

The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

\$2

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Brazoria wine fest set for weekend

By **AVERY WHITE**
avery.white@thefacts.com

BRAZORIA — After being aged for two years, River Rendezview is ready to uncork its first wine festival.

Owners Fred and Nancy Kanter began planning for their River Wine Festival to coincide with Memorial Day weekend, but the coronavirus got in the way.

"We started this back in 2020, and then the pandemic happened, so we're just trying to resurrect it," Nancy Kanter said. "It's to promote small businesses and to also host fallen soldiers and their families. We're going to have the Brazoria County Veterans Services out and we're also going to have the American Legion and over 30 booths."

Activities will be from 2 to 10 p.m. Sunday at the business, 2922 CR 519 outside Brazoria on the San Bernard River. Admission is \$25 and includes access to vendors, crafts and wine-tasting, and the first 200 attendees to buy a ticket also will be entered in a prize drawing.

"We'll have a blackout bingo. It's encouraging everybody to visit all the booths," Kanter said. "Each one of the booths has been told to sign the card so that people can put their

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Shooting response timeline murky

Law enforcement deflects questions about conflicting Uvalde info, delays

By **JAKE BLEIBERG, JIM VERTUNO AND ELLIOT SPAGAT**
The Associated Press

UVALDE — It was 11:28 a.m. when the Ford pickup slammed into a ditch behind the low-slung Texas school and the driver jumped out carrying an AR-15-style rifle.

Twelve minutes after that, authorities say, 18-year-old Salvador Ramos was in the hallways of Robb Elementary School. Soon he entered a fourth-grade classroom. And there, he killed 19 schoolchildren and two teachers in a still-unexplained spasm of violence.

At 12:58 p.m., law enforcement radio chatter said Ramos had been killed and the siege was over.

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JESSE MILLER JR./The Facts

Kade Reynolds, who will graduate tonight from Columbia High School, made an impact away from the school's athletics fields.

HE'LL BE MISSED

Columbia's Reynolds made impact in, away from athletics

By **DREW TINEO**
Special to The Facts

WEST COLUMBIA Columbia baseball coach Earnest Peña said he relied on senior Kade Reynolds throughout the season and knew he could count on him to produce.

"Wherever I need him, he was up for it, so I'm gonna miss him in that aspect, but as a leader, I'm gonna miss them a ton," Peña said.

That leadership showed itself away from the field, too, as Reynolds devoted his time to helping



JEREMY HILL/Facts file photo

Columbia Roughneck Kade Reynolds waits for the pitch before deciding whether to head to second base during a District 25-4A game April 8 against visiting Brazosport at Renfro Field in West Columbia.

his school and community.

Reynolds, who will graduate tonight at Griggs Field, where he starred in football, has been involved with the school's Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies program.

"I liked PALS because I get to help the kids and then at the same time, I get to hear

about their stories," Reynolds said.

His brother, Caleb, also participated in PALS, and looking up to his brother influenced Kade to join.

"It just makes me feel good because it signifies that I've

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Costumes from the Brazosport Center for Arts and Science production of the Elizabethan Madrigal Feast are part of the Shakespeare exhibit at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. The exhibit about the Bard will remain on display through July 9.



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Shakespeare in spotlight with exhibit, programs

To see or not to see? It's not even a question

By **KENT HOLLE**
kent.holle@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON — The Lake Jackson Historical Museum won't compare you to a summer's day, but they do invite you to while away one in their more lovely and temperate facility.

The museum recently opened



FELTCH

a tribute most fair to William Shakespeare and is hoping to create an interactive experience for visitors, in conjunction with multiple groups. Corresponding events have been taking place, with more planned for

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DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/Associated Press

Children pray and pay their respects Thursday at a memorial site for the victims killed in this week's elementary school shooting in Uvalde.

Shooting

CONTINUED FROM COVER

What happened in those 90 minutes, in a working-class neighborhood near the edge of the little town of Uvalde, has fueled mounting public anger and scrutiny over law enforcement's response to Tuesday's rampage.

On Thursday, authorities largely ignored questions about why officers had not been able to stop the shooter sooner, with Victor Escalon, regional director for the Texas Department of Public Safety, telling reporters he had "taken all those questions into consideration" and would offer updates later.

The media briefing, called by Texas safety officials to clarify the timeline of the attack, provided bits of previously unknown information. But by the time it ended, it had added to the troubling questions surrounding the attack, including about the time it took police to reach the scene and confront the gunman, and the apparent failure to lock a school door he entered.

After two days of providing often conflicting information, investigators said that a school district police officer was not inside the school when Ramos arrived, and, contrary to their previous reports, the officer had not confronted Ramos outside the building. Instead, they sketched out a timeline notable for unexplained delays by law enforcement.

After crashing his truck, Ramos fired on two people coming out of a nearby funeral home, Escalon said. He then entered the school "unobstructed" through an apparently unlocked door at about 11:40 a.m.

But the first police officers did not arrive on the scene until 12 minutes after the crash and did not enter the school to pursue the shooter until four minutes after that. Inside, they were driven back by gunfire from Ramos and took cover, Escalon said.

The crisis came to an end after a group of Border Patrol tactical officers entered the school roughly an hour later, at 12:45 p.m., said Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson Travis Considine. They engaged in a shootout with the gunman, who was holed up in the fourth-grade classroom. Moments before 1 p.m., he was dead. Escalon said that during

that time, the officers called for backup, negotiators and tactical teams, while evacuating students and teachers.

Many other details of the case and the response remained murky. The motive for the massacre — the nation's deadliest school shooting since Newtown, Connecticut, almost a decade ago — remained under investigation, with authorities saying Ramos had no known criminal or mental health history.

During the siege, frustrated onlookers urged police officers to charge into the school, according to witnesses.

"Go in there! Go in there!" women shouted at the officers soon after the attack began, said Juan Carranza, 24, who watched the scene from outside a house across the street.

Carranza said the officers should have entered the school sooner: "There were more of them. There was just one of him."

Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz did not give a timeline but said repeatedly the tactical officers from his agency who arrived at the school did not hesitate. He said they moved rapidly to enter the building, lining up in a "stack" behind an agent holding up a shield.

"What we wanted to make sure is to act quickly, act swiftly, and that's exactly what those agents did," Ortiz told Fox News.

But a law enforcement official said once in the building, the agents had trouble breaching the classroom door and had to get a staff member to open the room with a key.

Javier Cazares, whose fourth grade daughter, Jacklyn Cazares, was killed in the attack, said he raced to the school as the massacre unfolded. When he arrived, he saw two officers outside the school and about five others escorting students out of the building. But 15 or 20 minutes passed before the arrival of officers with shields, equipped to confront the gunman, he said.

As more parents arrived, he and others pressed police to act, Cazares said. He heard about four gunshots before he and the others were ordered back to a parking lot.

"A lot of us were arguing with the police, 'You all need to go in there. You all need to do your jobs.' Their response was, 'We can't do our jobs because you guys are interfering,'" Cazares said.

Bard

CONTINUED FROM COVER

the delight of local Bardolitors.

"When you first walk into the exhibit, we have a temporary pop-up exhibit here from Humanities Texas," Lake Jackson Historical Society Executive Director Lindsay Scovil said. She compares it to a scrapbook of Shakespeare's life in Elizabethan England, where his work was performed at the famed Globe Theater.

Topics include how his plays were performed, his impact on the English language and the conspiracy theory that Shakespeare's work was actually written by someone else.

Shakespeare's plays have been constantly performed since the late 16th Century, including in Lake Jackson, and the museum is highlighting this connection.

Among those involved are the people behind the biennial Elizabethan Madrigal Feast at the Center for the Arts and Sciences. The event, a Yuletide meal with period entertainment, is scheduled to come back in 2022 after being temporarily mothballed in 2020, and costumes used for the anticipated celebration are part of the museum's display.

"It's really a nice display on the history of Shakespeare with Lake Jackson," Scovil said. "We also talk about Shakespeare in the Glen, which is another Shakespeare event that happens in the area."

Shakespeare in the Glen is an annual presentation of one of the Bard's works in the outdoor theater at Brazosport College.

The interactive portions of the exhibit, which will be open through July 9, include a chance to get a picture taken with the Bard, which can be done with a masquerade mask visitors can make at the museum.

Among the events taking place in conjunction with the exhibit is a Shakespeare and Voice Workshop with John Felch, which will be at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday at the Center for the Arts and Sciences, 400 College Blvd. in Clute. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students 16 years old through college. For tickets, call 979-265-7661 or visit bcfas.org.

That program is especially recommended for people who wish to



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

The Shakespeare exhibit at the Lake Jackson Museum includes a multi-paneled infoboard that describes the impact William Shakespeare had on the world.



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

The Shakespeare exhibit at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum has interactive and informative displays like this Shakespeare themed magnetic word board.

prepare for auditions with the Madrigal or Shakespeare in the Glen, Scovil said.

"An Evening with John Felch" follows at 7 p.m. Sunday at the

museum, 249 Circle Way in Lake Jackson. Felch, whose stage appearances include Broadway, off-Broadway and Houston's Alley Theatre for over 11

years as a resident artist, will explore the continuing history and importance of Shakespearean performances for today's audiences.

It is free, but space is limited and people should reserve their spot at www.ljhistory.org or by calling 979-297-1570.

"He has done a lot with Shakespeare, a lot of acting with Shakespeare, teaching and coaching," Scovil said.

There will also be a Youth Shakespeare Workshop for ages 9 to 13 on June 9.

Meanwhile, the BASF Planetarium has been running "Shakespeare in the Skies," which takes a look at the way he used the heavens in his works in ways that still resonate.

It's been presented throughout the month of May, and interested viewers will have two more opportunities to catch it, at 7 p.m. today and Tuesday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free to planetarium members.

The children of Juan "JJ" and Maria Perales announce their parent's 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, May 27, 2022



They were married at Our Lady Queen of Angels church in La Joya, Texas and have lived in Lake Jackson since 1977. The couple have two children; Claudia Oberlin from Adamant, VT; Marco Perales from Santa Fe, TX and four grandchildren. JJ is a Vietnam War veteran and a retired truck driver for Dow Chemical Company. Maria is a retired medical office assistant at Brazosport Eye Institute, where she worked for decades. Their family wishes them a blessed and happy anniversary and thank them for their constant love, support and humor throughout their lives.

Cheers to many more years!

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