CEDAR PARK, Circle K, 900 S Bell Blvd, \$2.52 LEANDER, 7-Eleven, 1870 S Bagdad, \$2.65 ROUND ROCK, Walmart, 140 Louis Henna, \$2.62 LAGO VISTA, Chevron, 4712 Lohman Ford, \$2.89 FOUR POINTS, Randall's, 5145 N RR 620, \$2.99

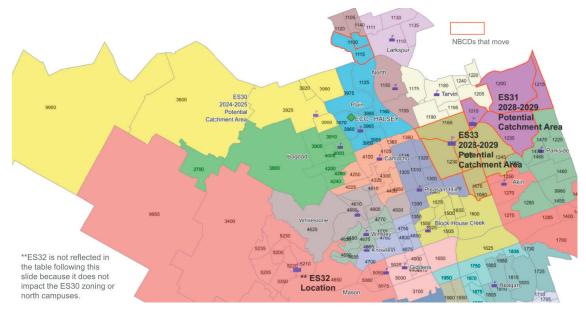
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 5

III. COUNTRY NEWS

SERVING CEDAR PARK, LEANDER AND NORTHWEST AUSTIN SINCE 1968 ■ hillcountrynews.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

LISD rejects proposed attendance zoning



Leander ISD proposed moving nearly 1,000 students around to various schools under the third scenario proposal for its Elementary School No. 30 attendance zoning map.

BY CLAYTON KELLEY REPORTER

After district officials were presented with the proposed final scenario for the Elementary School No. 30 attendance zoning map at the Leander ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Jan. 18, the board opted not to go forward with the recommended plans.

The school board needs to adopt a new attendance zoning map before the next school year that addresses overcrowding in the northern portion of the district and factors in which students will go to the new Elementary School No. 30, which opens in August.

District staff have been working on the proposed final attendance zoning map, including obtaining public input, since last September. Under this proposed scenario, nearly 1,000 students would have been rezoned.

The proposed shifting of students under the plan includes:

- 302 students moving from Bagdad to Elementary School No.
- 68 students moving from Camacho to Whitestone,
- 27 students moving from Camacho to Bagdad,
- 173 students moving from Larkspur to North,
- 250 students moving from Plain to Elementary School No. 30,

• 31 students moving from Plain

- to Camacho; and
- 144 students moving from Tarvin to Parkside.

Four out of the six board members in attendance at the meeting voted against the third scenario, citing that the propositions increased functional capacity at North Elementary while underuti-

See **ZONING**, page **A3**

Leander mayoral race draws a challenger; four file to run in Leander, Cedar Park

BY JOSH MONIZ SENIOR REPORTER

Four new, first-time candidates have filed to challenge incumbent city council candidates in Leander and Cedar Park.

The filing period for running for local city council elections began on Jan. 17 and will run through the end of day on Feb. 16. Additional candidates may file in the coming weeks.

The municipal elections will be held on May 4, with Early

Voting starting on April 22.

Three of the new challenger candidates - the majority of the challengers who have filed - are running in almost all of the Leander City Council seats up for reelection this year. Place 4 incumbent Na'Cole Thompson, who is running for reelection, is the only Leander council member who has not drawn a challenger so far.

In the Leander mayor race,

See **ELECTION**, page **A5**



ROUSE PRESENTS THE ADDAMS FAMILY





Rouse High School's theatre program just completed a series of performances of The Addams Family, based on the popular 1960s television series and subsequent films and cartoon series.

COURTESY LEANDER ISD



Leander MLK March and Celebration draws crowd following rescheduling

BY JOSH MONIZ SENIOR REPORTER

Despite lingering cold from the freezing temperatures that caused the original event to be postponed, a sizeable crowd turned out Saturday, Jan. 27, for the rescheduled MLK Day March and Celebration.

The event was originally going to be held on Jan. 15, closer to the MLK Day holiday, but it had to be pushed back when the inclement weather was lower than projected and dropped to freezing temperatures.

The event kicked off in the morning with a march from Camacho Elementary to Old Town Park, where the event was held.

See MLK, page A3



Dozens of local residents participated in a march celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr., on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. The parade had been rescheduled from Jan. 15 due to inclement weather.

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February 1, 2024 \$1.50







Lago Vista ISD names school resource officer



QUICK

STAFF REPORTS

Lago Vista Independent School District recently announced the appointment of Robert Quick as the district's School Resource Officer (SRO)

"Officer Quick brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this vital role in ensuring the safety and security of our educational environment," the district said in a statement.

Quick brings more than five years of experience in law enforcement. Having previously served with both the Lago Vista and Mustang Ridge Police Departments, he returnd to the Lago Vista Police Department in April 2022.

The district said Quick received his bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix and an Advanced Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

"Recognizing the unique challenges of maintaining a secure educational environment, Quick has invested in his professional development with a focus on School Based Law Enforcement Training," the district said. "He has accumulated a remarkable 551 hours of continuing education course credit from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, including a dedicated 20 hours specifically tailored to school-

based scenarios."

Superintendent Darren Webb expressed enthusiasm about Officer Quick's appointment.

"We are thrilled to welcome Officer Quick to our school community. His experience, qualifications, and commitment to ongoing training align perfectly with our district's priority to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for all our students and staff."

54 Round Rock ISD students qualify for allstate music ensembles

STAFF REPORTS

Round Rock ISD students from Cedar Ridge, McNeil, Round Rock, Stony Point, and Westwood high schools reached the highest level a high school musician can achieve by earning their place in Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State band, orchestra, or choir.

Each fall, over 70,000 high school musicians across the state audition in their TMEA Region. Individually, students perform for a panel of judges. Student musicians who rank the highest advance to compete against student musicians from other Regions in their TMEA Area. The highest-ranking student musicians at the TMEA Area competitions qualify to perform in one of 18 Texas All-State bands, orchestras, and choirs.

The 54 Round Rock ISD student musicians who qualify will perform at the annual TMEA Clinic/ Convention in San Antonio, Texas, from Feb. 7 - 10, 2024. Nationally recognized conductors at the convention direct the groups who rehearse for three days and conclude with a performance.

CEDAR RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

- Katie Espinosa, Bb Clarinet • Collin Breclaw, Percussion
- MCNEIL HIGH SCHOOL
 - Suhaan Khan, Eb Clarinet • Jeremy Moon, Bb Clarinet
 - Jenny Thomas, Violin • Allyson Chu, Violin
 - Teo Kim, Cello

ROUND ROCK HIGH SCHOOL

- Sydney Park, Flute
- Vic Ducea Bb Clarinet • Chaitanya Dandekar, Bass
- Clarinet • Avery Calhoun, Bassoon

- Mike Popke, Contrabassoon
- Andrew Vu, Alto Sax
- Daphne Jones, Trombone
- Hudson Pedrotti, Bass Trombone
- Ava Moak, Sop 1 Mixed
- Isadora Berry, Alto 2 Mixed
- Ivy Parada, Sop 1 Treble
- Misha Anand, Sop 1 Treble
- Barbara White, Sop 2 Treble • Jillian Bensman, Alto 2 Treble
- Adyn Meredith, Tenor 1 Tenor Bass
 - Adam Hyink, Tenor 2 Tenor Bass
 - Dhruva Orugunty, Bass
- Aravind Shandilya, Bass

STONY POINT HIGH SCHOOL • Madeline Woody, Piccolo

- Charlotte Bell, Sop 1 Treble Choir
- Morgan Go, String Bass

WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

- Neel Kotichintala, Percussion
- Soomin Oh, Flute • Justin Yu, Oboe
- Anshuman Garg, Tenor Sax
- Andrew Li, Clarinet
- Hyun Lee, Clarinet • Kevin Xu, Clarinet
- Will Bryant, Trumpet • Kritanko Chakraborty, TB Choir, Tenor 2
 - Ryan Gu, Mixed Choir, Bass 2 • Minsung Kim, TB Choir, Bass 1
- Jonathan Simon, Mixed Choir, Tenor 2
 - Kalia Wang, Treble Choir, Alto 2
 - Howell Wu, TB Choir, Bass 2
 - Lerchen Zhong, Violin
 - Daniel Nam, Violin
 - Natalie Ju, Violin • Gloria Wu, Violin
 - Peter Kim, Violin
 - Aimee Wang, Violin • Evelyn Liu, Violin
 - Jenny Yun, Viola
 - Alexander Zhong, Viola Yochen Zhong, Cello
 - Adriana Cheng, Cello • Dorian Herri, String Bass

A group of Vandegrift High School students who graduated last year as a part of the International Baccalaureate Programme recently returned to Vandegrift to be recognized for their achievements.

Vandegrift celebrates 2023 IB grads

STAFF REPORTS

International Baccalaureate (IB) graduates from the Class of 2023 returned this month to Vandegrift HS to formally mark the end of their Diploma Programme

This group of students walked the stage with their classmates in May 2023 to receive their high school diploma; however, it was not until July when the results of the IB exam were finalized. Hosting the ceremony at the beginning of January allows for Vandegrift HS to welcome back many of the students returning home during winter break of their freshman year of college.

Alumni from previous cohorts, along with current students, joined in the celebration. Afterward, a panel of graduates stuck around to answer questions for current IB students, relaying insight and advice from their time in college and beyond.

"If there's one thing you take away from tonight, know that we are always here for you," said Alexandra Magness, the IB coordinator at VHS.



Vandegrift High School students who graduated from the International Baccalaureate Programme last year were recently recognized for their achievements.

The IB Diploma Programme is a comprehensive, internationally recognized, two-year advanced academic program that begins in a student's junior year of high school. The IB DP is recognized and respected by the world's leading universities because it offers a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that academically prepares students for the rigor of college. Additionally, IB DP students may receive college credit, including at least 24 hours at all Texas public universities for students who achieve the IB Diploma.

In Leander ISD, the IB Diploma Programme is also hosted at Leander High School.

(Left to right): Charles King (Chasco CEO & Vice President), Scott Ambrus (Chasco), Anthony Gavlik (HNTB), Riley Sladek (LJA), Derek Bohls (LJA), Pct. 2 Commissioner Cynthia Long, Liberty Hill Mayor Liz Branigan, Liberty Hill Council Member Angela Jones, Chuck Glace (Chasco President), Eddie Church (HNTB), Steven Schiff (Liberty Hill Chamber of Commerce President), Liberty Hill Council Member Amanda Young.

Williamson County breaks ground on Liberty Hill bypass project

STAFF REPORTS

Williamson County broke ground on the Liberty Hill Bypass project last week. The project will construct a new two-lane roadway from from Bagdad Road (CR 279) to RM 1869. The project will also add turn lanes on RM 1869 and CR 279 to the Liberty Hill Bypass.

This vision for this project was cast in 2008, and today begins the first of many projects which will improve the traffic and mobility in the Liberty Hill area. This section of the

Liberty Hill Bypass will provide much-needed traffic relief in downtown Liberty Hill," said Pct. 2 Commissioner Cynthia Long. "The long-term plan is to have a viable alternative to SH 29 through Liberty Hill."

The construction cost of the project is \$14 million and is being funded through 2019 voter-approved road bonds. The Texas Department of Transportation will be constructing the left and right turn lanes at the intersection of RM 1869 and Liberty Hill Bypass.

Construction is anticipated to be completed by fall 2025.



6 6 2 6 4 2 4 9 2 3

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.



Study: Texans face a bigger burden than ever to pay rent

More than half of the state's 4.2 million renters spend at least 30% of their income on rent and utilities, according to a Harvard University report.

BY JOSHUA FECHTER

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas renters are under more pressure from the state's high housing costs than ever, according to a Harvard University study released Thursday.

More than half of the state's 4.2 million renter households spend too much of their income on keeping a roof over their heads and the lights on, a report from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies shows.

Some 51% of Texas renters — a record 2.1 million households - are now "cost-burdened," meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities. Of those, nearly 1.1 million are severely cost-burdened, meaning they put at least half of their income toward rent and utilities.

The rise in rents has left tenants with fewer dollars to spend on key household costs - like food, health care and transportation — or set aside for a down payment on a home of their own. The steep increase in housing costs has also fueled eviction filings and homelessness in the state's major metro areas, housing advocates say.

Rents in Texas skyrocketed as the state's population boomed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rent growth has since cooled as housing construction surged and higher mortgage rates tamped down demand for homes. But rents are still considerably higher than they were before the pandemic struck.

"Housing instability and housing insecurity is higher than it's ever been," said Ben Martin, research director for Texas Housers, a research and advocacy



The View at Cedar Park Town Center apartments is located along Main Street in Cedar Park.

group. "Even as rents have stabilized, they've stabilized at this level that's just completely unsustainable and unmanageable for low-income households."

Low-income earners have borne the brunt of the rise in rents, especially as the state's supply of cheap rental housing has dried up. Nearly 90% of the state's renter households making \$29,999 or less were considered cost-burdened, most of them shelling out more than half of their income to stay housed.

It's been increasingly difficult for low-income households to find housing they can afford in recent years. Near the beginning of the last decade, Texas had about 753,000 housing units with rents below \$600. By 2022, that number had shrunk to 452,000, driven in part by rent increases amid the state's robust

Middle-income households are facing more pressure, too. Of the state's renter households making between \$30,000 and \$49,999, nearly three-quarters were considered cost-burdened.

Almost 40% of renter households earning between \$45,000 and \$74,999 also were considered to be spending too much on rent.

Rent pressures also fall disproportionately on Black and Hispanic households, who are more likely than their white and Asian counterparts to be overly burdened by rent.

What's more, renters no longer have the safety net weaved during the pandemic to shield them from the increasingly hostile housing market. Federal rent relief funds have all but dried up and pauses on evictions intended to keep tenants housed have expired. In addition, a boom in apartment construction in recent years has helped keep rent prices in check, but apartment builders have pulled back in recent months amid high interest rates.

We're going to see an increase in people paying incredible amounts of their income towards rent, doubling up and losing stable housing, facing eviction and for some facing homelessness," Martin said.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Border standoff continues between state, feds

A standoff at an Eagle Pass park continues as the Department of Homeland Security has sent a second letter to Gov. Greg Abbott demanding access to the Rio Grande park that is now under state control.

Abbott contends the state has the right to defend itself from what he called "record-smashing levels of illegal immigration," The Dallas Morning News reported. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the Border Patrol can resume cutting or removing razor wire that the state installed to deter migrants.

Citing that ruling, DHS sent a second letter demanding the state give Border Patrol agents "full access to the Shelby Park area currently obstructed by Texas."

A DPS spokesman said the state is installing more razor wire along the riverbank. U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, has urged President Joe Biden to federalize the Texas National Guard if the state defies the Supreme Court ruling.

Judge rejects Paxton's motion to block deposition

A Travis County judge again blocked a motion by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to stop a deposition in a wrongful termination lawsuit brought by former top aides in his office, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The deposition is scheduled for Feb. 1. The four aides went to the FBI to complain about the embattled attorney general's actions in helping developer Nate Paul. The aides were subsequently fired and filed suit in 2020.

Earlier in January, Paxton tried to end the matter by saying he would no longer contest the facts of the case and accept whatever judgment the court handed down, though he continued to deny any wrongdoing. He condemned the judge's latest ruling, saying Travis County Judge Jan Soifer was "recklessly disregarding legal precedent, abusing the litigation system, and displaying shocking bias."

Before Paxton filed his latest motion attempting to avoid testifying, both the state 3rd Court of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court rejected his earlier appeals.

Meanwhile, four months after the Senate voted to acquit Paxton in his impeachment trial, which stemmed from an investigation into a proposed settlement of the whistleblower lawsuit, a senator that voted to acquit is accusing Paxton of possibly misleading the Senate during that trial. He urged the Senate to consider reopening Paxton's impeachment.

State Sen. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, said Paxton's decision not to contest the facts of the whistleblower lawsuit point to his culpability. Paxton "cannot admit guilt while claiming innocence," Springer wrote in a post on X. Springer had previous announced plans to retire from the Senate.

State delays vote on proposed land swap with SpaceX

Heat from conservation groups prompted Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners to delay a proposed land swap with SpaceX. The proposal would have given the space exploration company 43 acres of Boca Chica State Park land in exchange for 477 acres near the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, The News reported. Groups, including the Sierra Club and Save RGV, urged commissioners to delay the vote to allow the public more time to examine the proposal, which will be revisited in late March.

Environmental groups sued the Federal Aviation Administration last year over its approval of the expansion of billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX's rocket-launch operations. The suit was filed after the company's Starship exploded during a launch and hurled debris thousands of feet into the air. They have also expressed concern for possible loss of wildlife and habitat since the launch site is within miles of the state park and wildlife refuge.

Record number of Texans enroll in ACA

More Texans than ever have signed up for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act for 2024, according to federal health data released last week and reported by the Texas Tribune. The number of Texans in ACA programs, which offer inexpensive or free health care coverage, rose 37% to nearly 3.5 million - or 1 in 9 residents.

National enrollment is at record highs as well, with more than 16.3 million people signed up for plans under ACA. That is double the number of Americans signing up for ACA plans since it was launched in 2014.

Texas continues to lead the nation in the number of uninsured residents, with nearly 5 million Texans living without health insurance coverage. That's nearly double the national average.

DSHS launches new tools to track respiratory viruses

The Texas Department of State Health Services has created a respiratory virus dashboard at healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/Home that shows trends in the three major respiratory illnesses most likely to cause serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths -COVID-19, influenza and RSV.

"Those data points demonstrate the diseases" most severe effects on people, communities and the health care system," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "The dashboard provides a near real-time look at conditions, so people can make informed decisions on precautions for themselves and their families, and health care professionals can make recommendations to their patients."

Former PUC director is now chairman

The former executive director of the Public Utility Commission was sworn in last week as chairman of the commission. Thomas Gleeson, who has worked at the PUC for 15 years, most recently as the agency's executive director, was appointed to the commission by Abbott in mid-January.

The PUC regulates the state's electric, telecommunications, water and sewer utilities. It was founded in

Gary Borders, a veteran award-winning Texas journalist, compiled this report. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and, once upon a time, the Hill Country News in Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

ZONING

from page A1

lizing Elementary School No. 30 and over-utilizing Whitestone Elementary.

'I've been on the long-range planning committee since the beginning, this is something I'm very passionate about," Place 4 trustee Anna Smith said. "For me it's not about what neighborhood code goes where or where we move, it's the system and the process here."

"I had so much hope for this (longrange planning) committee. The reason I had so much hope is because it was something different, we're not doing the same thing that's always been done. We were going to save tax payers dollars, we're deferring schools because we're being better planners. I feel like we're (now) resorting back to the way we've always done it. I feel like we're a better district than that. We are truly trying to create a 10-year plan here, and we cannot keep doing the same practices that we've done since 2007."

School board president Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia was in favor of the third attendance zone scenario. She believes that by lengthening this process, it could potentially affect LISD's process of hiring new teachers and transfer students.

District staff are expected to bring back a new attendance zoning scenario with the sought revision at a February board meeting.



Leander Mayor Christine DeLisle, Leander Council member Na'Cole Thompson and Leander ISD school board member Sade Fashokun were among those who joined a parade celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr., on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. The parade had been rescheduled from Jan. 15 due to inclement weather.

MLK

from page A1

Leander Mayor Christine DeLisle, Leander Council member Na'Cole Thompson and Leander ISD school board member Sade Fashokun participated in the march.

At the park, the event featured proclamations by city officials, speeches and music before the

crowd spread out to take advantage of the food trucks and a craft marketplace.

Organized in collaboration with the Leander Public Art and Culture Commission and the City of Leander, this year's theme for the event was "Action Starts with Me."

· WILLIAMSON COUNTY -WILCO.ORG

The Williamson County Commissioners Court is the county's governing body. Commissioners meet beginning at 9:30 each Tuesday morning at the Williamson County Courthouse in downtown Georgetown. Agendas and packets are available, and the meetings are streamed live, on the county's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

• LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT -LEANDERISD.ORG

Leander ISD Board of Trustees meet the second and fourth Thursday each month at Concordia University, 11400 Concordia University Drive in Austin. (Meeting Room: Incubator CTX located in Building B) at 6:15 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register. Agendas, board meeting packets and a live stream

are on the district's website. • LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT

SCHOOL DISTRICT -

LAGOVISTAISD.NET Lago Vista ISD Board of Trustees meet at 6:15 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at 8039 Bar-K Ranch Road in Lago Vista. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register. You can find agendas and board meeting packets on the district's website

· CITY OF CEDAR PARK -**CEDARPARKTEXAS.GOV**

Agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions are available, and many meetings are streamed live, on the city's website.

· CEDAR PARK CITY COUNCIL

Meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at City Council Chambers, 450 Cypress Creek Road, Building 4. Council agendas and packets are available on the city's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

· CITY OF LEANDER -**LEANDERTX.GOV**

Agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions are available, and City Council meetings are streamed live, on the city's website.

· LEANDER CITY COUNCIL Meets at 6 p.m. the first and

third Thursday of each month in the City Council Chambers, Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, 201 N. Brushy Street. Council agendas and packets are available on the city's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

· CITY OF LAGO VISTA -LAGOVISTATEXAS.ORG

Agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions are available on the city's website.

· LAGO VISTA CITY COUNCIL

Meets 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 5803 Thunderbird Drive. Council agendas and packets are available on the city's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

OPINION

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- Letters must be limited to 350 words or less. "Thank you" letters must be no more than 300 words.
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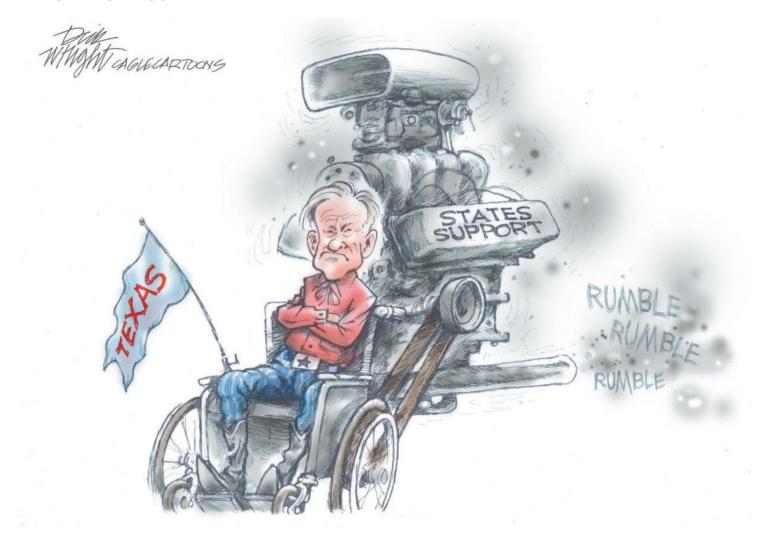
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Will border crisis accelerate or come under control?

round financial markets, the conventional wisdom is to "let the trend be your friend." What happens in the market on one day will also likely occur on the following. Investors, the theory goes, should ride the "trend" until it "bends," then bail out.

The phrase sums up the southwest border crisis. The invasion continues seamlessly one day after another, and during 2023 ramped up to a record number of migrant crossings with a December seven-day average of more than 9,600, a Homeland Security official told CNN. The record-smashing figure represents the average across the nation's entire southern

In November, total encounters stood at 6,800, meaning that the southern border has seen a month-over-month influx of 3,000 more daily arrivals as migrants continue to pour through the border.

During its 2023 fiscal year (which ran from Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2023) U.S. Customs and Border Protection recorded more than 2.4 million encounters at the southwest border and more than 3.2 million encounters nationwide. During the current fiscal year, 169 individuals on the terrorist watchlist were apprehended attempting to enter the country illegally, and at least 1.7 million known gotaways have evaded apprehension since the 2021 fiscal year. Since President Biden took office, there have been 7.5 million encounters nationwide and 6.2 million encounters at the southwest border, in addition to 1.7 million known gotaways.

Also in the 2023 fiscal year, Border Patrol agents arrested 35,433 aliens with criminal convictions or outstanding warrants, including 598 known gang members, 178 of those being MS-13 members. The agency also seized enough enough fentanyl coming across the Southwest border to kill about six billion people, the House Homeland Security Committee



The data are included in the committee's fiscal year-end report titled "Startling Stats," but it's findings did nothing to influence the administration to end the invasion. Not only did the illegal alien influx remain steady, it accelerated unabated. If the House's year-end summary had no effect on the Biden administration's mismanagement of the border disaster, nothing will. Proof that the border crisis will continue unchecked: in December, Border Patrol processed and released 302,000 aliens. Since the start of the new fiscal year, which began on Oct 1 Rorder Patrol agents have encountered more than 785,000 aliens at the southern border alone.

As alarming as the raw statistics are, they understate the invasion's inevitable consequences. Factor in chain migration and the certainty that arriving aliens will either start new families or grow their existing ones, and population growth will continue upward. Citizens who live in high density cities should brace for more overcrowding driven by Biden and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' criminal disregard of federal immigration laws.

A Center for Immigration Studies analysis detailed that the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey showed the total foreign-born or immigrant population, both legal and illegal, was 49.5 million in October 2023 — a 4.5 million increase since Biden's inauguration and a new record high. At 15 percent, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population is the highest percentage recorded in U.S. history. Since Biden took office, the foreign-born population has grown on average by 137,000 a month, compared to 42,000 a month during Trump's presidency, and 68,000 a month during President Obama's two terms.

These unsustainable population increases generate urban sprawl and drain already diminishing natural resources like water and

Creating an equitable immigration system under Biden that benefits citizens and migrants alike is a long shot, but still possible. Congress returned from its winter recess on Jan. 8, and resumed discussions over numerous thorny issues. At the top of the House GOP's to-do list is, before authorizing funding for Ukraine and Israel wars, to demand that the immigration provisions encompassed in HR-2, which it passed in May, must be included. Key among those provisions is mandatory E-Verify which would end the jobs magnet that lures thousands of foreign nationals to the U.S. with employment expectations and to curb the administration's parole abuse. Parole is intended for extraordinary circumstances, usually granted to one individual, and not intended to be given out en masse.

HR-2 represents the best chance that legislators have to restore operational control of the border. Otherwise, the invasion will continue until at least January 2025. Based on the latest Border Patrol monthly statistics, without HR-2 another 3 million illegal aliens will cross during the 2024 calendar year.

> Joe Guzzardi is a nationally-syndicated columnist who has written about immigration and related social issues for more than 30 years. He is also a Society for American Baseball Research and Internet Baseball Writers' Association member. Contact him at jguzzardi@pfirdc.org.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



ELECTION

from page A1

political activist Andy Hogue is challenging incumbent Leander Mayor Christine DeLisle, who plans to file to officially run for reelection in the coming weeks.

In the Leander Place 2 race, Michael Herrera, who founded Pennsylvania-based software consulting for investment firms company CSSI with his wife 30 years ago, is challenging incumbent Esmeralda Mattke Longoria.

In the Leander Place 6 race, Ontada senior director of software engineering Pulla Reddy Yeduru - full name Venkata Pulla Reddy Yeduru - is running against incumbent Becki Ross.

Meanwhile, in Cedar Park, Michael Endres, an Austin police officer, is the only challenger to file for a Cedar Park City Council seat so far. He is running against Place 4 incumbent Eric Boyce.

Karen Wind, a resident of Town Center in Cedar Park and former Cedar Park Economic Development Corporation Type A Board member, recently filed the campaign treasurer paperwork but hasn't officially filed for any Cedar Park seat yet.

Unlike all of the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congressional races up for reelection this year, the local city council races are nonpartisan seats where the majority of their work has no application to any party politics.

LEANDER MAYOR

The Leander mayoral race is already expected to be an interesting contest this year. Andy Hogue, a political writer and veter-

an political staffer, is challenging incumbent Leander Mayor Christine DeLisle.

Hogue has wanted to run for a local office for years and use his years of political experience to benefit his own community. But, he was unable to run in the past because he was either busy with his family or had a conflict of interest that prevented him - either he was a journalist at the time, or he was working with a political campaign. Now that his children are more grown up, he feels the timing is finally right in recent years.

He is running to keep the city focused on keeping city spending, water rates and taxes down so Leander can remain affordable. He also wants the city and the city council to do a better, more proactive job of communicating with local residents about the big issues facing the city. He also feels his experience in political communications and facilitating meetings will make him effective at running city council meetings.

He filed for Leander City Council in 2022 and filed to run for Leander ISD Board of Trustees in 2023 but dropped out of each race before the campaigns began when other conservative candidates filed. He also helped recruit two candidates for one of

the two separate but overlapping slates of conservative challenger candidates who ran for the school board last year.

He is running for Leander City Council specifically this year because his friends on the council wanted help with electing a new council majority, and this year's large number of seats up for reelection creates a unique opportunity. He also said that talking with other potential challenger candidates, including some who didn't end up filing, led him to run for the Leander Mayor seat because he had more experience than the rest due to his history in political communications and policy analysis.

Several candidates confirmed Leander City Council member Kathryn Pantalion-Parker had put out a general call at area Republican organization meetings, seeking anyone willing to run as challenger candidates this year. However, the candidates running this year who spoke with the Hill Country News also confirmed that several other individuals and groups had also separately approached them about running this year.

"Even though it may look like I'm parachuting into a race for partisan reasons, I'm just a normal guy who loves living in Leander and wants to serve," Hogue said. "Let's try to look for a better way forward.'

While Hogue, communication director

for the Travis County Republican Party and media contact for the group Move Candlewood, doesn't have any experience serving on local government boards or commissions, he pointed to his community involvement as a Boy Scouts leader, a Toastmasters International club officer, and a part-time minister with Church on the Hill in Jonestown. His prior experience includes serving as chief of staff and campaign manager for Austin County Council member Mackenzie Kelly, constituent liaison with former Austin City Council member Don Zimmerman, a campaign advisor for former Cedar Park City Council member Tim Kelly, communication and speechwriting roles with prior commissioners of the Texas General Land Office and Texas Workforce Commission and a year as the communication director with anti-LGBTQ+ advocacy group Texas Values.

Hogue originally worked as a newspaper journalist for about a decade before getting into politics. He is a freelance writer who has done ghostwriting work for scripts and research projects while also writing blog posts for a variety of right-leaning, theological or outdoor websites.

DeLisle, who is serving her second term on council and her first time as mayor, is an

See **ELECTION**, page **A8**

North Shore





Lago Vista Jonestown | Point Venture

NLTCHAMBER.ORG

Join Us at the NLT Chamber Awards **Luncheon to Celebrate Excellence!**

We are thrilled to invite you to the NLT Chamber Awards Luncheon, where we will unveil and recognize the outstanding winners who have made significant contributions to our communities. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed, and it's time to come together and celebrate their remarkable achievements! Award Luncheon sponsored by Johnstown Night Sky Advocacy

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Venue: K-Oaks Clubhouse

Address: 7000 Bar K Ranch Rd, Lago Vista, Texas 78645

NLT Chamber Finalists:

Business of the Year:

- Brookshire Brothers
- · Darling Art School · Lantz's Lakeside Plumbing & AC

Member of the Year:

- · Emily Dieckmann Emily Dieckmann Real Estate Team
- · Kristal Lassiter The Beanstalk Consignment Store · Samantha Norman - Lago Vista Brewery Company

Non-Profit of the Year:

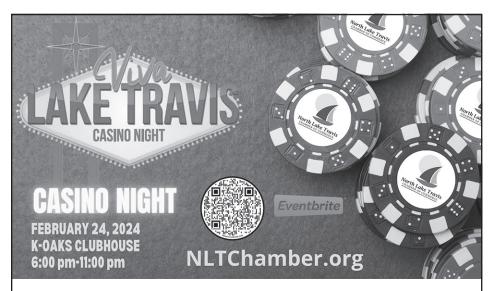
- · Hope Center · Lago Vista Woman's Club
- · Northlake Church

Citizen of the Year:

- · Barb Coyle
- · Daphne Zuniga · Jennifer Sandoval

This luncheon promises to be an inspiring and joyous occasion as we honor these exceptional individuals, businesses and organizations. Come be a part of this celebration and show your support for those who have made a positive impact on our community.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to share in their success and network with fellow community members. Let's come together to applaud and recognize the best of our community!



Get ready for an electrifying night of sparkling entertainment at the Viva Lake Travis Casino Night!

When: Saturday, February 24, 2024 Time: 6 PM-11 PM Where: K-Oaks Clubhouse

Event Highlights:

- · Casino Games: Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Texas Hold 'em
- · \$20K Gambling Chip included with your ticket
- · Specialty Hors d'oeuvres
- · Fabulous Prizes for 'winnings
- · ELVIS impersonator

Join us for a night of thrilling games, delicious bites, and the chance to win amazing prizes. It's a night you won't want to miss! Get your Tickets today, and let the good times roll!



Get ready for the thrill of the 32nd annual La Primavera Bike Race, hosted in Lago Vista on March 2 & 3, 2024!

Registration is already off to a powerful start, drawing participants from states like Illinois, Wisconsin, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, and California!

They've streamlined the volunteer sign-up process through SignUp.com. If you've Volunteered in the pass, you would be a Course Marshal, donning a safety vest and managing cross traffic at key intersections, they want YOU on their team again!

Sign up now at https://signup.com/go/XjMzXKS and choose your preferred role to be part of this incredible event.

For more updates and information about La Primavera Bike Lago Vista, visit their website www.laprimaveratx.com.

12th Annual Jonestown Cajun Fest!



Get ready to experience the Cajun joie de vivre at the Jonestown Cajun Fest on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Jones Brothers Park!

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024 **Time:** 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Location: Jones Brothers Park, Jonestown, TX

Indulge in the joy of Cajun culture with: Plenty of Crawfish, Cajun and Zydeco Music, Parade, Games, Treats and Family Fun

Admission is FREE!

This event is not just about having a blast but also supporting the Chamber and local businesses. Stay tuned for more details, sponsorship information, and exciting updates as we approach the event dates.

Let's make it a day filled with Cajun delights and community spirit!

Welcome **New Members!**



Contact Jennifer Sandoval for more information about the chamber. 512-267-7952

Makena Filippoff

Benjamin Ford

Mercy Forrister

William Gray Anya Gudipati

Carlos Guerrero

Gulin Gurbuz

Lanie Hall

Jaylen Han

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Libby Harel

Blake Hillis

Trace Hathaway

Bailee Herrera

Kadence Herrera

Phuong Hoang James Hollander

Sanya Hoskere

Parker Huang

Isaac Jacobson

Samantha Jameson

Adalvn Johnson

Katelyn Jordan

Jonathan Kalsky

Erika Kauffman

Charlette Koltak

Meredith Koltz

Amelia Lettang

Jayna Lipkin

Jamie Lopez Kendall Lynch

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Kyle McClure

Rushil Mehta

Evreen Meija

Dylan Michalek

Kacey Miller

Shaan Mittra

Ezra Morales

Jacob Morse

Elyssa Murati

Thaelon Nelson

Dustin Nguyen

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Roselyn Nguyen

Garrett Nichols

Isabella Oduori

Brooke Pack

Niam Patel

Ethan Paull

Sofia Peters

Mia Petty

Taylor Peterson

Abigail Pettey

Sophie Poulsen

Matthew Prechel

Nicole Reininger

Owen Renner

Diego Reyes

Ryan Rios

Sara Sadic

Jack Revnolds

Isabel Sanchez

Tanvi Sankolli

Karis Šchafers

Evan Schmitt

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Carlee Selin

Taylor Shumate

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Thomas Stein

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Emlee Yonga

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Aryan Anarkat

Noa Avigdor

James Bailey

Luke Barsun

Bree Bland

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Isabel Walters

Connor Worley

Alyssa Yadav

Kendel Akers

Katherine Alfaro Guandique

Elizabeth Altenbaugh

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Connor Black

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Om Byraju

Madison Clark

Alexa Cogan

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Julia Davis Chyanne Del Bosque Justin Dinh

Connor Duncan Zoe Effenberger

Carmen Fajardo-Banda

Hadley Ellis

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Nivas Gogineni

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Michael Grasso

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Ada Myrick Continued next page

Nicolas Murphy

Gabriel Myers

ELECTION

from page **A5**

avid supporter of the Leander Public Library and has served on several city commissions, including the Leander Public Arts & Culture Commission. She currently serves as a Transportation Policy Board member on the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and has represented the city on the Capital Area Council of Governments.

She previously served with local Republican organizations, including on the Board of Directors for the Williamson County Republican Leaders.

DeLisle is excited to be running for another term and feels the council has accomplished a lot in recent years.

"It's an exciting time for the city. We're trying to keep the ship steady. We got water projects in the pipeline...that will address our long-term water needs. We're in the process of hiring a new city manager and we have some great candidates. We have the Senior Center finally happening this year. We're just focused on keeping things steady and accomplishing these important projects," DeLisle said.

She touted one of the goals of her 2023 State of the City address - finally revamping the city's sign ordinance - being completed last year. She also pointed to her goal in this year's address - finally finishing the construction of the long-sought Senior Center - as already underway since it was recently put out for bid with the expectation it will come back for council approval in April and begin construction at the originally selected 611 Municipal Drive location this summer.

"We are going to make sure shovels are in the ground this year. It's over - we're done waiting!" DeLisle said.

Leander plans to proactively impose Stage 4 water restrictions, which prohibits all nonessential outdoor water usage, starting Feb. 12 to coincide with the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA) - which is jointly owned by Leander, Cedar Park and Round Rock - shuts off its aging, deteriorating raw water intake pipeline so it can install a replacement pipeline. Unlike the unplanned pipeline breaks that caused issues for Leander in recent years, taking the pipeline offline for the replacement project has been planned for more than a year. The project is intended to permanently solve the reoccuring pipeline issues.

Leander anticipates its other water plant, the Sandy Creek Water Treatment Plant, will sufficiently cover the city's water needs during the project. However, since the BCRUA water plant provides 60% of Leander's water, they are using the water restrictions as an additional precaution to avoid any water outages. The BCRUA is completing the project at this time because it wants to complete the project as quickly as possible but had to spend 2023 building the pipeline support structure, so this is the earliest possible time to start the final phase.

The BCRUA also plans to finally begin construction on its massive Deep Water Intake Pipeline project in April 2027, which will increase how much water the plant can pump from 42 million gallons per day to 145 million gallons per day and make the plant more drought resilient by pulling from a deeper part of Lake Travis.

DeLisle said the two projects combined with water system improvements the council has passed in recent years means Leander's reoccurring water issues could finally be solved for the next several years, unlike cities to the north who could be facing a water crisis in coming years.

Hogue criticized the city and the council for being in a place as a city where they have to declare Stage 4 water restrictions for this project, claiming it is too severe and that solutions should have been tackled sooner. He explained that he is a big supporter of en-

MAY ELECTION

The Cedar Park and Leander municipal elections will be held on May 4, with Early Voting starting on April 22.

couraging water conservation and will comply with the water restrictions. He accuses the city and the city council of not effectively communicating to the public about why the restrictions are being imposed and how they hope to solve the problem.

The multi-decade expansion and buildout of the BCRUA water plant and pipeline has been going on since construction first began back in 2012. The deep water intake pipeline project is part of the \$290 million Phase 2 improvements to the plant, which will have taken nearly a decade to complete by the time it is finished. The member cities spent several years raising the funding for this phase, and it was held up for most of 2020 when the previous council sought to conduct a water study before approving its share of the project's funding. A third and final phase will begin planning once the Phase 2 improvements are completed.

Hogue also opposes Leander's membership in the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CapMetro) system, arguing the Leander Station rail service ridership is too low, and Leander receives too few benefits at this time to justify the price of being in

He is also very skeptical about the \$715 million Northline development's expectations that Austin-area shoppers will start utilizing the CapMetro line in significant numbers to bypass the growing traffic on U.S. 183 when visiting it starts coming online in the coming years. He feels that having to choose between continuing to invest in CapMetro or having to give up forever is a false dichotomy. While he acknowledged he and other residents have benefitted from the rail service, he argues the city and the city council are foolishly "playing Choo-Choo" by expecting the rail to eventually pay off for the city in the coming years based on current usage, claiming they are "idealists,

He wants Leander's membership in CapMetro to be put up for a vote again in 2027 - the next time it can legally come up for a vote - and he plans to personally vote to leave the system.

Currently, CapMetro provides a single rail service from the Leander Station to the center of downtown Austin, which has been criticized in the past for being slow, and a variety of busing services. The system was originally to receive a massive amount of federal funding to build an extensive network across the area, reaching out to South Congress and to the Austin airport, but an Austin vote in 2000 to approve it failed by less than 2,000 votes. Without new federal funding in the subsequent two decades, CapMetro's rail system has largely been limited to the single rail.

However, CapMetro has added several expansions in recent years as spike area growth has increased revenues for the system, including double-tracking that speeds up the trip near the Leander Station and a new rail station close to the Q2 Stadium that opened Feb. 24.

Under state law, CapMetro requires cities to provide the revenues of their 1% sales tax half of the sales tax it can levy - in exchange for membership, and it must immediately stop providing rail service and other services once canvassing is completed on a city's vote to leave the system. Additionally, in 2022, Leander would have legally been required to

keep paying CapMetro for three to four years in exchange for no service in order to pay off its share of the debt CapMetro accrued while Leander was a member. CapMetro cannot change or renegotiate changes to these terms with member cities unless the Texas Legislature passes changes to the state laws

Approximately 60% or more of Leander voters cast a ballot in favor of joining the CapMetro system in 1985 and in favor of remaining in the system in 2000 and in 2022 Leander originally received significantly more services from CapMetro than it paid, but its 1% sales tax revenues have grown to over \$10 million annually.

During the 2022 vote, Leander negotiated a new Interlocal Agreement with CapMetro that gives back \$2 million and growing each year - the amount of funding Leander pays CapMetro in excess of its share of the system's costs. Leander has used the funding to finance improvements to streets in the Old Town district, an Old Town District Master Plan and an upcoming U.S. 183 Corridor

Leander's \$715 million Northline development, which is building its first commercial portions this year, aims to utilize the CapMetro rails system to draw in tourism by using the rail to bypass the growing traffic on

Hogue explains that he isn't against mass transit or rail service but feels it still isn't worth it for Leander right now, even with the Interlocal Agreement. He envisions Leander leaving the system, reinvesting the funds into local infrastructure projects and seeking to return sometime in 2040 or beyond - once the system is built out and infrastructure can be built to mitigate its local traffic impact.

CapMetro has declined in the past to comment on what it would do if a smaller city member like Leander left the system, including whether it would or wouldn't maintain the Leander station and whether a member who left would ever be allowed to

DeLisle, a frequent critic of how Cap-Metro provides service for Leander, voted in favor of putting the CapMetro system up for a vote in 2022. She said Leander voters had made their preferences heard with the 2022 vote, so the focus needs to be on making a serious push to change state laws so Cap-Metro can be more responsive to Leander's needs, including reducing how much small city members have to pay in exchange for

She argues that the city and the previous city council have not made a strong effort in the past to push for legislative changes. She feels Leander has a great chance of seeing law changes in the 2025 legislative session since she and Council member Becki Ross, who represents Leander on the CapMetro board. shocked state officials at a conference discussing mass transit last September with details about how the current system wasn't working for Leander. She said they expect the issue to be mentioned in a multi-modal, statewide mobility study being produced by the state this year, so Leander can use the study's findings plus Leander's increased number of representatives following redistricting to make a case for law changes next year.

LGBTQ+ ISSUES

As Leander grows more diverse, the city's growing LGBTQ+ population is increasingly calling on the city and the city council to recognize their community and stand in solidarity with them, especially in the wake of several high-profile anti-LGBTQ+ hate incidents in the area last year - including people calling them pedophiles or claiming they deserve death during the public comments for last year's Pride Proclamation.

When the Leander Public Library canceled a planned drag queen storytime event in 2019, a local church rented a library room to host their own private, family-friendly LGBTQ+ inclusive event, which drew a 300-person protest split between mainly out-of-city protests against the event and Austin-area supporters.

DeLisle, who was a city council member at the time, read a children's story at the event in solidarity. She criticized the previous council for not standing with local LGBTQ+ residents who were targeted with hateful comments by protesters against the event, and criticized the previous council for "punishing the victims" by banning library room rentals after the event.

After being elected mayor in 2021, DeLisle led the repeal of the rental ban, issued Leander's first Pride Month proclamations and spoke at the first Leander Pride event. The Leander Pride organization was formed by local residents in response to the library

In late 2019, in response to a Hill Country News article about the library's annual LGBTQ+ inclusive storytime for Pride Month being more peaceful than the event protested earlier that year, Hogue shared former Leander residents' post, which criticized the event, criticized the library for stocking "politically correct content," compared the storytime to sexualizing children and claimed the library was "guilty of child abuse.'

"(She) is saying what we're all thinking about this stunt," Hogue wrote.

However, Hogue is also critical of the previous council banning library room rentals outright and supports that policy's revision. He pointed out how difficult it is to find rental space for meetings in Leander, leading most local organizations to have to go to Cedar Park to find a space. He wants an expanded policy that opens rentals at all city public rental facilities to all local individuals and organizations, including political and religious organizations of all types, and he wants city staff to look for ways to add public rental options to future city facilities and parks.

Regarding city proclamations, Hogue claimed the council has been "too focused on pushing a social agenda in past years... and we need to roll that back," stating he will only issue proclamations requested by Leander residents.

He clarified that he would be willing to issue a proclamation requested by Leander Pride, a local church or any other local organization if the proclamation is focused on how the organization has contributed to Leander. However, he would not be willing to issue a request proclamation if he felt the organization was "using the bully pulpit to sermonize to Leander residents about how they should live.'

However, he is still researching the volume of proclamations issued each year and how they are approved before finalizing his policies on this issue.

MAY ELECTIONS

Regardless of what happens in the local municipal elections this year, the winners will have to scramble to manage their respective cities' growth this year. In Leander, the Northline project and other commercial developments coming online mean a rush of new businesses coming to the city - and a lot of infrastructure needs to be built to meet those needs. In Cedar Park, the city already being more built out than Leander means the city council will have to be thoughtful and choosey with what they approve for the final undeveloped lots in the city - all while managing the completion of construction this year on the first elements of the Bell district, including the new Cedar Park Public

The Cedar Park and Leander municipal elections will be held on May 4, with Early Voting starting on April 22.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Tjade's Investment LLC, dba Tjade's Asian Cuisine to be located at 410 W Whitestone Blvd Suite 100, Cedar

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Application has been made with the Texas

Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine

and Beer Retailer's On- Premise Permit by

Red Horn Cafe, LLC to be located at 1717

Scottsdale Drive - Ste 105, Leander, TX 78641,

Williamson County. Owners/Managers of

said entity are Jon Lamb, Chad Misner, Zack

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby Given that I executor/beneficiary; Peck, Erica-Jo. A Living Being of/on the Land, in the state of Texas, Intends to (DBA) ERICA JO PECK.

LEGAL NOTICE, Notice is hereby Given that I executor/beneficiary; Belcher, Cora-Lynne. A Living Being of/on the Land, in the state of Texas, Intends to (DBA) CORA LYNNE BELCHER.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit (BG) by Whitestone Brewerv LLC to be located at 401 E Whitestone Blvd, Suite A-108, Cedar Park, Williamson County, TX 78613. Members off LLC are Chad Viggers, David Militello, Ivan Cheng, Joe Militello, Joel Rosen, John Fox, Michael Anglen, Regan VanSteenis; Ryan Anglen and Ryan VanSteenis, Managers and/or Officer, Members.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On January 18, 2024, the City Council of the City of Lago Vista, Texas passed and approved the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-01-18-01

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGO VISTA, TEXAS COMBINATION TAX AND LIMITED REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2024; LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX AND PLEDGING CERTAIN SURPLUS REVENUES IN SUPPORT OF THE CERTIFICATES; APPROVING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT, A PAYING AGENT/REGISTRAR AGREEMENT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE CERTIFICATES; AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE CERTIFICATES.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Leander Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, 201 North Brushy, Leander, Texas, to hold a public hearing to consider the following:

The City of Leander City Council will meet on March 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, 201 North Brushy, Leander, Texas, to hold a public hearing to consider the following:

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding Comprehensive Plan Case CPA-24-0011 to amend the Water Master Plan as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan, Leander, Williamson and Travis Counties, Texas. Applicant/ Agent: City of Leander.

Robin M. Griffin, Exec Director of Development Services 512-528-2750

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisify landlord's lien. Sale ends at 11:00 a.m. 02/20/2024, and is online at www.bid13.com. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit required. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale.

Property includes contents of the following units: Robles-Furniture, household goods, tools, tubs/boxes

Robles-Grill, cooler, misc.

Dean-Household goods

Recio-Couch, bed, boxes

Shugrue-Boxes, household goods, aquarium

Pelfrey-Couch, washer/dryer, boxes Saban-Tools, furniture

Shelnut-Household goods

Contact Pleasant Hill Storage, 10987 E Crystal Falls Pkwy, Leander, TX 78641, 512-744-5638.

AERIAL LIFT BUCKET TRUCK – CITY OF JONESTOWN

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Jonestown will receive bids for an Aerial Lift Bucket Truck until 2:00 pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at City Hall, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 4A, Jonestown, Texas, 78645. Submittals must be submitted in sealed envelopes and marked "2024 - Aerial Lift Bucket Truck IFB" The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud after the closing time listed above at

Bids are invited for an Aerial Lift Bucket Truck as follows:

DIESEL 4X4 AERIAL LIFT BUCKET TRUCK With delivery to:

City of Jonestown

18649 FM 1431, Suite 4A, Jonestown, Texas, 78645

Bid/Contract Documents, including chassis, body and equipment specifications are available upon LArnold@Jonestowntx.gov.

request from Laura Arnold, Administrative Assistant, Public Works at 737/236-9925 or by email at The City of Jonestown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Jonestown for a period not

to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for

the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the

equipment qualifications prior to the contract award.

DISTRICT NO. 10 NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDER **ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS** REGARDING SANITARY AND POLLUTION CONTROL OF THE AREAS IN PROXIMITY TO THE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS

Gardner and Marco Leal.

TRAVIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Travis County Municipal Utility District No. 10 (the "District"), at a meeting held on August 1, 2023, adopted an Order Establishing Rules and Regulations Regarding Sanitary and Pollution Control of the Areas in Proximity to the District's Public Water Supply Wells (the "Order"). This Order replaces in its entirely the Order Establishing Rules and Regulations Regarding Sanitary and Pollution Control of the Areas in Proximity to the District's Public Water Supply Wells approved by the Board on April 4, 2023. The Order prohibits certain uses and activities within specified distances of the District's water well. Violations of any of the provisions of this Order shall be subject to a penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation. Each day that a violation of any provisions of the rules shall be considered a separate violation. The Owner shall reimburse the District for any and all expenses incurred by the District in the enforcement of the provisions of this Order, including without limitation reasonable fees for attorneys, expert witnesses, and other costs incurred by the District. No water or sewer tap will be permitted for any tract or parcel of land until such land is in full compliance with these rules and regulations. A copy of the Order is on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas 78701, where it may be read in full.

> /s/ Vance Taylor President, Board of Directors

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Responses shall be submitted using the City of Leander's e-Procurement Portal. The link is found at: https://leandertx.bonfirehub.com/, for:

CITY OF LEANDER CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE **SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER**

will be received prior to 3:00 P.M., March 7, 2024, then be publicly acknowledged.

1. Purpose

The City of Leander, herein after "City", seeks to enter into an agreement with a qualified Individual, Firm or Corporation, herein after "Respondent", to provide construction services for the delivery of a new Senior Activity Center, Site Work, and Utility Improvements.

2. Background

The City of Leander citizens approved the issue of several bonds to fund the design and construction of the Leander Senior Center. This expansive building will provide recreation and entertainment facilities to the seniors of the City. This long-awaited project will provide meals, exercise classes, games, art classes and other featured activities for area seniors.

3. Project Firm and Plans The design and construction management services for the Project are being provided by PGAL, 14135 Midway Road, Suite G-200, Addison,

A NON-MANDATORY pre-submittal meeting will be held to fully acquaint Respondents with the unique needs of the City. The pre-submittal meeting will be conducted on:

February 13, 2024, at 1:30PM

City of Leander, Future Senior Activity Center Site 701 Municipal Drive, Leander, Texas 78641

Questions can be directed through the City of Leander's e-procurement system at https://leandertx.bonfirehub.com/. Solicitation documents and complete specifications may be downloaded from the City of Leander's e-procurement system at https://leandertx.bonfirehub.com/.

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900 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

900 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

900 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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Emory Home Auction – Emory, TX: 269 Rs County Road 3346, 3BR 2.5BA 2,118+/-SF lake home on 0.74+/-AC w/attached 2-car garage. Open to the public 1-4 p.m., Sun., Jan. 28 & Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes.

Gilmer Home Auction - Gilmer, TX: 105 Oasis Street, 4BR 3BA 2,438+/-SF home on 0.41+/-AC. Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Sun., Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes

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SPORTS

SPORTS

SCHEDULES

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Glenn vs Rouse, 7 p.m. Vista Ridge at Stony Point, 7 p.m. Cedar Park vs Leander, 7 p.m. Westwood at McNeil, 7 p.m. Vandegrift vs Round Rock, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Rouse vs Cedar Park, 7 p.m. Glenn at Liberty Hill, 7 p.m. Vista Ridge vs Manor, 7 p.m. Vandegrift at Cedar Ridge, 7 p.m. Westwood vs Stony Point, 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Leander vs Cedar Park, 7 p.m. Rouse vs Glenn, 7 p.m. Vandegrift at Round Rock, 7 p.m. Vista Ridge vs Stony Point, 7 p.m. Westwood vs McNeil, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Cedar Park vs Rouse, 7 p.m. Glenn vs Liberty Hill, 7 p.m. Leander at Lockhart, 7 p.m. Vista Ridge at Manor, 7 p.m. Round Rock at McNeil, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

TEXAS STATE VS S. ALABAMA Strahan Arena

Thursday, 7 p.m. (ESPN+)

TEXAS AT NO. 25 TCU Schollmaier Arena Saturday, 1 p.m. (ESPN2)

UTSA VS RICE UTSA Convocation Center

Saturday, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)

NO. 4 HOUSTON AT NO. 8 KANSAS

Allen Fieldhouse

Saturday, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

TEXAS A&M VS FLORIDA Reed Arena

Saturday, 3 p.m. (ESPN2)

TEXAS STATE VS SOUTHERN MISS

Strahan Arena Saturday, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN+)

NO. 18 BAYLOR VS

NO. 12 IOWA STATE Foster Pavilion Saturday, 7 p.m. (ESPN2)



Coach Keith Allen's Vista Ridge Rangers sit atop the girls District 25-6A standings as they head into the final games of the

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NO. 13 BAYLOR VS NO. 12 TEXAS Foster Pavilion

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

TEXAS STATE VS S. ALABAMA Strahan Arena

Saturday, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)

NO. 12 TEXAS VS NO. 2 KANSAS STATE Moody Center

Sunday, 1 p.m.

HOUSTON VS NO. 13 BAYLOR

Fertitta Center

Sunday 2 p.m. (BIG12)

TEXAS A&M VS MISSISSIPPI STATE Reed Arena Sunday, 3 p.m. (SEC)

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

Cedar Park vs Hays, 7:15 p.m. Rouse vs Lockhart, 7:15 p.m. Vandegrift at Cedar Ridge, 7:30 p.m. Vista Ridge vs Manor, 7:30 p.m. Leander vs Glenn, 7:15 p.m.

Glenn vs Cedar Park, 7:15 p.m. Leander at Lehman, 7:15 p.m. Rouse at Hays, 7:15 p.m. Vandegrift vs Vista Ridge, 7:30 p.m. Westwood at Manor, 7:30 p.m

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

Cedar Park at Hays, 7:15 p.m. Glenn vs Leander, 7:15 p.m. Rouse at Lockhart, 7:15 p.m. Westwood at Stony Point, 7:30 p.m. Vista Ridge at Manor, 7:30 p.m.

Cedar Park vs Glenn, 7:15 p.m. Leander vs Lehman, 7:15 p.m. Rouse vs Hays, 7:15 p.m. Vista Ridge vs Vandegrift, 7:30 p.m. Westwood vs Manor, 7:30 p.m.

Vandegrift, Rouse assistant coaches depart for head coaching positions

STAFF REPORTS

The staffs of Rouse and Vandegrift's football programs will see some new faces on the sideline in the upcoming season, as at least three assistant coaches have departed for head coaching opportunities so far this offseason.

Rouse offensive coordinator Dustin Pleasant was recently named head coach at Fort Worth ISD's Carter-Riverside High

Pleasant will replace Philip Murray, who spent five years at Riverside improving the program's competitiveness. Murray is now an assistant athletic director within FWISD.

Keri Timmerman, who spent the last four seasons at Vandegrift, was named head coach and athletic director at Marble Falls High School, where he will take over a program that went just 3-17 with no district wins over the last two seasons. Former Marble Falls coach Brian Herman resigned in November after five seasons with the Mustangs, in which the team amassed a 21-32 record.

"I'm very thankful for the four years that the Timmerman family gave the Vandegrift community. I know he will do well in his new endeavors and we wish him the best," said Vandegrift head coach Drew Sanders.

Timmerman was the passing game coordinator for the Vipers.

Vandegrift will also look to replace longtime offensive coordinator Blake Mouser, who was just this





FILE PHOTOS / SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Former Westlake head football coach Todd Dodge retired after leading the Chaparrals to a third straight Class 6A state championship in 2021. Dodge was named the new head coach at Lucas Lovejoy earlier this month, replacing Chris Ross. Ross, the former Cedar Park High School head coach and Leander ISD athletic director, was named the new offensive coordinator at Stephen F. Austin University.

week officially named head coach and athletic director at Tolar High School.

Mouser takes over for Jeremy Mullins, whose Tolar Rattlers finished 14-2 last season, falling to Timpson in the Class 2A Division 1 state title game.

In other offseason moves, former Cedar Park High School head coach Chris Ross (2005-2012), who served as Leander ISD's athletic director from 2012-2015, was named the new offensive coordinator at Stephen F. Austin.

Ross returns to the college ranks for the first time since a three-season run as director of program development at Boise State University. During his time with the Broncos, the team won a Mountain West Conference title and made two bowl game

appearances.

Ross most recently led Lucas Lovejoy to a 45-9 overall record since taking the program over in 2020, including three district championships and two appearances in the Class 5A regional finals.

Ross's departure from Lovejoy opened the door for legendary Texas high school football coach Todd Dodge to end his retirement and return to the sidelines. A seven-time state championship winner, Dodge retired after bringing a third straight Class 6A championship to Westlake at the end of the 2021 season.

Former Leander High School defensive coordinator and later Marble Falls head coach Tony Salazar was elevated to head coach at Westlake after Dodge's retirement.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

BOYS DISTRICT 25-5A			BOYS DISTRICT 25-6A			GIRLS DISTRICT 25-5A			GIRLS DISTRICT 25-6A		
Team 0	verall [<u>District</u>	Team 0	verall	<u>District</u>	Team	Overall [<u>District</u>	Team O	verall I	<u>District</u>
Rouse	22-7	9-0	Stony Point	27-1	9-0	Glenn	28-2	10-1	Vista Ridge	20-9	9-2
Cedar Park	18-10	8-1	Round Rock	17-10	6-3	Liberty Hill	31-1	10-1	Vandegrift	22-8	8-3
Glenn	19-9	7-2	Manor	19-8	6-3	Cedar Park	20-10	8-3	Cedar Ridge	17-9	8-3
Leander	14-12	4-5	Cedar Ridge	14-13	5-4	Hays	23-10	7-4	Round Rock	23-7	7-4
Liberty Hill	19-9	4-5	Vandegrift	19-8	5-4	Rouse	16-15	5-6	Stony Point	21-8	6-5
Hays	15-16	3-6	Westwood	17-11	3-6	Leander	10-20	3-8	McNeil	9-18	4-7
Lehman	8-22	1-8	McNeil	13-15	2-7	Lockhart	11-17	1-10	Manor	11-20	1-10
Lockhart	11-18	0-9	Vista Ridge	6-22	0-9	Lehman	8-24	0-11	Westwood	9-21	1-10

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