

THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

JUNE 2016
VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6



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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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Pearland Police Department	281-997-4100

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Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary	281-245-3090
Manvel Junior High	281-331-1416
Alvin Senior High	281-331-8151
Manvel High School	281-245-2235
Alvin ISD Administration	281-338-1130
Alvin ISD Transportation	281-331-0960

UTILITIES

Electricity - Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
Gas - Center Point	713-659-2111
Trash Removal - City of Pearland	281-652-1600

CITY

Pearland City Hall.....	281-652-1600
Pearland Utility Billing - Water Dept.	281-652-1603
Pearland Animal Control.....	281-652-1970
Pearland Police Dept - Non-Emergency	281-652-1100
Pearland Public Works.....	281-652-1900

OTHER NUMBERS

Pearland Post Office	281-485-2132
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Brazoria County Health Department	979-864-1484
Animal Control.....	281-756-2265
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

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Publisher	
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Alvin ISD Unveils The Book Bus



On Monday, May 23, the Alvin ISD Book Bus was unveiled at the Tommy King Administrative Building.

This summer, a new Alvin ISD project will bring literacy and other learning opportunities directly to the neighborhoods of students and families through a reading bus program called The Alvin ISD Book Bus. The Book Bus will provide reading resources to students and their families who may not have access to literacy opportunities

at home, and those who may not have transportation to public or school libraries during the summer.

“By starting the program this summer, the district expects to continue working to close the achievement gap that sometimes results from summer reading loss. In addition, this program will provide an opportunity for our educators to continue building important relationships with the students and their families by bringing literacy and other learning opportunities directly to them near to their homes,” said the district Family Engagement Coordinator, Ana Pasarella.

The Alvin ISD Education Foundation was a huge partner on this project with a generous donation of \$10,000 they helped to kick-off the program. “The collaboration between the school district and the education foundation to make this happen says so much about the relationship between the two. We should celebrate this partnership each day,” said Vice President of the AISD Education Foundation, Amy Roudbari. In addition, many of the Alvin ISD Education Foundation board members were actively involved in the project from the very beginning to ensure that the end result was a high quality literacy program that will benefit every student in Alvin ISD.

(Continued on Page 4)



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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

(Continued from Page 3)

"Today was a very exciting day for Alvin ISD, because we all got to see the start of a reading program that represents the commitment that the district has made to provide excellent programs and opportunities for each student to reach their full potential," said Alvin ISD School Board President Cheryl Harris.

Various Alvin ISD departments joined efforts to make the program a reality. The Transportation Department provided an unused bus for the program, helped design the remodeling of the bus and suggested other mechanical and technical accommodations that were necessary.

The renovation of the bus was done in house. Three different programs from the Career and Technical Educational facility (CTE) renovated the bus under the supervision of the Alvin ISD Transportation Department. Students from the Construction Program, the Auto-Tech Program, and the Welding Program were tasked with the renovation of the bus.

"We are excited for the learning opportunity that the library bus program provided to the CTE students. By working on the renovation of the bus, the students were offered real life experiences to apply what they were learning at the center," said Cristina Rice, CTE Director.

Alvin ISD lead librarians also collaborated with the project by ensuring that the Book Bus was loaded with a variety of books that

will be appealing to students, and that will spark their interest to "Get on the Bus" when the mobile library is in their neighborhood.

The district will release the Book Bus schedule through fliers that will be sent home with students the last day of school, the district website, electronic communication, and social media.

For more information about the library bus program, please contact Ana Pasarella at apasarella@alvinisd.net or at (281)245-2658



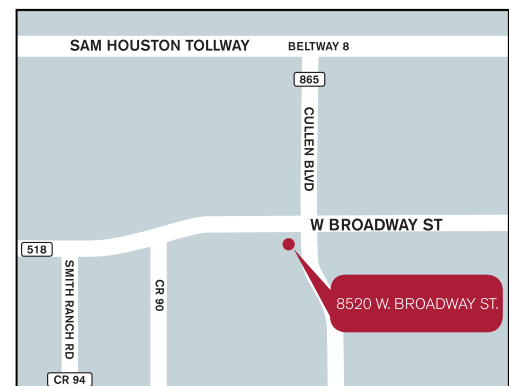
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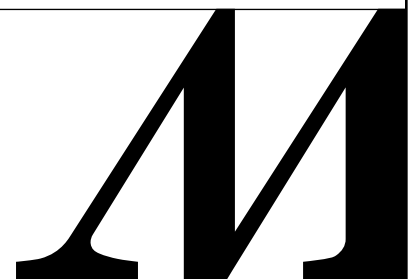
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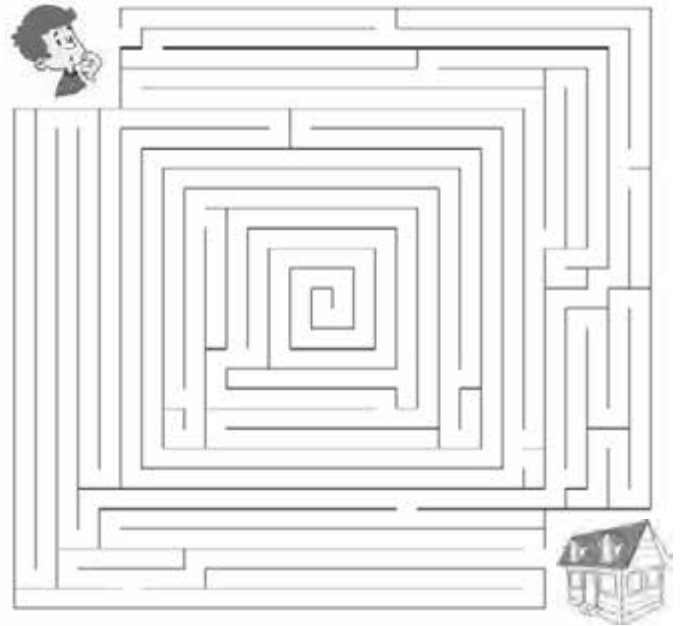
Gifted and Talented Screenings

The Alvin ISD Advanced Academics department will conduct screenings for private school and home school students for possible GT testing. The screenings are available on the following dates: June 6-9 and August 8-11. Screening time slots are available from 8:15-noon each day in 45 minute increments. Depending on the outcome of the screening, a student may qualify to participate in GT testing on June 20, 21, and 22 or the week of August 29. GT testing is a three day process with one hour of testing each day.

If a child is newly enrolled in Alvin ISD as a previous private school or home school student, the district will conduct a summer screening on your child. In order to have your child screened, the student must be enrolled in an Alvin ISD elementary school. Parents also must complete the "GT Student Referral Form" located online (From the Alvin ISD website go to: Departments, Advanced Academics, GT Forms and Documents, GT Student Referral Form). If you are interested in having your child screened, please contact the Advanced Academics Department at 281-245-3074, to schedule an appointment.

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Nolan Ryan Band



- 235 Superior Ratings, 2016 Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 33 Individual Outstanding Performance Awards, 2016 Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Symphonic Band 3, Superior Rating from every judge & UIL Sweepstakes Award, 2016 UIL Contest
- Symphonic Band 2, Superior Rating from every judge & UIL Sweepstakes Award, 2016 UIL Contest
- Symphonic Band 1, Superior Rating from every judge & UIL Sweepstakes Award, 2016 UIL Contest
- Symphonic Band 3, Superior Rating and Best in Class, 2016 Space City Showcase of Music
- Symphonic Band 2, Superior Rating and Best in Class, 2016 Space City Showcase of Music
- Symphonic Band 1, Superior Rating and Best in Class, 2016 Space City Showcase of Music
- Symphonic Band 1, Overall Outstanding, 2016 Space City Showcase of Music

Nolan Ryan Junior High's 7th and 8th grade bands competed at the Space City Showcase of Music on May 7th, in their final contest of the 2015-16 school year. All three competing groups, Symphonic Bands I, II, and III, earned Superior ratings from the contest judges, and all three groups were named "Best in Class" for their classification! Additionally, Symphonic Band I was named "Overall Outstanding" for the two-day competition which featured some very outstanding bands from around the state!

"We're extremely proud of all of our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students' work throughout this year," said Nolan Ryan Band Director Josh Mooney. "The students have grown so much, and we can't wait to build on their successes next year!"

2015-16 Nolan Ryan Band Accomplishments

- Symphonic Band 1, 2015 TMEA Region Honor Band (1st Place, TMEA Region 17)
- Symphonic Band 1, 2015 TMEA Area Honor Band (1st Place, TMEA Area F)
- Symphonic Band 1, 2015 TMEA State Honor Band Finalist (11th in State, TMEA)
- Symphonic Band 1, 2015 National Wind Band Honors Commended Winner, Class AA
- Symphonic Band 1, 2015 National Wind Band Honors National Winner, New Music Division
- 64 All-Region and All-District Band Members, 2015 TMEA Region 17
- 3 Overall 1st Chairs in Region, 2015 TMEA Region 17
- 5 Region Orchestra Qualifying Band Students, 2015 TMEA Region 17

EDITOR WANTED

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Nolan Ryan Band



At the end of April, Nolan Ryan Junior High's Symphonic Bands I, II, and III performed at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest under the direction of Josh Mooney, Freddy Patrick, Hannah Fry, and Lou Boldrighini. At a UIL band contest, the bands are required to perform three prepared songs and to sight-read a new song with very little preparation and instruction. Each portion of the contest is rated by three judges, who award the band a rating between one (first division - Superior) and five (Poor).

This year, all six judges awarded each of Nolan Ryan's bands a


Superior, or first division rating, which earned each band a UIL Sweepstakes award! This is the first time in Alvin ISD that three bands from the same school, junior high or high school, all earned a UIL Sweepstakes award!

Josh Mooney, Director of Nolan Ryan's Symphonic Band I, said, "The judges were extremely complimentary of the performances, behavior, and professionalism of our students. We truly could not be prouder of their hard work and musicianship! They're fantastic young musicians!"

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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

Bring the World into Your Home

Ayusa International, a non-profit organization that has promoted global learning and leadership through high school student cultural exchanges for more than 35 years, is launching its annual search for families in Houston and the surrounding area interested in hosting international students for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ayusa host families who volunteer to open their home to exchange students contribute to the global community as public diplomats for greater international understanding. Each host family and student creates a lasting relationship that spans the cultural differences between their two nations.

The Bray Family from Houston has been hosting two students this year, Mahau from France and Genzo from Japan. Both students have been attending Mayde Creek High School this year. The Brays have six children of their own but feel that hosting exchange students is "probably one of the best decisions our family has ever made," according to host mom April Bray. "[The students] quickly become a part of your family and it's always a great feeling to see their eyes light up when they experience something for the first time or hear the excitement in their voices when they tell you about a new friend they made at school. Your children also get to gain another brother

or sister and it's always fun to see them trying to learn your exchange student's language or customs. For us, there is no greater feeling than watching our exchange students succeed and grow and being able to share our culture and learn more about theirs."

The students have also been having a wonderful experience with the Bray family. Genzo shares, "My host family is so nice to me and I feel like this family is the home I can go back to. They make me feel like I'm loved by them. Of course you can share your culture and learn the language but more importantly, you can experience the other family that you love." His exchange "sister" Mahau says, "It's crazy how much you can love people you didn't know 10 months before. Every day they make my exchange year super great. I consider them like a member of my family. They are the reason why I enjoyed every single day of my new life."

Ayusa works with diverse families who are interested in hosting an international student of high school age. Families without children, empty nesters, military families, retirees, and single people are all welcome. Ayusa families come from all over the country and reside

(Continued on Page 11)

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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

(Continued from Page 10)

in rural, suburban and urban communities.

"Houston is a popular destination for Ayusa exchange students in the U.S.," says Heather Wells, Ayusa Regional Manager for the Southwest. "Host families love to share the diversity and history of Houston. It's such a fun area to live in, with activities and things for students to experience, from music and sports to outdoor activities and delicious Tex-Mex!" She continues, "If you have ever wanted to learn about a new culture while sharing life in America, I encourage you to give us a call or check out our website to learn more about how you can create an international friendship that lasts a lifetime!"

Host families provide the exchange student with three meals a day and a bedroom (private or shared). A professionally trained Ayusa representative supports each host family, student, and local school throughout the program year. Ayusa's exchange students are 15-18 years old and come from more than 60 countries around the world. Students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English.

How to Host an International Student

Interested families can learn more about the program and available exchange students and request additional information by visiting <http://www.ayusa.org> or calling 1-888-552-9872.

The process to apply is simple. Families complete the online application, which includes questions about themselves and local high school, references, and a background check. The local Ayusa Community Representative conducts an in-home interview. They can also help each family with any questions they may have about the application or process.

After families are fully approved, they can select the Ayusa student they would like to host.

About Ayusa

Ayusa International (<http://www.ayusa.org>) is a 501(c)3 non-profit student exchange organization founded in 1981 and an official U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor. In addition, Ayusa administers high profile grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and other organizations. Ayusa is a sister company of Intrax, a family of organizations that provides a lifetime of high-quality educational, work and volunteer programs that connect people and cultures. Intrax is headquartered in San Francisco with offices on four continents.



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