LEE COLLEGE PINS NEW GRADUATES OF NURSING PROGRAM

UH AWARDS LOCAL 90-YEAR-OLD WOMAN HONORARY DEGREE

BAYTOWN PD MOUNTED PATROL OFFICER RETIRES
Welcome to the June "Lifestyle" issue of Greater Baytown. We cover everything from SnoBalls and dining, to a great barber and style shop, new nurses in the pandemic battle to a retiring mounted patrol officer and a 90-year-old local woman who just received an honorary degree from the University of Houston.

We have lots of photos for you to peruse from the 2021 American Cancer Society Relay for Life (driving parade this time around), the 60th year of Baytown Youth Fair & Livestock Show, Little League baseball, 26 under 40 young professionals and the award-winning Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers.

Let's not forget the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Epicurean Evening highlighting local restaurants, just as everyone is getting out and about once again.

Shop local. Enjoy.

Guadalupe Zepeda is one of Lee College nurse graduates ready to serve the health care industry.

See full story, page 10.

On the cover

Guadalupe Zepeda is one of Lee College nurse graduates ready to serve the health care industry.

See full story, page 10.

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Greater Baytown - June 2021
If one was to be in the mood for a sno-cone and walked up to Maygan Mitchell she might shake her head and point you in a different direction. More toward her own favorites – SnoBalls.

Mitchell, a 12-year veteran of the Navy has owned and operated Nomad SnoBalls since 2018 and she continues to make sure people know the difference between the two icy brands of refreshment.

“My uncle used to own a SnoBall and fireworks stand when I was younger and I fell in love with SnoBalls,” Mitchell said. “I like the way that they make people feel. It’s something that costs $2 to put a smile on someone’s face.

“I took two of my nieces to get a SnoBall and didn’t realize we were going to get a Snow Cone and things were completely different. It left a lot to be desired as far as the flavor and texture of the ice. So, I said, ‘people deserve SnoBalls around here.’ They are better. So that lit the spark.”

Mitchell did the homework and got down to brass tacks.

“I never thought I would own a SnoBall business,” she said.

Nomad runs out of the Baytown area from the vendor truck she has operated since beginning the venture and one day hopes to see it move to brick and mortar.

Mitchell parks Nomad on the south side of I-10 on FM 3180 in front of Hackberry Creek Storage, 7623 FM 3180 every day but Monday.

Mitchell and her truck will park by the Mont Belvieu parks during the Little League season of April and May and then head to their spot from May through August/September and wrap up at the park for soccer season.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to soccer being cancelled so Mitchell called an audible.

“We decided to run a drive through at our regular location in April,” Mitchell said. “It was only me inside of the trailer making SnoBalls and one person outside, walking miles and miles delivering SnoBalls to cars and taking orders.”

So why SnoBalls?

“There is a big difference between a SnoBall and a Snow Cone,” Mitchell said. “A Snow Cone is like chunky ice with some sugar water with a little bit of color flavoring. A SnoBall is that fine powder ice and syrup that we make. It’s over-flavored and over-colored and the ice just

By Alan Dale

Maygan Mitchell

Brennan Myron
soaks up the juice.

The new flavors on offer are Cherimoya, Clear Cherry, Orchid Vanilla and Silver Fox with new toppings included such as El Chilerito Chamoy and Chopped Del Dixi Pickles.

“We have all the iconic Louisiana flavors,” Mitchell said. “We also have the basic flavors like cherry, vanilla and strawberry. The only difference is that we have cream flavors which is an original, New Orleans thing, it’s almost an ice cream texture.”

The business has done well for Mitchell as she was “blown away” by the early reaction to SnoBalls. “We parked in my sister-in-law’s front yard and we sold like 20 and I thought that was pretty cool,” she said. “The next week we sold 100, then the next week it was up to 200. It’s just gone up from there.

“Once you have a SnoBall you will never taste a Snow Cone the same again.”

A Louisiana native, Mitchell moved to Baytown after her wife, who is from Deer Park, heard rave reviews of the Mont Belvieu/Baytown area.

So, after retiring from the military, Mitchell’s family was Baytown-bound.

Mitchell had to medically retire from the Department of Defense due to Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome which includes symptoms related to the reduced blood volume that occurs when standing up.

“The first thing I thought of was to get myself healthy enough to do something,” Mitchell said. “My body shuts down during stress. Honestly, getting out of the Navy was a weight lifted off my shoulders, so I started to get better. I was looking at college … or I was like maybe taking it easy for a while. I didn’t have a plan but couldn’t work a physical 9-5 job.”

Nomad is a sponsor of Little League and youth soccer programs in Mont Belvieu. During the summer months, Mitchell runs donation campaigns to match customer contributions to various charities to include T.A.P.S, Beach City Fire Department, the Cajun Navy, The Montrose Center and the Fisher House Foundation.

To learn more about Nomad SnoBalls visit: https://www.nomadsnoballs.com/
This month the Black-owned-business Alliance spotlighted The Food Spot and Art’s Barber & Style Shop, owned by Art and Shirley Williams. The businesses are located side by side at 1020 Decker Drive.

Shirley Williams had previously owned Savor the Flavor in Baytown 2013-2016 and retired. She went back to school at The Art Institute of Houston Culinary School. After graduating with honors, she opened The Food Spot in 2018. The Food Spot stayed open during the pandemic with drive-through service. The dining room is open again and they deliver as well.

“God blessed me,” said Shirley. She grew up working in her mother’s restaurant and came to Texas from Florida in 1977.

Restaurant manager Theresa Hoffart says they are hiring a delivery driver and interviewing more cooks as potential members of the kitchen crew. Shirley has been doing all the cooking recently.

“The menu is not fast food, but with many guests dining on a lunch hour, Shirley and Theresa want to accommodate time schedules. Believe me, however, the food is worth waiting for.

The menu includes Jambalaya, Veggie Pasta, Mardi Gras Pasta, Spaghetti, Extreme-Chicken- and Oxtail-Potato, Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich, Homemade Fat Juicy Burger, The Spot Cristo, BLT, Crab Melt, Golden Fried Fish, The Spot Pontchartrain, Spot Bomber, Seafood Pasta, Ribeye & Shrimp, Gourmet Oxtails, Pork Chops, Southern Chicken, Jumbo Shrimp & Grits, Spotted Seafood Platter, Crunchy Fish Platter, Shrimp Platter and the Fish & Shrimp Platter.

Sides include Jalapeño Mac & Cheese, Mac & Cheese, Herbed Potatoes, Honey Garlic Broccoli, Green Beans, Cilantro Rice, Sweet Corn, Seasoned Collard Greens, Red Beans & Rice and Fried Okra.

Desserts include Mama Red Bread Pudding, Pineapple Cream Cheesecake, Chocolate on Chocolate Cake, Old Fashioned pound Cake, Big Mama Sweet Potato Pie, Peach Cobbler and, of course, Pecan Pie.

The appetizer that jumped off the page for me is the Sriracha Pork Dumplings, deep- or pan-fried.

The Food Spot is open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. – 8:45 p.m. and closed Sundays. Call 281-422-3663. TFS caters too.
Art Williams is an Air Force veteran and a barber. He started out as a shoe-shine boy in his father’s barber shop. When he got out of the military, the money was not in barbering. He came to Baytown in 1983, he worked at U.S. Steel until it shut down.

It had always been his dream to be a barber and follow in his father’s footsteps.

“I never forgot what I wanted to do,” said Art. The opportunity presented itself. He graduated from Modern Barber School in Houston.

He learned to barber and style hair. “I learned it all,” said Art. He immediately rented a space in a beauty shop on Maxey Road. There was not a barbershop in the area at the time.

Art did his own marketing hand delivering flyers in the surrounding neighborhoods to build his clientele. The owner of the shop, however, wanted to continuing closing the shop at 5 p.m. Art was intending to cater to the working public who needed a barber in the evening after work.

So, he went to work in Oak Addition in a beauty shop owned by Ruby Holmes. Later, he rented space from J. C. Baldwin. “I had three chairs: a waiting chair, a barber’s chair and a stylist’s chair. I worked one side and my wife took care of the women,” described Art.

“Soon, a vacant washeteria became available. We leased it, removed the floors and remodeled. We had a lot of space. We also worked with my brother and two cosmetologists, not including the shampoo girls.”

Unfortunately, drugs moved into the neighborhood. “It was time to move,” said Art.

Roland Pruitt, who was on city council at the time, suggested Art check out a property at 1012 Decker Drive. He operated out of that location for many years.

“We went to all the hair shows, even many in Canada,” said Art. “I met Paul Mitchell and Floyd Kenyata. They gave me their personal numbers and said if I had any questions to give them a call.” They advised him to stay put in the area where he had been so successful.

Then 1020 Decker Drive became available right next door. Art bid $35,000 and bought the property. It had been an old Gulf Service Station.

Mary Chambers helped him write his business plan which he presented.

Baytown State Bank financed it, at 6 percent interest, and he paid it back within five years.

Art also obtained a $50,000 small business loan, which he used to buy equipment.

“We held our grand opening in 1995 with a celebration that introduced Mo-Better Chicken & Waffles,” chuckled Art. “I had seen this in California at a hair show and wanted to try it here,” Some thought it was a strange idea, but “now everyone has them,” said Art.

Art is 70 and ready to hand off the business to the next generation(s) as soon as they give the word. Now, Art and his son, Eric Williams, run the barber shop and his daughter, Rainelle Williams, is running the style shop. Rainelle has been working with her father since 1998.

“My dad sent me to barber college. I do everything, barbering and styling,” said Rainelle. She has three children, Lalai (16) and twins Jolia and Kylan (14).

Art Williams also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Theology from the College of Biblical Studies in Houston. He may stay very busy in retirement. Call 281-422-4789.
By Mark Fleming

For the 27 years Baytown police have had a mounted patrol unit, Norman Anderson has been the constant presence—along with one of three horses he has ridden with on duty during those years.

He retired at the end of May, with plans to visit several city parks along with long-time equine partner Sam on his final day of work.

Baytown’s Mounted Patrol Unit is part time, made up of officers who use their own horses when needed, usually for public relations events or high-visibility theft deterrence during the holiday season—most of their time is spent doing the typical police work of their regular assignments.

“Back in the ‘90s when we started we worked the mall because we were having a lot of auto thefts back then,” Anderson said. “That’s one thing I always bragged about—we never lost a car while we had the horses at the mall.”

About five or six years ago a city survey indicated a need for more intensive patrols of shopping areas—mainly the Garth Road corridor—during holidays. The department added overtime patrols, and that usually means spending a couple of days a week patrolling parking lots on horseback, Anderson said.

“As we built up there, it made it a lot easier for the horses because we could go from parking lot to parking lot.”

“The visibility is amazing,” Anderson said. “You can see us as soon as you enter the parking lot or come out of the store.”

One luckless shoplifter coming out of Walmart found himself pursued by Anderson on horseback one day and quickly surrendered.

Anderson’s longest pursuit, though, was while working a
Baytown officers at mounted patrol training school in 2000. From left are J.R. Miller, Chuck Edge, Gordon Atkins, Russell Krutsinger, Martha Murch and Norman Anderson.

security job at NRG Park in Houston, chasing a suspect from the practice field and across a pedestrian overpass before catching him.

Baytown’s Mounted Patrol Unit got its start when Anderson and Sgt. Martha Treloar recruited a couple of other officers to attend the dedication of Goose Creek Park in 1994 on horseback.

The horses were a hit, so six officers were sent for their first training. The original six were Anderson, Treloar (later Murch), Marvin Currie, J.R. Miller, Terry Pasquale and Russell White.

Anderson is the only one of the six still with the Mounted Patrol Unit, though Miller and White are still with the department, he said.

Others have come and gone over the years. Once Anderson leaves it will be up to officer Kody Cochran, the remaining member, to rebuild the unit.

Until just a couple of years ago, Anderson said, the officers did not get any assistance from the department for the cost of maintaining their horses, though there is now some support provided for the cost of feed and veterinary bills.

As for retirement plans, Anderson said he will take a couple weeks off then start a new job with the Barbers Hill ISD police—and expects to introduce his horse to students there before long.
The class of 2021 has endured an overwhelming amount of challenges. With the restrictions of the pandemic, they had to overcome challenges in getting clinical placements to complete required hours and complete many of their courses online rather than in person. The stress of having nursing school without peers and faculty around them daily created another challenge. Some of them also battled personal hardships and struggles as well,” said Norris.

Most 2021 Lee College Nursing School graduates were from the Baytown area with some traveling from as far away as Humble, Texas.

Norris said many of the 2021 graduates have already received job offers and can enter the workforce with a graduate nurse permit. While they must still take their state board licensing exam and pass to obtain their permanent nursing license, they can begin work with a graduate nurse permit.

“Nursing school is extremely hard even during perfect circumstances, but surviving nursing school amidst a global pandemic is really remarkable,” said Norris. “We are so proud of them and can’t wait to see the big things they accomplish.”

Regina Roach, a Lee College 2021 Nursing School graduate said there was a brief period during the height of the pandemic when she wasn’t sure she would make it through the program.

“There was a point when we were homeschooling our three kids, our nursing classes were delayed, none of us had ever taken online classes before, and I came close to quitting,” said Roach. “But my nursing friends and I stuck together and the instructors were so supportive. They still text us and call us to encourage us.

The staff is really amazing.”

As a second-career nurse, Roach said she always felt like God made her to serve others, but she never considered nursing until after she delivered her first child in a hospital. From that point on, she felt called to be a nurse.

“I had no idea what nursing school was going to be like going into it,” said Roach. “School was never difficult for me, but nursing school is a whole different world. I studied like it was my fulltime job.”

Although nursing school is a lot of hard work, Roach said it is extremely rewarding to know that you can accomplish your dreams. She encouraged anyone who is interested in pursuing a career in nursing to go for their dreams and to look into what the nursing program at Lee College has to offer.

“Just go for it,” Roach said to anyone interested in a career in nursing. “Ignore the people who don’t believe in you because you will find your people who believe in you and will help you succeed.”

Roach was hired immediately after graduation and will begin her career as an ICU nurse at HCA Healthcare in the coming weeks.

For more information about how to make your dream of becoming a nurse into a reality, visit the Lee College Nursing program website at www.lee.edu/nursing.
By Matt Hollis

At 90 years old, Maria Esther Estrada Campos is still as sharp as she was when she fought for Latinos as a civic leader and served as a trustee on the Houston ISD board.

Campos has achieved a lot in her life from the days of walking to Jeff Davis High School, attending classes at the University of Houston College of Education in 1959, earning Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees while juggling work, and raising four children while being married to Jesse T. Campos of the Campos’ of Goose Creek. In the early 1960s, she was hired as one of the first bilingual instructors at HISD. She later became a counselor and an assistant principal.

Campos was in the process of pursuing her doctoral degree in the 1970s, having already put in 60 hours of required coursework and submitting her dissertation proposal entitled, “A Study of the Relationship of School Behavior of Junior High Mexican American Students and Their Teachers’ Level of Cultural Understanding” (April 22, 1977). But family obligations prevented her from obtaining her doctorate.

This year, Campos’ daughter, Olga Campos Benz, decided it was time for her mother to receive the degree that she worked hard for 40 years ago.

During a virtual reception for Campos’ Benz said, “I contacted U of H and said how do I get my mother’s lifework to count toward the dissertation and her doctorate? And they were so kind, but they let me know, they do not do that. But they were very gracious and referred me to the honorary degree. They said, please put together a submission, a nomination.”

In the nomination, Benz wrote, “The time is right to hold my mother, Maria Esther Estrada Campos, as an example of grit and determination, and the fighting spirit that exists within every fiber of life within the U of H System and the City of Houston as we pull together to rise above the pain and uncertainty created by COVID, the repeated devastation left behind by hurricanes, floods, and winter storms, as well as the unified call to end social injustices. There is no better time than now to honor Maria Esther Estrada Campos with an Honorary Degree from U of H.”

U of H’s leadership agreed, and on May 18, Campos walked across the stage at the Fertitta Center to receive her degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

UH Chancellor and President Renu Khator was gracious about Campos receiving her doctorate.

“It is our way to commemorate your lifetime of service as an educator and community activist, and most notably your passionate promotion and advocacy of educational access for Latino students,” Khator said.

Dr. Laura G. Murillo, President and CEO of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who was instrumental in helping Campos receive her honorary doctorate, had kind words for the 90-year-old.

“Mrs. Campos is a true public servant who has had a direct and positive impact on students, parents, school district employees, community leaders, elected officials, and her fellow educators throughout her lengthy and successful career,” Murillo said. “I am thrilled to be among the many community leaders who added my personal support for Mrs. Campos’ nomination for this much-deserved recognition.”

District 29 Rep. Sylvia Garcia went to the U.S. House of Representatives floor May 13 to congratulate Campos on receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from UH. Other community leaders stepped up, such as State Sen. Carol Alarvado, State Sen. John Whitmire, and Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.
Maria Esther Estrada Campos was finally able to receive her degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Houston, thanks to the efforts of her daughter, Olga Campos Benz, and many others. Campos, who was married to Jesse T. Campos, began working toward her doctorate 40 years ago but had to stop due to family obligations. She received her honorary doctorate May 18 at a special ceremony. Also pictured are UH President and Chancellor Renu Khator and the Dean of the College of Education, Robert McPherson.
Congratulations

Saundra Smith (left photo), Billy Kerr and Randall J. Kerr each won a silver coin for writing about their hopes for 2021 in a contest sponsored by Kay and Jay Eshbach.
Women of Faith Group Celebrates 20 Years

Delayed by the 2020 Pandemic, these ladies want the world to know they are armed and vaccinated.

They recommend The Mustard Seed Tea Room. "The Decor, the food, the atmosphere, and last but not least the fellowship. So many beautiful places to explore in Baytown. Because of these Women we are Rooted in Love, Strength and courage. The shoulders on which we stand!"

Compliments of: Jackie White, Sandra Harris, Connie Guide, Jeanette Gorgan, Edith Williams, LaShawn Marcion and Meya Williams!
We’re here to serve you

PH: (281) 576-0555
10133 Interstate 10 East, Baytown, Texas 77521
We’re here to support our community
Above: ExxonMobil volunteers at Houston Raceway Park were on hand to cheer on cancer survivors at the 2021 American Cancer Society Relay for Life event.

At right, Sherry and Stan White with their daughter, Shelby, participated in the survivors’ lap.

photos by Carol Skewes
Brody Garcia (7) and his brother Braxton (5) were ready to cheer on the Relay for Life Survivors in the parade May 14.

Community Resource Credit Union volunteers from left Richard Lejuene, Theresa Badgett and Tina Martinez (center)

From left Firefighter Hayden Orlando with Cove Fire & Rescue, Relay for Life Parade Grand Marshal Pat Thomas and Amy Abell of the American Cancer Society.
Eric Moralez, 14, with Shawn; Tori Fisher, 15, with Waylon and Potato; and Taylor Fisher, 11, with Whiskey.

Verna Barfield, 92, has been visiting the Baytown Youth Fair since it started 60 years ago. Four generations of her family have shown calves.

Wyatt Givens, 13, with Joey the pig.
Montana Andrews, 17; Taylin Woodall, 13; Autumn Zaruba, 13; and Sydney Wade, 18 at the Baytown Youth Fair

Christina Woodall (mother of Baytown Junior Queen Taylin Woodall) and Marsha Prickett (mother of Baytown Area Queen Montana Andrews)

Lisett Hernandez, 15, with Piglet, the first pig ever shown at Baytown Youth Fair for Stuart Career Tech High School.

Sophia Melton and Haden Nugent are pictured with their winning art.

Montana Andrews, 17; Taylin Woodall, 13; Autumn Zaruba, 13; and Sydney Wade, 18 at the Baytown Youth Fair
With so many memories long past and gone, it came later that Kathryn Wright decided to make capturing them for all time into a hobby.

The venerable long-long time coach and teacher in the Goose Creek CISD mostly at Robert E. Lee High School has been retired for a while now, but her new love of travel and photography has only boosted her quality of life after enjoying it for so long in the education system.

Wright was a coach for the girls swimming team at REL while she taught physical education. She coached the girls for eight years during the '80s and enjoyed some heights in the pool.

Her biggest claim to fame came by way of leading the Brigadiers, a drum and bugle corps, which played on until 2001, disbanding a couple years following Wright's last retirement.

“I went back a few years after my first retirement for parts of four more years to lead the drum and bugle corps so I was at Lee for a total of 30 years,” Wright, who started her career with GCCISD at Horace Mann Junior School, said. “The last time I retired was in 1999. It took three times for me to get it right.”

Wright spoke proudly about the hundred-plus various students that would be on the field to march when the Brigadiers was at its peak.

“When I left there were 240 girls,” Wright said. “It was all girls. We had bass, snare and tom tom drums. We had tenor, soprano, baritone and bass bugles.

“I don’t know what made it popular because it wasn’t my pleasing personality.”

Wright also worked with the cheerleaders prior to taking over the swim team and later the Brigadiers.

“I worked for Goose Creek schools for 33 years,” Wright said. “I loved being at Lee and (principal) Mr. Henry Armstrong and worked for some great people. I enjoyed building. I couldn’t stand to lose on anything.”

Over the years, Wright has been “traveling any time I get,” having visiting all points of the globe including Australia and New Zealand with a Lee College senior group, the Panama Canal, Alaska, Nova Scotia and many ports in Europe including England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy and Greece.

“Next month I was supposed to go to Costa Rica but that’s been canceled,” Wright said.

She most enjoyed visiting Alaska noting it her favorite place while her top spot in the continental United States as Gulf Shores, Alabama.

“Alaska is a little bit wild and it’s like going back to
Where are they Now?

the old days,” Wright said.
She also was knocked over by her visit to the Coliseum in Rome.
“I was totally shocked by my reaction to it,” Wright said. “I was also impressed with Anne Frank’s house (in Amsterdam).”

When she can, Wright visits with her brother in Arkansas and her nieces and nephews located in Texas as well as in the Pacific Northwest.

In the meantime, she will take her pictures and build scrapbooks with her newfound hobby and record all of her new visits.

“I would love to do an African safari,” Wright said. “I want to go to Ireland, Scotland and Wales. I am supposed to go with a group from Lee College.”

photos by Kathryn Wright

The Infamous Kathryn Wright Pose

photos courtesy of Bridgett Tucker

This story previously ran in the April 2020 Greater Baytown Magazine, but due to covid-19, that was one of the months we didn’t print the magazine. It was only available online.
Marlins coach Joseph Olivares waves home Luke Rios during the Baytown Little League T-Ball championship game.

The Pirates Ezra Jaramilo gathers up a grounder.

The Marlins Parker Maynard races toward home plate hoping to get out the Pirates Esteban Thomas.

Marlins coach Joseph Olivares and Evan Olivares confer before a big at bat.

The Marlins Evan Olivares.
Ethan Bienlien of the Angels throws to pitcher Wyatt Garmon while Jeremia Frazier keeps an eye on things.

Roman Respress of the Rockies swings away at a pitch during the Minor 3 final against the Angels Saturday.

Ethan Bienlien of the Angels throws a ball to first base during his team’s Minor 3 final against the Rockies.

Owen Prater of the Rockies intensely awaits the next pitch from first base during the Minor 3 final against the Angels.
BARBERS HILL
LITTLE LEAGUE AND SOFTBALL
DAZZLERS WIN BIG
GCM DAZZLERS WIN BIG AT 2021 CONTEST AWARDS

OFFICER SUPER SWEETSTAKES
Awarded to the Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers Field Officers: Captain Eliana Mack, 1st Lieutenant: Brittney Guizar,
Senior Lieutenant: Kelsey Alfaro & Senior Lieutenant: Samantha Hillier
• Select Extra Large Officer Modern - Winner
• Select Extra Large Officer Novelty - Winner
• Select Extra Large Officer Contemporary - 1st Runner Up

OFFICER NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:
Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers Field Officers
Select Extra Large High School Varsity - 1st Runner Up

OUTSTANDING AWARDS - OFFICER PLAQUES:
• Select Extra Large Officer Modern - Choreography & Performance Quality
• Select Extra Large Officer Novelty - Choreography & Performance Quality
• Select Extra Large Officer Contemporary - Choreography & Performance Quality

TEAM SUPER SWEETSTAKES: - Awarded to the Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers
• Select Extra Large Team Novelty - Winner
• Select Extra Large Team Modern - Winner
• Select Extra Large Team Lyrical - 1st Runner Up

ACADEMIC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE -
Plaque Awarded to the Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers for their overall Team Total of their GPA.

NATIONAL CHAMPION TEAM :
Awarded to the Goose Creek Memorial Dazzlers Select Extra Large High School Varsity - 1st Runner Up

OUTSTANDING AWARDS - TEAM PLAQUES:
• Select Extra Large Team Novelty - Choreography
• Select Extra Large Team Lyrical - Choreography

BANNERS: GCM Dazzlers received 2 banners for Super Sweepstakes & Superior Performance at Nationals!!

SOCIAL OFFICERS:
The Social Officers received a Superior Performance Division 1 rating for their Social Officer dance!
Social Officers are President: Isabella Castellano, Vice President: Lorelei Barboza, Secretary: Kaitlyn Limas, Secretary: Briana Monsalve, Historian: Vianey Trejo, Historian: Abigail Villareal, Social Executive: Michelle Figeroa, Social Executive: Mia Agudelo

DAZZLER SOLO, DUET & TRIO AWARDS:
All soloists received a Superior Performance Solo Division 1 rating for each of their Solo Performances:
Soloists: Eliana Mack, Brittney Guizar, Jocelyn Zuniga, Alyssa Gonzalez & Sariah Lawerence
All duet received a Superior Performance Division 1 rating for each Duet:
• Duet performed: Cecilia Amezcua & Brianna Duran
• Duet performed: Sariah Lawrence & Krystal Beroo
• Duet performed: Kaitlyn Moyers & Ariana Garza
Best in Class Trio - Winner Plaque:
Trio performed by: Averi Henderson, Hailey Saenz & Kyla Dickson

The GCM Dazzlers advanced to the Texas National Finals to perform 2 routines again on Sunday, March 28th in the Genre category.
They received the following National Finals awards for both dances:
• TexasNationalsFinals: 2nd place Overall for the Modern Genre
• TexasNationalsFinals: 3rd place Overall for the Novelty Genre
Congratulations to the GCM Dazzlers for all these high honors. It was a long weekend of dancing and their amazing performances shined throughout every routine.

This is a HUGE HONOR and ACHIEVEMENT that our team has worked extremely hard in preparation for contest season.

The Dazzlers are under the direction of Co-Directors: Larisa Coy Cantu & Marisa Coy Yepez
26 Under 40 in 2021
Each year since 2015, The Baytown Sun has honored our area’s rising leaders for their business success and community impact. They are your neighbors, co-workers and friends. The 2021 class of The Baytown Sun’s “26 under 40” is a diverse group, each with their own strengths and personalities. with one thing in common, their impact and dedication to the community.

Read all about them at: https://www.baytowntsun.com/app/26under40_2021-FULL.pdf
Epicurean Evening

BAYTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL RESTAURANTS

The People’s Choice Award went to Dot’s Catering. From left are Baytown Chamber of Commerce Chair Holly Jackson, Latrice Merchant, Theresa Powell and Eva Johnson.

Chick-fil-A won the Best Booth award. Pictured from left are Holly Jackson, The Kid Cow, Marketing Director Susan Harper, Catering Director Melida Elmore and Marketing Director Asha Kenebrew.

ExxonMobil’s Connie Tilton was presented the award for presenting sponsor by Baytown Chamber of Commerce Chairwoman Holly Jackson.

Sponsors of the Epicurean Evening presented by ExxonMobil were TGS Cedar Port, Patients ER, Texas First Bank, Community Bank of Texas, First Liberty National Bank, Linebaugh Law Firm, State Representative Mayes Middleton, Lee College Holly Jackson Team, Friendswood Development Houston Raceway Park, Community Toyota-Honda-Kia, BDI Resources, Inc., Perfect Policy.

Participating restaurants included AR’s Entertainment, Bayou City Wings, Beaky’s Hot Chicken, Chick-fil-A Baytown, Daniel’s Meat Market, Dot’s Catering, Eagle Pointe Events & Catering, El Toro Mexican Restaurant, Executive Catering, Floyd’s Cajun Seafood, H-E-B Baytown, Papa John’s Pizza, Raising Cane’s, Stonebridge at Newport and Teapot Depot.

Proceeds from the event help the Baytown Chamber of Commerce assist with Partners in Education, scholarship for graduating seniors and other worthwhile programs that benefit the community.

From left Neva White of Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union, Jana Ballinger of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and Sandy Denson of Baytown Habitat

Teapot Depot’s Gaby Lopez, Owner Missy Norton and Dylan Vyoral

Photos by Carol Skewes
Dot’s Catering’s Theresa Powell, Latrice Merchant and Eva Johnson help Epicurean Evening guests Okie Percle

EaglePointe Events & Catering’s Hannah Gayle Tillman, Yaneli Gonzales and Stacey Brandon

AR’s Entertainment: Janiyha Leblanc, Shelly Percle, Dalondia Samuel, Rickey Amey and Macy Runnells

Daniel’s Meat Market: Kelly Flores and Joe Franco

Floyd’s Cajun Seafood’s Zachary Tieman, Brittany Warg and Jose Tay

Gene McDowell and Aric Buillion are being served by Executive Catering’s Dena Adcox and Jessica Gray at Epicurean Evening.

Dat’s Catering’s Theresa Powell, Latrice Merchant and Eva Johnson help Epicurean Evening guests Okie Percle

Kay Eshbach, Eddie Gray, Sheila Crawford and Pam Warford at the Epicurean wine pull fundraiser.

El Toro’s Catering Manager Bernie Joseph and Manager Mauricio Ramirez
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