

Bentwater

Ever hear about people buying a new car only to realize that nearly everyone else is now driving that same car? Even the same color? Nothing had changed. Those cars were always there. But power of suggestion changes perception. I know it's true because it just happened to me. No, not with cars. Cats. Yes, I'm going somewhere with this, so stay with me. True confession, I'm not a cat person. That's not to say I dislike them. It's just that I never felt "cozy" with them. They're so aloof (or maybe I am).

Anyway, we recently took in a stray cat (my bride has never said "no" to any critter in need) to see if we could perhaps identify his human using Toni's chip reader and quickly get him back home. Well, no chip, but he turned out to be maybe the coolest cat ever. Looked like a miniature black panther, and he wanted to be with someone (me) constantly. Okay, I was warming up. And, since he seemed so comfortable where he was, we figured it would be okay for him to stay for a few days, you know, just until his grateful human showed up. But, after posting his picture and story everywhere we knew, nada. Nothing. So, there we were. With a cat. Now what? Our current critter roommate (Remi) wasn't keen on sharing his space, which meant we needed to find a forever home (or at least a foster home) for the panther. As always, after relieving him of his manhood, we networked through ASVT (Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas) and, like magic, someone was interested in seeing him. We took him for a visit with the interested party, and it was love at first meow. No foster home for that guy.

He's now in his forever home and, guess what? They named him Magic. And it was, indeed, magical that I had been somewhat oblivious to the feral cat issue in Bentwater until he came along. Now, I can't not see them. They're everywhere. It's sad, but it's a problem that can be easily solved if we can just get enough other people (residents) to also notice.



Bruce Sellers

BENTWATER

been pets in someone's home at some point, feral cats are typically born and raised in the wild, making them wary of humans. Because of their environment, feral cats can pose health risks. You know. Diseases like feline leukemia or rabies, which can be transmitted to humans, pets, or other wildlife. Additionally, large colonies often suffer from malnutrition, parasites, and injury due to fighting or harsh living conditions. So, how do we fix that? That's where you come in.

My bride is forming a task force of caring citizens to meet, discuss needs, and create an action plan for feral cat care based on Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), one of the most effective and widely supported methods of managing feral cat needs. If you're also now seeing cats everywhere you look and think you'd like to be part of the solution, just drop her an email at Sellers.Toni@gmail.com and she'll help to organize it. She's already talking to experts of the TNR approach which involves humanely trapping feral cats, sterilizing them through spay or neuter surgery, vaccinating them, and then returning them to their original territory with a notched ear showing they've been treated. One person can help one cat, but success of TNR programs requires community support to monitor the traps and feeding returned cats. There's nothing cuter than a pile of kittens, provided they're healthy. Through community involvement, we can manage Bentwater's feral cat population in a way that respects the animal's welfare while protecting their (and our) health. So, come on! Jump on the TNR train.

Send Bentwater fun news and social tidbits to Bruce at Bruce@TheLakeConroeGroup.com

Feral cats are simply domestic cats that live in the wild without human care. Unlike stray cats, which had



Jason Fochtman/Houston Chronicle

Students walk past a back to school sign on the first day of school Conroe ISD's newly opened Hines Elementary, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Spring. Consider doing back-to-school shopping at downtown Conroe shops, advises Margie Taylor.

Historic Downtown Conroe

What is happening in the Conroe area?

Hadestown will perform at the Crighton Theatre July 31-August 3 in various times with the Jim Bingham Youth Summer Camp. The youth have rehearsed all summer to bring this show to the community. Tickets at CrightonTheatre.org.

Visit our local downtown restaurants for live music performances. There is live music in one or more venues every night of the week and they are walking distances apart. We have new shops open and ready to show you summer



Margie Taylor

DOWNTOWN CONROE

mer bargains and a line of new merchandise to move you from August to November and beyond. August is nearing which means it is time to start thinking about Back to School. The Just Between Friends Back to School Sale will be at the Lone Star Convention Center Thursday, July 31 through Sunday, August 3. Follow their Facebook page to

keep up with the items that will be there. https://www.facebook.com/JBFTTheWoodlands. They are also collecting new school supplies for students in foster care.

The Back-to-School Tax Free Weekend is Friday, August 8- Sunday, August 10. See the details: https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490/

Reminder to get your tickets for "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is returning to the Owen Theatre as a fundraiser for The Players Theatre Company on Friday, August 8-Sunday, Au-

gust 10. Seating is not reserved so get there early. A kit with approved props for audience participation is available, so please leave your newspapers, rice, and hot dogs at home. No outside items will be allowed in the theater. To purchase a kit with your ticket, select General w/Kit. Kits will be available at the door for \$15 each. www.OwenTheatre.com. Until next week! Be safe. Shop Local.

Margie Taylor may be reached at margie@taylorizedpr.com.

April Sound

The week of July 27 through August 2 will be one of the last weeks of summer for many families as the start of school is right around the corner. Conroe ISD's first day of school begins on August 13, while Montgomery ISD starts on August 14, as does Covenant Christian School, where my grandchildren attend. In the Sound, there are many activities for those participating in Staycations and for those who are "vacationed-out" and have returned home. Although the club and amenities are closed on Mondays, residents can still enjoy the parks, fish off the pier at the marina, and take advantage of bicycling or walking the roads around the subdivision. On Tuesday, the swimming pools, tennis courts, and golf course open up for play. Then, join friends and family at the 5:00 p.m., Tuesday



Vickie Mitchell

APRIL SOUND

Wednesday, July 30, starting at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy wine and appetizer specials all night long until closing. Stay for dinner and take advantage of the Chef's Special Salisbury Steak Dinner. Summer can be loud and busy, so think about heading out with a loved one or best friend to enjoy "Quiet Dining with Alan Stoumen" on Friday, August 1, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. while you listen to one of the most talented "Smooth Jazz Pianists" in the Houston area. If you still want to enjoy loud music, consider the Summer Sizzle Jam

evening when the Ice Cream Sunday Bar is open for business. Woo-hoo! It is Wine Down

Wednesday, July 30, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It is "adults only" with dinner and dancing to music by Victims of Virgo.

A heads-up for August. The Junior Summer Golf Camp will host its final week August 5-7 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Contact matthew.harris@invited-clubs.com or call Matt at 832-589-2022 for information. The Sound had many current and retired military members residing in the country club and resort, but there is one that I want to brag on because he is my son. John Gallemore and daughter-in-law, Kate, list April Sound as their permanent residence while he serves in the Air Force. John, who graduated from Conroe High School ('94) and Texas A&M ('98), was recently promoted to the rank of

Brigadier General and took command of the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Kadena is considered the "Keystone of the Pacific," and is the largest combat wing in the U.S. Air Force. John's recent tenures included serving as Inspector General at Headquarters Air Combat Command, Director of the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff's Strategic Execution Group, Wing Commander of Kunsan Air Base in South Korea, and Right Wing #3 on the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird Demonstration Team. Congratulations, General Gallemore. April Sound is honored to add another military general to its ranks.

If you have tidbits of information and news of yourself or the Sound to share, send them to vickie-mi@mac.com

Panorama Village

This being the last weekend in July means summer is flying by and it won't be long before school bells are ringing. All school districts don't start on the same day, but most will start by the middle of August.

The Liberty Belles Republican Women were able to hold one last summer social. The event was held at The Table at Madeley in downtown Conroe. Julie Faubel talked to the group about the club's activities and Barbara Eddleman gave information about literacy, which is one of the areas Liberty Belles support. Appetizers were provided while people mingled and some decided to join Library Belles.

The Panorama Ladies Association will have their first meeting on September 5, officers for the 2025-2026 year will be President Carrie Rogers, First Vice President Susan Allman, Second Vice President Margie Card, Third Vice President Sandi Ahart, Secretary Deidra Glezman and Parliamentarian Carolyn Backen. The Panorama Garden Club will also begin their new year in September. Kim King will serve as President and Jeni Clark, Debbie Luck, and Brenda



Ruthie McGrath

PANORAMA VILLAGE

McCoy, was inducted into the 2025 Country Radio Hall of Fame. Mary works at KSTAR. Thanks to Bernie Sargent for giving me that information.

Today the Sunday Mixed Couples Scramble is teeing off at 2 PM. The rules for the Modified Odd/Even Scramble sound like a lot of fun. You may want to join them in the bar later and see who the winners are.

The Panorama Lions Charitable Foundation is selling gift cards for pies. After you purchase your gift card, you may use it to pay for a pie at the Pie in the Sky store. The pie gift cards will be sold through July and you may contact Vicky Modeland at 936-524-4881 for information. The Lions Club does many worthwhile projects throughout the year.

Ruthie McGrath may be reached at golfjladj103@gmail.com.

Kerwin will be assisting her. The next meeting will be in September.

Recently, one of Conroe's own, Mary

Walden

I hope everyone had a great week and is staying cool during these hot Texas days! I wanted to share something very close to my heart — something that happened a few weeks ago and reminded me of the power of community, faith, and standing up for what we believe in. I had the privilege of joining a group of incredible women from across Montgomery County to deliver something meaningful to our local schools: beautifully crafted Ten Commandments posters.

The Liberty Library Project, in partnership with Love Heals Youth and several local churches, proudly supports Senate Bill 10, passed during the 89th Texas Legislative Session. This law requires the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every public school classroom across Texas.



Lorraine Counts

WALDEN

compliant, professionally designed posters free of charge to every classroom across Montgomery County's six public school districts. As part of this effort, the Liberty Library Project is hosting a countywide fundraiser. For just a \$10 donation, you can help place 10 durable, visually appealing posters in classrooms, giving students a daily reminder of these foundational truths.

I was honored to stand alongside women representing Love Heals Youth, the Liberty Library Project, the Lake Conroe Republican

Women, and the Liberty Belles. Together, we attended the Willis ISD school board meeting to present about a dozen posters to board members. This first formal presentation and donation offer was coordinated in partnership with Trustee Cliff Williams and Mrs. Sarah Blake-lock, whose support made it all possible. It was a humbling experience — one that meant a great deal to me personally, as I deeply believe in the importance of reinforcing time-honored values like respect, honesty, and responsibility in our schools.

The campaign aims to distribute 10,000 posters by September 1, 2025. Any additional funds raised will go toward donating Bibles to school libraries throughout Montgomery County, helping provide meaningful resources for students

who seek them. This effort is a beautiful example of how much we can accomplish when people of faith come together with purpose. It's not just about posters — it's about planting lasting values in the hearts of our students and standing up for the principles we know matter most. I'm so encouraged by the unity and passion I've seen from so many in our community who are stepping up to be part of this mission.

Donations can be made at www.lovehealsyouth.com. All contributions are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines.

That's all for now friends. Thanks for reading and keep standing for what's good and right — our kids are worth it!

Lorraine Counts can be reached with Walden News at lorrainecounts@yahooboo.com