District may seek fall tax ratification election

Without tax increase, $600,000 deficit possible

By Beth Wade

Georgetown ISD officials are considering calling a tax ratification election, or TRE, this fall to help the district stay afloat due to nearly $5 million in revenue reductions in state and federal funding.

Steve West, GISD interim chief financial officer, said in a budget presentation to the board May 21 that without a TRE, the district could face a deficit of $600,000.

Superintendent Joe Dan Lee said the board could ask voters to approve increasing the district’s maintenance and operations property tax from $1.04 per $100 of valuation to $1.08.

The 4 cents would generate about $2.2 million, which would be used to help carry the district through the next legislative session, West said.

If a TRE were called, Lee said the earliest it would be on the ballot would be in September, but the board could wait until May 2013 to gauge what happens in the next legislative session and to give officials more time to educate voters.

“I think that conversation is going to get very serious in June,” Lee said. “It’s not going to be if we are going out for a TRE—it’s when do we want to do it.”

The board is set to approve its nearly $79.5 million budget at the June 18 board meeting.

Lee said he was not optimistic that funding from the state would get better and added he feared that the Legislature could reduce funding again in the next session.

School districts in Texas are allowed to tax up to $1.04 per $100 of property valuation for the district’s maintenance and operations. The tax dollars collected are supplemented with state and federal funds. However, the districts are allowed to tax up to an additional 13 cents with voter approval. In Georgetown, after 2 additional cents, the district is subject to recapture, which means instead of the state giving additional funds, the school district must give the state some of the taxes collected by the district. Districts often refer to the portions of the tax rate as silver, golden and bronze pennies.

“Are there only two real options left if there are further budget reductions?” GISD board of trustees President Scott Alarcon said. “One is closing schools, and the other is a tax ratification election. And I don’t believe that this community will support closing schools.”

West said the district can balance the budget with the fund balance, but the $600,000 deficit would cause the balance to go below the target of at least two months’ operating expenses.

What is a TRE?

The district’s maintenance and operations tax is capped at $1.04. State law allows districts to increase that up to $1.17 with voter approval. Because of the way Georgetown is structured, the city’s maintenance and operations tax is capped at $1.04, meaning the district can only increase its maintenance and operations tax up to $1.17 with voter approval.

The district’s maintenance and operations tax is capped at $1.04. State law allows districts to increase that up to $1.17 with voter approval.

Austin favorites to be served up in Georgetown

Businesses look to open new locations in downtown area

By Beth Wade

For more than 12 years, Mike Haggerty wanted to open one of his Austin-based sub sandwich shops in Georgetown, but the right location was never available.

In May, he won the bid to purchase the former fire station bay building at 816 S. Main St. from the City of Georgetown, and a ThunderCloud Subs is expected to close on the former fire station bay building at 816 S. Main St. in late June.

Conference center, hotel in the works

County, city amend tax reinvestment zone

By Samantha Bryant

Five years after plans were first announced for The Summit at Rivery Park, developers say they may be ready this summer to announce the name of the hotel developer and management company that will run a hotel and conference center.

The conference center will anchor the mixed-used development planned at Rivery Boulevard and I-35.

“This can truly be a destination conference center, not just to service Georgetown, but all of Williamson County, and bring people here from Travis County and everywhere else,” said Jeff Novak, a principal of Brae Group LTD, the developer of The Summit at Rivery Park.

Williamson County commissioners and the City of Georgetown approved amendments to tax increment financing agreement in May, which is another step in the process to bring the hotel and conference center to the development.
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StDavid’s Heart & Vascular

stdavidsheart.com
Last month, the first Subaru of Georgetown Grand cycling event rolled through the streets of downtown and with it came spectators and cyclists.

Altho
ugh it didn’t bring quite as many spectators in its first year as had been anticipated, the event may have brought something more important—interest from Austin business owners looking to open locations in Georgetown.

City officials have said they have had more site visits from Austin restaurant owners and retailers since the event was announced. While the city isn’t ready to name names, the interest is a good sign of what can already be seen in downtown. Some officials have referred to what’s happening around the Square and what’s beginning to spread into other areas of downtown as a renaissance.

New restaurants will be sprouting up. Prior to the Subaru of Georgetown Grand, ThunderCloud Subs and Hat Creek Burger Co. began making plans to come to Georgetown.

While some were excited by the news of a new restaurant near the Square, many neighbors showed up at the May 21 City Council meeting to protest Hat Creek’s drive-thru. Despite the protests, City Council approved the special-use permit needed to put in the drive-thru window.

But even though there may be a few growing pains, new development in downtown is a good sign for Georgetown’s economy. Add in the art center that received funding from City Council, the Grape Creek Vineyards location coming this fall and the Wilco Pizza Authority that will take over the former Nonna’s Cucina, and the only question left to ask is: When are we headed downtown?

Beth Wade
Market Editor
bwa@impactnews.com

Reader Feedback

Subaru of Georgetown Grand takes over the Square
www.impactnews.com/geo

“[I thought that] this was a great event and hope that it comes back next year... I was very impressed!”
—— Nick Ramos

Multifamily affordable housing interest grows

“My opinion, Georgetown needs to focus on affordable housing, not “low income” housing. Has anyone driven through the parking lots of the “income restricted” apartment complexes we have now? When we drove to one of these complexes, there were jet skis, ski boats, and newer cars than what I can afford. This is not the purpose of “low income” housing. People use it so they can increase their material value, not because they can’t make it. This is not the way to support the community. Give a hand up, not a hand out. Enforce the low income restricted places that we have now and build more affordable living that requires people to actually work for what they have.”
—— Shell B.

Correction – Volume 5, Issue 10
On Page 7, the correct address of The Garden at The Monument is 500 S. Austin Ave.
Georgetown

Now Open

1. **Park Place Market** opened recently at 221 FM 971. The convenience store has a Chevron gas station, and Manager Amir Ali said there are plans to open a liquor store in one of the suites next door in several months. 869-0400

2. **One Love Tattoos** opened June 1 at 903 N. Austin Ave. Owners Travis Crow and Jennifer Brown offer services including tattoos and body piercings. There is also an art gallery at the front of the store. 868-1588, www.facebook.com/traviscrowdesigns

3. **Specializing in residential real estate, Vox Real Estate LLC** opened at 1108 Williams Drive, Ste. 102, on March 1. The office is managed by Darel and Lori Aaron. 568-1133, www.texdreamhomes.com

4. **Floor N Design** opened recently at 3303 Williams Drive, Ste. 1030. The store sells flooring options such as wood, laminate, tile and carpet as well as granite countertops. Floor N Design also offers installation services and has locations in Austin, Cedar Park and Round Rock. 869-2444, www.floorndesign.com

5. **Berry Creek Food Store** opened June 1 at 30713 Chi Chi Drive. The convenience store also has a Valero gas station and a Quiznos sub sandwich restaurant. 868-9454

6. Nikyie and DJ Pennington opened mobile food trailer **Bar B Skew** in April and have operated at events in the area since that time. The Georgetown residents plan to open a permanent lunch location in the future. The food trailer serves skewered meat products such as shrimp, chicken, beef and sausage. 850-1287, www.barbskew.net

Coming Soon

7. Construction on **Fire Station No. 2** is expected to begin in June, pending City Council approval of a maximum guaranteed price for the project. The city will build the station at 1603 Williams Drive next to the existing Fire Station No. 2 located at 294 W. Central Drive. After the new station is complete, the city will tear down the old station. Fire Chief Robert Fite said the station will cost about $1.7 million and will be about 8,200 square feet in size. 930-3473, www.fire.georgetown.org

8. **Cloud 9 Bridal** is projected to open in mid- to late July at the Wolf Ranch Town Center, 1013 W. University Ave., Ste. 320. Cloud 9 Bridal sells dresses for brides, bridesmaids and flower girls as well as accessories. 364-5599, www.cloud9bridalauustin.com

9. A **Starbucks** is under construction at 4410 Williams Drive, Ste. 101. The coffeehouse chain applied for a remodel permit from the City of Georgetown and is expected to open this summer. www.starbucks.com

Relocations

10. **RunTex** is moving from 809 S. Main St. to 806 Rock St. this summer. The running store will fill about half of the space and will look for a complimentary business to fill the second half, RunTex owner Paul Carozza said. The new location also provides space for running groups to gather. 863-2345, www.runtex.com

11. **Manhattan Pie Co.** relocated from 1501 Park Lane to 3010 Williams Drive, Ste. 118, on May 19. The restaurant menu includes sub sandwiches, pizzas, salads, pasta dishes and more. 868-5500, www.manhattanpieco.com

12. **Guns Plus** at 2302 N. Austin Ave. plans to expand into the building next door in July. The additional space will allow the business to display more inventory and hold classes. In addition to buying, selling, trading and consigning guns, the store also offers gunsmithing services and sells knives, ammunition, targets, gun cleaning supplies, and gear related to hunting, personal defense, training, law enforcement and military use. 547-4867, www.gunsplus.net

Expansions

The Georgetown Convention & Visitors Bureau launched a new application for smart phones, **Explore Georgetown**, on April 27. The application is free to download and is a mobile visitor’s guide that features calendar events, dining places, local attractions, weather, lodging options and maps. 930-3545, www.visit.georgetown.org

**Jimmy Jacobs Custom Homes** located at 3613 Williams Drive, Ste. 204, officially launched its **Made in America** program May 28. The program offers homebuyers a custom home built using materials sourced from the United States. 930-4041, www.madeinamericahome.us

Closings

**Women’s boutique Joni’s of Georgetown**, 3101 Williams Drive, Ste. 121, is closing at the end of June. The store will have sales on its inventory until it closes. 819-0459

In the News

**The Georgetown Convention & Visitors Bureau** is hosting live music on Friday evenings in June through August from 6–8 p.m. on the Williamson County Courthouse lawn at 710 S. Main St. Playing country-western, Cowboy Nemo will be the first act to perform June 8. 930-3545, www.visit.georgetown.org

**The Palace Theater** at 810 S. Austin Ave. is offering summer workshops beginning June 18. The workshops will be held Mon.–Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and focus on developing theater, acting, singing and dancing skills. There will be Saturday performances at the end of each workshop, which last two to three weeks. Workshops are available for students ages 7–18 and run until Aug. 25. Students may apply for scholarships. 868-3643, www.georgetownpalace.com

**The City of Georgetown is constructing a sidewalk** along the west side of Austin Avenue from Second to Fifth streets.
The three-block project is part of several other sidewalk improvement projects in Georgetown. Transportation Engineer Bill Dryden said the projects cost $297,331 and should be complete by mid-September.

www.georgetown.org

19 Artist Mark Schlesinger is creating a public painting along the San Gabriel River on the sidewalk and wall next to The River Place development. Called “From There to Here,” Schlesinger said the goal of the project is to connect the area around the development to the river through color and movement. Some of the sculptural elements will glow in the dark. Schlesinger said the project should be finished in June.

www.markschlesinger.com

Seeds of Strength, a women’s giving circle, gave out $105,000 in grants to 10 nonprofits at its awards night May 31. This is the third year Seeds of Strength has awarded grants.

www.seedsofstrength.org

School Notes

20 Georgetown ISD announced May 29 the sites of the Seamless Summer Option food service program, which is available through the United States Department of Agriculture. Breakfast and lunch is served at no charge for all children 18 and younger. 943-5000, www.georgetownisd.org

A Purl Elementary School, 1700 Laurel St.
B Georgetown East View High School, 4490 E. University Ave.
C Clements Boys & Girls Club, 210 W. 18th St.
D Getsemani Community Center, 412 E. 19th St.

Community

Coming Soon

Officials held a ground breaking ceremony May 22 for the first building of the Hutto campus for the East Williamson County Higher Education Center. The more than 100,000-square-foot building is scheduled to open in fall 2013 near Toll 130 and CR 108. The higher education center is a collaboration that includes Temple College and Texas State Technical College. 759-5900, www.waco.tstc.edu/higher

Expansions

Nonprofit organization Spirit Reins held a ribbon cutting May 17 at 2055 CR 284 in Liberty Hill to celebrate its new building that provides office and therapy space. The organization’s mission is to improve the emotional and behavioral health of children with the help of horses. 515-0845, www.spiritreins.org

News or questions about Georgetown? E-mail geonews@impactnews.com

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The owners of Manhattan Pie Co., Darryl Meadows (left) and Gary Bergeron, opened One Love Tattoos on June 1.

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The owners of Manhattan Pie Co., Darryl Meadows (left) and Gary Bergeron, opened the restaurant in its new location in May.
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- **Round Rock**
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  - 301 Seton Parkway, Suite 402
  - Round Rock, TX 78665

SetonPlasticSurgery.com
June

9 Summer solstice event
Participants in The Williamson Museum’s Hands-On History event discover ancient celebrations of this celestial event throughout the world and in Williamson County. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Free. The Williamson Museum, 716 S. Austin Ave. 943-1670. www.williamsonmuseum.org

11 ‘Tomato Queen’
Wendy Odum, the “Tomato Queen” offers advice on planting tomatoes and other vegetables at this Williamson County Master Gardeners meeting. 6:30 p.m. Free. Williamson County Extension Office, 3161 Inner Loop Road. 591-7491. www.txbm.org/williamson

14 If You Were Mine 2012 Tour
Award-winning country music artist Gary Morris performs at The Palace Theater. Opening for him is Texas-based duo Curtis & Lucky. 7 p.m. $27 (regular tickets), $38 (premier seating). The Palace theater, 810 S. Austin Ave. 869-7469. www.georgetownpalace.com

17 ‘Georgetown’s Got Talent’ semifinal auditions
The semi-finalists chosen at local auditions perform live at The Palace Theater in front of a panel of judges and the public. The show is hosted by Sara Osburn of the JB & Sandy Morning Show on radio station Mix 94.7. Ticket sales benefit The Georgetown Palace Theater Guild. 7:30 p.m. $15. The Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Ave. 869-7469. www.georgetownpalace.com

19 Community forum on transportation
The public is invited to an open house hosted by Project Connect: North Corridor, a program aiming to involve the community in identifying transportation alternatives and improvements in the corridor connecting Georgetown, Round Rock, Pflugerville, and Austin. Attendees have the opportunity to review materials, speak with project staff and consultants, and provide feedback, 5–8 p.m. Free. Pflugerville Justice Center municipal courtroom, 1611 Pfening Lane, Pflugerville. 369-6201. txprojectconnect@gmail.com

23–24 “Field Day”
The Williamson County Amateur Radio Club participates with thousands of other Ham Radio Clubs Nationwide for an emergency communications weekend, also knows as “Field Day.” The 24-hour period includes live demonstrations of ham radio in use and communication with other clubs throughout the United States. The public is invited to visit and join in on the exercise. Sat. 1 p.m.–Sun. 1 p.m. Free. 1250 FM 3405. 931-2812.

26 ‘Teaching Responsible and Emotionally Wise Children’
The lecture, sponsored by The Georgetown Project’s Bridges to Growth, offers tips on teaching children to be responsible through effective problem solving, making wise choices, intrinsic motivation, empathy, managing emotions and communication. Registration is required. 6:30-8:30 p.m. $15. Community Resource Center, 860 W. University Ave. 864-3008. www.georgetownproject.com/bridges

July

3 ‘A Time to Give Honor’ concert
The annual Independence Day concert by the Sun City Singers features a preconcert program with the band ‘Just Friends,’ patriotic songs and military favorites. Tickets are available at the Member Services Office and online. 11 a.m. $6. Sun City Ballroom, 2 Texas Drive. www.scvca.org

11 Parks and Recreation Department ice cream social
In honor of National Parks and Recreation Month, the Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department is offering free ice cream to the public. 6–7:30 p.m. Free. Georgetown Recreation Center, 1003 N. Austin Ave. 930-8459. http://parks.georgetown.org

29–July 4 ‘Annie Get Your Gun’
The musical chronicles the life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley and her rise to stardom in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. Fri. and Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. $24 (general admission), $22 (seniors), $14 (students and active military), $10 (children 12 or younger). The Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown. 869-7469. www.georgetownpalace.com

29–30 Georgetown Rodeo
Now in its 69th year, the Georgetown Rodeo features rodeo events such as bull riding, team roping and barrel racing. Hosted by the Williamson County Sheriff’s Posse, the rodeo includes events in which the public can participate such as mutton bustin’ and the Steer SADDLING Challenge. 6 p.m. (gates open) 7:30 p.m. (events begin). General admission: Free (children 5 and younger), $5 (children ages 6–12), $13 (ages 13 and older); Reserved box seats: $60 per night (four-seat box), $80 per night (six-seat box). WCSIP arena, 415 E. Morrow St., San Gabriel Park. 639-4444. www.georgetownrodeo.com

Online Calendar
To submit Georgetown events, visit www.impactnews.com/events/submit.html.
For a full list of Georgetown events, visit www.impactnews.com/geo-calendar.
To have Georgetown events considered for the print edition, they must be submitted online by the third Friday of the month.

Worth the trip

17 Lake Pflugerville Triathlon
Up to 750 novice and seasoned triathlon athletes participate in this 500-meter swim, 14-mile bike ride and 3-mile run. 7:30 a.m. $65. Lake Pflugerville, 18216 Weiss Lane, Pflugerville. www.lakepflugervilletri.com, info@lakepflugervilletri.com

19 Sertoma Family Fourth of July Celebration
The annual Sertoma Family Fourth of July Celebration features family-friendly events throughout the day.
July 4
By Samantha Bryant
The Sertoma Club of Georgetown hosts a family-friendly day of activities and live music in San Gabriel Park for Independence Day.
Now in its 29th year, the event includes more than 80 food and craft booths, a petting zoo, parade, live entertainment, bounce house, children’s rides and fireworks. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Free. San Gabriel Park, 445 E. Morrow St., Georgetown. 656-1940. www.georgetownsertoma.org

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**Recent highlights**

**Jerry Hammerlun (center), who won election in an uncontested race for Georgetown City Council District 5, takes the oath of office with his wife, Vickie, holding the Bible on May 16.**

**Williamson County Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey sits in a front-end loader after the ground breaking ceremony held May 10 for Phase 4 of the Ronald Reagan Boulevard extension.**

**Dr. Soriya Estes (left), founder/owner of Estes Audiology, and Jim Wilson with the Sertoma Club of Georgetown attend the Hearing Aid Roundup on May 5 in Sun City.**

**Gov. Rick Perry (left) addresses the crowd at the Sun City Memorial Day Celebration held May 28 at the Georgetown-Williamson County Veterans Memorial Plaza.**

**Georgetown ISD campuses display No Place for Hate banners May 21 after earning the designation districtwide for the second year. The designation is given by the Anti-Defemation League to schools that foster respect of individual and group differences while challenging prejudice and bigotry.**

**State Rep. Charles Schwertner (center) speaks with supporters at a campaign watch party May 29 after winning the race for state Senate District 5.**

**Williamson County Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey speaks with Georgetown City Councilman Bill Sattler at an election night watch party May 29 at The Uptown Social.**

**Williamson County Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey speaks with Georgetown City Councilman Bill Sattler at an election night watch party May 29 at The Uptown Social.**

**Dr. Regina Cavanaugh, a child and adolescent psychiatrist with Lone Star Circle of Care, speaks May 8 at Heroes of Hope, a children’s mental health awareness day event at the Williamson County Courthouse.**

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University Boulevard
City, county work to improve roadway

By Samantha Bryant

University Boulevard between Sunrise Road and Seton Parkway in Round Rock is getting a makeover from Williamson County and the City of Round Rock in the coming months, which includes a complete renovation of the road and three new traffic signals.

Because Williamson County owns University Boulevard, the county is paying for the rehabilitation of the road, which includes fixing the base of the roadway. The county gave the contractor permission to start May 7.

“Where the pavement has failed, where you’ve got all the big ruts and heaving and so forth, asphalt will be cut out, and the contractor will actually go into the subgrade [roadway foundation], and they will rebuild the road, in essence, from the subgrade up,” said Gary Hudder, City of Round Rock transportation director.

Hudder said the damage to and shifting of the roadway was caused by the condition of the soil under the road, which was compounded by the drought and heavy truck traffic during the construction of Toll 130.

Connie Watson, Williamson County public affairs manager, said a minimum of one lane in each direction will be open for traffic while the work is taking place, and most often two lanes in each direction will be available for vehicles to use.

The City of Round Rock will fund $490,000 to repave University Boulevard. After the $1 million project is complete, the City of Round Rock could assume maintenance of the roadway to A.W. Grimes Boulevard.

The section of University Boulevard between I-35 and Sunrise Road is already within city limits. Hudder said the city is considering annexing the portion of the road from Sunrise Road to A.W. Grimes Boulevard into city limits.

“As development continues to occur along roads that are owned by a different interest, like in this case the county, the City of Round Rock is reaping the benefit of those sales tax dollars—the county owns the road, Round Rock controls the property that is along the road,” Hudder said. “So it just makes sense as a good regional partner that we take over the road so that then we are responsible for the [maintenance].”

At the May 24 City Council meeting, Round Rock chose a contractor to place three additional traffic signals along University Boulevard—at Teravista Club Drive, Sandy Brook Drive and College Park Drive.

The city then plans to synchronize the traffic signals along University Boulevard from I-35 to A.W. Grimes Boulevard to better control movement, decrease delays and lower emissions caused by idling vehicles.

In late 2011, the city identified Gattis School Road, Old Settlers Boulevard, University Boulevard and Louis Henna Boulevard as roads to include in a traffic signal synchronization project. So far, the city has implemented the project on Louis Henna Boulevard and will work on the other roads after other projects that affect traffic volume on the roads are finished, Hudder said.

Hudder said plans are to have all the University Boulevard improvements, including the new signals and synchronization, finished by early 2013.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey said she has talked to residents along University Boulevard who are looking forward to the completion of the improvements.

“It’s a very necessary project,” she said. “If you’ve driven the road, you can see that it’s in need of some repair.”

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City Council approves up to $400K in funding for art center

Georgetown City Council approved May 22 up to $400,000 in construction funding, as well as the operations agreement for the proposed art center that will be located in the historic downtown fire station at 816 S. Main St.

The art center will provide gallery space for local artists to display their work. The center would also have instructional and workspace that could be used for children’s activities, an after-school program, summer camps, a meeting room and studio art projects for all ages, Georgetown Public Library Director Eric Lashley said.

According to the agreement, the city would retain ownership of the building and provide funds for some initial operating costs, and partner with a nonprofit organization that would provide volunteers to staff the center, organize and provide instructors for classes, raise funds and apply for grants.

Lashley said the center would raise enough money to be self-sufficient by its second year of operation.

Meigs selected as mayor pro tem

Georgetown City Council hosted a special meeting May 16 to swear in two council members and elect a mayor pro tem.

Jerry Hammerlun was elected to serve as District 5 councilman, and District 1 Councilwoman Patty Eason was elected to her fourth term. Both were uncontested races.

After the swearing-in ceremony, the council voted unanimously to appoint District 3 Councilman Danny Meigs to serve as mayor pro tem.

Gatlin Creek rezoning approved

Georgetown City Council approved two ordinances May 22 that would allow development on Gatlin Creek, a 121.6-acre property at 4900 Williams Drive, to move forward.

The council approved an amendment to the city’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan that would change the future land-use designation for the parcel from low-density residential to mixed-use community. The amendment also allowed City Council to change the site’s zoning from agriculture use to a planned unit development.

David Wolf, who owns the property, said he plans to develop the property in three zones that will include commercial and retail uses, single-family residential, some offices and a possible assisted living facility.

Other actions

• Council at its May 22 meeting denied a bid on the former Albertsons building and opted to keep the bidding process open.

• City Council approved a deal May 22 that will keep the same Capital Area Rural Transportation System services for the next fiscal year while the city determines what will happen in the future. The council approved $40,000, including $10,000 for the annual CARTS payment and $30,000 for planning costs to prepare for future services with Capital Metro.

Commissioners seek delay in salamander decision

Williamson County Commissioners are requesting more time to develop research on salamanders that could potentially be listed as endangered species.

Commissioners voted May 22 to send a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking them to delay their decision until at least July 31. U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison as well as U.S. Rep. John Carter also sent a letter to USFWS dated May 31 requesting a delay.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey said USFWS had indicated they could make a preliminary decision in June.

The Williamson County Conservation Foundation is in the process of studying the Georgetown Salamander and Jollyville Plateau Salamander to find out what threatens them, said Gary Boyd, director of environmental programs with Williamson County. Precinct 1 Commissioner Lisa Birkman, who is also the president of the WCCF board, said so far research has shown that development in the county is not necessarily detrimental to the salamanders.

Commissioners said the decision to send the letter was made in part because a nonprofit group that represents landowners in the affected area and is conducting its own research, the Texas Salamander Coalition, came to the regular Commissioners Court meeting May 8 and requested that commissioners ask for a delay in the decision.

Lesli Gray, public affairs specialist for the State of Texas with USFWS, said if USFWS publishes a proposed ruling, there would be a public comment period, and USFWS would have 12 months before making a final decision.

Meeting times

Georgetown City Council
Meets June 12 and 26 at 6 p.m.
Council chambers, 101 E. Seventh St., Georgetown
931-7715 • www.georgetown.org
Meetings are recorded and broadcast on Channel 10 at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Sunday following each meeting.

Williamson County Commissioners Court
Meets Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
Williamson County Courthouse, 710 S. Main St., Georgetown • 943-1550
www.wilco.org

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- Ronald Only, DO
- Daniel Voss, MD
- Kay In, MD
- Florence Spitler, DO
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- Megan Fox, P.A.-C

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ISD is classified, the district is subject to recapture, which means after a tax rate of $1.06, the district can also earn additional state revenue, but any additional increases in the rate would cause the district to have to return about 30 percent of the local tax dollars to the state, West said.

“We can actually go out for a total of four pennies, and we would still be able to keep enough monies to be the equivalent and greater than what our taxpayers gave us. At the fifth penny, I get to what I call diminishing returns, “ Lee said. “I can’t see a way, part of that is going back to Austin. ‘”

Lee said the budgetary issues include three problems: state funding reductions, federal entitlement reductions and increased operational costs due to the rising costs of utilities, fuel and supplies.

“[It’s] the things it takes to operate a public school,” Lee said. “It’s really three big issues there, and none of them are getting any better.”

The board approved a program change and reduction in force at its February meeting that cut about 70 district positions, including 50 teaching positions.

“We’ve restructured how we are going to offer some of the programs with less staff, but the real answer is we are going to have to [operate] with the same staff that other school districts have been operating with,” Lee said. “We are going to have to change our operational procedures to operate like other schools have been doing for years past.”

Two of the programs that were restructured—middle school tennis and elementary physical education, arts and music—drew ire from parents at several board meetings.

Village Elementary School parent Becky Bell said she was concerned that reducing the number of days children participate in P.E. from five to three days a week would affect children’s health.

“These decisions are being made without our input,” Bell said at the April 16 meeting.

Lee said the change was made because of the reductions in staff and to keep all the elementary schools operating on the same schedule. Although students will only be attending P.E. three times a week, students will still receive the same amount of time in the class each week as when the class was held five days per week, he said.

“We’ve been so blessed and fortunate that we’ve been able to staff a little richer than most districts, and now we are cutting back to what they’ve been doing,” Lee said. “I think when we get school started next year, parents are going to be very pleased with what they see. They are going to understand that we are still offering quality academic programs for their kids, and we are still offering all the same extracurricular activities that we have [currently].”

**Budget reductions**

The district, like many across the state, is facing a second round of reductions from the Legislature.

In a two year period, the board had to cut approximately $7 million from its budget because of funding reductions, Alarcon said.

“In the past, we probably could have said there was fat that we were cutting, but now we are really starting to get closer to the muscle and the bone,” Alarcon said in January. “So we have to be very strategic and intentional about the selections that we make.”

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**School notes**

Elected officials take office

Ronna Johnson won the race for Place 7, and incumbent Greg Eady won re-election to Place 6 on the Georgetown ISD board of trustees May 12. The pair was sworn into office May 21 at the board’s regular meeting.

New principal is named for Georgetown Alternative Program

Mike Miller, Georgetown High School Assistant principal, was named the new principal for the Georgetown Alternative Program, or GAP.

The alternative education program for Georgetown ISD is for sixth- through 12th-grade students who have violated the district’s student code of conduct.

Miller has served as assistant principal at GHS since 2004. Prior to that, he was an assistant principal in Belton ISD for eight years, a teacher in Georgetown ISD for eight years and a teacher for one year in Lake Travis ISD.

Board approves resolution for new accountability system

The Georgetown ISD board of trustees approved a resolution May 21 that opposes high-stakes standardized testing of Texas Public School students. The resolution was drafted by the Texas Association of School Administrators and endorsed by the Texas Association of School Boards, according to the district.

The approved resolution opposes testing as the “only assessment that really matters to” state and federal accountability system, and states that testing is “strangling” public schools by putting too much emphasis on test preparation and memorization. The resolution is not opposed to accountability but seeks a new system using multiple measures, according to the district.

By Beth Wade

Georgetown ISD has asked that a recent proposal from Lone Star Circle of Care to provide school campuses with nurse practitioners and licensed clinical social workers be scaled back.

“We probably jumped in with both feet when we should have been sticking one foot in, and we are scaling that back to try and pilot that program,” GISD Superintendent Joe Dan Lee said. “We haven’t made a firm decision on how that’s going to be structured.”

The proposal was brought to the district in April by LSCC, a nonprofit community health provider, Lee said.

The proposal was scaled down and eventually discarded for a more collaborative proposal from LSCC that would keep the school nurses while adding nurse practitioners’ care.

Lee said the district could look at a pilot program with about four nurse practitioners to offer expanded care.

“That gives us an opportunity to see if this is an effective program that is actually the benefit that we think it’s going to be to our students and our families, and we will give Lone Star an opportunity to see if this is something that is sustainable for them,” Lee said. “If the program works, we could expand.”

At the board of trustees May 21 meeting, Lee said the proposal must expand medical services to students and make financial sense for the district in order to be considered.

The school district currently employs 15 registered nurses and one Licensed Vocational Nurse who are overseen by a registered nurse, GISD spokesman Brad Domitrovich said.

Chief Medical Officer for LSCC Dr. Tamarah Duperval-Brownlee and the nonprofit’s Chief Financial Officer Brian Blaylock presented information about the nonprofit and its proposal at the May 21 meeting.

Duperval-Brownlee said the nonprofit approached the district with its proposal to enhance school health care and save the district money.

“It’s a way that we felt like we could expand services that we offer our students and actually reduce cost to the district, and I think you’ll see a lot of districts try to partner with businesses to provide services that are outside the classrooms—we currently partner with Sodexo, which is our food service provider,” Lee said.

Domitrovich said before any changes to the school’s health care system are made, the school district must host a public forum.

Visit www.georgetownisd.org for more information.
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GEORGETOWN ISD FEEDER PATTERN

GISD SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

Unassigned area

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOLS
### District Scores by Grade

#### 2011 TAKS Final Scores for Georgetown ISD: All Students Tested (English)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Paired with Pickett</td>
<td>Paired with Pickett</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Paired with McCoy</td>
<td>Paired with McCoy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Paired with Williams</td>
<td>Paired with Williams</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test will eventually replace TAKS test in all grades.

**MCCoy will be in its new location and be expanded to grades K–fifth for the 2012–13 school year. **Frost will be grades K–fifth for the 2012–13 school year.

### 2010–11 Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>State 2011</th>
<th>District 2010</th>
<th>District 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social studies</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economically disadvantaged**: 59.2% 45.90%

**Limited English proficiency (LEP)**: 16.9% 11.70%

**Average annual salaries of teachers**: $48,638 $48,246

### Elementary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Year opened</th>
<th>2011–12 enrollment (as of 9/13/11)</th>
<th>2011 Accountability Rating</th>
<th>2011–11 Economically disadvantaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carver</td>
<td>1200 W. 17th St.</td>
<td>943-5070</td>
<td>1964*</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>Academically Acceptable</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>1921 N.E. Inner Loop</td>
<td>943-5060</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>210 Woodlawn Drive</td>
<td>943-5180</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>Exemplary</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost</td>
<td>711 Lakeway Drive</td>
<td>943-5020</td>
<td>1986***</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCoy</td>
<td>401 Bellaire Drive</td>
<td>943-5030</td>
<td>2012**</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>1601 Rockride Lane</td>
<td>943-1820</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickett</td>
<td>1100 Thousand Oaks Blvd.</td>
<td>943-5050</td>
<td>1992*</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>Academically Acceptable</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purl</td>
<td>1700 Laurel St.</td>
<td>943-5080</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>400 Village Commons</td>
<td>943-5140</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>507 E. University Ave.</td>
<td>943-5160</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Middle Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Year opened</th>
<th>2011 Accountability Rating</th>
<th>2011–11 Economically disadvantaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benold</td>
<td>3407 Northwest Blvd.</td>
<td>943-5090</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>Academically Acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forbes</td>
<td>1911 N.E. Inner Loop</td>
<td>943-5150</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>Academically Acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tippit</td>
<td>1601 Leander Road</td>
<td>943-5040</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>Academically Acceptable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Year opened</th>
<th>2011 Accountability Rating</th>
<th>2011–11 Economically disadvantaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East View</td>
<td>4490 E. University Ave.</td>
<td>943-1800</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>Recognized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>2211 N. Austin Ave.</td>
<td>943-5100</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>2,018</td>
<td>Academically Acceptable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Opportunities

WC4C would like to thank our many sponsors, donors, guests, and volunteers for making our **Afternoon Tea with WC4C** event on April 6th a huge success. Your support enables us to continue to provide high-quality, affordable child care to families in Williamson County!

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How was the first year with two high schools in the district?

Joe Dan Lee: I visited a lot of schools the year before that had just recently gone from one to two and heard their horror stories about how difficult it was. I was told it would be one of the most difficult things I’ve done in my career, and I didn’t find that to be the case at all. Our staff jumped on board and put together a great transition plan, and I think the reason the transition has gone as smooth as it has is because our new high school with our ninth and 10th graders have had great success not only academically but also in their extracurricular activities.

We had great success at both high schools, so in my opinion, it’s absolutely exceeded my expectations.

Scott Alarcon: I think going from one high school to two high schools in any community can be controversial and contentious, and there were certainly a lot of concerns. What we said, and particularly what Joe Dan said, was, ‘Give us an opportunity to show you what we can provide for your children.’ In retrospect and in communication I hear from parents and family members of East View [High School] students, they couldn’t be happier with what’s going on there—the climate, the culture, the success academically as well as athletically.

How have all the changes in the district affected the students, and what is the district doing to lessen the impact?

Lee: It is a lot of change, and one of the messages we are trying to send out is that the renovations at Georgetown High School are going to be the most challenging project out of all these that we’ve done. We are working with our contractor, the architect and our leadership at Georgetown High School, and we have a really good plan put together on how we are going to transition the students.

McCoy [Elementary School] is coming along and will be open this fall. It’s going to be a really great facility and something new to Georgetown. It’s just taken a lot of planning, and I don’t want to tout our staff too much, but I don’t think the general public understands the amount of time that we spend making sure that it doesn’t disrupt what we are trying to do for our students.

Alarcon: McCoy right now is third through fifth grade. When we move in the fall, it will be K–5. There was a period of time where there was literature that suggested pre-K through [second grade] and then third through fifth [grade] was the best model, but more recently, we have found that fewer transitions are better. So I think over time, as we have the opportunity, and in a fiscally responsible manner, we are going to look at re-evaluating each of the elementary campuses that are not K–5 and studying how we might convert those.

You both took on roles in the district two years ago. How has it been for you as superintendent and school board president during such a difficult time for the district?

Alarcon: Some of those things that maybe happen once in a generation happened in the first two years. We’ve tried to be responsible stewards of the resources we’ve been given. It has been hard. I have less hair than I did two years ago, but the work is meaningful and challenging, and that’s OK. I don’t feel overburdened. I feel like we’ve got seven people [on the school board] as well as a superintendent who are all having the same direction and vision.

I think if I would want folks to know one thing, it would be that we are trying to balance the needs of the students and the needs of the community equally.

Lee: These last two years have been challenging and interesting because something that a lot of people really don’t understand is we’ve had much more major events happen in this school district in the last two years than some people have happen in their career. I’ve been in this business 35 years, and the last two years have been a career’s worth of events. We started in November 2010 with the largest bond issue that this district had ever proposed. Then we take that and move into implementing the projects that were included in that bond package, and then we decide we are going to transition into that second high school in the same year. Then about the time we decide to that, we are notified that we are receiving the largest reduction in the history of public education. Then we have to go into staff reductions, and all that happened in one year.

We knew we were going to get another significant reduction in our state and federal monies in the second year of the biennium. Honestly, the second round of budget and staff reductions was smaller than the first but more difficult. There were places that we could go and make reductions in year one that weren’t available to us in year two.

The thing that I’m very pleased about here at GISD is I think I can look at any of our taxpayers in the eye and say we’ve tried to run this school as efficiently as we possibly can, and to this point I don’t think we’ve decreased the effectiveness of it. I think we still offer quality programs and services to our students. I would not hesitate to put my child on any campus in this district.
Texas Education Agency “Recognized” School District ● 37 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ● District-Wide “No Place for Hate” Designation
10 USDA Healthier US School Challenge Awards ● National Performance Zone Winner ● Student Well-Being National Award ● 13,000+ Mentoring Hours

GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ● College Connection acceptance rate of 95.2% ● $2.5 million earned in scholarships ● 2nd Place Healthy High School Challenge ● Two Gold Performance Acknowledgements by the Texas Education Agency ● Two 100% Gold Audits by National Sanitation Foundation ● 37 students earned MOS Certifications ● District All-Sports Champions for the 6th consecutive year ● 34 GHS athletes college bound with scholarships ● Volleyball - 16-5A District Champions, 5A Regional Semifinalist, 9 All-District, 10 Academic All-District, 3 All-State, 4 Academic All-State ● Boys Cross Country - 16-5A District Champions, 5A Regional Semifinalist, 9 All-District, 10 Academic All-District, 3 All-State, 4 Academic All-State ● Girls Cross Country - 16-5A District Champions, 10 Regional Qualifiers, 20 Academic All-District, 1 Academic All-State ● Football - 17 All-District students, 35 Academic All-District, 1 All-State, 6 Academic All-State ● Boys Basketball - 5A Bi-District Champions, 5 All-District, 5 Academic All-District ● Girls Basketball - 5A Bi-District Champions, 5 All-District, 6 Academic All-District, One All-State, 1 Academic All-State ● Team Tennis - 16-5A Runner-up, 5A Regional Quarterfinalists, 15 All-District, 8 Academic All-District ● Boys Soccer - 16-5A Runner-up, 10 All-District, 6 Academic All-District ● Girls Soccer - 16-5A District Champions, 5A Regional Semifinalists, 12 All-District, 19 Academic All-District, 16-5A Most Valuable Player, 6 Academic All-State ● Spring Tennis - Four Regional Quarterfinalists, 2 Regional Semifinalists, 9 All-District, 9 Academic All-District ● Boys Swimming - 16-5A Runner-up, 8 All-District, 8 Regional Qualifiers in Boys Swimming ● 6 new school records in Girls Swimming - 8 All-District, 4 Regional Qualifiers ● Boys Golf - 16-5A District Champions, 5 Regional Qualifiers, 4 All-District, 4 Academic All-District, New GHS record score ● Girls Golf - 16-5A Runner-up, 5 Regional Qualifiers, 5 All-District, 6 Academic All-District, 2 Academic All-State ● Softball - 9 All-District, 11 Academic All-District ● Wrestling - 26-5A District Champions, 8 Academic All-District, 8 Regional Qualifiers, 5 State Qualifiers ● Baseball - 16-5A Runner-up, 9 All-District students ● Girls Track & Field - 10 Regional Qualifiers, 1 Academic All-State ● Boys Track & Field - 16-5A District Runner-up, 13 Regional Qualifiers ● Powerlifting - Six Regional Qualifiers ● Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security – 2 SkillsUSA Competition places, 20 volunteers for Williamson County’s Teen Court ● 3 Texas State Floral Student Association certificates ● FCCLA - 3 Gold Medals and 3 Bronze Medals at Regional Conference, 2 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal at the State Competition ● NJROTC - Distinguished Unit Award, Bravo Zulu Award, 3900+ hours of community service, 800+ hours of school support, 3 1st Place team finishes ● Automotive Technology - 28 top honors at Central Texas Automotive Technology Shoot Out, 10 top honors at District SkillsUSA, 20 Qualifiers and 3 1st Place honors at State Skills USA, Five Ford Motor AAA High Scores, 42 OSHA certification, 74 Tire Repair certifications ● Health Science – 6 Emergency Medical Responder certifications, 7 Certified Nurses Assistant certifications ● 75% of Culinary Arts students ServeSafe certified ● 3 Texas State Floral Association certifications ● Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources - District Runner-Up, Reserve Champion and Top Places at Williamson County Livestock Show, Reserve Champion and Top Honors at Williamson County Youth Show, 31 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department certifications, 8 Greenhand FFA Degrees ● Cheer - Top All American Cheerleader, Top Mascot, Performance Top Team, Motion Technique Award, Jumps Award, Herkies Leadership Award ● Colorguard - Mixed Ensemble awards, 1st Place Colorguard, Overall Outstanding ● Winterguard - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards ● Theatre - Best Actor, All Star Cast, All Star Crew for Zone and District, Advancing Play, Alternate Play ● Art – 50 students earned 4 ratings at VASE Regional Event, 2nd and 3rd Place Western Art Contest, 1st Place Temple College Contest ● Choir - 1 TMEA All-State Mixed Choir Recognition, 5 TMEA Area Choir, 28 TMEA Region Mixed Choir, 36 TMEA All-District, 25 UIL Solo Division I Ratings, 4 Class 1 Ensemble Division I Ratings, 3 Choir UIL Sweepstakes Awards ● Orchestra – 2 chairs All-Region Orchestra, 2 TMEA Area Qualifiers, 4 Certified for TSSE, 15 Division 1 UIL Solo and Ensemble, UIL Sweepstakes for Full Symphony Orchestra and String Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra UIL Sightreading, Band – 3 Chairs All-Region Jazz Band, 4 Chairs All-Region Concert Band, 2 Chairs All-Region Symphonic Band, 1 Chair All-Area Symphonic Band, 1 Chair All-District Band, 44 1st Division Ratings, 8 State Qualifiers ● Dance - Top Places, Grand Champions, and 2 Sweepstakes in American Dance and Drill Team Competitions ● EAST VIEW HIGH SCHOOL ● Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ● TBEC Honor Roll Academic Award ● 1st Place Healthy High School Challenge ● Region XII Cafeteria Recognition ● Girls Golf - 3rd in 25-3A, 1 All-District, 1 Academic All-District, 1 Regional Qualifier ● Boys Golf - District Medalist 25-3A, 1 All-District, 2 Academic All-District, 1 Regional Qualifier ● Girls Swimming - District Runner-up, 4 All-District, 4 Regional Qualifiers, 1 All-State ● Boys Swimming - 3 All-District, 4 Regional Qualifiers ● Tennis - 25-3A Mixed Doubles Champions, Regional Semifinalist Mixed Doubles ● Automotive Technology - 3 top honors at Central Texas Automotive Technology Shoot Out, 1 top honor at District SkillsUSA, 3 Qualifiers and 3 1st Place honors at State Skills USA, 6 OSHA certifications ● Cheer - All-American Nominee, Leadership Award, Top IV Team, 2 Excellent Ribbons, 4 Superior Ribbons, 4 Spirit Sticks ● Theatre - Runner-up in District, All Star Cast, All Star Crew ● Art - 54 students earned 4 ratings at VASE Regional Event, 1 Gold Seal at VASE Regional Event ● Choir – 1 TMEA All-State Choir Area Recognition, 1 TMEA All-State Choir Pre-Area Recognition, 6 TMEA All-State Choir Region Recognition, 5 TMEA All-State Choir District Recognition, 1 UIL Solo and Ensemble State Recognition, 11 Division I Recognitions at UIL, Solo and Ensemble, 1 Division II Recognition, 2 UIL Sweepstakes Awards ● Orchestra - Superior Rating ● Band – 6 Chairs All-Region Band, 2 Chairs All-State Concert Band, 18 1st Division Ratings, 11 Advanced to Texas State Solo and Ensemble ● Percussion - Division I Rating, Advanced to State ● Marching Band – 2 Best Overall, 2 Division I Ratings ● Dance – Top recognition at Heart of Texas Dance Classic, Lonestar State, ADTS Nationals; 25 Camp Awards, Best In Class Duet, 9 National Titles ● RICHARTE HIGH SCHOOL ● College Connection acceptance rate of 97.1% ● Honorable Mention Healthy High School Challenge ● Gold Performance Acknowledgement by the Texas Education Agency ● 2nd Place Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association’s Foundation for Investment Education Investment Simulation ● Key Club received a 90% growth award ● Key Club earned 3rd place for participation in Williamson County Blood
2012

AFTER SCHOOL ACTION PROGRAM ■ 7 Junior Master Gardeners certification ■ 7 Top Honors Capital BEST Robotics Competition ■ 100 Semester of Service Program Volunteer Hours BENOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL ■ 4 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ 2 National Sanitation Foundation Gold Audits ■ 79 Read-It-Forward participants ■ 6 PTA Reflections Awards of Excellence ■ 10 1st Place, 11 2nd Place, and 4 3rd Place UIL Winners ■ 5 Duke Talent Search State Recognitions ■ 1 Duke Talent Search National Recognition ■ 112 Gold and 36 Silver President’s Education Awards Program recipients ■ Orchestra – 1 All Region, 63 Solo & Ensemble Contest Superior Ratings, 5 Vivace Youth Orchestra places ■ Choir – 8 Region Choir, Varsity Treble Sweepstakes, Varsity Tenor Bass 2nd Place ■ Band – Honors Band Sweepstakes, Symphonic Band 1st Division Rating, Jazz Band 2nd Place<br>Georgetown Jazz Festival, Jazz Band received Texas Jazz Educators Association Grant, 7 All-District, 5 District, 7 District Band chairs, 5 Region Band, 1 Region Band chair, 2 Region Orchestra ■ 5 NCA All American Cheerleading Award FORBES MIDDLE SCHOOL ■ 3 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ 78 Read-It-Forward Participants ■ 1 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grant ■ Matching Grant recipient Step Up! Assembly Program ■ Volleyball - District Champions 8th Grade A Team ■ Girls Basketball - District Champions 7th Grade A Team ■ Girls Track and Field – 5 Records ■ Art – 10 1st Place Medals and 5 2nd Place Medals Middle School VASE Competition ■ Orchestra - 35 1st Division Solo and One 1st Division Ensemble GISD String Solo & Ensemble Contest ■ Choir – Superior and Excellent UIL Concert & Sight Reading ■ Band - Honors Band Sweepstakes UIL Concert & Sight Reading TIPPIT MIDDLE SCHOOL ■ Matching Grant recipient Step Up! Assembly Program ■ 60 Read-It-Forward Program Participants ■ 1 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grant ■ 5 Duke Talent Search State Recognitions ■ 1 Duke Talent Search National Recognition ■ 39 National Honor Society inductees ■ 1 placement American Mathematics Competition ■ 3 high scores Texas State Mathematics League ■ 3 high scores SIGMA Math Contest ■ Weightlifting - new school record ■ Girls Basketball - District Champions 8th Grade A Team ■ Girls Track - 8th Grade District Champion, Runners Up ■ Girls Basketball - District Runner Up 7th Grade A Team ■ Girls Track - District Champion and Runner Up 7th Grade ■ Girls Tennis - District Champion and Runner Up 8th Grade ■ 7 1st Place Medals and 1 2nd Place Medal Middle School VASE Competition ■ Choir - 3 TMEA All-Region, 1st Division UIL Concert ■ Band - Sweepstakes award UIL Concert & Sight Reading

EAGLE WINGS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER ■ Texas Rising Star (4-Star) distinction CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 1 A+ Federal Credit Union Grant ■ 2 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grants ■ 1st Place ESE Tennis Tournament ■ 2 State Reflections Contest participants COOPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ■ 3 Gold Performance Acknowledgements by the Texas Education Agency ■ Title I Distinguished Performance School ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 2 A+ Federal Credit Union Grants ■ 1 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grant ■ 1st and 3rd Place UIL Awards FROST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 1st Place Battle of the Books FORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Exemplary” Campus ■ 6 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Bronze status ■ 2 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grant ■ 1 Gold, 1 Silver, and 6 Bronze District Math Pentathlon ■ 1st Place and 3rd Place Math Masters ■ 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place UIL Awards ■ 2nd Place Scholastic Books National Elementary Contest MCCOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ■ 4 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 1 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grant ■ 1 A+ Federal Credit Union Grant ■ Gold Hall of Fame Award State Math Pentathlon ■ Silver and Bronze Medal State Math Pentathlon ■ 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place UIL Awards ■ 2 State Reflections Contest participants MITCHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ■ 2 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 3 A+ Federal Credit Union Grants ■ 2 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grants ■ HEB Teacher of the Year Finalist ■ 2 State Reflections Contest Winners PUCKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ 3 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 100% Gold Audit by National Sanitation Foundation ■ 2 Partners in Education Teacher Grants ■ 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place UIL Awards ■ Largest food donor to The Caring Place PURIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 2 State Winners PTA Reflections Contest VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ■ TBEC Honor Roll Academic Award ■ 4 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Silver status ■ 2 100% Gold Audits by National Sanitation Foundation ■ 2 A+ Federal Credit Union Grants ■ 2 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grants ■ 2 Silver and 1 Bronze National Math Pentathlon Tournament ■ 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place UIL Awards ■ Top Elementary Team Heartchase 2011 ■ 3 Gold Medals and 4 Bronze Medals Math Challenge Day WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ Texas Education Agency “Recognized” Campus ■ 4 Gold Performance Acknowledgements ■ USDA Healthier US School Challenge Gold status ■ 1 Georgetown Partners in Education Teacher Grant ■ 1 A+ Federal Credit Union Grant ■ Gold Medal District Math Pentathlon ■ 1st Place Battle of the Books ■ 1st Place and 2nd Place Math Masters ■ 1st Place UIL Awards ■ Award of Excellence State Reflections Contest
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| Sawsati Chaudhury, MD                    |                       |
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**Conference**
Continued from 11

“There’s a lot of work to be done,” said Micki Rundell, chief financial officer for the City of Georgetown. “Right now, the project is moving forward, but there are still a lot of other thresholds we have to meet.”

Novak said if additional agreements with the city and developers are approved, the project could break ground in December or January and would take 16 to 18 months to complete.

Preliminary plans call for a four-star or better hotel with more than 200 rooms and a conference center that can seat at least 1,500 people. The hotel and conference center is projected to cost about $52 million, Novak said.

Novak said developers are in negotiations with a hotel group, but they are not yet ready to release the name of the group, and the design is still in the conceptual phase.

**Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone**

On May 15, Williamson County approved amending a tax increment financing agreement regarding its participation in the Rivery Park Reinvestment Zone, and the City of Georgetown did the same May 22.

In 2007, the city created the Rivery Park Reinvestment Zone, a geographic area of about 32 acres that included The Summit at Rivery Park. The county later entered into the agreement in 2008.

Within this zone, property taxes the city and county collect are capped at what the assessed property value was when the zone became effective in 2008. Taxes collected above that point go into a fund for projects within the boundaries of that zone.

Williamson County committed 80 percent of its property tax increment collected in the zone back into the TIRZ fund, and the city committed all of its tax increment, according to the agreement.

The city’s portion of the fund has about $38,000 in it so far, Rundell said. The life of the TIRZ goes until Dec. 31, 2031.

“The clock started ticking when that agreement was signed,” said Marlene McMichael, a consultant for the developer with McMichael & Company LLC. “They have held on to the original vision for the project despite all the setbacks,” McMichael said.

The development is also slated to contain restaurant, retail, medical and office space, Novak said.

Williamson County Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey said that although design of the conference center is still in the conceptual phase, the county has requested that it be able to seat a minimum of 1,500 people so that large events can be held in the area. The county has also requested to use the facility rent-free to host two three-day events per year.

“We felt like we needed a conference center back in 2008, and still feel that we need it today,” she said. “It will be a part of the hotel, and it will be something that will generate economic development and other things here.”

Comments or questions about this story can be sent to the editor at rnews@CommunityImpact.com.
Restaurants

Continued from 11

Subs is expected to open there sometime in October, he said. "We've got a store in Round Rock that does fairly well, and since we opened that store in 1993, people have been saying, 'When are you going to open a location in Georgetown?'" Haggerty said.

Haggerty is one of several Austin business owners interested in expanding to the Georgetown market, specifically in downtown, said Shelly Hargrove, manager of the Georgetown Main Street Program.

"We love the community of Georgetown," Haggerty said. "It seemed like a great location to us, and when this [building] became available to us, it just seemed like where we wanted to be."

A good fit

Haggerty said his business fits nicely into Georgetown's landscape and seemed like a natural fit for the restaurant. "I think now you are going to see more ingenious, self-motivated and entrepreneurial people coming out to the outer 'burbs because of the hassle of living in Austin," he said. "I think those people are coming out to places like Georgetown, Dripping Springs and Marble Falls because they still have [character]."

Located just off the Square, the new location will be paired with a separate concept that has yet to be decided, but could feature the same fresh and healthy concept as ThunderCloud Subs and beer and wine, Haggerty said.

"This gives us an opportunity to take our business management/restaurant expertise and try something else that will be fun for us," he said. "Our idea is to have a complementary business that helps us fill out the other parts [of the day] that ThunderCloud is not as strong on. Generally, 60 percent of our business is between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and we would like to have something that fills in the mornings and the evenings."

Haggerty said the concept could be a breakfast or dinner option or an Amy's Ice Creams, although Haggerty said the sandwich chain could decide just to serve Amy's Ice Creams as a part of its menu.

"They're really much more urban than we are," he said. "Our client base is more three to four times a week—the people that come to ThunderCloud, we are their lunch place, and they eat lunch every day. Whereas Amy's is a treat, and people tend to get that much less often."

The restaurant is expected to close on the building in late June, Deputy City Manager Laurie Brewer said.

Future plans could also include putting in a rooftop deck for live music and other gatherings, Haggerty said.

Another burger restaurant

In addition to ThunderCloud Subs, Austin-based Hat Creek Burger Co. has plans to build the company's third location, which will be at 405 S. Austin Ave. The restaurant got a special-use permit from City Council for its drive-thru May 22. Hat Creek owner Drew Gressett said he is now working through the design and development process with the city.

[We think] the Georgetown Square is a fantastic place," Gressett said. "That property does a lot for providing for families to come to Georgetown and enjoy the Square."

Gressett said he plans to open an approximately 3,000-square-foot restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating and a children's play area.

"We want to have a Hat Creek in Georgetown, and we're excited about the possibility of getting that done," Gressett said.

A renaissance

City Manager Paul Brandenburg said the city has been working aggressively to recruit new businesses to Georgetown.

An IF Marketing & Advertising report issued in July 2011 recommended the city re-evaluate the use of city-owned properties on the Square.

Since the report was issued, the city sold the buildings at 101 W. Seventh St. and 614 S. Main St. to Fredericksburg-based Grape Creek Vineyards and sold the former fire truck bay building to ThunderCloud Subs.

"The city had to take a leadership role," Brandenburg said about implementing the IF Marketing & Advertising report.

Grand improvements

The IF Marketing & Advertising report also suggested adding festivals and signature events to the city's calendar as a way to draw interest to the downtown area. In May, the city hosted the inaugural Subaru of Georgetown Grand, the state criterium cycling championships, in downtown Georgetown.

"The Grand has been a catalyst," she said. "A lot of these owners are somehow linked to [the cycling] industry, and that's who we want—active lifestyle-type businesses and professional entrepreneurs."

Hargrove said other Austin businesses already in Georgetown has also brought restaurant owners and retailers to the downtown.

"It doesn't hurt that ThunderCloud Subs has already made a commitment to come here," she said. "It makes it less of a risk, and those business owners are going to be our best spokespeople to other businesses."
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(From left) Owner of Guns Plus Kristi Simank; her husband, Stephen; son, Kyle; and staff member Wes Welborn all assist in the operation of Guns Plus.

BUSINESS

Guns Plus
Store plans expansion along Austin Avenue this summer

By Samantha Bryant

The process of buying a gun can take anywhere from five minutes to several weeks, said Kristi Simank, owner of Guns Plus.

She said it depends on a customer’s budget, what he or she plans to use the gun for and what brand he or she likes as to what staff will recommend.

“It’s kind of like cars—everyone likes a different model and color,” she said.

Simank said the staff at Guns Plus have extensive experience in shooting and handling guns. Her husband, Stephen, an instructor at Guns Plus, was a police officer with the Austin Police Department for 16 years and still serves in the reserves with the Brazos County Constable’s Office. Their son, Kyle, is the store manager and shoots competitively.

Kristi said their other two children also enjoy shooting.

“It’s always been a thing that has bounded our family, and it’s done in a safe manner,” Kristi said.

Stephen Simank said the family’s combined experience, along with the knowledge of the other staff members, allows them to make educated recommendations.

“It’s not what we’ve read or what we’ve heard, but actually what we know through first-hand experiences,” he said.

Guns Plus buys, sells, trades and consigns guns. The store also offers gunsmithing services and sells knives, ammunition, targets, gun cleaning supplies, concealed handgun purses and gear related to hunting, personal defense, training, law enforcement and military use.

Kristi said the family started the business online and then opened a storefront in November 2010. They moved the store to its location on Austin Avenue in March 2011.

In July, the Simanks plan to open another section of Guns Plus in the building next to their current location, giving them more space to display inventory and hold classes.

Guns Plus offers Concealed Handgun License classes as well as an introduction to handguns and basic defensive handgun courses.

The two-hour introduction to handguns and basic defensive handgun courses are designed to teach people how to shoot and the cardinal rules of safety. Stephen Simank said he focuses on “not when can you shoot, but when do you have to shoot,” and situational awareness.

Having worked as a sex crimes sergeant and a homicide detective, Stephen said he is passionate about personal defense and helping people avoid becoming victims of crime so that they do not need to use a gun for personal defense.

“If I can keep you from getting in a [dangerous] situation, that’s even better,” Stephen Simank said.

Guns Plus has also taught a situational awareness class for Southwestern University students. Kristi said they like to be involved in the community and have donated firearms to charity auctions.

She said one of the reasons the store has done so well in Georgetown is the welcoming and knowledgeable staff.

“People like the way they are treated when they come in here,” Kristi said. “None of us ever met a stranger anywhere.”

The Firing Line

Guns Plus plans to open The Firing Line, a shooting range, in July.

The facility will have multiple tactical bays for pistol, rifle and shotgun use and 25-, 50- and 100-yard commercial shooting range.

Machine guns will be available to rent at the range, which will be membership-based.

2560 FM 972, Georgetown
www.texasfiringline.com

Guns Plus
2302 N. Austin Ave.
547-4867
www.gunsplus.net
Julie Woody, owner of Woody RV Rentals LLC, often gives vacation suggestions to people searching for somewhere to travel throughout the United States in their recently rented recreational vehicle. Port Aransas and Big Bend National Park are both places she recommends if the travelers want to stay in Texas.

"I think that’s one reason we’ve done so well—there’s so much to do in Texas," she said of the RV rental company’s growth in the past several years.

What started out as one advertisement for a Winnebago on Craigslist in 2007 has burgeoned into 48 consignment motor homes, motor coaches, travel trailers and pop-up campers.

Woody said after renting an RV for her family for the first time turned into a disappointing experience, she decided to do it herself.

"When [my husband and I] got our own [RV], I said, 'I bet I could pay for this [RV] and help people have a better experience than we did,'" Woody said about renting her RV for others to use.

The vehicles and campers at Woody RV Rentals are maintained and cleaned by staff, and the company also offers out-of-town travelers transportation to and from the airport as well as delivery and setup of the units.

Woody said customer service is important to her, and she makes recommendations to customers based on where they plan to go, if they want to tow or drive the rental, how many people will be in it and the renters’ level of experience with RVs.

She said the staff takes the time to explain each vehicle to new customers and how to operate it. People often ask if they need a certain driver’s license to drive an RV—they do not—Woody said people just need to be reminded about the size of the vehicle.

"In the United States of America, you don’t need a special driver's license, you just need a little common sense," Woody said.

She said one group of renters took an RV through a restaurant drive-thru, turning the business’s kiosk on its side. Another renter tried unsuccessfully to drive the RV into a parking garage.

General Manager Christopher Coghlan said not only does the rental system offer an affordable option for families to use an RV without the expense of buying, it is also cost-effective for people who own an RV but only use it periodically.

"These people realize, ‘I can still own my camper at the end of the day and not have to pay $120 a month to store it,’” he said.

RV owners pay a fee for space at Woody’s RV Rentals and the advertisement of their vehicle, and if it is rented, owners get 50 percent of the rental fee.

Woody RV Rentals has options for people on varying budgets, from pop-up campers that people can tow behind their vehicles to luxury motor coaches.

The 48-foot Prevost motor coach is one of the company’s top-of-the-line vehicles, Woody said. It comes with a washer and dryer, queen-size bed, revolving closet, a custom mirrored ceiling with fiber-optic lighting and leather seats.

The RVs at Woody RV Rentals have held some famous people. Woody said film companies, musicians and even the cast of ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” have all rented RVs from her.

March through December is the busiest time of the year for Woody RV Rentals, as people take family vacations, go to area music festivals, rent an RV for visiting relatives to stay in or plan tailgating parties, Woody said.

Coghlan said all of the RVs were gone from the lot during spring break this year.

Woody RV Rentals staff (from left) Kyle Kaine, owner Julie Woody and General Manager Christopher Coghlan stand in front of the first RV Woody purchased to start the business in 2007.

By Samantha Bryant

Renting rooms on wheels
CJ’s Sports Bar and Grill
Restaurant works to overcome bowling alley image

By Emilie Boenig

ver the sound of a bowler nailing a strike and the muffled commentary from television sportscasters, the team at CJ’s Sports Bar and Grill serves food rarely found in a bowling alley. Stretching beyond standard nachos and hot dogs, the menu includes turkey and chicken wraps, salads, pizza and breakfast tacos.

In April 2008, Food and Beverage Manager Tracey Waters helped open the restaurant—attached to Mel’s Lone Star Lanes—with hopes of it becoming a family entertainment destination. She said improving visitors’ initial idea of bowling alley food is a challenge.

“Our goal is to exceed people’s expectations on everything from the appearance of the building to the service they receive when they walk inside. Some people don’t even know they’re going to get service,” Waters said.

The in-house menu was designed with bowlers in mind. They can order food in the alley every day after 4 p.m., while those in search of a bite away from the lanes can dine inside the restaurant and bar all day.

“When people are bowling, it can’t be knife-and-fork food. The menu is birthed from being a bowling center and a bar, so we’re talking about wings, pizza, sandwiches and burgers,” Catering Manager Ralph Acquaro said. He began expanding CJ’s catering services in August 2010, adding a new spectrum of flavors and dishes to CJ’s offerings. “Our catering is lot more diverse. It’s really not tied into any genre.”

CJ’s caters events for organizations throughout Central Texas, including the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Williamson County and daily lunches at two Catholic schools.

“Part of that focus is, we want to give back to the community that we live in, and also we want to help nonprofits be successful,” he said. “I’ll get a call saying, ‘I have to feed 300 people and I have $500, what can you do for me?’ And we make it work.”

The kitchen team can feed hundreds of people a day between catering events and in-restaurant orders, so the managers meet weekly to plan for a high volume of outgoing food.

“We try to be on the same page and have the best communication possible,” Kitchen Manager Jorge Pineda said. “We go through the menu once a month and look at what items we sell the most, and we try to improve.”

CJ’s has weekly lunch specials to entice business professionals and lunchtime guests. Acquaro said a larger midday crowd would help propel the restaurant’s image as an accessible and sensible dining option.

“I don’t think people realize they can come in here, have a beer or have a tea, get in and get out in 20 or 30 minutes. I don’t think they realize that we’re capable of that,” he said. “If you took this food and put it at a different location, it would be an unbelievably, wildly successful restaurant. When you have to prove you’re a bowling alley making food, it’s where the challenge is. Our goal is to get that message out that you don’t know what you’re missing.”

CJ’s Sports Bar and Grill
1010 N. Austin Ave., 930-2200
www.melslonestarlanes.com
Sun. 11 a.m.—11 p.m. Mon.—Tue. 9 a.m.—11 p.m. Wed.—Fri. 9 a.m.—11 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.—midnight

Handy appetizer
CJ’s serves hand-held appetizers such as the 300 Sampler, which includes:

• Beef Nachados—tostada-size crispy corn tortillas cut in half with refried beans, cheddar and Monterrey Jack cheese, beef and jalapeños
• Cheese quesadillas
• Beer-battered onion rings
• Fried dill pickle chips
• Mozzarella cheese sticks

Homemade dipping sauces including the ranch and chipotle garlic dip, salsa, sour cream and guacamole accompany the 300 Sampler appetizer.

Specialty burgers
CJ’s serves burgers with french fries or homemade chips.

• The Dude Abides is a 1/3-pound chicken-fried burger patty topped with onion rings, grilled jalapeños, queso blanco and chipotle garlic sauce for $8.99.
• The Big Cheese is a 1/2-pound patty grilled medium-well, topped with a cup of shredded Monterrey Jack and cheddar cheeses and presented on a kaiser roll ($8.99).
• CJ’s Chili Burger is a 1/3-pound patty with two layers of cheese and smothered in chili and onions ($8.99).

Photos by Emilie Boenig
Subaru of Georgetown Grand

Hundreds of cyclists took to the streets of Georgetown on May 19–20 for the inaugural Subaru of Georgetown Grand, the Texas state criterium championship.

Photos by Beth Wade

1 Cyclists enter the first turn of the race during the Mellow Johnny’s Pro 1/2 Men’s race May 19.

2 Zachary Carlson of Matrix Cycling Club took first place in the Mellow Johnny’s Cat 3 Men’s race.

3 Cyclists take the turn at Main and Fourth streets.

4 Cyclists compete in the Mellow Johnny’s Pro 1/2 Men’s race May 19.

5 The Subaru of Georgetown Grand took cyclists through downtown Georgetown.

6 The Subaru of Georgetown Grand also featured an area with vendor booths.

7 Crowds gathered on the Williamson County Courthouse lawn to watch cyclists compete May 19.

8 The Square was swarming with cyclists throughout the day May 19.

9 Two Tons of Steel took the stage May 19.

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401-8500, http://austinparks.org

Champion Park
Where: 3830 Brushy Creek Road, Cedar Park
Hours: 10 a.m.–7 p.m. every day
Cost: Free
943-1920, http://parks.wilco.org

Georgetown Recreation Center Splash Pad and Pool
(Opens Memorial Day weekend)
Where: 1003 N. Austin Ave., Georgetown
Hours: Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Cost: Age 3 and younger free, $2 (children ages 4 to 9, seniors), $3 (age 10 and older)
930-3596, http://recreation.georgetown.org

Main Street Plaza
Where: 221 E. Main St., Round Rock
Hours: Sun.–Wed., 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Thu.–Sat. 7:30 a.m.–11 p.m.
Cost: Free
218-5540
www.roundrocktexas.gov/home/index.asp?page=1890

Quarry Splash Pad at Southwest Williamson County Regional Park
Where: 3005 CR 175, Leander
Hours: 10 a.m.–7 p.m. every day
Cost: $1 per person
943-1919, http://parks.wilco.org

Rock’N River Family Aquatic Center
Where: 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock
Hours: Mon., Tue., Thu., Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Fri., Sun. 1–8 p.m.; Wed. closed
Cost: $3.50 (children and seniors), $4.50 (adults)
671-2737, www.roundrocktexas.gov/pools

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Where: 16107 FM 2799
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Looking to cool off this summer? This guide showcases a few of the most popular splash pad destinations in Williamson County. The dates and times each splash pad remains open varies depending on weather conditions and water restrictions. Many splash pads listed expect to remain open through September.

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Ryan Robinson
Demographer for the City of Austin

By Sara Behunek

Editor’s note: Coffee With Impact is a monthly forum at our headquarters featuring leaders in various sectors who are making a difference in Central Texas and beyond.

Ryan Robinson has served as the city demographer for the City of Austin since 1995, but he does not just study what is going on within Austin city limits. He also tracks, maps and analyzes population data within the Austin Metropolitan Statistical area, composed of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties.

“It’s the whole enchilada,” he said. “It’s San Marcos to Georgetown.”

The data, primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau, is then used to help determine where the city and county governments need to be allocating their resources, such as hiring more police officers and firefighters or purchasing garbage trucks. In addition, Robinson said businesses are increasingly using demographic information to help focus their marketing efforts.

By how much is the Austin metro population growing?

In April, the Census Bureau reported the Austin MSA was the second-fastest growing metropolitan area in the country. But when you look at that list, the fastest-growing metropolitan area was a relatively small urban area—250,000 people—so if you create a subset of large metropolitan areas with at least 1 million persons in it, the Austin MSA, with about 1.8 million people, climbs to the very top of the list.

Was there anything else the new data revealed?

What that report also showed was that while so many urban areas around the country continue to stagnate, Austin’s economy and population growth has actually accelerated. The annualized growth rate between April 2010 and July 2011, was 3.9 percent, a full percentage point faster than the second-fastest growing large MSA, Raleigh, N.C. During that 15-month period, we received 70,000 new residents. Of that, roughly 35 percent of that gain came from infants being born. The remainder came from people moving into the Austin MSA from somewhere else.

Where is the population growth primarily taking place?

Interestingly, of the 70,000 net population increase that occurred in the metropolitan area, 40,000 of it was in Travis County. People may initially move to the City of Austin because we have so much more rental housing stock, and while some stay, others may ultimately buy a home in Williamson or Hays counties.

What do you think are the biggest challenges for the area going forward?

I think the three biggest challenges are social inequity, water availability and transportation. As a demographer, I focus on the social inequity. To that point, I think our great challenge is to take this very large young population that is now overwhelmingly Latino and try to reverse the trend of an increasing societal gap.

Community Impact Newspaper Associate Publisher Claire Love (right) interviews City of Austin Demographer Ryan Robinson about population trends in the five-county Austin metropolitan area.
Williamson County Sheriff’s Posse
Organization marks 69 years of service
By Samantha Bryant

Laura Sue Smith remembers square dancing on a raised platform in the arena at the Williamson County Sheriff’s Posse’s Georgetown Rodeo when she was in high school in the 1940s. She was a member of the San Gabriel Teenagers, a group that performed between events at the rodeo.

In years past, the Sheriff’s Posse facilitated Western Week, which included a parade, barbecue, cookoffs and a cowboy breakfast, and culminated in the rodeo. She said the whole town participated, and anyone not wearing western attire on the Square could be thrown into a makeshift “jail” until someone came to bail them out.

“[Western Week] was the center of the summer,” Smith said. “It was the most exciting thing, and everyone had a part in making it a wonderful event.”

The event stemmed from Williamson County’s farming and ranching heritage, Smith said.

“Originally, it was just a bunch of cowboys that came to town on Sunday afternoons and went down to the [San Gabriel] park,” she said. Terry Svehlak, WCSP secretary, said the community created by the informal gatherings led to the creation of the Williamson County Fair and Rodeo Association, which was organized in 1938.

The organization was renamed the Williamson County Sheriff’s Posse in 1943. Under the leadership of Williamson County Sheriff Robert Davis, members of the WCSP could be deputized and called on to assist law enforcement.

WCSP Captain Rob Hardy said during World War II, the WCSP supplemented the sheriff’s office.

“A lot of the men would have to leave town to fight [in the war],” he said, noting that the members of the WCSP who remained played a vital role in supporting law enforcement in the case of events such as jailbreaks, missing persons and natural disasters.

The WCSP has continued to assist with events in more recent history, such as the Jarrell tornado in 1997 and the search for Rachel Cooke who went missing in 2002.

In the late 1940s, the arena that the WCSP used in San Gabriel Park collapsed, so Posse members raised $20,000 and borrowed another $20,000 from Buck Steiner, a prominent rancher and founder of Capitol Saddlery in Austin, to rebuild the arena as it stands today. Smith said her late husband, Coop Smith, helped get the poles that held the lights throughout the arena.

In its beginning years, the WCSP was an all-male organization, but in the 1980s, Ann Barton Smith and Bonnie Schaefer, the wife of Dr. Stephen Schaefer, were some of the first women to join, Smith said.

For many years, the rodeo had a WCSP Sweetheart, a woman who had a family member in the sheriff’s posse, as well as the WCSP Queen, who won the title by getting the most pennies in jars that were distributed in businesses throughout the Square.

The WCSP also operates a drill team that practices weekly in the arena and performs at parades and the rodeo. Hardy said membership on the drill team, like the WCSP, is open to anyone and costs $20 per year.

The 2012 Georgetown Rodeo runs June 29–30 and features traditional rodeo events such as bull riding, team roping and barrel racing.

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Pledges propel medical school, teaching hospital in Austin

Central Austin A movement to transform Austin into an international mecca on the cutting edge of medical research took two giant steps forward with recent major funding pledges.

On May 3, The University of Texas Board of Regents committed up to $30 million annually for a new medical school in Austin just two weeks after Seton Healthcare Family pledged $250 million toward a teaching hospital to replace the outdated University Medical Center Brackenridge located downtown.

While there is a possibility the teaching hospital at UMCB would be the site of the future medical school, no decision has been made, and UT will have the final say on the location.

Whether the medical school is located at UMCB or two separate facilities are built, the major goals of an initiative spearheaded by state Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, aimed at improving health care in Central Texas within the decade would be met.

There has been talk of a medical school in Austin for several decades, but UT spokesman Gary Susswein credited the recent momentum to Watson.

In order to realize this goal, Watson has stressed the importance of public-private partnerships as a new “community-based” funding model. He noted Seton's pledge as a great example and huge step forward, igniting buzz of UMCB as a strong possibility for the new medical school's site.

Seton's pledge of $250 million for a new teaching hospital to replace UMCB is part of a deal with Central Health—Travis County's health care taxing authority—which owns the land UMCB currently occupies.

While the $250 million would cover construction, Seton would also pay for facility upkeep, and Central Health would work to secure federal dollars for future updates.

Leander welcomes recent geographic growth

Leander In the largest land annexation in the city’s history and the first since 2010, the Leander City Council agreed May 3 to add 1,831 acres of land to its tax roll.

The annexation—near FM 1431 and Nameless Road—increases Leander’s reach by about 2.86 square miles, making a total of 25.84 square miles within city limits.

The annexation could nearly double the city’s property value, City Manager Kent Cagle said. Adding land to Leander increases property and sales tax revenues, and as the city grows through gradual annexations over time, new areas receive tax-funded city services.

“Short term, the developments will help current residents pay for the cost of our water supply and treatment facilities,” he said. “Long term, they will add to the tax base and create the demographics necessary to attract more restaurant and retail developments.”

New developments breathe life into Burnet Road

North Austin Developers have filed plans with the City of Austin to build two projects on Burnet Road, and a hike and bike trail that will link Metric Boulevard to The Domain is on track to open in June.

TopGolf Inc., an international chain of large golf entertainment complexes, announced plans in April to construct a three-story driving range and restaurant that would open by the end of the year at 11301 Burnet Road. Adjacent to that property, Austin-based developer Endeavor Real Estate Group is planning to build The Addison on Burnet, an apartment complex consisting of 392 units in seven three-story buildings.

Shift in chamber leadership could spur change

Cedar Park As the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce searches for former president and CEO Harold Dean's replacement, many community officials view the leadership change as an opportunity to expand the chamber’s relationship with the city.

Dean finished his 13-year tenure as president and CEO on May 15. The search to find Dean's replacement is under way by a committee chaired by chamber board member Linda Haddock.

The Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce for years served as the city's economic development liaison, but that responsibility now falls on the Cedar Park Economic Development Department and subsequent economic development boards. Since 1999, the city has been allowed to use sales tax revenue to help attract several large businesses and venues.

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Full story by Emilie Boenig
Circuit of The Americas to fuel county’s economy

South Austin  The first race at the new Circuit of The Americas racetrack in Elroy is still months away, but Hays County is already feeling the economic boost.

Located on 1,000 acres in southeast Travis County, COTA is 15 miles from Buda, and officials say that proximity is a huge plus for Hays County.

“Things are already happening because of Circuit of The Americas,” said Warren Ketteman, executive director of the Buda Economic Development Corporation.

“Hotels are getting a bounce, which is great for Hays County. If people are sleeping here, they’ll impact our economy by buying gas, dining and shopping.”

Circuit of The Americas includes a 3.4-mile track, a media and conference center, a live entertainment area, a retail center, a museum and a research facility.

Track officials said the venue is also increasing employment in the area.

“In total, Circuit of The Americas is expected to create more than 6,000 jobs,” said Ali Putnam, media and community relations manager at COTA. “Approximately 300 full-time equivalent jobs will be created, and on major event days, more than 3,000 seasonal/event-specific employees will be hired. Additionally, the project will create 1,700 construction jobs.”

The first event at the track will be the 2012 Formula One United States Grand Prix, which is expected to draw 120,000 people.

“Formula One racing is expected to have an economic impact of approximately $300 million each year for 10 years, as compared to a Super Bowl, for example, which is a single event for a region,” Putnam said.

The venue will host dozens of high-profile racing and entertainment events each year.

Putnam said fans of F1 follow their favorite drivers and teams all over the world.

“Foreign individuals, dignitaries, diplomats—you will have a lot of them. This crowd will travel with the circuit,” he said.

“If Brazil is doing great, there will be a lot of Brazilians here. If Mexico happens to be in the top running toward the end, we will have a lot of people coming up from Mexico.”

Rebecca Ybarra-Ramirez, executive director of the San Marcos Convention and Visitors Bureau, said hotels have begun selling blocks of rooms for a week or more at a time.

“We will be here for up to 10 days. These people have no concept of a wallet, (of) carrying a wallet,” she said. “Everything is prepaid. Everything is a package deal—several thousands of dollars that [they] will be prepaying to come here.”

A general admission ticket to the race Nov. 18 is $150. Michael Hemby, planning manager at the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, said cities should be prepared for F1 fans to spend significantly more during race week.

He highlighted one request his office received from a hotel in Austin.

“One of their clients wanted to know how much it would cost them to simply lease the intersection at First [Street] and Congress [Avenue],” he said. “They just wanted to rent the street. Why? Because I’d like to put my helicopter there.”

Full story by Susan VanDeWater and Annie Drabicky

Bellini’s Texas Grill

Cedar Park  Gerald and Suzy Freeny opened Bellini’s Texas Grill, a Texas-Tuscan fusion restaurant, in November to offer diners a few of the couple’s favorite things.

“We wanted to be more of a neighborhood restaurant, not just an Italian restaurant or a burger place,” Gerald Freeny said.

Divided into two main areas, the restaurant allows customers to sit in a Tuscan-themed dining area with brightly colored walls inspired by Italian architecture, or they can choose to dine near the Texas-style bar that features big-screen TVs along with 25 beers on tap and a full bar.

Full story by Beth Wade

Cedar Park, Leander elect new mayors during May 12 city elections

Cedar Park  When Matt Powell stepped down in March as Cedar Park Place 1 councilman, it was with the full intention he would one day serve as mayor, he said.

Powell can breathe a sigh of relief after Cedar Park voters on May 12 overwhelmingly selected him over Eddie Hurst and Wayne Ruar. Powell captured 74.52 percent of the vote compared with 25.48 percent from the other two candidates combined. City Council canvassed the votes May 22.

“It’s a gratifying experience to have the support of so many friends, residents and local officials,” he said. “I am humbled and very excited.”

Also, for the first time since 2003, Leander has a new mayor.

According to election results, incumbent John Cowman was ousted May 12 by Place 5 Councilman Chris Fielder, who captured 53.33 percent of the vote. Cowman received 29.87 percent of the votes, while third-place challenger Bob Hanson picked up 16.8 percent.

Upon learning the results, Fielder said he was glad to have the much-anticipated election over.

“From the very start, I have said the election is about the people and not the candidates,” he said. “I look forward to getting to work right away.”

Full story by Joe Lanane

Impacts

Now Open

Leander  Paisanos opened April 23 at 11301 Lakeline Blvd., Ste. 220, Austin. The Italian eatery serves made-from-scratch pizza and pasta, and has another location in Georgetown. 506-8050, www.paisanoscucina.com

Round Rock  Two former part-owners of 1257 Customs have formed Atomic Garage, which opened April 15 at 3574D Rocking J Road. The company builds, modifies and restores street rod. Services include body work, paint jobs, audio-visual electronic work and the installation of backup cameras and security and sound systems. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. or by appointment. 373-0101, www.atomicgaragetx.com

Round Rock Westside Alehouse is now open at 1500 N. I-35. Westside Alehouse features 51 beers on tap, a large outdoor beer garden, live music and an 80-inch TV outside. Open daily 11 a.m.–midnight, except Sat. when it is open until 1 a.m. 238-8438, www.westsidealehouse.com

Round Rock Emerson Process Management, a part of Fortune 500 company Emerson, held a ribbon cutting for its global headquarters at 1100 W. Louis Henna Blvd. in the buildings formerly known as Frontera Vista at La Frontera on May 15. Emerson announced its move to Round Rock last year along with one of the largest economic incentive deals in the city’s history. Along with 750 employees—plus 125 more to come—Emerson has pledged to spur 10,000 hotel night stays in Round Rock per year. The company creates and helps manage control systems for companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp. www.emersonprocess.com

Coming Soon

Cedar Park  Jet’s Pizza, 1201 N. Bell Blvd., Ste. 100, Cedar Park, is expected to open in July. The Michigan-based pizza chain is also opening a location in Southwest Austin. www.jetspizza.com
Now accepting new patients

INTRODUCING

Christopher M. Farmer, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Farmer provides internal medicine services at the Scott & White Clinic - Georgetown.
In addition to expert diagnosis, Dr. Farmer also works with his patients to help avoid disease through preventative medicines and controlling risk factors. He specializes in primary care, pulmonary disease, diabetes and heart failure.

INTRODUCING

Kimberly Stump, MD
Family Medicine

Dr. Stump provides adult family medicine services at the Scott & White Clinic - Georgetown.
As a primary care physician, her emphasis is on preventative care and chronic care management and she has a particular interest in geriatric care.

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Georgetown
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322 Logan Ranch Rd
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463 Logan Ranch Rd
Georgetown
Fantastic home with hardwood floors, 9 ft ceilings, granite counters in kitchen—a must see! Country Club living, reasonable price. 3-4 bedrooms. MLS # 3026567 $220,000 • Jan Benton (512) 938-5266

124 Trail Rider Way
Georgetown
2 bd/2 ba, “Timmy” floor plan with mature Oak trees. Island kitchen with pull outs, backs to natural preserve, extended garage with cabinets. Built-ins in the office. MLS # 8622802 $225,000 • Jan Benton (512) 938-5266

300 San Gabriel Village Blvd #522, Georgetown
Condo with views! Open concept floor plan with high ceilings. Lots of windows. Roomy master bedroom and bath. MLS # 4442824 $180,500 • Nicole Scott (512) 632-6790

505 Toledo
Georgetown
3 bd 2 ba home recently renovated home in desirable Serenada. Open floor plan, vaulted ceiling in living room, large fenced yard. MLS # 5796612 $174,700 • Bob Sedillo (512) 517-8241

308 Catumet
Pflugerville
4 bd-2.5 ba, approx. 2,040 sq ft. Covered patio perfect for entertaining! Near community pool. MLS # 3002760 $165,000 • Kristin Hepp (512) 308-3332

125 Randolph
Georgetown
Immaculate 3bd-2ba in desirable Oakcrest Estates. Riverside. Beautiful 50+/- acre lot fenced back yard. Must see. MLS # 6704578 $165,000 • Candis Smith (512) 426-5958

116 Granite Peak Cove
Georgetown
“Llano”, 2 bd/2 ba. Very private with greenbelt view. Designed for outdoor and indoor living and entertaining. Scented porch on back patio. MLS # 3837721 $164,700 • Tina Latta (512) 630-6104

305 Reinhardt Blvd
Georgetown
3 bd/2.5 ba 2 car garage with spacious open plan, park-like privacy in back yard, and walking distance to residents pool. MLS # 5737779 $159,900 • Don Johnson (512) 818-0812

Tract 32 Hidden Springs
Salado
Prime 2.5+ acre wooded lot in Hidden Springs. Level, cul-de-sac, mature trees, low taxes. Many more available! MLS # 4937819 $37,000 • Jane Sisson (512) 635-9068

204 Simms
Georgetown
Coming soon! 3 bd/2 ba large greatroom. Granite countertops. Recent flooring (6/2012). Over 1/2 acre rezoned lot in Serenada. Pat Martin (512) 818-4106

www.cbunited.com/georgetown • 512-930-2000 • 1701 Williams Drive, Georgetown
Market Data  Georgetown

On the market (May 1–31, 2012)

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<tr>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Number of homes for sale</th>
<th>Average days on the market</th>
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Monthly home sales

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Property Listings

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<td>Kari Cooper</td>
<td>965-4241</td>
<td>Keller Williams Realty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 famously known as the hometown experts and we built on the promise of exceptional customer service. We are your hometown experts and we realize trust must be earned.

Don Homeyer, Agent
1703 Williams Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628
Bus: 512-930-5500
www.donhomeyer.com

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Don Homeyer
Annette and Wally Wilson
Annette and Wally Wilson
1611 Williams Dr., 512-943-6566
www.wilsontx.com

*101 Freddie Drive $229,000
**409 Derby Lane $199,500
***214 Jaydee Terrace $864,000

1206437
### Property Listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP code</th>
<th>Subdivision</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Bed/Bath</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sq. ft.</th>
<th>Agent</th>
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