

THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

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Former Texas A&M Athletes Return to College Station to Celebrate a Love Story Come Full Circle



Former Texas A&M track and field athletes, Andrew and Tomika Gamble, recently traveled back to their alma mater to capture in photos, what they believe to be a love story that has come full circle. It had been nearly 16 years since the couple met in 2001; 10 years since they married, and seven years since their oldest son was diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer.

The two met at the campus when Andrew entered the school as a freshman student-athlete. Tomika had already been a Aggie for two years prior to him joining the team. Immediately the two hit it off as friends, but never imagined that their friendship would turn into more.

Fast-forward five years and the couple would find themselves welcoming their first child, Isaiah, and becoming one.

“Isaiah was a dream come true for us. He was our world, and still is today. From the moment that we found out we that were pregnant, we fell in love with him,” said Tomika.

Just like all parents, the Gambles enjoyed watching Isaiah grow through the years.

“Every new milestone in his life was a blessing,” mentioned

Andrew.

Then on Christmas morning 2009, the family noticed that something wasn't quite right about the young child. The three year old was experiencing breathing difficulties, pleurisy and was extremely lethargic.

“He couldn't even open his gifts that year,” said Tomika.

With that, the family was forced to take him to the emergency room, and was ultimately sent home with a diagnosis of round pneumonia, as well as medications that would treat that particular illness.

About 2 weeks later, the young boy was back in the emergency, but this time he would be admitted for weeks, due to an official diagnosis that had nothing to do with pneumonia. All along, what looked like a round pneumonia, was a tumor in his lung cavity (Pleuropulmonary Blastoma, Type 3), and it had burst. From that day forward, life for the Gambles would never be the same.

For the next year the son of the two Aggies would endure 12 rounds of chemotherapy, 25 rounds of radiation, multiple blood transfusions, and numerous surgeries. All in an effort to save his life.

“2010 was definitely a hard year for our family. Not in a million years would we have thought that cancer would invade our lives in such a way, and try to take our baby from us,” Tomika said.

Ultimately Isaiah beat cancer that year, and with the support of many, the family was able to have systems in place that helped them to get through the difficult times.



(Continued on Page 2)

SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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EMERGENCY	911
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Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	281-331-9000
Pearland Police Department	281-997-4100

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Alvin Senior High	281-331-8151
Manvel High School	281-245-2235
Alvin ISD Administration	281-338-1130
Alvin ISD Transportation	281-331-0960

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CITY

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Brazoria County Health Department	979-864-1484
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Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

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(Continued from Cover)



“We were able to make it through thanks to much prayer and of the generosity of many,” added Tomika.

In turn, the Gambles founded KidsRStrong2 (KRS2), in an effort to return the favor and help other children and families in need.

KidsRStrong2 is a 501c3 public charity that serves children battling any life-threatening medical condition. The organization focuses on providing support systems and special programs, as well as scholarships for

survivors, and funding for pediatric cancer research.

“KRS2 is just one small way of making sure that Isaiah’s diagnosis and battle are not in vain. It’s our gift to him, and a teaching opportunity for us to instill the importance of serving others in our children,” said Andrew.

Tomika was newly pregnant with their second son when Isaiah was diagnosed with cancer.

To celebrate life’s journey and the couples love, they recently came back to Aggieland, with their children, Isaiah (10) and Jeremiah (6) in tow.

“We felt like coming back to where we first met and fell in love, with our children, in honor of our upcoming 10 year anniversary, brought everything full circle,” Tomika said. “It’s always wonderful to have the opportunity to come back, reminisce and celebrate how far we’ve come.”

To capture the full circle moment, the couple enlisted Pharris Photography to capture their love story on camera.

If it hadn’t been for embracing the numerous educational opportunities available at Texas A&M University, the couple believes that they would not be where they are today.

“Texas A&M is a place that will always be near and dear to our hearts, and we are thankful for the opportunity to return to where it all started, to capture our life today, and create new memories that will last forever,” Tomika said.

To learn more about the Aggie established organization, KidsRStrong2, which offers support programs for children and families across Texas, visit www.krs2.org.



NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE

SHADOW CREEK RANCH

KidsRStrong2 Family Fun Day at Victory Camp



At the Alvin ISD June 13 Board Meeting, the Alvin ISD Education Foundation provided an update and presented a check totaling \$199,714, which represented their annual contributions to the students and staff of Alvin ISD for the 2016-17 school year.

What: KidsRStrong2 is offering a free family fun day for children and youth who are currently, or have recently battled a life-threatening medical condition. Families and close friends are invited to attend, in an effort to strengthen the family bond, and allow the children and youth to enjoy a day filled with fun and joy, away from the confines of the hospital walls. Activities offered include: zip line, bumper boats, swimming, water slides, go carts, and more. Breakfast and lunch provided.

Where: Victory Camp
1407 Victory Ln.
Alvin, TX 77511

When: Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Price: Free

Event Details and Registration Info: www.kidsrstrong2.org/ffd

Venue Details: www.victorycamp.com

Info: Must RSVP in advance to be a guest of honor, or to volunteer at www.kidsrstrong2.org/ffd.

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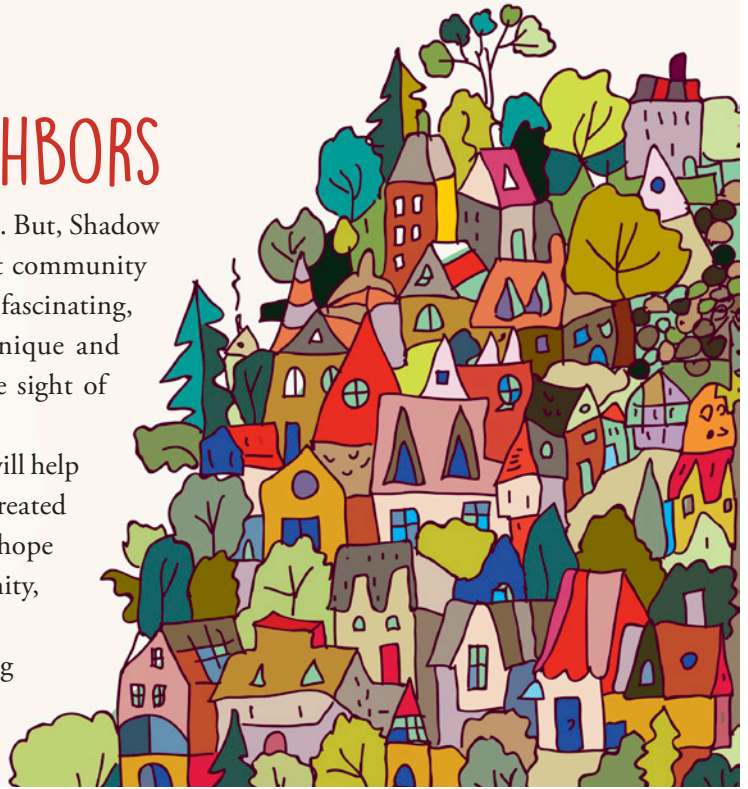
SHADOW CREEK RANCH

INTRODUCING GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

We are all very fortunate to call Shadow Creek Ranch home. But, Shadow Creek Ranch is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we've become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, "Get to Know Your Neighbors" which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Shadow Creek Ranch a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.



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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

Alvin ISD Students Earn Gold Medals at International Thespian Festival

by David B. Soward



Shadow Creek High School Duet Acting students in picture are (left to right) Freia Pamintuan and Lauren Green.

Ten Alvin ISD theater students made district history at the International Thespian Society's annual festival when they received gold medals for their performances in competition against students from all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Shadow Creek High School's Lauren Green (Junior) and Freia Pamintuan (Junior) received top honors

in duet acting for their performance of a scene from David Auburn's *Proof*, and Alvin High School's Avery Cress (Junior), Lindsey Flake (Junior), Dominique MacMillan (Junior), Sara Perez (Junior), Andrew Schumann (Senior), Sarah Stanton (Junior), Hunter VanWagner (Junior), and Nicole Wendorf (Junior) earned top marks for their group acting scene from Alan Haehnel's *Fifteen Reasons Not To Be in a Play*.

Students from all over North America qualified for the international competition by receiving top prizes from state and regional contests held during or around December, 2016. From there, students continued to develop their skills over the following semester as they prepared to compete against the best high school theater has to offer.

This highly prestigious contest is the largest acting competition in the world and was the subject of the 2010 documentary *Thespians* which followed several students as they prepared for international competition.

This year, the competition was held on the campus of the University of Nevada – Lincoln, where students attended workshops, auditioned for colleges, and viewed plays from all over North America June

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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

(Continued from Page 5)

19th through the 23rd. This is the first time students from Alvin ISD have taken home top honors at the international competition.

Shadow Creek High School students competed under the direction of David Soward, and Alvin High School students competed under the direction of Laurie Reese and Drake Simpson.

About the International Thespian Society

A division of the Educational Theatre Association, the International Thespian Society (ITS) is an honor society for high school theatre students primarily located in the United States, Canada, and Mexico (though troupes have been forming all over the world in recent years). A few famous ITS alumni include Tom Hanks, Val Kilmer, James Marsters, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Stephen Schwartz. Membership currently stands at approximately 100,000 student members across approximately 4000 schools. The one millionth thespian was inducted in 1976 and the two millionth thespian was inducted in 2009. Ten students made Alvin ISD history by receiving top honors at the International Thespian Society's international competition in Lincoln Nebraska this week.

Students from both **Shadow Creek High School** and **Alvin High School** earned top scores in their individual contests.



Alvin High School Group Acting students in picture are (back row, left to right) Avery Cress, Sarah Stanton, Hunter VanWagner, Dominique MacMillan, Lindsey Flake, (front row, left to right) Nicole Wendorf, Andrew Schumann, and Sara Perez.

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Preparation: 20 minutes **Cook Time:** 20 minutes **Serves:** 8

Ingredients

- 1 lb. Italian Sausage
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- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 1/2 c. shredded pizza cheese
- 1/2 c. diced Canadian bacon
- 1/2 c. chopped pepperoni
- 2 (8 oz.) tubes refrigerated crescent rolls

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a large skillet over medium heat cook sausage and garlic until no longer pink. Drain grease off. Stir in 1/2 c. pizza sauce, pepperoni, Canadian bacon and 1 c. pizza cheese.
3. Unroll crescent dough and separate into triangles. Arrange triangles on a 14 inch ungreased pizza pan with points toward the outside and wide ends overlapping at the center, leaving a 4 inch opening in the center. Press overlapping dough to seal.
4. Spoon the mixture onto the wide ends of the triangles. Fold pointed ends of triangles over filling, tucking points under to form a ring. The filling will be visible.
5. Baked for 12-15 minutes or until the crescents are golden brown. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Serve with remaining pizza sauce.

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