



THURSDAY

MAY 20, 2004

PRIME TIME

B
SECTION

♦ Puzzles/3B ♦

COMING
TOMORROW

Weekend

Summer days are here! Time to find creative camps for kids.

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♦ VOLUNTEER VOICE

Name: Charlotte Zoch
Age: 49
Town: Beaumont



Charlotte Zoch

Activities: Zoch finds her volunteering at the Humane Society of Southeast Texas so rewarding she could do it full time, but already has a full time job.

"One of my duties is to hold onto the pets while pictures are taken for the (national) Society's Web site (www.petfinder.com) and the (area) site (petsforpeople.org)," said Zoch.

She often serves as a foster mom to baby animals too young to adopt out, helps out when dogs and/or cats are offered on Sundays at PetsMart, works on fund-raisers and rabies clinics.

Other volunteer activities include two nights a week at Memorial Hermann Baptist-Beaumont Hospital, and substitute teaching at St. John Lutheran Church.

Why she does it: "It's something I'm passionate about! It has literally given me back my joy and my purpose in life," Zoch said. Married 16 years and now single, she enjoys being around people, (as well as pets) and sharing experiences with other volunteers.

"It's different every time you go there; at your job, you pretty much do the same thing every day," Zoch said.

Memorable Moment: Zoch's most memorable time was when she agreed to foster-home an older dog that was deaf, inoperable, and considered "basically unadoptable," whose time was running out.

"I had him for three months, and friends said, 'What if no one adopts him?' I said, 'Someone will.' I just felt it. And there was a couple who had been considering him for sometime, they decided they would adopt.

"He walked out that door with them just like he belonged to them," Zoch recalls. "It was a love match!"

Know a volunteer?

If you know of someone who deserves recognition for their work as a volunteer in Southeast Texas, let us know.

Either e-mail or call us with the name and phone number of your nomination at:

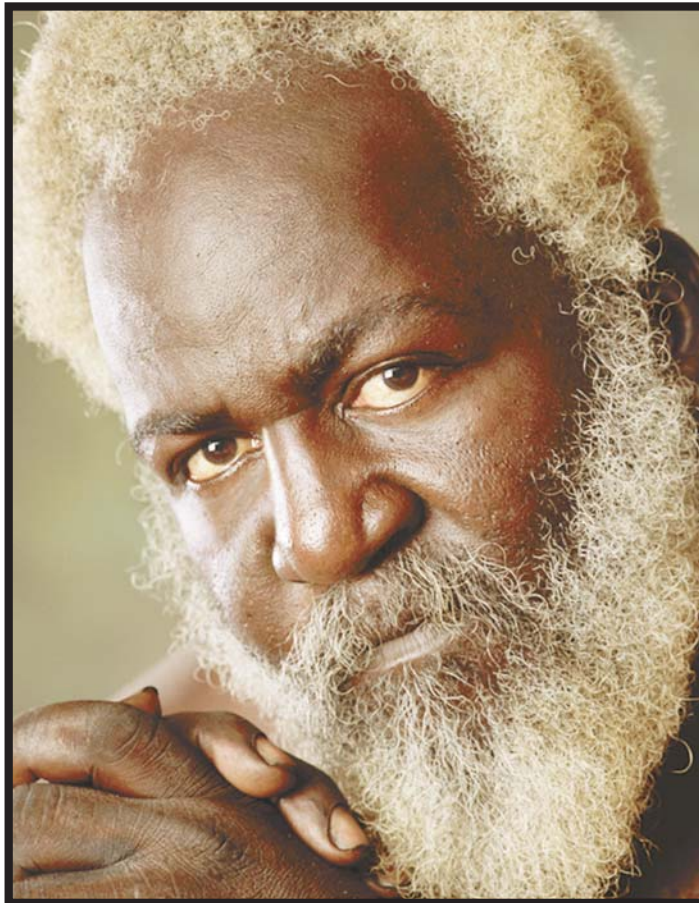
features@beaumontenterprise.com
or
(409) 833-3311, ext. 121

♦ HOW TO HELP

The Shorkey Center for children with special needs, seeks volunteers to help with their annual fund-raiser, the Holiday Card Program. Volunteer schedules are flexible. Please call Connie Berry or Vickie Seymour at (409) 838-6568.

Vidor Police Department needs volunteers to assist with simple clerical duties. Flexible schedule. Contact Leila Melancon, RSVP at (409) 899-8444, ext. 311 or 1-877-802-2200, ext. 311.

Shots Across Texas — A volunteer is needed at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital 1-2 hours on Fridays to provide new mothers with childhood immunization information. To learn more contact Penny Pearson, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, (409) 899-8444, ext. 318 or toll free at 1-877-202-2200, ext. 318.



Photographs provided by Frank Cricchio

Frank Cricchio's portfolio include left, 'Radiator Man,' and from the top down 'Navaho Indian Hair Salon,' 'Tea Time' and 'But Honey, I Do Love You More Than Fishing.'

Timeless

Seasoned photographer proves that pictures are more than 1,000 words

By MELISSA RENTERIA
THE ENTERPRISE

PORT ARTHUR — Frank Cricchio was 11 years old when he first picked up a camera. The emotions that Cricchio saw in the images he captured on film started him on a journey documenting faces in extraordinary-looking settings.

"It's my total life," he said. "Once you have that passion in your mind, you can't rest."

Cricchio, 70, has earned a reputation for being an outstanding photographer and an innovator and mentor in his profession. He's received numerous honors in photography, including earning the distinction of being the only photographer to receive more than 1,000 merits from the Professional Photographers of America.

Cricchio recently received one of his greatest honors. He was one of four recipients of this year's Professional Photographer Leadership Award given by the International Photographic Council, a non-governmental organization of the United Nations.

Cricchio first heard about the award during a phone call two months ago.

"I thought it was a joke. I said, 'United Nations, you've got to be kidding. Who is this calling me,'" Cricchio said.

After realizing that the caller was serious, the significance of the award set in. "I cried like a baby when they called," Cricchio said.



Tom Eckert/The Enterprise

Photographer Frank Cricchio points out some of the detail in one of the digital posters he has done for Fujifilm.

Cricchio received the award May 11 in New York.

Despite the award and the other honors he's received, Cricchio is more concerned about doing what he loves and sharing his knowledge with other photographers.

"I didn't do it to get the accomplishments. They came because I was doing my work," he said. "You get all kinds of stuff when you've been around as long as I have."

Cricchio, who grew up in a close-knit family in Port Arthur, started working as a photographer when he was 16, selling photographs of school and community events. He photographed his first wedding while he was still in

high school.

Cricchio spent years documenting the special moments of many Port Arthur families at the portrait studio he opened in 1958 after graduating from Lamar University.

"I've seen the town grow up," he said.

Cricchio started his studio with \$150 saved from his job at the local Sears. He opened for business on Easter Sunday, hoping to draw parents wanting photographs of their children in their holiday finest. He had three customers.

"I was happy to see anybody walk through the door," he said of the studio's early days.

Some of his first customers came out of curiosity. They wanted to know how to pronounce his studio's Italian name.

"They'd ask me, 'How did you think of that name,' and I'd say it's my name," he said.

Cricchio also worked for a local television station, taking photographs of wrecks and other news events. At that time, still photographs were used on the air as the news anchor read the news.

"I worked constantly, but I got a credit line and that's how my name got built up in the community," he said.

Cricchio started winning awards and praise early in his career, and soon became known worldwide for his innovative color photography. He has lectured around the world on his lighting techniques.

"The comments from his students sound like

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Mourning the passing of one-of-a-kind friends



Don Jacobs

Daily, we open the morning paper to read news of what has affected our lives overnight. For those growing older, too often this is found in obituary notices.

Recently, when two friends succumbed to illness, I was shocked to learn of it because we had been out of touch. At the same time, memories flooded back.

Carol had worked for years with her mom, Vivian, at the Record Rack, and we shared a predilection for oldies music.

When a song title or name of a group eluded me, all it took was a telephone call to Carol, and if she didn't know the answer, Vivian did.

Vivian still is legendary for picking hits, and Carol always had a

knack for remembering them, whether artist, label or writer.

She also knew which collectibles to hang onto, and for a column Carol once posed for pictures while holding a rare Elvis Presley record from her collection.

An older friend's name was

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