

# Mineola father and son duo to participate in Buzz-Off

BY JOSH LAND  
The Monitor Staff

Eight-year-old Alex Castillo, who is a Mineola third grader, and his father Mark are participating in One Mission's fifth annual Kids' Cancer Buzz-Off at AT&T Stadium on Sunday, May 4 to show solidarity for pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Alex had a biopsy on December, 6 2012 which revealed that he had a cancerous germinoma tumor located in his thalamus. He has gone through six months of chemotherapy and six months of radiation treatments.

Recently an MRI was done with results showing no signs of the tumor. Alex's father Mark said, "We have to go back every so often to verify the tumor has not become aggressive again."

The family is currently looking at rehabilitation options to help Alex with his right arm, which was affected by the tumor and he has, "trouble functioning with it," said Mark.

"Alex is currently playing his first sport since the treatment, soccer, and I am coaching his team. We decided to get involved with One Mission and the Buzz-Off because of all the support we received from friends, family

and the community that can never be repaid. We know the struggle and financial toll cancer can take on a family and want them to know that they are not alone and have support when needed," Mark said.

One Mission, a childhood cancer foundation, is dedicated to enhancing the lives of pediatric cancer patients and their families. The foundation provides help, hope, care and support to help children and their families cope with the many physical, emotional and financial challenges associated with disease.

The Kid's Cancer Buzz-Off has raised nearly \$2 million for pediatric cancer patients and their families in four years. This year's goal is to shave 800 heads while raising \$1 million more dollars. Event organizers encourage everyone to help raise awareness of this year's "call to action" in order to help recruit more "buzzes" and raise support for these worthy children and their families.

"It was the scariest and most difficult time in our family's life and we just want to help ease that pain for other families that are going through the same struggle and show them that it can be done," Mark said.



Alex and Mark Castillo will participate in One Mission's Kid's Cancer Buzz-Off at AT&T Stadium on May 4. (Photos by Josh Land)

## Hannah Backer named LeTourneau Heritage Scholar

Mineola High School Senior Hannah Backer is one of 10 high school students from across the nation to receive a Heritage Scholarship from LeTourneau University. Backer will be a freshman in the fall and is planning to major in biomedical engineering.



group sessions and personal interviews. Over 140 students from 33 states competed for the scholarship this year.

The average high school gradepoint average was 3.9 on a 4.0 scale. The average SAT was 1360 on a 1600 scale and the average ACT was 31.

Mineola High School Senior Hannah Backer is one of 10 high school students from across the nation to receive a Heritage Scholarship from LeTourneau University. (Photo by Josh Land)

## Mineola Summer JUNEbilee

Mineola May Days has officially changed its name to JUNEbilee and the event is scheduled for Friday June 6 and Saturday, June 7.

Gate entrance will be \$1 per person and children under the age of 10 years will be admitted free with a paying parent.

The Mineola Chamber of Commerce has set this year's event at the Mineola Civic Center RV Park. Scheduled events include two full days of vendors, a carnival, Friday night Mineola's Got Talent Contest, Saturday motorcycle display and poker run, and concerts both days – event organizers encourage attendees to bring your own blanket and lawn chairs.

Booths will be set around the circle on concrete pads with two spaces per pad available. Booth spaces will be 12 x 20 feet and \$75 for regular vendors, while food vendors will be \$100. Deadline for booth registration is Friday, May 16.

After that date an additional \$25 will be charged.

The chamber is asking for donations. Donations of \$1,000 will be considered platinum, \$500 gold, \$250 silver and \$100 friends.

Mineola Chamber of Commerce Administrative Director Pam Franklin said, "We will have the entertainment lineup finalized soon. We are looking forward to the change and we hope everyone will embrace what's to come. A lot of hard work and planning goes into putting a festival together, right now we have a minimum of 20 people working out the details. As always, sponsorships are needed to help defer some of the costs involved. This is a fundraiser for the chamber so any help we can get from our sponsors is greatly appreciated."

For more information call 903-569-2087.

## MISD

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therapy assistant, VAC, Transition Coordinator, SPP Indicator 13 & 14 and Leigh Baker – eSPED trainer and support.

Assistant Superintendent for business operations William Bjork said, "The board approved roofing contracts to S&S Roofing, low bid on the Multi Purpose Building and the High School Annex, and to Reneau, the low bid on High School, Elementary School and AEP-SAC. The total bids were \$1,446,322 for a modified bitumen roof."

Since the board decided to split the bids there is no exact timeframe on the

roofing projects. Bjork added, "We will have more accurate dates once the contracts are signed."

The meeting lasted about two hours according to Bjork and, "The executive session lasted about 50 minutes." Board members, with the exception of Holly Mischnick who was absent, and Fuller were present during executive session.

Fuller stated, "Texas Association of School Boards Facility Services was selected as the consultant," for the facility master plan. Bjork added, "The board approved to develop a master plan and the superintendent will work out the details with TASB."

The next regular session school board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21 at 7 p.m.



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