



INSIDE
Hooshang
abstracts
featured

Page 3

YOUR FORECAST



Thunderstorms likely

High today near 70.
Low tonight in the low 60s.
Chance of thunderstorms 80
percent beginning this morning.

SPORTS

**Tech to
open C-USA
tournament play**

Page 6



Ruston Daily Leader

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Follow us:  

www.rustonleader.com

75¢



Stores at Ruston Marketplace, located on Woodard Avenue — the north service road along Interstate 20 — will begin opening on Friday. T. J. Maxx, Hobby Lobby, Ulta and Five Below are the shopping center's anchor stores while Rack Room Shoes is also scheduled to open next week.

Ruston Marketplace stores opening this week

By Nancy Bergeron
nancy@rustonleader.com

Stores in Ruston Marketplace, the city's newest shopping center, will begin opening for business this week.

Five Below, which targets tweens and teens with all

merchandise priced at \$5 or less, opens Friday; Department store T. J. Maxx opens Sunday, and Hobby Lobby opens Monday.

Rack Room Shoes is also scheduled to open next week — no specific date was available — and Ulta beauty supply,

in April. Ruston Marketplace is located at the northwest corner of I-20 and Cooktown Road. T. J. Maxx, Hobby Lobby, Ulta and Five Below are the shopping center's anchor stores.

See STORES, page 2

Smoke alarm saves life

By T. Scott Boatright
scott@rustonleader.com

like some kind of iron ore or something.

A Ruston woman credits a smoke alarm for saving her life after a blaze broke out Tuesday morning at her home at 700 Clay Street.

"I was asleep and sometime after 4 (a.m.), the smoke alarm in my bedroom went off," said Margaret Scott, who lives at that address. "It took a second, and I realized it was my bedroom smoke alarm. I got up, turned the light on and went to the front of the house. I didn't see any fire or smoke. Then I went back to the kitchen, and the kitchen alarm was going off. I smelled something burning. To me it was

"I keep the back bedroom fastened off from the other part of the house because I'm in here by myself, so that door was closed. When I opened the door to that back bedroom the smoke just poured out at me. So I went back to the front, called 911 and then ran across the street and woke up my nephew who lives there and told him to call my kids."

Ruston Fire Department Public Education Officer Eric Brazzel said that upon arrival on scene firefighters found the home with flames showing from the rear.

See ALARM, page 2

City gets grant for fitness station

Outdoor facility to be adjacent to Rock Island Greenway

By Nancy Bergeron
nancy@rustonleader.com

The city of Ruston has received a \$30,000 National Fitness Campaign grant to help pay for a central outdoor fitness facility that will be placed adjacent to the Rock Island Greenway close to the corner of Henderson Street and West California Avenue.

The grant is part of the NFC's 2019 Healthy Cities Campaign.

The money represents 25 percent of the funding required to participate in the fitness campaign, according to the NFC website. For Ruston, the additional funds will come out of a larger Lincoln Health Foundation Grant the city won last year, said Andrew Halbrook, Ruston's engineering technology manager.

Lincoln Health

Foundation will be featured as the title sponsor on the court, as well as in other promotions and on a mobile Fitness Court app.

The 38-by-38 court is a seven-station body-weight circuit training court that can be completed in seven minutes. Twenty-eight people use the course simultaneously, according to the NFC website.

"This is an exciting time for our city as we partner with the National Fitness Campaign to bring the Fitness Court to Ruston," Mayor Ronny Walker said. "It is our goal to encourage increased physical activity and bring healthy recreational options to Ruston. This first began with the walking and biking trails, and now we have the opportunity to build



Courtesy artist illustrations

Shown are artist renderings for the front (above) and back (below) of a central outdoor fitness facility that will be placed adjacent to the Rock Island Greenway close to the corner of Henderson Street and West California Avenue.



the Fitness Center which will provide free physical activity op-

tions for our residents and visitors of all ages and skill levels."

The course is expected to be in place by late summer or early

fall, Halbrook said.

Ruston is one of 200 sites nationwide where the NFC is rolling out Fitness Courts this year.

According to an NFC press release, the group's grant program is designed to "activate public spaces by connecting trails, well-placed pedestrian infrastructure and community meeting points with a central outdoor gym facility."

The Rock Island Greenway is a shared-use path that, when finished, will span the almost 6-mile length of the city along the old Rock Island railroad bed. The city's vision is the sidewalk and paths will link neighborhoods to the greenway and afford residents easier walking or biking access to medical facilities, churches, schools and businesses.

April 7 named 'Making the First Move Day' in Ruston

Proclamation signed as part of effort to prevent bullying

By T. Scott Boatright
scott@rustonleader.com

Truth be told, words used as weapons can at times be as painful as sticks and stones breaking bones.

That's something



Shreveport behaviorist Greshun De Bouse is making a move to stop.

De Bouse was in Ruston last week to have Ruston Mayor Ronny Walker sign a proclamation making April 7 "Making the First Move Day."

Created by De Bouse in response to her own victimization of being bullied, "Making The

First Move Day" was created by De Bouse to combat statistics that she says rank Louisiana as the worst state in the U.S. in bullying occurrences and remedies, and to address the increasing bullying and bullycide (defined as a death by suicide where bullying is the causative factor) rates worldwide.

Bullying is repeated, unwanted aggressive behavior with an existent bully-bullied imbalance of power, and may be physical, verbal, or social. Such bullying is the impetus for deep-seated clinical depression, social anxiety/agoraphobia, and PTSD.

See PROCLAMATION, page 2



Leader photo by T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT

Ruston Mayor Ronny Walker and Shreveport behaviorist Greshun De Bouse show off a signed proclamation making April 7 Making the First Move Day in Ruston to prevent bullying and spread awareness about it.