

Spring refresh for art shows

April brings two new in-person art exhibits and a virtual show to the Georgetown Public Library, as well as a Friends of the Library fundraiser.

The City Staff Art Show will run April 7-May 9. It brings together the creative work of people who work in many departments in the City of Georgetown, including Animal Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, the Fire Department, Building Inspections, the City Manager's Office, Planning, Municipal Court, and the Library. The show will include metalwork, a quilt, paintings, drawing, knitted and cross-stitched pieces, novels, poetry, photographs (including one by City Manager David Morgan), and more. City staff are a varied group, but many of us share an interest in creative pursuits outside work. We are looking forward to sharing that interest with the community!

Rachel Hancock's Art With Heart exhibit includes watercolors of historic downtown buildings, which will be on display April 7-June 13. Prints of her paintings will be available for purchase, and all proceeds from sales during the library show will go to the Georgetown Main Street Facade & Sign Reimbursement Grant Program, which funds exterior work on commercial buildings in the Downtown Overlay District. Ms. Hancock painted her original watercolors early during the Covid-19 pandemic, and print sales have already raised more than \$10,000 to help local business owners. Through the project, Ms. Hancock says, she found her voice as an artist, and she has also helped support our historic downtown during a difficult time.

The Georgetown Independent School District's annual student art show in the library had to go virtual this year because of Covid-19. Please visit the GISD Virtual Art Exhibit slideshows to see work from all campuses at georgetownisd.org/artshow. For each campus you will find a link to share your appreciation with the creative student artists and the hard-working art teachers. Please take some time March 29-April 9 to view the amazing artwork being produced by K-12 students and leave them some comments too, since this year we are

BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

missing out on the opportunity to see their work in the library.

The Friends of the Georgetown Public Library are holding a fundraiser all month in recognition of Library Giving Day, which is April 7. Library Giving Day is an opportunity for communities across the country to stop and appreciate their libraries and contribute toward their future success.

Our Friends group's fundraising efforts are crucial. If you have read an e-book or listened to an e-audiobook on the Overdrive or Libby app, that content was likely purchased with funds raised by our Friends group. They also help us each year with funds to purchase physical books and other materials for all ages, and they provide funds to support our outreach efforts to the community through the bookmobile and home delivery.

Their goal in April is to raise enough money to help fund library needs through the summer, until the Second-Hand Prose bookstore can reopen full time. If you would like to make a tax-deductible charitable gift or learn about other Friends fundraising activities (such as their Fish City Grill fundraiser April 6), visit their website at folgeorgetown.org.

See you in the library!

Dana Hendrix is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

Inside the library

April 7-May 9: City Staff Art Show, second floor Bridge and Hall galleries

April 7-June 13: Rachel Hancock: Art with Heart Exhibit, first floor Café Gallery

April 13-19: Seeds + Plant Marker Kit Online Registration (Adultish program for ages 18+. Kit pickup April 20-26)

For more information about these and other library events, visit library.georgetown.org/events-calendar or call 512-930-3551.

Hubert Ture' Ekvall

Hubert Ture' Ekvall passed from this life on March 30, 2021 at the age of 94. Hubert was born on November 18, 1926 in Georgetown, Texas to Swedish immigrants Joseph and Milda Ekvall.



Hubert was the youngest of 10 siblings while growing up on a farm in the Georgetown area. Hubert met Vera Gretelle Grisham through a friend at church, and they were married on Hubert's birthday November 18, 1950.

Hubert was a devoted farmer and rancher his whole life, and worked hard to support his family. Hubert's faith was very important to him and he loved sharing his faith with others while serving in many positions through the church, specifically the Church Board and the Cemetery Board. Hubert also loved to travel with his friends and family. Some of his fondest memories of traveling were when he and Gretelle took their granddaughters to Sweden.

Hubert was preceded in death by his wife, Gretelle; daughter Norma Lyndell Ekvall Ellis; and his siblings and parents. Hubert was survived by his children Helen Ekvall Roithner and husband Ronald, Richard Ekvall and wife Becky; his eight grandchildren, Tami Najera and husband Bo, Patrick Ellis, Brettne Lindgren and husband Shane, Rachel Byrom and husband Jeremy, Tabitha Wiegardt and

husband Nate, Brad Roithner, Jamin Ekvall and wife Jessica, and Zachary Ellis; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. Hubert was also survived by his "adopted" daughter/caregiver Demitra Johnson, who became a part of the family through the wonderful care she provided for him and Gretelle in their final years.

Special thanks to Altus Hospice for the amazing care they provided for Hubert during his health decline, and special thanks to Chaplain Johnathan Bergman, Nurse Kim Duplessis, Nurse Tracey Orrison, and Social Worker Devin Granger for all of the support and dedication to Hubert's well-being.

Visitation was held at Beck Funeral Home in Pflugerville on April 2, 2021 with a Funeral Service following. A Grave-site Service followed at St. John's Cemetery in Georgetown, Texas.

Pallbearers were Bo Najera, Patrick Ellis, Brad Roithner, Zachary Ellis, Jamin Ekvall, Shane Lindgren, Jeremy Byrom, and Nate Wiegardt.



beckchapels.com

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Scholarships awarded

The Georgetown Promise Scholarship has awarded its 2021 scholarships to four students who will pursue their studies at institutions of higher education. These scholarships support one of GPS's goals: helping students who identify as Black/African-American or Latinx "navigate to a promising future."

Georgetown Promise Scholarship is a project of the Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation. The scholarship supports awardees in the areas of tuition, fees, books or vocational and technical training.

The four scholarships of \$2,500 were awarded to **Roselynn Padron**, East View High School, who plans to attend Texas State University; **Eva Zane**, East View High School, who plans to attend Texas A&M University; **Isaiah Quinton-Jackson**, East View High School, who plans to attend Hardin-Simmons University; and **Kyndall Casey**, Georgetown High School, who plans to attend Texas State University.

Additional information is available at www.chisholm-trail.org. To donate to the scholarship fund, visit www.chisholm-trail.org, click the "Donate" button and select Georgetown Promise Scholarship (GPS) as the "designated fund."



ROSELYNNE PADRON



ISAIAH QUINTON-JACKSON

Georgetown ISD

Georgetown Independent School District's **Teachers of the Month** for February were:

Elementary

Leslie Walker, Frost; Brennan Crombie, Williams; Amy Dolezal, Cooler; Nancy Robledo, Village; Rosa Barrera, Purl; Laura Epps, Carver; Sabrina Alexander, Ford; LeNell Wilson, Mitchell; Stephanie Grimes, McCoy; and Sarah Rose, Wolf Ranch.

Secondary

Alyssa Walker, Benold; Tamara Gandy, Forbes; Rebecca Cruz, Wagner; Wynn Rice, Tippit; Greg Rueb, Richarte; Ryan Little, East View; Ray Langley, Georgetown; James Brush, STEP; Candi Patschke, GAP.

— Katherine Anthony

Jack L. Slack



Longtime Refugio, Texas businessman and community leader Jack L. Slack passed away peacefully on Friday March 26, 2021 at age 93 in Bryan, Texas.

Jack was born in Taylor, Texas on December 27, 1927 to Armond and Lillie Ashley Slack. Like his older brother Charles, Jack worked on the family dairy farm and attended Taylor schools. He graduated from Taylor High School in 1944 as class valedictorian. In the summer of 1944, 16-year-old Jack loaded his footlocker on the train in Taylor with a destination of College Station. Small for his age at the time, Jack dragged his footlocker across the Texas A&M campus to his dormitory.

At A&M, he excelled in Mechanical Engineering and was Commanding Officer of "A" Company. Jack grew into a tall and imposing man by the time he graduated with the A&M Class of 1948. Jack's dedication to A&M inspired all four of his children to attend Texas A&M and he cultivated his own 12th Man of Aggies among his children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

Shortly after graduating from A&M, Jack went to work for the Oil & Gas Division of the Texas Railroad Commission in Austin. He was sent to South Texas to do research on production in the oil fields around Refugio, Texas. While living in Refugio, Jack met and married the love of his life, Frances Alleene (Fran) Boone from Woodsboro on July 16, 1950. Jack and Fran made their first home in Austin but soon returned to Refugio when Jack took an engineering job at Quintana Petroleum. They lived and raised their family at the Quintana camp until they built a home on the north end of Refugio County. The Slack homestead would be later nicknamed "Plumnelly" by a beloved housekeeper since it was "plum out of Refugio and nelly to Goliad."

A devoted prankster, Jack honed his mischief while working at Quintana and perfected it over the years. There are legions of good friends, business associates and family members that became the object of his pranks. His joy for pranks was, unfortunately, passed on to his sons.

After leaving Quintana, Jack founded Jack Slack Engineering and launched several very successful businesses. As a businessman, he became very active in the Refugio Rotary Club and headed their foreign exchange student program. He was later elected to the Refugio ISD School Board where he served for a decade. As one Refugio businessman said reflecting on the 68 years that Jack worked and resided in Refugio, "Jack ran everything." His dedication to improving his community earned him recognition as the Refugio County Citizen of the Year in 1991.

Jack and Fran were devoted members of the First United Methodist Church in Refugio and both served the church in many capacities. Jack brought his business acumen to the church board and was directly involved in expanding the church's educational facilities.

When he was not working, Jack enjoyed spending time with family and friends and patiently baiting hooks for his grandchildren at his "Jack Slack's Fishin' Shack." The Shack also served as the venue for 30 years of memorable Aggie Musters.

Jack spearheaded Aggie

Musters for the Refugio County A&M Club over the years. Two of Jack's most revered Aggie friends, The Association of Former Students CEO Porter Garner and legendary Aggie

Coach R.C. Slocum trekked to Refugio on his invitation to speak at Muster. In equal part he loved and admired his cousin Bill Little, long-time University of Texas Sports Information Director and notable sports author and historian.

Jack closely followed his favorite sports teams, the Refugio Bobcats, and the Fightin' Texas Aggies. A good weekend inevitably started with a resounding Bobcat win and was usually capped off by an Aggie victory. He enjoyed phoning family on Friday nights with quarterly updates of the latest Bobcat score.

You just never knew what Jack was going to say and when. He spoke when he had something to say, and he did not wait to be invited to speak. He could hijack any event or occasion and his eulogies for his departed friends were legendary. He was a very skilled extemporaneous speaker and he always delivered a message when he spoke. He was still telling stories, jokes and entertaining family and friends with his wit until just days before his passing.

A gifted wing-shooter, Jack enjoyed hunting and fishing with family and friends. He hunted pheasant for years with his brother's family in Kansas, hunted and fished the Aransas and Copano Bays, hosted dove hunts and built airboats with his friend Glen Pfeil.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents Armond and Lillie Slack and his brother Charles. He is survived by his wife of almost 71 years, Fran Slack, and their children Mike Slack, Doug Slack, Greg Slack and Sue Ellen Miner and their spouses Tina Ballard Slack, Susan Kreutzer Slack, Debbie Walton Slack and Phil Miner III. Enthusiastically accepting his role as "Paw Paw," Jack shamelessly bragged about his seven amazing grandchildren: Brady Miner (Jelena), Nicholas Miner (Andrea), Mallory Miner Odom (Scott), Emily Slack, Amanda Slack (Andrew Bourdillon), Sarah Slack Nondorf (Dan) and Sydney Slack. He had two great-grandchildren, Davor Sobin and Liam Miner, and was counting down the August arrival of his third. Jack leaves behind two nieces and three nephews and many loving and dedicated caregivers, among them dear and loyal friend Yolanda Davila.

Jack loved all his family and friends without condition. We will all miss Jack's strength, his wit, his love, his generosity, his hugs, and his unmistakable handshake. He has taken his final Corps trip and has fallen in behind the eternal Aggie Band.

For those wishing to commemorate Jack with a contribution, the family has designated the First United Methodist Church of Refugio, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University <https://www.aggienetwork.com/giving/>.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held at a future date which will be a gathering to roast, toast and thank Jack Slack for the many gifts and memories, including pranks, he left with us. A private graveside will be held for immediate family.

Jarrell ISD names new key appointees

By KATHERINE ANTHONY

Jarrell Independent School District trustees recently made two key administrative appointments, among them a new athletic director, for whom a meet and greet on April 14 is planned.

Pennee Hall is the district's new executive director for Human Resources.

Ms. Hall has served fast-growth school districts as a deputy superintendent, assistant superintendent and director of human resources. She was deputy superintendent for Cleveland ISD from 2016 to 2020.

Ms. Hall earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and is working toward a doctorate from the University of Houston.

Marty Murr is the district's new athletic director

and head football coach. He has been athletic director of St. Augustine ISD since 2015. He's also been the AD in Anahuac and Alto ISDs.

Coach Murr has worked as a football offensive and defensive coordinator, head JV football coach, assistant girls basketball/head JV girls basketball coach, head boys and girls varsity track coach, head boys and girls tennis coach, head middle school girls basketball coach, middle school girls track coach, head softball coach, and assistant powerlifting coach.

He earned a bachelor's of science degree from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches.

Students, parents, staff and community members are invited to attend a meet-and-greet with Coach Murr 4 p.m.-6 p.m. April 14 at the Jarrell High School auditorium.

Applications open for GISD leadership program

By KATHERINE ANTHONY

Georgetown Independent School District and the Georgetown ISD Education Foundation have launched a leadership development program open to employees of the school district.

District employees with two years' experience in GISD are eligible to apply. Applications will close April 9 and the first cohort will kick off in June.

The Hammerlun Leadership Academy's inaugu-

ral cohort will meet for 10 months, participating in opportunities to connect with leaders outside of the district, leadership development activities and leadership goal-setting and coaching.

The academy is named for the late Jerry Hammerlun who served the community as a member of the Georgetown City Council and on boards of the Georgetown Education Foundation, the Boys and

Girls Club of Georgetown and the Austin Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He also chaired the Georgetown Partners in Education initiative. An architect, he was president and CFO of the architectural firm Huckabee and Associates.

Following his unexpected death in 2018, the Huckabee firm made a donation to the GISD Education Foundation for development of this leadership program.

"In Georgetown ISD, we believe that the development of leaders is vital to the success of the district." Superintendent Fred Brent said. "Hammerlun Leadership Academy is designed to foster personal leadership development and growth in our staff across our district, regardless of position or title or goals or experiences."

More information is available at www.georgetownisd.org/HLA.