, there will be some differences this year.

If you haven't seen Houston Ballet's The Nutcracker in two years, you haven't seen it at all. After decades of performing former director Ben Stevenson's version of the Russian classical ballet, Houston Ballet's version needed an update. (Fun fact: when first performed in St. Petersburg in 1892 it was not a hit, it only became an American Christmastime tradition in 1944 when the San Francisco Ballet performed it to rave reviews.)

So, in 2016, Welch created a brand new ballet for the company. The multi-million dollar version is dazzling with new costumes, choreography, and characters. A lovely addition is the costumed dancer sheepdog in Act 1 and the "real" snow that falls not only on stage but on the audience as well. Plus, dancers in costume hand out balloon animals before the curtain goes up and stellar sets by acclaimed British designer Tim Godchild extends beyond the stage. It was spectacular and received rave reviews nationally.

And then came Harvey.

Despite having precautionary storm doors fitted to the Wortham Theater Center — home to both the ballet and Houston Grand Opera — after Tropical Storm Allison in 2001, the rains generated by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 devastated the complex. The theater took on about 12 feet of water. The lower levels were completely flooded, dressing rooms and storage areas had to be gutted. Giant pumps and generators and crews of workers spent months repairing the venue. It took more than a year and about \$100 million to repair all of the damage. The center reopened this September 26.

Luckily, after the rains ended, Houston Ballet had not lost everything. Because of its six-story, \$46.6 million Center for Dance, opened in 2011, where the costumes and shoes were stored, everything for the new Nutcracker production was saved. The lengthy run generates a large portion of the company's income, for most American ballet companies The Nutcracker is considered the cash cow that keeps them afloat.

But with the theater gone the only way to perform was to take the show on the road. That meant a split run last year with performances at the Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston.

But now, the Wortham has been restored, and the ballet is coming home for the holidays.

"We are very excited to be able to return the Wortham Theater for our wonderful Nutcracker. We've been on the road for a while now



and to get to be home and to bring that ballet back to its full glory on that wonderful Wortham stage is something that I can't even begin to tell you how exciting that is for all of us," says Houston Ballet Artistic Director Stanton Welch A.M. (Member of the Order of Australia.)

This will be the company's first time performing back in its home theater.

"The people of Houston built The Wortham Theater Center to be Houston Ballet's home, and in turn, we've built productions that are meant to live there," says Principal Connor Walsh. "This couldn't be truer when it comes to The Nutcracker. Not only is it our most popular production of the season but also the largest. Touring that show around Houston last season was a challenge that made our company stronger, but it's time to go home for the holidays. It will be an emotional homecoming that all of us at Houston Ballet could not be more excited for."

The production boasts 250 spectacular costumes, dozens of new characters and amazingly fresh choreography by Welch. The ballet still follows the story of E.T.A. Hoffmann's The Nutcracker and the Mouse King that tells the tale of a young girl on Christmas Eve who dreams her toys come

to life and fight off the Rat King and his minions. In this version, the rat minions come running down the aisle, delighting screaming children in the audience, before taking the stage to battle the toy soldiers.

And there are even more children in this version, besides the usual kids in the party scene and the gumdrops, Welch uses child dancers as little lambs, bees and tiny angels. And this is the first year that the company held open auditions for children, instead of just selecting them from Houston Ballet's academy.

This is arguably the best Nutcracker production you will ever see, it is entertaining for children and lavish enough with brilliant choreography fan adult dance fans. And best of all, it is back home at the Wortham Theater Center.

"Houston Ballet's 2018/19 Season will be an unforgettable year," says Executive Director Jim Nelson. "We have been through so much as a company, and we look forward to returning to our home venue, the Wortham Theater."

**Houston Ballet's The Nutcracker**  
 Nov. 23 – Dec. 29  
**Choreography:** Stanton Welch  
**Score:** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
**Costume/Set Design:** Tim Goodchild  
**Lighting Design:** Lisa Pinkham  
[houstonballet.org](http://houstonballet.org)



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