

Halo House Provides “Home” to 250th Cancer Patient

Edward Reel, a kind-hearted friendly fellow from Midland, Texas, has lymphoma, and for the last 23 years it has been in remission. This year he felt a lump in his neck and didn't think much of it. Soon the mass was so large, it couldn't be ignored. According to Reel, "I wasn't surprised, the kind of cancer I have is not curable. I wish it hadn't come back, but it's been reduced in a very short time by about 80%."

Edward is currently receiving treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center for B-Cell Lymphoma and he and his wife, Lay, are living in a Halo House apartment. For Halo House, welcoming the Reels was a major milestone as they are their 250th family housed!

Since coming to Houston in January, the Reel's have only been able to return home to Midland for three days. Edward and Lay say, "It's hard, it's hard when you're away from your home for so long. Most people I talk to cannot come



Edward and Lay Reel.

to MD Anderson for treatment. Who is going to take care of their kids? Who is going to take care of their house payment? [They say] we cannot go to MD Anderson ... we just have to stay put."

For only \$20 per day, patients battling leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma can stay at a fully furnished Halo House apartment near the Texas Medical Center for up to

three months. The Reel's said Halo House has been a "life saver" and "it has everything you need ... like a home."

Lay Reel stated, "Having a place to live is a stress relief, it eliminates a problem. It's so expensive to stay in a hotel."

For Halo House has

meant that he can, "concentrate on our hospital visits and not have an added worry." Halo House has already provided over 16,000 days of housing to families like the Reel's, but there are still 85 to 100 people on the wait list every

day who need a Halo House apartment.

Currently, Halo House is in the final stages of a capital campaign, raising funds to build a facility near the Texas Medical Center on Corder Street that will house 32 families at one time. With plans to break ground this year, Executive Director Kathleen Fowler says, "The new Halo House facility will allow us to triple the number of families we are able to serve, and provide approximately 11,000 days of housing an-

nually."

"This will be a wonderful facility for Houston, and for patients who need the world class cancer treatment available at our Texas Medical Center. We have received tremendous support from the Houston community. Of the total \$12.1 million project cost, we only need \$1.5 million to make this dream a reality, and we have a generous family who will match up to \$1 million in new donations."

If you are interested in partnering



An architect's rendition of new Halo House plans.

with Halo House to help build this beautiful new facility, visit www.HaloHouseFoundation.org and click on "Give Now." You can make an immediate donation, or

See Halo page 11

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Lonestar Bluegrass Band

Sunday, July 9 @ 11:11 a.m.

The Lonestar Bluegrass Band will be leading hymns and sharing their talents in our traditional worship service on July 9 to help us kick off our **Summer Music Series** (July 9 - August 13). Join us as Pastor Seam leads the congregation through the book of Galatians complimented by an eclectic mix of musical offerings.

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Music Box Revisits 60s & 70s

The Music Box Theater will take its audiences back to the 1960s and 1970s, a time when music and culture was truly groovy, in "Feelin' Groovy 3" - The Music Box Theater's third summer of love in a row. This all-new musical celebration of this iconic time period debuts July 1 and plays through Aug. 26.

Favorite songs from 1965 through 1975 will be interspersed with comedy sketches that take audiences back in time. The show will feature classics like "Honky Tonk Woman" by the Rolling Stones, "Redemption Song" by Bob Marley, "City of New Orleans" by Arlo Guthrie, "You Don't Own Me" by Leslie Gore, "Nights in White Satin" by the Moody Blues and many, many more.

Tickets for each show are \$39 for reserved seating and \$29 for general admission and are available online at themusicboxtheater.com or by calling (713) 522-7722.

The Music Box Theater's intimate cabaret is at 2623 Colquitt in the heart of Upper Kirby. This storied venue was the original home of Radio Music Theater. Wine, beer and snacks are available.

Pre-Trip Vehicle Check for a Stress Free Road Trip

Summer road trip season is here and AAA expects to receive calls from over seven million stranded motorists experiencing car trouble this summer. The majority of issues the travel group anticipates will cause car problems, such as dead batteries and flat tires, can be prevented with a pre-trip vehicle inspection.

Whether you do it yourself or visit a trusted professional technician, a pre-trip vehicle check will give you peace of mind and provide the opportunity to make any necessary repairs before you hit the road.

Before leaving home, check the battery, tires, wipers and lighting, HVAC system and fluids including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluids as well as washer solvent and coolant. The Car Care Council also recommends inspecting the brake system and performing a tune-up to help the engine deliver the best balance of power and fuel economy. Fournace Shell can take care of this for you.

To be prepared for an unplanned roadside emergency, remember to fully charge cell phones before you go and bring along a vehicle emergency kit, including jumper cables, emergency flares, first-aid kit, flashlight with extra batteries, bottled water, non-perishable food items and blankets.

Keep a copy of the Car Care Council's Car Care Guide in your glove box. Order a free copy online at www.carcare.org/car-care-guide.

We hope it doesn't happen, but should you need roadside assistance, remember that Fournace Shell's towing service, Alpha and Omega, is a AAA facility that can do everything from change your tire to give you a tow.

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TREES

Continued from page 10

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Daniel Silva.

Bestselling Author Daniel Silva on Stage at Kaplan Theatre

Evelyn Rubenstein JCC of Houston presents Daniel Silva's return to the Kaplan Theatre to discuss his latest work Sunday, July 16 at 5 p.m.

Each summer readers anticipate the return of legendary art restorer and sometime Israeli secret agent, Gabriel Allon. In Daniel Silva's newest heart-stopping tale of suspense, *House of Spies*, Allon is back and out for revenge determined to hunt down the world's most dangerous terrorist, a shadowy ISIS mastermind known only as Saladin. A terrorist plot leaves a trail of carnage through London's West End. The attack is a brilliant feat of planning and secrecy, but with one loose thread. The thread leads Gabriel Allon and his team to the south of France and to the gilded doorstep of one of the richest men in the country and his companion, a beautiful former British fashion model.

Daniel Silva has been called his generation's finest writer of international intrigue and one of the greatest American spy novelists ever. Compelling, passionate, haunting, brilliant: these are the words that have been used to describe his work.

This is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of his writing from the author himself in an evening that features a moderated conversation by Houston Public Media's government and political reporter Andrew Schneider in the intimacy of the Kaplan Theatre. This is a ticketed event which includes a copy of the book. A reception and book signing follows the program. Tickets available at erjcc-houston.org.

Friends of Down Syndrome Named Official Charity for Houston Marathon

Houston's Friends of Down Syndrome is among nine new organizations to be named "official charities" for the 2018 Chevron Houston Marathon Run for a Reason charity program.

The 2018 Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon are scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018, while the ABB 5K will be held the day before on Saturday, Jan. 13. The Run for a Reason program offers guaranteed ways to enter the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon.

Why run with Friends of Down Syndrome? Texas is 50th out of all 50 states in spending on individuals with developmental disabilities. Friends of Down Syndrome is one of a handful of institutions in the United States offering a well-rounded curriculum for adults with Down syndrome. When you join the Friends of Down

Syndrome team, you will have a positive impact on a groundbreaking program focused on the whole student: academics, wellness, fitness, social skills, speech and vocational training.

A limited number of Fundraising for Registration (FFR) charity entries will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Fundraising for Registration charity entries give runners an opportunity to fundraise for Friends of Down Syndrome and receive a guaranteed race entry. For more information, visit <http://charity.marathonguide.com/houstonmarathon/Donate/CharityPage.cfm?CID=764>.

HERO charity entries enable runners to make an upfront, tax-deductible donation of at least \$350 to an official Run for a Reason charity of their choice. More information on HERO entries can be found on the registration page: <http://www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com/run-for-a-reason/hero-registration/>.

Choose "Friends of Down Syndrome" as your Hero charity!

In addition to individual runners, Friends of Down Syndrome is also looking for corporations to register their employees for running teams of 10 or more. Registering with Friends of Down Syndrome brings with it special "perks" such as private Hero bathrooms, special event hats and team bibs. For more information on registering your corporate team or as an individual runner, contact Melissa Marteeny at Melissa_Marteeny@yahoo.com.

Interesting in helping Friends of Down Syndrome but don't like to run? No problem! The group is seeking volunteers to support the marathon team. Call (281) 989-0345 or e-mail Melissa_Marteeny@yahoo.com for more info.

Awareness and Vigilance Help Prevent Terrorism

Along with federal, state, county and municipal agencies, Constable Precinct 1 personnel train and prepare for preventing and/or dealing with a terrorist act in the Houston area.

Seldom, if ever, is there a specific threat of terrorism in our sprawling community. If and when there is, the public will be informed. This article is designed to encourage public participation in the vigilance against potential terrorist acts. It's not meant to frighten anyone.

Terrorism is defined by the use of weapons designed to cause mass disruption, mass destruction, and/or mass casualties. The weapons include firearms, explosive devices, toxic chemicals, vehicles and aircraft.

Often the motive for such attacks is political, social or cultural. As you probably remember, in our lifetimes the U.S. has suffered terrorist attacks by native-born American citizens as well by foreigners.

Federal agencies consider Houston a prime potential target for would-be terrorists partly because of our huge petro-chemical industry, much of which is clustered near the Houston Ship Channel. Mass disruption of these industrial areas would easily change global energy supplies and prices; a large-scale attack could cause deadly explosions and the release of toxic chemicals.

Airports, sports arenas, concert venues and other places where large numbers of people gather are potential targets around the world. Houston obviously has many such venues.

Precinct 1 residents can help prevent terrorism simply by being aware and vigilant. It goes back to the standard advice: "If you see something, say something." That means contact law enforcement if you see something suspicious. Don't rely on "others" to take care of it.

Your local first-responders WANT you to call 911 if

- you see any of these:
- Suspicious packages left unattended.
 - People taking photos of security equipment.
 - People buying large amounts of items — such as chemicals, fertilizers, modified electronics — that can be used to make explosives.
 - People outdoors wearing bulky clothing that is inappropriate for weather conditions.
 - Vehicles that have no license plates are left unattended for a long time.
 - Anything else that rouses your intuition.

Halo from page 5

make a pledge to be paid over a three year period. A variety of naming opportunities are available to memorialize friends and family, with small pavers starting at only \$250.

To learn more about Halo House Foundation and how you can help, contact Executive Director, Kathleen Fowler at (713) 665-8852.