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HILL COUNTRY NEWS



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Thursday, December 28, 2017 • 50 cents

Local police departments to share tactical robot

By JOHN GREELEY
Contributing Writer

The ranks of three local police departments will grow in 2018 to include a robot that can keep police officers out of the line of fire at crime scenes.

The Cedar Park City Council okayed purchase of the robot as well as staff training for it using a \$53,810 justice assistance grant from the Office of the Texas Governor at their Dec. 19 meeting.

In the past year, Cedar Park Assistant Police Chief Mark Harmon said the regional SWAT team has responded to more than 10 incidents where the robot could have been deployed.

"It will be put to good use," he said.

Harmon said the robot will be shared with Leander and Georgetown police departments who are members of the Central Texas Regional SWAT Team with Cedar Park.

"If we have a barricaded subject in a house, we can't tell from the outside if they are still a threat," Harmon said. "We can view the interior of the house remotely with the robot without putting officers in harm's way."

The ICOR Technologies, Inc. robot can communicate verbally with the operator and with crime suspects or victims while transmitting camera images to a remote control. It can also climb stairs, open doors, and deflate tires.

Leander Police Chief Greg Minton said having a SWAT robot handy for dangerous situations will

See ROBOT, pg. 14



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

By NICK BROTHERS
HCN Managing Editor

Is it already time for 2018?

As for the past several years, the same theme continues for the region northwestern Austin region: growth.

According to the 2017 Census Estimate, Cedar Park's population has grown to 75,226. Leander's population estimates for 2017 are expected to reach near 50,000.

Cedar Park saw newcomers Heather Jeffs (Place 5) and Anne Duffy (Place 3) elected to City Council in May.

This year, The Parke, a retail and restaurant shopping center that opened in early in the year saw 300,000 square feet of new commercial space and 750 direct jobs. The center saw the likes of Whole Foods 365, Chuy's Tex Mex, Dicks Sporting Goods and DSW anchor a northern corridor of the city.

Leander ISD passed a \$454.4 million bond to address its needs to accommodate for one of the fastest growing districts in Texas. It also opened Monta Jane Akin Elementary, its 26th elementary school.

That's still only a bit of what went on in our community in 2017. We have compiled some of year's major news moments from this year to reflect on. We'll see you in 2018, folks.

CEDAR PARK FLAG BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

A flag was revealed in late 2016 at Cedar Park's annual holiday tree lighting event at Heritage Oak Park, but public outcry against the design was too loud to ignore. The city's Facebook page experienced upward of 200 people expressing negative feelings on the flag. They also critiqued officials for not letting the public vote on the matter.

The 250 flag design entries previously submitted were sent back to the city's Parks Arts and Community Enrichment (PACE) Board so they can narrow down the designs to the ones they believe are the best fit. The PACE Board will then send their finalists back to the council for consideration.

LEANDER ISD CLASS OF 2017

The Class of 2017 is an accomplished group. There were 23 students who were recognized as semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Program based on their preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Less than 1 percent of high school students achieve the distinction.

Seven graduates scored a perfect 36 on their ACT exams. Less than one-tenth of one percent of students in the United States achieve this.

There were \$13 million in scholarships awarded to students in LISD in 2017, said Cedar Park Principal John Sloan. Graduates attended college in 27 different states.

See 2017 HIGHLIGHTS, pg. 6

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Thank a Veteran and Serviceman Every Day.



A warm gift delivered to animal shelter for holidays

NICK BROTHERS
HCN Managing Editor

For two years, Cedar Park resident Marita Rush spent her free time making intricately colorful crochet blankets, eventually making more than 100. On Dec. 21, she rolled in to a Leander animal shelter with a trunkful and donated the whole lot.

An overjoyed staff greeted Rush as she brought armfuls of the blankets in to the Texas Humane Heroes Animal Shelter with the intent to give every animal a blanket to keep and take home with them when adopted.

"This is, first off, very overwhelming and surprising," assistant director Christine Rankin said. "This time of year you really see the outpouring of love from the community and it's really touching. Especially when it's



Jackie Bruce (left) holds adoptee Cayenne for Marita Rush (right) to pet as she brought in 100 blankets for Texas Humane Heroes animal shelter in Leander.

handmade. This is literally handmade with love knitted in every blanket."

The blankets range in size and a kaleidoscope of colors, sure to draw attention to the animals in their kennels. Rankin said the

blankets will provide comfort and warmth for the animals, especially for the colder months ahead.

Rush said she hoped the blankets made for a nice Christmas gift.

"There would be a lot of times where I wouldn't have anything to do, so instead of being lazy I would make these blankets," Rush said. "I would get sad thinking about the doggies and I decided I would help, and hopefully inspire others to help."

The blankets will comfort the animals while they're at the shelter, and once they're adopted to a new home, taking their blankets with them will help with the transition, Rankin said.

Texas Humane Heroes holds about 200 dogs and cats between their 10930 E Crystal Falls Pkwy and Killeen locations. The shelters aim to provide relief to regional animal shelters and help them maintain no-kill status. Leander's shelter usually sees a 21-day turnover for pet adoptions on average, Rankin said.

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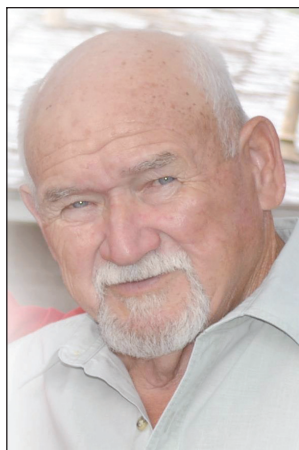
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OBITUARY



Dale E. Bagby

Dale E. Bagby of Bertram, Texas passed away on December 20, 2017 at the age of 79 after a brief illness. He was born on Oct. 12, 1938 in Cedar Park, Texas to Jewel Wade and Elmo Bagby.

He leaves his loving wife of 50 years, Sue Bagby, along with his daughters and son-in-laws Susan and James Anderson, Rhonda and Bob Carrigan, Pam and Jeff Hammonds, Tami and Bryan Hood, Teri and

Mark Behrens, Gayla and Shane Mulligan, and Sandy and Chris Wilson; his grandchildren Windy, Micah, Jeff, Jaime, Michael, Lindsay, Kylie, Brad, Dylan, Garrett, Riley, Brooke, Clayton, Courtney, Chad, Danielle, Jason, Clint, Colby, and Caleb; his 18 great grandchildren; sisters Joyce Newsom, Ellen Park, and Sherrie Hegel; sister-in-law Donna Childress; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents Jewel and John Moore, and Elmo Bagby; sister Helen Haggood; and his beloved dog Daisy Mae.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 26 from 3 to 7 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. at Beck Funeral Home in Cedar Park, Texas. Burial will follow at Bagdad Cemetery in Leander, Texas.

Calendar

DECEMBER 14

Blue Santa Registration

Blue Santa is accepting donations of new, unwrapped gifts throughout the Hill Country. Visit leandertx.gov and cedarpark-texas.gov for a list of drop-off locations.

DECEMBER 16

Have a cup of tea or cocoa, decorate Christmas cookies with the elves, and take a photo with Santa, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Cedar Park High School, 2150 Cypress Creek Road. Reserve your ticket by calling (512) 570-1261.

Keep your family reading all winter with the Cedar Park Library Winter Reading Challenge, beginning Dec. 16. Complete the challenge and return your game card by Jan. 6 for a chance to win a prize. Visit cedarpark-texas.gov for more details.

DECEMBER 19

Cedar Park Library features a holiday puppet show storytime Dec. 19 to Dec. 21 for toddlers and preschoolers. Visit cedarpark-texas.gov for more details.

Cedar Park City Council will meet Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at City Council Chambers, 450 Cypress Creek Road, Building 4. Meetings are open to the public.

DECEMBER 20

Leander Public Library is showing the movie "Elf" multiple times Dec. 20, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., 1011 S. Bagdad Road. Visit www.leandertx.gov/library for more details.

DECEMBER 23

Enjoy holiday light displays, carnival rides and holiday food at Christmas Towne, in the Dell Diamond parking lot, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, from Dec. 14 through Dec. 23. Admission is free, and ride tickets and wristbands may be purchased at the event. Find more information at roundrock-texas.gov.

DECEMBER 26

Recycle your Christmas tree for free, Dec. 26 to Jan. 14, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Robin Bledsoe Park, 601 S. Bagdad Road, Leander.

Trees will be mulched for use in city landscaping. For \$10, Boy Scout Troop 233 will pick up your tree to be recycled; visit www.troop233leander.org for details and to schedule pick up.

DECEMBER 27

Leander Public Library is showing the movie "Monsters, Inc." multiple times Dec. 27, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., 1011 S. Bagdad Road. Visit www.leandertx.gov/library for more details.

DECEMBER 29

The Adult Knitting Club meets every Friday, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Cedar Park Public Library, 550 Discovery Blvd. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome.

DECEMBER 30

Support local farmers and vendors by visiting around 70 booths at the Farmers Market in the Lakeline Mall parking lot Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DECEMBER 31

Learn the basics of how to play chess, or just meet with other chess fans to play a few games at the Kids' Chess Open Play on Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Cedar Park Public Library, 550 Discovery Blvd.

JANUARY 4

The Leander ISD Board of Trustees meets Jan. 4, at 6:15 p.m. at Support Services, 1900 Cougar Country, Cedar Park.

JANUARY 6

Recycle your holiday tree for free Jan. 6, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Cedar Park Recreation Center, 1435 Main St. Please remove all decorations and stands. Trees will be mulched for city landscaping. If you need someone to pick up your tree for recycling, contact Boy Scout Troop 233 at www.troop233leander.org.

JANUARY 20

Viva Lago Vista Casino Night features blackjack, craps, roulette, slots and Texas Hold 'Em, Saturday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at K-Oaks Clubhouse, 7000 Bar-K Ranch Road, Lago Vista. Visit lagovista.org for details.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Cedar Park Police hand out toys to families



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cedar Park police handed toys out to families at the corner of Whitestone Boulevard and the 183A interchange the morning of Thursday, Dec. 21. Some families pulled over and contributed their own toys for the operation.

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Pets of the Week

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New law seeks to crack down on cyber-bullying

Lawmakers and advocates say “David’s Law,” which Gov. Greg Abbott signed in June, will allow school districts and prosecutors to fight cyberbullying on multiple fronts.

By KIRBY WILSON
The Texas Tribune

Just months after her son David took his own life, Maurine Molak began to organize.

She and her husband, Matt, who live in San Antonio, founded David’s Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to cyberbullying victim advocacy. Maurine said they met with lawmakers, law enforcement officials, district attorneys, school administrators, school board presidents, mental health providers and school counselors.

Their goal: legislation that might prevent future cyberbullying-related suicides in Texas.

On June 9, Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 179, also known as “David’s Law.” In some ways, it was not the legislation the Molaks had originally envisioned, but Maurine said it is a good start.

“We did not want a feel-good bill,” Molak said. “We did not want our son’s name on something that didn’t have teeth.”

The legislation confronts cyberbullying from multiple angles. It changes the state’s education code, mandating school districts implement cyberbullying

reporting, prevention and mediation programs. It allows victims younger than 18 to seek injunctions and restraining orders in court, and it criminalizes online harassment if it can be proven that a bully intended for a victim to hurt himself.

“When you put it all together, what it says is that we as a state are taking this seriously,” state Sen. José Menéndez, D-San Antonio, who authored SB 179, said.

But with so many changes, some who follow state education policy say they are expecting at least some early confusion.

“We’re probably going to see questions out there from districts in terms of, ‘what does this mean for our policies and procedures?’” Kathy Martinez-Prather, director of the Texas School Safety Center, said.

State Rep. Matt Rinaldi, R-Irving, said he supports combatting cyberbullying but is concerned that SB 179 may allow public officials to criminalize certain types of speech.

“The law that we passed is extremely broad and vague,” he said. “I think a lot of times, bills like this get traction because



Maurine Molak, who founded the anti-cyberbullying nonprofit David’s Legacy Foundation after her son David took his own life, visits the Capitol on August 1, 2017.

there’s a problem and people want to be perceived as attempting to solve the problem.”

Lawmakers narrowed the bill’s scope as it worked its way through the Legislature earlier this year. The original version did not force prosecutors to prove that an online bully intended for his actions to lead a victim to self-harm or commit suicide before the bully could be subject to criminal prosecution.

Jennifer Tharp, the criminal district attorney for Comal County, testified in favor of the bill when it was before the

Senate State Affairs Committee in April. She noted that new language that forced law enforcement to establish that a bully intended for a victim to hurt himself made “David’s Law” more enforceable.

“You don’t want to create a statute that is so broad in its application that it’s held unconstitutional,” Tharp said.

Some advocates say they worry the changes to the penal and education codes might impose harmful disciplinary penalties on students.

Will Francis, government relations director of the Texas Chapter of

the National Association of Social Workers, said he is particularly concerned about language in the bill that would allow schools to formally discipline or expel students for cyberbullying that occurs off campus. Francis said that many online bullies are victims of bullying themselves and that anti-cyberbullying discipline — like other disciplinary measures — could affect students of color at disproportionate rates.

“If you look at the bill itself, it doesn’t really offer any major resources to schools to stop [cyberbullying] before it happens,”

Francis said. “It gives them tools after they’ve identified it.”

Menéndez said that the bill’s anti-cyberbullying provisions are not all punitive. SB 179 also mandates that school districts establish anonymous hotlines that students can use to report abuse.

Maurine Molak said that she will be watching closely to see how her son’s law affects Texas school districts. If the law needs any tweaks, she said, she will continue to fight.

“We’re prepared to come back next Legislature if we feel that’s what we need to,” she said.



Megan Sheehy (left) and Rachel Beese, two Leander High School students, were recognized Nov. 30 at an awards reception honoring the winners of the cooperative’s Youth Tour essay contest. As part of the program, they will be rewarded with an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. next summer.

PEC awards two Leander HS students with D.C. trip

STAFF REPORTS

Pedernales Electric Cooperative recognized two Leander High School students at an awards reception Nov. 30 honoring the winners of the cooperative’s Youth Tour essay contest.

As part of the program, they will be rewarded with an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., next summer.

Local winners included Rachel Beese and Megan Sheehy of Leander HS.

“Our Hill Country youth continue to impress us year after year,” said PEC Director of Connections and Community Engagement Trista Fugate.

“This year’s winning essays included vibrant

ideas and meaningful programs that could benefit our service area for generations,” she said.

This year’s essay prompt asked students to create an educational PEC program for local middle and high schools that focused on cooperative principles, safety, member focus or responsible conservation.

PEC’s contest winners will visit Washington, D.C., in June 2018, joining students from other electric cooperatives around the country. In Washington, they will visit historical sites, meet local representatives and see government in action firsthand.

“This investment in our youth is an investment in

the future of our community,” Fugate said.

The Youth Tour program was envisioned in 1957 by then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, one of PEC’s founders, who proposed the idea to send “youngsters to the national capital, where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

The tradition spread to cooperatives across the country, and today, almost 1,500 students visit Washington, D.C., each year as a result of nationwide electric cooperative sponsorship.

PEC has participated in the Youth Tour program for more than 30 years. Learn more at pec.coop/youth-tour.

Share the cheer this holiday

With 75 instructional days of the 2017-18 school year complete, I want to encourage our most significant support-

ers to take time this holiday season to recharge, and I also want to ask our community to share some holiday cheer with our educators.

During my school visits these past three weeks, I enjoyed seeing the festive decor in our classrooms and campuses, as well as our educators’ focus as they wrapped up the fall semester. The day-to-day routine of a school year can be taxing on our teachers, instructional and support staff, who strive to help each child reach their potential every day.

Whether it is your child’s teacher, a relative or a neighbor, if you know an educator, please do me a favor and thank them for everything they do for our children.

Please also thank members of our Leander ISD team who serve students in support roles, including employees who keep our buildings maintained and clean; who welcome our stakeholders on the phone or at the entrances to our



buildings; who hire and support employees; who pay our bills; or who serve students with transportation or meals.

Children need a caring learning environment to thrive. We have passionate

professionals in several walks of life who choose to work in public education because they truly care for our schools and our community.

Share some kind words or a handwritten note if you know a member of our team. When the children in your household return to school in January, ask them to say “thank you” to their bus driver, custodian, cafeteria worker or anyone else they encounter who makes our schools operate.

If you are a member of our Leander ISD team reading this column, please know I care deeply about you and your family. I hope you have a truly relaxing, meaningful holiday and take time for yourself and your family.

Come back to us safely and recharged for the remaining 101 instructional days. Our students are counting on all of us to be at our best as we come together with one purpose, as one community, for #1LISD.

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**HILL COUNTRY
NEWS**

Hey there, Mr. Tin Man



A couple of weeks ago, in the midst of a rare wintry mix here in Alabama, Lucy stumbled upon a Facebook post about bulldog chained to a tree. The dog was in a yard about a hundred yards away from young lady who made the post. She wanted to help but was unable to do so. Enter Lucy.

The dog's owner had apparently left the premises about a week earlier with no plans of returning for this poor fella. He was literally chained to a tree. There was no doghouse, either. There was a crate, but that did nothing. The neighbor stuffed it with hay earlier in the day, but that didn't help a whole lot, but at least they were trying. They reached out to the owner of the property who allowed them to handle the situation.

Lucy coordinated the pick-up while I was at the farm working. She was home taking care of the baby, too. I was only about 25 miles from the dog, but it took me about 90 minutes to get there. The road conditions were awful at that point. I took the backroads, so I could drive at my own pace. Still, I slid a few times along the way. I passed a couple of vehicles in the ditch.

When I saw the dog chained to the tree, my heart sank. I know there are dogs living in worse conditions, but it's the worst I had ever witnessed firsthand. There was no grass, the mud was frozen, and there was snow and ice built up at the base of the tree.

"Hey there, Mr. Tin Man. You don't know how lucky YOU are." Those are lyrics from Miranda Lambert's new song. Lucy named him "TinMan" (one word) before meeting him. The name is fitting. The temperature

dipped below freezing that night. He's lucky the neighbors cared enough about him to take action.

I didn't know what to expect once we got him in the car, but it didn't take long to figure it out. TinMan was ecstatic to be warm. Before I could put the car in drive, I was covered in wet, slobbery kisses. Then, he laid down. I don't know if he'd ever been in a car or not, but he was a great rider. He quickly became my buddy.

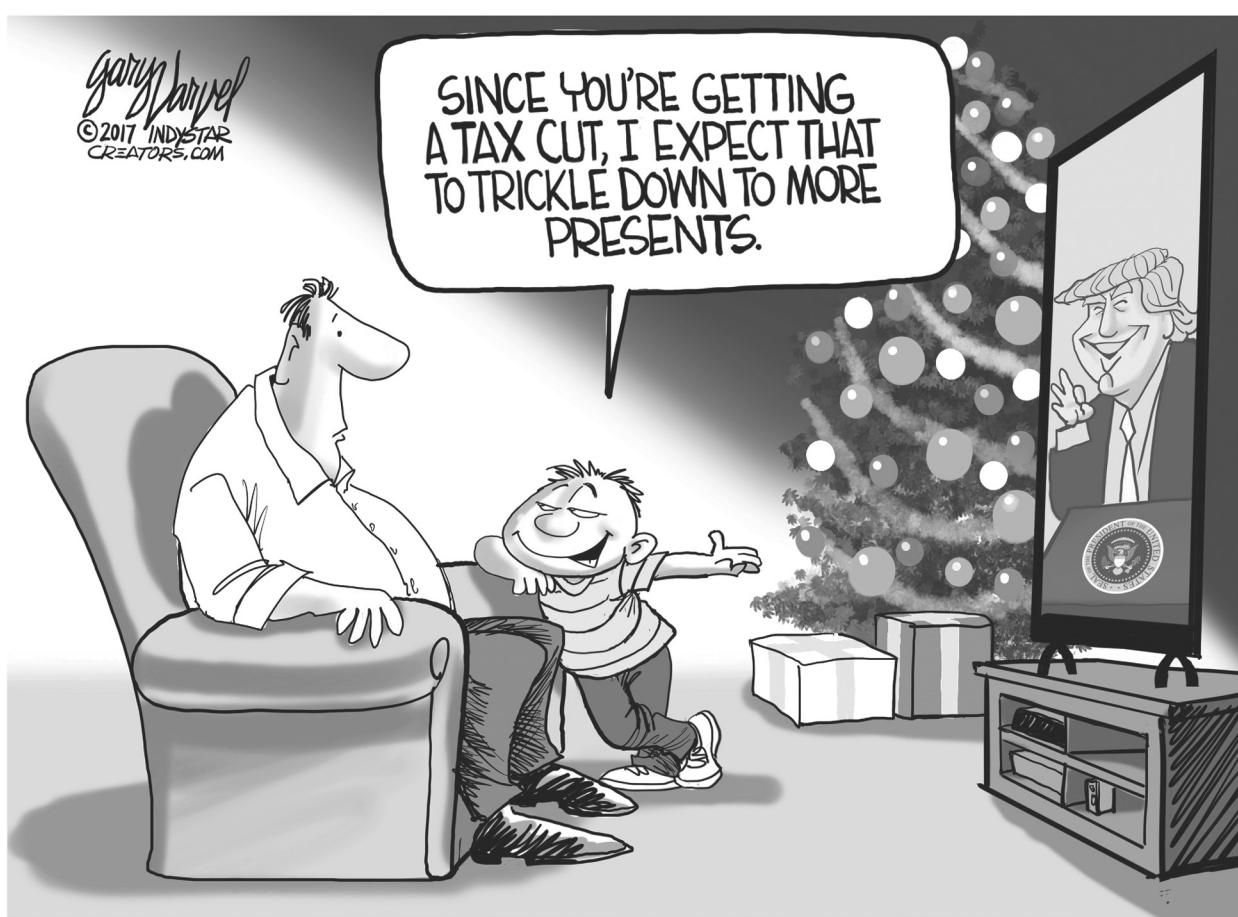
Once we got home, it was time for Lucy to be covered in wet, slobbery kisses. Later, I let TinMan plant some on her.

He immediately fit in with our family. We keep him crated when we're not with him but that's within the warm confines of our kitchen. He loves to play. He loves attention. He even tries to talk. Did I say he likes giving wet, slobbery kisses?

We took him to the vet Monday morning. Unfortunately, he has heartworms, but we're already having him treated. Our veterinarian estimates that he is 3-4 years old. We're confident that he'll be okay and live a long, healthy, and happy life with us. He's a special dog.

Hey there, Mr. TinMan. You don't know how lucky WE are.

Jody Fuller is from Opelika, Ala. He is a comic, speaker, writer and soldier with three tours of duty in Iraq. He is also a lifetime stutterer. He can be reached at jody@jodyfuller.com. For more information, please visit www.jodyfuller.com



Officials name members to school finance commission

AUSTIN — Top state officials last week named members to the Texas Public School Finance Commission, an agency created by legislation passed last summer during a special session of the 85th Texas Legislature.



Gov. Greg Abbott named Scott Brister of Waco, a former justice of the Texas Supreme Court, as chair of the commission.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick named his appointees to the commission:

- Senate Education Chairman Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood;
- Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston;
- Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas; and
- Doug Killian, Pflugerville Independent School District superintendent.

House Speaker Joe Straus announced his appointees:

- House Public Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston;
- Rep. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio;
- Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian; and
- Nicole Conley Johnson, chief financial officer, Austin Independent School District.

"Reforming the school finance system in order to give schools more resources and reduce the burden on local property taxpayers has been and will continue to be a priority of the Texas House," Straus said.

"Establishing the School Finance Commission was landmark legislation in the special session. This will be the first school reform commission since the Perot Commission in 1984," Patrick said.

The commission is tasked with developing recommendations related to:

- (1) The purpose of the public school finance system and the relationship between state and local funding in that system;

- (2) The appropriate levels of taxes for local maintenance and operations, plus interest and sinking funds, necessary to implement a public school finance system that complies with the requirements under the Texas Constitution; and

(3) Policy changes to the public school finance system necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic diversity in the state.

The deadline for the commission to make its recommendations is Dec. 31, 2018.

The proclamation extending the State Disaster Declaration for Texas counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

The proclamation ensures that the 60 counties included in the disaster declaration continue to be eligible for assistance as they recover and rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. State Disaster Declarations must be renewed every 30 days for assistance to remain available.

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 21 announced a temporary tax amnesty program to give certain delinquent taxpayers "a chance to make their accounts compliant with state tax law without incurring penalties and interest on tax due."

The Texas Tax Amnesty Program, set to run from May 1 to June 29, 2018, applies to periods prior to Jan. 1, 2018, and only includes liabilities that have not been previously reported to the Office of the Comptroller.

Passed by the Texas Legislature in 2017, Senate Bill 1 required the Office of the Comptroller to establish the program to encourage voluntary reporting by:

- Delinquent taxpayers who do not have a Texas Sales and Use Tax Permit, or are not registered for a tax or fee administered by the Comptroller's Office; and
- Taxpayers who have a permit, but may have underreported or owe additional taxes or fees.

Hegar unveils website
Comptroller Hegar on Dec. 18 announced the Unclaimed Property Division's new and improved website, ClaimItTexas.org, a way for Texans to search for their unclaimed money.

"I am proud of our unclaimed property program, which has returned about \$800 million to its rightful owners since I've been comptroller," Hegar said. "The newly redesigned website makes it even easier for users to search for unclaimed property and I encourage everyone to go online, take a look around and see if there is money waiting for you or your loved ones."

More than \$2 billion in unclaimed property has been returned to rightful owners since the program began in 1962. People without Internet service may call 800-321-2274 to check for unclaimed property in their name.

DPS: Give safe travel
The Texas Department of Public Safety on Dec. 18 reminded drivers that by staying sober and following basic traffic laws, they can give their fellow motorists the gift of safe travels this season.

In an effort to increase safety on Texas roadways, state troopers will conduct traffic patrols throughout the holiday weekends of Dec. 24-27 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1, looking for drunken drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other dangerous drivers. Many local law enforcement agencies also will increase enforcement efforts over the holidays.

POLL RESULTS

AS OF FRIDAY, DEC. 22

What do you think about the current LISD school year that runs from late August to early June?

Ending school on June 8 is too late and it interferes with summer plans 59%

No change is needed, the current calendar is fine 27%

School should start earlier than the fourth Monday of August 14%

Find the next poll question and let us know what you think at <http://hillcountrynews.com/polls/>

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State and Federal elected officials can be found on our website, www.hillcountrynews.com

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Hill Country News welcomes all Letters to the Editor. All letters must be signed and include phone number for verification. Deadline is Friday before publication. Hill Country News reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length and for libelous or objectionable statements. Letters containing more than 350 words will be edited for length.

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Light is a gift that gives hope to all

I had the privilege of attending a Hanukkah service this past week. I was reminded how light is a gift that gives hope to all. The menorah is lit so that all who see it will know a miracle is in progress.

I also had the honor of attending a vigil commemorating of the five-year anniversary of the Sandy



Hook shooting. We lit candles in memory of those whose lives ended far too soon.

The light from the candles is a reminder that although the violence that

day was unspeakably painful, all those who light candles in remembrance have the power to change the future. When we work together, we bring great light into our world.

And again, on Christmas Eve, many Christians will sing "Silent Night" as they light candles. These candles will illuminate the brightness we all can

bring when we're willing to shine our lights together. We will remember on this night that the coming birth of the Christ-child is evidence that light shines in the darkness and darkness will not contain it.

May our lights shine together and may we bring light into a world that needs it desperately.



Is the cup half empty or half full?

By JAMES L. SNYDER
Out to Pastor

Many things in life have me in a tangle of confusion. I try to put on a good face so that nobody knows how confused I am at the time. I think I get away with it, at least most of the time.

The only person I cannot fool is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. According to her evaluation, I am confused all the time. I would like to set her straight sometime, but I am really confused as to when would be the right time.

If I do not pick the right time, my confusion will be accelerated to the point of no return.

There is one thing, despite my professional confusion, I have not been able to understand. And it just bugs me to no end. Why are some things more confusing than others?

There is a positive side to confusion.

For example, someone is trying to explain to me something that is rather boring I can say, "That's too confusing for me."

What that does is help the other person think that he's a lot better than I am which is not a bad thing to get out of some boring situation at the time. Believe it or not, this is not too confusing for me.

Another side of this would be, somebody wants me to explain something and I am not really in the mood to do a lot of explaining, I say many confusing things and the person comes to the point where he says, "That's too confusing for me."

Winning is so wonderful.

Not long ago, I overheard somebody say, "Is that cup half full or half empty?"

For some reason I just cannot get that out of my head and it has confused me like nothing else in my life.

If, for example, a cup is half-full is it not also half-empty? And, if it is half-empty is it also half-full?

I do not know if this is intentional confusion or if it is not supposed to make any sense at all.

I think "the half empty/half full" scenario is just for plain ordinary fools. In my experience, I have never met a half fool. Either they are all fool or they are not a fool at all. Just when you think you met a half-fool, they spiral into a complete fool. There is a question whether any fool can be complete or not, but that is too confusing for me.

Several times my wife will look at me and say, "Are you acting a fool?"

I would like to set her straight sometime, but I am a little confused as to be the right time. But I am not acting a fool. I have absolutely no skill in the thespian art of acting. Of course, when she addresses me with that question, I act like I am not a fool which I am not sure qualifies in the thespian arts category.

The confusion here is, if I am not acting a fool, how can I act like I am not a fool? What is the real difference here? Is there any difference at all? Oh, how confusing it all is.

I am afraid that confusion runs very deep in my life.

If I wanted to get out of the confusion syndrome, all I have to do is approach my wife and say, "I don't understand this, could you explain it to me?" After that, I am too confused to really understand that I am confused about it at all. Thanks, of course, to my wife who is confused about nothing that I know.

With her great skill in this area, she has helped me out of many a confusing situations.

Perhaps that is the pri-

mary difference between a husband and wife. The husband is afflicted with the confusion syndrome and the wife knows how to unconfuse her husband. She has a remedy, according to her, that will cure him immediately.

This is the great joy of my life to be able to ignore my confusion and trust my wife's judgment in this area. I can balance the checkbook, but I have a hard time balancing these confusion elements in my life. Thanks to my wife, I do not have to worry about it.

At my present junction in life, I do not know if I am really confused or not. It is rather a confusing aspect to think about right now. Am I confused or am I not confused. If I am confused, what are the symptoms? If I am not confused, how will I know?

Perhaps the most comforting aspect of life, at least for someone my age, is knowing you are confused, accept it and get on with life. Nothing is more satisfying in life than knowing what you are and being able to accept yourself as you are and then enjoy the rest of your life.

With so much to do in the world today, it is always comforting to know that there is something you do not have to do. I like what the apostle Paul said. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

In the midst of all your supposed confusion, sit back, take a deep breath and give thanks to God for his grace in accepting you as you are.

Church Events

DECEMBER 31 **JANUARY 13**

Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church invites the community to a New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk beginning Dec. 31 at 8 p.m., 3315 El Salido Parkway, Cedar Park. Visit www.liveoakuu.org.

JANUARY 6

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church is hosting a Blood Drive on Jan. 6, 1101 New Hope Dr., Cedar Park. Visit www.stmargaretmary.com.

JANUARY 9

Reconnect, reignite and resurrect your marriage at Reengage, a class for married couples, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., at Hill Country Bible Church Lakeline, 12124 RR 620, Austin.

Uplift Women's Gathering at Life Church creates a positive environment where women encourage one another through faith and establish relationships with other women, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. 1393 Woodview Dr., Leander. Visit yourlifefirstchurch.org.

The Edge Café live music and drama is an outreach ministry that encourages people to work together for the cause of reaching the lost with musical, drama, testimonial expression and alter call development. The next performance is Jan. 13, 8 p.m., at Potter's House Christian Church, 13461 Pond Springs Road, Austin. Visit www.austinpottershouse.com/edge.

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			2	8				
1			6					
	7		1					5
		9		4				
	3			7	5			4
			8				6	
	2		4		7			
	8	1			6		3	
5					9	8		7

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

ANSWER:

2	8	6	1	6	7	9	5	3
6	8	7	9	5	2	1	8	7
9	1	5	2	8	7	6	3	4
2	9	6	1	8	3	7	5	4
4	8	1	5	2	7	6	9	3
8	9	2	7	4	9	6	1	8
9	7	2	8	6	1	8	7	9
8	2	8	4	9	5	2	6	1
1	6	9	8	2	7	4	5	3



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017



The Solar Eclipse

During lunchtime Aug. 21, Central Texas noticed the light outside suddenly shifted as a new moon moved into the path of the sun, creating a large shadow.

The 2017 solar eclipse event was a unifying, near-magical event for much of the country. While we were far from the path of totality in North America — Hopkinsville, Kentucky got some of the best seats in the house this year — in our area in Northwest Austin, we were able to observe a partial solar eclipse.

The last time an eclipse was this widely visible across the United States was in 1979. The next eclipse will take place in April 8, 2024, and the Austin area will be within the path of totality that year.

Hurricane Harvey hits Texas, floods devastate eastern coast

In late August, Houston and the coastal towns of eastern Texas experienced the costliest hurricane natural disaster in US history. In a four-day period, many areas received more than 40 inches of flooding rains, inflicting nearly \$200 billion in damages.

Officials and residents of Cedar Park and Leander struggled the weekend of Aug. 26 with unprecedented flooding water that hit the Austin area as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Dozens of streets were closed in the two cities because of high water. Because of the deluge of rain caused by Harvey, south of Austin, the Colorado River crested at 53 feet — a 104 year record.

The Cedar Park Police Department and the Leander Fire Department sent teams of rescuers to help those persons in need in the low lying Houston area which was being devastated by high water. Several local businesses and groups provided aid in all forms, such as the Austin Disaster Relief Network, which has given over \$45,961 of clothing and shoes to more than 2,150 survivors impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Greg Kelley released on bail

This year saw one of the region's most controversial criminal cases reach dramatic heights.

Greg Kelley, a former Leander High School football player, served more than three years in jail after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 4-year-old boy at a daycare operated in the home where Kelley was residing at the time of the alleged events.

Kelley has proclaimed innocence all along, rejecting plea offers to prevent trial but later agreeing to a sentencing plea at the suggestion of his family, to avoid a possible life sentence once the jury found him guilty in July 2014.

Kelley was released on \$50,000 bond Aug. 22 after 26th District Judge Donna King granted his bail following a three-day hearing in her court in August raised ques-

tions about the effectiveness of Kelley's criminal defense attorney during the trial that convicted him three years ago.

After King recommended Kelley be declared innocent based on newly found evidence and his botched criminal investigation, Kelley's fate will now be in the hands of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The decision to either exonerate or order him back to continue to serve his sentence could take several months, and historically the court has a history of upholding convictions in innocence claims.

Cedar Park receives first Gold Star Family Monument in Texas

The first Gold Star Family Monument in Texas was unveiled during a dedication ceremony in Cedar Park's Warm Veteran Memorial Park Saturday, Sept. 23 with several state and local officials in attendance.

The monument honors families who has lost an immediate family member to duty in the U.S. armed forces. The monument is part of an effort by the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Gold Star Families Foundation to build one such monument in each of the 50 states.

Leander Gold Depository

In early November, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that Leander will be the future home of the Texas Bullion Depository, the nation's first state-administered gold depository. Construction on the multi-acre site is expected to begin in early 2018.

Governor Greg Abbott said the depository would increase the security and stability of state gold reserves and keep taxpayer funds from leaving Texas to pay for fees to store gold in other states' facilities.

"The city's agreement with Lone Star Tangible Assets will bring sustainable jobs to our workforce and encourage other industries to consider Leander as a corporate destination," said Leander economic director Mark Willis.

Voters approve \$454.4 million LISD bond

Voters approved a \$454.4 million bond package on Nov. 7, which will allow Leander ISD to address the rapid district growth, safety and facility improvements throughout the district. The fastest growing district in Texas is slated to gain 1,200 new students per year.

The bond's contents include building four new schools in four years, purchasing land for nine future schools, expanding Leander Middle School and Vandegrift High School, expanding instructional spaces for career programs in its high schools and replacing outdated technology throughout the district.



TOP MOVIES OF 2017

By SCOTT W. COLEMAN | HCN Publisher



1 GET OUT
Jordan Peele's directorial debut is anything but a typical horror film, and yet it is as terrifying as anything you're likely to find. Part suspenseful thriller, part comedy and part social commentary, "Get Out" is as close to a perfect film as I've seen in years.

Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) is a young African American traveling to meet the parents of his white girlfriend (Allison Williams) for the first time. As Chris' anxiety mounts, what starts as disbelief grows into sheer terror. The supporting cast—especially comedian LilRel Howery—is exceptional. "Get Out" is easily the best film of 2017.



2 WONDER WOMAN
Gal Gadot nails the heroine in her second big-screen appearance with the cuffs and whip and director Patty Jenkins delivers one of the best modern superhero films, setting the bar for all future DC comic book adaptations. Gadot's portrayal is everything we need in a hero—honest, sincere, and without a hint of the self-serving tortured personalities that seem to occupy DC's universe.

"Wonder Woman" is the film DC needed to compete with the Marvel juggernaut. Sadly, "Justice League" failed to rise to the lofty bar set by "Wonder Woman."



3 LADY BIRD
Saoirse Ronan very nearly (and should have) won the Oscar for her role in 2015's "Brooklyn." The 23-year-old has been nominated for two Academy Awards in her still-young career, and her work in Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird" should easily earn her a statue.

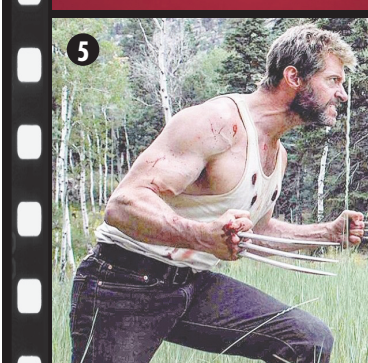
Gerwig herself should be a strong contender for Best Director after delivering a masterful film that she both wrote and directed. A warm and endearing coming-of-age story, "Lady Bird" follows the ups and downs of a high school senior preparing to enter the world as a young adult. Filled with damaged, vulnerable characters fully realized by a supporting cast that includes Tracy Letts and Laurie Metcalf as Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson's parents, "Lady Bird" is a treat.



4 BABY DRIVER
"Baby Driver" is a film as hard to categorize into a single genre as it is fun to watch.

Set to an eclectic soundtrack ranging from The Foundations to Queen to Young MC, writer-director Edgar Wright's "Baby Driver" is at once a comedy, romance, action-drama filled with car chases and underworld crime bosses.

Ansel Elgort is the titular Baby, while Kevin Spacey, Jon Bernthal, Jon Hamm and Jamie Foxx round out a stellar cast. Casting Lily James as Baby's love interest is perhaps the one casting decision that doesn't live up to its full potential. Still, "Baby Driver" is loads of fun.



5 LOGAN
Hugh Jackman's final appearance as the most popular of the X-Men, Wolverine, plays more like a neo-Western than a comic book superhero flick.

It's a touching and even heartbreaking end to Jackman's nine-film run, and the actor had a big say in setting the stage for his exit from the franchise. While I went in knowing it would be the last time to see Jackman and Patrick Stewart's Professor Xavier on the big screen, "Logan" was no less moving. This is a superhero movie that rarely feels like a superhero movie.

6 IT
Easily my favorite big screen adaptation of the prolific author's work, "It" focuses entirely on the portion of Stephen King's bestselling novel set in the past, serving as both a coming-of-age flick as well as a truly terrifying horror film that brings every child's nightmare visions to life.

While Tim Curry's Pennywise the Clown was certainly scary in the 1990 television miniseries, Swedish actor Bill Skarsgard induces shivers at first sight. Tall, imposing,

and boasting makeup more sinister than Curry's bright fairground appearance, Skarsgard's Pennywise embodies pure evil.

7 THOR: RAGNAROK
Taika Waititi was perhaps best known for his work on the HBO series "Flight of the Conchords," at least until 2014's "What We Do in the Shadows" helped elevate the New Zealander's directorial career.

"Thor: Ragnarok" marks Waititi's arrival as a director capable of helming the biggest of budgets on the largest of stages. Marvel's Cinematic Universe has had very few misses in the last decade, and Waititi managed to both carry the torch and bring something new to the series with his wry humor and a wink-and-nod acceptance of the fact that superhero films are sometimes best served bigger than life.

Where "Logan" was the low-key comic-book film grounded in a sense of reality, "Thor: Ragnarok" is brash, bold, colorful and set on a wild-and-crazy alien planet. Sure, it's out of this world, but it's also out of this world fun.

8 THE FLORIDA PROJECT
Willem Dafoe delivers one of his best and most heartfelt performances in years as a sweet motel manager at the center of the lives of dozens of poverty-stricken families just outside the gates of Walt Disney World.

Director Sean Baker steps up his game—and budget—from 2015's "Tangerine," which was shot entirely on an iPhone. Here, Baker has a budding talent in young Brooklynn Prince, who plays a 6-year-old girl living with her single mother in rampant poverty while wealth and plenty are just blocks away. "The Florida Project" is a film you won't soon forget.

9 THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MO.
Frances McDormand has delivered many memorable performances. Here, McDormand should earn another Oscar nomination for her portrayal of a bereaved mother seeking justice, even if it means fighting every single person in her small town.

Woody Harrelson is the police chief charged with investigating the murder of Mildred's (McDormand) daughter. But he's not getting anywhere and McDormand is determined to fight for the justice she believes is being denied her, by taking the bold step of erecting billboards attempting to motivate the chief through embarrassment if necessary.

Peter Dinklage and Sam Rockwell are fantastic, elevating the entire film into one of the more significant dark comedies in recent years.

10 STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI
Where there's a new Star Wars film, there's controversy. Some will be happy and some won't. Yet this film will do exactly what Disney hopes—attract hordes of new fans to the magic of the galaxy far far away.

Writer-director Rian Johnson seems to have almost intentionally avoided all the fan-fiction plots and instead delivers a tale that is both connected to the canon while taking the franchise further steps in a bold, new direction.

My chief complaint with the Episodes VII and VIII are the lack of clear and convincingly evil villains. Just as before, Kylo Ren is less menacing than he is petulant. Domhnall Gleeson's Hux is a bright spot on the dark side, but there's little resolution here to the lingering questions from "The Force Awakens" about the nature of the First Order.

Mark Hamill's reprisal as Luke Skywalker shows a fully matured and fully realized vision of the character he first portrayed 40 years ago. Daisy Ridley (Rey) and John Boyega (Finn) are every bit as enjoyable to watch as when we first met them in Episode VII. There may not be many answers here, but the long-running story does advance, albeit not in a way every traditional fan will like. That said, "The Last Jedi" is still one of my top films of 2017... it's a Star Wars film, after all.



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Reagan Orr
Tiras Parker-Pie
Neil Patel
Marlee Paules
Brianna Payne
Jacob Pell
Aidan Pena
Katie Pinkerton
Megan Pish
Ashley Poulsen
Jackson Quinn
Ayden Rails
Reese Ramirez
Andrew Randall
Marlee Randel
Meghna Ravi
Dyle Redfern
Kylan Robinson
Gabriela Robles
Victoria Rodriguez
Roxanne Salazar
Alireza Samandi
Ryan Sawicki
William Schroeder
Ryan Seibel
Sevilla Setfill
Bryce Sheehan
Akash Shetty
Shelby Smith
Carolynn Solorio
Isabella Squires
Kristyn Stephenson
Julie Sullivan
Cole Sylvester
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Rylan Tor
Tara Tu
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Ofer Turjeman
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Lauren Walter
Gerald Weber
Brianna Wechsler
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Kaitlynn Witter
Nathan Wright
Donya Yazdi
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Grant Lee
Sierra Lewis
William Lipscomb
Aaron Lorenz
Lydia Lovelace
Paris Maddox
Rehm Maham
Jason Malmquist
Olivia Maneikis
Nathan Maphet
Kathryn Marshall
Mackenzie Martinez
Michael Maxfield
Kelsey McFarland
Kendall McLain
Jenna McQueen
Anshul Modh
Parker Molecule
Maren Morales
Kendyl Morris
Samuel Muir
Jacob Munoz
Jennifer Nam
Esha Narvekar
Carson Neal
Gabrielle Nichols
Justin Nita
Eric Nunnellee
Kaitlyn Orr
Joshua Ou
Benedetta Paladini
Riley Pangilinan
Alexander Peal
Riley Petcosky
Jordan Peterson
Scott Philpot
Sydney Polishook
Brooks Raby
Kalei Ragland
Evan Richter
Maria Rico
Carly Rowe
Parker Schenck
Amy Shannon
Taryn Sheppard
Brayden Sherrord
Pujita Shukla
Susan Sigward
Shalini Siriwardena
Joshua Slobodnik
Eliana Spradling
Hannah Stein
Alena Strom
Jason Summers
Zachary Szabo
Isabelle Thai
Rebecca Thiemann
Hannah Thor
Ian Voor
Catherine White
Emily White
Liliana Whitley
Leah Wilcox
Kailey Williams
Sydney Williams
Troy Wright
Sangmin Yi
Isabella Zapata

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Maizer Sparkman
Reagan Stephenson
Cailin Sylvester
Michaela Thai
Annalise Thompson
Meghan Thompson
Tyra Thompson
Nhi Tran
Jennifer Walker
Beau Watson
Jack Weiland
Sydney Weiss
Macall Wells
Ravinn Wentworth
Kalee West
Sierra Wiggers
Abigail Williams
Daniel Williamson
Bradley Winn
Natalie Young

Justin Leavitt
Hunter Lobato
Leilani Lopez
Amanda Maglich
Emily Marchell
Merrick McCurdy
Adison McFall
Madelynn Meads
James Mills
Madison Myers
Riley Naugle
Elizabeth Nguyen
Jasmin Norman
Presley Pargin
Rebekah Parsley
Katryna Patterson
Gwyneth Pettus
Brianna Ramsey
Darrin Redford
Kevin Rivera
Rudy Rodriguez
Trevor Rubio
Sarah Schafer
Klea Simental
Grace Simmons
Lamont Slade
Charles Smith
Colton Stanton
Hannah Stedman
Sydney Steere
Matthew Thrush
Tara Wallace
William Walks
Matthew Winkley
Owen Yohman

Dustin Garza
Eli Gehman
Yui Ginther
Althea Noreen Giron
Isabel Gonzaba
Abigail Gordon
Chelsea Graves
Caleb Griffith
Ethan Grinstead
Mary Harvey
Rebekah Hefner
Celeste Hoang
Aaron Holder

Diego Segura
Megan Sheehy
Mara Sherry
Emily Smithson
Robin Smithson
Hunter Stevens
Avery Teets
Emily Toot
Benjamin Towell
Maevie Walsh
Malory Weigel
Yuqing Wu
Lennox Yocham

Ethan Welch
Kaden Westbrook
Ariel Williams
Grace Williams
Morgan Wilson
Vivian Yeager

Nicholas Temporale
Karlynn Thompson
Macy Traynham
Theresa Truong
Alex Tung
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Andres Vieira
Christina Vu
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Brooke Meseales
Eduardo Mercado
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Ian Morrison
Caleb Myers
Corbin Myers
Geneva Nedrow
Michael Neibauer
Dax Dalton
Gisele Nelson
Benny Nguyen
Victoria Dodgen
Taylor Douthitt
Alexandra
Elias Magana
Linda Engelman
Emma Foster
Seth Frances
Summer Fullwood
Cierra George
Jacob Goforth
Adrianna Guajardo
Grant Haden
Ashlyn Hall
Haley Heit
Riley Helbert
Payden Hesser
Bethany Hill
Evan Hoffman
Ian Hoffmann
Katlyn Hookstra
Airalih James
Mackenzie James
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Kassandra McCool
Carter McMahan
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Allan Partis
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Paola Perez-Laurence
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John Warzecha
Heather Waters
Ashlynn White
Morgan Wilkison
Joshua Winward
Zoe Wright
Kacy Wycoff
Sidney Yang
Andrea Yoon
Chanwoo Yoon
Taylor Yu

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Emily Alvis
Arya Anogol
Samantha Aucoin
Emma Baker
Joshua Baker
Liam Ballon
Kara Bang
Mia Benge
Kyle Blanco
Mason Borenstein
Carson Burke
Callie Copeland
Benjamin Corley
Madison Corson
Ricardo Cruz
Rachel Devolder
Caitlin Dodge
Jack Doohar
Emma Dunn
Zoe Dunn
Rylee Elam
Patrick Engle
Aidan Engstrom
Alyssa Fielding
Maximilien Fischer
Laurel Foster
James Freeman
Benjamin Fusilier
Sanjana Gagrani
Jonathan Geymer
Hannah Grabbe
Austin Grendel
Leahana Haberaman
Mattia Hajmeli
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Jennifer Han
Kennedy Haught
Finnegan Hein
Kaitlin Heins
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Nithila Ilangovan
Mitchell Jackson
Matthew James
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Willow Knight
Katelyn Knox
Cordelia K
Joshua Kolenbrander
Kasey Kobackes
Roshini
Krishnaswamy
Ryan Kuharski
Samuel Langenfeld

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Alexandra Allen
Grace Allen
Sameer Alzer
Caroline Banfi
Tyler Battle
Christopher Bauman
William Benson
Ashwini Bhat
Kathryn Bonnell
Connor Brack
Madison Brent
Jackson Buckingham
Cameron Bunge
Gordon Burt
Colin Busick
Annie Callahan
Nicholas Candido
Liana Cannon
Ellie Carr
Aaron Celis Aguirre
Lauren Cepeda
Alexis Cheatum
Madison Cheek
Ashley Chen
Katherine Clinch
Isaac Cloward
Courtney Conover
Skylar Cooper
Cheryl Cruz
Isabella Squires
Kristyn Stephenson
Julie Sullivan
Cole Sylvester
Amelia Tapia
Rylan Tor
Tara Tu
Inbar Turjeman
Ofer Turjeman
Gabriel Underwood
Evan Varan
Emma Vaughn
Brandon Vu
Audrey Walker
Lauren Walter
Gerald Weber
Brianna Wechsler
Ethan Weiland
Rebekah Winn
Lindsey Winograd
Kaitlynn Witter
Nathan Wright
Donya Yazdi
Jayne Yi

Tenth Grade:
Mia Aguirre
Brooke Albert
Anallyssa Arnett
Amelia Bellosi
Anson Bernhardt
Rachel Blakeney
Emily Bradley
Isabella Brine
Abigail Brunger
Ethan Bylsma
Ian Campbell
Kaitlyn Carmona
Haylee Cates
Diana Colunga
Devin Cooper
Eden Craven
Dalton Croft
Shelby Dubose
Jenna Duquette
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Mariah Hernandez
Vidal Hernandez
Maddison Hill
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Makenzie James
Kaily Jaramillo
Anami Porech
Gabrielle Reed
Ethan Reich
Jack Rich
Uday Rinu Chandran
Eleni Rodriguez
Isabella Rodriguez
Elise Rogalski
Adam Romer
Johnathan Ruen
Jared Ruffing
Emily Russell
Madelynn Sabrsula
Haylee Schafer
Brooke Schroeder
Maria Schutz
Arielle Shaver
Ashley Snyder
Edward Speer
Tori Spencer
Kaylee Starr
Hannah Terry
De Gorostiza
Kyle Tippetts
Macgregor Trinkle
Grace Vehlwald
Hayden Wells
Liam White
Claire Whitley
Kate Wright
Aidan Young

Tenth Grade:
Pranav Abbaraju
Qaim Abbas
Chloe Aldred
Muskan Ali
Monica Arredondo
Lyndsey Bagby
Daneae Barkocy
Mark Bennett
Dylan Berg
Mia Boyd
Kristina Bradley
Landon Buccelli
Robert Burnett
Carmen Carbo
Lyndee Cebulla
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Daniela Conchas
Eliza Cinca
Andres Cortez
Antonia Cox
Mia Crane
Aaliyah Diharce
Rylan Dunaway
Andrew Eiband
Danielle Endel
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Kevin Guerra
Thomas Hardin
Rylee Harwell
Nathan Hatter
Drew Headley
Joshua Hernandez
Matthew Heston
Racquel Hopkins
Jessica Huber
Michaela Ryabov
Joseph Salazar
Raegan Sanders
Julian Santa Cruz
Rithvik Saravanan
Makenzie Sexton
Ishav Shukla

Eleventh Grade:
Dylan Alexander
Hunter Andrews
Robert Arredondo
Kaila Azvedo
Jade Barger
Victor Barrios
Shea Bartell
Luke Bartell
Mateen Bashiri
Lilyana Beebe
Rachel Beese
Hannah Bode
Sydney Bradford
Brianna Branscomb
Kai Bravo De Rueda
Kerry Brown
George Carson
Bryciana Ceka
Angelina Cook
Riley Cotton
Alexis Cruz
Sasha Davis
Anastacia Marie
De Gorostiza
Camryn Dettten
Mckenna Donwerth
Madison Ellis
Juan Escobedo
Fay Fujimoto
Gabrielle Gilly
Natalia Gonzales
Arianna
Gonzales Montez
Daphnee-Anne
Grignon
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Sinclair Hammerbach
Duncan Harmon
Richard Hernandez
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Kamryn King
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Camryn Lamontagne
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Adelyne Payne
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Andrea Preocanin
Lauren Presley
Aimee Ramos
Jose Reyes Adan
Lehi Rodriguez
Sarah
Rodriguez-Dean
Lille Rowland
Grace Rusk
Conrad Russell
Cindy Salazar

Twelfth Grade:
Ayanna Zachery
Leonardo
Zamora Yanez

Twelfth Grade:
Jenna Abadie
Ariadna Alvarado
Hernandez
Bisusiwe Banda
Daniel Bonner
Devin Bowman
Irina Bozhkova
Ellie Butler
Kaela Castor
Mykala Daigle
Gila
Delgado Carpena
Mahek Dhuka
Ciara Foley
Maya France
Christopher Gauthier
Summer Gerhart
Juan Guerrero
Grace Guzman
Emmaline Hall
Bridget Hartzheim
Gretchen Hartzheim
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Connor Hill
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Mackenzie Kite
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Inca Krones
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Rafael
Lerma-Rosales
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Calista McClatchey
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Brynn Minter
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Ariel O'Gwin
Devki Patel
Mason Rivera
Amanda Rogers
Alyssa Romer
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Nicole Schwalbach
Danielle Sherry
Madisen Sickles
Colby Sollock
Abby Stacks
Bryce Trinkle
Carmen Vargas
Kyle Vogel
Emily Walton
Leon Ward
Matthew Whieldon

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Aguado Escandon
Leela Antykala
Matthew Barton
Chloe Baughman
Kaitlyn
Beasley-Zeitler
Sanjana Bejawada
Caitlyn Bendle
Joseph Biscoe
Ryan Bonnet
Savanna Brick
Ryan Butler
Callie Carrejo
April Choi
Jackson Cole
Samuel Cole
Kyndal Coppi
Megan Cornwell
Russell Cutler
Zachary Daugherty
Bryson Davis
Kaloyan Debyiski
Sean Edwards
Karen Eskandar
Beatrice Caryl
Espada
Lane Fallis
Kylie Fournier
Adam Franco
Marcus Franzetti
Eliana Gould
Andrew Graziano
Joshua Hatch
Audrey Helbert
Andrew Henson
Cruz Herrera
Cruz Hess
Jacob Hill
Neil Hoffmann
Cameron Hopkins
Joseph Hunninghake
Molly Hyyrick
Hrisha Jai
Felix Jarrett
Sydney Key
Sydney Knight
Jillian Le
Crista Lin
Sophie Liu
Siri Martinez
Cole Mayfield
Lidia Maza
Dylan Madzer
Kathleen McKim
Sydney Meier
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Haghighi
Revantth Myana
Brandon Nguyen
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Ainsley Paul
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Cameron Payne
Rachel Pazhoor
Katelynn Peeples
Isiah Phuong
Skylar Pikaart
Ariana Plummer
Emery Reid
Kevin Rieck
Abigail Rivas
Jax Rodgers
Michelle Salazar
Vanessa Sanchez
Payton Sanders
Dinesh Saripalli
Elizabeth Singhaus
Natalie Sinha
Logan Smith
Savannah Smith
Haddon Stauffer
Kirin Stewart
Mackenzie Stokes
Heili Suarez Doble
Lily Thompson
Mazilyn Tinnell
Adrine Vartanian
Ben Vo
Sterling Walzel

Twelfth Grade:
Bridget Ashford
Austin Barnes
Juandiego Barrera
Grace Basinger
Augustus Beach
Lauren Bierschenk
Trenton Bledsoe
Kelly Bobo
Harish Bommakanti
Kaci Borchardt
Adriana Botero
Barrington Bryant
Kendal Christiansen
Morgan Clarkson
Christopher Collins
Casia Cook
Alexis Copeland
Sophia Cramer
Lilyanne Crawford
Nash Degroat
Caleb Driskell
Kara Erfurth
Julian Erblu
Fritch Macias
Riley Grady
Jenna Hanson
Reilly Heinrich
Hannah Holbrooks
Lorea Homby
Shelby Hudson
Omar Imran
William Ingram
Gabriel Jimenez
Landon Jones
Ayesha Khan
Fischer Kingsbery
Samuel Lacy
Connor Leleux
Charis Lin
Lance Little
Keely Lyons
Brooklyn Martin
Austin Martinez
Alanna Mason
Jacqueline McCoy
Julia McLaughlan
Asher McPherson
Carissa Melendez
Riley Miller
Garrett Moody
Jaden Murdoch
Arshiya Murtaza
Nichole Nolan
Allison Pate
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Victoria Ramos
Tanner Robbins
Edna Rotich
Rebecca Rudloff
Grayson Schirpik
Matthew Schulz
Preslee Scott
Timothy Shen
Matthew Sherman
Taylor Shorb
Reed Shuffield
Avery Smith
Kylie Stokes
Harrison Talcott
Justin Teigte
Maria Teleforo
Ruby Tellez Sanchez
Marcela
Torres Guerrero
William Vickers
Lindsey Walker
Grace Wentworth
Celis Whinary
Jack Wingard
Zoey Younggren

Eleventh Grade:
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Harrison Adam
Juan Aguirre
Christine Ahn
Yazan Al-Sukhni
Nicholas Alfaro
Zaina Ali
Calista Ariztizabal
Anish Arumala
Alejandro
Balderas-Bernal
Elaina Balke
Parina Bavaria
Gray Beasley
Rj Beatusila Alado
Allison Bellows
Julia Belzel
Venice Mae Bender
Avery Bodden
Layton Bouldin
Sydney Bourgeois
Destiny Browley
Ivey Caraway
Seth Cardwell
Naz Ceylan
Nil Ceylan
Jalen Chamas
Andrew Chase
Thaddeus Cherry
Brooklyn Cieslar
Reid Clark
Erin Clawson
Jacob Cohen
Greg Cole
Shane Cullen
Jude Cyriac
Daniel Davis
Evan De Kay
Giulia De Pasquale
Sydney Demeayer
Molly Dilloway
Vincent Dinh
Mckenna Downey
Marin Ellis
Nyka Erickson
Rahul Erukulla
Kyle Vincent
Feliciano
Macy Fetchel
Ashlyn Fogg
Chloe Fritsch
Greer Gracaci
Jacob Giboney
Mireya Gonzalez
Katherine Grey
Dawson Groch
Grete Hamic
Yujin Han
Ryan Hansen
Matthew Hawes
Graciella Homan
Samantha Homiller
Mary Hoover
Mackenzie Hoskins
Juleah Hunt
Sharon Ibarra
Niraf Islam
Abigail Jablon
Matthew Jagen
Kellen Janda
Matthew Jenkins
Kaitlyn Johns
Quincy Johnson
Kylie Her
Samantha Higdon
Alex Hoang
Constance Holder
Connor Huggins
Amir Hussain
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Siddharth Kelvekar
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Abigail Archibald
Lillian Archibald
Watisapo Banda
Makenna Bayer
Trenton Becker
Breann Black
Luka
Bravo De Rueda
Adyson Brown
Caitlyn Brown
Emily Burtner
Carolina Cabral
Karenna Caton
Ashley Chalfant
Kaylie Chandler
Conner Chen
Matthias Chew
Kaitlin Chrestman
Melina
Cisneros-Bugarin
Madison Cook
Amanda Czyz
Taylor Dean
Sloane Diamond
Alex Dunbar
Briana Escobedo
Mia Evans
Seyedeheznaniz
Fazlollapur
Thomas Fugate
Faustine Joy Galagar
Isabella Gallo
Whitney Gerhart
Logan Gier
Kayla Gillen
Megan Hampton
Nicholas Hampton
Emily Hamsa
Lily Hatfield
Carter Hayes
Avery Heil
Robert Henderson
Casey Henne
Mckenzie
Henningens
Taylor Hill
Catherine Hoang
Richard Holifield
Chance Horton
Luke Hui
Skylar Jamar
Jharna Kamath
Reagan Komendera
Amanda Lee
Mya Levaughn
Jadon Lopez
Harrison Madden
Roxann Maldonado
Safa Maredia
Ryenne McDaniel
Ally McSorley
Jazmin Mendoza-Mondragon
Rayyan Merchant
Samantha Miller
Amanda Monteiro
Sarah Morrow
Blaine Newell
Aaron Nguyen
Kade O'Bar
Abigail O'Malley
Rachel Oliver
Gregory
Olvera-Aguilar
Tristyn Owens
Logan Patete
Audrey Peach
Addison Porech
Anami Quintero
Gabrielle Reed
Ethan Reich
Jack Rich
Uday Rinu Chandran
Eleni Rodriguez
Isabella Rodriguez
Elise Rogalski
Adam Romer
Johnathan Ruen
Jared Ruffing
Emily Russell
Madelynn Sabrsula
Haylee Schafer
Brooke Schroeder
Maria Schutz
Arielle Shaver
Ashley Snyder
Edward Speer
Tori Spencer
Kaylee Starr
Hannah Terry
De Gorostiza
Kyle Tippetts
Macgregor Trinkle
Grace Vehlwald
Hayden Wells
Liam White
Claire Whitley
Kate Wright
Aidan Young

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Marjorie Gibson
Cooper Gilkey
Bianca Gomez
Logan Green
Jaelyn Grimm
Matthew Grimm
Katelyn Groppe
Chantal Guerrero
Oscar
Guzman Martinez
Leif Hagler
Callysta Hall
Gracie Hall
Mia Hanlon
Jacob Heard
Reagan Hillis
Brandon Ho
Takara Holst
Kate Houston
Sydney Hunt
Emily Hunter
Callijo Hushka
Layla Ismail
Timothy Ithong
Alyson Jia
Kaley Johnson
Makya Jordan
Romeela Kar
Zarina Karadimce
Gregory Kaye
Sruthi Keerthipati
Jonathan Khadivi
Aaron Kim
Justin Kim
Nicholas Kim
Emilee Kitzmann
Sabrina Kline
Justin Knuffke
Anthony Kukla
Jayli Lasher
Charles Leckbee
Joseph Leckbee
David Lee
Shelby Lee
Ye Won Lee
Christopher Lemke
Matthew Lin
Iriyana Lipkin
Amber Lo
Emma Mahler
Zachary Manuel
Nasreen Marikar
Nicholas Martin
Ximena Martinez
Alexander Massaro
Allison McKeon
Brittney McKeown
Sheridan McLain
Julia Meyer
Olivia Meyer
Natalie Milton
Caeden Minix
Lauren Monroe
Grayson Moore
Keith Morgan
Lily Mueller
Sean Murphy
Samuel Nart
Elise Orgeron
Reagan Orr
Tiras Parker-Pie
Neil Patel
Marlee Paules
Brianna Payne
Jacob Pell
Aidan Pena
Katie Pinkerton
Megan Pish
Ashley Poulsen
Jackson Quinn
Ayden Rails
Reese Ramirez
Andrew Randall
Marlee Randel
Meghna Ravi
Dyle Redfern
Kylan Robinson
Gabriela Robles
Victoria Rodriguez
Roxanne Salazar
Alireza Samandi
Ryan Sawicki
William Schroeder
Ryan Seibel
Sevilla Setfill
Bryce Sheehan
Akash Shetty
Shelby Smith
Carolynn Solorio
Isabella Squires
Kristyn Stephenson
Julie Sullivan
Cole Sylvester
Amelia Tapia
Rylan Tor
Tara Tu
Inbar Turjeman
Ofer Turjeman
Gabriel Underwood
Evan Varan
Emma Vaughn
Brandon Vu
Audrey Walker
Lauren Walter
Gerald Weber
Brianna Wechsler
Ethan Weiland
Rebekah Winn
Lindsey Winograd
Kaitlynn Witter
Nathan Wright
Donya Yazdi
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Grant Lee
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William Lipscomb
Aaron Lorenz
Lydia Lovelace
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Jason Malmquist
Olivia Maneikis
Nathan Maphet
Kathryn Marshall
Mackenzie Martinez
Michael Maxfield
Kelsey McFarland
Kendall McLain
Jenna McQueen
Anshul Modh
Parker Molecule
Maren Morales
Kendyl Morris
Samuel Muir
Jacob Munoz
Jennifer Nam
Esha Narvekar
Carson Neal
Gabrielle Nichols
Justin Nita
Eric Nunnellee
Kaitlyn Orr
Joshua Ou
Benedetta Paladini
Riley Pangilinan
Alexander Peal
Riley Petcosky
Jordan Peterson
Scott Philpot
Sydney Polishook
Brooks Raby
Kalei Ragland
Evan Richter
Maria Rico
Carly Rowe
Parker Schenck
Amy Shannon
Taryn Sheppard
Brayden Sherrord
Pujita Shukla
Susan Sigward
Shalini Siriwardena
Joshua Slobodnik
Eliana Spradling
Hannah Stein
Alena Strom
Jasen Summers
Zachary Szabo
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Rebecca Thiemann
Hannah Thor
Ian Voor
Catherine White
Emily White
Liliana Whitley
Leah Wilcox
Kailey Williams
Sydney Williams
Troy Wright
Sangmin Yi
Isabella Zapata

Jack Si
Maizer Sparkman
Reagan Stephenson
Cailin Sylvester
Michaela Thai
Annalise Thompson
Meghan Thompson
Tyra Thompson
Nhi Tran
Jennifer Walker
Beau Watson
Jack Weiland
Sydney Weiss
Macall Wells
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Bradley Winn
Natalie Young

Justin Leavitt
Hunter Lobato
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Amanda Maglich
Emily Marchell
Merrick McCurdy
Adison McFall
Madelynn Meads
James Mills
Madison Myers
Riley Naugle
Elizabeth Nguyen
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Presley Pargin
Rebekah Parsley
Katryna Patterson
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Brianna Ramsey
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Kevin Rivera
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Trevor Rubio
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Grace Simmons
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Charles Smith
Colton Stanton
Hannah Stedman
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Matthew Winkley
Owen Yohman

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Eli Gehman
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Chelsea Graves
Caleb Griffith
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Rebekah Hefner
Celeste Hoang
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Robin Smithson
Hunter Stevens
Avery Teets
Emily Toot
Benjamin Towell
Maevie Walsh
Malory Weigel
Yuqing Wu
Lennox Yocham

Ethan Welch
Kaden Westbrook
Ariel Williams
Grace Williams
Morgan Wilson
Vivian Yeager

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Karlynn Thompson
Macy Traynham
Theresa Truong
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Zareh Vartanian
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Christina Vu
Kara Webb
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Zachary Ybarbo
Kennedy Zenon

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Muhammad Javed
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Minnat Karovalia
Dinesh Kesherla
Sohan Keshwala
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Madeline Linhart
Brooke Lund
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Abhiram Maddukuri
Marissa Mallingier
Mauricio
Malpica Calleja
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Ashlynn Marotte
Mikayla Martinez
Mackenzie Maxey
Maximilian
Mayson-Cleary
Kellene McKie
Brooke Meseles
Eduardo Mercado
Kenza Mestiri
Alice Meyer
Joshua Moore
Ian Morrison
Caleb Myers
Corbin Myers
Geneva Nedrow
Michael Neibauer
Dax Dalton
Thinh Dinh
Victoria Dodgen
Taylor Douthitt
Alexandra
Elias Magana
Linda Engelman
Emma Foster
Seth Frances
Summer Fullwood
Cierra George
Jacob Goforth
Adrianna Guajardo
Grant Haden
Ashlyn Hall
Haley Heit
Riley Helbert
Payden Hesser
Bethany Hill
Evan Hoffman
Ian Hoffmann
Katlyn Hookstra
Airalih James
Mackenzie James
Austin Jbeili
Duncan Jenkins
Priya Johnson
Lindsey Jones
Genesis Joel Garcia
Juliana Jasper
Rebecca Kirby
Madeline Koury
Alec Krueger
Madison Lampi
Spenser Lapointe
Julia Loza
Brittney Martin
Brenda Martinez
Nina Martins
Elan McCall
Kassandra McCool
Carter McMahan
Christian Millard
Cypher Miller
Layne Moffett
Matthew Moller
Kierra Murdoch
Dawson Neidhammer
Michael Ombres
Ashley Onyango
Allan Partis
Ashna Patel
Trevor Provencher
Keaton Pugh
Hannah Rearick
Kraig Rieck
Taylor Roach
Ty Robbins
Sofia Romera
Justin Rudi
Velocity Sanchez
Jordan Schwantner
Andrew Shaw
Madeline Sheehan
David Simpson
Martin Skender
Catherine Smith
Emily Spitzer
Isaiah Stone
Sophia Szabo
Grace Taccetta
Brooke Templeton
Ashley Thompson
Victor Torres
Cody Vannoy
Robert Weeks
Julie Weger
Naporn
Wongmuangkan
Jack Worley
Michael Worley
Sarah Yasin

Cristina Kasper
Harveen Kaur
John Kick
Grace Kim
Taehee Kim
Woosung Kim
Katrina Kingsada
Sannidhi Koganti
Mahitha Kovvuru
Canon Kromis
Abhik Kumar
Eshan Kwatra
Valerie Le
Hwanghee Lee
Natalie Lemanczyk
Jerry Li
Caroline Lilly
Kaelan Lindauer
Claire Lomand
Jordyn Lyons
Claire Maguire
Priya
Mahableshwarkar
Nila Manivannan
Dayanna Mantilla
Ana Martin
Molly Mastronardi
Madison Maxey
Jack Mc Millan
Michelle
McNally-Durkin
Anthony Mercado
Christopher Mercado
Justin Milushev
Chloe Mitchell
Grace Montgomery
Tobias Morier
Zion Neat
Kiseul Neo
Darren Nguyen
Lanna Nguyen
Leydon Nguyen
Mandy Nguyen
Skye Nguyen
Emily Ogden
Isabel Oleary
Jenna Owens
Mohammed Oza
Aneri Park
Sophia Patel
Kaylyn Perry
Jordyn Plymire
Jonathan Postelnik
Mason Pryor
Falynn Pyterek
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Wilson Ramsey
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William Robertson
Mckenzie Rodriguez
Nova Rodriguez
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Katherine Rowley
Kira Robson
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Mariana Rodriguez
Charlotte Roman
Maria
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Sergio Ruenes
Zayne Schizas
Heena Shin
Alexander Shinada
Mason Skidmore
Chloe Smith
Melodie Song
Mackenzi
Steczowski
Madison Stout
Chloe Strain
Emily Szweczyk
Elias Taira
Ian Thomas
Matthew Thomas
Hilda Nicole Tole
Taylor Travis
Lainey
Vanlandingham
Macie Varnell
Emily Vincent
Renae
Walker-Zamora
Jack Warham
Alexander Warren
John Warzecha
Heather Waters
Ashlynn White
Morgan Wilkison
Joshua Winward
Zoe Wright
Kacy Wycoff
Sidney Yang
Andrea Yoon
Chanwoo Yoon
Taylor Yu

Eleventh Grade:
Lauren Allen
Emily Alvis
Arya Anogol
Samantha Aucoin
Emma Baker
Joshua Baker
Liam Ballon
Kara Bang
Mia Benge
Kyle Blanco
Mason Borenstein
Carson Burke
Callie Copeland
Benjamin Corley
Madison Corson
Ricardo Cruz
Rachel Devolder
Caitlin Dodge
Jack Doohar
Emma Dunn
Zoe Dunn
Rylee Elam
Patrick Engle
Aidan Engstrom
Alyssa Fielding
Maximilien Fischer
Laurel Foster
James Freeman
Benjamin Fusilier
Sanjana Gagrani
Jonathan Geymer
Hannah Grabbe
Austin Grendel
Leahana Haberaman
Mattia Hajmeli
Allyson Hall
Jennifer Han
Kennedy Haught
Finnegan Hein
Kaitlin Heins
Chloe Heitmeier
Hogan Helms
Zachary Herboek
Ian Hess
Ashley Hibbetts
Braeden Hufford
Nithila Ilangovan
Mitchell Jackson
Matthew James
Hunpton Jenschke
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Vincent Joubarne
Adri Karmakar
Vaniya Khan
Edward Kilgore
Joon Kim
Kristin Knight
Willow Knight
Katelyn Knox
Cordelia K
Joshua Kolenbrander
Kasey Kobackes
Roshini
Krishnaswamy
Ryan Kuharski
Samuel Langenfeld

Twelfth Grade:
Amber Adkins
Alexandra Allen
Grace Allen
Samer Alzer
Caroline Banfi
Tyler Battle
Christopher Bauman
William Benson
Ashwini Bhat
Kathryn Bonnell
Connor Brack
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Skylar Cooper
Cheryl Cruz
Isabella Squires
Kristyn Stephenson
Julie Sullivan
Cole Sylvester
Amelia Tapia
Rylan Tor
Tara Tu
Inbar Turjeman
Ofer Turjeman
Gabriel Underwood
Evan Varan
Emma Vaughn
Brandon Vu
Audrey Walker
Lauren Walter
Gerald Weber
Brianna Wechsler
Ethan Weiland
Rebekah Winn
Lindsey Winograd
Kaitlynn Witter
Nathan Wright
Donya Yazdi
Jayne Yi

Tenth Grade:
Mia Aguirre
Brooke Albert
Anallyssa Arnett
Amelia Bellosi
Anson Bernhardt
Rachel Blakeney
Emily Bradley
Isabella Brine
Abigail Brunger
Ethan Bylsma
Ian Campbell
Kaitlyn Carmona
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Diana Colunga
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Dalton Croft
Shelby Dubose
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Chenyenne Farmer
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Gavira Martinez
Yamel Godinez
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Creed Hasbrouck
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Hannah Terry
De Gorostiza
Kyle Tippetts
Macgregor Trinkle
Grace Vehlewald
Hayden Wells
Liam White
Claire Whitley
Kate Wright
Aidan Young

Tenth Grade:
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Qaim Abbas
Chloe Aldred
Muskan Ali
Monica Arredondo
Lyndsey Bagby
Danae Barkocny
Mark Bennett
Dylan Berg
Mia Boyd
Kristina Bradley
Landon Buccelli
Robert Burnett
Carmen Carbo
Lyndee Cebulla
Andy Chiu
Madison Clark
Daniela Conchas
Eliza Cinca
Andres Cortez
Antonia Cox
Mia Crane
Aaliyah Diharce
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Isabelle Gilmore
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Thomas Hardin
Rylee Harwell
Nathan Hatter
Drew Headley
Joshua Hernandez
Matthew Heston
Racquel Hopkins
Jessica Huber
Michaela Ryabov
Joseph Salazar
Raegan Sanders
Julian Santa Cruz
Rithvik Saravanan
Makenzie Sexton
Ishav Shukla

Eleventh Grade:
Dylan Alexander
Hunter Andrews
Robert Arredondo
Kaila Azvedo
Jade Barger
Victor Barrios
Shea Bartell
Luke Bartell
Mateen Bashiri
Lilyana Beebe
Rachel Beese
Hannah Bode
Sydney Bradford
Brianna Branscomb
Kai Bravo De Rueda
Kerry Brown
George Carson
Bryciana Ceka
Angelina Cook
Riley Cotton
Alexis Cruz
Sasha Davis
Anastacia Marie
De Gorostiza
Camryn Dettten
Mckenna Donwerth
Madison Ellis
Juan Escobedo
Fay Fujimoto
Gabrielle Gilly
Natalia Gonzales
Arianna
Gonzales Montez
Daphnee-Anne
Grignon
Colin Gustafson
Robert Guzman
Sinclair Hammerbach
Duncan Harmon
Richard Hernandez
Connor Hognlund
Caroline Holmes
Claire Imig
Angel Jaimes
Catherine Kaylor
Taylor Key
Kamryn King
Mallory Koch
Tyler Kunze
Cara Lalonde
Camryn Lamontagne
Gunnar Linaard
Isaiah Magnusson
Nancy Maldonado
Oscar Martinez
William McCullar
Erin McSorley
Allison Melanson
Haley Mossell
Brendan Nguyen
Jorge Olan
Eralp Orkun
Isabelle Gilmore
Chandani Patel
Adelyne Payne
Mirjam Pearnan
Alexandria Pena
Katherine Pizer
Andrea Preocanin
Lauren Presley
Aimee Ramos
Jose Reyes Adan
Lehi Rodriguez
Sarah
Rodriguez-Dean
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Grace Rusk
Conrad Russell
Cindy Salazar

Abigail Ibarra
Emily Irlbeck
Lucas Judys
Gergo Karakai
Natalie Kerlick
Caitlyn King
Riley Kirchoff
Ann Kling
Felix Kronen
Taylor Lammi
Ethan Lavay
Kylie Lawhon
Jack Leslie
Emily Lieou
Miranda Lim
Jordan Lindsey
Dominic Lopez
Victoria Lopez
Clayton Maddox
Isha Maknoja
Caleb Martinez
Grace McCabe
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Elu Mena
Zachary Meyer
Laclea Miles
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Thien-Quang Nguyen
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Dalten Rickmers
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William Roberts
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Makylie Van Zandt
Olivia Vestal
Kaitlyn Wheeler
Jacob Winsor
Anthony Younger
Karla
Zavala Almazan

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Brenda
Aguado Escandon
Leela Antykala
Matthew Barton
Chloe Baughman
Kaitlyn
Beasley-Zeitler
Sanjana Bejawada
Caitlyn Bendle
Joseph Biscoe
Ryan Bonnet
Savanna Brick
Ryan Butler
Callie Carrejo
April Choi
Jackson Cole
Samuel Cole
Kyndal Coppi
Megan Cornwell
Russell Cutler
Michael Daugherty
Bryson Davis
Kaloyan Debyiski
Sean Edwards
Karen Eskandar
Beatrice Caryl
Espada
Lane Fallis
Kylie Fournier
Adam Franco
Marcus Franzetti
Eliana Gould
Andrew Graziano
Joshua Hatch
Audrey Helbert
Andrew Henson
Cruz Herrera
Cruz Hess
Jacob Hill
Neil Hoffmann
Cameron Hopkins
Joseph Hunninghake
Molly Hyyrick
Hrisha Jaim
Felix Jarrett
Sydney Key
Sydney Knight
Jillian Le
Crista Lin
Sophie Liu
Siri Martinez
Cole Mayfield
Lidia Mazer
Dylan Madza
Randell McKim
Sydney Meier
Sayna Moataman
Haghighi
Revantth Myana
Brandon Nguyen
Annabella Ninomiya
Ainsley Paul
Ethan Paulson
Cameron Payne
Rachel Pazhoor
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Isiah Phuong
Skylar Pikaart
Ariana Plummer
Emery Reid
Kevin Rieck
Abigail Rivas
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Dinesh Saripalli
Elizabeth Singhaus
Natalie Sinha
Logan Smith
Savannah Smith
Haddon Stauffer
Kirin Stewart
Mackenzie Stokes
Heili Suarez Doble
Lily Thompson
Mazilyn Tinnell
Adrine Vartanian
Ben Vo
Sterling Walzel

Eleventh Grade:
Jenny Ainsworth
Hannah Aldrich
Christian Alexander
Anna Armstrong
Shelby Bachmayer
Abigail Bendle
Connor Bennett
Zachary Black
Madison Boardman
Sriram Bommakanti
Aaron Bouchard
Zoe Boyte-Thomas
Karissa Brick
Connor Brown
Keaton Brown
Mark Bush
Madison Bushong
Paige Butler
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Thaliah Cardenas
Delaney Carrell
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Rose Doherty
Aleksi Edwards
Megan Ellis
Abigail Forster
Emily Forster
Katherine Goertz
Madison Gould
Haddon Haby
Sophie Hall
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Katlin Hernandez
Sydney Hoppe
Kaitlyn Hunt
April Johnson
Rachel Jung
Abigail Jungmann
Bailey Kerns
Dylan Lavalley
Ryan Lewis
William Lilienthal
Hannah Lucas
James McCoy
Alejandro Melendez
Meg Mitchell
Robert Mount
Kent Ninomiya
Michael Olivas
Megan Ombres
Olivia Oswald
Andrew Padilla
William Payne
Sydney Perkins
Austin Pham
Samuel Piper
Diego Rios Rivera
Baily Rouse
Alexander Saez
Aranza Salcido
Rachel Schneidereit
Taylor Schwantner
Sydney Sheehan
Madyson Shelley
Conner Shields
Alexander Shirvydas
Emma Stein
Charles Steiner
Annabeth Stover
Rachel Summers
Isabelle Szepatowski
Britni Tatum
Kaitlyn Tatum
Ethan Taub

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Mariah Alejo
Joseph Alfy
Krystal Almond
Deanna Alpert
Aleks Bari Dos Reis
Erik Bari Dos Reis
Ava Bell
Mackenzie Berkley
Carter Berling
Devon Blakeney
Cole Bresnahan
Kacie Brown
Travis Buchanan
Marshal Bucher
Briahna Burnett
Lauren Burnett
Blake Butler
Marty Butler
Hannah Carrillo
Jaide Castle
William Chiasson
Dax Dalton
Thinh Dinh
Victoria Dodgen
Taylor Douthitt
Alexandra
Elias Magana
Linda Engelman
Emma Foster
Seth Frances
Summer Fullwood
Cierra George
Jacob Goforth
Adrianna Guajardo
Grant Haden
Ashlyn Hall
Haley Heit
Riley Helbert
Payden Hesser
Bethany Hill
Evan Hoffman
Ian Hoffmann
Katlyn Hookstra
Airalih James
Mackenzie James
Austin Jbeili
Duncan Jenkins
Priya Johnson
Lindsey Jones
Genesis Joel Garcia
Juliana Jasper
Rebecca Kirby
Madeline Koury
Alec Krueger
Madison Lampi
Spenser Lapointe
Julia Loza
Brittney Martin
Brenda Martinez
Nina Martins
Elan McCall
Kassandra McCool
Carter McMahan
Christian Millard
Cypher Miller
Layne Moffett
Matthew Moller
Kierra Murdoch
Dawson Neidhammer
Michael Ombres
Ashley Onyango
Allan Partis
Ashna Patel
Trevor Provencher
Keaton Pugh
Hannah Rearick
Kraig Rieck
Taylor Roach
Ty Robbins
Sofia Romera
Justin Rudi
Velocity Sanchez
Jordan Schwantner
Andrew Shaw
Madeline Sheehan
David Simpson
Martin Skender
Catherine Smith
Emily Spitzer
Isaiah Stone
Sophia Szabo
Grace Taccetta
Brooke Templeton
Ashley Thompson
Victor Torres
Cody Vannoy
Robert Weeks
Julie Weger
Naporn
Wongmuangkan
Jack Worley
Michael Worley
Sarah Yasin

Tenth Grade:
Nicholas
Abouelkheir
Dan Adzinets
Jenna Alsukhni
Ashley Anderson
David Anderson
Payton Atkinson
Elissa Avila
Niyati Barbara
Liselle Bagoio
Anna Baldwin
Alyssa Balke
Alyssa Balko
Cassidy Barrett
Corbin Bates
Angela Bauer
Hannah Benitez
Brooke Bergeron
Breanne Bittick
Heather Bonner
Nicole Borgmann
Allen Brewton
Alexandra
Brissenden
Emma Bryson
Isabel Buratto
Jordan Camilletti
Rylee Castanieto
Ryan Chang
Ethan Chen
Chloe Chessher
Jordyn
Churchwell-Garcia
Maggie Cliffl
Paige Cliffl
Jalayna Colburn
Case Connor
Makenzie Costa
Bailey Crowley
Jehaan Dalal
Khoo Dang
Christian Daniel
Emma Davies
Avery Davis
Pablo De La Garza
Jennifer Dozier
Joseph Ebersole
Taylor Emeka
Jewells Escamilla
Brandon Farber
Adrianna
Flores-Vivas
Bryce Flynn
Bernadette Foran
Morgan Francis
Carley Germaine
Aarohi Gherkar
Alice Green
Ian Grey
Lyla Guidry
Taegen Gunn
Benjamin Gutierrez
Kimberly Guzman
Ozair Habib
Audrey Hallam
Mallori Hamilton
Luce Hammond
Paul Han
Keonalani Hansen
Claudia Gatica
Vivian Gatica
Emma Groch
Owen Gruben
Alaina Hansen
Taylor Harvey
Kristopher Hatch
Luke Hatch
Abigail Hawes
Emily Herrin
Alexa Hilsenteger
Emma Homer
Jordan Howell
Brendon Hunt
Leah Ingram

Eleventh Grade:
Julia Abreu
Harrison Adam
Juan Aguirre
Christine Ahn
Yazan Al-Sukhni
Nicholas Alfaro
Zaina Ali
Calista Ariztizabal
Anish Arumalla
Alejandro
Balderas-Bernal
Elaina Balke
Parina Bavaria
Gray Beasley
Rj Beatusila Alado
Allison Bellows
Julia Belzel
Venice Mae Bender
Avery Bodden
Layton Bouldin
Sydney Bourgeois
Destiny Browley
Ivey Caraway
Seth Cardwell
Naz Ceylan
Nil Ceylan
Jalen Chamas
Andrew Chase
Thaddeus Cherry
Brooklyn Cieslar
Reid Clark
Erin Clawson
Jacob Cohen
Greg Cole
Shane Cullen
Jude Cyriac
Daniel Davis
Evan De Kay
Giulia De Pasquale
Sydney Demeayer
Molly Dilloway
Vincent Dinh
Mckenna Downey
Marin Ellis
Nyka Erickson
Rahul Erukulla
Kyle Vincent
Feliciano
Macy Fetchel
Ashlyn Fogg
Chloe Fritsch
Greer Gracaci
Jacob Giboney
Mireya Gonzalez
Katherine Grey
Dawson Groch
Grete Hamic
Yujin Han
Ryan Hansen
Matthew Hawes
Graciella Homan
Samantha Homiller
Mary Hoover
Mackenzie Hoskins
Juleah Hunt
Sharon Ibarra
Niraf Islam
Abigail Jablon
Matthew Jagen
Kellen Janda
Matthew Jenkins
Kaitlyn Johns
Quincy Johnson
Bryce Jones
Kaitlyn Jones
Maneeza Kalim
Drishiti Kansara
Meghana Karimisetty
Naimish Kavani
Konnar Keckley
Kailee Keiser
Siddharth Kelvekar
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Mariah Alejo
Joseph Alfy
Krystal Almond
Deanna Alpert
Aleks Bari Dos Reis
Erik Bari Dos Reis
Ava Bell
Mackenzie Berkley
Carter Berling
Devon Blakeney
Cole Bresnahan
Kacie Brown
Travis Buchanan
Marshal Bucher
Briahna Burnett
Lauren Burnett
Blake Butler
Marty Butler
Hannah Carrillo
Jaide Castle
William Chiasson
Dax Dalton
Thinh Dinh
Victoria Dodgen
Taylor Douthitt
Alexandra
Elias Magana
Linda Engelman
Emma Foster
Seth Frances
Summer Fullwood
Cierra George
Jacob Goforth
Adrianna Guajardo
Grant Haden
Ashlyn Hall
Haley Heit
Riley Helbert
Payden Hesser
Bethany Hill
Evan Hoffman
Ian Hoffmann
Katlyn Hookstra
Airalih James
Mackenzie James
Austin Jbeili
Duncan Jenkins
Priya Johnson
Lindsey Jones
Genesis Joel Garcia
Juliana Jasper
Rebecca Kirby
Madeline Koury
Alec Krueger
Madison Lampi
Spenser Lapointe
Julia Loza
Brittney Martin
Brenda Martinez
Nina Martins
Elan McCall
Kassandra McCool
Carter McMahan
Christian Millard
Cypher Miller
Layne Moffett
Matthew Moller
Kierra Murdoch
Dawson Neidhammer
Michael Ombres
Ashley Onyango
Allan Partis
Ashna Patel
Trevor Provencher
Keaton Pugh
Hannah Rearick
Kraig Rieck
Taylor Roach
Ty Robbins
Sofia Romera
Justin Rudi
Velocity Sanchez
Jordan Schwantner
Andrew Shaw
Madeline Sheehan
David Simpson
Martin Skender
Catherine Smith
Emily Spitzer
Isaiah Stone
Sophia Szabo
Grace Taccetta
Brooke Templeton
Ashley Thompson
Victor Torres
Cody Vannoy
Robert Weeks
Julie Weger
Naporn
Wongmuangkan
Jack Worley
Michael Worley
Sarah Yasin

Vista Ridge High School Ninth Grade:
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Weade Louise
Adeleke
Samantha Agron
Joy Ahn
Abdallah Al-Sukhni
Mohammed Ali
Lucy Allen
Aiden Bailey
Samantha Bastin
Kush Bavaria
Aiden Beasley
Luis Becerra
Rebecca Belzel
Megan Berry
Mason Biedermann
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Kelley Cooke-Weeks
Courtney Cooke
Samantha Cooke
Jase Cortez
Brennan Cox
Niharika Dahal
Ava Dahl
Viet-Thy Dang
Brennyn Dawes
Alyssa Dulock
Marissa Engert
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Mary Farrell
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Jordan Howell
Brendon Hunt
Leah Ingram

Wrestling teams have high hopes on the mat

By ZACH SMITH
HCN Sports Editor

The wrestling season is already well underway, and all six LISD teams participated in the Hill Country Invitational at Vista Ridge Dec. 16.

Vandegrift won the meet with 205 points and had eight wrestlers come in the top three of their respective weight classes. Leander finished fifth overall with 147 points, Cedar Park (147) finished ninth, Vista Ridge (97) came in 11th, while Glenn and Rouse tied for 16th with 76 points.

"I'm really excited about this season because we've got some seasoned wrestlers," Vista Ridge coach David Burdick said. "Last we had a lot of kids that didn't have a lot of mat time, so they took their lumps. They're developing now here we could compete for a district championship."

Burdick said last year, there



ZACH SMITH

Cedar Park finished ninth at the Hill Country Invitational on Dec. 16. The Timberwolves were third among LISD schools, falling only to Vandegrift and Leander.

were one freshman and three sophomores in the lineup and it's easier to make mistakes that cost them matches. But through that

process they start to learn the little things that it takes to turn a pin into a close match.

He highlighted Troy Smith,

who finished fourth at the Hill Country Invitational at 106 pounds, and Kelby Davis, who won the 195-pound division, as two potential state qualifiers from the Rangers.

Burdick said the process of maintaining strength and weight in high school is about discipline and checking weight on a daily basis. They also work out in the athletic period and condition to help keep things stable.

"They can't go out and get a Triple Whataburger," he said. "That's what they want to do. It's part of the maturity. Part of wrestling is learning that sacrifice and self-discipline."

Cedar Park's win was highlighted by a victory by freshman Gage Foulds in the 106.5-pound division and a second place finish in the 220-pound class Levi Bell, who was a state qualifier last season.

"We've got a couple kids that have been wrestling for three or four years," Cedar Park head coach Nick Asmus said. "Our goal is the district championship, and we've got the kids in the right places to go for it."

He said the team's strength is in some of the upper weight classes. In the middleweights, there are some kids out with injuries that he expects to do well but there are still others that are fighting hard.

For a high schooler to commit to wrestling, he said there's something different that needs to happen mentally.

"It takes a lot more focus," Asmus said. "They're usually catching buses at 4:30 a.m. on Saturdays just to spend entire day in a hot gym. It's a good test in time management because you can't always pull your English book out in the middle of a gym."

Lake Travis comes up short against Allen in state title game

By ZACH SMITH
HCN Sports Editor

ARLINGTON — Lake Travis played Saturday's season finale as if the first 14 seconds of the game never happened.

The Cavaliers battled back from a three-score deficit, scoring 24 unanswered points but ultimately falling to Allen 35-33 in the Class 6A Division I State Championship game Saturday afternoon at AT&T Stadium.

"Our guys are mentally tough," Lake Travis head coach Hank Carter said. "It develops with the season we've had. Our non-district is set up for the purpose so we can get in some adverse situations. You don't know how you'll respond until you get your nose bloodied a little bit. The kids didn't panic."

Lake Travis' Ohio State-bound starting quarterback Matthew Baldwin went down with a knee injury on the first play of the game and the Eagles returned the fumble for a touchdown.

Sophomore Hudson Card — who spent most of the year as a receiver — came in for the rest of the game and finished with 224 passing yards and one touchdown, three interceptions and ran for 73 yards and a score.

"Of all the games to come in for, that's probably the most pressure you can have," Baldwin said. "He did a great job

and stayed calm the whole time. He's got a lot in front of him and he's going to move on from this."

Junior Lake Travis receiver Garrett Wilson caught eight passes for 99 yards. Kyle Wakefield ran for 24 yards and caught a touchdown. Three Cavaliers racked up double-digit tackles, led by Mauricio Trevino with 14. Ty Badciong and Bryce Roderer each had 12.

Allen running back Brock Sturgis, later named the game's Offensive MVP, rushed for 176 yards and three touchdowns and quarterback Grant Tisdale had 82 rushing yards and one touchdown.

The Eagles out-rushed the Cavaliers 289-92, while Lake Travis held a 224-34 edge in passing yards.

"When you play a team like Lake Travis, you know it's going to be the whole four quarters," Allen coach Terry Gambill said. "That's what you've got to withstand."

Sturges ran for a pair of first-quarter touchdowns for Allen, first from 13-yard out with just under 10 minutes left in the period and again five minutes later to extend the Eagles' lead to 21-0.

Lake Travis began to battle back when Nathan Parodi returned a kickoff 84 yards on the ensuing kick. Card ran for a 3-yard touchdown on the first drive of the second quarter and Cameron Dicker hit



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Lake Travis head coach Hank Carter talks to his team following last Saturday's 35-33 loss to Allen in the Class 6A Division I state football championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

a 32-yard field goal just before the half.

"The team was down and I knew we needed a momentum switch," Parodi said. "I just try to go out there and be that guy that gets our team hype and back in the game. All it takes is one play and our team lifts their heads up."

The second half started just like the game did, with a defensive touchdown.

Sophomore Kyle Eaves took an interception to the house to give Lake Travis its first lead of the game.

Allen started to grind the running game on back-to-back drives, scoring first on a 13-play, 74-yard series and again after eight plays and 44 yards.

See LAKE TRAVIS, pg. 11

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Lake Travis 33
Allen 35

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AHS	21	0	14	0	35

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

District 29-5A

Cedar Park
Next Three Games:
Jan. 5 vs. Connelly, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 at Hutto, 7 p.m.
Jan. 12 vs. Elgin, 7 p.m.

Rouse
Next Three Games:
Jan. 2 at Round Rock, 7 p.m.
Jan. 5 vs. Hutto, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 vs. Elgin, 7 p.m.

District 25-6A

Leander
Next Three Games:
Jan. 3 at Vista Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6 vs. Vandegrift, 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 at Hays, 7:30 p.m.

Vandegrift
Next Three Games:

Jan. 3 at Lehman, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6 at Leander, 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 vs. Vista Ridge, 7:30 p.m.

Vista Ridge
Next Three Games:
Jan. 3 vs. Leander, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5 at Bowie, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 at Vandegrift, 7:30 p.m.

District 19-4A

Glenn
Next Three Games:
Jan. 2 at Llano, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 5 vs. Lampasas, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 12 at Burnet, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

District 29-5A

Cedar Park
Next Three Games:
Jan. 3 vs. Georgetown, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 6 at Connelly, 12:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 vs. Hutto, 7 p.m.

Rouse
Next Three Games:
Jan. 3 vs. Connelly, 7 p.m.
Jan. 6 at Hutto, 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 9 vs. Elgin, 7 p.m.

District 25-6A

Leander
Next Three Games:
Jan. 2 vs. Vista Ridge, 7 p.m.
Jan. 5 at Vandegrift, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 at Hays, 7 p.m.

Vandegrift
Next Three Games:
Jan. 2 at Lehman, 7 p.m.
Jan. 5 vs. Leander, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 at Vista Ridge, 7 p.m.

Vista Ridge
Next Three Games:
Jan. 2 at Leander, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 vs. Vandegrift, 7 p.m.
Jan. 12 at Hays, 7 p.m.

District 19-4A

Glenn
Next Three Games:
Jan. 2 at Llano, 8 p.m.
Jan. 5 vs. Lampasas, 8 p.m.
Jan. 12 at Burnet, 8 p.m.

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LAKE TRAVIS, from pg. 10

The Cavaliers counterpunched with a touchdown pass by Card to Kyle Wakefield. The game-tying 2-point conversion fell incomplete.

"I've got the best kids in the world. It was an awesome year. It was a grueling year, 19 weeks of tackle football will wear you down. Our program is not to the point where we like moral victories. We're disappointed, we felt like we had a chance to win the game."

Lake Travis has been to the state championship game eight times in the last 10 years — including three straight appearances — and have won six titles.

This season, the Cavaliers dropped their season-opening game to Converse Judson and lost to Westlake for the first time in a decade after a mass exodus of talent to the college level.

But this year's team proved it truly was reloaded.

"When we graduated all those (great) players, everyone wrote us off and said it was going to be a rebuilding year," senior defensive lineman Reid Bacon said.

"We didn't really listen to that. We decided to take it upon ourselves to be the

best we could be and we did that," said Bacon.

State title roundup

Among the other action in the 12 state championship football games played last week in Arlington, Strawn kicker Lani Nava became the first female kicker to score points in a Texas state football championship, going 9-for-10 in extra points in Strawn's 78-42 win over Balmorhea in the 1A-DII title game on Wednesday.

Borden County won a second-straight 1A-DI title, beating Jonesboro 60-22 and Muenster downed Tenaha 27-20 in the 2A-DII game to become the first team in state history to win boys basketball, baseball and football championships in the same year.

Mart beat Refugio 34-21 to win its sixth state championship in the 2A-DI title game Wednesday night and Newton blew out defending champion Gunter 40-16, snapping the Tigers' 31-game win streak in the 3A-DII championship game.

Defending 3A-DI champion Brock fell 45-29 to Rockdale as Tigers' quarterback Torry Locklin racked up 477 total yards and five touchdowns in an Offensive MVP perfor-

mance Thursday afternoon.

The state's longest active winning streak came to an end in the 4A-DII championship game as Texarkana Pleasant Grove won its first-ever state championship in a 41-21 victory over back-to-back champion West Orange-Stark that was much closer than the final score would indicate.

Carthage won its sixth title in 10 years under head coach Scott Surratt, blowing out Kennedale 49-21 in the 4A-DI title game.

In the 4A-DII game, College Station edged out Aleo 20-19 to win its first-ever title, beating a Bearcats team that entered 7-for-8 in title game appearances.

Championship weekend was highlighted by an instant classic, with Highland Park coming from behind to beat favored Manvel 53-49 in a 5A-DI game that went down to the very last play as the Scots were able to hold A&M commit Jalen Preston just a yard shy of the goal line on a would-be game-winning catch as time expired.

In the championship weekend's finale, Cy-Fair won its first championship in a 51-35 beatdown of Waco Midway to claim the 6A-DII title.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Allen defensive back Taj Bickham (22) intercepts a would-be touchdown pass intended for Lake Travis Cavaliers wide receiver Garret Wilson (5) during the fourth quarter.

Rouse learning new offense after losing top three scorers

By ZACH SMITH
HCN Sports Editor

Rouse head coach Shane Krause hasn't experienced anything quite like he has this year.

The Raiders lost their three top scorers from a team that made it to the second round of the playoffs last season. While the team started out a little slow, they have won three straight games and seven of eight and sit atop the district standings at 4-0 at Christmas.

"At first it was a little scary," Krause said. "But just how hard these kids have worked and stepped into roles is just incredible. I'm always optimistic and think very highly of them, but they're exceeding the expectations I had for them."

Rouse made the playoffs for the second year in a row a year ago and advanced to the second round before losing to Nacogdoches. It was the deepest run of any LISD team last season.

Krause said he leans on the overall ex-

"We're kind of learning and growing together... it's been fun and we're getting better at it"

— Rouse coach Shane Krause

perience of the team rather than just the postseason results.

Carter McMahan is a three-year play for the Raiders and is the veteran of the group, and Trevor Berry played big minutes for Rouse last season. The two are leading as far as what to expect at this level.

"Our kind of five guard offense, that's completely new to me as well," Krause said. "So we're kind of learning and growing together. It's our first experience utilizing that strategy. It's been fun and we keep getting better at it."

See ROUSE, pg. 14

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Gottner, Stephen – Tools, sports equipment, household
 Holland, Lewis – Household, tools, clock

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jonestown will hold a public hearing to consider a request by Jerry Landers for a resubdivision of Lot 5, Hunters Creek Subdivision (17717 Hunters Hollow) to include the following variances:

- Section 10.02.086 (2) (F) - Non-rectangular lots
- Chapter 10.02.086 (2) (I) - All lots must face and have contiguous frontage on a usable dedicated public Right-of-Way. The extent of this frontage must conform to the minimum lot width requirements.

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission will be held on January 17, 2018, at 7:30 P.M. at the City Council Chamber, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 3-A, Jonestown, Texas.

Information concerning this matter is available for viewing at Jonestown City Hall Development Services Office, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 1-A, during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. You may contact the Development Coordinator at 512-267-0359 or mpfannstiel@jonestown.org.

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Anyone knowing the whereabouts of **LAURA KRISTEN EDWARDS** Please contact Janna Messina Kiefer, Attorney at Law 225-343-9422

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Notice is hereby given that the City of Jonestown will accept sealed proposals for bank depository services until 2:00 p.m., January 19, 2018, delivered by mail or in person to Rachel Austin, City Secretary, 18649 FM 1431 Ste. 4A, Jonestown, TX 78645. Proposal documents and further information are available from the Finance Dept., 512-267-3243, ext. 103.

It is expected that final selection will be considered at the regular city council meeting on February 8, 2018 at 7:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 18649 FM 1431 Ste. 3A, Jonestown, TX 78645.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jonestown will hold a public hearing to consider a request by James Quinn for a Conditional Use Permit in accordance with Chapter 14: Zoning Code, Sec. 14.02.081(b)(7) Conditional Uses, of the City of Jonestown Code of Ordinances, for a short term rental in an R-1 Single family residential district at 18695 FM 1431, Jonestown, Texas (ABS 2683 SUR 54 Humble & Chapman ACR .330).

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission will be held on January 17, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., at the City of Jonestown City Council Chamber, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 3A, Jonestown, Texas.

Information concerning this matter is available for viewing at Jonestown City Hall, Development Services Office, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 1A, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 512-267-0359 or e-mail mpfannstiel@jonestown.org for more information.

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Feeding families

Karen Faulkner of Student Charities provides consistency in the lives of hungry students

By MADISON MATOUS
Contributing Writer

Karen Faulkner has been working as a registrar for Leander ISD for more than 20 years. After noticing that students were often hungry in the classroom, she decided to do something about it.

She started the backpack program, which provides students in need with backpacks full of food to ensure they don't go hungry over the weekend.

The backpack program has since evolved into the 501c(3) non-profit, Student Charities, and now includes a winter food box program with enough food for the students and their families for the two-week holiday. This year, Student Charities sent more than 200 boxes home with students so families won't have to decide between buying food or buying Christmas presents.

Hill Country News sat down with Faulkner to talk about her extraordinary efforts and the motivation behind it.



NICK BROTHERS

Karen Faulkner, president of Student Charities, works to ensure Leander ISD students don't go home hungry. For children that rely on being able to eat breakfast and lunch at school, the extended break often means missing meals. Student Charities' backpack and winter food box programs provide meals for the two weeks of holidays for families.

Q How did you start Student Charities?

Since I have been working here in the school district there has always been children in the classroom who are hungry. So, I thought why don't we send a backpack of food home with the students for the weekend. I did some research and found that there backpack programs in several other states. I took the idea to the district personnel and talked with them about starting a backpack program in our district. We started at Mason Elementary with 20 backpacks a week and since then we have added more schools and more schools every year. Currently, we do around 250 food bags a week.

Q What motivated you to take action for the students?

There's so many reasons. You know, when you see kids are hungry, they aren't going to learn as well when they're hungry. When kids are cared for and loved, and not hungry, they can learn. What is so nice about the backpack program is that we are

consistent. Every Friday, they get that backpack, they can count on us, and that's huge for a lot of kids. It also makes the kids feel good about themselves because they feel like they are helping their families by bringing the bags home and sharing it with their families.

Q What impact do you think Student Charities has had on the community?

Well, in several ways, a lot of people are glad to see that we're giving back to our own students in our own community. We get a lot of support from the community. I can't even list all of the churches and groups that help us. They'll commit for a month, a year, and we can always go to them whenever we need something. The other thing that I really like about the program is that students who volunteer to help in the program are helping other students in need. I have a number of high school classes and groups of older students who pack, sort, stack the shelves and deliver the food for me. It's a win-win situation because they're getting life skills, job

skills, communication skills and life skills by interacting with people and schools. It's a very simple program, but we just want to give hope and let those people in the community know that they're cared for.

Q How has starting Student Charities impacted you?

It's made me more of a leader. I'm no longer afraid to pick up a microphone and talk anymore. It has helped me to be more clear when I'm speaking with people so that they understand what tasks I need completed in order to keep the program running smoothly.

Q What advice would you have for someone who wants to get involved in their community and tackle its issues?

There are so many local places that can use help for volunteers. There are ways you can get out and help, with clothing, with food. You could read to students. There are just so many opportunities in the community to help and make things better.

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ROUSE, from pg. 11

Berry is the team leader in points per game (13) and also leads the Raiders in assists (4.3). McMahan is the best rebounder for Rouse (6.5) and is tops in steals (2.5). Keaton Brown is second on the team in points (12.1) and Ben Escobar is second in rebounding (3.8).

"I didn't really change much because, in the summer, I'm used to playing like that," Berry said. "It was an easy transition being responsible for assists and making sure that the team is in the right spot."

Last year's team was led by Kyle Mitchell with 14.1 points per game. Michael Forster — who now plays at UT-Dallas — averaged 11.6 points and 6.8 rebounds and Gavin Sharp with 9.3 points and 6.7 rebounds were the top three players.

With the loss of scoring and rebounding, this year's team has taken on a different form. Rouse has shifted to a smaller lineup that focuses on solid guard play and shooting.

"It's made me step up more as a player, I've had to take more of a leadership role," McMahan said. "Everyone has done a good job of stepping up too and filling their roles. It can be hard, but it's a next man up mentality and we kind of lean on that."

At the beginning of the year, both Berry and McMahan Raiders appeared shy and timid. The Raiders lost two of its first three games, falling to Vandegrift 67-60 in the opening game and dropping a game to Vista Ridge 52-43 on Nov. 28.

They won four of five games at the CCCA Tournament in Corpus Christi, and in their last two wins against Georgetown and Cedar Creek combined to hit 30 3-pointers.

"We rely on (our experience) a good amount," McMahan said. "When it comes to close, clutch time in games, we just rely on staying calm and not having to calm everyone down. Everyone knows what they're doing so it's a shared goal."

The Raiders have a non-district game on the road against Round Rock on Jan. 2 to get back from the Christmas break. They then play three of their next four games at home, first hosting Hutto on Jan. 5 at 7 p.m.

"We started out the season slow, but it feels like every game we're getting better," Krause said. "You want them peaking at the end of the year and it feels like we're continuing to build the momentum. Our potential is limitless."



HARRISON FUNK

Trevor Berry and Rouse have shifted to a new, guard-based offense this season which relies more on shooting. The Raiders have hit 30 3-pointers in their last two games.

ROBOT, from pg. 1



COURTESY TRIPP PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cedar Park City Council okayed purchase of the robot using a \$53,810 justice assistance grant from the Office of the Texas Governor.

allow police to respond faster to them.

"I don't think it's something that's going to be needed on every case," Minton said.

"We've had situations before where we had to call around looking for one and find an operator," Minton added. "But now instead of waiting we can have our own at our disposal."

The company states on its website that the Mini-Caliber robot weighs 64 pounds and can be carried in the trunk of a patrol car. Its compact size makes it "quick to deploy for searching rooms, hall-

ways, stairwells and confined space." The device is endorsed by the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA).

The Central Texas Regional SWAT team includes fire departments and tactical medics from Williamson County EMS as well as police departments from the three cities. The team was created in 2014 to handle operations including barricaded persons, hostage situations, high risk arrests and search warrants.

Team commanders are: Lt. Chane Thomas from the Cedar Park Police Department; Lt. Derral Partin

and Detective Woodson Blasé from the Leander Police Department; and Sgt. Matt Turowski from the Georgetown Police Department.

The robot is expected to arrive in Cedar Park in January and will be based here. Officers from all three departments will be trained to operate the new addition to local law enforcement.

"It allows us to keep officers out of danger," Thomas said. "We may need to deliver water or a note at the scene where a hostage is involved and this robot can collect and carry those things."

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