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LSCS to look at adding fire science associate degree

By KASSIA MICEK
Courier staff

Following the success of its fire science technology certification program, Lone Star College-Montgomery is hoping to add an associate of applied science degree to its lineup.

The Lone Star College System Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. today in the LSCS Central Services and Training Center board room, located at 5000 Research Forest Drive in The Woodlands, to consider an associate's degree for fire science technology to start this spring.

LSC-Montgomery started its fire science technology certification program 18 months ago, has had two classes graduate and currently has more than 40 students enrolled,

WHAT'S NEXT

The Lone Star College System Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. today in the LSCS Central Services and Training Center board room, located at 5000 Research Forest Drive in The Woodlands. For more information, visit www.lonestar.edu.

LSC-Montgomery Instructional Dean Barbara Buchanan said.

"Times are changing a lot; whereas a certification often got them employment before, a lot of fire departments are now wanting more," she said. "It gives a lot of local people who have their foot in the door the opportunity to be promoted."

The Woodlands Fire Department partners with LSC-Montgomery to make the program a success by providing its expertise and experience.

"Each class we have scheduled out there has been maxed out," Woodlands Fire Chief Alan Benson said. "We're 100 percent behind adding the associate's degree. ... While you don't need (an associate's degree) to be a certified firefighter in Texas, it certainly helps an individual who wants to advance in their career as a firefighter or in the private sector."

"A lot of firefighters currently take online classes from other universities."

Employment projections indicate a great need for firefighters in the area, according to LSCS board documents.

"With the population in this region there haven't been enough programs like this offered," Benson said.

Currently, LSC-CyFair has an associate's

degree program and LSC-Kingwood has a certification program.

The current program at LSC-Montgomery already has a full-time faculty member, teaching space at The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, equipment and curriculum, and funds are already included in the 2010-11 operating budget.

In order for the proposed program to be implemented in the spring, the new program proposal must be submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this month, where it will be formally reviewed and considered for approval, according to LSCS board documents. The THECB requires a college system's board of trustees approves new programs.

Kassia Micek can be reached at kmicek@hcnonline.com.

HAIL THE KING



Staff photo by Brad Meyer

Actresses Melody Montez, left, and Dalin Kennard swoon to Michael Raabe's comedic Elvis impersonation in Stage Right's production of "Christmas Belles," opening at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main St. in Conroe at 8 p.m. Friday and running through Dec. 19. For tickets and information, call 936-441-SHOW.

LOCAL BRIEFS

All-Breed Dog Show:

The Conroe Kennel Club invites the public to attend its annual All-Breed Dog Shows, Obedience Trials and Rally Trials. The event will take place Saturday and Sunday at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building and Arena, located at 9301 FM 1484 in Conroe.

Competing at the show will be 960 AKC registered dogs of more than 100 breeds from seven recognized breed groups. Classes include conformation, obedience, rally and junior showmanship. New this year to AKC and this show is the introduction of the All-American Breed, also known as the mixed breed, which, registered as a Canine Partner through AKC, and must be spayed or neutered, may be shown and

titled in obedience and rally.

Come out and see dogs and handlers from across the country compete for Best in Show, Best Junior Handler, High in Trial Obedience, Best Bred by Exhibitor and Best Veteran. There also will be multiple booths selling anything from food and grooming supplies to jewelry and household items.

For more information on the Conroe Kennel Club, visit www.conroekennelclub.org.

Construction: The north lane of League Line Road at White Oak Creek that is west of the Teaswood subdivision will be closed from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. through Dec. 7. Crews will be flagging traffic and message boards are in place.

PRECINCT 3 CONSTABLE'S BLOTTER

- Deputies checking a suspicious person call on Nov. 22 on FM 1488 and the San Jacinto access road arrested a 60-year-old man and 52-year-old woman, both of Conroe, for outstanding warrants.
- A deputy arrested a 21-year-old Spring man on

Nov. 22 in the 20000 block of North Legends Village Circle for an outstanding Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 failure to appear warrant. He was booked into Montgomery County Jail.

- A deputy arrested a 20-

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

From the Heart: TriCounty Services, which specializes in programs for people with mental illness and developmental disabilities, has 850 families asking for help in Montgomery, Walker and Liberty counties.

A gift of \$25 will provide a senior with new pajamas and slippers, \$50 can purchase a coat, gloves and hat for a child and perhaps a toy; \$100 might accommodate a small family.

Monetary donations can be sent to From the Heart, Attn: Jaymie Pedigo, Tri-County Services, PO Box 3067, Conroe, TX 77305.

Inaugural Toys for Tots East Texas Toy Run: The inaugural Toys for Tots East Texas Toy Run starts at 10 a.m. Saturday at Pedigo Park, located at 200 W. Church St. in Livingston. Bikers will leave the park at 10:30 a.m. for Pork Chops Ice House, located at 397 Texas 156 in Point Blank, Texas. Admission is \$5 or new, unwrapped toys. Children 12 and younger are free. For more information, visit www.toysfortotseasttexas.com.

Winter Wonderland: Panorama Village will host its "Winter Wonderland" from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday with children's activities, photos with Santa, dancing and music by David Pipken.

A hamburger buffet costs \$6.95 with all the fixings, chips, brownie and coffee or tea. Reservations are required by noon today at 936-856-5531, option 4.

Preceding the celebration there will be a golf cart parade starting at 5:15 p.m. in front of City Hall, located at 99 Hiwon Drive in Panorama Village. Entry fee is one new, unwrapped toy donated to Toys for Tots. Registration begins at 4:45 p.m. Judging begins at 5 p.m. and the parade leaves City Hall at 5:15 p.m.

First place receives \$75, second place received \$50, third place receives \$30, fourth place receives \$20 and fifth place receives \$10.

The Ice Rink at The Woodlands Town Center: The Ice Rink at The Woodlands Town Center, located at the northeast corner

of Lake Robbins and Six Pines Drive will be collecting toys starting Saturday through Dec. 15.

For complete information, visit www.TheWoodlandsIceRink.com or call 281-419-5630. Also, follow on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/VisitTheWoodlands.

Santa for Seniors: Almost 50,000 seniors over the age of 60 will live in Montgomery County this holiday season, and many of them will spend their holidays alone.

In an effort to make sure that they receive at least one gift from Santa, The Friendship Center is asking for help from its friends and neighbors in the community.

The Friendship Center started its Santa for Seniors program nine years ago in conjunction with First National Bank Texas. This year, the agency needs gifts for approximately 1,500 seniors who participate in one of our program services.

You can help make the holidays brighter for a senior in Montgomery County by purchasing a gift for either a male or a female

valued at \$10-\$15. The gift should be unwrapped but can be placed in a decorative gift bag and delivered by Dec. 10 to any First National Bank Texas location or The Friendship Center, located at 1202 Callahan in Conroe, 936-756-5828.

In lieu of a gift, gift cards can also be purchased. Individuals who would like to get more personally involved in the project can also volunteer to sort and wrap the gifts by calling Anna Croghan at 936-756-5828 ext. 43. Volunteers can also help organize and serve at the holiday parties held at all six of the senior activity centers held across the county.

Adopt-A-Family and Holiday Toy Drive: Interfaith of The Woodlands's Adopt-A-Family and Holiday Toy Drive seek to ease some of the stress of the season for families experiencing financial crisis. Individuals, families, congregations, organizations and other groups can either adopt a qualified

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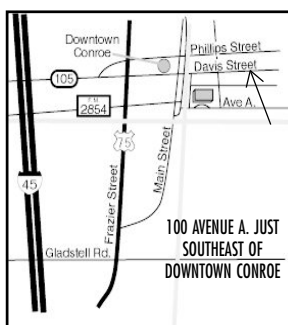
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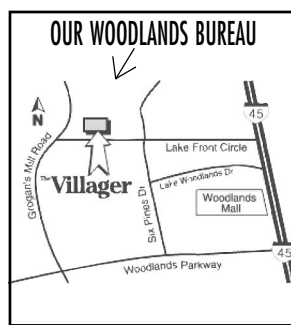
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In Conroe:



In The Woodlands



THE COURIER is published daily at 100 Avenue A, Conroe TX 77301 by ASP Westward LP. USPS 563-360. Periodical postage paid at Conroe TX 77301. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE COURIER, P. O. Box 609, Conroe TX 77305.

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