

Mid-Texas Symphony readies for holiday

The Mid-Texas Symphony will perform its annual Holiday Concert on Sunday, Dec. 9 at Jackson Auditorium on the Texas Lutheran University campus in Seguin.

Starting at 4 p.m., the sounds of Handel's "Messiah," performed with the Mid-Texas Symphony Chorus, will set the holiday spirit for the evening.

There also will be a performance of the children's chorus, which is made up of 100 New Braunfels-area students, ending with a holiday sing-along with the audience.

The holiday concert is the symphony's most popular concert of the year, and reserved tickets go quickly, officials said.

Call the symphony office for tickets,

or stop by area ticket retailers, which include Cascades Gifts and the Chamber of Commerce in Seguin, or The Crossing (formerly China-n-Things) and the Chamber of Commerce in New Braunfels.

For more details about this concert, and the rest of the Mid-Texas Symphony's 30th Anniversary season, log onto mtymsymphony.org.

Military notes

LOCAL MAN EARNS BRONZE STAR — Army Sgt. Harry W.C. Dollahan has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for supporting the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The medal is awarded to an individual who, while serving in the U.S. armed forces, has performed a heroic act, meritorious achievement or distinguished service during armed conflict or ground combat while engaged against an armed enemy of the United States.

Dollahan, a radio and communications security repairer, is assigned to the

542nd Maintenance Company, Camp Taji, Iraq. He has served in the military for 13 years.

He is the son of Harry W. and Linda C. Dollahan of Meadow Drive, Converse, Texas.

His wife, Tammy, is the daughter of Gail Y. Legnon of Skyforest Drive in New Braunfels.

Dollahan graduated in 1992 from Judson High School in Converse.

■■■■ **LOCAL RESIDENT RETURNS TO FEDERAL ACADEMY** — Midshipman Chas Waters of New Braunfels recently

returned to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, where he is a student after spending some months at sea, training aboard U.S. merchant vessels.

The son of Lori and Steve Waters, Midshipman Waters is a graduate of New Braunfels High School.

He was nominated to attend the Academy by Congressman Lamar Smith.

All students at the academy spend part of their sophomore and junior years at sea, gaining practi-

cal knowledge about the performance and operating characteristics of various types of merchant vessels.

They become family with the ocean trade and routes of the world.

Among the countries he has visited were Puerto Rico, Tunisia, Kuwait, Belgium and Germany.

The academy trains young men and women from across the nation as licensed merchant mariners, U.S. Navy Reserve officers, and the future leaders of America's transportation industry.

ANNIVERSARIES



Whitworth 50th Anniversary

John and Katherine Whitworth celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 23, 2007 with a dinner with their family.

The Whitworth's have two children: Nannette A. Zimmerebner and husband Ger-

ard, and Wayne A. Whitworth and one grandchild, Joel Zimmerebner.

The former Katherine Vann and John Whitworth were married at St. John's Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas on November 23, 1957.

KAYAK

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Texas rivers offer variety of experiences

members take wounded soldiers recovering from injuries sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan out on the water fishing.

To date the group has taken three trips — the third was led by KASA President Brad Newman where members paddled across Rockin R's private 8-acre lake in Gruene.

Newman said kayaking offers something for everyone at every physical level and that's something he wants to share with others.

"I'm interested in getting back

to the basics — and kayaking is a great way to do that," Newman said, adding that he will be working with kayakers at New Braunfels High School, who intend to implement a new kayaking club as early as this spring.

As with most outdoor outings, preparation is the key. Experiences kayakers usually bring plenty of water and snacks, a dry bag for cameras and cell phones along with a hat, river sandals or sneakers for walking on slick rocks and a life vest. Many kayakers also carry a lightweight long-sleeve shirt and pants to ward off the sun, particularly when using sit-on-top kayaks.

No matter the experience level, kayakers should always

check river conditions with a local outfitter. Low flows might require frequent portaging and high flows can create swift currents, which is revered by advanced kayakers, but risky for the novice.

Most outfitters offer sit-on-top kayaks, which allow a quick escape should they capsize. Advanced kayakers might find themselves more at home in a sit-in kayak. Tandem kayaks are options for those looking for something built for two.

Whether it's kayaking ponds or rivers of New Braunfels, or a day trip to other Texas rivers, kayaking offers the chance to explore the beauty of the area's rivers while providing a fun way to work off those extra holiday pounds.



Joline Moore, leader of the Saturday Paddlers, paddles the Upper Guadalupe River in the Guadalupe State Park, which is in Comal and Kendall counties.

KARLA HELD/
Herald-Zeitung

Tips for beginners

■ Beginning kayakers should check out the spring-fed Nueces River. The Nueces is one of the clearest and cleanest rivers in South Central Texas. It's a slow moving, wide river that boasts emerald green water. If you're looking for a leisurely paddle, this river is for you. Chalk Bluff, about 20 miles north of Uvalde, and Camp Wood are good places to put in for those who own their own kayak, although both places have outfitters.

■ From Camp Wood, kayakers can take one of Texas' most scenic highways, Farm-to-Market 337, and head east to Leakey. This quaint little town boasts several 'tourist courts' reminiscent of days past and is a perfect place to go to explore the Frio River and Frio Canyon. The Rio Frio Canyon is a geographically unique area of the Texas Hill Country offering breathtaking views of high hills and bluffs, box canyons and diverse wildlife. The Frio, characterized by high limestone bluffs and crystal clear water that gets very cold in the winter, offers moderately fast water, idyllic sections of cypress lined pools, and lots of wildlife including red-eared turtles, soft-shelled turtles, sunfish, bass, and more than 150 species of birds.

A popular outfitter, Happy Hollow Outfitters is located south of Leakey. The outfitter offers kayakers a range of options for the amount of time they want to be on the water.

■ In Bandera, there are two main outfit-

ters to choose from — Bandera Beach Club and Medina River Company. Both outfitters will take kayakers to Peaceful Valley Road, Ranger Crossing or Tarpley Road, where they have the option to kayak 1 to 3 hours.

■ Although Bandera is less than a couple hours from New Braunfels, the quickest way to get on a river New Braunfels is to head to the Guadalupe River. The upper Guadalupe, upstream of Canyon Lake, offers year-round kayaking and fewer crowds than the lower Guadalupe on River Road.

■ The lower Guadalupe River is an easy option for kayakers with their own vessels as there is plenty of good put-in and take-out spots along River Road. Kayaking the 'horseshoe' on the northern part of the lower Guadalupe River probably offers one of the easiest ways to get on a river in Texas. Kayakers can park at Abbott's Resort off of FM 306 just north of Sattler. (Abbott's is open year-round and charges a \$10 parking fee if you leave your car in their lot). After a kayaking about 45 minutes to an hour, kayakers can get out at the first bridge they come across, walk about 200 yards and be back at their starting point.

■ Other obvious take out points are at the second crossing at Roy's Rentals, which offers a beach area for easy take outs, Rio Raft at the fourth crossing, and before the Gruene Bridge in Gruene.



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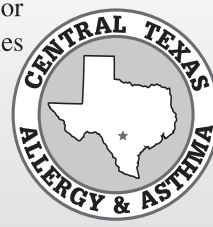
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