

Art contest winner



Ally Brookland (right), a second-grader at Meador Elementary, was selected for honorable mention in the 18th International Children's Painting Competition on Environment, *Climate change: Our Challenge*. Winners were chosen from Canada and North America, with Brookland being the only winner from Texas. Pictured with Brookland is art representative Cecelia Stewart.

Photo submitted

Local film company competes nationally

By Matt Griesmyer

The 48 Hour Film Project, founded by Mark Ruppert, was created in 2001 as an annual challenge to all filmmakers to write, shoot, edit and score a short film of four to seven minutes.

Jason Clemons, director for the Sagemont-based Sweet Baby Jesus Productions, and his film team participated in the competition for the fifth year running.

Last year's entry from SBJ Productions, *Rushin*, garnered seven out of 14 awards, including the prestigious Best Film of Houston - 2008 award and was included on the *Best of 48 Hour Film Project - 2008 DVD*.

The film was also awarded a Silver Remi from Worldfest Houston Film Festival, won third place at the Twin Rivers Media Festival, held in North Carolina, and was featured at the Miami International Film Festival.

Clemons, 33, a resident of the Riverstone Ranch subdivision, has been dreaming of fame in the movie business since childhood but has been developing movies professionally since 2000.

"It started with cartooning, then storyboarding and that eventually developed into a director's position," Clemons said.

The first year, Clemons wore many hats, serving as the writer, director, editor and director of photography.

"We build and grow as a team each year," said Caroline Parker, associate produc-

er of SBJ Productions. "Each year we lose some people, but gain more. Through our films, you can really see the progress that we make. The maturity that the team has gained over the time together is phenomenal."

Clemons' team has grown from 10 people - cast and crew included - when they first started in 2004, to a total team of 23 crewmembers and 35 actors.

"The key to being successful in making the film is trust," Clemons said. "Even if they (the cast and crew) don't understand what is happening, they trust me and the producer and our vision."

This year's entry from the production group, *Berman*, has already achieved an Audience Award, tying with *Saving our Suburbs*, by Xyro Productions. The formal awards for the city will be announced on June 28.

The film is a comedy about a man who cannot turn down a bet and the hijinks that ensue when he comes up against an impossible gamble.

Why did Clemons enter the contest in the first place and continue to every year?

"For the love of filmmaking," Clemons said. "Throughout all of this, my main goal has always been to make something that I can be proud of."

A common perspective that Clemons and Parker share is the idea that an interesting story can be appreciated by all.

"People go see a film to



Jason Clemons, right, director at SBJ Productions, points possible filming locations to his associate producer, Caroline Parker, at the corner of South Beltway 8 and Beamer on June 18.

Photo by Matt Griesmyer

get out of the mundane routine and escape their lives," Parker said.

SBJ Productions is working currently on the Emerging Filmmakers Fellowship on a dramatic piece that will bring light to domestic violence against women and the repercussions it has on the victims.

This is a change of pace for Clemons' crew, who have

produced comedies since first entering the 48 Hour Film Project five years ago. Clemons, however, thinks that their followers and team will remain pleased with their work.

"If you can tell a good story, be it comedic in nature or a dramatic piece, it is universally understood," Parker said.

Over the past years, SBJ

Productions and their works have gained acclaim by many, numerous awards and praise from the film community. While Clemons appreciates the recognition, he remains focused on the goal of a flawless production.

"When others watch our films, they see the great things that they like," Clemons said. "When I view it, I always see what could have been done

better and what we should have changed. I believe that as soon as you believe the praise, you stop growing."

In producing their films, the team at SBJ have constantly sought support from the community but are always seeking any donations by way of a location, equipment or talent. For information, visit the Web site at <http://www.sbjfilms.com>.

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GRAND OPENING SPECIALS!

Vo, Jaramillo receive Atkinson scholarship

The Atkinson Elementary School PTO scholarship winners are, left to right, Jennifer Vo and Olivia Jaramillo. Vo plans to attend the University of Houston to pursue a degree in pharmacy. Jaramillo will attend Sam Houston State University to earn her degree in early childhood education.



Readers' Opinions

Parker applauds banjo teacher and students

It's been two weeks since the All Star Banjo concert at Sagemont and I'm still applauding. That was such a wonderful show and for those who missed it, too bad. Buddy Griffin is such a wonderful teacher and for those young people to even have the opportunity to learn from him is wonderful. Imagine them performing in Peoria, Ill., in July. I wish we could see it on film. I saw a lot of senior age folks like me who I took to be proud grandparents. They had every right to be proud. Thank you, Buddy Griffin and Sagemont Church for giving us that great show. Just glad I was able to attend.

Flo Parker

UHCL GRE Review planned for June 27

University of Houston-Clear Lake will hold a GRE review on June 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Bayou Building, UHCL, 2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Test-taking secrets for the Graduate Records Exam's verbal, comprehension and quantitative questions will be covered during this CAMP workshop.

The fee is \$349 and includes a copy of the Princeton Review's *Cracking the GRE* and access to practice software and released practice exam.

For information or to register, call UHCL's Center for Advanced Management Programs at 281-283-3121 or e-mail camp@uhcl.edu.

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Deaths

William Allen Baldwin Jr.



William Allen Baldwin Jr., 74, died Saturday, June 20, 2009. He was born Nov. 20, 1934, in Houston to William and Mary (Kalinowski) Baldwin. He was a former longtime Sageglenn resident.

Baldwin became a pilot for Trans World Airlines shortly after he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 39 years, Joan Dugan Baldwin, and his parents.

Baldwin is survived by his daughter, Lauren Caldero and husband Michael of Pearland; son William Baldwin III and wife Joy of Austin; sisters Elva Jean Russo of Friendswood and Carolyn Reilly and husband Tom of Brownsville; grandchildren Henry Mack, Louisa Justice and Delilah Marie Baldwin; cherished friend and loving companion, Patsy Jakovich; as well as numerous in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, June 24, at Jeter Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jim Nelson officiating. Burial followed at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Coastal Conservation Association, 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston,

Texas 77024 or the University of Texas Medical Branch, Administration Building, 301 University Blvd, Suite 3110, Galveston, Texas 77555, for individual research of Susan McCammon, M.D.

Lillie Francis Lauve



Lillie Francis Williamson Lauve, 80, died Wednesday, June 17, 2009.

Lauve was born in Port Arthur, Texas, to Rufus and Blanche Williamson. She enjoyed many years of volunteer work at St. Luke's and Clear Lake Regional hospitals. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and enjoyed traveling and genealogy.

Lauve is preceded in death by a daughter, Melanie Lauve. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Donald Lauve, who was also her high school sweetheart; daughter Beverly Swaim (Don), Beverly's children, Brian Tremont (Jill), Chad Tremont (Jaclyn Ramirez) and Sarah Tremont; sister Doris Nelson (Prentice); sister-in-law Dorothy Dugas; brothers-in-law Herbert Lauve (Ann) and Ron Lauve (Marita). Also daughter Sherry and her children, Sean, Scot, Shellee and Stacey.

Services were held Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Frank G. Blumberg



Frank G. Blumberg, 62, was born May 5, 1947, in Staten Island, N.Y., and died at his home in Pasadena on

June 21, 2009. He was a longtime resident of Scarsdale in the South Belt area.

Blumberg is survived by his wife, Denise Blumberg; his children, Frank Blumberg, Barbara Amon and James Blumberg; brothers Gerald Blumberg, Joseph Horodyski and Ted Horodyski of Kirkwood; and his granddaughter, Isabella Blumberg.

Blumberg retired from Southwestern Bell and was well known for his love of fishing and hunting.

Visitation will be Thursday, June 25, at noon at Central Assembly of God Church, 4405 Crenshaw in Pasadena. The funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. at Forest Park Cemetery.

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