

Business

German oil and spirits shop opens at Hughes Landing

By BRIDGET BALCH
bridget.balch@chron.com

When Maria and Arturo Pimienta visited their son, who was living in Germany playing soccer, they wandered into a shop with a seemingly unusual name and collection of products.

The store, vomFASS, which means “from the cask,” sold a variety of high-quality oils, vinegars and spirits. When the Pimientas were offered samples of the oils and vinegars on spoons with no bread, they were a little hesitant, but were quickly won over by the pure and pleasant tastes.

They learned about vomFASS’s longstanding relationships with small farmers and distilleries in Europe, its dedication to high-quality products without preservatives and its commitment to ethical sourcing.

So, after the youngest of their four children went to college and Maria decided she wanted to take on a new venture, the Pimientas looked into the vomFASS franchise.

“I like to cook, even though I’m not very good at it,” Maria said. She loves how simply adding oils and vinegars to meals can enhance flavor and variety.



Courtesy Photo

Maria Pimienta, owner of vomFASS The Woodlands, with one of the vomFASS single-malt Irish whiskeys sold in the store and the classic Glencairn whiskey glass, also sold at vomFASS. The full roster of spirits in the store include rare brandy, cognac, armagnac, grappa, Scotch, Irish whiskey, gin, vodka, tequila, Calvados, absinthe and over 20 liqueurs.

The store concept, as promoted in the name, relies heavily on sampling. The store is lined with labeled casks poised to offer a taste of every available product — from blueberry balsamic vin-

egar and hazelnut oil to Scotch and premium tequila.

“We provide a tasting of everything in the store,” Arturo said. “The experience is to make it fun ... there’s a little bit for



Courtesy Photo

Arturo Pimienta, co-owner of vomFASS The Woodlands, serves absinthe from a fountain.

everybody.”

Although they are natives of Mexico City, they have lived in The Woodlands for 28 years and wanted their new business to be in their home community.

Even as The Woodlands has grown from a fledgling suburb to a more urban center in the decades they’ve lived here, the Pimientas appreciate that it has preserved its small-town feel.

“The community has

kept its unique flavor,” Arturo said.

They chose to open the vomFASS store across from Restaurant Row at Hughes Landing because they thought the location was the perfect fit, with high traffic from the restaurants and health-conscious Whole Food shoppers just around the corner.

The Pimientas planned to attract new customers with special deals and gift packages on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26

and at the grand opening Friday, Dec. 2.

The newly opened vomFASS is one of nearly two dozen retailers at the Hughes Landing mixed-use development. Nine of them were announced in October, putting the retail space at nearly 100 percent leased.

VomFASS is located at 1950 Hughes Landing Blvd., Suite 1800, in The Woodlands. For more information, visit <https://thewoodlands.vomfassusa.com>.

Look inside for grocery savings!

SPORTS: TWHS set to battle Round Rock

The Woodlands Villager

yourwoodlandsnews.com

REOPENING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1977

50 cents | Vol. 30, No. 29

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016

AN EDITION OF THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

WE'RE NOW IN-NETWORK!



CISD mulls calendar options for 2017-18

By Catherine Dominguez
cdominguez@hcnonline.com

The Conroe ISD Board of Directors is encouraging public input regarding three calendar options for the 2017-18 school year. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Chris Null said the proposals, discussed and nar-

rowed down by the District-Level Planning and Decision-Making Committee, maintain some of the traditional features of the district's prior calendar.

CALENDAR SIMILARITIES
• 170 days for students

• 187 days for teachers
• Days Off:
• Labor Day (Sept. 4)
• Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 20-24)
• Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 15)
• Presidents Day (Feb. 19)
• Spring Break (March 12-16)

• Holiday: March 30
However, the options do have their differences:

DRAFT A HIGHLIGHTS
• First day of school: Aug. 28
• Winter Break: Dec. 22 to Jan. 8
• Last day of school: June 8

DRAFT B HIGHLIGHTS
• First day of school: Aug. 16

• Holiday: Oct. 9
• Winter Break: Dec. 21 to Jan. 3
• Last day of school: May 25

See CALENDAR, Page 4A

HOME DELIVERY CUSTOMER SERVICE
855-460-6397
delve@vpsrv.com

HOLIDAY



MainStreet America Lights of Hope

MainStreet America kicked off the holiday season with its Second Annual Lights of Hope celebration Saturday night. The event provides nine Houston-area charitable organizations one of the 12 MainStreet America designer showcase homes to create a thematic outdoor lighting display. The event continues Saturdays through Dec. 17 and a winning display will be selected Dec. 17. See page 8A.



BUSINESS German oil, spirits shop opens at Hughes Landing

Maria and Arturo Priemeta of The Woodlands recently opened vomFAS which means "from the cask" in German and spirits. The store is lined with labeled cases poised to offer a taste of every available product — from blueberry balsamic vinegar and hazelnut oil to premium tequila. See page 10A.

INDEX

CALENDAR 4A
PUBLIC SAFETY 2A
SPORTS 15A
CLASSIFIED 10-20A



Oak Ridge North Tree Lighting



Staff photo by Michael Minasi

Residents walk up with their children to examine the tree after the Oak Ridge North tree lighting celebration on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, at the intersection of Robinson Road and the Interstate-45 feeder road. For the 4th year in a row residents gathered to celebrate the holidays by lighting a 25-year-old Christmas tree.



Staff photo by Michael Minasi

Mayor Jim Kuykendall speaks during the Oak Ridge North tree lighting celebration on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, at Robinson Road and I-45.

Commissioners partner with Harris County

By Catherine Dominguez
cdominguez@hcnonline.com

Montgomery County commissioners approved an agreement with Harris County for the construction of the county portion on the Texas 249 toll road bridge over Spring Creek at the Montgomery and Harris County line near Tomball.

According to Richard Muller, of the Muller Law Group that represents the Montgomery County Toll Road Authority, the agreement would allow Harris County to complete the construction of the bridge that extends about 400 feet into Montgomery County.

"This agreement allows Harris County to come into Montgomery County to build the bridge," he said.

According to the agreement, Muller said, Montgomery County will construct two ramps and design the toll plazas to match the design used by Harris County. In addition, Montgomery County will reimburse Harris County \$1.2 million for work where the bridge meets the roadway.

"By paying them to do our project, we save about \$1.5 million," said Muller, adding that Harris County is planning to start construction on the bridge in January.

Precinct 3 Commissioner James Neack asked whether the agreement includes the toll road construction to FM 1774, but Muller said it did not and only includes the bridge construction.

County Judge Craig Doyal asked why it is important for the county to construct the toll road. Muller said "local control."

See PARTNER, Page 4A

One dead in officer-involved shooting at Cane's

By Megan Ellsworth
mellsworth@hcnonline.com

Montgomery County Sheriff's officials have yet to release the identity of a robber who was shot and killed by an off-duty deputy Nov. 22 at the Raising Cane's in Sheandoah.

First responders and concerned parents rushed to the scene of the chicken fingers restaurant that night after the deputy opened fire, fatally striking the unidentified robber, who held up cashiers and other

Cane's employees while demanding money.

Everyone at the fast-food restaurant in the 1500 block of Research Forest Drive was thankful that the efforts of the Sheriff's deputy ended a terrifying situation that could have turned deadly for innocent employees and patrons. With other area Raising Cane's restaurants the recent targets of similar crimes, the chain had trained and prepared employees for

See CANES, Page 4A



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office investigates an officer-involved shooting with one robbery suspect killed on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, at the Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers off of Research Forest Drive in The Woodlands. (Michael Minasi / Chronicle)

24-HR ER IMAGING AND LAB

Visit memorialhermann.org to reserve your place in line with ScheduleNow.

9950 Woodlands Parkway | 281.719.3333



MEMORIAL HERMANN
24 HR Emergency Care

Left on Woodlands Pkwy, across from Walmart