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Board Certified Dermatologist



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# FOUR POINTS NEWS

SERVING STEINER RANCH, RIVER PLACE, GRANDVIEW HILLS, WESTMINSTER GLEN AND COMANCHE TRAIL

Volume 9, Issue 3 • 8 pages

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## Take a peek at what's Inside

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### Upcoming Articles

- Local entrepreneurs launch IQuest
- LISD Demographics Study
- New Coffee Bean opens

### Lake Travis Level

Full at.....681.5 ft.  
Current level.....631.93 ft.  
Percentage full.....40%

Source: LCRA Updated: Jan. 15, 2013

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
LISD Holiday Jan. 21

## Medical offices opening in River Place in 2013

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

A new medical office development is in the works near the corner of River Place Boulevard and FM 2222. The Medical Tower at Riverplace is projected to open in July of 2013 and is already about 85 percent pre-leased, according to developer Arise Capital Investments which bought the property from Onair Development in December.

The site at 6611 River Place Blvd. has been cleared and vertical construction of the 36,000 square foot Class A medical office building is expected to begin February. The Medical Tower at Riverplace will include Texan Urgent Care, a full-service imaging center, Advanced Rehabilitation, Austin Pain Associates, Central Texas Health and Wellness among other tenants. In the Arise Capital Investments' business model, all tenants are offered "an ownership stake" in their office building.

Arise Capital Investments launched its new firm with the purchase of the development rights for the River



Leslee Bassman

**Two medical plazas are set to open in River Place in 2013: the River Place Medical and Professional Center (pictured) at the end of this month and The Medical Tower at River Place on target for summer.**

Place site and is currently under contract for another medical office space project in Manor with additional plans for expansion in nearby Bee Cave and Dripping Springs. Robert Wills, MD, Jared Leger, CEO, Eric Perardi and Rick Benson are founding partners for Arise Capital Investments, all of whom have worked together in various other local projects. Wills and Leger are associated with Arise Healthcare, with Wills being the founder of Austin

Pain Associates. Perardi and Benson have backgrounds in business development and commercial real estate.

### RP Medical and Professional Center set for Jan. 31 opening

Dr. Michael Vik will begin accepting patients at the River Place Medical and Professional Center, River Place Boulevard at FM 2222, at the end of this month, according to practice administrator Kyle Froelich.

OFFICE, 5

## LCRA Board to withhold water to downstream farmers

Vote favors WCID 17  
amid extreme drought

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

Lower Colorado River Authority's Board of Directors voted unanimously on Tuesday, Jan. 8, to recommend that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) cut Highland Lakes water releases to downstream rice farmers, leaving current levels intact for Central Texas firm water customers including the City of Austin, WCID 17 and River Place Municipal Utility District. The resolution

LCRA, 5



Leslee Bassman

**LCRA Board Director Franklin Scott Spears, Jr. of Travis County addresses General Manager Becky Motal during last week's special meeting to discuss a revised proposal which prevents the release of Highland Lakes' water to downstream rice farmers under the current low levels.**

## Flu got you down?

Many Four Points residents contract illness

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

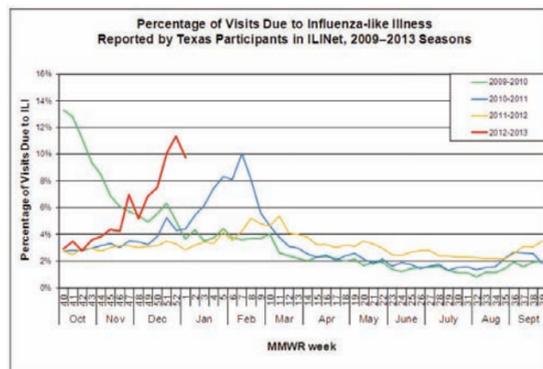
Another year, another flu season - the aches, chills, fever and blahs. Although the notorious respiratory illness is a nasty one, Four Points physician Dr. Elizabeth Bartlett says it's still not too late to get a vaccination and there are plenty of remedies available to ease influenza's symptoms.

How bad is this year's outbreak?

According to the Texas Department of Health (TDH), this year's flu season began on September 30 and typically continues through May, peaking in January and February.

Bartlett, who practices with Hill Country Pediatrics, saw her first case of the flu on October 8 with the number of patients contracting the virus gradually increasing up to December, at which point the numbers soared quickly.

FLU, 2



Texas Department of Health info on this year's flu.

## High-end autos on display at Oasis

Cars and Coffee moves to Four Points

By RICH KEITH  
Four Points News

How close have you gotten to a Tesla? A Ferrari? A Bentley? A Lotus? A Fisker? A 1948 Dodge convertible? Now Four Points residents can see these and many other cars on the second Sunday of each month.

The John Eagle Cars & Coffee auto show, begun in Leander, has grown too big for its monthly gathering spot in old town Leander and has shifted to Oasis, Texas. On Sun. Jan. 13 hundreds of high-end vehicles, antiques and collector cars along with their owners joined enthusiasts on a bright sunny day at the Oasis.

"Not only was the event unable to grow, it became an uncomfortable, potentially dangerous situation



Rich Keith

**The John Eagle Cars & Coffee auto show moved to Oasis, Texas and last Sunday, hundreds of high-end vehicles, antiques and collector cars were on display. See more photos on our Four Points News Facebook page. The event runs the second Sunday of the month.**

with cars stacked all over town," according to Sonny Morgan, dealer principal of John Eagle European.

"People wanted more and better parking. They began to ask us for shelter

from the elements when it became hot or cold and an F1 watching party, as well as better dining options," Morgan said.

With the move to the Oasis, the owners are

proud to show off their cars.

"My 1981 Corvette has an all-chrome engine and has only 12,000 miles on it. It lives in the garage," said

AUTO, 5

## Glenlake tween 'sparkles' in film bound for Utah festival

Flick garnered accolades at SXSW 2012 premiere

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

Twelve-year-old Elise Gardner aspires to be a veterinarian one day, an obvious nod to her love of horses and English horseback riding. However, following this month's acclaimed Slamdance Film Festival, the Four Points Middle School student from Glenlake may be headed in a different direction.

In March of 2011, the now sixth-grader starred in director/producer Annie Silverstein's

SPARK, 5



Leslee Bassman

"Spark" director Annie Silverstein (left) and Four Points sixth-grader Elise Gardner (right) attended Thursday's screening of the short film which stars the Glenlake tween.

## VHS wins Robertson Invite



Jody Maas

**Sophomore diver Kelse Redwine scored 333.45 points at Friday's Tex Robertson Invitational meet to take first place in the 1-meter event. Redwine is Vandegriff's first diver in the school's program. More on page 6.**

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Claudia Legere, MD



Li-Tai Chuo, MD

**FLU, FROM 1**

“As of January 11, we have had 52 confirmed positive flu cases in our office,” said Bartlett. “Keep in mind those cases all have families that might be contracting and spreading the flu from

our patient.”

To date, TDH reports that the 2012-2013 flu outbreak has already claimed five pediatric deaths: three in November and two in December. Bartlett stated that the Four Points area lost a

child to the flu during the 2009 H1N1 outbreak which “serves as a strong reminder to all of us that the risks associated with the flu are real.”

**Do I have the flu?**

The typical flu season lasts about three months with patients experiencing a variety of symptoms including runny nose, congestion, sore throat, headache, fever, chills and body aches. Nausea and vomiting are also

possible minor symptoms of the illness.

According to Bartlett, the difference between a cold and the flu “lies in the severity of the symptoms.”

“While a common cold shares many similar symptoms, it is a mild illness, typically more of an annoyance that doesn’t interfere with your daily activities,” Bartlett said. “The flu is a much more severe illness, caused by different viruses than a common cold and often sends people to bed for a week trying to recover.”

Additionally, Bartlett stated that fevers attributable to the flu “last much longer and are often higher” than with a common cold. Flu also poses the risk of more severe complications such as pneumonia, carditis (inflammation of the heart) and encephalitis (infection of the brain tissue). These ensuing health problems can substantially increase the risk of death from the flu.

**If I don’t have the flu now, can I still avoid the virus this season?**

Bartlett advocates that the best way to prevent the (flu) is by vaccination and stresses that this year’s concoction “is a pretty good match to the strains circulating.” However, there are no guarantees with a flu shot and, as with every season, the vaccine does not cover every strain that’s out there.

Bartlett stated that she can easily tell which patients who test positive for the flu were vaccinated and which were not. Those receiving the flu shot, if they contract the illness, have “significant-

ly milder (cases)” with less severe symptoms lasting a shorter amount of time. Although persons vaccinated against the flu can feel a little congested and even develop a fever for a couple of days, Bartlett assures her patients that it is not possible to contract the flu virus from the vaccine. There are still vaccines available; however, they may be difficult to find at this late date.

Good hygiene practices may thwart a person’s exposure to the virus - frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, avoid touching the mouth, nose or eyes when out in public. The virus is spread through respiratory droplets from people coughing and sneezing but it can also live on objects after someone touches it who has the flu, like grocery store and gas station keypads, said Bartlett.

**It looks like I’ve got the flu. Is there anything I can do besides bedrest and liquids?**

A trip to the doctor’s office is warranted for anyone exhibiting flu symptoms and the quicker, the better. A treatment, Tamiflu, is available but will only work to shorten the duration and severity of the flu if the dose is started within 48 hours of the onset of virus symptoms.

Locally, Bartlett has been hearing about intermittent shortages of Tamiflu, the liquid suspension form, at area pharmacies. However, so far this season, the CDC has not restricted the use of Tamiflu due to any product shortages.

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## LISD students continue to shine in academics and athletics



**BRET CHAMPION**  
Leander ISD Superintendent

We have amazing and talented students in Leander ISD who shine in their achievements both inside and outside the classroom, and this year is proving to be no exception. It is always a pleasure to take a moment to highlight a few of the many fantastic things going on in the district.

Let me begin my column this week by congratulating the Cedar Park High School Timberwolves, who are just coming off winning the 4A Division II state football championship on December 21 at Cowboy Stadium! It was thrilling to be at that game, to celebrate that exciting moment with the CPHS

and LISD families. I am so proud of these players and coaches, and I give them a hearty congratulations on a job well-done!

I also want to give a huge shout out to Rouse High School for advancing to the Class 4A Division I state semifinals. This playoff run was a first for the young campus which had a great year and finished the season strong.

Our 2012-2013 athletic accomplishments also include the CPHS volleyball team advancing to the state semifinals, while at the State Cross Country meet, RHS' Madie Boreman took first place in the girls division, the CPHS boys team tied for first place and the CPHS girls team took second place overall.

All around, this has been a remarkable year for LISD's sports programs; early in the football postseason, CPHS, RHS, Vista Ridge High Schools and Leander High Schools were all in the running. We are so proud of all

of our student athletes and congratulate them all on very successful seasons!

In other extracurricular news from earlier this school year, all five LISD high school marching bands received First Division/Superior Ratings from the judges' panel at the UIL Region 26 Marching Band Contest, a testament to the high caliber of Fine Arts programs we have in our district. And in December a phenomenal trombone ensemble represented Henry Middle School and LISD at the prestigious Annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago.

Most recently, 14 LISD band members were honored as All-State: Austin Cernosek, Anthony Cortes, Nello Kotyuk, Peter Menchu, Courtney Regester, Johnny Theisen, and Anna Wessels from CPHS; John Malito, Luke Hoefft, Will Doh, Victoria Lynn, Ben Hargrave and Helena Haddox from VRHS; and Jonah Arias from LHS. We were also proud to have students

named as All-State Choir students — Christian Vargas from CPHS and Christina Draughon, Alaina O'Laughlin and Nathan Wilgeroth from VRHS. Being named All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive and comes after rigorous region- and area-level auditions. The select students who earn that achievement go on to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Clinic and Concert next month.

Academically, students are reaching for new heights, as well. Just this week, Pleasant Hill Elementary students celebrated surpassing Principal Mark Koller's challenge to collectively read 10,000 books by March — a challenge that students enthusiastically met in only three weeks! To cap the challenge off, Principal Koller bravely took several pies to the face in front of the entire school, fulfilling his promise to Pleasant Hill students if they met their goal.

I am proud to report that LHS students won \$1,000 in the Total Equity Average Award in the Grades 9-12 Regional Stock Market Game. This learning tool teaches students more about the ins and outs of trading in the stock market. Also in line with our efforts to ensure that students graduate college- and career-ready, we applaud VRHS and LHS for receiving the "2012 College-Readiness Award" from the Texas ACT Council, an award given to schools that have increased the number of students taking the ACT Assessment over the past five years and have significantly increased their level of achievement and college-readiness.

And lastly, I want to again remind our community that students in LISD are not just expected to be the best in the world, they are stepping up to be the best for the world. Consider just a few recent examples of how our students have joined together to make a difference for

others: Mason Elementary third-grade students collected boxes of school supplies for areas affected by Hurricane Sandy; Canyon Ridge Middle School students recently raised \$1,300 for the March of Dimes; Running Brushy Middle School collected almost 600 donations for the Coats for Kids; and the Vandegrift High School Viper football team spent time this fall building ramps for homebound residents. Indeed, LISD students are committed to helping others. I am truly inspired by the work they do.

There are so many examples of how our students stand out, I wish I had space to share them all. I invite you to check out the LISD Weekly Insider, website and Facebook page to discover more ways our students shine.

I consider it an honor and privilege to lead a district with so many remarkable students.

Have a great week!

## VHS Key Club's Pasta for Pennies

Vandegrift High School is having a school-wide fundraiser to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It is run through VHS Key Club, which is a service-oriented club.

Everyone in the community is welcome to support Pasta for Pennies.

All of the teachers are having class competitions to raise the most money. Also, key clubbers are having competition, with the winning group earning a lunch provided through Olive Garden.

This fundraiser is running through all of January and donations can be made on the VHS website.

Indicate the student and teacher to credit the donation to. When a donation is made,

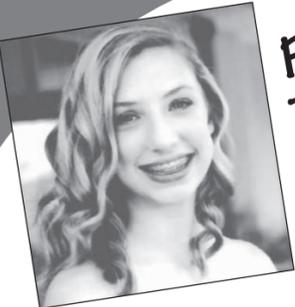
a tax deductible receipt will be emailed to submit to matching gifts programs through various companies.

Last year the Key Club raised \$1,785.00 and its goal this year is to raise at least \$2,000 to support all of those with cancer.

The students in South Central Texas raised a total of \$1.4 M in 2012, which was a remarkable accomplishment.

All of the money directly benefits the patients fighting blood cancers and their families.

For more information on The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or the School & Youth Programs, please visit [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org) and [www.schoolandyouth.org/stx](http://www.schoolandyouth.org/stx).



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## EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW



LESLEE BASSMAN

### It's time to make some noise

Although the 83rd session of the Texas Legislature seems to have no plans to restore its previous slashes to the state's education budget, I'm still keeping my fingers crossed that our representatives will not stunt the voice of creativity in our children – that is, the dramatic tone of theater, the melodic notes of opera, the beautiful flourishes of art, the soothing rhythm of musical chords, the interpretive sways of dance and the insightful frames of film.

On Monday, House Appropriations Chairman Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, stated his plans to file House Bill 1 which would appropriate \$187.7 billion including money from the federal government and cover projected enrollment increases in Texas' public and higher education during 2014-15. However, no mention was made of replacing the \$5.4 billion in cuts made to the state's education budget in 2011 – a costly loss for Texas on so many levels.

In 2011, I reported on a local teen whose Media Technology class film was screened at the famous Cannes Film Festival. A few months later, I spoke with two students in McCallum High School's AV production course who were preparing to walk the red carpet at the Austin premiere of their film, "Yesterday's News".

And, just last week, I jumped at the chance to cover Austin Film Society's screening of flicks destined for Park City, Utah. Several local movie shorts were selected to be aired at the prestigious Sundance and Slamdance Film Festivals. My older daughter Ashley accompanied me and was equally impressed by what she saw on the screen

from these young filmmakers. Their ability to draw the audience into a storyline in only a matter of minutes showed true talent accompanied by experience and proper coaching by professionals in the field.

Before Thursday's program began, I interviewed producer/director/writer, Annie Silverstein. Silverstein is currently enrolled in the University of Texas' Master of Fine Arts program. Although she's just a student, I'm sure that this budding filmmaker's career began years ago and won't end at the Mueller studio.

However, should Texas lawmakers put into place a budget for 2014-15 which retains the extensive education cuts of 2011, I'm not sure funding for the arts in our schools will survive. In April of last year, the New York Times reported on Texas' drastic public school budget cuts in an article entitled, "At Texas Schools, Making Do on a Shoestring." The author focused on several Central Texas districts' reduction in bus services, custodial staff and security. The report stated that one district, Hutto ISD, would be forced to cut back even further in the future, trimming away music and art teachers at the elementary school level.

Parents across the state reacted to the severe 2011 cuts and lawsuits were filed objecting to the billions drained from Texas' education budget.

It seems to be very easy for some representatives to snip away at the fine arts programs in our public schools. But, if those resources are depleted, where will that leave our society? Quiet, very quiet.

## Budgeting in 2013



JAY SABZEVARI  
RBFCU Branch Manager

Begin 2013 productively and profitably by spending a few hours getting your finances under control and preparing for a fantastic year to come.

### Wrapping it up

At this time of year, there's a lot of wrapping to do. Not holiday gifts – that's all over and done with. There's a lot of wrapping up, getting the loose ends tied up and starting a great new year. How can you make sure you begin 2013 on the right foot?

### Look things over

While you may want to start the New Year with a fresh outlook, you can't always start it with a clean slate. Look at all your bills and expenses from the previous year then you can get a good idea not only of what you're spending monthly – like car or mortgage payments – but also costs that don't occur on a regular basis: tuition payments, birthdays, car inspections. Allowing a little extra room in your budget for these costs can help you prepare for additional expenses instead of letting them take you by surprise.

### Pay things off

You might not have been able to pay off all your debt during the holiday season. So January is a good time

to assess the payments you have and the interest fees you're paying, then develop a game plan for the new year. Refinancing vehicles, paying off credit card debt or saving more each month can all be priorities for the new year. Set a specific, realistic date for when you plan to achieve your goal of paying off all debts.

### Figure out your worth

Determine your net worth. Plan to calculate your assets minus liabilities each year so you quickly can see whether you're gaining ground or falling behind. Your net worth should be increasing each year. If it's not, make a plan to improve it, such as paying down a specific debt or putting more money into your retirement fund.

### Check all insurance policies

Know what is covered in your homeowner's policy and verify your liability coverage. Call your insurance agent if you have any questions. The beginning of the new year may also be a good time to shop around for better insurance pricing and services.

Starting a new year should be refreshing and fun, and it should give you some opportunities to make your financial life better.

*Contributed by Jay Sabzevari, Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union Steiner Ranch branch. RBFCU provides financial services to more than 400,000 members and is committed to improving members' economic well-being and quality of life. This information is general and you may wish to consult a financial advisor in regard to your circumstances. For more information, visit www.rbfcu.org.*

## Highlights seeking local photos

Highlights Gametime Grill wants to be an active member of the Four Points community and to help show its support, it is seeking photos from local families for display in the restaurant.

Photo suggestions:

- Family hikes, white water rafting, etc.

- Football, basketball, baseball, soccer, swim, etc.
- Band, cheer, dance, etc.
- Individual, action or team

Submit photos to ddonohue@highlightsgrill.com by Jan. 31. Files must be at least 1MB.

## FOUR POINTS OF VIEW

What is your favorite cold weather food?



Susan Lee  
Steiner Ranch

Chicken barley chili on the back of the Quaker barley box.



Nancy Meadows  
Leander

Cincinnati chili. It means home to me.



Tiffany Seidel  
Austin

Tomato soup.



Jim Chaffee  
Steiner Ranch

Chili. I make it myself with a lot of meat and beans.

## FOUR POINTS NEWS

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### PERSONNEL

Publisher & Editor .....	LYNETTE HAALAND - Lynette.FourPoints@gmail.com
Associate Editor .....	LESLEE BASSMAN - FourPointsNews.Edit@gmail.com
Advertising Sales Representative .....	LYNETTE HAALAND - Lynette.FourPoints@gmail.com
Reporter .....	RICH KEITH - Rich.FourPoints@gmail.com
Reporter .....	VAL OLIVAS
Creative Services .....	JENNIFER ROBERTS
Circulation .....	FRED FRANCO
Contributor .....	BRET CHAMPION

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## Traffic - a big local problem

From Facebook posts

Four Points News' article last week about the Schleich family sparked some interest on our Facebook site.

The Schleichs are among Four Points families who have moved away from Steiner Ranch because of the traffic congestion around RM 620 and FM 2222. Andrea and her family opted to move from a home they loved in Steiner Ranch to a home in River Place. With four children in four local schools, she felt as if she spent her day in her SUV in traffic.

Facebook posts:

**Vivek Abichandani** You can add me and my wife, June, to that list. We sold our home in Steiner Ranch in November and are looking forward to moving into our new home in Mueller soon. While the area is very pretty, having an extra 1.5 hours a day and avoiding the stress of being in traffic is hard to beat.

**Raman Batra** The 2222 and 620 Interchange is likely the most congested intersection in the city. Takes us 45 minutes to reach downtown from Steiner and out of 25 minutes is just to cross the 620/2222.

In another Four Points News article, Texas Department of Transportation reported that 367 persons have been involved in traffic accidents in 2011 and 2012 combined on FM 2222, between RM 620 and Loop 360.

Facebook post:

**David Emmerich** I'll bet most of the wrecks happen between McNeil and the curve just west of River Place. Scary to have kids just a few years from driving!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Local senior citizens could use help

Dear Editor,

Your recent editorial about senior citizens prompted some thought about how our society has changed.

As seniors extend their life spans, they increasingly find themselves physically challenged to stay independent. Even for relatively healthy seniors, common household tasks related to maintenance and/or repair can become dangerous or overwhelming.

Most handyman services want a hefty charge just to walk in the door. With families scattered far and wide, help becomes hard to find.

It seems to me there might be an opportunity for entrepreneurs or charitable organizations, or people, to fill this gap for helping seniors who want to put off the assisted living situation as long as possible.

Kent Douglass  
River Place

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**SPARK, FROM 1**

8-minute short, "Spark," which was recently selected to be screened at the 2013 Slamdance Film Festival. "Spark" focuses on the friendship which develops between Callie, Gardner's character, and Ricky, played by Varun Reddy, who meet outside while waiting for Ricky's father to conclude his amorous visit with Callie's mother. Following its premiere and Jury Award win at the 2012 SXSW Film Festival, "Spark" was selected for screenings at the Maryland Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival,

Nevada City Film Festival and Starz Denver Film Festival. The movie will be featured Jan. 20 -21 at the Slamdance Film Festival which runs concurrently with the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in Park City.

"I was excited when I was filming it ("Spark") but I never imagined it would go this far," Gardner said.

The Glenlake youngster is not new to acting and has accumulated a strong resume despite her age. Besides roles in eight other films, Gardner can be seen on television in Friday Night Lights, ABC's "My Generation" and a pilot

for CBS as well as numerous commercials, music videos and print shots. She played the lead of "Snow White" in Four Points Middle School's "The Two Dwarves and the Seven Whites" and tackled substantial parts in River Place Elementary Theater's "Mulan Jr." and "Seussical Jr."

"A lot of people don't believe me when I tell them I'm an actress but my friends think it's cool," said Gardner. "It's always been my dream to grow up and be famous."

Before being offered the lead in "Spark," Gardner had auditioned for another

short film; however, when she didn't receive the first role, her name was given to Silverstein, a University of Texas M.F.A. graduate student.

"I was immediately drawn to Elise for the role of Callie," said Silverstein. "She's inquisitive, bold, smart, and has that fire-cracker quality I was looking for. She also has an amazingly expressive face, which was important for a story that has so little dialogue."

"Spark" was filmed over three days on a ranch outside of Bastrop, about six months prior to Central

Texas' devastating wildfires. In the short, Gardner and Reddy shoot off fireworks, starting a small brush fire. The actors attended a day-long stunt training session encompassing pyrotechnic safety before filming the scene.

"Elise was great to work with," Silverstein said. "The shooting conditions were challenging--harsh sun, crazy wind, unruly cattle, and we were on an extremely tight schedule. Elise was game for it. Most notably, the part where she had to run across a field and stomp out a brush fire."

Gardner plans to continue to seek out acting roles and works with a talent agency and acting coaches to find appropriate parts. She recently auditioned for more extensive roles in major motion pictures.

"The nice thing about Elise is that she can take it or leave it," said Gardner's mother, Mary Catherine. "The rejection side doesn't get to her at all."

For more information about "Spark," see [www.sparkthefilm.com](http://www.sparkthefilm.com)

**LCRA, FROM 1**

essentially returns the conditions under which water would be released to the amounts specified in the Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2011 resulting in agricultural users receiving little or no water from lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Last week's recommendation is a departure from LCRA's decision at its November meeting in Fredericksburg which almost ensured that water would be dispersed from lakes Travis and Buchanan to downstream rice farmers. Under January's revised drought relief proposal, the Highland Lakes water would not be available to most downstream farmers unless the combined storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis is at or above 850,000 acre-feet on March 1, 2013. The plan provides for releasing increasing amounts of stored water for additional interruptible downstream users should the combined lake levels rise further.

According to LCRA's website, lakes Buchanan and Travis' combined storage level was at 836,812 acre-feet of water, or 42 percent full, as of Jan. 13.

**Extreme drought condi-**

**tions prompt new order**

The extreme conditions in the Central Texas region warranted LCRA's review of their November decision: 2011 was the driest year in the state's history with record low inflows to the Highland Lakes, drought conditions have been more intense than the 1950's Drought of Record, the dry weather is likely to continue and the Highland Lakes have not recovered under the current relief order. The proposal states that November and December have proved to be "among the driest (months) in (the state's) recorded history" and increased the chances of reaching a drought worse than the "Drought of Record" if a release is made from the Highland Lakes for downstream rice farmers

According to LCRA Board Chairman Timothy Timmerman, Tuesday's special meeting was necessary "to save our water resources and protect our firm customers."

**Four Points firm water customers, Cedar Park, Lakeway support new resolution**

City of Austin Water Utility Director Greg Meszaros affirmed his support for the proposal as did City of Cedar Park Mayor Pro-Tem Mitch Fuller and City of Lakeway

Mayor Dave DeOme. Susan Nold, General Counsel to State Sen. Kirk Watson, District 14 (D-Austin), read a letter from Watson which stated that "the November vote did not do enough to support firm water customers". Citing that the November decision presented a "very high risk" to municipal water useage, Watson and Senate Chairman Troy Fraser submitted a letter to Timmerman last month requesting that the board rescind its November decision and, at a minimum, put into place the Emergency Drought Relief Order of 2012.

"It's a band-aid when a tourniquet is needed," Central Texas Water Commission Director Jo Karr Tedder said of the new proposal. "This is a long-term drought. We just have to change our mindset."

Tedder stated that "pricing is the key" as firm customers pay about \$151 per acre-foot of water when compared to interruptible customers, such as downstream rice farmers, who pay about \$6 per acre-foot for their water.

"After Senator Watson and Fraser came out strong against it (November proposal) and the Austin City Council, that was the impetus needed to say 'if our large-

est customer was opposed to it - that was it," Tedder said.

Water Control and Improvement District 17 General Manager Deborah Gernes was "pleased that the LCRA Board revised this issue" and restored the conditions of the previous order. However, Gernes cautioned that "we need to focus on updating the management plan to protect the interests of the firm water customers."

**Downstream users cite economic concerns for farm communities**

Ronald Gertsen, a rice farmer in Wharton County and member of the Colorado Water Issues Committee, stated that he "had a good idea this (new proposal) would happen".

However, Gertsen and other downstream community representatives testified that the missed crop production would have injected much-needed funds into their local economies. Farmers and government officials in rice producing counties pushed LCRA to support an increase in the construction of off-channel reservoirs and expanded use of water conservation efforts, water use curtailment measures, in the state's urban areas.

**OFFICE, FROM 1**

Froelich stated that only painting, flooring and cabinetry installation remain before doors open at Vik's third medical office on Jan. 31.

Although originally set for an August move-in date, local building review procedures delayed the final construction of the office which will be staffed seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The 15,000 square foot facility will also house an in-house x-ray center

and a medical lab room. The medical office building is part of a three-pad, 40,000 square foot office space site.

In addition to Vik's walk-in general medical practice, the Four Points location will include specialty groups such as ENT and cardiology as satellite practices.

"We're looking forward to getting out there," said Froelich of the River Place opening. "It's a great spot."

**AUTO, FROM 1**

William Farson, owner.

The owner of an electric Fiskar high-performance vehicle watched with rapt attention as the mobile dynamometer from Texas Dyno displayed the car's maximum torque and horsepower on a flat screen watched by dozens.

Meanwhile Lotus Evoras, Bentley Continentals and Ferraris were driving around the parking lots and up and down Comanche Trail.

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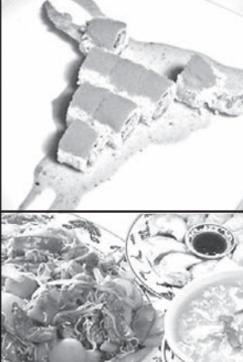
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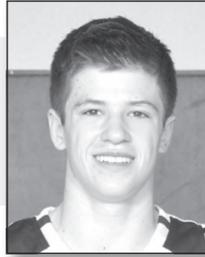
BASKETBALL



### Kelsee Pitman - Senior #23 (Guard)

**Favorite part about being involved in Viper Basketball?**  
My favorite part of being a Viper basketball player is being a part of the team and playing with the girls. I've been playing with some of them since 3rd grade. It's going to be weird not playing with them anymore after this year.

BASKETBALL



### Hunter Gross - Junior #5 (Forward)

**Favorite part about being involved in Viper Basketball?**  
My favorite part of being a Viper basketball is being able to play the sport I love with my friends.

SOCCER



### Karina Batek - Senior #23 (Outside Fullback/Back up keeper)

**Favorite part about being involved in Viper Soccer?**  
I love how close we are as a team and how we have grown as a program! My favorite part is getting to be part of the team every year, and it is especially fun during overnight tourneys!

SOCCER



### Stephen Guastella - Junior #4 (G)

**Favorite part about being involved in Viper Soccer?**  
My favorite part about being involved in Viper soccer is playing with family.

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## VHS Boys BB lose to CPHS

Vandegrift High School came within two points of beating the Cedar Park HS boys basketball team on Jan. 11 but the two, 10-point Viper runs were not enough. The Timberwolves went on a 12-point run to end the game at 44-32.



Gwen Williams

## Grandview runner wins

Grandview Hills Elementary fifth-grader Owen Daugherty competed in the USATF Association Cross Country Meet in Marble Falls in early November. Daugherty ran in the 3K (1.864 miles) distance race, and finished second with a new personal record time of 12:27. The day after, Daugherty ran in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5K in downtown Austin. He finished 36th overall against 1,048 participants and 1st place in his age group. His personal record time was 20:20. The weekend after the Komen, Daugherty raced in the Kids Rock Mile in San Antonio, TX. He defended his title with a blistering time of 5:37. On Nov. 17, 2012, he ran in the USATF Regional Meet in Rockwall, Tex. He earned a 3K time of 12:02 and 5th place. He also competed in the USATF National Cross Country Meet in Albuquerque. Daugherty runs with training group Team Rogue Prep, coached by Warren Brown of Rogue Running.



Grandview Hills Elementary Owen Daugherty, 5th grade, breaking the tape at the Kids Rock Mile in November.

## Viper Girls BB beat Cedar Park HS

Vandegrift HS Girls Basketball lost to Marble Falls on Jan. 8 and won 43-40 over Cedar Park on Jan. 11.

"That is the first time Vandegrift has beat Cedar Park in varsity girls basketball. The girls have played extremely hard and have been in many games, just hadn't quite made it over the hump in district play until last Friday," said Julie Wilke, Head Girls Basketball Coach.

Lady Vipers' record is 12-14 (1-5 in district).

VHS hosts Rouse at Jan. 15 Middle School Night.

The Lady Vipers lost to the Lady Raiders by six points in early December.



Eric Mortona

## VHS Swim and Dive wins trophy at Robertson Invite

School's first diver tops podium

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

Vandegrift High School administrators will be clearing off a space on the lobby display shelves for a new trophy. Last week, Viper Swim and Dive won first place among 26 Central Texas teams in the annual Tex Robertson Invitational meet held at the Galloway Hammond Rec Center in Burnet. The competition was the last opportunity for local swimmers to race before the high school championship season begins later this month.

**Relays factor in win**  
Viper Swim and Dive totalled 1586.50 points for the Jan. 11 win, Bowie High School took second place in the competition with 861 points and Dripping Springs High School posted a third place finish with 650 points.

SWIM, 8

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Photo Texas Photography



Vandegrift Vipers vs. Hendrickson Hawks. Vipers won their first away game 2-0 on Jan. 11.

Above: Grant Wilburn (#7) gets his head on the ball to stop a Hawk scoring opportunity.

Left: JT Lackey (#10) takes control of the ball in flight.

Below: Matt Woolf (#19) stepping in to disrupt the Hawks passing in the midfield.

Action shots by: Debe McKeand



### 2012 Vandegrift Soccer Roster

#	Name	Grade	#	Name	Grade
2	Pablo Aranda	12th	12	JT Morton	12th
3	Jake Nowak	10th	13	Yannick Heard	11th
4 (G)	Stephen Guastella	11th	14	Jeff Willoughby	11th
5	Lalo Benavides	11th	15	Jacob Riedel	10th
6	JT Lackey	10th	17	Alec McKeand	11th
7	Grant Wilburn	12th	18	Sam Drablos	9th
8	Nick Breining	11th	19	Matt Woolf	10th
9	Jakob Schnell	11th	20	Jack Evans	11th
10	Ryan Porch	10th	21	Jackson Harris	9th
11	Ruben Ramos	12th	22	Brandon Leck	11th
			33 (G)	Chandler Marr	11th

### 2012 Vandegrift Varsity Boys Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
15-Jan	T	Cedar Creek	Home	7pm
17-Jan	R,F	Governor's Cup		
18th, 19th	Sa	Host: Georgetown HS		
		2pm vs Killeen Ellison, F - 4pm vs El Paso Burges, Sa - 3pm vs Pflugerville		
22-Jan	T	Westlake HS	Home	7pm
25-Jan	F	Manor HS	Away	6:45
29-Jan	T	TBA	TBA	TBA
1-Feb	F	Pflugerville HS	Home	7pm
8-Feb	F	Marble Falls	Home	7pm
12-Feb	T	Vista Ridge	Away	7pm
15-Feb	F	Cedar Park	Home	7pm
19-Feb	T	Rouse	Away	7pm
22-Feb	F	Leander	Home	7pm
26-Feb	T	Marble Falls	Away	7pm
1-Mar	F	Vista Ridge	Home	7pm
5-Mar	T	TAKS - No Game - Practice TBA		
7-Mar	R	Cedar Park	Away	7pm
13, 14-Mar	W,R	SPRING BREAK - Practice	Indoor	TBA
15-Mar	F	SPRING BREAK - Stony Point	Home	1pm
19-Mar	T	Rouse*	Home	7pm
22-Mar	F	Leander	Away	7pm
26-Mar	T	Playoff Warm Up TBA	TBA	TBA
Mar-12	F	FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS		

## Q & A

Head Boys Soccer Coach Chad Aldrich

challenge this season?

Youth with only four seniors. We are young and are continually working on a varsity chemistry mix within the squad to make sure we achieve maximum potential this year.

3. Who is Vandegrift's biggest rival?

Cedar Park. Vandegrift was created from Cedar Park students and they naturally became our rival. Yet, inside our district, it almost seems like every game is a rivalry. I have always had that feeling since coaching here with how competitive our district is, never an easy win.

4. What has surprised you most so far in this season?

The biggest surprise would be the willingness of not only the athletes to succeed, but from the families and community. It is a blessing to be able to start a program where you have full support by all.

5. What motivates you as a coach?

The players. To see them daily, work as hard they do, put a smile on their face through thick or thin, and have the desire to play for you as a coach; there is nothing more rewarding. We are family. From one day to the next, we can be harsh like brothers but love like a family daily. We all have the same goals of having fun with each other and the sport that we have such a great passion for, soccer.

Record last season:

17-9-1  
District Champions  
4A Regional Semi-Finalist

Returning Leaders:

Grant Wilburn, Ruben Ramos, Matt Woolf, Ryan Porch, Stephen Guastella, Jacob Riedel, Jeff Willoughby

Top Newcomers:

Brandon Leck, Chandler Marr, JT Lackey, Nick Breining, Sam Drablos

1. What has to happen for the Viper Soccer to be successful this season?

The boys soccer team will depend on their intrinsic motivation to be better than last year's squad. They have been led by nine seniors for the last three years inside their shadows. Now we will see if they can step outside of the shadows and become leaders themselves for what they desire for the season's success. If they decide to do great things and continue their work ethics, they are capable of anything.

2. What is your biggest

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## Viper student plays in U.S. Army All-American Bowl

One of 125 musicians in USA

By RICH KEITH  
Four Points News

Vandegrift High School senior piccolo player Sarah Hassall performed in the halftime music show at the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl game held in the Alamodome on Sat. Jan. 5 at noon. Hassall joined an elite group of musicians who were selected to perform during high school's biggest football game of the year on national TV.

"I got to meet and become friends with some of the best people I have ever met. All of our hard work

paid off and the final product was amazing!" Hassall said. "It just shows what can happen when a group of motivated and hardworking people get together."

"I am so glad Sarah was afforded the opportunity to perform with the US Army All-American Marching Band," said VHS Director of Bands Jeremy Spicer. "The band is made up of the finest high school musicians from across the country." Spicer noted that Hassall was instructed by an all-star group of educators at the top of their field and she has formed memories and established relationships that will last a lifetime.

Hassall and her family spent the week before the

game in San Antonio. All expenses, uniforms and instruments were provided.

"We are incredibly proud of what Sarah and the rest of the marching band have been able to accomplish throughout the week," said Christine Hassall, Sarah's mother. "We were impressed by the support the Army has shown to this program and the values they have shared with the students."

As for the game, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl had a score of East 15 against West 8, with the record being East 7-6 against the West. A great many high school athletes made formal commitments to collegiate football programs during the game's weeklong prepa-

ration.

The band's halftime show was very energetic. "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "Rhapsody in Blue" were among the selections played for the fans.

Spicer nominated Hassall along with select VHS band students during 2011. In Spring of 2012 Hassall recorded a video audition by both playing and marching, and a brief video of on "why she wanted to be an All-American."

Ultimately Hassall was selected to be a member of the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

Photos on Four Points News Facebook.

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### SWIM, FROM 6

Vandegrift relays, including boys and girls' 200-yard freestyle, 400-yard freestyle and girls' 200-yard medley took top honors, garnering maximum points in each category. Viper girls put up

first, second and third place finishes in the 100-yard backstroke and first through fourth place spots in the 200-yard individual medley. Vandegrift girls touched the wall first in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke events as well. Viper boys scored second, third and fourth place wins in the 50-yard freestyle.

### Diver Redwine posts high score

Vandegrift High School's first diver, Kelse Redwine, topped the podium in the girls' 1-meter diving competition with a total of 333.45 points in the single event.

Redwine has only been diving competitively for two years and works out five to six nights per week with

local Longhorn Aquatics Diving program. She began her sport as a swimmer and gymnast in Florida before relocating to Steiner Ranch and taking up diving in 2011.

"It's definitely a 'love-hate' relationship sport," said Redwine of diving. "One day you're perfectly fine with a dive and the next day, total blockage. You just have to keep going and get more comfortable with it."

The sophomore doesn't seem to let the pressure of starting out Vandegrift's diving program get to her and is able to enjoy the competition.

"I find that I don't have a legacy to live up to," Redwine said. "I make the legacy and don't have to try to break any records. I can set the record and the precedent for future divers at Vandegrift."



Leslee Bassman

### Vipers head to District championship

Coming off its most successful season to date, Vandegrift's Swim and Dive program is prepped for District 17-4A's championship meet which will be held in Killeen on Jan. 24-26. The top six swimmers in each category at the district meet advance to the Region 5-4A competition in February.

"We're excited about pretty much an undefeated season," said Viper Swim and Dive Head Coach Holly Raffaeli. "We've been working hard and getting ready for a nice consistent taper and for the district championship."

More photos on Four Points News Facebook.



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