

SHEPHERD COMMUNITY NEWS

6th Annual SJC Community Thanksgiving Feast



On Sunday November 20, 2016 marked the 6th Annual San Jacinto County Community Thanksgiving Feast. Citizens gathered together to receive a hot meal and food to prepare for the holidays! The Community Feast was hosted by the San Jacinto County Outreach Committee. There are several people who sit on the board from all areas of San Jacinto County. We reached out to the local churches, organizations, and businesses to help assist us in making this event possible.



The SJC Outreach Committee is where churches, community leaders, and concerned citizens come together to make a difference in our homes, communities, and local counties. We do so by assisting individual, and group outreach efforts by offering mental, physical, emotional, and financial support as needed. We believe, "Together we stand, divided we fall."



Last year, with the help of other local churches, organizations, and businesses; the New Destiny Fellowship Church were able to feed over 500 people, and gave out turkey dinner bags to 175 families. Due to our recent merger, with the San Jacinto County Outreach Committee we were able to fee over 800 people, and give out 280 turkey dinner bags to 280 families. This year we also included the Free Clothes Closet again and with



all the donation of clothes and shoes it was a big success. The event has grown over the years and will continue to bring the community together.

We would like to say a special thank you to all our sponsors. We had different levels of Sponsorship Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Our Gold Sponsor was Borden and New Destiny Fellowship Church. Our Silver Sponsors

was Children Impact Center and McKesson. Our Bronze Sponsors was Woodforest Bank, Brookshire Bros (Coldsprings), Distinguished Gentlemen Leadership Group, First Baptist Church (Coldsprings), Martin Chevrolet, The Bailes Family, and Merchant Merchant Society. The rest of our sponsors, we couldn't have did this without you was Coldsprings ISD, G.W'S Hickory Pit, God's Precious Creations, Little Pirates Day Care, Harmony Baptist Church, Mc Clains, Medthoist Church (Coldsprings), Mt.



Moriah Baptist Church, Greater Pleasant Valley Baptist Church. Shepherd Public Library, Shepherd Pirates' Pride Drill Team, SJC Democratic Party, The Hop, One Unit Motorcycle Club, American Legion Auxliary Post 629, Kathryn Babineaux, Carolyn Butler, Eartha Stone, Gladys Terry, Sonic (Shepherd), St. Galilee, TD'S, Happy Days, ABC Dental, Academy, Dale Miran, Ellisor Bail Bond, G Cleaning, We All We Got Trailriding Club, Kevin and Nancy Watkins, The Moye Family, Mrs. Debbie from Branding Iron, Sam's, Walmart, Rev. E. Burch, Lake Pool M.B.C, Derek and Nikita Lagway, Spring Hill B.C., Robert and Sharon Eldrige, KECCM North District, Bear AC and Heating, Bula Jones, El Taquito (Shepherd), JC Pharmacy, Lakeside Building Supply, and Coldsprings Library, Cowboy Church (Coldsprings), Randy Baker, Marlys Harden Harris, The Food Lady, Von Cross, and Marsha Currie Strickland, William Acosta from The Grill.

We would to once again send a Big Thank You Everyone who played an part, volunteering and donating their time to make this a very successful event. We are looking forward to a greater next year.

Mickey Mouse Themed Kindergarten classroom closes doors



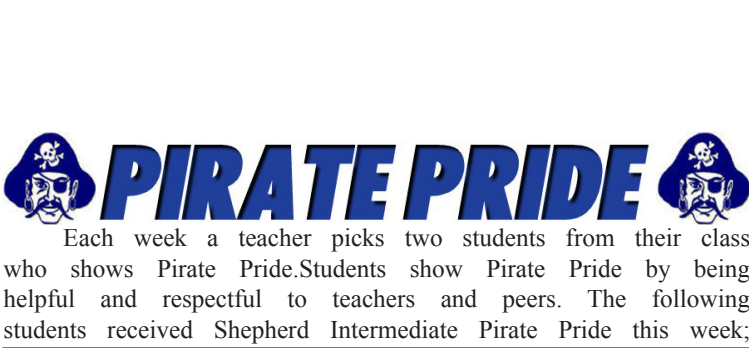
The fabulous Mickey Mouse themed Kindergarten classroom closes it's doors, as its hostess retires. Ann Sowell, with decades in teaching, (13 of the years at Coldspring's Street Elementary and Shepherd's Primary,) filed for TRS retirement on Tuesday morning. With years of additions from the family's annual trips to Walt Disney World and fifteen cruises on three of Disney Cruise Lines' ships, the classroom featured a full line of Disney art, books, movies, sing-alongs, materials, and Disney Holiday flags. Such Disney artists as Downtown Disney's Monica Willis, and the legendary Don "Ducky" Williams, were called upon

to hand draw the custom drawings, such as Pirate Mickey, which stands at the classroom door. Don "Ducky" Williams, a senior Disney character artist, painted all of the templates for the Disney Holiday flags, which rotate through the classroom, as the school year progresses. He was on some of the Disney Cruise Line sailings, and drew numerous sketches for the Sowell kids. Children took the plush Mickey with them, "everywhere we go," had their birthday pictures taken with the Mickey Happy Birthday flag, and wore the Mickey ears graduation caps for graduation pictures. Most treasured of all, were her specially, and hand made memory books, where each child



received a compilation of their classroom pictures, for their Kindergarten year. Yes, the waiting list was lengthy, for the seats in the Mickey classroom. Some families were lucky enough to get a seat for multiple years. The faculty will have a retirement event, at December 12th's meeting, after school. Ann has a buyer for the east Texas home, and is already residing in the Cypress home, slowly moving items. There will be a huge collection of teaching items to pass on to others, tentatively happening on the first workday after the Holidays, on January 3. According to legend, Pirate kindergarten, (though the Mickey Mouse

classroom regular led the school in Ready Reader graduates, as well as test scores,) is the easiest year there is, there only being TWO letters in the 'pirate' alphabet: "Arrrrr" and "Aye"! Attached are just a few, of the thousands of memories, of a one of a kind career (she should have seen it coming, and certainly had fair warning, as her honeymoon was at Disneyland...) See you aboard a Disney cruise, too! (and maybe, a homecoming or graduation ceremony.) Thanks for the memories, Duncan Elementary- Killeen, First Baptist School- Brownsville, Street Elementary, and Shepherd Primary!



Third Grade: Avianna Patterson and Colton Champion
Fourth Grade: Makayle Capps and Ramiro Alvarez
Fifth Grade: Hayle Ayrton and Nathaniel Martinez

Toyz for Kidz is Merging with



Available For San Jacinto County Children

San Jacinto County Toyz for Kidz is very proud to announce their merge with Toys for Tots. The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program's mission is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

Applications have been simplified, and will be available for pick up at each County Commissioner's office, the County Judge's office and the Sheriff's office. These will also be drop off locations for new, unwrapped toys if you wish to donate. Toy donation boxes will also be located at various businesses in San Jacinto County.

If you need a helping hand this Christmas, please stop by one of these locations and pick up an application. We would love to help make your child's Christmas a little bit brighter. If you are able to donate a toy, we would appreciate your help.

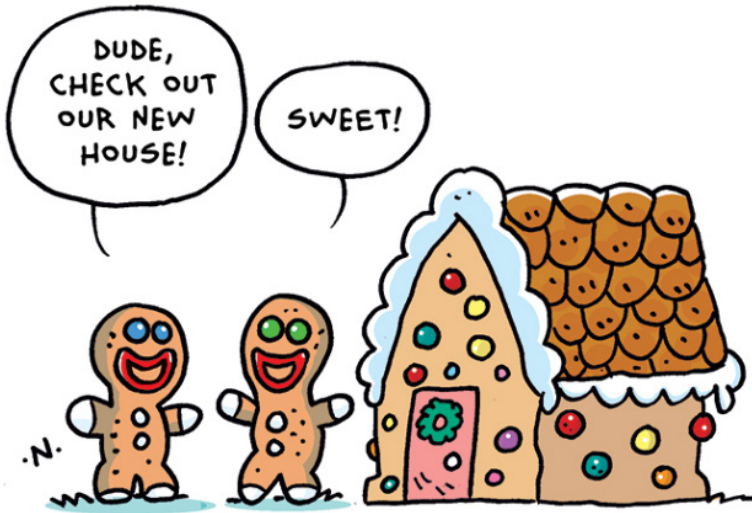
The deadline for completed applications will be Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Toys will be available for pick up on Friday, December 16, 2016 at the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department at 20 Hill Ave, Coldspring, TX 77331. If items are not picked up, the toys will be delivered to your residence on Saturday, December 17, 2016.

For more information on drop off locations or for assistance finding an application, please contact Denise Lewis at (936) 581-1483.

Don't Forget Your Children's Books

The San Jacinto County Retired School Personnel Association will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 5:00 p. m. at the Senior Center in Coldspring. A Dulcimer group will provide the program. All retired school personnel are invited for a covered dish dinner and are asked to join our Association.

Members are reminded to bring children's books and canned food items for Care Share and Helping Hands. For further information, call President Don Leedy at (936) 377-3946.





GUESS WHAT?!

You Can Now Enter Submissions Online!

www.mcclainsfoodmarket.com

SJC is Seeking Dedicated Volunteers

If you want to make a difference in your community and preserve our local history and heritage, San Jacinto County is seeking dedicated volunteers who are able and willing to serve on the San Jacinto County Historical Commission.

In January of odd-numbered years, the County Commissioners Court appoints members to the local County Historical Commission for two year terms. This time frame is quickly approaching and the Commissioners are asking anyone interested in being on the Historical Commission to immediately notify the Court of their interest and willingness.

The local commission is responsible for the identification and preservation of locally significant historical landmarks and treasurers, as outlined in the Texas Local Government Code, chapter 318

Anyone interested in serving their community through membership in the San Jacinto County Historical Commission should pick up an application at any of the four Commissioner's Precinct offices or at the Courthouse in the Office of County Judge or by phone at (936) 653-2199.

Emergency Preparedness Planning Public Encouraged to Attend.

San Jacinto County's Office of Emergency Management is holding a second public meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:00 pm to discuss creating a Long Term Recovery Group. The group, working with the county and FEMA, consists of state and local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) and Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs), all working to help storm survivors with unmet needs.

Long-term recovery groups are independent of FEMA or any other federal agency and consist of a coalition of organizations ranging from the national to the neighborhood level. Their role is to help meet remaining needs of survivors after they have maximized state and federal funds available to them.

Long-term recovery groups typically include federal partners, voluntary agencies and grassroots organizations. These partnerships require close coordination to address community needs, distribute resources and to help restore vital support systems – health, social, economic and environmental systems, among others.

The Long Term Recovery Group can coordinate with volunteers from around the area and the nation to help residents lives get back to normal after a disaster. It can solicit donations of money, manpower, and material to help the San Jacinto residents.

San Jacinto County Emergency Management Director, Judge John Lovett, is working to proactively help those living in the county to recover after a disaster, whether it be a flood, hurricane, tornado or drought.

The meeting will be held in the Election Administration Building located at 51 E. Pine Ave., Coldspring, TX 77331. Contact Josh Brogdon in the Emergency Management Office at (936) 653-3395 for additional information.

Did you know...

by Yvonne Ryba

On Saturday December 10, starting at 8 :00 a.m., the Coldspring / San Jacinto County Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 34th annual Christmas on The Square. There will be live entertainment throughout the day, including several food vendors and item vendors, as well as a trackless train with realistic train sounds! Do not miss out on the Horse drawn carriage rides! What an awesome way to see Old Town Coldspring!

The First Baptist Church of Coldspring's Choir will perform (at the church) from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. as well as from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Additionally, the First Baptist Church of Coldspring will have an "Away in a Manger" display in which they will have several manger scenes set up. Make sure you stop by the Coldspring United Methodist Church and get some homemade gumbo, which is sponsored by the Coldspring United Methodist Men's Organization! Come out and be a part of the lighted parade! We are accepting applications and cannot wait to see the wonderful floats this year! Our theme this year is "Christmas around the World". The lighted parade Grand Marshall will be Dr. Don Shannon and will start at approximately, 6 pm and make its way through the Coldspring square, ending up at the Jones Campus. Of course Santa will be there live and in person! Applications for vendors, parade entries and much more can be found on our web site: www.coldspringtexas.org

Let us hope the weather is kinder this year to Coldspring when they celebrate their 'Christmas Around The World' event. Last year the threat of rain and high winds forced the cancellation of the Parade. I know that many people are putting a lot of effort and imagination into their floats!

I saw my first Ladybug of the season this week. They usually emerge in the bathroom first and then not until January. The colder weather may be the reason this one showed up.

Have you seen the Christmas decorations at night in both Shepherd and Coldspring? Of course Coldspring celebrated its annual Lighting Ceremony last week and it was beautiful to see the vendors around the Square who had decorated their spaces with colorful lights. All the shops and the courthouse were lit up. It is well worth a drive to see and perhaps stop by for a meal at one of the restaurants there. I enjoyed lunch at The Mason Jar this week. I like the variety of items on their menu.

Shepherd Chamber of Commerce and the Shepherd Library staff decorated the Gazebo Park and the Nativity scene at the four corners. The City of Shepherd decorated the streets. We are all preparing for the holidays! Shepherd Library is busy finishing their remodel of the library interior. The shelves have been painted by the ladies of the library with help from volunteer Mr Pat Reynolds, who wielded the paintbrush and helped move furniture. It is always good to see how many people volunteer their services in our county.

There will be two visits to Shepherd from the Food Truck. The first will be on December 9 and the last on December 30. This month there were about 325 people lined up to collect food. This is a welcome help for so many, we appreciate all of the volunteers who work at the Community Center to ensure that things move forward smoothly and easily for everyone. As I mentioned recently, you must line up to get a ticket, then hand that in to the Food Truck to collect your food. The service is free but you can only collect for your self. You do not need to show any ID.

This last month, Connie Straus who is President of Coldspring Chamber of Commerce, attended with others from our county a lunch given by the Governor's Award program. Recipients in twelve counties in our region were given the Small Business Award for their contribution to the community. Cora Standley of Cora's Corner on the Square certainly deserves this award. Cora gives a lot of her time in fund raisers for the San Jacinto County Historical Commission. This includes heading decorating and performances at the Haunted Jail for Halloween and the first Zombie Walk in Coldspring this year. Happy Christmas shopping!



Need answers to your business questions? Not sure about the rules and regulations of your business? Call your local chamber to make an appointment with Director Bob Barragan. Bob travels to 10 counties in our area helping people with their problems. He is Director of the Sam Houston State S.B.D.C.

Coldspring-San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce

31 N. Butler, Coldspring 77331

Call (936) 653-2184

www.coldspringtexas.org

Shepherd Chamber of Commerce

Mail to PO Box 520 Shepherd, 77371

Call (936) 628-3515

www.greatershepherdchamberofcommerce.org



Confessions of a Store Santa

While I was working as a store Santa, a boy asked me for an electric train set. "If you get your train," I told him, "your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that all right?"



The boy became very quiet. So, moving the conversation along, I asked, "What else would you like Santa to bring you?"

He promptly replied, "Another train."



Senior Menu

MON 12/5: Beef Sausage Link, Cheesy Potatoes, Lima Beans, Cornbread, Salad, Fruit

TUE 12/6: Lasagna, Peas & Carrots, Garlic Bread, Salad, Fruit

WED 12/7: Chicken Fried Chicken Breasts, Cream Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Greens, Cornbread, Salad, Fruit

THUR 12/8: Hamburger & Sausage Casserole, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, Fruit
THUR 12/9: Beef Liver & Onions, Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Rolls, Salad, Fruit

MON 12/12: Chicken Spaghetti, Stewed Cabbage & Tomatoes, Cornbread, Salad, Fruit

TUE 12/13: Vegetable Beef Stew, Carrot & Fruit Salad, Tossed Salad & Dressing, Cornbread, Fruit

WED 12/14: Baked Glazed Ham, Broccoli & Rice Casserole, Candied Yams, Rolls, Salad, Donated Desserts

THUR 12/15: Chicken Nuggets, & Gravy, Macaroni Salad, Fried Okra, Rolls, Salad, Fruit

FRI 12/16: Baked Potato Stuffed With Taco Meat & Trimmings, Corn Casserole, Tossed Salad & Dressing, Fruit

MON 12/19: King Ranch Chicken, Pinto Beans, Corn, Cornbread, Salad, Fruit

TUE 12/20: Smothered Pork Chops, Rice, Okra & Tomatoes, Rolls, Salad, Fruit

WED 12/21: Salisbury Steak & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Northern Beans, Cornbread Salad, Fruit

THUR 12/22: BBQ Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Beans, Wheat Bread, Salad, Fruit

FRI 12/23: Holiday

MON 12/26: Holiday

TUE 12/27: Hamburger Patty, Onions & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Black Eye Peas, Cornbread, Salad, Fruit

WED 12/28: Breaded Pork Cutlets & Gravy, Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Rolls, Salad, Fruit

THUR 12/29: Chicken & Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo, Rice Tossed Salad & Dressing, Crackers, Fruit

FRI 12/30: Chicken Strips, Cream Gravy, Fried Potatoes & Onions, Corn, Salad, Fruit



Second Tuesday of each month includes Birthday cake!

Call (936) 628-3733 by 9:30 a.m. to reserve a meal!

Menu's are Subject To Change Due To Availability.

"McClain's Food Market"



THE QUEEN'S POISONER

By Jeff Wheeler

336 pages

Genre: YA/Fantasy

SUMMARY: King Severn Argentine's fearsome reputation precedes him: usurper of the throne, killer of rightful heirs, ruthless punisher of traitors. Attempting to depose him, the Duke of Kiskaddon gambles...and loses. Now the duke must atone by handing over his youngest son, Owen, as the king's hostage. And should his loyalty falter again, the boy will pay with his life.

Seeking allies and eluding Severn's spies, Owen learns to survive in the court of Kingfountain. But when new evidence of his father's betrayal threatens to seal his fate, Owen must win the vengeful king's favor by proving his worth—through extraordinary means. And only one person can aid his desperate cause: a mysterious woman, dwelling in secrecy, who truly wields power over life, death, and destiny.

MY REVIEW: Look at that *cover*. I don't know what it is about it, but after seeing it I immediately wanted to give this book a chance. And I'm glad I did. It was a fun, fast read for me. However, I wasn't expecting the main character to be an 8-year-old boy and when first introduced to Owen it threw me off a bit because he acted more like a 4-5 year old instead of the 8 that he is. But as the story began to flow it was like the author got a better grip on who it was he wanted Owen to be and got a better handle on how an 8-year-old boy should behave.

When I first met "Lady Eliysabeth Victoria Mortimer" my immediate assumption was that she would annoy me to no end. Imagine my surprise when I finished the book and realized that she ended up being my favorite character. She was loud, opinionated and had very strong views about right and wrong that she didn't hesitate to make known. I loved her. My feelings for King Severn were mixed at the end of this book. I went back and forth between hating him and pitying him. I'm still not sure where I really stand where he is concerned. Maybe the next book in the series will shed more light on his character.

Ankarette, the Queen's Poisoner, was my second favorite character and I was very intrigued by her. She was intelligent and mysterious and I so wanted the author to delve into her life and background further, maybe throw in a chapter or two from her point of view, but I was disappointed. There's not a ton of action in this book but it didn't really take away from the story. I felt like this book was partly high fantasy (made up world, magic), partly historical (court and politics) and partly middle-grade (8 year old boy MC). If the 8 year old main character is putting you off of this book, I'll give a bit of a spoiler and let you know the second book is set 7 years into the future, when Owen is 16-17. So don't let that stop you from giving this one a go and seeing what you think!

PARENTAL GUIDANCE: 12+ I couldn't find any parental guidance for this book, but it seemed pretty middle-grade to me. Violence is talked about and people are executed by being sent over a waterfall in a canoe, but it isn't described in detail. No foul language or sexual content.

STAND ALONE OR SERIES: This is the first in the *Kingfountain* series. The second book is titled *The Thief's Daughter*, the third book is titled *The King's Traitor*, and a fourth book titled *The Hollow Crown* is tentatively scheduled for a June 2017 release.

PRICE: I found copies new, used, and e-book on Amazon from \$2.00-\$5.99 and Amazon Prime members get to read for free! You can also add Audible narration for this book on with your Kindle purchase for only \$1.99.

- Mizzie

Community Classifieds

FOR SALE: Power chair lift, \$200. Walker, \$50.00. Wheel chair, \$100.00. Or \$300 for everything. Please call (936) 365-3474.

FOR SALE: 1 Pelonis Oil filled Radiator Heater with thermostat control \$25. also 1 Lakewood Oil filled Radiator Heater with thermostat \$30. Both never need refilling. Call 936-697-2192

FOR RENT: 2½BR/1½BA house for rent. Please call (281) 592-0601 or (281) 659-7780.

FOR SALE: 3 acres, cul-de-sac, wooded, private, for building. Please call (936) 365-4418

FOR SALE: DJ equipment, please contact Jimmy at 281-432-9136

• DBX DriveRack PX, A compressor, limiter, equalizer, etc. all in one! Will come with RTA mic - \$200 for all

• GTD Audio 4 pack wireless handheld microphones-\$200 OBO

• 6/10U rack - \$80

• Pioneer DDJ-S1. DJ Controller. Serato compatible. I think no license code needed! - \$225 Obo

• Two Martin MAC 500 E. Moving headlights. Pretty good shape. Just need a clean up! Everything seems to work. -\$350 each OBO or \$600 for the pair

• TWO Carvin 1584. 15" speakers. Good shape. Leave on the floor - \$125 each or both for \$200

• Gator RACK with cover with inside of it: PVDJ Club Mix - 4 channel mixer.

• Denon DN-D4000 CD player Peavey PV 900 amp -\$500 unless you combo it with speaker purchase then \$400

• Numark MixDeck controller. It has the iPod controller on it! The channel faders are glitchy. Might just need new faders! - OFFER UP

Community Calendar

12/5: C.A.A.L. (Coldspring Area Art League) meeting 6PM Look for more details on their web site or Facebook page.

12/5: EDC Meeting; 7PM; EDC Building

12/6: Retired personnel meeting; 5PM

12/9: Senior Resale Shop Bag Day

12/10: Impact Work Shop; Impact Thrift Shop; 1300 S. Byrd Shepherd, TX

12/12: City Council Meeting; 7PM; Community Center

12/13: First Station Auxiliary Meeting; 7PM

12/13: Toys for Tots deadline for completed applications.

12/19: School Board Meeting; 7PM

12/20: Republican Women of SJC dinner meeting; 6:45PM

www.RWofSJC.org or call 832-259-6812

12/28: Bridge of hope community church "Community Fellowship Dinner", Shepherd Middle School; 7PM

12/8: SJC Women's League Meeting; 1:30AM; Coldspring Community Center

**Every Monday & Tuesday: SISD Bilingual Parent Involvement, 6-8pm at middle school library.*

Church News

SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH: Celebrating the Pastor and Wife 11th Anniversary on Sunday, **December 11, 2016** at 3:00 p.m. Sermon: Reverend John Horton—Greater Sunrise Baptist Church, Houston, TX. Pastor: Reverend Frank Mason; First Lady: Evelyn Mason; Associate Minister: Douglas Jackson; Prophetess: Sheila Jackson. For more information, please call (936) 767-8421 or (936) 653-4531.



Buy \$mart, Eat Well

OVEN-FRIED PANKO CRUSTED CHICKEN LEGS

Ingredients

• 6 chicken drumsticks (*on sale \$0.49lb!*)

- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp. of water
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tbsp. parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. onion powder
- 1/4 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp. dried basil
- 1/4 tsp. fresh ground black pepper
- Olive oil

Directions

- Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Put the butter in your cast iron skillet and place it in the oven to melt.
- Meanwhile, in a shallow dish whisk together the egg and the water. In another shallow dish, combine the breadcrumbs, parmesan, salt, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, oregano, basil and black pepper.
- Dip the drumsticks in the egg mixture followed by the breadcrumb mixture, pressing the coating firmly onto each piece. Put the drumsticks into the pan of melted butter and drizzle them with olive oil.
- Bake the chicken for 30 minutes, flip then continue to bake for an additional 15 minutes.

Make it a Meal! Serve with buttered rice (*Parade Rice 3lb bag on sale \$1.59!*) and fresh sautéed green beans (*Fresh Green Beans on sale \$0.99lb!*).



The Secret Life of Pets (PG) animation/adventure: The quiet life of a terrier named Max is upended when his owner takes in Duke, a stray whom Max instantly dislikes.
Starring (voices): Louis C.K., Eric Stonestreet, Kevin Hart

Jason Bourne (PG-13) action/thriller: The CIA's most dangerous former operative is drawn out of hiding to uncover more explosive truths about his past.
Starring: Matt Damon, Tommy Lee Jones, Alicia Vikander