

Bears take third win on the road

9



Incorporating Latin flavors into everyday meals

5



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County to enable pilot Padilla program

JORDAN BURNHAM
STAFF REPORTER

Hays County will pilot a program that will provide legal assistance to criminal defense attorneys to help fulfill their Padilla obligation.

On Tuesday morning, the Hays County Commissioners Court formally accepted a \$342,720 grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) for the Regional Padilla Compliance Pilot Project. The pilot

program will provide technical support to criminal defense attorneys in Hays County and the 3rd Administrative Judicial Region "for constitutionally required Padilla assistance."

Criminal defense attorneys, under the Supreme Court case Padilla v. Kentucky, are required to advise their non-citizen clients about the immigration consequences of pleas, such as the possibility of deportation. However, the Padilla obligation is difficult to meet for most defense attorneys without

a dedicated resource or attorney versed in immigration law.

According to the grant application, about 108 indigent defendants in Hays County were entitled to a Padilla consultation in 2018, totaling 5-6% of criminal cases.

Through the new program, defense attorneys will be able to remotely consult an attorney who is knowledgeable about Padilla obligation through the non profit myPadilla. Julie Wimmer, Attorney and Founder of myPadilla,

said during a presentation to the commissioners court on July 30 that in turn, defense attorneys will be able to advise their clients about the immigration consequences of a conviction.

"Defense attorneys submit a request for case assistance for technical assistance and then I, or an immigration attorney working with me, responds to that case inquiry with detailed advice that they can then use in representing their client and meeting their Padilla obligation," she said during

the July meeting.

The grant will compensate remote Padilla attorneys for their services, malpractice and related insurance, training and outreach for defense attorneys in participating counties, software maintenance as well as overhead and admin costs for Hays County.

"At an hourly rate of \$150, this grant will help facilitate Padilla consultations in nearly 1,000 cases," states the grant application.

SEE PADILLA PAGE 2

The power of tissue donation

LANCE WINTER
PUBLISHER

It's said we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

It's hard to argue those sentiments, especially if you're Illiana Turnini. The 34-year-old healthcare professional, living in San Marcos, has dedicated her life to giving by working in the field of nursing. But not long ago she was on the receiving end of a gift, one that changed her quality of life but only after the passing of a generous stranger.

Growing up in the Rio Grande Valley, in the city of Weslaco, Turnini was a precocious child who was into tumbling and cheerleading at an early age.

"I was a Panther cheerleader pretty much my whole life beginning at the age of five, until my freshman year in high school, when we moved to San Marcos," she said. "So, my youth has been both intense and athletic."

After moving to San Marcos, and upon graduating, Turnini gave birth to her first child only to discover she had a degenerative hip condition.

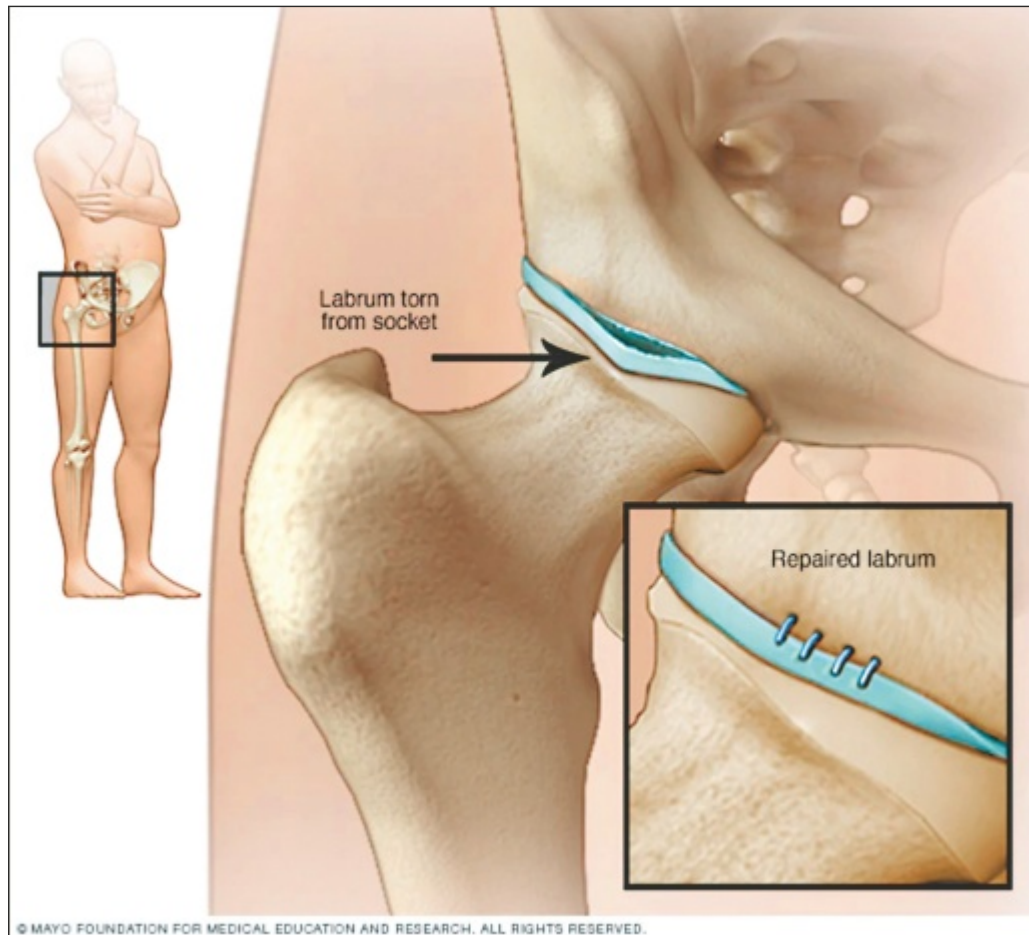
"So, all those years of cheerleading, gymnastics and jumping exacerbated the problem," Turnini said. "It forced the ligament to wear down."

Fast forward a couple of years later and her problem worsened as she and her husband were remodeling their home.

"I had a few hip, 'clicks and pops' here and there — you know — the kind that means it's time for you to stretch," she said. "Nothing bothered me too much until we were remodeling our house a few years ago, and I took a tumble."

The couple had just changed the carpet and Turnini was wearing socks not realizing how slippery the floor had gotten.

"Down I went. I landed on my hip and my wrist, but I got up walked away thinking nothing about



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Above, an illustration of a labrum torn from the socket and a repaired labrum.

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At right, Illiana Turnini. Daily Record photo by Lance Winter



it," she said. "I did feel a little sore the next day and felt a little 'pop,' but I said 'enough with it, it'll be fine.'"

It was anything but fine though. Six months later, she was limping, in excruciating pain, all while working in the Central Texas Medical Center's Intensive Care Unit, full time.

"I just kept telling myself, 'it's just sore, it's going to get better,' but I remember

one day when my daughter asked me to sit down and read her a book," she recalled. "As I went to sit down, 'Indian style,' I knew something was wrong."

It was then she went to see Dr. Ivy in San Marcos. There they did preliminary tests and MRI's and upon finding out what kind of injury it was, it was determined she needed a specialist.

"I ended up seeing a

physician in San Antonio, Dr. Casey Tabor, he did the surgery," Turnini said. "He told me I had a 50 percent chance to walk normally again."

Following surgery, where she received a couple of donated ligaments and four months of recovery, Turnini is walking normally. The ligaments repaired the labrum and helped stabilize

SEE TISSUE PAGE 3

Vie Lofts says no questions about building's structural integrity

NICK CASTILLO
MANAGING EDITOR

Management for Vie Lofts believes there are no questions about the structural integrity of the building.

A mandatory evacuation was given to the apartment located at 817 Chestnut St. on Friday by the San Marcos Fire Marshal due to concerns in response to safety concerns about building stability and means of egress.

San Marcos Fire Chief Les Stephens said the fire department was called to the apartment complex Friday after they were made aware of issues with a stairwell,

which rendered it unusable by occupants as a means of emergency egress. Stephens said they discovered a second stairwell that was unable to be used as well.

Vie Management, however, said in its statement that it had an engineer on site Monday to inspect the building and it believes the issues noted by fire department don't affect the building's structural integrity.

"The City of San Marcos fire department did express an initial concern with one stairwell (there are three stairwells in the building) and a

SEE LOFTS PAGE 2

Meet the leader of the Apollo Moon Missions Thursday



Dr. George W.S. Abbey, former Director of the Johnson Space Center and key figure in first flight to moon, will speak at LBJ Museum on Sept. 26. Submitted photo

MELISSA MILLECAM
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Texas State University students, faculty and staff are invited to meet "the Astro-

naut Maker," Dr. George W.S. Abbey, at the Fall Lecture at the LBJ Museum of San Marcos on Sept. 26 at 6

SEE APOLLO PAGE 3

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Obituaries — 2
Opinion — 4
Food Focus — 5

Crossword — 6
Classifieds — 7
Sports — 9

WEATHER

High: 99°
Low: 73°



6 97113 78610 7