

What's Happening

Community center golf tournament set

September 29th-Fourth Annual West Houston Community Center Pro-Am Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting WHCC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization helping some 1400 young people and adults weekly overcome alcohol, drug, and family problems.

The Center houses 11 Alcoholics Anonymous groups, Palmer Drug Abuse Program, Cocaine Anonymous, Interface Samaritan Counseling, T.A.S.K. Program (Totally Awesome Sober Kids) and Young Life. Tournament will be held at beautiful Pine Forest Country Club, Houston, TX., shotgun start at 12:30.

Each amateur foursome will have the opportunity to play with a pro. Amateurs and corporations encouraged to form your own foursome at \$1500. Sponsorships available for \$10,000, \$5,000, \$1500, \$500, \$325 (individual players) Lunch provided. Also awards ceremony and dinner buffet immediately following play. Amateurs play for thousands of dollars worth of merchandise and Pro Shop gift certificates, while pros play for a \$10,000 purse underwritten by our corporate sponsors (based on full field/sponsors).

Sanctioned by the PGA-Southern Texas Section. Please call John Funk at 281-497-7211 or e-mail him at whcc1@sbcglobal.net for more information. www.westhoustoncommunitycenter.org

Senior living community seeks dedicated volunteers

If you have a passion or talent that you wish to share or you want to give back to others, contact The Village of Tanglewood, an independent retirement community in Houston. The community is seeking volunteers who are looking to interact with and enhance the day-to-day activities of its wonderful residents. Activities may include but are not limited to: gardening, art projects, painting, poetry reading, writing, board games, or just a simple conversation.

Please call Ann Wasp at 713-977-1400 if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity. The Village of Tanglewood is located at 1600 Augusta Dr.

Course promotes love of books

It's never too early to encourage a child to have a passion for reading. University of Houston-Clear Lake's Kids U Young Writers Camp has developed "Taking a Walk Down Literature Lane" to demonstrate to 5- and 6-year-olds (kindergartners and first-graders) the secrets found in great books.

During this hands-on class, students create a variety of books modeled after some of literature's most renowned writers. Each day, students take part in whole class reading, discussion, pre-writing and creation of a book.

Two sessions of "Taking a Walk Down Literature Lane" are scheduled for Aug. 4-Aug. 7. The morning session is from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., with the afternoon session taking place from noon - 3 p.m. The course fee is \$129 per student per session. To register or for more information, call the university's Center for Educational Programs, 281-283-3530.

Small business owners learn ways to succeed

Owners of small businesses can gain a competitive advantage through University of Houston-Clear Lake's Small Business Development. See NEXT Column



The Lions of 1958 are calling

From Clay to Metal

Ishmael Soto
August 28 - September 25
Opening August 28, 6-8 pm

Ishmael Soto has been making and exhibiting his art for more than fifty years. Born in Austin, Texas in 1932, Soto holds degrees from the University of Texas in Austin and the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. His work as an artist using ceramics ranges from exquisitely crafted thrown pots and platters to visceral sculptural constructions often referencing iconic images from the

history of art. Coming off a recent 50 year retrospective at Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin, Texas, Soto will exhibit at the O'Kane Gallery at the University of Houston-Downtown with a solo exhibition called, "From Clay to Metal." The exhibit examines his sculptural exploration of clay and brings to the mix new works created in copper.

Related events:

From Clay to Metal complements another Houston exhibit to be exhibit-

ed simultaneously at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Warren MacKenzie: Legacy of an American Potter, August 30 - November 30. UH-Downtown will host A Conversation with Warren MacKenzie and Joe Havel, Saturday, August 30, 2:00 PM at the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium, University of Houston-Downtown, One Main Street. Additionally, 18 Hands Gallery in Houston will present A Letter from Warren, a group show featuring nine ceramic artists, from September 6 - 28, 2008.



Visceral sculpture

Health

Joint Commission Recognizes DeBakey VA for Best Practices in Fight against Superbugs

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) will be featured in an upcoming educational video produced by The Joint Commission, the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting health care organization. The film focuses on the MEDVAMC's bottom-to-top emphasis on preventing the spread of infections, particularly Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

MRSA is a serious form of a common bacteria that frequently inhabits the skin or nostrils of healthy people. Due to its resistance to antibiotics, MRSA is one of the most rapidly growing and virulent health care associated infections, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is responsible for more than 100,000 U.S. hospitalizations each year.

"We were selected for this film project because the Joint Commission team leader was extremely impressed with our staff's knowledge, attitude, and involvement during their site survey in April," said Thelma Gray-Becknell, R.N., M.S.N., chief nurse executive.

The Joint Commission surveyors expected to see staff and nurses from the Infection Control Department active in the fight against MRSA, but were surprised to find patient support assistants reminding physicians and nurses about hand washing and wearing gowns and gloves, housekeepers leading discussions of data trends, and nursing assistants suggesting product changes to manufacturers.

In addition, the team praised the MEDVAMC for being one of the few hospitals equipped with a computerized system able to integrate all the steps required for surveillance MRSA

Institute. Created by University of Houston-Clear Lake's Center for Advanced Management Programs, the institute pairs owners of small businesses with advanced business students who will perform in-depth management studies and make recommendations to the business owner.

To take part in this program, potential clients must have been in business for a minimum of six months, be financially sound and located within 40 minutes of Clear Lake. Clients also must be willing to meet with students at mutually agreeable times and provide requested data, including financial information.

testing: sample preparation, amplification, and rapid detection.

Anyone can get a MRSA infection, but the risk is greatest among people treated in hospitals and health care facilities, such as nursing homes and dialysis centers, with weakened immune systems. These health care-associated staph infections include surgical wound infections, urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia.

When MRSA is introduced into a hospital, it tremendously increases the total burden of infection for the patient and increases the risk of death four-fold. These patients have hospital stays lasting two and a half times longer than the average patient.

The VA developed the "MRSA Bundle" as a packaged prevention strategy. These measures include (1) active surveillance cultures (swabbing performed on admission, discharge, and transfer within the hospital); (2) hand hygiene (before and after patient contact); (3) contact precautions (gloves and gowns); and (4) cultural transformation (staff and leadership engagement).

"We are honored by this recognition of our infection control efforts by The Joint Commission," said Edgar L. Tucker, B.A., M.P.H., F.A.C.H.E., Medical Center director. "However, we are extremely proud that our staff members support each other and are focused on our mission to provide the highest quality health care possible to our veterans."

In June 2008, the MEDVAMC achieved re-accreditation in the areas of hospital, long term care, behavioral health care, and home care from The Joint Commission as a result of its demonstrated compliance with the organization's nationally recognized health care standards.

Applications for consultation during the fall 2008 semester are being accepted until Aug. 31. For more information, call Professor of Marketing and Small Business Development Institute Director Sam Bruno, 281-283-3122.

Christmas in July on Jensen Drive

Please come out and join the Prince Complex for the Christmas in July - back 2-school health fair on Saturday, July 26, 2008 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Prince Complex.

If you or your organization would like to donate toys, school supplies, and/or clothes please contact Eureka Turner, program coordinator at 713-227-0535 or eureka.turner@prince-complex.org.

The Complex is located at 3000 Jensen Drive, Houston, TX (77026).

Tell Them you Saw it in The Houston Sun
To Advertise, call 713-524-0786 or advertising@houston.sun.com

Do your children need low-cost health care coverage?

CHIP and Children's Medicaid provide low-cost health care coverage for kids. The most you will pay for all your children is \$50 for one year of coverage, but most families that qualify pay little or nothing.

Come learn more at participating H-E-B stores every Saturday in August, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To get a list of locations, call 2-1-1 or visit www.CHIPmedicaid.org.

Benefits include:

- Regular dental visits
- Check-ups
- Hospital care
- Prescription drugs
- Eye exams and glasses
- And much more



Visit www.CHIPmedicaid.org or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Central Time) except federal holidays.



Class reunion committee member

Jack Yates High School alumni is calling all 1958 winter, spring, summer Jack Yates graduates.

50th class reunion

Date: November 28th-30th.
Place: Westin Galleria Hotel.

We need to hear from you today. Call Schelda Davis

Williams - 713-733-6074,
Darlene Lusk, 713-633-9123
or Deloris Johnson - 713-748-4188.