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Trustees consider method to end school calendar earlier

By NICK BROTHERS
HCN Managing Editor

The Leander ISD Board of Trustees approved a study to consider becoming a District of Innovation at its Nov. 16 meeting for flexibility in creating its academic calendar for 2018-19.

A District of Innovation (DOI) is a state program that allows school districts the same abilities as open enrollment charter schools. This includes flexibility with class size ratio, teacher contracts, or flexibility in creating academic calendars, said Dan Troxell, LISD superintendent.

Many families in the district have raised concerns about the academic calendar ending on June 8, Troxell said. Some have said the June dates interfere with family vacations, enrolling in ACC courses and high school remediation courses, among other issues.

Meanwhile, some neighboring districts — such as Austin ISD — are able to finish school by Memorial Day due to their DOI status. Because of standard state restrictions, districts cannot start their school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Troxell and the trustees said they wanted to limit the DOI study parameters strictly to calendar flexibility.

See LISD, pg. 3

LISD eyes Larkspur subdivision for new elementary

By NICK BROTHERS
HCN Managing Editor

After LISD's \$454.4 million bond was approved by voters Nov. 7, district officials are considering plans for a new elementary school in the rapidly growing, northern-most area of the district.

The LISD Board of Trustees considered the Larkspur subdivision in Liberty Hill as the site for the district's 27th elementary school at their Nov. 16 meeting. The location for the new school, slated to open in August 2019, came with the district's annual demographer's report, which provided



NICK BROTHERS

The Leander ISD Board of Trustees are considering building a new elementary school in the Larkspur subdivision in Liberty Hill. To save costs, the prototype design will closely resemble Akin Elementary, pictured here.

growth projections throughout the next decade.

The land for the school is already owned by the school district, said District Spokesperson Corey Ryan.

Trustees will discuss the final selection of the site, its boundary process and construction timelines at their Dec. 7 meeting.

"We need to be moving very quickly so we can meet the timeline that's outlined in this report," said LISD Superintendent Dan Troxell.

The Larkspur school should relieve over-

See LARKSPUR, pg. 3

HOLIDAY
ACTIVITY
GUIDE

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND SANTA'S WORKSHOP
WHEN: Friday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
WHERE: Heritage Oak Park - 875 Quest Parkway, Cedar Park
The annual community holiday party will feature live music, carriage rides, games and prizes, bounce houses and photos with Santa. Be sure to catch Admission is free. 512-401-5500. www.cedarparktexas.gov

IT'S THE MOST
WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE
YEAR.

Whether you're looking for a festive event to take the family to get some photos with santa or looking to take in some arts flavor, here are several local upcoming events sure to make your holidays bright.

See HOLIDAY ACTIVITY GUIDE, pg. 14

OLD TOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE
WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 2, noon to 8 p.m.
WHERE: 100 N Brushy St, Leander
Leander's Old Town will be supercharged with Christmas spirit this weekend. Planned activities include the Old Town Rudolph Run 5k, Leander in Lights Parade, an ice skating rink, pictures with Santa, local school performances and entertainment, a food court, local vendors and more. Don't miss the holiday tree lighting at sundown, either. 512-259-1907. www.oldtownleander.com

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN'S NORTH POLE FLYER
WHEN: Nov. 25 - Dec. 7
WHERE: 401 E. Whitestone Blvd. Ste. C-100, Cedar Park
This all ages 2 hour train ride features a visit from Santa, hot cocoa, cookies and a reading of the North Pole Flyer — the Austin Steam train's own Christmas story. Departures are 8:30 a.m., noon, 3:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m. It's a popular tradition, so expect a waiting list for many dates. Tickets range from \$45 to \$55. 512-477-8468. www.austinsteamtrain.org/special-events/north-pole-flyer

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Leander Library celebrates 30 years



COURTESY PHOTO

The Leander Public Library will be celebrating its anniversary with a holiday open house, Saturday, Dec. 2.

By NICK BROTHERS
HCN Managing Editor

With 30 years of serving Leander's curious minds, the Leander Public Library will be celebrating its anniversary with a holiday open house, Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Leander Public Library 30th anniversary and holiday open house runs from 10 a.m. to noon on Dec. 2. The library is located at 1011 S Bagdad Road.

The public is invited

to attend the anniversary commemoration, which begins at 10:15 a.m. with guest speakers Director and Librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission Mark Smith, Immediate Past President of the American Library Association Julie Todaro, and Leander City Manager Kent Cagle.

The guest speakers will commemorate the occasion and special displays will highlight the

history and service of the library, said Priscilla Donovan, library director.

"With the rapid growth of Leander, especially in the last several years, the library has worked hard to provide top-notch services to our community," she said. "What better time to celebrate the library's progress and to thank everyone who supports the library

See LIBRARY, pg. 3

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OBITUARY



Tom Spoonts

Tommy L. (Tom) Spoonts was born in Megargel, TX on June 7, 1926, to Thomas L. Spoonts and Caroline Sutton Spoonts, who both preceded him in death. Tom passed away at his home in Liberty Hill, TX, on November 21, 2017, at the age of 91, after a brief illness. He had two sisters, who also preceded him in death, Bertha McSeverns and husband, Mac, and Louise Branch and husband, Joe. Tom is survived by his wife, Bette Gene Spoonts of the home, and children, Peggy West and husband Larry of West Monroe, LA, Bill Spoonts and wife Juanita of Loveland, CO, Danny Spoonts and wife Ann of Denver, CO, Tommy Spoonts, Jr. and wife Judy of Lubbock, TX, and Bonny Jones and husband Gary of Cedar Park, TX. He also has 12 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren, several

nieces and nephews, as well as many others who called him Dad and friends from around the world.

Tom served his country in the US Navy during World War II. He was attending the University of Texas in Austin as a Naval student in medical school. Later he was transferred to officer training school, then sent to Camp Bradford Amphibious Naval base near Norfolk, VA. Because of his medical training, he served as a medic on a hospital ship heading to the coast of France, to pick up and care for wounded soldiers. The ship returned to Newport News, VA, and he was selected to stay there to assist the corpsmen at the hospital. At the time the war ended, he was beginning Navy Pilot Training School at St. Mary's College in Berkley, CA. After returning home, he attended the University of New Mexico where he reconnected with his childhood friend and the love of his life, Bette Gene Foster ("Pidge"). They were married on March 8, 1947, in Albuquerque, NM. They soon moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Tom was appointed a deacon at the Fox and Lake Church of Christ in Carlsbad as a young married man with a family. He served in that capacity for seven years and then was appointed an elder in

which position he served 8 years. Then he moved to Texas and helped start the Westover Hills congregation in Austin. There he was appointed an elder and served for twenty-five years before retiring to go to the island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean where he was a self-supported missionary for several years. Then later, he continued to do missionary work in Hawaii and Central America. At the time of his death, he was continuing to support the native mission works on the island of St. Kitts and in Africa.

As an electrician, he worked in construction and the potash mines in southern New Mexico, and as an engineer he worked for the City of Carlsbad, the City of Austin, and Travis County. As a traffic engineer, he served as president of the International Municipal Signal Association, where he was the inventor of several traffic innovations, including the blue reflectors on the streets that mark the location of fire hydrants for the fire trucks, which are still in use all across the United States today. When you have to wait for the pedestrian light to give you permission to cross the street in front of the Texas State Capitol Building, you can thank Tom Spoonts.

He had a talent and love for music that he passed

down to at least 3 generations of his family. He sang tenor and played the clarinet, piano, violin, and banjo.

Tom loved the Lord Jesus with all of his heart, soul, mind and strength. He especially loved the churches that he has been a member of the last several years of his life: the Smithwick Church of Christ in Smithwick, TX, and the Cloudcroft Church of Christ in Cloudcroft, NM, who are the sponsoring churches of his most beloved mission works with Randolph Prentiss in St. Kitts and Julius Ojunga in Kunya, Kenya.

Visitation is scheduled for Friday, November 24, 2017, from 5:00-7:00 pm at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 1200 Bagdad Road, Leander, TX 78641. Services are scheduled at the Smithwick Church of Christ, Smithwick, TX, on Saturday, November 25, 2017, at 1:00 PM, with interment to follow at the Smithwick cemetery, with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mia Moo fund at www.miamoo.org or The Children's Home of Lubbock at www.childshome.org.

For those desiring, you may also access the online guest registry and obituary at www.wcfish.com. Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, Leander - (512) 260-8800



COURTESY PHOTO

The Williamson County Angel Tree honors the victims of violent crime.

WilCo Angel Tree honors victims of violent crime

STAFF REPORT

The Williamson County community is invited to join the Williamson County District Attorney's Office for the lighting of the county's fifth Tree of Angels to honor victims of violent crime.

The ceremony takes place Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Williamson County Historic Courthouse 26th District Courtroom at 710 S. Main Street in Georgetown.

"This moving ceremony encourages the community to remember families whose lives have forever been touched by violent crime," said Shawn Dick, Washington County district attorney.

Families, survivors of a violent crime, families with missing loved one and friends of a victim are invited to bring an angel ornament to place on the tree.

"This is how the community and local govern-

ment comes together to honor those who have fallen," said Alma Vasquez, DA victim assistance coordinator.

The evening also includes the dedication and lighting of the unadorned Tree of Angels and victims, families and friends adorning the tree with their angel ornaments.

Officials expect the audience to be a broad reflection of the community, including families of homicide victims, law enforcement, state, county and local victim service agencies.

The Tree will stay lit throughout the holiday season at the district attorney's office.

The tradition began in December 1991, when the local advocacy group People Against Violent Crime in Austin proposed the first Tree of Angels to recognize the holidays are a difficult time for victims and their families.

For more information, call 512-943-1234.

Pets of the Week

Pets of the Week

Freddy

Male- 5 years old
Domestic Shorthair
Orange/Brown

Freddy, the purr-fect lounge lizard-sure to capture your heart. It's the simple things that make him happy, like a home & a family



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Pets of the Week

Solito

Male
6 years old
Large-Tan/White

Solito is friendly, playful and easy-going. He walks well on leash and is good with kids. He's used to the outdoors and is wishing and hoping for a new forever home where he will truly be a member of the family.



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Calendar

NOVEMBER 23

Blue Santa Registration

Leander's Blue Santa is registering families through Dec. 2, at 11880 Hero Way West, Suite 204; visit leandertx.gov for the registration schedule. Cedar Park is registering families for Blue Santa on Dec. 8 at the Cedar Park Police Department, 911 Quest Parkway; visit cedarparktx.gov for details and applications.

photos with Santa and craft projects, Friday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway. Admission is free. Call (512) 401-5500 for more information.

DECEMBER 2

Leander Public Library celebrates its 30th anniversary with a Winter Wonderland celebration, featuring crafts, treats, Santa, historic displays and special guests, Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1011 S. Bagdad Road.

NOVEMBER 30

Christian rock and pop performers Casting Crowns and For King & Country will perform as part of "A Glorious Christmas" event Nov. 30, 7 p.m. at H-E-B Center at Cedar Park, 2100 Avenue of the Stars. Visit hebcenter.com for tickets and details.

Cedar Park High School Theatre presents "Funny Girl," Nov. 30 through Dec. 1, in the CPHS Performing Arts Center, 2150 Cypress Creek Road. Tickets are available online at cphstheatrearts.com.

The Old Town Christmas Festival has events scheduled all day Dec. 2, including a 5K, Leander in Lights Parade, ice-skating rink, children's activities, photos with Santa, entertainment, food and vendors in Old Town Leander, 100 N. Brushy St. Visit oldtownleander.com for details and the event schedule.

The North Pole Flyer is celebrating its 10th anniversary, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 17. This two-hour round-trip holiday train excursion features a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot cocoa and a holiday reading of the North Pole Flyer book. Visit austin-steamtrain.org for tickets and information.

DECEMBER 1

The Cedar Park Tree Lighting and Santa's Workshop features live music, carriage rides, games and prizes, inflatables,

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PEC distributing nearly \$8.6 million in capital credits to members

STAFF REPORT

Pedernales Electric Co. will distribute nearly \$8.6 million in capital credits to members — with many in Cedar Park and Leander — in December, according to a press release.

“Part of the cooperative difference is returning our margins back to our members,” PEC Controller Freddy Wolff said. “A capital credit distribution is a great benefit and a way for our members to share in the success of the cooperative.”

Because PEC is a member-owned cooperative, it does not earn profits. Whenever revenue exceeds budgeted expenses, the cooperative earns margins, which are allocated out to members in the form of capital credits.

The 2017 distribution was approved Oct. 16 after the PEC Board of Directors reviewed the cooperative’s

fiscal health and determined the amount will not result in any adverse impact.

How it works

This year’s distribution, outlined below in more detail, will be executed in accordance with the cooperative’s capital credits policy.

Members who accumulated capital credits in 2016 will receive 40.5 percent of their allocation, discounted to approximately 18.25 percent, which represents the net present value of their credits. This distribution will total approximately \$4.1 million. Members may opt out of their discounted 2016 capital credits if they prefer to receive non-discounted credits in a future distribution, which PEC predicted to be on a 30-year cycle.

Members who accumulated capital credits in

1986 and 1987 will receive 100 percent and 26 percent, respectively, of the non-discounted credits allocated from those years. This will total approximately \$4.1 million.

The estates of deceased members received an estimated total distribution of \$300,000.

Current members are scheduled to receive distributions as credits on their December bills. Members with multiple accounts will receive all their credits on a single account’s bill.

Former members with capital credit distributions totaling more than \$10 will receive a check. A check may be issued for any distribution under \$10 by request or when accumulated unpaid distributions exceed \$10. Former members are encouraged to contact PEC to ensure their current address is on file.

“In the last decade,



Courtesy Photo

Pedernales Electric Co. will distribute nearly \$8.6 million in capital credits to members — with many in Cedar Park and Leander — in December.

more than \$107 million has gone back into the hands of PEC members,” Emily Pataki, PEC’s board president, said. “These dollars come from the cooperative’s continued positive margins and are made

possible through our commitment to maintaining a financially healthy organization. We take great pride in the unique relationship we have with our members and in sharing PEC’s success with them.”

Members will receive more information about capital credits with their December bill. Additional information is also available here or by calling our capital credits line at 800-230-2207.

LARKSPUR, from pg. 1

crowding at Plain Elementary School in Leander.

Demographers estimate there will be 1,084 students in the Plain Elementary attendance zone in Oct. 2018. Addressing the overcrowding of the school is the first priority in the district’s long term plan, said Stacey Tepera, data manager for Population and Survey Analysts, or PASA.

“The acceleration of population in Larkspur we’ve seen has been remarkable,” Tepera said. “In September, there were 97 homes under construction in the subdivision.”

The school in Larkspur may potentially serve nearby subdivisions such as Summerlyn West, Bryson, Orchard Ridge, said Pat Guseman, chief demographer for PASA.

To save approximately \$300,000, the district will

be following designs that closely resemble Akin Elementary, with a few tweaks, district officials said.

“When we project growth, we have to define a geographic area and say we project this many students to live in this area and this is how it might relate to the capacity of a school,” Tepera said. “However, no decisions have been made about any attendance zones, and no decisions have been made about where your child will go to school.”

Five schools in four years

Based on moderate growth projections, LISD expects to continue adding more than 1,000 new students per year for the next 10 years. The rapid growth raises the possibility of needing five new

schools in four years between 2019 and 2023.

According to the annual demographer’s report, home builders have built on 73 percent of the district’s available land for new single-family and multi-family units. This does not include an expected 45,889 new units between now and 2027.

“Elementary school No. 28 could be fully utilized in 2020 as we get closer on,” Tepera said.

Estimated growth will be highest in the northern part of the district and along the Ronald Reagan Boulevard corridor between Journey Boulevard and FM 2243.

“We’re grateful LISD got its bond passed,” Guseman said. “Because you’re going to see that growth marching forward and it will be important to have the monies to accommodate this growth.”

LISD, from pg. 1

“Local control on the calendar makes sense, as long as districts don’t abuse the power and push the start date of the school year into late August,” Troxell said. “We are looking at options that may push the start date back a week to give us flexibility in June.”

The other alternative to adjusting the calendar without attaining DOI status could be adding minutes to the school day, said Board President Pamela Waggoner.

“You can absolutely reduce the number of days at the end of the school year by counting minutes, and it doesn’t require a DOI, but you lose instructional time,” Troxell said.

Next Steps

With the resolution approved at the Nov. 16 meeting, the Board will

hold a public hearing Dec. 7, where the Board will decide whether to create a state-required DOI committee of teachers, instructional staff, parents and community members.

However, the decision to approve the study doesn’t mean the district will ultimately decide to adopt a DOI, Waggoner said.

“I want to make sure we have maximum exposure to the public and collect maximum feedback from the public prior to us adopting it and then saying, ‘Hey we just did this,’” said Place 5 Board Member Jim MacKay.

If the Board decides to move forward with the committee at their Dec. 7 meeting, the study will begin on Dec. 16. The DOI Plan will then be sent to the Commis-

sioner of Education on Jan. 12 and be available to the public online for 30 days.

The board will hold a public hearing and vote on adopting the DOI on Feb. 15, according to meeting documents.

At least 651 districts have become Districts of Innovation since 2015.



Hurricane recovery continues with extension of disaster declaration



AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Nov. 20 extended the disaster declaration for counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Some 60 counties are included and they will continue to be eligible for assistance as they recover and rebuild.

“The most important message I want to send to the victims of this storm is that they are not alone as they continue to recover from this storm. While we still have a long way to go to return to a new normal, I have no doubt that Texas will eventually emerge from this disaster stron-

ger than ever before,” Abbott said.

Declarations must be renewed every 30 days for assistance to remain available. Gov. Abbott said he would continue to renew them as needed throughout the recovery process.

Counties covered in the disaster declaration include: Angelina, Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Colorado, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kerr, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sa-

bine, San Patricio, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Wailer, Washington, Wharton, Willacy and Wilson.

Aid request is granted

On Nov. 17 Abbott announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency granted his request to extend the deadline to Jan. 16 for Transitional Sheltering Assistance for victims of Hurricane Harvey. Nearly 17,000 families are receiving this form of assistance, which is intended to help those who have been unable to return to their homes find short-term shelter in hotels or other temporary housing locations. Abbott said he remains “committed to doing everything possible to get these families back under their own roofs.”

HUD funds committed

In other hurricane-recovery news, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on Nov. 17 awarded \$5 billion through a community development block grant program supporting the repair of damaged homes, businesses and critical infrastructure.

HUD Secretary Ben Carson said the agency would work with Abbott and his staff “to do whatever is needed to rebuild damaged homes and to restore shuttered businesses in some of the hardest-hit areas of the State.”

U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz acknowledged the importance of federal disaster aid to Texans who are continuing to suffer as a result

of Hurricane Harvey and expressed support for the programs.

In September, President Trump signed legislation securing \$7.4 billion in funding for Harvey and major disasters, such as Hurricane Irma (Florida), Hurricane Maria (Puerto Rico) and the California wildfires.

Court blocks new law

Austin U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel, in a Nov. 22 ruling, granted permanent injunctive relief to abortion providers who have been trying to prevent enforcement of a law passed last spring by the Texas Legislature.

The law would require a provider to perform an additional procedure to ensure fetal demise before continuing a dilation

and evacuation abortion. Yeakel, in finding for the plaintiffs, said the additional procedure, which involves a lethal injection to a fetus in the second trimester, would be invasive, risky and medically unnecessary.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said the state would fight the injunction in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Job growth continues

The Texas Workforce Commission on Nov. 17 reported that the state’s economy added 71,500 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in October while annual employment growth was 2.6 percent for the month, marking 90 consecutive months of annual growth.

LIBRARY, from pg. 1

and everyone who uses the library than our 30th anniversary? Our holiday open house is one of our favorite days of the year and this year our event will be even more fun.”

Originally housed in two rooms of the old junior high school at 100 South Street in 1987, the library now has a collection of more than 60,000 titles available at the 18,000 square foot facility.

All of the annual Winter Wonderland holiday festivities – stories, crafts, Christmas cookies and refreshments will be

served and Santa will be here to visit with the children. Families can sign up for the Winter Reading Club, too, Donovan said.

“I hope everyone will join us to celebrate the library and kick off the holiday season,” she said.

To keep the festivities rolling, directly following the event will be the Leander Old Town Christmas Parade and festival, which takes place 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 100 N. Brushy Street.

For more information, contact the library at 512-259-5259.

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Sign-ups for our Cooperative Solar Rate begin Dec. 4. Learn more at pec.coop/solar-rate.

Property owners
deserve tax relief



Imagine working hard all your life, buying the home you always wanted and living in a friendly neighborhood. That's the American Dream!

But today, too many Texans are in danger of losing their homes because of rising property taxes. Too many seniors are watching their property tax bills rise, while their retirement income stays the same. No Texan should have to sell their home because the government keeps raising property taxes each year.

I believe that homeowners deserve property tax relief. My wife and I are homeowners like many of you. We are subject to the same taxation and have experienced annual increases in our property tax bill. Even while the school district, city and the county hold their tax rates steady, or even cut their tax rates, our property tax bill goes up.

Between 2014 and 2017 my property tax bill has increased more than 43 percent. I believe that reform is needed to prevent people from being taxed out of their homes.

The majority of Texans also want stricter limits placed on local government's ability to increase taxes. This past session I voted in favor of a bill to slow the growth of property taxes.

Disagreements between House and Senate negotiators resulted in failure of the bill. This was a missed opportunity and to me it is a major disappointment. I remain committed to working with my colleagues in the House and the Senate to reach an agreement that helps homeowners with their property taxes.

Under current law if a city, school district or county raises taxes more than 8 percent, the citizens can petition for a rollback election to either approve the new tax rate or "rollback" the tax rate to the existing rate. A tax increase of 10 percent would result in an automatic election.

The House passed a bill requiring an automatic election if a local tax increase is 6 percent. When the bill was on the

House floor I voted in favor of an amendment to lower that amount to 4 percent. The amendment did not pass and the final version of the House bill, which I also voted for, remained at 6 percent. When the Senate passed their version of the bill they voted for a 4 percent automatic election.

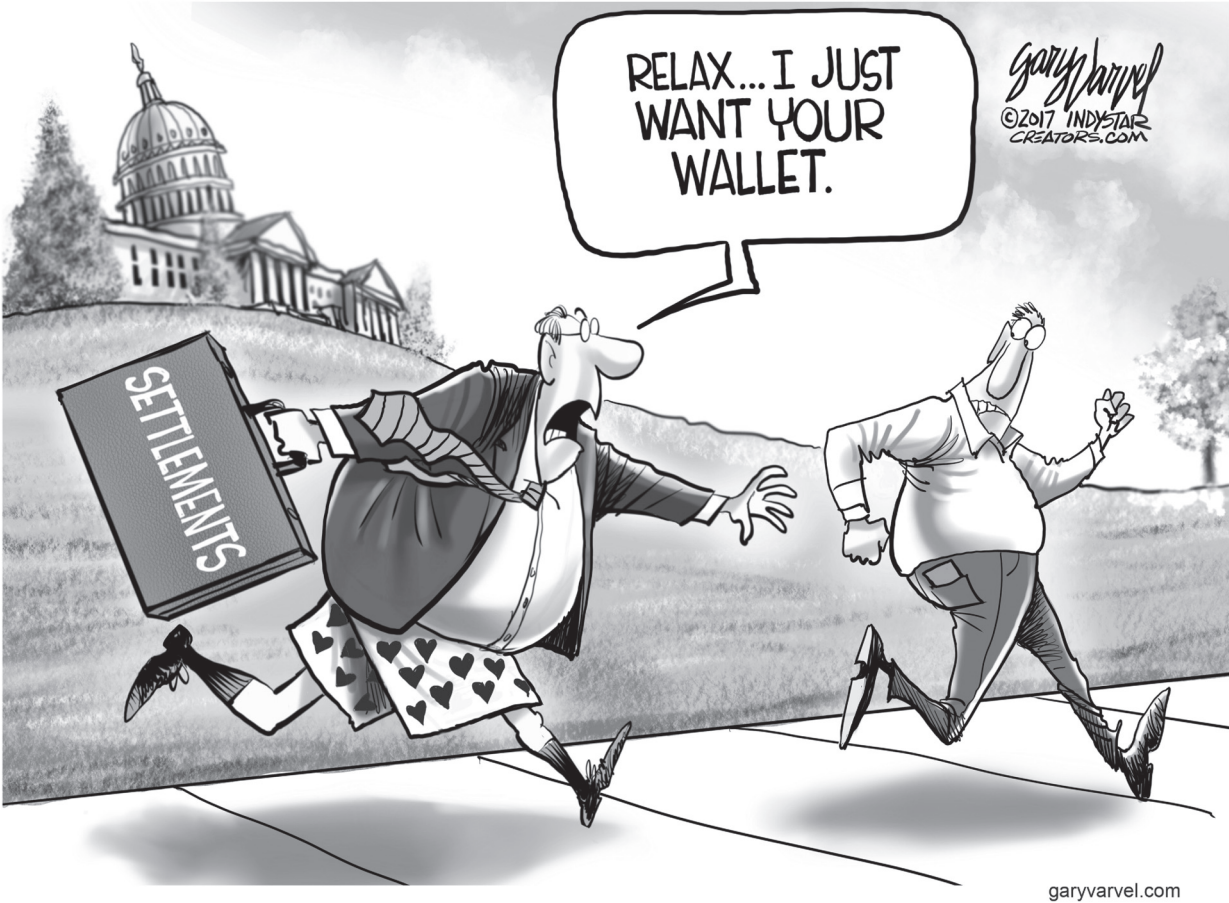
What would you recommend if the Senate bill said 4 percent and the House bill said 6 percent? Do you think offering the body the chance to vote on a 5 percent limit would be a good compromise? I certainly believe it would be acceptable, but it was not to be. The negotiators in the two chambers were not able to reach a compromise. I never got a chance to vote on a compromise bill. Due to the deadlock the bill did not pass.

The failure of the bill left homeowners without a new mechanism to keep local property taxes in check. It is true that neither version of the bill would have reduced taxes, but it would have slowed the growth of property taxes.

I want to hold government more accountable, so it taxes less, spends less, and does more to cut waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars. The best place to start is through substantial property tax relief that will allow families to afford their dream home now and in the future.

Government has no right to tax Texas families out of the homes they worked their whole lives to buy. Government has no right to force seniors from their homes because of unending hikes in property taxes. I will make property tax reform priority number one in the next legislative session because our families, homes, neighborhoods and quality of life are worth protecting.

Representative Dale is Vice Chairman of the Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee and is a member of the Environmental Regulation Committee and he is Chairman of the Texas House Energy Caucus. He represents southwestern Williamson County, Cedar Park, Leander, Brushy Creek and parts of Austin and Round Rock.



Onward Christian soldiers: Jim Bakker's War

False Prophets are very good at hiding their falseness. Recently, Jim Baker, the religious swindler and convicted felon, stated that if Trump is impeached "The Christians will finally come out of the shadows." He went on to state "Such an impeachment will result in another American Civil War. It will be called for and managed by the Christians."



In a recent Baptist News Global article, Miguel De La Torre states: "Evangelicalism has ceased to be a faith perspective rooted in Jesus the Christ and has become a political movement whose beliefs repudiate all Jesus advocated."

The beauty of the gospel message — of love, of peace and of fraternity — has been murdered by the ambitions of Trumpish flimflammers who have sold their souls for expediency. No greater proof is needed of the death of Christianity than the rush to defend a child molester in order to maintain a majority in the U.S. Senate. Evangelicalism's embrace of a new age of ignorance, blames homosexuality for Harvey's rage rather than considering the scientific consequences climate change has on the number of increasing storms of greater and greater ferocity.

You might wonder if my condemnation is too harsh. It is not, for the Spirit of the Lord has convicted me to shout from the mountaintop how God's precious children are being devoured by the hatred and bigotry of those who have positioned themselves as the "voice of God in America."

On November 20th, The Boston Declaration, condemning the abuse of the Christian faith by many conservatives today, was written, signed and released by more than 300 Christian theologians attend-

ing the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, an annual meeting of nearly 10,000 professionals in religion.

In a dramatic press conference at Boston's famous Old South Church, the presenters were clear that white American Evangelicalism is in a crisis, a crisis of its own making. It has abandoned the Gospel of Jesus the Christ.

They said: "We are here because Jesus taught us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." We are here because we take the parable of the Good Samaritan to heart. We are

people of color, for immigrants, for those of other religions, for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender human beings, for women and girls, for the poor and the most vulnerable among us."

We have now reached that moment when Christian preachers of every kind must stand up and demand that those who claim to follow The Christ actually follow The Christ. We cannot allow another American Civil War to commence being led by faux Christian leaders who preach hatred, exclusivity and war itself as a solution to anything.

You, the reader of this article and all the other publicity in this crisis, must take this seriously. Six weeks before the firing on Fort Sumter, no one had seriously thought that a real war would occur. And then without warning, America caught on fire.

As the convicted felon Jim Baker says, we are very close to a civil war. Our whole country is armed and dangerous. One match, one bullet, one mistake. Even one impeachment trial, and we are done. If we really claim to be Christians, then we must follow The Christ. At the very least we must seek peace with our American Brothers and Sisters. And we must act now.

Following The Christ, seeking peace and charity toward all and compassion for each, we can grow to the America we were educated to believe we lived in. We are fast leaving that America under a false flag of Making America Great Again.

The Christ, as promised, will be with each of us until the end of time, but none of us will live to see a great America ever again.

Pray for peace, pray for forgiveness, pray for each other.

Chuck Robison is a published author and co-hosts of the "What if it Really Works?" series of podcasts and videos.

We cannot allow another American Civil War to commence being led by faux Christian leaders who preach hatred, exclusivity and war itself as a solution to anything."

here because we refuse to allow Christianity to be co-opted by the likes of people who support abuse of women, the closing of our nation to the immigrant in need and the normalizing of lie after lie after lie.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Christian pastor who was arrested and ultimately executed by the Nazis for his opposition to Hitler, contrasted what he called "cheap grace" with the costly grace of the Gospel.

The Christianity Bonhoeffer denounced is the Christianity we denounce today. It is a Christianity that literally enables hate, hate for

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“Coco”: family will see you through

By PAUL HALL
TV Guide

Family — we all have it. The relatives we love and the relatives we avoid. Families can be small or big, natural or adoptive, and may include a plethora of different dynamics. Your family is a road map to your past, present and future. And family is at the center of the new film “Coco” from the Disney and Pixar team.

Miguel (voiced by Anthony Gonzalez) has rhythm in his heart. His family, whom he loves dearly, has barred music from their house. He struggles to see how he fits in to this unit where he can’t follow his passion, especially when he finds out some of his inspiration may have originated with former music star Ernesto de la Cruz (Benjamin Bratt), a man who Miguel believes just might be his great-great-grandfather.

As they prepare to celebrate the Day of the Dead, the family displays pictures of their deceased relatives to invite them to cross to the living and be with them for this special day. Miguel wants to perform during his small town’s celebration, but when his abuelita (Renee Victor) destroys his secret instrument, he sets out to find a guitar to play in the square, never expecting

his search would lead him to the Land of the Dead.

There, he meets the relatives whose pictures were displayed back home. But even these relatives, now skeletons, won’t let him return home unless he gives up music. Miguel can think of only one person who might help him return home and express his musical talents: his great-great-grandfather. To help him navigate this new world, Miguel enlists Héctor (Gael García Bernal), a stranger who is dying to have his picture put up at home so he can cross over one last time to see the love of his life. Can Miguel and Héctor find the legendary Ernesto de la Cruz, and will Miguel get home?

Visually, this is one of the most stunning animated offerings I have seen. From start to finish, I found myself captivated by the detail displayed in all the characters — both living and dead. This is a magnificently animated film.

The story, focusing on Miguel and his family, is heartwarming and poignant. Adults can relate to the familial relationships on-screen. We cheer for Miguel but understand something must be driving the attitudes of his family, and we long for a positive resolution that will satisfy everyone.

But — and you knew there was



Courtesy Image

Aspiring musician Miguel (right), confronted with his family’s ancestral ban on music, enters the Land of the Dead to work out the mystery.

a “but” coming — where “Coco” falls a bit short is in its suitability for younger viewers. I don’t believe this film possesses the same magic of other Pixar offerings. The skeletons might be scary for younger viewers, and the concept of dealing with death is something many parents, rightly or wrongly, try to keep their children from experiencing.

That said, “Coco” delivers a winner to older kids and adults, an underserved market in animated films. They will get a lot from the message of family that

permeates every moment of this film.

I’m glad I didn’t write this review immediately after seeing “Coco” as my thoughts on the film have turned warmer during my rumination. “Coco” has allowed me to reminisce about my own family members who have passed from this life. I am blessed to have known them. I won’t forget them, and I will make sure others won’t either. No matter the circumstance, family will see you through. Thanks “Coco,” for that reminder.

PAUL’S GRADE B+

RATED PG

VOICES

Anthony Gonzalez
Gael García Bernal
Benjamin Bratt

DIRECTORS

Lee Unkrich
Adrian Molina

NEW IN THEATERS THIS WEEK

THE DISASTER ARTIST
RATING R
VOICES James Franco,
Dave Franco, Seth Rogen
DIRECTORS James
Franco

Tommy Wiseau is a mystery. Where is he from, where does he get his money and what is this movie he is making with his best friend Greg? This film is based on the story of the making of one of the greatest bad movies of all time: The Room.

THE SHAPE OF WATER
RATING R
STARS Sally Hawkins,
Michael Shannon, Octavia
Spencer
DIRECTOR Guillermo
del Toro

In the Cold War era, Elisa, a mute American, lives a life of isolation, working in the cleaning department of a high-security government laboratory. Her life changes when she encounters a classified experiment.

WONDER WHEEL
RATING PG-13
STARS Jim Belushi,
Juno Temple, Justin Timberlake
DIRECTOR Woody Allen

Humpty, a carousel operator, and his wife take in Humpty’s estranged daughter Carolina, who has been marked for death by the mafia. What surprises will this unique situation unearth?

SUDOKU

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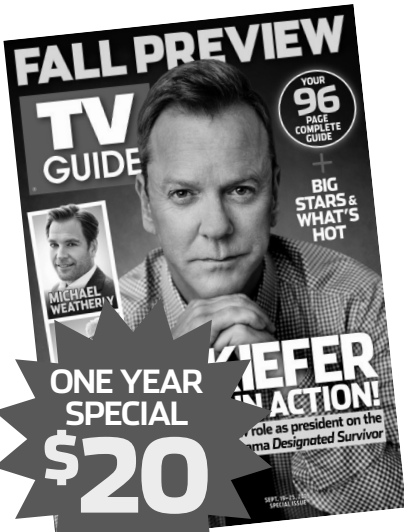
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FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

REMATCH!

CP ready for third round against Manvel



Cedar Park Timberwolves senior Luke Pollicke (34) carries the ball during a high school football playoff game between the Cedar Park Timberwolves and the Ennis Lions at Waco ISD Stadium in Waco on Nov. 24.

By **ZACH SMITH**
HCN Sports Editor

Cedar Park has been a true second-half team in the first two rounds of the playoffs. In wins against Magnolia and Ennis, the Timberwolves scored double-digit points in the second half to advance. That won't be as easy in the regional semifinals when No. 8 Cedar Park takes on No. 1 Manvel Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Waller ISD Stadium.

"We've just got to come out and score on the first drive," senior Luke Pollicke said. "We've got to finish drives. We've been able to get to the red zone a lot and just not get any points on the board. If we just finish the drive, it'll be easier for the defense because they won't have to hold them every time."



Cedar Park vs Manvel
Waller ISD Stadium, Waller
Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Manvel is a dual-threat team that has the ability to spread the field using both the passing and running games. The Mavericks average 213.5 passing yards per game and 210.8 on the ground.

Senior quarterback Kason Martin has thrown for 2,059 yards and 30 touchdowns with just three interceptions and three players have rushed for more than 450 yards and at least eight touchdowns on the year.

Manvel gives up just 12.6 points per game and has allowed seven or fewer points in six of its

11 games.

"We know they're big and strong and fast," Pollicke said. "We know we have to hit them really hard and not be soft and keep driving because they're a good team."

The Timberwolves and Mavericks clashed in the same round last season with Manvel advancing following a 47-35 win at Kyle Field in College Station.

"It sucked," Russo-Bell said of last year's loss. "We have them

See REMATCH, pg. 7



Sam Martin came to Glenn because he wanted to build something new. He and the Grizzlies have matched last season's win total through just five games this season.

Tom Glenn basketball's second season starting out strong



Byron Harkless took his first head coaching job when Glenn opened up before last season. He was previously an assistant at Connally after working with middle school teams in Del Valle ISD.

By **ZACH SMITH**
HCN Sports Editor

In just their second full season, the Glenn boys' basketball team isn't afraid to show off their swagger.

With four wins through five games, the Grizzlies have already matched their win total from last season. They're 4-0 at home, including a 65-52 win against Cedar Creek, while their only loss was on the road against Brentwood Christian.

"You have to play with a certain type of swagger," head coach Byron Harkless said. "When the other team steps in

your gym, they've got to know it's your house. We've been playing with that swagger and intensity."

The first win in school history was last year on Dec. 8 against Faith Academy of Marble Falls. Glenn won another non-district game against Goldthwaite and picked up two district wins against Llano.

This season, Glenn has scored at least 55 points in all five of its games, and the road loss to Brentwood Christian was by just three points.

"Our mindset and playing

See GLENN, pg. 14

Vandy's season ends in 2nd round

By **ZACH SMITH**
HCN Sports Editor

Vandegrift knew the running game was going to be the difference against Cibolo Steele.

The Knights outgunned the Vipers by 100 yards on the ground in a 36-18 win last Friday afternoon at New Braunfels Canyon High School.

It's the second year in a row Vandegrift fell to Steele in the area round.

"We just couldn't make the last tackle because they're so quick and so fast," Vipers head coach Drew Sanders said. "We actually clogged the gaps up pretty good. Offensively, we missed several opportunities. It was partly playing Steele and partly our mistakes."

Vandegrift capitalized on a pair of turnovers and a muffed Steele punt in the first half, scoring a touchdown and getting a long field goal. The Knights scored two touchdowns in the final four minutes of the first half and the Vipers could never recover.

Senior quarterback Justin Moore threw for 87 yards and a touchdown, a 5-yard pass to Bryson Brown early in the second quarter. Senior receiver Justin Florence led the Vipers' receiving corps with six catches for 55 yards.

Moore finished his senior year with 2,546 yards and 25 touchdowns. Senior Peyton Ausley was his leading receiver with 74 catches for 946 yards and 11 touchdowns, while Flor-

See VANDEGRIFT, pg. 7

Three Leander High athletes sign to play at collegiate level

By **ZACH SMITH**
HCN Sports Editor

Athletes from across the LISD continue to sign on to play at the collegiate level.

Three students from Leander joined that growing list last week. Mason Montgomery will play baseball at Texas Tech, Sarah Cano will swim at Illinois, and Pilar Gonzaba will play volleyball at Incarnate Word.

"Going through it all is really stressful because you've got a bunch of schools calling you," Mont-

gomery said. "You've got to take your time. In the end, Tech was just where I wanted to go. I felt a good connection with the campus and the coaches."

The trio joined 10 students from Rouse, seven from Cedar Park, and five from Vandegrift, who signed earlier in the week.

The Lions baseball team finished last season 4-14 in district play and Montgomery was the team's only first-team all-district selection.

Texas Tech has been a perennial postseason player in the last few seasons. The Red Raiders were the No. 1 seed in their regional bracket last year but were eliminated after three games, one year after advancing to the College World Series in 2016.

"Before I came to Leander I was inaccurate, and just being with the coaches really helped me develop my strengths as a player,"

See THREE, pg. 7



From left, Pilar Gonzaba will play volleyball at Incarnate Word, Mason Montgomery will play baseball at Texas Tech, and Sarah Cano will swim at Illinois.

ZACH SMITH

Advent is time for slowing down, prayer, preparation

This Sunday begins the four-week church season of Advent. Most Christians know what some of the other church seasons are — Christmas, Lent, Easter. But many don't know much about Advent and Epiphany. Because Advent is upon us, I want to remind the reader that it's more than just a countdown to Christmas.

Author Eric Metaxas describes it this way: "For nearly two millennia, Advent has been the season in which Christians reflect on the bookends of God's redemptive acts in Christ: His Incarnation and His coming again in glory to judge



the living and the dead."

In a "Peanuts" cartoon strip, Charlie Brown says to Linus, "Life is just too much for me. I've been confused from the day I was born. I think the whole trouble is that we're thrown into life too fast. We're not really prepared." Linus asks, "What did you want . . . a chance to warm up first?"

The Advent season is supposed to be our chance to warm up. It's that time to prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of the Christ child (called the "Incarnation") as well as to reflect on His Second Coming. Yes, most of focus is on decorating, buying,

and cooking — as we prepare for Christmas. But if we aren't careful the time of preparation will be over and the big day will be here and it will be just another holiday. The gifts are open, paper is all over the floor, we're stuffed from all the food and the TV is showing something inane. Then all of a sudden that empty feeling will hit us. That Charlie Brown feeling of something missing, as if we were thrown into Christmas too fast. That's when we'll realize we needed time to warm up.

The church set aside this four-week pre-Christmas season as a time of spiritual preparation for both of Christ's coming. It's a time of quiet anticipation, of reflection and prayer. If Christ is going to come again into our hearts, there must be repentance. Without repentance, our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be 'no room in the inn' for Christ to be born again in our hearts.

The Anglican Book of Common Prayer has a short prayer that cap-

tures well the essence of Advent: "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; So that, at the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal."

St. Athanasius put it this way — "He became what we are that He might make us what He is."

And I like the way another theologian put it. "Advent is the time to listen for footsteps - you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself."

This Advent, slow down. Reflect. Pray. Repent.

“Without repentance, our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be ‘no room in the inn’ for Christ to be born again in our hearts.”

Make worship an integral part of the holiday season

STAFF REPORT

The hustle and bustle of the often hectic holiday season can make it easy to overlook religion during this special time of year.

Come the holidays, adherents of Judaism celebrate Chanukah while many Christians celebrate Christmas. Though different, the two holidays share some similarities.

In celebration of Chanukah, families gather for an eight-day commemoration to honor the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem and a miracle in which a small amount of oil illuminated a menorah for eight days. Perhaps because it falls during the holiday season, Chanukah has become one of the most well-known Jewish celebrations, even for those who do not adhere to the Jewish faith.

For devout Christians, Christmas isn't about eggnog and Santa Claus. Christmas (Christ's Mass) is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the son of God. Christmas is a day of great joy in the Christian faith because it marks the beginning of Jesus' time on earth.

Both Chanukah and Christmas, while joyous celebrations, are laced with solemnity. The Second Jewish Temple was desecrated by Greek-Syrians, who had erected an altar to Zeus and sacrificed pigs within its sacred walls. At this point in time, Jews had to practice their faith in secret, reading the Torah underground and using dreidels to simulate games and confuse Greek soldiers. However, the Jews, led by a small group of rebels known as the Maccabees, persevered, marking the joy of Chanukah for years to come.

The period leading up to Christmas known as Advent is a time for repentance and preparation for the grace and miracle of Jesus' birth. According to Christianity.com, the word "advent" is derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming."

Advent is a time to both reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Much like Lent, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, prayer and reaching out to God.

During the holiday season, houses of worship customarily host prayer sessions and special holiday-related events. The faithful are encouraged to participate in these events in celebration of their faith.

Prayer can help remove distractions during the holiday season, helping individuals reconnect with the true meaning of the holiday season.



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I don't always recognize Jesus

A minister pulled from his mailbox an envelope with no return address containing an incendiary piece of "hate mail." It was from a parishioner who catalogued all the pastor's mistakes; demeaned his family; compared him to other great pastors that had gone be-



fore him, and took issue with most every sermon he had ever preached.

It was unfortunate. Yes, ministers make mistakes. They are extremely human in spite of their collars, credentials, vestments and stoles. But most pastors, priests, and rabbis do their best to honor their calling and help others. This particular letter-writer, however, had no such compassion.

It was the conclusion of the letter that I remember. It read, "I pray that you will come to know Jesus as I do, rather than just knowing Jesus like you do." When you need an edge against your enemies, any angle will do — even Jesus.

For 2000 years Jesus has taken on the form required of him. The zealots of his time wanted him to be a violent revolutionary. The legalists tried to make him a traditionalist. The anxious masses, and those closest to him, attempted to make him a king. Jesus, of course, rebuffed all these efforts.

strengthen our particular economic policies or to justify greed. We will explain away his hardest sayings in order to defuse him, and even drop his name in the right circles if it will garner a few more votes in November.

The Jesus who walked the Palestinian hills of the first century was a far cry from these things. Certainly he would have shocked us. The calloused hands of a carpenter; the dark, olive skin of a Middle Easterner; dirty feet, shaggy hair, and numbered among the poor and marginalized: He was nothing like the respectable, American, blue-eyed counterfeit we have been sold.

I admit I don't always recognize Jesus. Just when I think I have him figured out, he does something crazy: Like command me to love my enemies; or tell me to do good to those who don't deserve it. He challenges me to give away my possessions; to take sides with the vulnerable; or tells me to turn the other cheek.

Jesus might be subject to our individual interpretations, but he is certainly not subject to ownership or being tamed. He runs roughshod over our preconceptions, overturns the established order of our lives, surprises us with fierce, wild, grace. And he invites us, not to cling to our opinions about him, but to cling to him, and let our hearts follow where he leads.

Ronnie McBryer is a syndicated columnist, blogger, pastor, and author of multiple books. Visit his website at www.ronniemcbryer.org.

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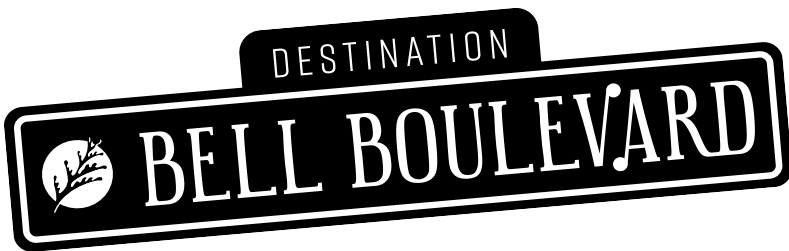
Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce

Log onto
www.cedarparkchamber.org
 for more information
 512.260.7800
 1460 E. Whitestone Blvd. Suite 180

Bell Blvd Redevelopment Workshop

The Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce was excited to participate with the City of Cedar Park on the Bell Blvd Redevelopment Workshop that took place at the Cedar Park Rec Center on Tuesday, November 14th. This was the first update and workshop in a couple of years. Residents and businesses came out to hear what is to come with the Bell Blvd Redevelopment Project.

This has been something the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce has been supportive of since its inception. The Chamber believes this is an area of Cedar Park that has been in need of an update, and this project will become a destination spot for not only residents, but businesses of all types.



The vision of this project is to “create a gathering place and sense of identity for the Cedar Park community.” That is why the City of Cedar Park continues to look for your input. I encourage all businesses and residents to go to the Destination Bell Blvd website (www.DestinationBellBlvd.com) and take the sur-

vey. This is part of the visioning process. Be sure to let your voice be heard.

The Chamber is a voluntary, not-for-profit business organization dedicated to improving the economic environment of the community. As an active, problem solving organization, the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce focuses on business development, workforce development, legislative advocacy and membership services.

The strength of the Chamber lies in its membership, small businesses, large corporations, home-based businesses, and professional men and women, working together to enhance the quality of life in Cedar Park.

Ribbon Cuttings



Ribbon Cutting for Cedar Park Eye Care
 Wednesday, October 25th
 210 N. Lakeline Blvd. Suite 100



Ribbon Cutting to Celebrate
 New Ownership of froyoz Cedar Park
 Tuesday, October 31st
 700 E. Whitestone Blvd #100



Ribbon Cutting for Cedar Pointe
 Health and Wellness Suites
 Wednesday, November 1st
 1301 Cottonwood Creek Trl.



Ribbon Cutting for First American Title
 Thursday, November 2nd
 11900 W. Parmer Lane, Suite 150



10th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting for
 The Goddard School Cedar Park
 Friday, November 10th
 1905 El Salido Pkwy



Ribbon Cutting for
 The Woodhouse Day Spa - Cedar Park
 Thursday, November 16th
 1300 E. Whitestone Blvd, Suite 100

Upcoming Events:

- 10th Anniversary Celebration for Cedar Park Regional Medical Center**
 Monday, December 4th from 5-7 pm
 1401 Medical Parkway
- Ribbon Cutting for Lakeline Crossing**
 Tuesday, December 5th at 12:00 PM
 13010 Ridgeline Blvd
- Women’s Connection Meeting presented by Cedar Park Regional Medical Center**
 Friday, December 8th from 8 - 10am
 Twin Creeks Country Club | 3201 Twin Creeks Club Dr
 Register today! | CedarParkChamber.Org
- Ribbon Cutting for Art Beat Dance Center**
 Monday, December 11th at 3:00 pm
 1420 Cypress Creek Road, Suite 100

- 2nd Wednesday Business Connection Luncheon**
 Presenting: Adopt-A-Chamber Program & Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts
 Wednesday, December 13th at 11:30 am
 12124 RR 620 N.
 Register today! | CedarParkChamber.Org
- Ribbon Cutting for Gracie Barra Martial Arts Center**
 Thursday, December 14th at 3:30 pm
 500 Cypress Creek Rd., Ste120

Keep up to date on our Mobile Directory Available on
 your SmartPhone! www.cedarparkchamber.org



Renewing Members:

- Austin Spurs
- Bang Salon & Day Spa
- Bank SNB
- Blush This Salon
- cabi
- Cedar Park Surgeons, P.A.
- Councilman Corbin Van Arsdale
- Crown Trophy CP
- Express Oil Change and Service
- Fallbrook Technologies Inc.
- Fuddruckers
- Garrett-Ihnen Civil Engineers
- GNS Insurance
- Hatch House School

- Heritage Body & Frame Inc.
- Lakeline Oaks/Resort Lifestyle Communitie
- Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church
- Low Price Auto Glass
- Munson Fire & Safety
- Reveal Dental
- Sees HR Consulting
- Shenandoah Villa Assisted Living
- SmileOn Orthodontics
- St. Patrick Church
- State Representative Tony Dale
- Wal-Mart Cedar Park - Store #4163
- Whitestone Physical Therapy

Welcome New Members:

- AT&T
- Harmony Science Academy
- Lakeline Crossing
- Russo’s New York Pizzeria
- The Bank of Austin
- Tuckaway Apartment Homes
- Walden Dental Cedar Park



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Rafael Amador
Salvatore Attaguiile
Noa Avigdor
James Bailey
William Bailey
Ryder Bartolo
Royce Beaulieu
Raquel Benavides
Donovan Bernard
Anya Bilakhia
Bree Bland
Sean Boecker
Louis Bombeck
Jakob Born
Quinn Bramwell
Nicholas Brown
Cameron Buratto
Zoe Byabagye
Mai Cachila
Julian Campos
Brielle Cardenas
Havana Castellanos
Olivia Chavez
Grace Cheek
Rigoberto Chiti
Abby Christiansen
Christopher Chung
Taylor Cleveland
Garrison Cockrell
Mariana Coddington
Hernandez
Isabel Conde De
Frankenberg
Rachel Corley
James Cowlishaw
Aidan Cox
Madison Cua
Audrey Dahse
Connor Daly
Kade Davis
Lauren Delbridge
Sanil Desai
Lillian Dodds
Maggie Driver
Meghan Duncan
David Dye
Amanda Eklund
Ramy El-Sharkawi
Aliza Elliott
Jack Elliott
Addison Fisher
Emilia Flores
Madeline Foster
Kylee Foulds
Gray Galant
Christian Gamez
Harris Garner
John Garrett
Arianna Gentili
Garza
Samuel Giles
Noah Gilmore
Alexander Gilsbach
Aidan Gonzales
Jade Gonzales
Anna Grenger
Kira Griffin
Siena Gutschow
Grant Hager
Matthew Hamsa
Rory Harris
Aidan Hearsberger
Abigail Hefele
Hutson Hefner
Addison Hernandez
Ridgley Hernandez
Mark Hollaway
Makenna Hoyt
Logan Hranchak
Carter Hughes
Jenna Jacobs
Ethan James
Bailey Jennings
Vivien Jennison
Emma Johnson
Peyton Jones
Mason Kasel
Noa Kim
Isaiah King
Kenzi King
Miles Koch
Adalyia Krispli
Mateo Kumar
Nathaniel Kunze
Tiffany Lam
Nathan Legrand
Kayla Lind
Sarah Lively
Daniel Lopez
Ethan Ludtke
Jocelyn Lusk
Alia Madarieta
Eliza Maham
Ruby Maham
Olivia Maib
Megan Malmquist
Cody Manning
Maddux Marcom
Emery Martin
Carlo Martinez
Jaxon Mast
Mia Matthews
Abigail McDonald
Madison Meservy
Abigail Mian
Emily Mincemoyer
Adrien Mitchell
Mollie Mitchell
Jadyn Morgan
Zoey Moulton
Mason Mueller
Matthew Mueller
Jayden Mullen
Kimberly Mullins
Zoe Nauert
Michelle Nguyen
Jaxson Noren
Doireanne O’ Bryan
Kyle O’Shaughnessy
Ainsley Opland
Hamning Pan
Ishani Pandey
Emersyn Pannell
Ava Parks
Bailee Parson
Dhwani Patel
Kathryn Pavlock
Joshua Pecci
Isabel Peters
Daniel Prabhu
August Pritzlaff
Adrian Raj
Liliana Rangel
Ally Reiff
Brady Richardson
Julianna Richter
Marisol Rios
Evan Roberts
Chloe Robinson
Evan Robison
Isabella Ross
Katherine Sanderson
Saxon Schroeder
Finn Schwarz
Keira Seibel
Jared Siebert
Reagan Singleton
Nicolette Slobodnik
Elizabeth Smith
Hadley Song
Sophia Standerfer
Sydney Storm
Tyler Streit
Luke Swoboda
Christian Taber
Roseanna Talbot
Grace Taylor
Trey Thompson
Ved Tiwari
Danielle Tran
Frances Tran
Sean Tran
Brady Vacek
Jannery Valladares
Linda Vermillion
Roman Viloria
Reid Vines
Olivia Ward
Lauren Washburn
Stevie White
Bradley Whiting
Ainsley Wiegand
Benjamin Wilcox
Bowie Wu
Michael Zolidis

Seventh Grade:
Madeline Adams

Hamzah Al-Jumaili
Brady Allen
Olivia Alvis
Madeleine Apperley
Ariana Balakrishnan
James Barnes
Arnab Batra
Samantha Beam
Ella Bernoski
Eshan Bharadwaj
Claire Bitner
Abigail Boyle
Isaac Breaux
Ryan Bristol
Alexander Brown
Emilia Chapa
Mia Chaplin
Matthew Chater
Victoria Chen
Ashley Chikkala
Kyra
Christensen-Curry
Tyler Clifton
Daniel Cloward
Haydon Coppernoll
Jenna Courtade
Amy Courtright
Maykayla Cox
Kaci Craddock
Katrina Cribbs
Kylee Curnutt
Ashley Dahse
Aidan Daly
Natalie Danton
Isabella Daugherty
Logan Davis
Stefan De Araujo
Alyssa Decker
Antonio Delarosa
Nicholas Doluisio
Zachariah Dorney
Ansley Edwards
Noah Fehrenbach
Elijah Field
Luke Fusilier
Dorian Garcia
Eliana Garza
Ashlyn Gazlay
Julia Gharib
Dylan Gilkey
Parker Grabbe
Kai Gray
Tessa Griffin
Noah Gross
Eric Han
Ainsley Harlan
Kylee Harris
Regan Hill
Mac Homeniuk
Lucy Hoppe
Laura Hunter
Noah Jacobson
Austin Jia
Caden Karabensh
Ellie Keller
Celine Kim
Trevor Ko
Jaden Kolenbrander
Michaela Koltz
Tyler Kukla
Riley Lambert
Chloe Levy
Winson Lin
Mia Lukenbill
Molly Ly
Samantha Markunas
Scott Marsh
Abigail Martinez
Alexandre Mazet
Magdalena McClure
Benjamin McDanald
Carver McDonald
Brooklyn Meacham
Camden Michalek
Anna Minor
Mason Moore
Miranda Moore
Chase Mutschink
Erin Nam
Benjamin Orth
Cecily Ortiz
Payton Owen
Bella Parker
Madeleine Patterson
Blake Pidanyi
Jack Polishook
Ryan Poulsen
Claire Poulter
Julian Rabago
Hanna Rae
Hope Rasberry
Luke Rice
Thomas Ross
Brooke Rowe
Mikail Sadic
Nadia Sanderson
Gautham Saravanan
Paisley Schalles
William Schmitt
Devin Schupbach
Brennen Sherrod
Madison Shields
Janah Sibai
Mariam Sibai
Rebecca Simpson
Claire Sinnwell
Andrew Smaistrla
Sarah Snyder
Klarah Sosa
Cheri Su
Bradley Sun
Iliana Tangarova
Caleb Taylor
Alexander
Thummalapalli
Lauren Todack
Nadia Torres
Minh-Phuong Tran
Julian Tsujii
Lydia Vermillion
Caitlyn Wagner
Zeb Weiland
Margaret Wells
Clayton Yeoman
Olivia Young

Henry Middle School Sixth Grade:
Dhathri Akkineni
Hiba Al Hudhud
Kendel Alford
Aashrith Attelli
Luke Barsun
Jada Baskerville
Shaan Beakley
Caitlin Bergeron
Amelia Borchert
Julie Bowen
Marcello Bravo
De Rueda
Danika Bryson
Trevor Carter
Nathaniel Choe
Amy Choi
Illari Cohaila
Sabrina Cole
Karlie Connor
Gavin Danis
Madelyn Del Re
Madeline Dorriss
Tommy Figueroa
Joscelyn Flores Silva
Katelynn
Frese-Smies
Juan Fuentes Saldana
Tyler Gilliland
Gabriella Guerra
Rebekah Hall
Sophia Hinojosa
Kiefer Hoang
Ella Hoffman
Jacob Houser
Otis Hubbard
Eliana Jagen
Gracie Karabinas
Olivia Kelley
Dylan Kennedy
Joseph Kennedy
Evan Krause
Christian Lands
Fayte Le
Logan Lear
Samuel Leary
Mia Lo
Katie Luu
Ethan Maldonado
Samira Nannan
Eliiana Martin
Jordyan May
Tristan Miller
Logan Mitschke
Cole Morris
Bennett Moyer
Katie Nguyen
Noah Nguyen
Paige Norling
John Osuna
Marissa Pellizzari
Soriya Pen
Trey Petty
Tatum Pietrzak
Clara Proulx
Adhya Ramprasad
Lauren Roberts
Logan Roberts
Arianna Rodriguez
Peyton Rowley
William Rundall
Abigail Ruvalcaba
Sasha Sanchez
Allen Scassa
Zoe Seaman-Gregory
Addison Sees
Sivaan Sharma
Noah Sobotka
Christopher Stephens
Adalia Stiglich
Orlando Suarez
Veronica Torres
Dominique Trammell
Kendall Trujillo
Zoe Van Osten
Atharv Vani
Katherine Votruba
Landry Webster
Rebekah Wilks
Emma Winward
Dylan Woo
Erik Wright
Minju Yee
Katherine Zigrossi

Seventh Grade:
Jocelyn Adair
Rachel Alexander
Rajvi Babaria
Nishika Bajaj
Lillian Barber
Nora Bardash
Mark Brown
Patrick Capesius
Alena Cheema
Akilah Cook
Dora Anne Cooper
Anslee Copeland
Isabella Dale
Nash Douglas
Emma Flores-Cestari
Mehak Gaba
Anushri Ghosh
Saira Goraya
Kavin Gupta
Andrew Hatheway

Camarie Hennig
Susan Hetherington
Grace Hudson
Ivy James
Cassidy Janda
Jenna Koerner
Sealin Kwon
Alyssa Ledesma
Timothy Lin
Eric Linhart
Mia Mallingier
Kaitlin Marks
Anthony Mercado
Isabella Miller
Isabel Nguyen
Chanyoung Park
Priya Patel
Jack Podolak
Steven Quach
Angelina Rawls
Payton Roberts
Sahelis
Rodriguez Nieves
Oscar Ruenes
Sofia Rullan
Madeline Seeds
Kylie Sees
Ashley Smyth
Stephen Tepfer
Maia Thomas
Claire Tobias
Dylan Trejo
Zoe Truong
Jacie Vaughan
Maria Jose
Velasquez Talero
Kaleya Vinegar
Jake Wagoner
Bali Whyte

Eighth Grade:
Lillian Balusek
Joshua Barry
Cristiana Bordianu
Scott Burnett
Julian Carrillo
Sofia Cisneros
Max Dodson
Kaissa Doichev
Macailyn Dorsett
Dara Francois
David Grow
Nathan Gurule
Indigo Hall
Neelam Hazari
Chantal Hernandez
Kyle Hicks
Ryan Hopkins
Davianna John
Michaela Kaply
Tanner Lingaard
Sebastian
Loreda Awmiller
Joshua Marquez
Tayli Morgan
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Isaac Moua
Brandon Nguyen
Annmarie Olap
Alexandra Overman
Samantha
Portilla-Cortes
Margeaux Reeve
Mona Rosas
Nathan Seaman
Gabriele Shaw
Katherine Simmons
Nolan
Tolley-Enstrom
Josephine Vermeulen

Running Brushy Middle School Sixth Grade:
Ana Anderson
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Maldonado
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Reed Bronstad
Paige Dalton
Riley Ferraro
Ryan Gambino
Ankita Ganesh
Baxley Hall
Makenna Hammond
Rylie Heil
Hunter Irwin
Makenna Jackson
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Kassandra Raquet
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Andres Salazar
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Laurny Talasek
Mary Thompson
Randy Tran
Ishaan Trehan
Chase Weyerman
Carson Wheeler
Lauren Whitley
Aysha Wise
John Wright
Alexander Young

Seventh Grade:
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Bailey Adkisson
Ayden Alexander
Jaden Arnold
Kylie Bartusek
Dylan Bignini
Emily Blair
Rhett Bronstad
Gavin Brzezinski
Bryan Bui
Emma Cavanaugh
Kennedy Chauvette
Caleb Cole
Ellie Cook
Gracie Cook
Miranda Crumbley
Samuel Fowler
Rohan Ganesh
Shyla Garvin
Lynna Girard
Dylan Greco
Avani Handly Bosma
Jenna Hanlon
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Luke Horton
Drew Kazmir
Cassidy King
Olivia Koriath
Jaden Lofio
Ava Larue
Khalil Liggins
Austin Link
Anabella
Lopez-Lopez
Dylan Lunceford
Haley Marshall
Shelby Maynard
Genavieve Midaugh
Christopher Mirelez
Kelsey Mitchell
Kevin Pham
Rachel Poycattle
Sanjeev Ramkumar
Ani Roe
Sophia Scoglio
Mason Sickle
Camryn Spruell
Michaila Thomas
Natalie Thomas
Megan Tucker
Madelyn
Twardowski
Carver Ulrich
Samantha Valdez
Charles Vanscoy
Ryan Vuong
Donovan Walden
Cassie Warren
Mackenzie
Wellington
Bryn Whisenant
Lydia Wiesman
Brynlee Winsor
Emily Wycoff

Eighth Grade:
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Kelly
Alfaro-Guandique
Jason Antwi-Appah
Travis Austin
Emma Baldwin
Appolynne Bell
Brinkley Bell
Abigail Beman
Jamari Benolaga
Marissa Bis
Victoria Bonner
Zoe Bosman
Douglas Bradford
Elliott Bradley
Parker Bradley
James Brittain
Sadie Burkett
Andre Burt
Kiana Chargois
Reagan Cochran
Audrey Crow
Bailee Davis
Janae Davis
Erika Elston
Emelie Evrard
Matthew Fulford
Satori Goodwin
James Guy
Emma Hallett
Felicity Hesters
Emily Honeycutt
Aimee Keller
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Skopal
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Muhammad
Al-Sukhni
Lauren Alcantar
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Bhargav Annem
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Carson Voight
Owen Waterman
Calina Whitney
Matthew Witaras
Anna Wojcik
Logan Yates
Madeline Yeager
Richard Young
Liliana Zamora

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William Albrecth
Alan Alfaro
Benjamin Armstrong
Emily Bailey
Ella Baldwin
William Belley
Faustina Beltran
Siya Bhakta
Ishika Bhasin
Eva Bloch
Bailey Borchardt
Christian Bradshaw
Julia Bruno
Franziska Buckel
Brandon Cardenas
Katelyn Chicaiza
Ella Cole
Olivia Cowan
Catherine Dorris
Maylin Esparza
Kendall Featherstone
Zen Fernandez
Zachary Fields
Blas Flores
Samuel Fousek
Ellen Freireich
Jackson Fries
Brianna Garcia
Eason Garrett
Sydney Glattfelder
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Barrett Jordan
Eunice Kim-Guzman
Catherine Kingsada
Katelyn Krienke
Bailey Lafevers
Hannah Lauritzen
Jonathan Lee
Mia Lopez
Grace Lunceford
Emma Lydick
Kaylee Matic
Aidan May
Anais McCarty
Kyra Meier
Luke Mietus
Evan Miller
Aniket Mohapatra
Eric Moore
Ava Morris
Sebastian Neff
Qiao Ng
Catlynh Nguyen
Kendall Nieburg
Nataleigh Nolan
Jackson Ocampo
Tyler Ocampo
Jonivan Otero
Sydney Pace
Emma Parent
Ashley Patocki
Jayden Pellegrini
Viviana Phan
Alexandra
Phillips-Garcia
Allison Pimm
Dillen Pressly
Chandana Rajaram
Nyleena Ramirez
Ankush Rao
Medha Reddy
Pingali Manogone
Reddy

John Torres
Tyson Trim
Anh Vo
Parker Wolski
Natalie Wright
Seventh Grade:
Brent Albert
Aidan Alvarez
Natalie Armstrong
Jade Benedix
Abigail Boyles
David Claridge
Jordan Dohring
Gael Dominguez
Devin Endel
Zoie Farley
Savanna Farris
Tyler Finn
Emily Fisher
Marisa Flores
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Kara Goode
Grace Hall
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Tyler Pope
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James Robinson
Anna Ryder
Steven Smith
Natilee Strey
J'quan Talbert
Hailey Taylor
Timothy Urban
Rylee Westerlund-
Hmelewsky
Elisa Winters

Eighth Grade:
Tessa Altum
Mitchell Belliveau
William Briseno
Kyra Brown
Lola Brown
Tiana Brown
Nicole Casey
Catherine Chaison
Caden
Clanton Pimentel
Gabriella Cormeille
Mariana
Cruz-Gonzalez
Alexandra
Cussimanio
Eden Dill
Jaylin Dubose
Cole Ferguson
Xia Garcia
Audrey Giron
Christopher Guerra
Dylan Haines
Noah Kaisershot
Brenna Kenney
Autumn Latta
Jason Nichols
Kareem Nour
Liesel Papenhausen
Emily Pepau
Riley Quinn
Reagan Ramsey
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Jace Salinas
Logan Shaw
Mecay Sheets
Breckin Smith
Mikayla Stasny
Emma Steed
Emily Stokes
Chloe Turquette
Emily Watson
Connor Welch
Jordyn Westenskow
Autumn Wilson
Kaylee Winkley
Ayla Wiseman
Natalie Wright-Teske

Cedar Park High School Ninth Grade:
Jade Aase
Livia Affleck
Salvador Aguilon
Julian Aguirre
Vishal Ahuja
Madison Alexander
Taylor Alexander
Hailey Allen
Jordan Allen
Kelly Anderson
Elizabeth Armstrong
Sofia Attaguiile
Joel Bados
Olivia Banks
Kuba Bard
Ella Barkley
Mitchell Blair
Brynn Bland
Leah Bodnar
Joshua Bretz
Aiden Brown
Madison Buffington
Kaiya Buggi
Faith Buster
Ayden Byers
Jiwon Cadena
Abby Cheek
Connor Chen
Yen-Wei Chen
Angela Chikkala
Kaitlyn Childress
Kiana Conine
Jasmine Cooper
Kasey Copley
Zoe Courtade
John Courtright
Jodie Cowlishaw
Grace Cox
Amesley Davis
Hadley Davis
Sophia Delbridge
Tyler Devolder
Kelly Digby
Cameron Do
Megan Douglas
Jared Drager
Kyle Driver
Emily Dunham
Reid Erdley

Tenth Grade:
Davis Armstrong
Zayda Arnecke
Justin Ballou
Erin Barry
Adeleine Bates
Caden Bates
Aiden Bell
Luke Benavides
Mihai Bendea
Valeria Best
Ayush Bilakhia
Eric Bitner
Kyle Blount
Megan Bonsall
Chloe Bontrager

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Nicole Leff Christopher Lemke Matthew Lin Iriyana Lipkin Amber Lo Marlowe Lynch Megan Magill Emma Mahler Karrington Malone Zachary Manuel Naaseen Marikar Madison Markunas James Marshall Nicholas Martin Alexander Massaro Allison McKeon Brittney McKeown Sheridan McLain Olivia Meyer Mason Miller Mojo Millhouse-Lewis Natalie Milton Lauren Monroe Grayson Moore Keith Morgan Samuel Nart Jordan Nunez Elise Orgeron Tiras Parker-Pie Neil Patel Marlee Paules Brailey Payne Brianna Payne Aidan Pena Alejandro Perez Katie Pinkerton Megan Pish Ashley Poulsen Ayden Rails Reese Ramirez Andrew Randall Marlee Randel Meghna Ravi Kyle Redfern Dylan Robinson Victoria Rodriguez Ryan Sawicki Michael Schnell William Schroeder Cole Schulte Sevilla Setfill Hannah Shakir Bryce Sheehan Akash Shetty Courtney Shutey Lauren Silguero Carolynn Solorio Isabella Squires Katherine Stedman Aja Steiner Kristyn Stephenson Alexandra Stewart Jalie Sullivan Cole Sylvester Amelia Tapia Casey Thomas William Thompson Tara Tu Inbar Turjeman Gabriel Underwood Ethan Usey Emma Vaughn Evan Vines Brandon Vu Audrey Walker Lauren Walter Ethan Weiland Rebekah Winn Lindsey Winograd Kailynne Witter Donya Yazdi Jayne Yi	Maximilien Fischer Laurel Foster James Freeman Benjamin Fusilier Sanjana Gagrani Jonathan Geymer Hannah Grabbe Austin Grendel Evan Griffin Briahna Griner Leahana Haberman Mattia Hajmeli Allyson Hall Jennifer Han Kennedy Haight Finnegan Hein Kaitlin Heins Chloe Heitmeier Hayden Helms Hogan Helms Ashley Hibbetts Gabriel Hoppe Braeden Hufford Nithila Ilangovan Mitchell Jackson Matthew James Hampton Jenschke Kelsey Jones Paxton Jones Vincent Joubarne Adri Karmakar Vaniya Khan Edward Kilgore Joon Kim Logan Knight Katelyn Knox Cordelia Ko Joshua Kolenbrander Kasey Korbakes Roshini Krisnanaswamy Samuel Langenfeld Thien Le Addison Leavitt Grant Lee Sierra Lewis Aaron Lorenz Lydia Lovelace Marisa Luparello Rehm Maham Isabel Maib Olivia Maneikis Nathan Maphet Kathryn Marshall Mackenzie Martinez Kelsey McFarland 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Sophie Rodgers Michelle Salazar Hailey Sanchez Dinesh Saripalli Kamryn Scott Elizabeth Singhaus Natalie Sinha Haigen Smith Haddon Stauffer Kirin Stewart	Jessica Colglazier Alexandria Conner Madeline Cure Quinlan Daily Dax Dalton Thinh Dinh Victoria Dodgen Taylor Douthitt Margaret Edwards Alexandra Elias Magana Linda Engelman Elliot Esquivel Emma Foster Seth Frances Summer Fullwood Cierra George Jacob Goforth Jared Griffith Grant Haden Kailey Hahn Ashlyn Hall Julian Harris Haley Heit Bethany Hill Skylar Holden Katlyn Hookstra Gemma Hurtalt Kathryn Hutchinson Mackenzie James Austin Jebeli Sarah Jecker Duncan Jenkins Lindsey Jones Juliana Kasper Rebecca Kirby Madeline Koury Alec Krueger Madison Lampi Tanner Looney Julia Loza Elizabeth Marmolejo Brittney Martin Brenda Martinez Nicholas Marullo Cori Meuth Broderick Miller Layne Moffett Matthew Moller Anthony Moreno Cassidy Morgan Nathaniel Northcut Michael Ombres Alexa Pace Ashna Patel Dominique Patton Haley Penman Celise Phillips Keaton 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CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. CARD OF THANKS
20. SPECIAL NOTICES
30. LODGE NOTICES
40. AUCTIONS
50. GARAGE SALES
60. LOST AND FOUND
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80. RIDES, CARPOOLS

LIVESTOCK / FARM

550. FARM EQUIPMENT
560. LIVESTOCK
570. PETS
580. POULTRY
590. SEED, FEED

REAL ESTATE

610. RENTALS TO SHARE
620. HOUSES FOR SALE
630. FARMS, RANCHES
640. LAKE PROPERTY
650. LOTS, ACREAGE
660. MOBILE HOMES
670. COMMERCIAL
680. MISC. REAL ESTATE
690. APTS. FOR RENT
700. ROOMS FOR RENT
710. HOUSES FOR RENT
720. WANTED TO BUY -
MORTGAGES
730. WANTED TO RENT
740. DUPLEXES FOR RENT

TRANSPORTATION

750. AUTOMOBILES
760. RVs, CAMPERs
770. MOTORCYCLES
780. AUTO SERVICE
790. TRUCKS
800. MISC. AUTO

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850. HELP WANTED
860. WORK WANTED

FINANCIAL

900. BUSINESS OPPOR.

LEGAL NOTICE

950. LEGAL NOTICES
960. PUBLIC NOTICES

MERCHANDISE

320. A/C, HEATING
330. APPLIANCES
340. BICYCLE
350. BLDG. MATERIALS
360. BOATS - MOTORS
365. COMPUTERS
370. FLOOR COVERINGS
380. CLOTHING
390. DIRT, GRAVEL
400. FOOD
410. FURNITURE
415. BLINDS
420. LAWN, GARDEN
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INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed responses addressed to the Purchasing Department,
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MASON CREEK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

will be received prior to 3:00 P.M., January 4th, 2018 then be
publicly read aloud. Solicitation documents may be download-
ed from the City website at
http://www.leandertx.gov/rfps or www.civcastusa.com.

The work consists of constructing approximately 3,200 linear
feet of FIELD ENGINEERED 10' wide concrete trail adjacent
to Mason Creek from the existing trail east of Bagdad Road to
north of the intersection of Sonny Drive and Southwest Drive.
Note that detailed design documents will not be provided and
that construction will be performed according to the included
specifications and details as directed in the field by the field
engineer. The construction budget has been set at **\$422,500**.

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Pam Waggoner: Leading Lady of Leander ISD

By MADISON MATOUS
Contributing Writer

Pam Waggoner, the Leander ISD Board of Trustees president, has held many roles in multiple organizations — all of which work towards the goal of a better future for LISD students.

Waggoner first became involved with the school district when her own children were going through school. From her beginnings with the PTA up to becoming president of the school board, Waggoner's main goal has always been to provide students with an education that will lead them to success.

Waggoner has been a part of multiple organizations and a leader for most. She was one of the first board members of LEEF, or the Leander ISD Educational Excellence Foundation, which helps to supplement schools with tools and programs they otherwise would not have access to. She also founded the Four Points Traffic Committee which is working to solve the traffic safety issues around Vandegrift High School and Four Points Middle School.

Hill Country News further discussed with Waggoner her current position at the school board as

well as the rewards and challenges that come with the job.

Q How did you become involved in serving the Leander school district?

I first became interested in the service to the school district because I had three small children coming into the district. I was the PTA president at Steiner Ranch Elementary and took it upon myself to attend the board meetings twice a month so I could learn about the district. I felt that the PTA needed to have a legislative arm to it and understand what was going on at the district level. After two years of attending meetings, an opening came up on the board. I had some people ask me to step up and run, and I thought of it as a great way to serve my school district.

Q You've been a leader for a lot of the organizations you are involved in, what motivated you to step up to those roles?

I think you have to have a passion for it, and people see that passion. I feel that educat-

ing our youth and being involved with these types of community programs are where you can have the greatest effect, the greatest influence. It's something that has always been important to me, and the school board has been my avenue to do that and has allowed me to serve in leadership positions in other areas of the community. I'm really ap-



Submitted photo

Pam Waggoner, LISD Board of Trustees President

preciative of the opportunity.

Q What is your vision for the Leander school district?

Right now, we are focused on academics. We want to have systems and processes in place so students who want the highest level of academics can get it along with any CTE, Career and Technology Training, they want.

Some of the challenges are that because we are such a large district and so diverse, it's almost like trying to keep up with several districts in one. Often, we are facing several problems at once, where other districts may only have one.

One challenge will be the growth that we are experiencing in the north, and making sure that schools are being built to keep up with that. Recently the community passed the bonds that will enable us to build and keep up with the growth, which will be very helpful. On the other side of that, we have areas that are built out. This gives us the opportunity to use existing building to do different things with other than have a traditional type of

school, like having a school focused on fine arts or STEM, or having a school that is run more like a charter school but in the district. It's exciting methods to think about and will give people the choice for their children to attend the type of school that they want in the school district.

Q What has been the most rewarding part of the work you're doing?

There's so many aspects to that. You get into this kind of volunteer work because you truly want to make the lives of children better. It's been so gratifying to have been able to see children going through the system, including my own, and go on to college or tech school, or some of them just come right out of school and start their own business and have been very successful. There's a lot of time spent on issues, there's always something going on that takes your attention off the main thing, which is our students, but at the end of the day the most rewarding thing is watching these students get their education, having doors open to them and providing them with opportunity.

Labor Bureau: Women's pay still lagging

SUBMITTED REPORT

Fans of the CBS hit television show "The Big Bang Theory" may have learned that, in 2014, the five original cast members renegotiated their salaries to earn \$1 million per episode.

The original cast — largely male — includes Johnny Galecki, Jim Parsons, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar, and Kaley Cuoco.

Two actresses later joined the show, becoming mainstays of the comedy. However, newcomers Mayim Bialik and Melissa Rauch haven't earned nearly as much as their costars for years. Recently, the original actors agreed to a pay cut so that Bialik and Rauch could earn more.

Unfortunately, the "Big Bang Theory" scenario is not an anomaly. Many

women still earn less than their male counterparts.

Although the gender pay gap has been getting steadily smaller, women still earn roughly \$.80 to every \$1 earned by men in both the United States and Canada, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Statistics Canada, respectively. Women's Policy Research says that, if current trends continue, wom-

en will not match men in pay until 2059.

Race and age also play a role in the pay disparity, with Asian American women earning around 90 percent of what white men do, and Hispanic or Latina women earning about 54 percent of what white men earn, according to a 2016 report from The American Association of University Women.



Courtesy Photo

Female workers still earn on average \$.80 to every \$1 that a man earns.



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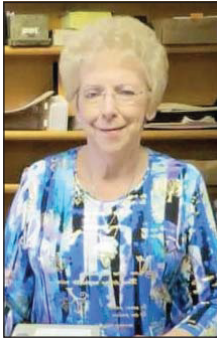
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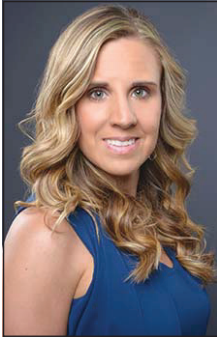


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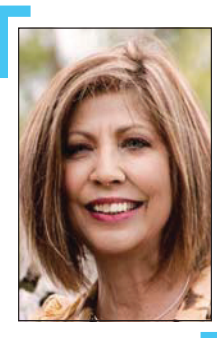
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WHEN: Dec. 7 - 9, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
WHERE: Good Shepherd Church, 700 W. Whitestone Blvd., Cedar Park
 A cast of about 300 are slated to perform the annual Follow The Star outdoor production by Hill Country Ministries. The performance follows the life of Jesus Christ through 10 different scenes. Admission is free, and food and monetary donations are welcome for Hill Country Community Ministries, which feeds more than 2,000 people per month.
 512-258-6227. www.followthestar.com

WHEN: Dec. 1, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
WHERE: 714 S Austin Ave, Georgetown

The public is invited to take a stroll through a winter wonderland in the “most beautiful town square in Texas.” There will be a non-melting ice rink with free skate rental, kids activities, santa visits, a food court, a live Bethlehem manger, a candyland obstacle course, live music and more than 150 arts and crafts booths. 512-639-8719. www.downtown-georgetownassociationtx.org



WHEN: Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Vista Ridge HS Cafeteria, 200 S. Vista Ridge Parkway, Cedar Park
 The 13th annual holiday bazaar will feature handmade crafts, local vendors, concessions and a bake sale and proceeds benefit the Vista Ridge HS band.
 Admission is free. 512-914-1518. www.vrhsband.org



WHEN: Dec. 8, 8 p.m., Dec. 9 - 10, 3 p.m.
WHERE: 1880 Hero Way West, Leander
 Leander's own Way Off Broadway Community
 Players present "A Cowhand's Christmas Carol,"
 where Sweet Carol Christmas, a ranch housekeep-
 er, navigates a whimsical love triangle between
 two opposing cowboy suitors. Tickets are \$10 for
 ages 10 and younger, \$15 for students, military,
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 \$20 for general admission.
 512-259-5878. www.wobcp.org



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

The Cedar Park Timberwolves celebrate after winning a second-round playoff game against the Ennis Lions at Waco ISD Stadium in Waco on Nov. 24.



ZACH SMITH

Jaylen Thompson and the Glenn Grizzlies beat Cedar Creek 65-52 last week to remain undefeated at home and match last season's win total.

against other teams (has changed)," said Sam Martin, junior. "Like how we go into the games. Last year we were scared going into the games. Now we've got more confidence built up."

Glenn opened before the 2016-17 school year and included freshmen and sophomores from Leander and Rouse. The Grizzlies play in District 19-4A this season and will be Class 5A when schools realign before next year.

Martin said he chose to come to Glenn over Rouse because he wanted to build something new and be a part of the first class. His goals as a team are to make the playoffs and individually, he wants to at least make the all-district team.

Harkless said the boys have grown up. Last year they were freshmen and sophomores going against juniors and seniors so the year of work in the weight room and on conditioning has played a big role in the boost in play on the court.

"The good thing is you get to have the same team for three years," he said. "You can see the difference. Just having that junior class and having that experience, it's totally different. They aren't scared anymore when they hit the court."

Harkless still wears his state championship ring from his time in East Texas at

Tatum, where he played and won a state title in football and was one game away from making it to the state tournament in basketball.

His first coaching job came in Del Valle ISD with the 8th-grade team. From there, he moved to Connally and served as an assistant basketball coach and head cross country coach for the Cougars.

"I got my first chance here to be a head coach and I'm happy to have my own system to start a program from scratch and have my hands on it from the ground up," Harkless said.

Glenn is on the road for tournaments over the next few weeks, playing in one at Little River Academy near Temple beginning on Thursday and heading to Lago Vista on Dec. 7. The next time the Grizzlies are at home is Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. against Austin Royals Home School.

The Glenn volleyball team already took the title of the first team to make the play-offs from the school. Harkless wants to take that a step further.

"My goals are to just be better than last year and at this point we already are," he said. "I'm pleased with our progress and now we want to get to the playoffs and win the first playoff game in school history. I want to establish a culture of winning."

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