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Business digest: Rhonda Bullard rejoins heart association staff

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Sunday, March 09, 2008

Rhonda Bullard rejoins heart association staff

Rhonda Bullard has rejoined the American Heart Association after taking a two year sabbatical to grow a foundation for CHRISTUS Health Systems in Nassau Bay.

MORE BUSINESS DIGEST

- ▶ **MARCH 2, 2008:** Good Shepherd names Moffitt new director
- ▶ **FEB. 24, 2008:** Good Shepherd names Moffitt new director
- ▶ **FEB. 17, 2008:** Longview Regional names top staffers
- ▶ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?:** Register and start a thread about local business on our message boards.

Bullard is the Southeast Texas vice president, supervising development staff in the Valley, Corpus Christi, Beaumont, Waco, Temple, Bryan/College Station, Tyler and Longview. She has more than 15 years experience in fundraising management, volunteer involvement, accountability, gift solicitation and relationship building.

In June 2007 she obtained her Certified Fund Raising Executive designation after completing vigorous requirements of professional practice, performance, education and service as well as passing a comprehensive examination of the knowledge and skills required of a fund raising executive.

Relocating back to Longview, she joins her daughter and son-in-law, Ashley and Philip Green, and their two children. Her two sons, Cade Bullard and Chase Bullard both reside in Dallas.

Decorating Etc. expanding merchandise

Beth James has announced the expansion of her Decorating Etc., business with the addition of custom draperies, plantation shutters, blinds and shades.

She said the additions compliment to her existing store of wallpaper. James, along with her husband, Randy James, who operates Hardin True Value, said both entrepreneurs are focusing on customer service and building trust.

Decorating Etc., located in Brookwood Village at 1418 McCann Road, has been in business three years.

Super Centers get AAA Texas certification

AAA Texas announced today that Automotive Super Center Nos. 1, 2, and in Longview have earned certification by AAA's Approved Auto Repair program.

The automotive centers are located at 1109 West Loop 281; 3698 E Marshall, and 100 N Spur 63.

The certification means the repair facility has met AAA's strict criteria for technician certification and customer satisfaction. AAA-approved shops also offer a wide range of automotive services and are equipped with the high-tech equipment needed to repair today's sophisticated vehicles.

"The AAA Approved Auto Repair program examines all aspects of a repair shop's operation and awards approval to only the best shops in the business," said Patrick O'Reilly, manager of AAA Texas Approved Auto Repair.

Melton elected to school band fraternity

Mark Melton, band director Union Grove High School has been elected to membership in Phi Beta Mu, an international school bandmaster fraternity.

Established in 1938, Phi Beta Mu is an honorary, non-political, non-profit fraternity. There are approximately 300 active members in Texas with additional chapters in most of the 50 states as well as Canada, Japan and Europe.

Melton was inducted at the annual new member's breakfast Feb. 16 in San Antonio. He was sponsored by Don Lawler of Longview. Co-sponsors were Ann Peace of Allen and Waymon Bullock of Etoile.

In order to be considered for membership in Phi Beta Mu, a person must have at least 10 years of successful teaching experience and must have produced and maintained an outstanding and consistent band program in the public schools and/or universities.

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Melton's teaching experience includes one year as the assistant director at Spring Hill High School, six years as the director of Lufkin Junior High East and 20 years in his current position at Union Grove.

Local mortgage broker attends conference

Tim Barnett, a member of the leadership in the Texas Association of Mortgage Brokers said recent meetings in Washington, D.C., with members of the Texas congressional delegation were beneficial.

The meetings were part of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers' annual legislative conference, designed to bring members from throughout the country into direct contact with their members of Congress.

Barnett, who hosts a radio talk and is president of his own business – America's Mortgage Center – and his wife, Christine, met with U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, and other members of the delegation about the prevailing mortgage market issues facing consumers in Texas and throughout the United States.

Barnett added that he will discuss the stimulus package and its effects on brokers in greater detail on future installments of his radio show. The show airs at noon every Sunday on 104.1 FM and live on the Internet at www.asktheranch.com.

ETBU places five teams in global competition

For the first time since student teams of the Fred M. Hale School of Business at East Texas Baptist University have been participating in the GLO-BUS strategic management simulation, five teams have placed in the Global Top 100.

Each team operates all aspects of a simulation international company. There were 1,250 teams from 83 colleges/universities participating in the simulation worldwide during the week of February 18-24, 2008.

"This is the best news we have had on our policy performance yet," said Dean of the School of Business Dr. Charles Williams. "We have seven teams participating and five of the teams placed in the top 100 worldwide."

Pipeline safety topic of upcoming program

A free program on what public officials, excavators and the general public can do to prevent pipeline breaks and ruptures that often lead to severe property damage, injuries and even death will be held at 6:30 p.m., March 27, at the Marshall Civic Center.

During the safety awareness meeting sponsored by a number of energy firms, attendees will hear about state and federal laws governing excavation around pipelines; indicators of a pipeline break and release; how to recognize a pipeline emergency; and proper first response guidelines to follow if a pipeline failure incident occurs.

Jefferson's Delta Street Inn honored

BnBfinder.com, the world's most comprehensive B&B directory, awarded the Delta Street Inn in Jefferson, the Guest Favorite Award for 2007.

The Guest Favorite Award, decided based on independent reviews posted to the site by guests, is the highest distinction awarded by BnBfinder.com.

Record keepers set Wednesday session

The monthly Ark-La-Tex ARMA meeting 11:30 to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Summit Club in Longview.

Document and Workflow Strategies will be the program presented by Tim Harms, representative for Ricoh Business Solutions in Shreveport.

Harms will give records managers current strategies for managing their organization's documents and workflow using current technology.

Workers' Comp to deliver medical guides

The Kilgore College Small Business Development Center has teamed-up with the Texas Department of Insurance-Division of Workers' Compensation to offer two programs for area hospital billing managers and staff, insurance carriers, claims adjusters, case managers, doctors and their billing staff, ancillary health care providers and their billing staff and others.

This program, entitled the "Workers' Comp 2008 – Newly Revised Medical/Hospital Fee Guidelines" is scheduled for on March 27. There will be a morning session on hospital fee guidelines from 8:30 a.m. to noon and an afternoon session on medical fee guidelines from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

These sessions will be held at the Ramada Inn located at 419 Spur 64

The fee for this program is \$79 for each session-which includes continental breakfast, refreshments and all program materials.

To register and to receive a brochure detailing these programs, contact the center by calling (903) 757-5857 or (800) 338-7232.

Rigs actively looking for oil, gas up by 39

HOUSTON — The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States increased by 39 this week to 1,802.

Of the rigs running nationwide, 1,456 were exploring for natural gas and 337 for oil, Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas gained 25 rigs, Louisiana added 11, Colorado gained five, New Mexico gained three, and Alaska and Oklahoma each added one.

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Editor's note: Deadline for submissions for the Longview News-Journal's Sunday Business Digest is 5 p.m. Tuesday. Submissions may be faxed to (903) 757-3742; e-mailed to melswick@longview-news.com or mailed to: Mike Elswick, business editor, Longview News-Journal, P.O. Box 1792, Longview, TX 75606. For questions, call (903) 237-7737.

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