Inside Today: What kind of new businesses do you want here? • Page 2B

THE LEADER.

THE HEIGHTS, GARDEN OAKS, OAK FOREST AND NORTH HOUSTON.

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The Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), with the collaboration of the Houston Independent School District (HISD), is extending its free mobile phone app, iWatch Harris County, to now allow the public to report crimes directly to HISD police.

The extension of the HCSO's free mobile phone app will allow HISD students, parents, and teachers to report crimes in and around their campuses via iWatch Harris County directly to the HISD Police Department.

iWatch Harris County, now in its second year, is a free mobile app that lets citizens send anonymous tips, images and videos about crimes or suspicious activities directly to law enforcement. The HCSO has formatted the app to allow tips to be sent directly to HISD and its police department as it monitors reports made specifically about any of the district's 282 campuses.

For more information please visit www.iWatchHarrisCounty.com.

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See more, Pages 7-8B

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WHY SO DRY



Shade, 250 W. 19th St., was the first establishment in the Heights to have a private club permit. (Photo by Michael Sudhalter)

If you wondered, here's the history of dry Heights

by Betsy Denson
betsy@theleadernews.com

It is easy for Kroger Manager Gary Piet to spot someone on a beer run in his 20th Street store.

"Two guys will come in and one takes the right side and the other the left," he said. "I usually catch up with one of them to say we don't sell wine or beer. A lot of people assume it's because of the church by us."

If his customers had the time, Piet could tell them the whole story of why portions of The Heights are dry, meaning a business cannot obtain a standard permit to sell alcohol. According to Sister M. Agatha's book The History of the Houston Heights, the roots of the law go back to September of 1912 when area residents voted to make it so.

Religion may indeed have played a role but in Agatha's retelling the business-minded Heights residents didn't appreciate the frivolity of saloon-life. The vote was apparently dispatched with little ceremony: "The electioneering…was all carried on at night, because that was the only time that anybody could spare for the business."

Heights Chamber of Commerce President Terry Burge says that when the area was wooed by the city of Houston in 1918 and subsequently chose annexation, the Heights City Attorney James G. Donovan made sure to include in the annexation papers the following statement: "Liquor shall not be sold in these premises until time runneth not." This proclamation effectively ensured that the Heights would stay dry until Doomsday.

Not that it remained unchallenged. Former Heights Association President Paul Carr said that after prohibition was repealed nationally, an enterprising man tried to open a saloon on 19th Street and subsequently took his fight to court. He was denied. In 1937, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the law could only be overturned by a vote of the people in the exact boundaries of the ban.



This might give you a buzz...

Trying to precisely outline the areas of the Heights that are dry is kind of like trying to read Chaucer. But in our best attempt, the map at left is what we've gleaned from legal documents. Here's the actual text of the outlines for the dry areas:

"From White Oak Bayou and Heights Blvd. to the west line of the Heights plat – north to 16th St. – west to west line of Houston Heights plat – north to center of 26th St – east down center of 26th St. to center of Yale St. – south on center of Yale St. to center of 22nd St. – east on center of 22nd St. to east end of Heights plat again – then south following east line Heights Addition to White Oak Bayou – following bayou to Heights Blvd."

Got it? It was so confusing the city of Houston even messed it up in 2011.

Sister Agatha's book details the legalese of these boundaries which are roughly 26th Street to the north and White Oak Bayou to the south, Durham to the west and Oxford Street on the east side, with smaller pockets of 'wet' areas interspersed throughout.

A vote to overturn the ban is unlikely at this point. Carr notes that the Heights has expanded beyond its 1918 borders. "We're not that far from alco-

see Dry • Page 5A

Attacking our pets

HPD reopens cold cat mutilation case

by Michael Sudhalter
michael@theleadernews.com

The Houston Police Department is investigating the disappearances and deaths of 16 cats in the Timbergrove and Lazybrook areas since December 2008.

Only four or five of those cases have been formally reported to HPD, but some residents say they know of more incidents — and believe the cats are being mutilated by a human.

HPD Sgt. Virginia Brashier had been investigating the cases, but it was deactivated due to lack of evidence. Brashier retired from HPD on July 19.

HPD Senior Police Officer Suzanne Hollifield, who handles Livestock and Animal cases for the Major Offenders Division, was assigned to revive the case in September.

see Cats • Page 5A



Heights resident Anne Sutherland was walking her two pugs, when two black German Shepherds attacked Raylan, pictured right.

Resident shocked after dog mauled

by Michael Sudhalter
michael@theleadernews.com

Heights resident Anne Sutherland, a retired Anthropology professor, was taking her two pugs -- Molly and Raylan -- on a routine early morning walk through the neighborhood last week.

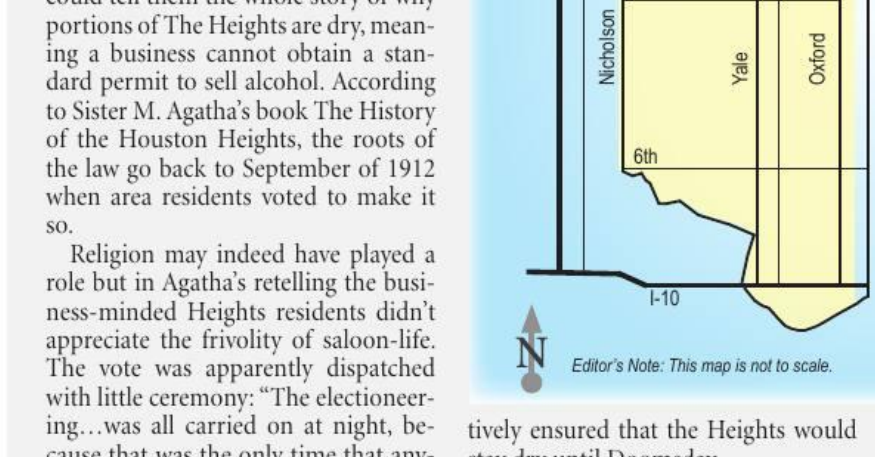
What happened next was one of the scariest things that Sutherland had ever experienced.

Two 75-to-80 pound black German Shepherds busted out of their yard in the 600 block of E. 11th 1/2 Street and set out to attack the pugs, who weigh 26 and 18 pounds, respectively.

Sutherland was able to pick up Molly, the smaller dog, before the German Shepherds could get to her.

But the German Shepherds viciously at-

see Dogs • Page 5A



Early voting for this years election, like at the location on Wirt Road, will help voter turnout, according to Rice professor Robert Stein. (Photo by Michael Sudhalter)

Stein: Voter turnout may increase

by Michael Sudhalter
michael@theleadernews.com

Due to a longer early voting period, voter turnout should be higher this year but not considerably higher, according to Rice University political science professor, Robert M. Stein.

Stein, who's an expert on urban politics and public policy, said "voting is habit forming" and citizens vote on issue(s) that "stimulate their interest."

"Voting takes time and can be inconvenient," Stein said. "Older people voted because they've voted before. Young people haven't voted before. Elections are held on weekdays at places that people don't normally go."

Stein said older voters have more at stake – jobs, pensions, property and taxes – while younger voters may not.



According to Robert Stein, a political science professor at Rice University, older voters usually have more at stake in elections, which is one reason they tend to vote more than younger people.

Texas, with 12 days of early voting, has led the nation in that category, said Stein.

Early voting, combined with several local

see Stein • Page 5A



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Dry • *from Page 1A*

hol," he said.

Burge adds that the dry law was even a boon for the area in the 1960s and 1970s when the Heights was in decline because it kept strip clubs and cantinas from moving in.

How Dry is Dry?

Another reason why the law isn't challenged is because there are still legal ways to serve alcohol in the Heights. Five establishments currently have a private club permit, allowing their patrons who become club members to be served: Down House and Just Mac on Yale, as well as Shade, Harold's General Store and Torchy's Tacos on W. 19th Street.

"It's a lot of work – a serious endeavor," said Jeff Haverlah who works in licensing at the Houston district office of the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, which ironically is located on 20th Street in the dry Heights.

He explains that the TABC is "not the zoning police" and that it is the city's responsibility to make the determination of dry vs wet. Those wanting to apply for the private club designation start with a 17 page pre-qualification packet. They must also get familiar with Chapter 32 of the TABC code which has numerous areas of compliance.

Of course, other establishments choose to go the easier BYOB route because there is no BYOB permit in the state of Texas. Collina's in the Heights on W. 19th remains very popular despite its dry status.

Manager Alex Garcia said that while some customers are surprised they can't buy a glass of wine to go with their pizza, most are Heights residents and repeat customers. "They are surprised the corking fee is so cheap," she said. "A lot of the regulars bring their own glasses."

A Tale of Two Creeks

On a recent Saturday evening, the demarcation between wet and dry was apparent during a visit to sister restaurants Onion Creek and Dry Creek. Onion Creek on White Oak Drive, which is close to the dry boundary, is not in fact dry — a fact appreciated by the many who were enjoying the start to a fun night.

Just down the street, Dry Creek on Yale is in the dry area. Its crowd was smaller and less boisterous.

Despite the name, Dry Creek manager Eric Armstrong said they still get customers who come in the door expecting to have a beer with their burger: "I suppose we look like we could be a bar." But their faithful customers enjoy the low key vibe.

It will be interesting to see if the vibe changes. Currently a BYOB establishment, Dry Creek is currently seeking to obtain a private club permit.

There are those who point to White Oak Drive as a Washington Avenue in the making and don't mind the dry Heights one bit. Or as Paul Carr notes: "[The ban] helps create part of our uniqueness."





The difference in the value of being in a "wet" area, as opposed to a "dry" area was evident on a recent Saturday evening. Above, Onion Creek on White Oak is east of the dry boundaries, and their full bar brings in a large crowd. Sister restaurant, Dry Creek, at left, is more low-key. As the name suggests, alcohol is not sold here, though owners say they are applying for a private club license. (Photos by Betsy Denson)

Cats • *from Page 1A*

Hollifield, who was named proactive investigator of the year by the Houston Police Officer's Union in 2008, is gathering information on the case to determine whether it's being caused by humans or other animals.

A report of a mutiliated cat on Sept. 1 reopened the case.

A local resident who discovered the deceased cat said, "the (body) parts were noticeably wet, and lack of insects leads me to believe they hadn't been there long."

Hollifield said the next time a cat's remains are found, there will be a necropsy -- the animal equivalent of an autopsy -- performed on it.

"I met with one of the residents in the neighborhood," Hollifield said. "She provided me with a spreadsheet with information of cats she believed to be mutilated in the area. I'm going through information she provided and information that HPD had. All of the information (she has) wasn't first hand knowledge."

That resident was Jennifer Estopinal of Lazybrook, who is convinced that the missing and deceased cats are a result of human action, gave the photos of their remains (which *The Leader* has chosen not to print, due to their gruesome nature).

"Definitely," Estopinal said. "it was a human."

According to HPD, it's a possibility that the cats may have been attacked by a pack of wild dogs.

That is what happened at an apartment complex near I-45 and Tidwell, police said. Some of those cats had owners, and others were stray.

When a cause is determined, Hollifield said the department will work with residents to implement a plan of action and see what to do in those neighborhoods.

Hollifield recommends that cat owners keep their cats inside the residence, and if a cat does go missing, owners should report it so HPD has a record of it.

Dogs • *from Page 1A*

tacked Raylan, an adopted dog who was born with congenital leg problems.

One of the dogs' teeth went into Raylan's neck, which required staples.

"I've never heard a dog scream like that," Sutherland said. "I hit the (German Shepherds) with the leashes, (and they ran away). I didn't think it would work, but it's all I could do. They really are killer dogs. They'll go after any animal."

A neighbor who wishes to remain anonymous found Sutherland and her dogs, and gave her a ride to her home on E. 12th 1/2 Street.

That neighbor said the same two dogs attacked her 12-pound cat in February. Three days later, that cat died of internal injuries.

The neighbor didn't report the attack until Monday, citing that something must be done to stop the dogs.

Sutherland said Raylan is at home recovering, but he's still on antibiotics and painkillers.

She tried to speak to the owners of the home, but she was unsuccessful in trying to do so.

The Houston Police Department said there have been 10 calls for service from that specific address on E. 11th since January. The calls have been for criminal mischief, a suspicious person and an auto theft investigation.

Another call in the 600 block of E. 11th, on Monday, was the cat attack that the anonymous neighbor had addressed with *The Leader*.

Stein • *from Page 1A*

competitive races, should increase voter turnout, Stein said.

Many candidates have successfully used social media to encourage voters to vote early, but the use of social media hasn't done much to encourage young voters, said Stein.

"Let's hope (that happens), but we haven't seen a lot of evidence of it," he said.

Stein said the city's cost of elections has doubled to $2 million since 2011. It would be even higher if elections were held on Saturdays when costs to rent schools and other polling places would be higher.

In the event of a runoff election, voter turnout drops anywhere from 33 to 40 percent, Stein said.

The city holds runoff elections on a Saturday in December but is considering moving it to a Tuesday in future elections.

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Your Pet's Health

Xylitol Poisoning in Dogs
A New Holiday Threat to Pets

Sugar free gums, candies and baked goods may contain a sweetener that will kill your dog quickly. Xylitol is a sugar alcohol which if ingested by dogs, can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, internal bleeding, liver destruction and death. Dog poisoning cases are up significantly as Xylitol becomes more popular to the human diet.

Other seasonal threats are chocolate, coffee, macadamia nuts, onions, yeast dough, grapes, raisins, antifreeze, rat poisons and mistletoe.

Overeating human food, raw meats, bones, excessive fats, and garbage can toxicity (spoiled foods) also commonly require pet emergency care and hospitalization. Other concerns are Christmas tree preservatives, electrical cords, liquid potpourris, glues, alcohols and anything (toys, batteries and ornaments) your pet swallows to lodge inside the body.

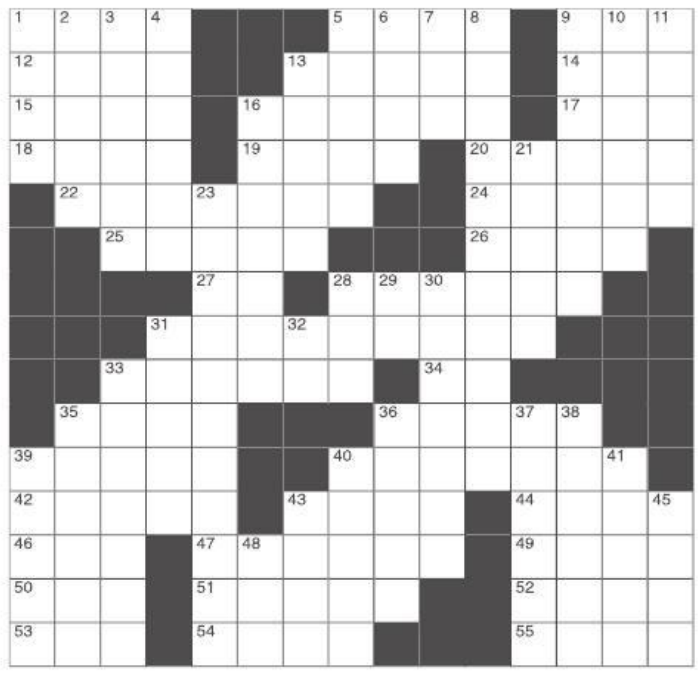
Dogs are not little humans and cats are not little dogs. What is safe to one species can kill another. For example, the human pain medication ibuprofen is one of the most common toxins reported in dogs and acetaminophen commonly kills cats. Aspirin can also kill your pet if given improperly. Many well meaning owners are not aware of these vital differences.

Always call your Vet if you have any concerns or questions

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The Puzzles.

Solutions in this issue's classsified section.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Cape near Lisbon
5. Chew the fat
9. Time of the 90th meridian
12. 1982 planned city in Israel
13. Vehicle carrying passengers
14. Expression of surprise
15. Long range nuclear weapon
16. 2nd largest Muslim denomination
17. Mad Men's Draper
18. Spanish artist Salvador
19. S.F. murdered mayor
20. Baby talk fathers
22. Religious discourse
24. Poet Dickinson
25. Emblem stamps
26. Competes
27. 40th state
28. Expects
31. In an ageless way
33. A person in religious orders

ACROSS Cont...

34. Pa's partner
35. Two considered as a unit
36. NE 68770
39. Duple time dance
40. Greek myth's 1st woman
42. Word element meaning right
43. Point that is one point E of SE
44. Common teen skin disease
46. 4th Caliph of Islam
47. Oblong cream puff
49. Phoned
50. Very low frequency
51. Guild Wars creatures
52. Cozy
53. Hooray!
54. Work units
55. Soft-finned fishes

CLUES DOWN

1. Foray
2. Killer whales
3. Television systems
4. Marvel at
5. Connected spirals
6. Moroccan outer garment
7. Play a role
8. ____ Daniel Webster
9. Golf attendants
10. Large school of fish
11. Tanacetum vulgare
13. Lower jaw fronts
16. Burn without a flame
21. Cordiality
23. PBS drama theater
28. Mandela's party
29. 42nd state
30. One who distributes alms
31. 20th C. playwright T.S.
32. Smallest state
33. Turn into lime
35. Spanish seafood dish
36. Language synonym Bura
37. Large-grained or rough to the touch
38. Understood by only a few
39. Thickened meat juices
40. Anjou and bartlett
41. Declare invalid
43. Molten metals surface scum
45. Bird reproductive bodies
48. Chronicles (abbr.)

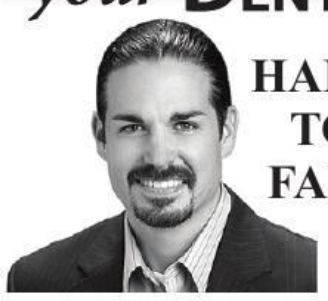
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your DENTAL HEALTH



HALLOWEEN TIPS TO KEEP YOUR FANGS HEALTHY

Chase Baker, D.D.S.

With Halloween this week, the candy treats abound. It seems everywhere over the last several days has someone that is trying to force some sugar on me (which I admit, I'm not the best at turning down). Kids aren't the only ones partaking of the sweets this time of year. We're all under attack from the sugar bugs. With that in mind, if you decide to indulge, here are a few helpful tips to help keep you and your little monsters out of the dentist's chair.

SUGAR-FREE: The best candy to choose are sugar-free or those containing Xylitol as a sweetener. Xylitol has been shown to help strengthen your enamel and fight cavity forming bacteria.

CHOCOLATE: Chocolate is better than most, because it melts quickly in the mouth so the sugars are left in the mouth for a shorter period of time.

AVOID STICKY/HARD CANDY: Hard candies tend to be left in the mouth for extended periods of time allowing the sugars to coat the teeth. If chewed, they can also lead to tooth fracture. Sticky candies can be difficult to get cleaned off which keeps the sugar in contact with the teeth.

DRINK MORE WATER: Water helps to wash off sugars from your teeth, keeping them from settling in and starting decay.

BRUSH AND FLOSS: Brushing, flossing and regular check ups from your dentist will help to keep you and your kid's teeth from looking like your Jack O' Lantern.

Prepared as a public service to promote better dental health.
From the office of: Chase Baker, D.D.S.,
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