

COMMUNITY | HELPING HAND

Mustang Creek Estates of Burleson residents make blankets for pets in need



Kathy Moenlow (right), Loraine Johnson (center) and Judi Gorski (right) volunteered to make blankets for dogs and cats at Second Chance Farm in Granbury. **BURLESON STAR/BETHANN COLDIRON**

From Contributed Reports

Research shows there are many benefits of pet ownership for older adults, including decreased risk of cardiovascular disease, lower blood pressure and reduced anxiety. Those who already own a fur-

ry friend can't imagine their lives without them. Mustang Creek Estates of Burleson realizes that the bond between people and pets is oftentimes unbreakable. For that reason, the senior living community is a pet-friendly environment, and a number of the

senior residents share their homes with four-legged friends. To show and spread their love for animals, residents and team members at Mustang Creek Estates of Burleson were recently hand making pet blankets that were later donated to Second Chance

Farm, a facility in Granbury that offers care and a peaceful living environment for abused, physically handicapped, aged or homeless animals. Many of the residents had their own pets by their side while making the blankets. Sandi Walker from Second

Chance Farm picked up the blankets with her best friend, a Great Dane named Willow.

The donated blankets provide the animals with warmth and a sense of comfort, letting them know they are cared for and safe. The residents of Mustang Creek Es-

tates of Burleson placed the love they feel for their own pets into each of these blankets. This close-up look also demonstrated how the senior living community always finds ways to be involved in the local community and continues to give back to those in need.

EVENT | NONPROFIT

Fighting cancer in remembrance of Cooper Max

By BROOKE BOREN burlesonstar@thestargroup.com

After a year of fighting cancer, they finally thought they had it beat. When the routine check-up proved otherwise, the nightmare began again and a mother and father lost their child two weeks later. Now they want to help others.

Eric and Heather Max are parents to Cooper, who died at 4 years old from a malignant rhabdoid tumor. Eric and Heather started The Cooper Max Foundation in part to keep Cooper's memory alive and raise awareness for pediatric cancer.

"The reason I decided to start the foundation, honestly, is because that's the easiest way for me to grieve," Heather said. "It's for me to have something to work on, to keep his name so people won't forget him, to keep his legacy alive and to give back to the children that are fighting rare diseases."

Cooper's case was severe, at one point even leading to a chemo treatment nicknamed "the red devil." But by the

end of his life, according to Heather, doctors were hopeful, Cooper's hair was growing back and he was finally able to go home.

"The glimmer of light we had been praying to see, we could finally spot," she said. "Then on March 4, 2016, Cooper went to the hospital to get follow up scans. The doctor determined the cancer was back in his left lung. He was gone within two weeks, because the cancer had rapidly grown back so quickly that it overtook his entire body."

One hundred percent of the foundation's proceeds goes toward families dealing with cancer to help with medical research, paying their bills, covering medical expenses, insurance costs and whatever else is needed.

"We know the kind of torture it is when your baby has cancer," Heather said. "Life doesn't stop, bills keep coming in and sometimes they just need to be able to breathe and know it's going to be taken care of."

Heather said she believes even the smallest

gesture can mean the most to cancer families, so she has to take what she can off of them.

"These children didn't choose or ask to be diagnosed with cancer, but they fight hard and continue to persevere despite the severity of what they're going through," she said. "Cancer parents spend weeks, months and sometimes even years in the hospital with their babies, because that's what we as parents do. Even their siblings have to take the backseat for a while, because cancer consumes your entire life."

Another reason for the Maxes' fight is to help find a cure, with Heather calling the lack of research funding "extremely disheartening."

"Knowing that there are brilliant people out there whose entire life goal is to find a cure but are unable to because they don't have the financial means to do so is a big reason we're fighting so hard to help," she said. "To be able to be a part of the reason why a cure was found is beyond any feeling imaginable."

Libby Kranz, Heath-

er's friend from California, started a cause in honor of her daughter who died of brain cancer (specifically, a diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma [DIPG]). In an effort to raise money for pediatric cancer, Kranz started Unravel Pediatric Cancer and puts on an event called Mama's Night Out.

"[Kranz] called me, and she's a grieving mother just like I am, so we hit it off," Heather said. "She told me that if I wanted to try out a Mama's Night Out Texas, I'd be the first one outside of California. So I said we could put one on. After Mama's Night Out last year, I thought that we could do a lot better."

That led Heather to shake things up a bit this year with the first annual "Night Under the Stars." It is set to be held March 3 at Warrens Backyard in Granbury at 6 p.m.

"It can be better if we invite couples, if I do things a little differently and tweak it more for Texas," Heather said. "So that's what we're doing this year."

An estimated 125



guests attended last year and \$28,000 was raised. Heather is expecting 150 to 175 guests this year and shooting for raising \$50,000. Performers include Sonny and Jolie Burgess and the opener is Jack Barksdale. Sonny is the musical director at Cook Children's, and 10-year-old Barksdale was prompted to play music for donations when his mom got cancer.

"[Sonny] and Cooper really hit it off, because Cooper loved music," Heather said. "He loved going down to the music room and playing and he

and Sonny would play music together. He even went on stage a couple times with Sonny. They stuck by our side when we were at the hospital. When things got worse and we went to the PICU, Sonny was there. He even sang at his funeral."

Small businesses interested in becoming a sponsor or anyone willing to donate items can find more information by visiting the event's Facebook page.

"Their battle is our battle," Heather said. "Will you fight with us?"

Star Classifieds

Remodeling/Repairs

Pruitt's Painting & Dry-wall - Interior/Ext. 817-714-1656.

Hauling

Professional Clean-up Services Free Estimates!

- Clean-ups/ Haul-offs
 - All Types of Teardowns
 - All Debris Removal
 - Hot-Tub/Appliance Removal
 - Tractor Mowing
 - Garage/Attic Clean-Outs
- Dependable & Honest!
Any size job!
SO YOU CALL, WE HAUL!
817.202.9662
ucallwehaulcleanup.com



Recreational Vehicles

Travel Trailers

2016 Forest River Rockwood Ultra Lite **Camp-er 8327SS** platinum edition. Sleeps 8. New tires in August. Excellent condition. \$26,000. Call 817.454.4982.

Park model **travel trailer**, loaded. Call ABC RV Park 817-907-3771

Real Estate/For Rent

Houses/Duplexes/Rooms/Rent

Downtown Alvarado. Nice 2-2-2. Custom Kitchen With All Stainless Steel Appliances. \$995 a month. 817-301-2577

Apartment/Rent

Large 1 & 2 bedroom. **Great location!** \$695 to \$795. 817-295-6156

Apartment/Rent

WOODSTOCK III & MISTY HOLLOW APTS
616 LINDA DR., JOSHUA, TX
(817) 447-3134

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

- * Spacious 1 & 2 Bdrms.
- * Great Schools
- * Playground/Laundry Facility
- * Quality Affordable Living
- * 24 Hr. Emergency Maintenance
- * Quiet Country Living
- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Bedrooms

TDD# (800) 735-2989
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."



Real Estate/For Sale

Houses/Sale

Country Living:
SW of Crowley. 3-2 home on 1.2 ac. Near Chisholm Tr. Pkwy. Owner Financing 817-457-2402 M-Th 9-5



News
Sports
Videos
Classifieds
Obituaries

burlesonstar.net

Statewide Classifieds



TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK
TexSCAN Week of February 11, 2018

ACREAGE
20.43 acres, Edwards County. Rolling terrain, live oak, cedar cover. Whitetail, free ranging exotics, hogs, and turkey. \$2810 down, \$465/mo., (9.9%, 30-years). 800-876-9720. www.ranchenterprisesid.com

AUCTION
Public Online Auctions of seized cars on behalf of U.S. Customs & Border Protection, U.S. Treasury, and U.S. Marshals Service. No deposits! No fees! www.appliauctioneeringco.com

Hallettsville Livestock - Special Female Sale, Noon, Sat. Feb. 24. Expecting 600 head of females, over 200 pairs. Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co. 361-293-4949; 979-743-0436.

CAREER TRAINING
Interested in earning your CDL-A? Only \$100 to get started! Job potential after graduation. \$50,000 guaranteed 1st year. Small classes, professional trainers. Call today! 800-937-0880, Mills Transfer.

EVENTS
Seguin Softball Nationals June 27-July 1. Sign up at Seguinsoftballnationals.com. 830-379-6382 Partial funding for this event is being provided by the City of Seguin, Texas.

MISCELLANEOUS - FOR SALE
Kill Bed Bugs! Buy Harris Bed Bug Killers/KIT Complete Treatment System. Available: Hardware Stores, The Home Depot, homedepot.com

RECEIVING PAYMENTS
Receiving payments from real estate you sold? Get cash now! Call Steve: 888-870-2243. www.SteveCashesNotes.com

RECEIVING PAYMENTS
Receiving payments from real estate you sold? Get cash now! Call Steve: 888-870-2243. www.SteveCashesNotes.com

TEXAS PRESS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED NETWORK
251 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-4508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.