

A heartfelt tribute

Hill Country Christian School honors veterans, grandparents

On Nov. 11, the Hill Country Christian School hosted its annual Veterans and Grandparents Day celebration featuring guest speaker Chief Master Sgt. Mike Foster.

The ceremony began with senior Tanner Maul welcoming all the parents, grandparents and veterans.

San Marcos Academy's JROTC led the posting of the colors while senior Aviana Burkepile sang the National Anthem.

The kindergarten and first grade classes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The San Marcos Academy then initiated the flag-folding ceremony in which they explained the valuable meaning of all 14 folds of the American flag.

Afterwards, Hill Country Christian School's Robin Prestage, chair of the English department, introduced her parents, Cleoh and Joan Smith, as special guests.

Cleoh is a World War II veteran who led a platoon in Germany.

Grandparents were the next people to be honored.

The school's pre-K through fourth grade choir, led by Abby Fritzier, sang a collection of patriotic pieces including "Grandparents' Song," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," and "America the Beautiful."

This was followed by senior Abi Harvey introducing Foster as the guest speaker. He proudly served his country for 30 years in the Air Force.

Foster shared the many struggles of his life, including his wife being diagnosed



PHOTOS BY HILL COUNTRY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Hill Country Christian School's pre-K through fourth grade choir, led by Abby Fritzier, sang a collection of pieces to honor veterans and grandparents on Veterans Day.

with brain cancer and his son leukemia. However, because of his reputation, others came alongside his family during this tough time. He credits this to the legacy he built in his community and proceeded to challenge the audience as to "What is your legacy?" in regards to faith, family and freedom.

Kindergarten teacher Gia Walton and the elementary classes led everyone in singing "God Bless America." Following the ceremony,

attendants made their way to a patriotic reception where they enjoyed 1940s music, brunch and fellowship.

"Hill Country does a service to the veterans and grandparents by honoring them, plus it is fun having parents and grandparents together (for the event," said Gary Megee, junior high teacher, United States veteran and a grandfather of four.

-Hill Country Christian School



Families and friends gathered at the Hill Country Christian School on Nov. 11 for the annual Veterans and Grandparents Day celebration featuring guest speaker Chief Master Sgt. Mike Foster.

Texas State University's symphony orchestra director recognized

Bravo, congratulations and a round of applause for Dr. Carolyn Watson, the accomplished director of orchestral studies at Texas State University.

Beginning her professional role with the university in October, Watson recently learned that she is a finalist in two categories for The American Prize in Conducting and The American Prize in Orchestral Performance.

Led by Watson, the university's symphony orchestra will soon collaborate with the San Marcos High School Chamber Orchestra.

Watson has invited the high school chamber orchestra to perform the finale of the symphony orchestra's next concert on Monday, Nov. 23.

Your "Invitation to the Dance" has arrived. The Texas State Symphony Orchestra will present its concert Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

"Invitation to the Dance" will fea-

ture a collection of beautiful music including Ballet Music from Idomeneo by Mozart, Danzon No. 2 by Marquez, Dances of Galanta by Kodaly and Polovtsian Dances by Borodin.

Watson, who hails from Australia, has traveled and worked extensively throughout the world.

Her career has taken her from Sydney to Scotland, to Germany, Israel, Czech Republic, and in the United States to Aspen, Interlochen and Detroit, according to the Texas State University website.

She is the recipient of a number of prestigious national and international awards for young conductors, including the 2013 Brian Stacey Award for emerging Australian conductors, the coveted Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Prize via the Australian Music Foundation in London, the Opera Foundation Australia's Bayreuth

Opera Award and Berlin New Music Opera Award, and the Nelly Apt Conducting Scholarship.

She is the beneficiary of support from the American Australian Association's Dame Joan Sutherland Fund and a Sheila Pryor Study Grant from the Australian Opera Auditions Committee.

In 2013-14 she held a Dome Centenary Fellowship from the State Library of Victoria and was a 2012 Churchill Fellow.

She holds a Ph.D. in Performance (Conducting) from the University of Sydney.

To read an in-depth article about Dr. Carolyn Watson, see next Friday's My Town page in the San Marcos Daily Record.

- Daily Record Features



DR. CAROLYN WATSON

'Hecho A Mano – Mercado Artisano'

Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos hosting artisans market

Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos invites everyone to its Fourth Annual "Hecho A Mano – Mercado Artisano" or "Made by Hand – Artisans Market," that takes place Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

With more than a dozen booths of fine art and crafts, shoppers are sure to be surprised by the array of unique holiday gifts while supporting local artists and crafters at the holiday market.

Along with Mexican-style hot cocoa, Centro will have a special room for children to shop for gifts in their price range with free gift wrapping and holiday crafts to keep them busy while parents shop.

Centro is a warm and interesting community venue, and shoppers will have the additional opportunity to see the Centro's Conjunto art exhibit and visit the museum.

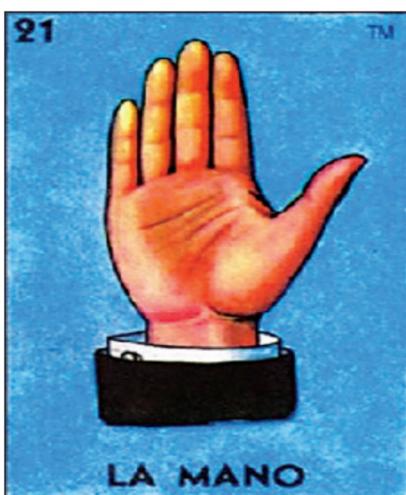
The deadline for vendors to participate has been extended to Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.

The mission of Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos (Centro) is to serve as a community beacon for the preservation, development, promotion, and celebration of the Hispanic arts, culture, heritage, and values.

Centro's programs and educational curriculum include the areas of visual arts, theater, dance, literature, music, multimedia, and the culinary arts. These vibrant educational classes and interactive events for children, adults, families, and diverse audiences take place throughout the year.

For more information, call Centro at (512) 878-0604 or stop by the cultural center 211 Lee St.

- Linda Kelsey-Jones



Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos' holiday market will take place Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the vibrant arts center located at 211 Lee St.

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