Society News

Sr. Connections: exciting Sept. activities ahead

As Labor Day approaches on Monday, Sept. 1, please note that Senior Connections will be closed to allow everyone to enjoy this special day.

Senior Connections warmly invites all seniors age 55 and up from Fayette, Colorado and Lavaca counties to its activity centers in Schulenburg, Weimar and Flatonia. Remember, membership is free and delicious meals are served.

Tuesday, Sept. 2 - Weimar

On Sept. 2, members will gather at the Weimar First United Methodist Church for a fun-filled day starting at 9 a.m. Enjoy coffee, conversation and some friendly competition with dominoes! Thanks go to members for bringing bingo prizes to share, adding to the excitement of the afternoon game.

This day promises a delightful feast featuring Amanda's lasagna, a garden-fresh salad topped with seasonal fruit, garlic bread and mouth-watering desserts prepared by members.

Josh Jones from the Weimar Police Department will introduce a new program called "Are You OK?" This valuable service offers daily check-ins for participants to ensure their well-being. The program will provide an opportunity to learn how to sign up.

Following Jones' talk, the wonderful Anne Frye from First Texas Home Health will lead the bingo game. Thank you to her for traveling from Katy.

Wednesday, Sept. 3 - Schulenburg

On Sept. 3, the Schulenburg center will be buzzing with activity. After an engaging morning filled with games like dominoes, puzzles, tarock cards and Sequence, members will feast on chicken fried steak and gravy from Oakridge Restaurant. Volunteers will create a delicious, buttered potato side dish and their famous salad, with desserts again generously provided by members.

Bubba Olle from Fayette Savings Bank will call the bingo game. He is great at combining various games for an exciting, challenging experience!

Sept. 5 - Artful Friday

September also marks the beginning of new classes at Arts for Rural Texas. Martha Beckmann's seasonal crafts class and Stephanie Shroyer's new mosaic class are currently full. Anyone who has signed up but cannot attend is asked to please let Senior Connections know so others can join.

Upcoming Adventure

Please mark the calendar for Senior Connections' September adventure on Saturday, Sept. 20! A trip to Victoria, Texas is planned to explore the Victoria Educational Gardens, Contemporary Art Museum showcasing art cars and Museum of the Coastal Bend. A delicious Chinese lunch will also be enjoyed.

A sign-up sheet is available, so please call the center at 979-743-3227 to reserve a spot and for any other information on activities.

"We look forward to another exciting month at Senior Connections. Have a wonderful week, and we hope to see you soon!" Stephanie Shroyer, program director, said.

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS included (from left) Sharon Rodriguez, Darlene Williams, Cynthia Meyer and Gerald Wooten.

THE BUBELA FAMILY joined Senior Connections for a lunch-and-learn in Schulenburg recently. Morgan has the B Haus Market Place & Nursery, and husband Colton has the Bubela Tree Farm, but everyone knows that their daughter Martha Claire is the boss!

BRIDGE sets Community Literacy Day activities

BRIDGE is excited to announce Community Literacy Day 2025, a family-friendly event celebrating the joy of reading and the importance of literacy in rural communities.

The event, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6, will begin at the Schulenburg Public Library from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by engaging activities at the Stanzel Museum from noon to 2 p.m.

Highlights include:

•Literacy activities for children and families

•Free giveaways and community resources

•The first 100 families to arrive will receive a complimentary swag bag

This event is hosted in collaboration with the Parents As Teachers (PAT) Little Readers program, which will be running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stanzel Museum. The Little Readers "Big Adventures" program will include storybook steam stations for exploring the museum, storybook themed snacks and drinks, and visiting the Melinda Stanzel Barneycastle Lil Library to fill one's bookbag.

"Community Literacy Day is about bringing families together, promoting lifelong learning and making reading fun together," said BRIDGE executive director Rebecca Powe.

"We invite families, educators, and community members to join us for this exciting day of celebration," she added.

This event is being powered by H-E-B.

For questions or more information, visit www.bridgerural.org.

The Schulenburg Public Library is located at 310 Simpson St. and the Stanzel Museum is located at 311 Baumgarten St.

About BRIDGE – BRIDGE (Building Resilience Inclusion Diversity & Growth thru Education) is a nonprofit dedicated to bridging the gap in education, community and health access in rural and underserved areas.

Polka Lovers museum hosts group from Houston

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) in La Grange, which began offering polka and waltz instructions during events in 2024, recently hosted 40 members of Steve Fang's Houston Morning Exercise Group.

The group requested a tour to learn about Czech culture and also requested a demonstration on polka dancing. They were transported to the Fairgrounds in a Harris County Precinct 4 tour bus with a driver.

"The energy of these Chinese descent dancing club members was much like an active beehive – they were buzzing around like crazy, filling the room, helping get more chairs for them to watch, it was crazy … but so much fun. They were boisterous, energetic, ready to dance and have an enjoyable time," Carol Artz-Bucek, museum secretaryltreasurer, said.

Gary Bucek, museum president, added,"This Chinese senior group from west Houston is embracing polka dancing as a fun way of exercising and thus creating a multi-cultural opportunity for the museum."

Museum organizers provided each attendee with a "welcome" bag of La Grange brochures, bottled water and snacks for their journey back to Houston. As she was given a welcome bag, Alirie Cheng, one of the members, said, "You guys give us great Texas hospitality, thank you!"

Steve Fang, organizer of the event, said, "You showed us a great time."

Museum organizers began offering dance instructions during each event in 2024 and are looking forward to expanding the opportunity to enhance this opportunity in the future.

Additionally, virtual technology makes it simple to tour the museum, even when it is closed. Methods are also available to enter the museum and walk through a guided tour of the various exhibits. For entry instructions for the onsite self-guided tours, call Gary Bucek at 713-252-2162.

More information on the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) is available by typing plctm.com in a browser or contacting Gary Bucek by email at info@plctm.com or by phone at 713-252-2162.

Dance instructions are being planned during upcoming fall events such as the Heritage Fall Open House, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17-18; Donor Appreciation Dance, Sunday, Nov. 9; and Christmas Open House, Saturday, Dec. 6.

PLCTM officers include Gary Bucek, president; Jan Koehn, vice president; Carol Artz-Bucek, secretary; and Joyce Bohuslav, member relations. Directors are Connie Rice Ames, C.W. and Doris Benson, Evelyn Maresh, Jane Freis, Larry Maresh and Wellie K. Harris Jr.

The museum, which opened in La Grange in 2005, features memorabilia, donor recognitions, photo displays, videos, instruments and an extensive library of music and records dating back to the early 1900s. The museum is located at 275 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange.

AN EXERCISE GROUP FROM HOUSTON visited the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum recently to learn about polka and waltz dancing as a form of physical activity and also to learn about the Czech culture

THE GROUP – which included Chinese-descent members of Steve Fang's Houston Morning Exercise Group – arrived via Harris County Precinct 4 tour bus and each visitor received a "welcome" bag provided by museum organizers.

STICKER SOCIETY PAGE POLICY

Charges are as follows:

•Engagement – $25.

•Anniversary – $25.

•Wedding – $50. For any wedding longer than 30" (photo & document with word count of appx. 670), the excess will be charged at the regular advertising rate of $6.00 per column inch in addition to the $50 fee.

For any wedding older than four months when published, the entire space will be charged at the regular advertising rate.

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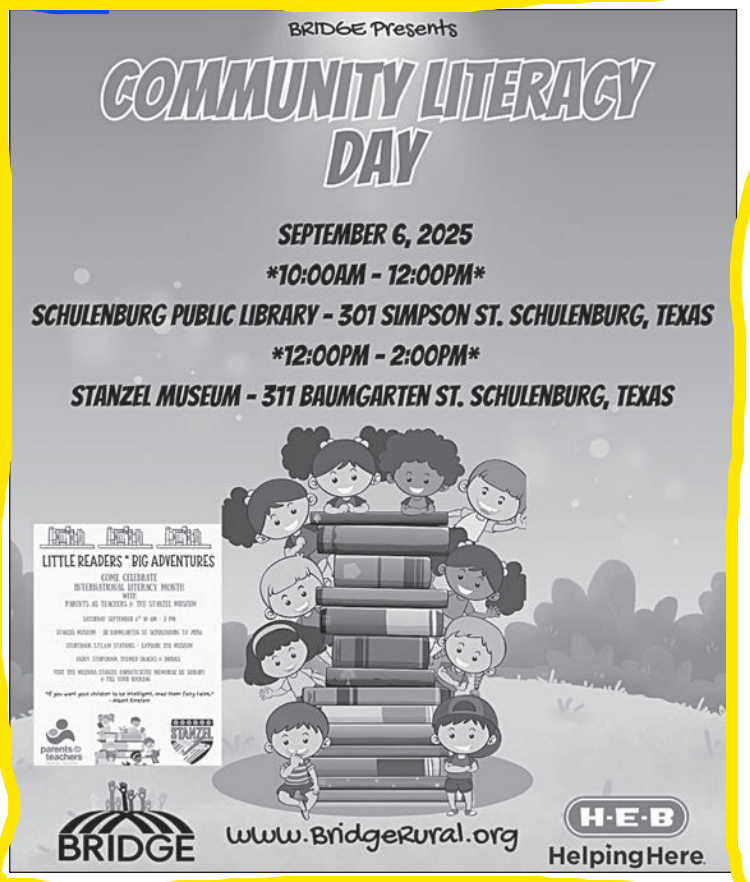

THANK YOU

On behalf of BRIDGE, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Schulenburg ISD and Principal Calleen Zapalac for partnering with us to host our very first BRIDGE Mental Health Youth Conference on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

We are deeply appreciative of our conference sponsor, H-E-B, as well as our generous product sponsors – The Kindness Campaign and Youth and Family Services – for helping make this event possible.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible speakers, facilitators and vendors for generously sharing your time, knowledge, and passion. I would also like to extend special recognition and gratitude to Counselor Heather Pavlu; Anita Roberts, Pamela Carroll, Sheila Brossmann, Yvonne Powe Fontenette, Peyton Powe-Byrd, Arnesia Powe, and Gerlicia Thompson for their dedicated volunteer support during the conference.

Additionally, sincere thanks to Erin Wotipka, Antrivia Powe, Nathan Daniels, Cynthia Fogleman, Andre Jones, and Brooke Garcia for assisting with swag bag preparation and conference decorations.

Because of your collective efforts, we were able to serve and engage with more than 500 attendees. Though our team was small, your commitment, teamwork, and hard work made a significant and lasting impact. We could not have done it without you.

With gratitude, Rebecca Powe, Executive Director, BRIDGE

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