

2000-2009

Mansfield Independent School District celebrates a century of education

2000

■ The population of Mansfield is 28,031.

March 28: The school board adopts the following position statement, "Mansfield Independent School District promotes land use plans and planning and zoning that establish a balance of residential, retail, commercial and industrial development. Priority should be given to planning where ratios between retail, commercial/industrial development increase by value in relation to residential development. Preference should be given to low-density residential development over high-density residential development."

March 4: The Mansfield High School girls basketball team wins its second consecutive state Class 5A championship, defeating Plano High 69-43 in Austin.

March 29: A tornado damages 200 homes in south Arlington.

April 25: The school board presents a commendation to the 1999-2000 Mansfield High School girls basketball state championship team along with a proclamation by the Senate of the State of Texas through the efforts of Sen. Chris Harris.

May 23: The school board meets in a called meeting to seal the Willie Brown Elementary School time capsule.

June 27: Superintendent Vernon Newsom introduces Donna O'Brian, current vice principal at T.A. Howard Middle School, as the newly selected principal of Cross Timbers Intermediate School. The school board promotes Rick Cash to assistant superintendent for facilities, operations and support services and athletics and Judy Miller to assistant superintendent for personnel services.

July 20: The school board approves Doug Brubaker as principal at Tarver Rendon, John Perdue as director of maintenance and Amber Terry as assistant principal at T.A. Howard.

Aug. 22: Commendations are presented to the Mansfield ISD HVAC employees of the maintenance department for work done to ready all schools with air conditioning throughout the district. The school board sets the tax rate at \$1.687 of which \$1.343 is for the local maintenance fund and 3.44 cents for the interest and sinking fund.

Sept. 15-Oct. 1: The Summer Olympics are held in Sydney, Australia. The American men's and women's basketball teams win gold.

Sept. 26: Charlotte Anderson Elementary, Willie Brown Elementary, Tarver Rendon Elementary and Cross Timbers Intermediate receive exemplary ratings from the TEA.

Nov. 21: Superintendent Vernon Newsom presents the first Superintendent Star Award to Elementary School students for outstanding citizenship.

Dec. 12: The school board commends Ashley Clark for her Christmas card artwork. Her design was selected for the district Christmas card. The school board approves the purchase of 75.34 acres of land on Texas 360 for the third high school.

2001

Jan. 20: George W. Bush is sworn in as president of the United States.

Jan. 23: The school board is honored with presentations and music for School Board Recognition Month.

Feb. 6: The school board approves new elementary, intermediate, middle and high school attendance boundaries at a called meeting after revisiting transfer policies.

Feb. 27: The school board approves the efforts of the Historic Landmark Commission

of the city of Mansfield, which is seeking a designation for the Rock Gym as a National Historic Place.

March: The chess team from Mary Orr Intermediate wins a state title in the elementary division of the Texas State Scholastic Chess Championship in Houston. The Rogene Worley team placed fifth and Charlotte Anderson earned a trophy in the elementary junior varsity division.

March 3: The Mansfield High School girls basketball team defeats Spring Westfield 62-49 to win its third-consecutive Class 5A state championship.

March 13: Voters pass a \$180.5 million bond to build the third high school, T.A. Howard Middle School, Cross Timbers Intermediate School and convert the old Erma Nash Elementary School to the Alternative Education Center.

March 27: The Mansfield High School Lady Tigers Class 5A basketball team is recognized for its third consecutive state championship. Also, the board approves John Williams as the principal for J.L. Boren Elementary and Donna Grant as principal of Summit High School.

April 24: Mansfield High School band students are commended for receiving all-state honors.

May: A demographic survey ranks the Mansfield district as the second-fastest growing among larger districts in Texas.

May 8: Cathy Butler is approved as principal of T.A. Howard Middle School and Scott Shafer as principal of Brooks Wester Middle School.

June 26: Many parents and students make public comments regarding the book "Of Mice & Men." The school board votes to "uphold the Reconsideration Committee's decision to leave the book in the curriculum."

July 24: The Mansfield Kiwanis Club presents bicycle racks for Donna Shepard Intermediate School and Kenneth Davis and Imogene Gideon elementary schools.

Aug. 28: Linda Johnston, president of ATPE, thanks the board for its dedication to teaching students and supporting staff. Johnson, Ann Oliver and Sandra Myers hand bags of goodies to all board members and executive council members. The school board adopts an ordinance levying taxes for 2001-2002 at a tax rate of \$1.6714, \$1.343 for local maintenance fund and 3.284 cents for the interest and sinking fund and directing the assessment and collection of taxes.

Sept. 25: The school board approves a Mansfield High School choir trip.

Oct. 23: Scott Shafer, principal of Brooks Wester, declares the school colors as blue, black and white, and the wildcat as the mascot for the new school, which is set to open in 2002. Donna Grant, principal of Summit High School, announces color and mascot choices for the high school, set to open in 2002. Blue, black and white are chosen as the colors and the jaguar is chosen as the mascot. The board also approves a Mansfield High School band trip.

Nov. 20: The school board approves a contract to Manhattan Construction Company for the 2001 Bond Program, additional needs, Performing Arts Center at Summit High School for \$3,127,517. The school board approves the sale of 6,654 acres on the east end of the Mary Orr Intermediate School property for 75 cents per square foot to the city of Mansfield as proposed in the letter with the offset of fees for the purchase price of the property.

Dec. 18: The school board approves the schematic design for the new Erma Nash Ele-



Superintendent Vernon Newsom presided over the district's building boom in the 1990s and early 2000s.

mentary School.

2002

Jan. 22: Superintendent Vernon Newsom presents each MISD trustee with a plaque expressing appreciation for their dedication and hard work as a part of School Board Recognition Month. Also, a proclamation from Gov. Rick Perry is read. The school board amends an order calling for an election for Feb. 2. Also, the school board approves a best value contractor for construction of the Brooks Wester Middle School conversion for \$789,300.

Feb. 5: The school board approves an order to canvass the election returns of the Feb. 2 election. Propositions One, spending \$25 million to build Ben Barber Career Tech Academy, and Proposition Two, which address the tax rate, pass. Also approved was an order to call for a trustee election May 4.

Feb. 8-24: The Winter Olympics are held in Salt Lake City, Utah. China and Australia win their first gold medals in a Winter Olympics. Vionetta Flowers becomes the first black athlete to win a winter gold medal in the women's bobsled.

Feb. 26: Joel DeLong presents information regarding the district-wide art show, which will be held the first week in March. Student artwork will be displayed in the board room, the foyer and the commons of the administration building.

March 2: The Mansfield High girls basketball team defeats San Antonio Taft 47-42 to win its fourth-consecutive state Class 5A championship. All four teams were coached by Samantha Morrow and featured guard Erin Grant.

March 26: Members of the Mansfield Lady Tigers basketball team and its coaches are recognized for winning their fourth-consecutive Class 5A state championship. A brief update regarding the G/T Program is given by Pam Rudnicki.

April 23: Commendations are made to all-state choir members, Mansfield High School all-state band members and the Worley Middle School Band.

May 7: Results of the trustee election held May 4 are canvassed. Gale Moericke wins Place 6 and John Washington wins Place 7, and each is sworn in by Judy Payne, the superintendent's secretary.

May 14: Reorganization of the school board is as follows: Larry Wilshire, president; John Washington, vice-president; and Nancy Ryals, secretary.

May 28: A limited English proficiency report is presented by Yvonne Duvault. The board

approves the names of the new elementary schools: Elementary No. 11: Thelma Jones Elementary; Elementary No. 12: Roberta Tipps Elementary; Elementary #13: Elizabeth Smith; and Elementary #14: Martha Reid. The board also votes to name the third high school Mansfield Timberview High School. The board awards the contract for the third high school to Manhattan Construction Company for the 2001 Bond Program for \$44,796,942.

June 25: Commendations are presented to the Mansfield High School theatre arts students who won Betty Lynn Buckley Awards for costume design and scenic design. Students from Mary Orr Intermediate are recognized for participation in Baseball TIVY. Debbie Weems, Mansfield High School athletic director, is commended for leading the athletic department to outstanding awards. Several people speak to the board in opposition of the formation of a Gay/Straight Alliance. Superintendent Vernon Newsom introduces Jay Towell as the newly-approved director of child nutrition.

July 27: A joint meeting of the school board and the City Council is held. Presentations are made by Vernon Newsom, Claude Cunningham and Lou Spiegel followed by presentations by Clayton Chandler and Felix Wong from the city.

July 30: The board adopts an order authorizing the issuance of \$78,935,000 of bonds, \$55,000,000 from the 2001 election and \$25,000,000 from the 2002 election, for the Career Tech Academy and \$854,987.35 of refunded bonds.

Aug. 19: Mansfield High School moves into its new building at 3001 E. Broad St., while the newly named Summit High School opens in the Mansfield High School North Campus building at 1071 W. Turner Warnell Road. It's the first time the district has had two different high schools, which quickly become friendly rivals.

Aug. 20: Superintendent Vernon Newsom introduces Bill Coker, who was named principal at the new Roberta Tipps Elementary, and Karl Bethel, named principal for the new Thelma Jones Elementary.

Aug. 27: The school board adopts the 2002-2003 budget as presented and approved Joy Keller to replace John Washington on the Education Foundation Board. The board awards a contract agreement with Cadence McShane Corporation for the 2001 Bond Program, New Middle School No. 4, for \$16,209,200 and approves the purchase of 25.1 acres of property out of the E.

Hendricks Survey on West Debbie Lane for the new Ben Barber Career Tech Academy.

Sept. 24: Mansfield Retired Employees Association members present Superintendent Vernon Newsom with a display check in the amount of \$115,651.40. This check represented the value of 7,268 volunteer hours donated by MRSEA members.

Oct. 22: Commendations are presented to teachers who have completed the rigorous course requirements for the Master Reading Teacher Certificate. The board approves trips for the Mansfield High choir, Summit High School cheerleaders and the Summit Sapphires/Jewels Drill Team and approves the rental of Mary Orr Intermediate School to Lighthouse Church of Mansfield.

Nov. 19: The school board approves the district technology plan as presented. The board approves the purchase of 12 acres of land at Texas 360 and Magna Carta site and 50 acres at Texas 360 and Broad Sunbelt Property.

Dec. 17: Several people address the board regarding attendance zone boundaries. The board approves names for the fifth intermediate and the fifth middle school as Della Icenhower Intermediate and Danny Jones Middle School.

2003

Jan. 21: The school board approves new elementary school attendance zones for 2003-2005 as presented by the K-4 zoning committee. Also, the board approves the best value contractor ranking for construction of the Erma Nash/A.E.C. renovations in an amount not to exceed \$1.7 million.

Feb. 1: The space shuttle Columbia explodes while reentering the atmosphere over Texas, killing all seven astronauts on board.

Feb. 6: Larry Wilshire asked for 30 seconds of silence to remember the fallen astronauts and their families, for the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster that occurred on Feb. 1.

■ The school board approves the order for election to hold a trustee election May 3 for places 1 and 2.

March 4: The regular meeting is rescheduled for Feb. 25 because of bad weather. Martha Reid and Robert Smith are introduced as namesakes or family members of namesakes for new Mansfield ISD campuses. A final report on the 1999 Bond Program is presented by Steven Solka, project manager for 3DI. The 2001 Bond Program report is given by John Schmitt, project manager for Huckabee and Associates.

March 25: The school board awards a contract with

Track Masters Inc. for the 2001 Bond Program new turf installation at R.L. Anderson Stadium for \$555,040. The board also approves the superintendent's contract as presented.

April 23: The school board approves an order declaring the election of unopposed candidates for Mansfield school board trustee places 1 and 2, rescinding its previous order of election and rescinding the appointment of election judges and clerks. Superintendent Vernon Newsom introduces Gary Manns, new principal of Alice Ponder Elementary, and Elna Davis, assistant principal at Roberta Tipps.

May 8: The oath of office is administered to reelected board members Larry Wilshire and Nancy Ryals by Judy Payne. Dan Phillips nominates the current slate of officers to return as officers for the upcoming school year, which passes unanimously.

May 27: Many parents speak regarding the attendance zone recommendation being brought to the school board for approval. The board approves the new intermediate and middle school attendance zones for 2004-2005 as presented by the Zoning Committee, with preferential consideration for those students entering the fifth and eighth grades for one year intra-district transfers under existing intra-district guidelines. The board votes to authorize design and bid development for the proposed cafeteria addition to Summit High School under the 2001 Bond Program. It also approves the campus action plans for 2003-04 as presented.

June 24: Samantha Morrow is recognized for being named the 2003 National Coach of the Year in girls basketball. Mai Doan, from Imogene Gideon, is named the 2003 Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. The board approves the schematic design for Elementary School No. 15. The board adopts an order authorizing the issuance of \$70,435,000 in bonds, authorizing an official statement and the execution of an escrow agreement.

July 22: Awards are presented to the *Mansfield News-Mirror* representatives from TASB. Representing the *News-Mirror* were Brigitte Cummings, Mark Wright and Mario Zavala. The board recognized Sherilyn Conn, director of public information, as she would be retiring at the end of July. Joy Keller reads a poem she wrote to honor Conn.

Aug. 19: The school board adopts an ordinance levying taxes for 2003-2004 at a tax rate of \$1.682, \$1.367 for

2000-2009

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maintenance and operating fund and 3.15 cents for the debt service fund and directing the assessment and collection of taxes thereof.

Sept. 23: Judy Williams, president of the Mansfield UEA, speaks to the board regarding HB 1440, which addresses the evaluation of some teachers every five years, and to thank the board for the raise for district employees.

Oct. 7: The school board approves an order canvassing election returns for the Oct. 4 Bond Election. Propositions 1, 2 and 3, for a total Bond Package of \$226,100,000, passed.

Oct. 28: The board commends Kelly Frankum, Leanne Ingram and Kellye Vandergriff, who were each awarded the 2003 National Semiconductor's Internet Innovator Award. The September MISD Heartbeat Award winner, Dempsey Winans, is also recognized.

Nov. 6: Superintendent Vernon Newsom reads a prepared statement declaring that there would be no recommendation from the administration regarding attendance zones at this meeting, only discussion by the board and comments from the public. Public comments are heard from 8:20 p.m. to 1:10 a.m.

Nov. 11: Superintendent Vernon Newsom reads a prepared statement introducing the recommended attendance zones map, which was created by the administration. Public comments are heard from 7:30 p.m. to 12:50 a.m.

Nov. 17: The public is allowed to make comments, but there is a 30-minute limit. After a closed meeting, the board reconvenes and approves the high school attendance zone, purple zone option, presented Oct. 29 and allowed graduating seniors the option to choose their current or new campus.

Nov. 18: A public hearing to discuss the state financial accountability rating for MISD (School First) is presented by Lou Spiegel. Nine people address the board concerning the boundary issues.

Dec. 11: The bodies of Rick and Suzanna Wamsley are found in their home on Turnberry Drive. Their son, Andrew, and three of his friends are eventually convicted of the murders.

Dec. 16: Commendations are presented to student artists featured on the district Christmas card. Also the December MISD Heartbeat team award winner is recognized. Education Foundation grant winners are introduced by Linda Bacsik.

2004

■ The population of Mansfield is 50,657.

Jan. 20: Alfred Ray, principal of Timberview High School, presents the mascot, the Wolf, and the colors, maroon, black and silver, chosen for the campus. The board approves a motion to purchase a total of 51.083 acres of land in Tarrant County.

Jan. 28: The school district pays Kowbell Rodeo owner Jack Ratjen \$2.7 million for 65 acres on North Main Street.

Jan. 31: Mansfield's Kowbell Rodeo ends its 45-year run of weekly rodeos.

Feb. 24: Public comments thanking the board for allowing the block scheduling continue.

March 24: The new school naming committee presents the names for the No. 15 and No. 16 elementary schools. The board approves Janet Brockett Elementary and Mary Jo Sheppard Elementary.

March 30: Elna Davis is appointed as principal of Roberta Tipps Elementary School, effective April 1.

April 19: Schematic designs for the multipurpose stadium and natatorium are presented by Gary Rademacher of

Huckabee and Associates. A motion to approve the schematic design passes.

April 27: School colors and mascots are selected for the four new schools opening in the fall: Martha Reid Elementary, the navy blue and red Dinosaurs; Elizabeth Smith Elementary, the black and red Stallions; Della Icenhower Intermediate, the navy blue and silver with white accent Huskies; and Danny Jones Middle School, the forest green and white with black accent Bulldogs. The board approves names of new campuses: Middle School No. 5: James L. Coble; and Intermediate No. 5: Mary Lillard. Newly promoted assistant principals Tara Sublette of Elizabeth Smith Elementary and Kelly Campbell of Roberta Tipps Elementary are introduced. Also introduced are Mike Leyman, district chief of police.

May 15: Mel Neuman becomes mayor of Mansfield.

May 25: The school board canvasses the results of the May 15 trustee election, as Joy Keller, Dan Phillips and Sandra Vatthauer are sworn in by Judy Payne. The board selects Joy Keller as president, Dan Phillips as vice president and Gale Moericke as secretary. The board approves the hire of Steven Gast as principal of Mansfield High School.

June 22: The school board recognizes Aileen Roberts, a Brooks Wester Middle School teacher who was named educator of the year in 2004 by the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce.

July 12: Superintendent Vernon Newsom introduces Jerri Hoaldrige, new administrator at the Ben Barber Career Tech Academy, and Patty Ayala, new principal at Tarver-Rendon Elementary School.

Aug. 13-29: The Summer Olympics are held in Athens, Greece. Swimmer Michael Phelps wins six gold medals and sets a single-games record with eight total medals.

Aug. 16: Mansfield Timberview High School opens at 7700 S. Watson Road in Arlington.

Aug. 24: The school board adopts the ordinance levying taxes for the year 2004-05 at a tax rate of \$1.717, \$1.377 for maintenance and operations fund and 34 cents for the debt service fund and directing the assessment and collection of taxes. The board approves resolution No. 04-02 involving the sale of certain real property at 1240 W. Broad St. to the city of Mansfield that was acquired at a tax foreclosure sale Dec. 4, 2001, for donation to Bethlehem Baptist Church to build a multi-purpose facility/gymnasium to benefit the entire Mansfield community.

Sept. 28: Schematic design for Elementary School No. 17 is approved.

Oct. 26: The school board commends Lynne Russell, Heartbeat Team Award Winner. Also, the board recognizes two national merit semifinalists and four commended students.

Nov. 16: The school board recognizes Christy Ruder from Willie Brown Elementary and Judy Soriano from Summit High School for being the National Semiconductor Internet Innovator Award Winners.

Dec. 14: Superintendent Vernon Newsom presents Rick Cash with a Texas flag in recognition of his service to the district and his retirement.

2005

Jan. 25: Several groups make presentations to the Mansfield school board in conjunction with School Board Appreciation Recognition Week. An order of election to hold a trustee election May 7 for Places 6 and 7 is approved.

Feb. 22: The school board commends Madison Morine

for his winning entry in the calendar contest, sponsored by PBK Architects.

March 29: The school board approves the name for the district's fourth high school, Mansfield Legacy High School, which will be built on the land of the old Kowbell Rodeo. Also, names for elementary No. 17 and 18, Anna May Daulton and Cora Spencer are approved. Trustees also approve the elementary attendance zones as presented. The board votes to renew the contract for Superintendent Vernon Newsom.

April 10: Ben Barber Career Tech Academy opens at 1120 W. Debbie Lane.

April 26: The school board approves Carolyn Dowler as principal at Timberview High School.

May 17: The school board approves the canvass of the trustee election May 7 as Gale Moericke and Mike Leasor are elected to the board.

May 24: Trustees select Joy Keller as president, Dan Phillips as vice president and Gale Moericke as secretary.

June 28: The deputy director of UEA, Steven Poole, speaks to the board regarding employees' salaries for 2005-06.

June 29: Cinemark opens the city's first theater in 30 years at U.S. 287 and FM 157. The first movie screened is "War of the Worlds" starring Tom Cruise.

July 26: 2001 and 2003 Bond Program project manager reports are given by John Schmitt.

Aug. 23: The school board approves a 3 percent raise for the district staff. The board adopts the tax rate of \$1.772 by the approval of the ordinance levying taxes for the year 2005-06 at the tax rate of \$1.407 for maintenance and operations fund and 36.5 cents for the debt service fund and directing the assessment and collection of taxes.

Sept. 27: The school board approves participation with the city of Arlington on the Bowman Branch Linear Park Project and commits \$29,000 as the district's part of the project.

Oct. 25: The school board approves the innovative course, Forensic Investigation, as presented.

Nov. 15: Trustees approve the purchase of 137.33 acres of land, pending ratification by the board of the negotiated contracts. The land was never purchased.

Dec. 13: The school board approves Intermediate and Middle School Attendance Zone Option B and specifies that special transfers be authorized for students who will be in eighth grade in the fall of 2006.

2006

Jan. 3: The Special Education Department and Océ/Agular collaborate their resources to create less paperwork and stress for employees, students and parents within the district community through a paperless database.

Jan. 24: Judy Williams and Ruthie Phillips present checks for \$200 each to librarians of the two newest schools in honor of the board of trustees.

Feb. 1: The district launches eSembler, an online grading program. The eSembler program is available to third-through 12th-grade parents. Not only can parents look at all of their child's grades online, but they can also monitor their child's absences.

Feb. 10-26: The Winter Olympics are held in Torino, Italy. Shaun "The Flying Tomato" White of the United States wins a gold medal in the half-pipe snowboard. American speed skater Apollo Anton Ohno wins two gold medals.

Feb. 28: The school board calls for a bond election for May 13 for \$241.5 million for

Proposition One to build six schools.

March 28: The school board approves a proposal from the Methodist Health System and authorizes staff to negotiate a \$500,000 agreement for naming rights to the district's new athletic stadium to be brought back to the board for ratification.

April 25: The school board approves an agreement with the city of Mansfield for cooperative use of Ben Barber Career Tech Academy greenhouse.

May 13: District voters approve a \$241.5 million bond election. The bond package includes six schools, one of which will be the district's fifth high school, renovations and improvements to existing facilities and an additional transportation facility.

May 23: Trustees name the new athletic stadium Mansfield Independent School District Stadium. The district negotiated a 10-year, \$500,000 agreement to put the Methodist Health System logo on the stadium.

■ The first day enrollment for the 2006-07 school year shows 2,230 more students than day one of the 2005-06 school year. District officials anticipate an enrollment of 28,000 students in 2006-07.

June: The city opens Town Park, a 19.8-acre park, at 500 N. Main St.

Aug. 22: The board sets the tax rate of \$1.6875 for the 2006-07 school year with a tax rate of \$1.2875 for maintenance and operations fund and 40 cents for the debt service fund.

Aug. 23: The district's Facilities and Operations Department conduct a yearlong test to improve the district's schools and facilities energy use. The test results in the identification of potential savings of more than 6 million kilowatt hours of electricity without any capital costs to the district. In addition, the district has the most schools (12) in the state approved by ENERGY STAR.

■ Students attending Glenn Harmon Elementary convert to standardized dress beginning in fall.

Sept. 27: The official colors and mascot are chosen for Legacy High School and presented to the school board by the school's first principal, David Wright. Colors chosen are red, black and silver. The mascot chosen was the Broncos.

Sept. 27: The school board unanimously approves the naming of schools and facilities as Carol Holt Elementary, Mary Louise Cabaniss Elementary and Danny Griffith Operations Complex.

Oct. 24: The school board is named First in the Nation in the 2006 Digital School Board Survey by the Center for Digital Education.

Dec. 12: Chris Huckabee of Huckabee Inc. presents ceremonial footballs to head football coaches and principals from all three district high schools, representing the first balls used to score the first touchdown by each respective team in the new MISD Stadium (now named Vernon Newsom Stadium).

2007

Jan. 23: The district is recognized by TXU for its participation in its energy conservation program. TXU presents the district with a check for \$7,230. Ray Jaksa presents the spring 2007 technology plan.

Feb. 27: Trustees approve measures allowing the district administration to consider a potential reduction in force.

Due to board policy, trustees must first approve a reduction in force and specific areas to be considered for the process to begin. Essentially, the board authorized the administration to look at all personnel areas within the district.

May 12: Barton Scott becomes mayor of Mansfield.

May 22: The official colors and mascot are chosen for Holt Elementary and presented to the school board by the school's first principal, Kelly Campbell. Colors chosen are red, black and khaki. The mascot chosen is the Trailblazers. School board trustees appoint Bob Morrison as the district's deputy superintendent.

■ Beginning in fall, a state-mandated plan, known as 4x4 is put in place that requires four years of math and four years of science in addition to the four years of English and four years of social studies that students are currently required to pass to earn a high school diploma.

■ Starting in the fall, district high schools move to an A/B block schedule. An A/B block schedule will consist of four 90-minute classes per day on alternating days, similar to most college schedules. Students attend four classes on their A day and another set of four classes on their B day.

June 26: Votes from the runoff election are canvassed. Michael Evans is sworn into office by Judy Payne.

July: *Money* magazine rates Mansfield as No. 83 in the best small towns in the United States.

August: Visitors at all Mansfield ISD campuses will now have their driver's licenses scanned before going into classrooms and lunchrooms. All district schools will use the RaptorWare system called V-Soft, a new sign-in system that will help increase security at their campuses.

Aug. 27: Legacy High School opens 1263 N. Main St.

Sept. 17: The district's department of communications has a new blog called Your Mansfield ISD to offer the district community a resource for open, honest opinions and commentary related to the hottest topics and district news.

Nov. 26: The district is named an "Energy Star Leader Top Performer" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for superior energy performance.

Dec. 27: Methodist Mansfield Medical Center opens a \$134 million, 88-room hospital at 2700 E. Broad St., the city's first hospital in decades.

2008

Jan. 24: Mayor Barton Scott resigns.

March 8: The \$24.5 million Big League Dreams, featuring eight Major League Baseball ballparks, opens at 500 Heritage Parkway South.

April 1: Ben Barber Career Tech Academy is the stage for a mock anthrax release that would require medicating the residents of Mansfield. The school district, the city, Tarrant County and other agencies in Mansfield plan the exercise for several months.

April 26: Mansfield High School's One-Act play, "Epic Proportions," wins the UIL state championship in Austin.

May 10: David Cook becomes mayor of Mansfield.

May 22: The new \$9.9 million, 13-acre Hawaiian Falls water park opens at 490 Heritage Park South.

July 9: Superintendent Vernon Newsom announces plans to retire in June 2009. New-

som has served as the superintendent of the district since 1996. In that time, the district grows from one high school to four.

Aug. 8-24: The Summer Olympics are held in Beijing, China. American swimmer Michael Phelps wins eight gold medals and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt wins the 100- and 200-meter sprints.

Dec. 19: The Farr Best Opry opens in the old Farr Best Theater at 109 N. Main St., hosting live country and gospel music.

2009

Jan. 30: Trustees announce the names of five new schools: Annette Perry Elementary, Linda Jobe Middle School, Asa E. Low Jr. Middle School, Nancy Neal Elementary School and Judy Miller Elementary School.

Feb. 24: Bob Morrison is hired as the superintendent, effective July 1.

March 7: The Summit High School girls basketball team, coached by Tammy Lusinger, defeats Houston Nimitz 52-43 in Austin in the Class 5A state championship.

May 26: The school board votes to name Mansfield ISD Stadium as Vernon Newsom Stadium. Trustees also learn that Annette Perry Elementary School will be ready in January instead of opening in the fall after a contractor ceases operation.

June 6: The Timberview girls track team, coached by Cinda Baer, wins the Class 4A state title in Austin.

July 22: Former superintendent Vernon Newsom is killed in a motorcycle crash near Geddes, S.D., while on a cross-country trek with his wife, Nadyne, who was also injured.

Sept. 22: The school board approves construction of the Performing Arts Auditorium/Professional Development Center.

Nov. 17: The school board approves the establishment of a junior/senior high school within Ben Barber Career Tech Academy beginning with juniors in the 2011 school year. The board approves the name of the new school as Mansfield Frontier High School.

Nov. 17: The school board names the new auditorium The Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts. Trustees name the professional development center the John Washington Professional Development Center and the performance hall the Claude Cunningham Performance Hall.

August: *Money* magazine ranks Mansfield as 24th in the nation among the best small towns.

2010

Feb. 12-28: The Winter Olympics are held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. American snowboarder Sean White wins gold in the half-pipe and Lindsey Vonn of the United States wins gold in downhill skiing.

Feb. 24: The school board approves a transfer policy for the children of non-resident employees, effective for the 2010-11 and subsequent school years. Trustees appoint Scott Snow to fill the unexpired term of trustee Mike Leasor, who resigned after taking job with a law firm that specializes in school-based cases.

March 5: The Timberview High School girls basketball team, coached by Candi Harvey, defeats Frisco Wakeland 55-39 in the Class 4A state championship in Austin.

References: "The History of Mansfield, Texas Mid 1800-1965" by the Mansfield Historical Society; Texas Almanac; Mansfield Independent School District school board minutes; Bartleby.com; National Geographic News; infoplease.com; state master.com; encyclopedia-titania.org; firstworldwar.com; archives.gov; sciencedaily.com; utexas.edu; history.com; absoluteastronomy.com; Star-Telegram archives; city archives; City of Mansfield election register; Texas State Library and Archives; www.wsu.edu: Brief Timeline of American Literature, Music and Movies; factmonster.com; Lone Star College - Kingwood; World Book Encyclopedia; http://www.fact-index.com