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50 cents | Vol. 15, No. 47

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017

AN EDITION OF THE **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday season.

SPORTS



Cast your vote for top on-field performers

This week's games were full of outstanding performances. Help Houston Community Newspapers decide who should be named player of the week by voting for one of the nominees online at Chron.com/westpoll.

HAPPY HANDYMAN



Trudy Chooke: I did a segment on TV last year, and it was called "Restore don't Re Finish." It was all about taking a shortcut to restore the original beauty of your cabinetry. By the time you read this, it will be Thanksgiving, and four weeks before Christmas, and the last thing you need is to have your kitchen in an uproar! I mean, you have Christmas shopping to do! See page 8A.

ON MEDICARE



Dear Toni: I recently attended a Medicare Advantage meeting and was going to join with some reservations. I am concerned that this Advantage plan may not be a good fit for me. My question is if I change to an Advantage plan and find out in a few months it's not working for me, what are my chances of returning to regular Medicare and a supplement. See Page 8A.

BRIDGE OF READING



Courtesy photo

Nottingham Elementary was one of a number of elementary schools chosen based on their need but the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation to give each one of their students 6 free books of their choosing.

Foundation gives books to children impacted by Hurricane Harvey

By DINA KESBEH
dina.kesbeh@chron.com

Lining up at school book fairs and flipping through the pages of a newly purchased book is a flame of an excitement resonates with many bookworms and most importantly children who still have access to school book fairs.

Hurricane Harvey hit communities across the city incredibly hard making many families prioritize their necessities with books often times not making the list.

Due to the impact communities sustained after the floods, the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation decided in order to continue their goals of increasing literacy lev-

els in children, they would search for economically disadvantaged schools or schools in neighborhoods that sustained a lot of damage from the hurricane.

Nottingham Elementary was among the number of schools chosen to receive free books to for their stu-

See BOOKS, Page 4A

Hotel ZaZa opening close to Memorial City Mall

By DINA KESBEH
dina.kesbeh@chron.com

Imagine booking your next hotel room based off a theme like, the Godfather, full of unique interior design specific to the theme as part of the Magnificent Seven Suites located on the 10th floor of the newly built Hotel ZaZa Memorial City.

Z Resorts and MetroNational revealed the development in a private preview as they put the final touches on the luxurious hotel and apartment tower with plans to open Dec. 1.

The 17-story tower sits at the corner of Interstate 10 and Bunker Hill near Memorial City Mall steps away from Ciro's Italian Grill.

The suite roster also includes a Beach House, French Connection, Master Plan, Black Gold, Breathless, Asian Beauty, and Passage to India.

In addition to the lavish hotel, The McCarthy will have a total of 133 apartment units available for those interested in modern living space with a view.

Residents will have access to amenities such as a

See HOTEL, Page 4A

99-Cent Only Store allows children to collect food to donate

By DINA KESBEH
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The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston filed into the 99 Cents Only Stores at 11320 Chimney Rock Road on Wednesday, Nov. 15, dashing in each direction with a cart in hand ready to fill it with as many items to benefit the Houston Food Bank and Kids' Meals Houston for Thanksgiving.

The shopping spree had one rule: load up the shop-

ping cart in less than two minutes.

The children filled their carts with canned goods, produce and anything that would be great to eat on Thanksgiving.

Desiree Anderson, senior specialist marketing and advertising, said this was the first time the company has done anything like this donation where the partner with another organization and make this give back initiative into an event.

"This city has truly rallied together to help one another, and we're going to continue to do our part wherever and whenever we can," Anderson said.

Anderson said this is part of an effort the company is taking into being more active and involved in the communities they serve.

"Getting our kids involved in local charity efforts allows them to experience

See DONATE, Page 4A



Photography/Gary Fountain
The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston partnered with 99-Cents Only Store to collect food to donate to the Houston Food Bank and the Kids' Meals Houston.

Greater Houston Community Foundation awards \$500,000 to SBEF Harvey Relief Fund

STAFF REPORT

The Greater Houston Community Foundation has awarded \$500,000 to the Spring Branch Education Foundation Harvey Relief Fund. The grant was announced this week.

The gift brings the SBEF Harvey Relief Fund to more than \$1 million, according to SBEF Executive Director Cece Thompson.

On Nov. 15, the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, administered by GHCF, announced the second round of grants totaling \$28.9 mil-

lion to 90 nonprofit organizations to provide services and support to flood victims. SBEF was one of three education-related relief funds to receive a grant.

"As far as we know, the SBEF Harvey Relief Fund is the only one that specifically helps families in

Spring Branch ISD," Thompson said. "Our gifts help families fill gaps not met by other local and federal efforts. Since the Fund is managed by SBEF staff, there are no administrative costs. Every dol-

See RELIEF, Page 4A

Featured Homes of the Week!

Martha Turner

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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TANGLEWOOD
5539 Cranbrook Road
Georgian style home on large lot with gourmet island kitchen, game room, media room, resort style pool and veranda
5 BEDROOMS | 5.5 BATHS
Offered at \$3,489,000 MLS 9841244

TANGLEWOOD
955 Rocky River Road
Beautiful home with open floor plan, master down with sitting room, media room, unfinished space above garage and pool.
5 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHS
Offered at \$2,395,000 MLS 86022348

HEDWIG VILLAGE
10930 Beinhorn
±6,366 sq. ft. home on ±33,040 sq. ft. lot with exquisite interiors, pool, guest house and luxurious master suite.
5 BEDROOMS | 5.5+ BATHS
Offered at \$2,694,000

FROM THE COVER

BOOKS

Continued from Page 1A

dents to take home.

Each student in the entire school was given the chance to wander around a book fair style set up and choose six brand new books to take home as part of a home library initiative the foundation is trying to push.

"A lot of our country's problems would be solved if we could get more people to read and make sure people had the opportunity to learn how to read to help them realize their full potential," said Julie Baker, president of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation.

The Huffington Post published an article about the stagnant literacy rates the country has endured for the last 10 years based off a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy.

The study said the more than 32 million adults in the United States can't read, which is noted to be 14 percent of the population.

Baker said through the foundations program to increase the literacy rate by starting within the community, the goal is to serve 25,000 students across the Greater Houston area.

While the foundation has corporate partners that help serving six books to each student easier, they welcome individual donors that can sponsor a child through the myhomelibraryhouston.org site and fulfill a child's wish list.

Popular titles like "Chick-a Chicka Boom Boom," "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Captain Underpants" series are just a few choices of what some of the kids have put on their wish list.

Roy Moore, Nottingham

Elementary School principal, said the community was heavily affected by Harvey and numerous homes were flooded making this program a great way for kids to rebuild their library.

"(Reading) Is a bridge to everything else, we did a lot of work here and found that our kids are able to read then it affects other content areas like math," Moore said.

The school has a community event in December to help promote literacy across the school by inviting parents and their kids to come dressed cozily in the pajamas to read in the school library, treats like hot chocolate and cookies served to families as they read together.

"Here at Nottingham we are all about literacy, it was a huge blessing and validated everything we have been working towards in the past," Moore said.



Courtesy photo

Nottingham Elementary was one of a number of elementary schools chosen based on their need but the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation to give each one of their students 6 free books of their choosing.



The living area of a two-bedroom residence on the 11th floor at the new Hotel ZaZa in Houston.

HOTEL

Continued from Page 1A

fitness center, private pool and cabanas, outdoor grill and entertainment areas, and laptop bar.

They'll also have access to a sky lounge and wine storage room along with traditional Hotel ZaZa Memorial City conveniences like ZaSpa.

The first 10 floors are reserved with a range of king-sized bedrooms and suites for the hotel. The 11 to 17 floors occupy the Mc-

Carthy apartments.

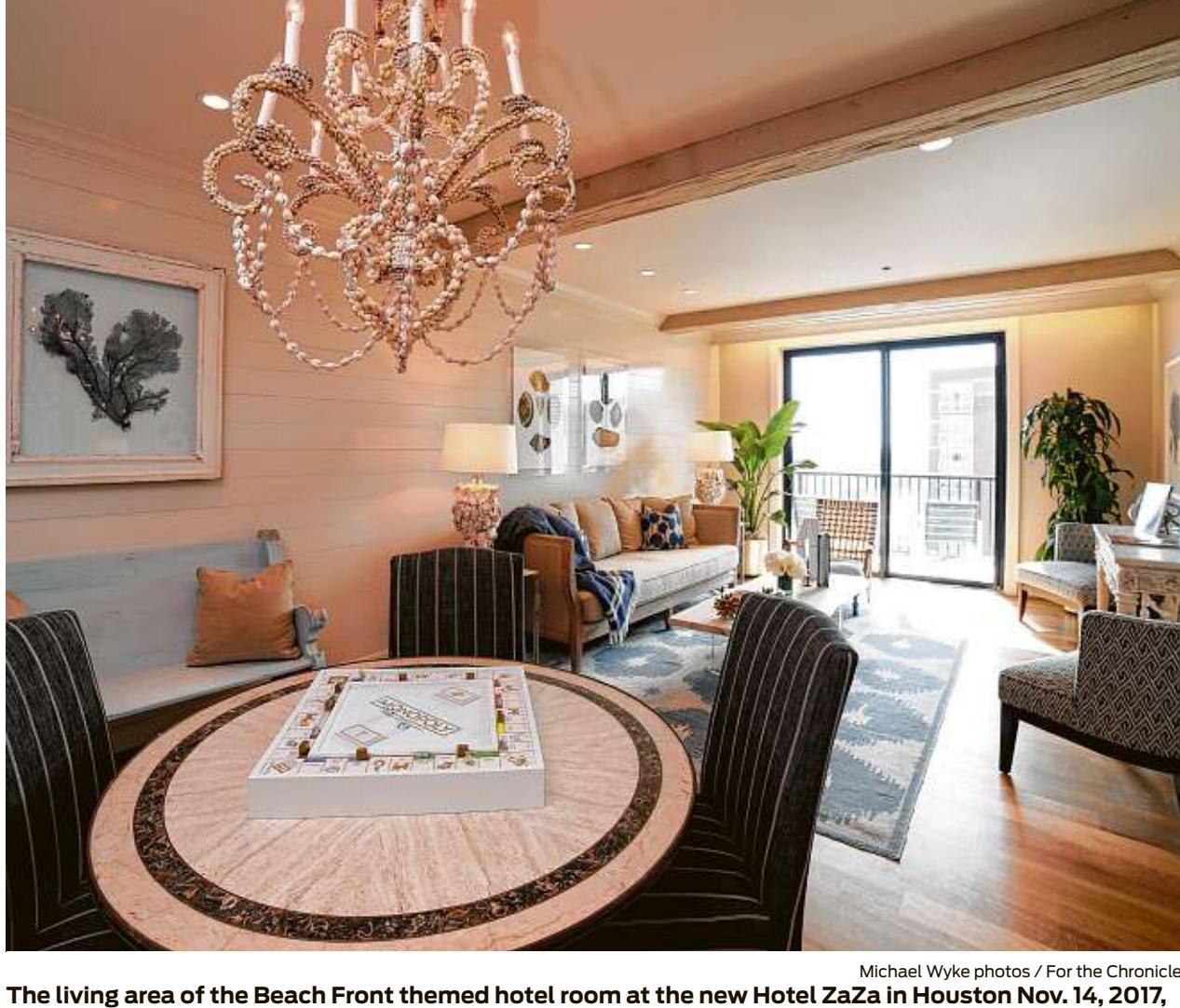
Living units range in size from small cozy studio of 530 square feet to 2,000 square feet.

The apartments will be managed by Lincoln Property Group.

Hotel ZaZa has 11,000 square feet that range from event space that could hold a wedding to meeting space and a restaurant called the Tipping Point, which includes a 16-person private seating area, with the restaurant overlooking the swimming pool.



The stone work in the elevator lobby on the 5th floor at the new Hotel ZaZa in Houston Nov. 14, 2017, in Houston.



The living area of the Beach Front themed hotel room at the new Hotel ZaZa in Houston Nov. 14, 2017, in Houston.

Michael Wyke photos / For the Chronicle

RELIEF

Continued from Page 1A

Iar goes directly to SBISD student and staff families who were displaced by Harvey."

SBEF continues to distribute Target and Walmart gift cards to help families meet their most pressing needs, whether it's food, clothing or supplies. The Foundation has awarded grants of \$50,000 to Community In Schools-Houston, which identifies specific needs. CIS provides vouchers to families to assist with rent, utilities and other necessities.

SBISD officials estimate there are as many as 1,000 student and staff families displaced by Harvey. Others may be identified. The district uses the Student Residence Questionnaire (SRQ) to make this assessment for students. Generally completed at the time

of enrollment, the SRQ can be updated throughout the school year as living situations change. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, living situations may reflect substandard living conditions (no electricity, for example); or living in a shelter, with friends or

relatives, in a hotel/motel, transitional housing or unsheltered locations such as a car or tent.

SBEF's mission is to support students and educators to enhance education and prepare students for a successful future. The SBEF Harvey Relief Fund

helps staff and students be prepared for each school day.

Community members who wish to donate to the SBEF Harvey Relief Fund may visit <https://www.pledgecents.com/cause/yldny/hurricane-harvey-supporting-sbisd-famili>.

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POSTMASTER

Send address changes to The Houston Chronicle, 4747 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027. Periodical postage paid at Houston, Texas. Memorial Examiner (USPS 807-680) is an edition of the Houston Chronicle.

DONATE

Continued from Page 1A

rience the value of helping others hands on," Anderson said.

All merchandise donated came directly from the company with no external donors. The haul totaled to a little more than \$1,300, which Anderson said, "Is an astounding number of units considering most of the items were only 99 cents."

The 99-cents Only Stores also donated \$500 to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston.

"Sometimes it's not always about just writing a check, but finding a way to come together as a community to do something great for those in need and teach the youth something valuable while we're at it," Anderson said.



Photography/Gary Fountain

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston partnered with 99-Cents Only Store to collect food to donate to the Houston Food Bank and the Kids' Meals Houston.