

City facilities expansion could top \$37M

By CHARLOTTE KOVALCHUK

Every year, the city has received department requests to renovate parts of the Georgetown Municipal Complex.

City Manager David Morgan called them the genesis of a long-range project designed to fit all the pieces together by renovating the complex and other city buildings to accommodate future growth. The proposed series of projects is expected to cost more than \$37 million over the next decade.

“Based on the growth we’ve experienced, we thought it would be better for us to have a long-term plan to figure out how to eat the elephant, which is one bite at a time,” he said.

Eric Johnson, the city’s capital improvement projects manager, discussed a facilities efficiency study at a workshop December 10 that showed which buildings need to expand. Freese and Nichols of Austin conducted the study.

As Georgetown has

grown by 56 percent since 2010 and is expected to continue on that path, he said the city needs to plan for both the needs of today and the future. Staff reviewed space needs for the next 20 years of growth. He added this long-term plan is expected to be implemented over the next 10 years, with each new building or renovation going through the budget process.

The study focused on the Georgetown Municipal Complex, Westside Service Center, Parks and Recreation Administration, Georgetown Animal Shelter, fuel station, facility services and the potential need for new facilities.

The Georgetown Municipal Complex at 300 Industrial Avenue would need to grow from 52,000 to 63,000 square feet to meet future long-range requirements, if all city departments remain in the building. The building currently houses the Georgetown Utility Systems, Public Works,

Continued on 3A



Kalena Powell, the library's community outreach coordinator, Sun City Cycling Club member Bill McMillian, Library Director Eric Lashley and club member Dave Graham are excited about 10 new bike donations to the library's bike share program.

Bike club donates new wheels

By CHARLOTTE KOVALCHUK

The library's bike share program might have targeted tourists at first, but staff soon found residents depend on the program for transportation.

Thanks to the Sun City Cycling Club, riders can now check out 10 new

bikes. Last week, the bikes replaced old two-wheelers that Library Director Eric Lashley said were “loved to death.”

The library started the program about five years ago with the Visitors Center for tourists and residents to enjoy the downtown and hike and bike trails.

While the bikes have been used for that purpose, low-income residents often need bikes to get to work and around town.

“Through implementing this program, we’ve been able to identify a need in the community,” said Kalena Powell, the library’s community outreach assistant.

“It’s a quality of life difference for people.”

“Which is what the library is all about — improving the quality of life,” Mr. Lashley added.

More than 600 people have checked out bikes since the program launched, with more than 1,000 checkouts.

Continued on 3A



Annie Garcia, daughter of former Mayor MaryEllen Kersch, is running for John Cornyn's senate seat in the Democratic Primary.

GHS grad launches U.S. senate bid

By BRAD STUTZMAN

Annie Garcia — the daughter of former Georgetown Mayor MaryEllen Kersch — is a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Ms. Garcia, 42, is one of 12 candidates in a crowded Democratic primary field that also includes Round Rock resident MJ Hegar, who ran for Congress last year.

Each candidate hopes to gain their party’s nomination and unseat Republican incumbent John Cornyn, who was first elected in 2002. Senators serve six-year terms in Congress.

“I believe every American deserves to live with dignity,” Ms. Garcia said. “We are the richest country in the world. It’s not that we don’t have the money to ensure that every American lives with dignity. It’s that the people in power are putting their and their country club friends’ greed above the needs of Americans.”

Ms. Garcia — formerly Annie Kersch — is a 1995 Georgetown High School graduate. While a 17-year-old senior she traveled to Washington, D.C. as one of only two Texas delegates to Girls Nation, a civic-training program the American

Continued on 3A

By CHARLOTTE KOVALCHUK

Whether trekking 9,000 feet up a Texas mountain or 19,000 up Africa’s highest peak, climbers find they can accomplish things, as five Georgetown veterans will this summer.

“It’s changing that narrative of veterans being disabled or injured, and reminding people what they’re capable of accomplishing,” Mark Sanderson said. He is director of operations for The Warrior’s Keep, a McKinney-based nonprofit organization that offers therapy through outdoor group activities to help veterans transition back to civilian life.

“You remember when you stand on top of the mountain, ‘I can accomplish things.’”



Ten veterans hiked up Mount Kilimanjaro last year as part of The Warrior’s Keep’s mission to provide military heroes with outdoor activities. A new group of 16 veterans will make the climb in June.

It’s also about overcoming adversity and moving forward, he added. He will take 16 veterans

up Africa’s Mount Kilimanjaro at the beginning of June, which will allow The Warrior’s Keep to break

their record last year of being the largest group of U.S. military veterans to reach

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Early voting for primaries starts Feb. 18

By BRAD STUTZMAN

Williamson County voters will have numerous opportunities to make their voices heard when Early Voting starts for the March 3 Republican and Democratic primaries.

Ballots will run the gamut, from top-of-the-ticket presidential aspirants to those seeking local offices.

Early Voting begins Tuesday, February 18 and continues through Friday, February 28. During those 11 days, 18 polling locations countywide will be open a total of 126 hours. Any registered Williamson County voter may vote at any polling place.

The deadline for regis-

tering to vote is February 3. Those already registered should have received new registration cards — issued every other year — from the county’s Elections Administration office.

Registration forms are available online at wilco.org, following the prompts to “Elections” and “Voter Registration.” Forms are also available at the Elections Administration office, 301 Southeast Inner Loop, Suite 104. Call 512-943-1630.

Early Voting locations

- Williamson County Inner Loop Annex — 301 Southeast Inner Loop
- Georgetown ISD Technology and Nutrition Services — 603 Lakeway Drive

- Georgetown Parks and Recreation Administration — 1101 North College Street
- Georgetown Randalls — 5721 Williams Drive
- Cowan Creek Amenity Center — 1433 Cool Spring Way
- Baca Senior Center — 301 West Bagdad Avenue, Round Rock
- Brushy Creek Community Center — 16318 Great Oaks Drive, Round Rock
- Round Rock Randalls — 2051 Gattis School Road
- Williamson County Jester Annex — 1801 East Old Settlers Boulevard, Round Rock
- Anderson Mill Limited District — 1500 El Salido Parkway, Austin
- Raymond Hartfield Per-

- forming Arts Center — 4800 McNeil Drive, Round Rock
- Cedar Park Public Library — 550 Discovery Boulevard
- Cedar Park Randalls — 1400 Cypress Creek Road
- Liberty Hill Municipal Court — 2801 Ranch Road 1869
- Pat Bryson Municipal Hall — 201 North Brushy Street, Leander
- Hutto City Hall — 500 West Live Oak
- Taylor City Hall — 400 Porter Street
- Jarrell ISD Annex — 508 North Fifth Street

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Above and right, couples enjoy an evening stroll along a section of the San Gabriel River trail on an unseasonably-warm Thursday, December 26. This view is from the Austin Avenue bridge.

Georgetown ISD trustees approved 10 new course offerings for middle and high school students at their December 17 meeting. Malinda Golden, assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning, said the courses will be included among selections for the 2020-21 school year, and will be offered if student interest is sufficient. The courses are

- Mathematics — Independent Study; Algebraic Reasoning
- Career & Technical Education — Small Animal Management; Equine Science; Vet Med Apps/Lab/Field Experience; Commercial Photography I
- Fine Arts — Middle School Dance I (Dance II and Dance III would be added in subsequent years)
- Electives — Student Leadership

Trustees approved an order authorizing issuance of Unlimited Tax Building Bonds. The maximum principal amount to be issued is \$26.88 million from the 2018 bond program. Chief

Financial Officer Pam Sanchez noted that GISD has actively deployed various debt management practices to lower the borrowing costs of taxpayers. Such actions have reduced the cost of voter-approved bonds and provided taxpayers with more than \$43.3 million in direct savings since 2011.

Trustees also approved the purchase, at a price not to exceed \$500,000, of a video scoreboard display for the Georgetown High School stadium complex. The new scoreboard will replace a malfunctioning board that has been in use for 11 years, Bryan Hallmark, assistant superintendent for Operations, said. Installation of the board will be complete by April 2020.

In recognitions, trustees saluted area Manufacturing Day Business Partners. Manufacturing Day is meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. On October 4, 100 students from Georgetown and East View high schools participated thanks

to partnerships with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Development Alliance, City of Georgetown and the local manufacturing industry. Students toured multiple manufacturers, listened to presentations and received a hands-on learning experience at participating businesses.

Participating companies and individuals recognized include

- Airborn — Global Marketing Manager Matt Cole, Karen Horton, Heath Luckenbaugh
- Radiation Detection Company — President Barrie Lang
- Schunk Xycarb Technology — George Saeh, Laura Woods
- TASUS — Senior Human Resources Manager Tracy Jackson, Quality Engineer Patricia Ramien
- TECO-Westinghouse — Terri Pinales.

In his Superintendent's Report, Dr. Fred Brent announced that GISD has acquired 135 acres to be used for a future high school.

middle school and elementary school. The acreage is located north of Highway 29, west of DB Wood Road and south of Cedar Breaks Road. The schools will be clustered on the tract, meeting future enrollment needs of the fast-growing west and southwest sides of the district. The \$12.5 million for the land purchase was available in the 2018 bond program. A future successful bond election will be required to fund construction of the three schools.

- A variety of 2018-19 district data is available online in the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The annual report was recently posted by the Texas Education Agency and includes data related to
 - accountability
 - attendance
 - graduation
 - college, career and military readiness
 - financial management.

The report can be viewed on the TEA website at www.tea.texas.gov

Talking Baseball organizers are ready to throw out their first pitch in Georgetown.

There's still time for patients and caregivers to register for Georgetown's inaugural session with a program that's been used nationwide in therapy for early-stage Alzheimer's patients.

The first of six planned 90-minute sessions will start at 11 a.m. Wednesday,

"We are definitely open to more patients and caregivers."

Bob Wakefield
organizer

January 8 at The Wesleyan at Estrella Assisted Living and Memory Care commu-

tient must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Activities will start with a light lunch of sandwiches or pizza. Then, the baseball talk will begin.

Talking Baseball — also known as BaseBALZ — exists in other U.S. cities, including Austin, St. Louis and Los Angeles. The Society for American Baseball Research sponsors the program and Jim Kenton leads the Austin chapter.

Mr. Kenton was guest speaker in September when Mr. Wakefield hosted a get-acquainted meeting at Mulligan's restaurant in Sun City.

Since then volunteers — many of whom attended that September meeting — have signed up and taken training.

Alzheimer's patients have difficulty with short-term memory. Research indicates older memories are easier to tap into with a little prodding.

While there is no cure for Alzheimer's, researchers



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City facility expansion could top \$37M

Continued from 1A

customer care, administration, accounting/finance, engineering, purchasing, tech services and permitting.

Because the municipal complex doesn't have space to expand to accommodate future space and parking needs, Mr. Johnson proposed moving some services to a new facility off Leander Road. The \$16.8 million building would be across from the complex and provide more warehouse, fleet services and purchasing space, a storage yard, wash bay, two fuel stations and a loading dock.

Councilwoman Rachael Jonrowe said the project was a good piecing together of existing property reuses and expansions. She did, however, say she wasn't crazy about the location of the proposed facility.

"I think that the 1460 corridor near Austin Avenue is an area we should target for a different kind of growth in the future, and this could negatively impact our ability to do that," she said. "I don't think it's the highest and best use for that property."

Councilman Tommy Gonzalez agreed. He said



the city should start looking at land it will need in the future and start an acquisition process now, because the city will have fewer choices and higher prices five to 10 years from now.

"This way we can plan better for future square footage we need by what's available and leave prominent pieces of property that will be much better suited for other uses for the open market," he said.

"We need to make sure we look at this from a highest and best use standpoint," Mayor Dale Ross added. "Do we really need a facility that's on one of the highest traveled roads in

Georgetown?"

To address the municipal complex's immediate needs, Mr. Johnson recommended a short-term plan to provide a receptionist in the lobby and new meeting space. He also suggested clearly delineating between public and staff areas to enhance safety and security for city staff and provide a better customer experience, which would cost \$250,000.

Other proposed renovations include:

- Georgetown Animal Shelter: Add kennel space, new runs between the shelter and Parks and Recreation Administration buildings, a new Bark Park and additional space to meet

the needs of the Animal Services Master Plan at \$6 million.

- Parks and Recreation Administration: Add new parking lot and storage yard at \$10 million.
- Public Works: Add new traffic management center, two drive-through bays, parking and a large canopy at \$4 million.
- Fuel station: Add new security fence, lighting, tanks and a new fuel island and canopy at \$1 million.

Mr. Johnson said this year's budget has funding for the municipal complex short-term renovation. He said staff will start working on the long-range plan to fund other facilities.

PETS OF THE WEEK



GUS



RUSSET RAE



SAMSON



EMERALD

Gus, 4, is a country boy, a lone ranger who has a heart as big as a Texas sky. He is a sweet and playful dog. He's quiet when he's quiet. He's a bucking bronco when he's wound. Let this country boy darken your door and he'll hang his hat on your heart. His previous owner recommends Gus not be placed with another dog. An Adoption Angel has paid his fee, so don't miss out on adopting this little doggie.

Russet Rae, 9 months, is looking for her soulmate, someone she can really connect with. She's looking for someone she enjoys to play and hang out with, and she'd also like another cat to call her best friend. That is her dream. Will you help make her wish come true?

Meet Gus and Russet Rae at the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, 1855 Southeast Inner Loop.

Samson, 1, is an American bulldog mix that loves

people and all the attention he can get. He knows sit, walks on leash (harness recommended) and gets along with children. He might get along with submissive dogs, but he is not a fan of cats. He will be so excited and wiggly to meet you.

Emerald, 9, is a male brown tabby that came in as a stray. He has surely been a housecat, though, because he has nice manners and loves people. Would you love a warm lap all winter long? Emerald is your boy. He currently is living in the cat community room, mingling with other cats. His beautiful green eyes will stop you in your tracks. Come meet this wonderful cat today.

Samson and Emerald can be adopted for \$20 during the 2020 Resolutions special. Meet these furry friends at the Georgetown Animal Shelter, 110 Walden Drive.

GHS grad launches U.S. senate campaign

Continued from 1A

Legion Auxiliary sponsors.

"I have been fighting for progressive causes since well before I could even vote and I largely have my mother to thank for that," Ms. Garcia said. Her mother served as Georgetown's mayor from 1999 to 2002.

Ms. Garcia is a graduate of Rice University in Houston and the University of Texas School of Law.

She cited immigration reform as one of her priorities.

"The inequities of the immigration system are personal to me," Ms. Garcia said. "My husband is a naturalized U.S. citizen and, as a finance attorney, I worked pro bono for asylum seekers."

Ms. and her husband Sergio Garcia live in Houston. Their children are Hugo, 6, Ari, 5, and Rafa, 3.

Ms. Garcia recalled how daughter Ari's illness propelled her interest in health

care issues.

"I worked as a banking and finance attorney for several years before running off to Spain with the love of my life, Sergio," she said. "My oldest son, Hugo, and my daughter Ari, were both born in Madrid."

"One Sunday when Ari was 6-weeks old she went limp in Sergio's arms. We rushed her to the ER and learned she had a life-threatening heart defect. But for access to amazing treatment and their single-payer system, she would have died."

"Access to universal health care saved my daughter," Ms. Garcia said. "Every Texan deserves the same."

She started a nonprofit organization to support families with children with congenital heart defects when they returned to Houston in 2015.

Ms. Garcia also discussed other issues of importance to her.

"When I talk about gun violence in our country, I will go beyond background checks and private sale loopholes and put forth innovative solutions, like requiring gun owners to carry liability insurance and credit companies to stop financing the purchase of military-grade weapons used in mass shootings."

"As a pragmatic progressive, I want to talk about issues that Democrats too often cede — like family values, fiscal responsibility and national security," Ms. Garcia said. "I want to rightly reclaim the mantle of fiscal responsibility, reduce our national debt and redirect our military spending away from 16th century walls to 21st century cyber security."

Party primaries are March 3, with Early Voting scheduled for February 18-28.

In addition to Ms. Garcia and Ms. Hegar, the other 10 Democratic candidates for

Senate are listed alphabetically:

- Chris Bell — Former U.S. representative, past nominee for governor and past candidate for Houston mayor
- Michael Cooper — Ran in the 2018 Democratic primary for lieutenant governor
- Amanda Edwards — Houston city councilwoman
- Jack Daniel Foster Jr. — Educator
- Victor Hugo Harris — Army veteran
- Sema Hernandez — Ran in 2018 Democratic primary for U.S. Senate
- D.R. Hunter — Retiree
- Adrian Ocegueda — Financial analyst, ran in 2018 Democratic primary for governor
- Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez — Labor organizer and author
- Royce West — Texas state senator from Dallas.

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Bike club donates new wheels

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The club worked with the Austin Yellow Bike Project to donate the bikes to the library. Yellow Bike is a nonprofit organization that takes in unwanted bikes, refurbishes them and donates them to charities and qualified residents in the Central Texas area.

The library's new bikes have three gears, anti-flat tires, reflective tape and front and rear lights for improved safety.

Cycling Club member Bill McMillian said the project is a natural extension of members' interest as "bike geeks."

"It's a nice way to contribute to the community and help people in need," member Dave Graham said.

Mr. Lashley is especially grateful to the club for providing weekly bike maintenance.

Need to check out a bike? Drop by the library at 402 West Eighth Street. Riders usually check them out for 24 hours or up to a week if it's needed longer. A library card isn't required — just

bring some form of identification.

Riders can also look forward to a new bicycle network — the City Council approved the Bicycle Master Plan last month. The plan is a blueprint for future transportation projects and education efforts for a safe and well-connected bicycle network. Adding to the existing 35.6 miles of off-street paths or bike lanes in Georgetown, the plan proposes an additional 64.2 miles of off-street paths, bike lanes on streets and sharrows, which are pavement markings indicating shared use by vehicles and bicycles.

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Methodists deliver Christmas Day cookies

Grace Bible
The Sing Ministry at nursing homes and assisted living facilities is visiting Georgetown Living on Thursday. Call 512-863-3232 for more information.

First UMC
Dr. Jim Conner will serve as the executive (associate) pastor starting January 12 as Bruce Schrott, the executive director of Adult Discipleship, is retiring.

The Christmas Day cookie deliveries spread cheer and God's love to local fire stations, police stations, convenience stores and other places where neighbors were working on Christmas Day.

Project Transformation is an eight-week summer literacy, social-emotional and spiritual development program for elementary school children. The program is implemented by university students who are exploring their calling and developing as servant leaders. There will be opportunities for church members to volunteer and support the program using their unique gifts and resources.

To learn more about the program and volunteer opportunities, attend an information session at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Ron Swain at ron@fumcgt.

OF THE FAITH

By ELLEN GREENEY

org for more details.
Children ages 3 to 11 are invited to attend Chime and Sign, a six-week mini-music experience beginning January 12. The experience includes lunch, singing, ringing choir chimes and learning two songs in American Sign Language. Register at www.fumcgt.org/connect/children/.
The church is at 410 East University Avenue. Call 512-863-2370 for details.

Christ Lutheran
December's fifth Sunday special offering benefitted the children at Dell Pickett Elementary School, its adopted school, to participate in the San Gabriel River Reader program. The incentive reading program encourages children in third through fifth grades to read selected titles and then choose their favorite.

The church is at 510 Luther Drive. Call 512-863-2844 for details.

Grace Episcopal
The church women sponsored The Giving Tree again this year, which focused on local senior citizens. Grace members

picked apples from Christmas trees at both campuses and purchased gifts for seniors identified by Faith in Action, Meals on Wheels, Park Place Care Center and Stonehaven.

The last Laundry Love event of 2019 provided supplies and monetary donations to wash more than 2,000 pounds of clothes and linens for local low-income and homeless residents. The tradition will continue with four Laundry Love events in 2020.

The Healing Eucharist at West, Weekday Eucharist at Central and Adult Education will resume normal schedules on Tuesday, January 7 and Wednesday, January 8.

The church is at 1314 East University Avenue; West campus at 4402 Williams Drive. Call the church office at 512-863-2068 for details.

San Gabriel Presbyterian
The traditional special offering during the Christmas Eve Service supported Helping Hands of Georgetown, a local group assisting homeless and marginalized neighbors with meals, housing assistance, blankets and warm clothing items.

Wellspring UMC
A reception honoring the

ministry of Dr. Dan Bonner is Sunday morning between each service and following the late service. He has been part of the church family for many years, and during that time, served on staff for more than seven years. He will continue to serve as the chaplain for the Wesleyan Assisted Living, even as his time on staff comes to a close.

Gospel Sundays begin this month, the last Sunday of each month will be Gospel Sunday at Mulligan's Restaurant, 150 Dove Hollow. Sun City's own Nels Johnson is Mulligan's owner and frequently provides music for restaurant customers during the week. Regular Gospel Sundays is a new musical event open to all. Mark your calendar for January 26. Call 512-688-5188 for details.

Christ Lutheran
The Shirts 'n' Skirts Square Dance Club will be starting mainstream lessons from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., January 8. Brad Caldwell is the instructor. The first two lessons are free. Visit website.asrda.org/clubs/shirtsskirts for more information.

The church is at 510 Luther Drive. Call 512-863-2844 for details.

ellen@wilcosun.com

Editor's note:

Today's issue includes an updated Energy Timeline, which documents the City of Georgetown's renewable energy operations and stands in for the Opinion Page.

Travis Justin Miller

Travis Justin Miller (T-Mill) of Granger, Texas was taken from family and friends as a result of a tragic motorcycle accident on December 23, 2019.



Ma'am). He enjoyed hunting with his school friends, as well as fishing and playing golf with his Uncle Kirk. He loved tilling the soil and operating farm tractors. He was a member of the Future Farmers of America, serving one year as Sentinel.

He is survived by his parents; three sisters, Kaisa Miller of Loris, South Carolina; Kiara Miller of College Station, Texas; and Clarissa Miller of Granger; one brother, Brock Miller Jr. (Danielle) of Vogelweh Air Force Base, Germany.

Also surviving are his grandparents, Dennis and Pennie Miller of Heppner, Oregon; Chuck and Jane Humphrey of Pocatello, Idaho; and Kat Pinckney of Harker Heights, Texas. He is predeceased by his grandfather, Richard Whitehead.

You will be missed forever, Sweet Boy.

A memorial service was held at 5 p.m. on Monday, December 30, 2019 at the Saints Cyril and Methodius Recreation Center in Granger. The family requests memorials be sent to Granger National Bank, Granger, Texas, 76530.

Jay Kendall Shiffler

Peacefully and surrounded by his loving family, Jay Kendall Shiffler passed away on Thursday, December 26, 2019. He was 67.



ultimate host, he opened his home, his fire pit and his back porch to friends from across the street and around the world. Neighborhood friends, golf friends, fishing friends, business

friends and even his daughters' friends, he was engaged and interested in what was going on with all of them. His sisters and sister-in-law, their spouses and their children, were a huge part of his life. He talked with them regularly and always looked forward to family events, whether golfing with his brothers-in-law in Scotland, family weddings or festive holidays, complete with talent shows, iPod-offs and cooking contests.

Becoming Annabelle Guinn's Papa, (and more recently Callahan Guinn's Papa) was also an incredible joy. He loved Annabelle so very much and she was on his mind every day. He loved their golf cart rides to the park, playing at the swimming pool, throwing rocks in the creek and being totally entertained by what she would say or do next.

Jay was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 19, 1952, to John Kendall Shiffler and Marjorie May King, the second of three fun-loving children; Cathy, Jay and Connie. After the passing of their mother, John married Carolyn Shiffler, and the family expanded to include two more wonderful sisters, Kathryn and Tricia. Jay graduated from Columbus High School, honorably served his country in the U.S. Army and earned a business degree from the University of Cincinnati. Upon graduation he started a long and storied career in the construction equipment business.

Shortly after being transferred to Dallas, Texas, he met the love of his life, D. Ann Slayton. Married February 19, 1983, they lived what many would call a fairy tale life. The two shared a love that was an inspiration to everyone. From scuba diving in the British Virgin Islands as newlyweds to carting their daughters to Europe, Mexico and across the country, there was no adventure too big or too daunting if they were together. He wanted all three of his girls to see the world; he embraced trips and vacations that involved seeing new places, learning interesting things, eating different foods and above all making memories.

Jay and D. Ann's biggest adventure was raising their two daughters, Kendall and Bailey, who Jay loved with his whole heart. Being a father was Jay's proudest accomplishment. He told stories of his wife and daughters to his colleagues, his friends and to strangers on airplanes. Nothing gave him greater joy than being under one roof with his daughters and later their husbands. Of his sons-in-law Brett Larson and Andrew Guinn, he was often heard saying, "We won the son-in-law lottery."

While Jay worked to live, his career was a passion. He believed in the people he worked with and the products he sold. Jay was the consummate networker, and it was never just professional — it was always personal. Jay truly loved the construction equipment and crane industry and the many relationships he forged along the way. Jay had a cadre of best friends in the industry and he was a mentor to many.

Community was incredibly important to Jay — he loved his people, and he cared for his friends and family with an unmatched authenticity. The



Ranger recognition

The City of Georgetown's volunteer Park Rangers recently gathered for recognition and a group photo at police headquarters on DB Wood Road. The Rangers, recognizable in their golf carts, monitor park activities to help promote safe and enjoyable environments for park patrons. They are pictured here with some city leaders

including Police Chief Wayne Nero (front row, second from left), Fire Chief John Sullivan (front row, third from right) and Mayor Dale Ross (front row, ninth from left). The Park Rangers' leadership committee consists of Syed Warisi (front row, second from right), Wayne Beyer (back row, fourth from left) and John Green (back row, third from right). Not pictured is leadership committee member Barry Harding.

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Patriots return to win column

By ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ

In what has been a challenging season for East View's boys, the Patriots racked up just their third win of the season December 20 with a 55-16 victory over the winless Eastside Memorial Early College Panthers. With the victory on the Pats home court, EVHS improved to 3-11. Eastside fell to 0-13 with the loss.

The Patriots put on an onslaught offensive performance but an even more impressive defensive showing. East View finished the first half by outscoring their opponents 36-3. This included a perfect first quarter in which they didn't allow a single point.

The Pats slightly took their foot off the gas in the final two quarters in what was a tight 19-13 second-half score. However, by that point, the first half had been enough to put the game out of reach for the winless Panthers.

Coach Wesley King's team was led the productive junior pair of Ryden Clayman and Isaiah Quinton-Jackson. Clayman finished the game with five rebounds, one assist and two steals as well as shooting an impressive 8-11 for a game-leading 16 points. Jackson's night wasn't too far off from his teammate finishing the night with 10 points, three rebounds, one assist and three steals.

The Patriots competed against the 5-7 Northeast Early College Raiders on December 28 to complete their non-district portion of the season. East View will open district 18-5A District III play against the 17-1 Hutto Hippos on Friday, January 3 at 7 p.m. at Hutto High School.

Eagles finish 2019 with a win

By ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ

The Georgetown Eagles finished 2019 on a high note with a victory over the Navarro Early College Vikings. The Eagles traveled to Austin December 20 and defeated the Vikings 45-23. Georgetown finished the calendar year with a 10-6 record. Navarro — formerly

Austin Lanier — fell to 0-10.

It was a tight back-and-forth contest between the Eagles and Vikings during the first two quarters. GHS finished the half with a narrow 13-12 lead. Yet it was in the third quarter that Coach David Canfield's team took a firm grip of the game by shutting out the Vikings and scoring 17 points themselves. The fourth

quarter was once again a close affair with the Eagles edging out the Vikings 14-11. But it was that 17-0 third quarter that sealed the deal for GHS.

Senior wing Chance Thiele led Georgetown in scoring with 11 points

Coming in behind him were junior teammates Landry Woods with 8 and Aaron Bizzell with 5.

The Eagles will be back on the court on Friday, January 3 at Rouse High School as they will compete against the 6-12 Rouse Raiders for their final non-district game of the year: Tip-off is set for 3:30 p.m.

Georgetown will open District 18-5A Region III play against the 14-4 Manor Mustangs at home at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 7.

Lady Eagles bully Bulldogs

By ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ

Georgetown's Lady Eagles wrapped up another win before Christmas Day, defeating the Lady Bulldogs 70-35 on December 20. In what was a non-district home game Georgetown improved its season record to 14-6. Burnet fell to 8-11.

It was a dominating performance by the Lady Eagles. Coach Rhonda Farney's team outscored their

opponents in all four quarters.

The Lady Eagles began the first half by outscoring the Lady Bulldogs with an impressive 41-17 run. This also included a commanding 21-7 first quarter.

Georgetown didn't stop there and continued pouring it on in the second half with another 29 points while only allowing 18.

The Lady Eagles were led in scoring by yet another incredible performance

by senior captain McCall Hampton. Hampton went 8-11 from the floor and 3-4 from the free-throw line for a total of 19 points.

Other standout performers were junior captain Graci Harris and senior Kylee Sander. Harris finished her night with 9 points and 3 first-half assists while Sander contributed 8 points and 4 first-half assists.

The Lady Eagles' final challenge for 2019 came at the Flowing Well Holiday

Shootout tournament in Tucson, Arizona on December 27-28.

Georgetown is 2-0 in District 18-5A play, with 10 games left on the district calendar.

The Lady Eagles resume their district schedule Tuesday, January 7, traveling to Manor: GHS takes on the Lady Mustangs at 7 p.m. As of December 28 Manor was sporting an overall record of 4-7 and was 1-2 in district play.

Girl golfers make historic wins in 2019

Another year has slipped into the record books for golfers in Georgetown and environs and always with some interesting results.

One in particular involves the golf teams for the Georgetown High School and East View girls, both of which were under the guidance of coach Kris Inman.

For the first time in the history of the Eagles and Patriots, the two girls' teams finished one-two in District 19-5A tournament action. GHS and East View advanced to regional action, a first for either boys or girls from the two schools.

Please note that East View only came into existence earlier in the decade.

The event occurred in late March at Delaware Springs Golf Course in Burnet. GHS's Mattingly Palmer shot 147 and won medalist honors while East View's Emily Egbert shot 175 and came in fourth.

Neither team, however, advanced from regional play at La Torretta to the Texas state finals. GHS missed qualifying by nine strokes but Palmer advanced as an individual.

In the UIL 5A championship at White Wing Golf Club, Palmer shot 151, eight strokes behind the winning state medalist.



THE TEXAS GOLFER

Doug Kienitz

64 and Sun City 63.

Cimarron's top scoring duo was Joanna Davis and Denise Armstrong with 11 out of a possible max 12 points.

No surprises

Georgetown Country Club, located along the banks of the San Gabriel and in existence since the 1920s, crowned its champions for the year. The winners were not a surprise.

They were Jennifer Aranda, a former GHS prep golfer; and Kyle Phelan, the former head PGA pro who has switched from the pro status to a club member.

Aranda shot 160 and won the title for the sixth time while Phelan nipped Mitchell Fagan for his second title. Two years ago Phelan also clipped Fagan for the championship.

Georgetown Cup

Each year it's a 54-hole battle among the four local clubs for the elusive Georgetown Cup.

Who won in 2019? Bragging rights go to Cimarron Hills Golf and Country Club, home of the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course. They staked a claim to the honors for a second straight year.

The teams are comprised of 16 men, six women and three club pros or superintendents.

The winner of each two-person team gets four points that slides down to one for fourth place. After a slow initial day, Cimarron strolled down the fairways for a win at Berry Creek and Georgetown country clubs and Sun City.

In one of the tightest finishes in recent years, Cimarron won with 75 points; Berry Creek had 67.5, Georgetown Country Club

Sun City champs

Sun City women and men crowned two new champions in 2019.

Kathy Goodall and Brian Riley claimed the honors over the three championship courses at the age-restricted community.

Goodall shot 252 in winning her title and said "I was very lucky to play three good rounds."

She edged a field that included Ege Reichert, who has won five times, and Pam Redus, who has eight Sun City titles.

In the men's battle, Riley posted a one-over 217 to take the championship among a strong field of contenders. Riley, a former UTEP golfer from El Paso and Sun City resident for a year, beat defending champion Tommy Mullins.

Cimarron winners

Cimarron Hills, which debuted its Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course in 2003, crowned their 2019 champions in September.

The winner of the women's title was not a surprise. Joanna Davis shot 167 and won the title again. Her championship streak is now up to eleven straight club titles.

Kristina Hayes (185) was second while Diane Shapiro won net honors

But there was a new victor in the men's competition. Ryan O'Rear shot 213 to win the championship while Will Burleson claimed the net honors.

Berry Creek titles

Berry Creek's championship honors were split with a new winner among the men and a repeat among the women.

Michelle VonBieberstein won her second consecutive title and followed that up a few weeks later with her victory among the senior women.

Tyler Ware shot 208 and won the men's championship for his initial title.

"It was actually my second title in the last few months," Ware added, who had earlier won the Bluebonnet Cup in Austin.

Patriots and Eagles

Retirement has created a golf coaching shuffle at East View and Georgetown high schools.

After 16 years of guid-

ing the GHS and then East View boys' golf teams, Vernon Killen retired this past spring due to health considerations. He had initially retired from the district in 2003 but then assumed coaching the boy's golf teams.

During his tenure, coach Killen's teams won nine district championships, played in four state tournaments and witnessed the crowning of one state champion.

Matt Harvey won the UIL title in 2006 by a single stroke.

Three years later Hayden Stephens nearly won another title for GHS. He lost by three strokes to UIL 5A champion Jordan Spieth — now a prominent member on the PGA Tour.

Regarding the coaching changes, Paige Milburn now oversees both the boys and girls at Georgetown High School. A graduate of Texas A&M University, she had initially played golf for four years on the Eagle team.

East View golf, which came into existence midway through the past decade, is under the guidance of Kris Inman. He had been coaching the girls at GHS and then added the Patriots when that program began for girls. He now coaches both girls and boys teams.

Hole-in-one

Crystal Falls Golf Club, Leander: Dec. 14 — Shane Sanders, No. 8 at 103 yards, gap wedge; witnesses were Butch Gilley and Steven Blackford

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



AARON BIZZELL
Georgetown High School



CHANCE THIELE
Georgetown High School

Georgetown High School basketball players Chance Thiele and Aaron Bizzell are *The Williamson County Sun's* Players of the Week.

Thiele, a senior wing, scored 10 points in Georgetown's 63-58 win over the Leander Glenn Grizzlies December 17. He then led Georgetown's scoring attack with 11 points in the 45-23 victory over the Navarro

Early College Vikings on December 20.

Bizzell, a junior guard, has been another key contributor to the five-game winning streak the Eagles took into the Christmas break. He led the team with 12 points in the game against Leander Glenn and added 5 more in the Navarro game as Georgetown's record improved to 10-6.



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Update: Georgetown’s Electric Trip

***Note:** This project published first on Nov. 20, 2019, a few days before the Nov. 26 city council meeting which dealt with the fourth-year over-budget problems in the electric department.*

This update includes the results of that item and also a separate item decided that night, an incentives package for the Citigroup data center in southeast Georgetown.

Also there is new information that came from a Freedom of Information request we made for documents supporting Mayor Ross’s statement that Georgetown had gotten \$20 million worth of free advertising from his interviews.

New copy is marked by a vertical bar.

Introduction

On November 26 the city council passed an amendment to the original 2019 budget for the fiscal year which ended September 30. The cost of wholesale electricity ended \$11.1 million over budget. This forced a vote to amend the original budget so it would reflect the actual cost.

It had been four years since the city switched to 100 percent wind and solar energy, and this was the fourth year in a row that wholesale electricity had cost more than expected. The four-year loss was over \$38 million.

We had reported the losses in previous years, but accepted, and reported to you, the city’s plausible explanations each year. It is now clear that those explanations, true in themselves, were not the whole truth, and that these partial truths had allowed us all to have a false understanding of the scope of the problem.

So we started digging.

Although we citizens own the electric department and are captive customers of it, the state’s open government laws make exceptions for the department and these allow our city to operate in secrecy.

When we started asking questions, the city was not open and helpful, so the only information Georgetown citizens got was information the city wanted us to have. Plus what we at the *Sun* could dig up elsewhere.

It turns out that the city people, however closed-lipped they were in town, had said much more outside of town, and that is how we eventually got an understanding of what happened and how it happened.

What follows is that story in time-line format.

The time-line comes almost entirely from city and outside documents, and excerpts from transcriptions of over 20 news interviews, podcasts and video presentations featuring city officials.

For some items in the time-line, it wasn’t clear on which day something happened, so we used the date when the item was posted. A few items we had only the month when they occurred, so we used an estimate for the day.

As you go through the time-line, three things will become apparent.

1. A plan for a diversified mix of energy sources was discussed in public in 2008. Then the discussion went underground and during the next seven years, in the secrecy of closed meetings, the diversified, multi-source plan morphed into an undiversified, single-source plan — renewables only.
2. The wind contract was discussed and voted on in secret. Then, after 15 months of more secret discussion, the council voted for the first time in public to sign the solar contract.

Now that the 20-and-25 year contracts were signed the 100 percent strategy was reverse-proof, and the city embarked on a PR campaign.

- We had the lowest cost electricity.
 - Our bills wouldn’t go up.
 - The strategy was low risk.
 - We were green without paying more.
3. After six months of interviews of city people by an adoring national press, the wind farm went live on Oct. 1, 2015.

Almost immediately, the financial risk that was inherent in the plan began to play out. At the end of the first year, the city had to draw down its reserves to cover the \$6.3 million loss.

The Georgetown story soared in print, on the air and in the cloud. In the real world, however, the plan was going into the ditch and taking our money with it.

As we read the national press coverage and listened to seminars and podcasts it became surreal to hear talk of how great things were in Georgetown while knowing how bad they actually were at the time.

The take-away in all this? We citizens will get the government we want. This expensive problem was caused by a lack of transparency in city government. The cost of secrecy is embedded in our electric bills.

— *Clark Thurmond*

2006

- Nov 14 City council adopts a renewable program:
- Residents can install solar panels; the city will buy their surplus power at 3 cents per kWh,
 - Users can buy wind power as a “Premium Service” at 1.5 cents above the normal rate.
- Sun 11-22-06*

2008

- Sep 7 Jim Briggs, manager of utility operations, says the council is considering a “fuel mix” for Georgetown’s electricity supply.
- “When we’re looking at the decision that the city council is going to make for the city’s energy needs over the next 25 years, it’s a \$1.5 billion question. It’s huge.
- “A 5% shift one way or the other means real dollars.
- “If LCRA cannot meet the mix requirements ... Georgetown would be forced to diversify its providers.
- “Wind and solar need to comprise at least 25% if not more.
- “With proper oversight, nuclear energy can be well managed and contained.
- “Or you can continue to burn fossil fuels and have to worry about polluting the planet.”
- Sun interview, 9-7-08*

* * *

Beginning in 1935, the Lower Colorado River Authority, LCRA, built the dams that created the Highland Lakes, and sold hydro-electricity generated by the dams.

As the years passed, LCRA built conventional power plants and eventually grew into a huge seller of wholesale electricity to Texas industry, towns and rural co-ops.

* * *

- Sep 9 After discussing power supply options in previous closed meetings the Georgetown Utility System (GUS) Advisory Board recommends an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with a mix of:
- 30% coal 30% renewables
 - 30% nuclear 10% natural gas
- GUS Advisory Board minutes, 9-9-08*
- * Closed meetings are meetings from which the public is excluded. Although most governments call them “Executive Sessions,” we use the term “closed meetings” here, since that is how they are defined in the Texas Open Meetings Act, and that is what they are.
- Sep 22 At a city council meeting, Mr. Briggs presents the GUS board mix (above) and an alternate mix prepared by the electric staff:
- 35% coal 25% renewables
 - 25% nuclear 15% natural gas

The energy mix question is discussed in a closed meeting this date and at other times during the year, always in closed meetings.

To date, the Sun has not found a public record of the plan adopted by the council during these closed meetings.

However, in its report to the city council on May 14, 2019, Schneider Engineering writes, “The 2008 IRP eventually settled on:

- 30% coal, 30% natural gas,
- 30% nuclear and 10% market purchase ...”

Council minutes, 9-22-12 • Electric Resource Management Assessment Report, Schneider Engineering, 5-9-19 presented at council meeting 5-14-19

- Oct 13 The council, in a closed meeting, discusses potential litigation with LCRA over Georgetown’s power contract. The topic is discussed in closed meetings several more times during 2008.
- Dec 23 After discussion in a closed meeting, the council votes to sign a Power Purchase and Sale Agreement with American Electric Power (AEP) for power from the Trent Mesa wind farm west of Abilene for Southwestern University. The contract terms are secret.

2011

- Mar 8 The council votes to end the LCRA contract early, and buy electricity from multiple sources.
- By mid-2016, the City expects to be about 18% renewable with a goal of 30% by 2035.
- Sun 9-4-11*
- Sep 1 Citing the increased cost of wholesale coal, gas and wind power, the City raises the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) 1 cent per kilowatt hour; a 9.5% increase for the average user.
- Sun 9-4-11*

- *The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is an extra charge on electric bills that is used to adjust for variations in the cost of wholesale electricity. It can be changed by the electric department without council approval.*
- *Our homes use about 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per month. Ten 100-watt light bulbs burning for one hour equals one kilowatt hour.*
- *Large amounts of electricity are measured in megawatt hours (MWh). One megawatt hour equals 1,000 kWhs.*

2012

- Jun 27 The City delivers a Breach of Contract letter to LCRA arguing that after the city refused to sign a new, 30-year agreement, LCRA eliminated a policy of allowing utilities to buy some power on the wholesale market.
- Six other utility customers consider leaving LCRA for similar reasons.
- “If the contract goes away, the lights are not going to go out. Every decision we make revolves around what would be in the best interest of the residents of Georgetown,” says Briggs.
- (Sun 7.1.12)*
- Jul 18 LCRA sues Georgetown in Travis County, alleging “wrongful termination.”
- Sun 7-22-2012*
- Aug 13 The City delivers a Notice of Termination letter to LCRA.
- “We’re certain we can get energy at better prices. All it means is that we’re going to be buying from someone else,” says utilities manager Glenn Dishong.
- Sun 8-19-12*
- Sep 30 Fiscal Year 2012 ends. The city had dropped LCRA, and the cost of Purchased Power* falls, ending \$2.8 million (7.3%) under budget.

Under Budget	Over Budget
\$2.9M	2012

- * *“Purchased Power” in the city budget is the total wholesale cost of electricity. It includes:*
- *cost of wholesale electricity,*
- *transmission cost, ie., “shipping”*
- *ERCOT fees and costs*

ERCOT, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, manages the flow of electricity through the state-wide grid, an immense web of wire with users and power plants scattered across it like rain drops in a spiderweb.

Users generally get power from the plants closest to them.

Since electricity cannot be stored, it must be produced the moment it is needed. ERCOT monitors this changing demand and orders plants to produce more or less electricity as needed, minute-by-minute.

On hot days, as we turn on our air conditioners, ERCOT tells power plants to make more electricity. As demand rises, it tells others to start up and alerts idle plants to get ready.

The grid is a living thing, pulsing with energy as ERCOT continuously adjusts the output of many plants to match the changing demand of many users.

- Oct 4 The City reduces electric rates about 4%.
- “The price decrease is a direct result of where we’re getting our power from now,” says utility manager Dishong.
- “We’ve got the flexibility now to employ short-term contracts, long-term contracts—we can hedge our fuel supply. All these options help us get the lowest possible rates.”
- Sun 10-7-12*

2013

Since leaving LCRA, the city has been working through proposals from generating companies to supply wholesale power to Georgetown.

During this time, in closed discussions, the original plan for a diversified mix of energy sources is abandoned in favor of a single-source plan — 100% wind and solar. Georgetown will be the first town in the country to try this novel strategy.

The change of plan is discussed in closed meetings, but not in public, and citizens are unaware that the city has embarked on a new strategy for the town’s single largest expense — electricity.

- May 14 In response to a new ERCOT requirement, the council passes a Risk Management Policy that requires the manager of utilities to report to the council “any transactions that expose the city to significant risk.”
- City code, Sec. 13.38.020*
- Jul 8 Spinning Spur 3, the wind farm west of Amarillo that will serve Georgetown, applies to the Adrian ISD for a “Chapter 313” tax abatement.
- Taxable value of the \$190 million project drops to \$5 million.
- In return, the wind farm will create 5 jobs.
- The abatement requires 10 jobs.
- Spinning Spur applies for, and gets, a waiver:
- comptroller.texas.gov*

Since Texas school finance laws require that schools be “kept whole,” the state will reimburse Adrian ISD for the revenue lost by this abatement.

- Aug 23 After losing to LCRA in lower courts, the City takes the case to the Texas Supreme Court.
- Sun 8-28-13*
- Sep 30 Fiscal Year 2013 ends with the cost of Purchased Power \$5.9 million (17%) under budget.

Under Budget	Over Budget
\$6M	2013
\$2.9M	2012

(City budget documents)

- Nov 26 In a closed meeting, the council votes 7-0 to sign a 20-year contract with Energy DeFrance (EDF), which will build and run Spinning Spur.
- Georgetown takes 74% of the electricity produced; Garland takes 26%.
- Nov. 26, 2013, City Council closed meeting Agenda Item S; Lee Conner, EDF Energy, City Youtube video, “Georgetown Transitions to Wind Energy: 1-25-15*
- From the Future – *In a May 10, 2015, radio interview on Austin’s KOOP, Chris Foster, Manager of Resource Planning and Integration, tells how the wind contract came about and how Georgetown ended up taking 74% of Spinning Spur 3.*

Foster: “In 2013 wind prices were crashing, because everybody was afraid the wind tax credits were going to expire, and there were really only two entities out there who were comfortable signing really long-term deals and had cash flows — us and Austin.

“So when the equity underwriters needed a 20-year contract to support the wind farm, we stepped up to the plate, we were able to push that price* down extremely far, and it made it by far and away a good resource for us.

“[At first] New Braunfels was going to take 70 megawatts, we were going to take 74 and Garland was going to take 50.

“New Braunfels backed out ... and when we went back to our council, we said, ‘Hey, if you want to keep the deal, we have a choice. We can either split some of it with Garland, or we can try to take it.

“And our council did not even hesitate. It took them less than two minutes of discussion to say, ‘Go take all of it.’ ”

Nov. 26, 2013, City Council closed meeting Agenda Item S; KOOP “Shades of Green,” May 10, 2015

* Price is \$25 MWh - EIA 923.

2014

- May 10 Dale Ross is elected mayor.
- May 21 After a two-year legal battle, Georgetown and LCRA settle. Georgetown pays \$4.1 million.
- Sun 5-28-14*
- Sep 30 Fiscal Year 2014 ends. Electricity use rises, but Purchased Power cost rises faster and ends \$1.6 million over budget.

Under Budget	Over Budget
2014	\$1.6M
\$6M	2013
\$2.9M	2012

- Oct 10 In closed meeting, the GUS Advisory Board discusses bids for solar power, voting in open session to recommend that the council enter into negotiations with the top two bidders.
- GUS Advisory Board minutes, 10-10-14*
- Oct 28 The council fires City Manager Paul Brandenburg. Mr. Briggs takes over as interim city manager, keeping his other positions.
- Council minutes, 10-28-14*

2015

- Feb 13 In a closed meeting, the GUS Advisory Board reviews the fully negotiated contract terms with SunEdison and then votes in regular session to recommend that the city council move forward with the SunEdison contract for solar power.
- The 25-year contract is expected to cost the city \$20 million per year.
- Advisory board minutes, 2-13-15*
- SunEdison owns Buckthorn Westex, LLC, the legal entity that will build and own the solar farm 10 miles north of Ft. Stockton.*
- Feb 23 Buckthorn Westex applies to the Ft. Stockton ISD for a “Chapter 313” tax abatement.
- The taxable value of the \$183 million project drops to \$30 million.
- In return, Buckthorn will create 2 jobs.
- The abatement requires 10 jobs.
- Buckthorn applies for, and gets, a waiver:
- comptroller.texas.gov*
- Feb 24 The council votes, 7-0, to sign a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with SunEdison, agreeing to take all the power produced.
- Georgetown is now committed to buy twice as much wind and solar energy as it needs. The surplus will be sold on the ERCOT spot market.
- Council minutes, 2-24-15 • Renewable Energy FAQs*

Mar 18
 The City announces that it is now 100% green. Briggs: “By securing these renewable contracts the utility can consider itself 100 percent ‘green,’ but it does so at extremely competitive costs for energy, and it hedges against future fuel and regulatory risks, fulfilling our initial goal.
 “The objective was to try to get a commodity at the least risk with the lowest cost. Not only did we achieve that goal, we got the green benefit with it.
 “Customers will see a declining cost as we go forward.”
Sun 3-22-15 • georgetown.org/2015/03/18/georgetown-utility-to-be-powered-by-solar-and-wind-energy-by-2017 • Georgetown City Reporter, Vol 12, No.5 May, 2015

From the Future – in an Aug 9, 2017, *Eco-Capitalist Podcast interview, Chris Foster, Manager of Resource Planning and Integration, explains how the 100% renewable plan was finally made public:*

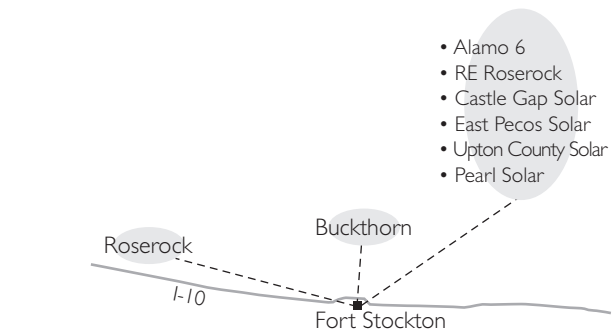
Foster: “... it was only after all that work was done that we went back and said, ‘Are we going to tell anybody that we have all renewable power and we don’t have fossil fuels anymore?’
 “And we thought about that for a while which is why the announcement wasn’t made until [March, 2015].
 “And we were just thinking, ‘Should we tell anybody? Does it matter? Are people going to care?’ ”
 “And so when we told council, and we asked, and the council said, ‘You know what? People probably won’t care but at the very minimum, our economic development is definitely thinking, if they have that as a pitch, maybe we can help bring in some other businesses,’ and so they said, ‘Let’s just say it and see what happens.’
 “And then, it just exploded.”
soundcloud.com/user-573624833/podcast-eco-capitalist-georgetown-tx-100-renewable-energy-with-chris-foster-dave-dixon

The national media picks up the story with its compelling “news pegs”— a Republican town in oil-rich Texas goes 100% green, and is the first to do so with wind and solar only.
The story takes on a life of its own as city staff and officials are swept up in a heady swirl of interviews, appearances and promotion.

Mar 27
 Mr. Ross writes “Why My Texas Town Ditched Fossil Fuel” for *Time* magazine:
 “Our move to wind and solar is chiefly a business decision based on cost and price stability.
 “The city’s contracts for solar and wind power will provide wholesale electricity at a lower price than our previous contracts. These long-term agreements also provide a fixed cost that will enable the city to avoid the price volatility and regulatory costs we were likely to have seen had we continued to use electricity generated by burning fossil fuels.
 “With energy costs locked in for the long-term, we can maintain competitive, predictable electric rates through 2041.
 “In the short term, our solar and wind farms will provide more overall energy than we need. This means we will be able to sell extra solar and wind power we don’t use, providing an overall benefit to power users in the state.”
time.com/3761952/georgetown-texas-fossil-fuel-renewable-energy

Apr 13
 Jim Briggs writes an OpEd in the *Sun*:
 “The city reviewed proposals from several coal providers, natural gas companies, solar, wind and even one nuclear option.
 “The truth is that the wind and solar combination was simply the least expensive and risky than all of the other options.”
Sun 4-13-15

Apr 15
 Buckthorn gets approval to connect the solar farm to a substation at Ft. Stockton, 11.5 miles away.
TransmissionHub.com; 4-16-15



Once it goes live, three years from now, Buckthorn’s monthly production data will reveal that its location and connection to the grid results in reduced production outside the high-demand summer months.
Leaving the Ft. Stockton substation, Buckthorn’s energy flows west where it encounters congestion in the area of Austin’s Roserock solar farm. To the east the power lines enter a production-rich area of six big solar farms.

Apr 22
 Earth Day meeting at the Library.
 “We had three goals: find the absolute lowest price, strike a long-term deal but carry no risk and reach the renewable standard,” says Foster.
 “We’ve taken this utility and made it pretty sophisticated over the last 15 years,” says Briggs. “This is a unique opportunity, and I am glad we are on the leading edge of it.”
Sun 4-29-15

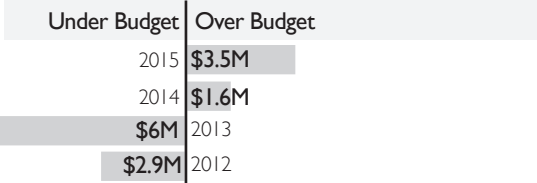
Apr 22
 CNN interviews Briggs: “We will realize cost savings early on, and the way we’ve structured our contracts, we’ll be able to receive many of those benefits from day one.”
youtube.com/watch?v=H6pMaLOxHJY

May 4
 David Morgan becomes the new city manager.
 May 10
 Foster and Keith Hutchison, city spokesman, are interviewed on Austin’s KOOP *Shades of Green* radio program.
 Foster: “In 2017, if the weather’s good, those two [wind and solar] plants alone will produce a little more than twice the energy the city is going to use. So in the front part of these contracts, we’re going to be selling a lot of the excess.
 Hutchison: “Both these plants are way out in West Texas and the power will get here through transmission lines.”
 Foster: “We felt this is the best cost-protective method. Our city council, through the guidance of Jim Briggs, set down several criteria for looking at power in the future.
 “Their number one priority was the lowest price possible. And number two, they wanted that price long-term, because they wanted to be able to budget around it. And number three, they wanted as little risk in both fluctuation of fuel prices as well as regulatory risk.
 “Because of our contracts, wind and solar production is being put on the ground and that’s real. If it’s not going to us, it’s going to somebody else in the state, so I think there’s a benefit that these plants will have for other people in the state beyond Georgetown.
 “The bottom line is it’s a lower price than we were paying before. Our wholesale cost is lower than we have been paying for gas generation.
 “Sometimes you hear about other renewable projects where they buy the energy out west and then they sell it out there, and buy replacement energy here in the south. We chose not to go that route, because we wanted to be as transparent as possible.
 “We bought the energy out west, and I’m paying for the rights to use the transmission lines the whole path all the way down to Georgetown for what our load is.”
archive.org/details/ShadesOfGreen.June112015

Jul 20
 SunEdison’s stock price begins a precipitous fall as its money troubles become widely known. By September the stock is down two-thirds.
Wall Street Journal, 4-15-16

Sep 28
 As the solar farm heads into bankruptcy, the wind farm, Spinning Spur 3, begins operation. The City marks the event with a YouTube video, *Georgetown Transitions to Wind Energy*, featuring city officials.
 From the video:
 Ross: “We’ve gotten both national and international coverage. ... The reaction has been overwhelming.”
 Foster: “In 2015, when the gas market is crashing and fracking is at its height, everybody was shocked when we said, ‘You know what? That’s the year we’re going to go renewable.’ ”
 Briggs: “Our objective has been all along to offer our customers the least risk, most cost effective option for energy in Georgetown.”
YouTube, TheCityofGeorgetown, 9-25-15 • Sun 10-14-15

Sep 30
 Fiscal Year 2015 — the last year on conventional power — ends with the cost of Purchased Power 4.7 % over budget.



Oct 16
 Georgetown and SunEdison arrive at a methodology to calculate amounts of power due under the Buckthorn purchase agreement. This “Letter of Agreement” will become a material issue in the lawsuit Georgetown will file against Buckthorn on Oct, 8, 2019, four years away.
Buckthorn Westex LLC’s original answer and counterclaim in response to the Georgetown’s suit, Nov. 15, 2019

2016

Mar 8
 Dale Ross and Jim Briggs: video interview by *Newsy* for RockTheVote.com.
 Ross: “We make decisions in Georgetown based on what’s best for our citizens. This was a decision that was going to be good for the city, not only in the first year, but in year 25.
 “We have 97 windmills out in Amarillo, so all that will come down a transmission line all the way into Georgetown from Amarillo.
 “And our solar farm is ... out near Ft. Stockton in West Texas. The energy will be generated there, and it’ll go on the transmission line from there all the way into Georgetown.”
 Briggs: “It makes economic sense, and if you share that information and show people where the economics work on this, they understand that, and they can relate to that.”
newsy.com/videos/this-texas-town-in-oil-country-is-going-100-percent-renewable/

Mar 22
 After a closed meeting discussion, the council votes 7-0 to sign the “First Amendment to the Solar Power Purchase Agreement” with SunEdison. The terms are secret. The amendment is signed March 28.
Council minutes 3-22-16 • Bankruptcy document, 8-9-16

From the Future – On Sept. 13, 2019, the Sun sent a Freedom of Information request to the City for a copy of the amendment. The City declined and sent the matter to the Texas Attorney General’s office for a ruling. On Dec. 3, 2019, the Attorney General in a “letter ruling” said the city must not release the information.

Apr 21
 SunEdison files Chapter 11 bankruptcy in U. S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, valuing the unbuilt Buckthorn project at \$15.8 million.
Bloomberg News 4-21-16 • Bankruptcy Documents

Aug 9
 SunEdison urges speed in the bankruptcy proceedings, telling the court:
 “ ... the Buckthorn Project faces an April 2017 Commercial Operation Date (COD), which is the date upon which a project ... begins production of electricity for sale.
 “Failure to reach COD by October 25, 2017, would constitute a termination event under the power purchase agreement [with Georgetown], and daily delay damages between the scheduled COD of April 28, 2017 and the final COD of October 25, 2017 are significant.”
SunEdison Bankruptcy Document 8-9-16

Aug 10
 Sierra Club releases its “Ready for 100” report featuring 10 cities going all renewable. The report quotes Ross, “This was a business decision and it was a no-brainer. This is a long-term source of power that creates cost certainty, brings economic development, uses less water, and helps the environment.

Aug 14
 Al Gore visits Georgetown.
 “I’ve been hearing about all the good things happening in Georgetown,” he says, “and this is becoming a very well-known story.
 “You all are following the economics and, as the mayor says, ‘the facts,’ and it’s led you to 100% renewable energy. That’s fantastic.

“When you can have cost certainty for 25 years into the future, that’s gold.”
 “The rate payers get a break ... and it’s a good side benefit that you are helping save the world.”

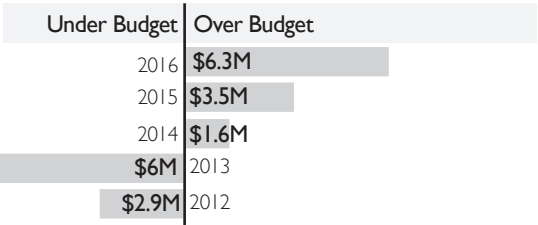
Sun 8-17-16



Sep 13
 NRG Energy wins the auction of the unfinished Buckthorn project for which it pays \$11 million.

NRG warns that the deal must be done quickly, since Georgetown could terminate the agreement if Buckthorn is not producing by Oct. 25, 2017.
Houston Chronicle, 9-13-16

Sep 30
 FY 2016 — the first year on wind power — ends with Purchased Power \$6.3 million (18.7%) over budget. The city avoids raising electric rates by drawing down reserves.



City of Georgetown, budget documents • Sun 1-17-17

Although the Fiscal Year ends Sept. 30, the final numbers won’t be ready until late Nov. when the council reviews the 4th Quarter report, amends the budget as needed, and closes out the year.

Nov 8
 The council votes 7-0 to sign a second amendment to the Buckthorn contract. The terms are secret. During the GUS Advisory Board meeting three days later, Briggs says the council voted to transfer management of the project from SunEdison to NRG.
Council minutes, 11-8-16 • GUS Advisory Board minutes, 11-11-16

Nov 9
 NRG closes on the Buckthorn purchase, paying \$11 million for the unbuilt project. Construction is expected to start in 2017.
 Ross says the cost of power is less than under the original contract.
 NRG will make a damage payment to Georgetown, says Briggs.
Sun, 11-23-2016 • Council workshop video, 12-13-16 • City vs Buckthorn Westex, LLC, original petition

Dec 13
 During the council workshop on electric department over-budget Briggs says the loss was caused by a mild summer, lower consumption and the inability to sell the contracted surplus power at a profit.
 Briggs: “The power purchased loss for clearing excess supply used cash reserves in order to make up the difference.”
 To rebuild reserves the city will:
 • reallocate some shared costs between the water and electric departments
 • put off building some infrastructure
 • use debt for new infrastructure

This unexpected loss shows how difficult it is to predict the year-end cost of power under a strategy of buying twice as much power as needed at a fixed price — and then selling an unpredictable surplus at unpredictable prices.

Dec 13
 The council amends the 2017 budget. Briggs says in addition to the 2016 changes, in 2017 the electric department will:
 • use debt for utility construction
 • add in the damage payment from NRG’s purchase of Buckthorn
City of Georgetown, budget documents, workshop video • Sun 1-17-17

The City declined to disclose what the NRG payment was for; when it was made, or how much it was.

2017

Jan 1
 The PCA on electric bills increases from .01 cents to .2 cents. The City says the increase is caused by an increased cost of electricity transmission. (*Sun 1-4-17*)

Mar 7
 Ari Shipiro interviews Mayor Ross on NPR’s “All Things Considered.”
 Ross: “...wind and solar power are more predictable. The prices don’t swing up and down like oil and gas. So the city can sign a contract today and know what the bill is going to be for the next 25 years. That’s especially appealing in a place like Georgetown where a lot of retirees live on fixed incomes.”
npr.org/2017/03/07/519064002/texas-city- leads-the-way-on-renewable-energy

Apr (no date)
 After the bankruptcy delay, construction resumes on the Buckthorn solar farm at Ft. Stockton.
Cecil Blair, video, swinertonrenewables.com

Apr 22
 Ross travels to Washington, D.C. to speak at the Earth Optimism Summit sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute.
 Ross: “It started back in 2008 when I was on council. We gave our city-owned utility a mission to go secure long-term contracts that create cost certainty for our rate payers. And part of that is we wanted to minimize price volatility in the market and regulatory risk.
 “These contracts were very favorable in pricing, and they accomplished those two goals, which was to minimize price volatility in the market and regulatory risk.
 “It was a math problem, and the math problem got solved, and so for the next 25 years our rate payers have cost certainty.
 “There are [other communities] who have entered into bad contracts, and ... it may take 20 years to get those bad contracts out of the way.

“We had decent contracts [with LCRA] and we had to buy our way out of them to go 100% green.”

Travel records, City of Georgetown • arthoptimism.si.edu/calendar/2017/events/energy-efficiency/

Apr 23 *Sun* interview with Briggs
Briggs: “The main thing we did is to ensure that our rates would remain flat. The price of energy may do a lot of things, but it’s projected to climb. Sometime our load is going to grow, and the price of energy will probably also grow.
“Our projection is that there’s going to be a substantial savings, probably in the last 10 to 15 years of the contracts.”
Sun 4-23-17

May 9 Ross is re-elected mayor.

Jun 1 Ross is interviewed on MSNBC
“Ours was a no-brainer. We’re going to provide cost certainty over 25 or 30 years. It’s wind and solar energy, no pollutants go back into the atmosphere. Everybody wins on this deal.
msnbc.com/msnbc-news/watch/texas-republican-may-or-pushes-for-renewable-energy

Jun 8 Ross travels to Washington, D.C. for a screening of *From the Ashes* at the National Geographic offices.
“The decision was first and foremost an economic decision,” says Mr. Ross in a clip from the film funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.
Travel records, City of Georgetown • NG’s Youtube channel: “Renewable Energy For the People | From the Ashes”

Jul 28 Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* opens in theaters. In the film, Mr. Ross is shown speaking to Mr. Gore at city hall:
Ross: “You’re in Georgetown, which is the reddest city in the reddest county in Texas, and I’m a conservative Republican, okay?”
“But, you know, our duty to our rate payers is to provide them with the lowest possible utility cost.”
Gore: “And money talks.”
Ross: “But from a common sense standpoint, the less stuff you put in the air, the better it is. I mean it’s common sense, you don’t need scientists to debate it.”
Youtube Paramount Movies Australia, Official Film Clip 10 Jan 2018

Aug 1 The City increases the PCA from .2 cents to .59 cents.

Sep 30 FY 2017 ends with the cost of Purchased Power \$9.5 million (26%) over budget. Cash reserves are drawn down for the second year.

	Under Budget	Over Budget
	2017	\$9.5M
	2016	\$6.3M
	2015	\$3.5M
	2014	\$1.6M
	\$6M	2013
	\$2.9M	2012

Oct 4 Ross travels to San Francisco for a private screening of Jamie Redford’s film, *Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution*. In the film, Redford interviews Ross at the Monument Cafe.
Ross: “We’re the second city in the country to go 100% green and the tax rate’s staying the same, and so I’m spending money like a Democrat, okay?”
happeningthemovie.com/about-the-film/ • City press release 12-6-17

Oct 10 “How Georgetown’s GOP mayor became a hero to climate change evangelists,” Jonathan Ti-love, *Austin American Statesman*:
Ross: “My tea party friends are not so sure about me anymore, and this is what I tell them — ‘Al Gore has done more in one day to make the world a better place than you have probably done in your whole life.’”
“What reasonable person can’t weigh the evidence and come to the conclusion that climate change is real and it’s happening.
“When you say, ‘No, it’s not.’ [I say] Really? Well, what are you basing that on? You think Irma and Harvey were just coincidences? Really?”
statesman.com/article/0171023/news/ 310239786

Oct 11 Ross travels to Park City, Utah, for the Sundance Institute’s screening of “*Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*” at the Sundance Institute.

Oct 12-15 Ross travels to Las Vegas to speak at the National Clean Energy Summit 9.0, held at the Bellagio Resort & Casino.

Oct 23 Ross introduces Gore as keynote speaker on opening day of the Texas Renewable Energy Industry Alliance “GridNext” conference held at the Sheraton in Georgetown.
Gore says that Ross is the “breakout star” of *Inconvenient Sequel*. (*Sun 10-25-2017*)

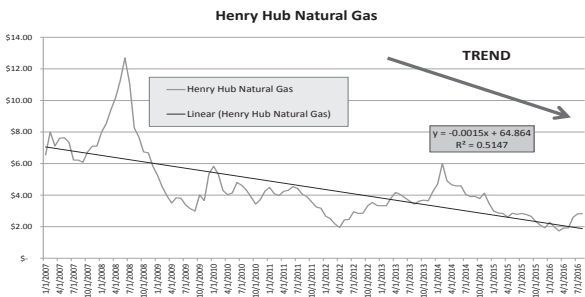
Oct 25 The final “Commercial Operation Date” in the Buckthorn contract arrives with the plant eight months away from startup.
Failure to meet the Oct. 25, 2017, “COD” was called a “termination event” by SunEdison in its bankruptcy. (See Aug 9, 2016)
The City is silent when asked by the *Sun* how this date passed without termination.
SunEdison bankruptcy documents

Nov 14 The council amends the 2017 budget to account for the \$9.5 million overrun for Purchased Power:
The city will:
• continue the increased PCA
• use cash in the reserve fund
• move \$1.5 million in expenses from the electric to the water fund
city council meeting and workshop minutes

Nov 19 Ross travels to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, to attend the Halifax International Security Forum where he is a panelist in the session, “Climate Change: Houston, We Have A Solution.”
Ross: “When you communicate to somebody that you’re going to be saving them 24% on the cost of electricity, it’s a pocketbook issue that they like, and the environmental benefit is a bonus.
“I think people need to come to the realization that wind and solar are the future and fossil fuels are the past. They are not seeing the future, and I am, I’m seeing the future with solar panels and windmills.”
“... the future is wind and solar ... and hydro as well. You run water downhill, run it back, recycle it, keep running it up and down the hill, and it produces energy. And that’s the future, too, ‘cause the world has a lot of water.”
facebook.com/Halifaxtheforum/videos/ ub.217717424959003/1643233202407411/?type=2&theater

Dec 19 Georgetown electric department staff gives a presentation at Texas A&M. One slide — “Marginal Electric Power Fuel: Natural Gas” — suggests that staff was aware that natural gas prices, though volatile in the short term, had been trending steadily down since 2007.
The presentation was not given in Georgetown, and did not become known outside the City until the *Sun* discovered the slide deck on an A&M archive site.

Marginal Electric Power Fuel: Natural Gas



Gas price chart from 2007 to 2016 shows that although gas prices are variable, the long-term trend was toward lower prices.
oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/bitstream/handle/1969.1/158450/ESL-KT-16-12-10.pdf?sequence=1

2018

Feb 8 Video blogger “iamhyla” interviews Ross in Georgetown.
Ross: “... as the state of Texas built the distribution lines it became economically feasible to pipe in the sunshine from west Texas and the wind from Amarillo through these transmission lines.”

Interviewer: “Did you get any push back?”
Ross: “Very little. Maybe one or two people, because they wanted to make this a partisan issue. Probably the most common comment was, ‘It’s too good to be true. You know, you’re telling us this is what the deal is, but there’s no way that y’all can pull this deal off.’
“And we did.”
youtube.com/watch?v=Y6WfFdQz3pMQ

Feb 21 Bloomberg Philanthropies names Georgetown a finalist in the Bloomberg Mayor’s Challenge. The City gets \$100,000 for preliminary work.
Sun, 2-28-2018, 4-29-18

Mar 7 Ross travels to Washington, D.C. to be a panelist in the session, “Red State=Clean Energy: How market-driven clean energy is transforming the Texas electric grid,” co-sponsored by the R Street Institute, Texas Clean Energy Coalition and The American Conservative. (*City documents*)

Mar 30 Buckthorn Westex, LLC ownership changes from NRG Yield to Clearway Energy. Clearway expects Buckthorn to cash flow \$4 million a year to stockholders.
Clearwayenergy.org, 2nd quarter 2018 results

Apr 1 *Smithsonian Magazine*, “Is a Texas Town the Future of Renewable Energy?” by Dan Solomon.
Solomon: “To be sure, about 2 percent of the time, the Georgetown utility draws electricity derived from fossil fuels. Ross says the city more than compensates at other times by selling excess renewable energy back to the grid — at a profit.”
Ross: “We’re doing this because it’s good for our citizens. Cheaper electricity is better. Clean energy is better than fossil fuels.”
smithsonianmag.com/innovation/texas-town-future-renewable-energy-180968410/



Jul 1 Buckthorn begins commercial operation. Jim Briggs, Dale Ross and David Morgan attend the ribbon cutting.
Georgetown’s contract runs 25 years to 2043.
Sun, 7-1-18

Aug 8 Mr. Ross, podcast interview with John Farrell, Institute for Local Self-reliance based in Washington, D. C.
Ross: “We did assume the risk, but we felt like we were very capable of assuming the risk over the long term, and that’s what we’ve been able to achieve so far.
“A marketing firm did an analysis for us and the interviews I’ve done have created over \$20 million in free advertising.”
ilsr.org/georgetown-texas-voices-of-100-podcast/

At the Sun’s request for documentation of the free advertising statement, the City provided data collected by Breakaway Public Relations. Breakaway supplies reach and ad values.

*Total cites: 1,476
People reached: 2.14 billion
Ad value: \$19.8 million*

A small number of the cites are actual interviews. Most are excerpts that appear in other stories and posts about renewable energy. Many mention, but do not discuss, Georgetown’s plan. A few examples:
*Apr 22, 2015 — MSN.com
Reach: 31.3 million. Ad value: \$2.9 million*
*Nov 17, 2017 — Punxsutawney Spirit (PA)
Reach: 21 Ad value: 19¢*
*2015 thru 2017 — Stories/videos in China
Reach: 193.1 million Ad value: \$1.78 million*
*Apr 27, 2015 — Georgetown resident Paul Gonin’s Letter to the Editor in the Statesman.
Reach: 423,562 Ad value: \$3,917.95*

May 18 Ross travels to Los Angeles to appear on the Environmental Media Association’s Impact Summit panel discussion, “Why Economics, Not Politics, Will Make Your Community Green.” Debbie Levin is host.
Ross: We’re spreading the gospel of what we

did in Georgetown by going 100% wind and solar. We know what we’re going to pay per kilowatt in 2041, and so we have cost certainty, and that takes care of the people who elected us to serve their best interests. ... It’s a long-term strategy, you’re going to save money if you live in Georgetown, okay?

“So I’m telling them they’re going to save money, and they’re believing it — and sometimes it takes a lot longer to convince them that I’m actually gonna save ‘em money, because this is too good of a deal. [They say] “How can you possibly be doing that?”
“In 2014 we broke a contract, and we had to write a big check to get out of that contract. But the savings we’re going to generate from that is 100-fold over what we had to pay.

“We made a great deal, and we were the first ones, and we took a lot of risks, and I had to give a lot of speeches ... and I explained to them that we had cost certainty ... so we won the economic battle.

“We have a lot of brainiacs on staff ... and they have a mayor that really embraces out-of-the-box thinking.
“And that’s what our success is all about. ... Renewable energy can win on a level playing field. ... I mean, if you can’t take the truth, don’t listen to me, okay? [applause]
We’re actually more than 100%, because we’ve contracted for more and when we have more green energy ... we sell it back to the grid, and somebody down those transmission lines is getting our green energy that we bought, and they’re going to pay us today’s market price.
“[Georgetown’s example] puts to rest the notion that renewable, green, sustainable energy is more expensive than fossil fuels. That’s totally false.”
youtube.com/watch?v=Shi_zgYUFzU

Sep 26 Ross travels to Alberta, Canada, to speak at the Alberta Climate Summit in Calgary. He is interviewed by David Bell on the CBC radio program, *Homestretch*.

Ross: “In Georgetown, we make our decisions based on the facts. This was a decision between wind and solar and natural gas. Wind and solar would give us fixed rate pricing for 25 years. With natural gas, it’s only seven years.
So we know, all the way through 2041, what we are going to pay for our electricity, which gives us cost certainty, which minimizes and mitigates volatility in the short-term market.”
cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/Mayor-ross-georgetown-renewables-calgary-1.4639431

Sep 30 FY 2018 ends with Purchased Power \$11.6 million (28%) over-budget. Buckthorn solar has been running for three months.
At \$80.92 per megawatt hour, net wholesale power cost is 23% higher than it was in 2015, the last year on a diversified power mix.
(City budget documents)

	Under Budget	Over Budget
	2018	\$11.6M
	2017	\$9.5M
	2016	\$6.3M
	2015	\$3.5M
	2014	\$1.6M
	\$6M	2013
	\$2.9M	2012

Oct 10 Ross travels to Brussels, Belgium, to be the keynote speaker at a meeting of the European Conservatives & Reformists Group.
Ross: “As conservatives what we need to remember is that we need the free market solutions to dictate the right decisions.
“It is the facts that need to lead politicians to the right choices and at the end of the day, we need to understand that, on the city and regional or provincial level, local politicians are the ones that are responsible for delivering electricity that’s both affordable and available.”
web.cor.europa.eu/ecr/news/Pages/Climate-change--Let-the-free-market-dictate-the-right-decisions.aspx

Oct 29 Ross travels to Detroit where Bloomberg Philanthropies announces winners of the U.S. Mayor’s Challenge at the Global Cities Summit.
Georgetown wins a \$1 million grant to partially fund an experiment with solar panel/battery storage systems with the ultimate goal of becoming the first community to become energy independent.
Sun, 10-31-18 • bloomberg.org/press/releases/nine-cities-win-1-million-innovative-solutions-urgent-local-issues-bloomberg-philanthropies-us-mayors-challenge/

Nov 1 PBS Digital Studios program *Hot Mess* interviews Ross in Georgetown.
Ross: “[Other Republican mayors] think it’s remarkable, and they think that it took tremendous courage to do this, but I remind them that if you do the right thing and make decisions based on facts, it’s not that hard to do.
“I just encourage all the elected officials to do the right thing for their citizens and don’t be afraid to innovate and most of all, don’t be afraid to be a bold, visionary leader.”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XcRl2_IJwU

Nov 27 At a workshop and council meeting, city staff presents the final accounting for 2018.
To pay for the \$11.6 million over budget cost of Purchased Power, \$6.9 million is pulled from the reserve fund, which by year’s end had dropped from \$8.8 million to \$1.9 million.
In three years, the over-budget total has reached \$27.5 million.

*Although the city council had discussed — and the Sun reported — the losses in the prior two years, the city’s plausible explanations, its secrecy, and the City’s reluctance to raise electric rates had kept citizens unaware of the true scope of the trouble they were facing.
Now, after three years, the losses can no longer be explained away or covered by a continued draw-down of reserves.
Suddenly, the risk that had been inherent in the strategy all along, became known. It is clear that electric bills must go up to keep the electric fund healthy, and to continue making transfers from the electric fund to the general fund.*

Dec 3 Ross travels to Washington to appear at Senator Bernie Sanders’ Climate Change Town Hall.
Sanders: “I would imagine that having moved away from fossil fuel, the electric bills in your city are soaring and everyone is beating down the doors of city hall in order to get

you to go back to fossil fuels — am I right?
Ross: “You are absolutely wrong. No, the critics would hope that that’s the case, but that’s not what we did.



“We wanted to achieve two things; one to eliminate volatility in the short-term markets, and two, we wanted to mitigate regulatory and governmental risk.
“The tide is changing. We’re looking at the tremendous job creation in wind and solar ... Our solar farm ... takes three people to run.
“Don’t we have the obligation to leave the planet better for our kids? We have the ability to do that. You just have to have bold, visionary leaders who you elect to make that happen.
“We transfer \$4 to \$5 million dollars, sort of like a defacto excise tax ... to the general fund.
“There are those Doubting Thomases out there, and we said, ‘let’s take a look at it for a year and see if your utility bill goes up.’
“‘And let’s take a look at it in the second year and you tell me ...’ ”
c-span.org/video/?455281-1/senator-bernie-sanders-holds-town-hall-meeting-climate-change-start=3885

Dec 4 Interview, Sarah Holder, *CityLab*, a news website in Washington, D. C.
Ross: “We put together a communication plan to explain [to our citizens] what we were doing, when we were doing it, and why we were doing it.
“But really, it was just a matter of time before people understood that their utility bill was not increasing — it was stable, and there wasn’t anything to fear.
“... we’re realizing that we can be a shining example for others to follow, because the environmental benefits are so good.”
citylab.com/environment/2018/12/green-new-deal-bernie-sanders-Mayor-ross-climate-town-hall/577279/

2019

Jan 1 Electric bills go up as the city increases the base rate from \$20 to \$24.80 per month.

Jan 6 The City announces measures to offset the higher cost of purchased power including:
• postponement of some electrical system construction
• a temporary hiring freeze and
• a reduction in the cash that is transferred to the general fund
Officials say they are talking with the solar and wind companies about renegotiating the contracts. Possible solutions are:
• reducing the amount of power purchased
• pay a lower price now and a higher price later
• sell a portion of the contract to someone else
• buy less power now and more later.
Sun 1-6-19

Jan 20 Since Georgetown is selling surplus power at a loss, some ask if it is practical to use the Bloomberg grant to create more surplus by installing solar panels and batteries around town.
The City says the grant will continue.
Sun 1-20-19

Jan 22 At the council’s afternoon workshop, City Manager David Morgan and Public Works manager Jim Briggs present an overview of the energy problem.

Feb 1 The City raises the PCA from .59 to 1.75 cents per kilowatt hour.
By the end of the city’s fiscal year in Sept. the increase will bring in \$8.9 million.
FY2020 budget • Sun, 1-27-2019 • City letter, “Important information regarding increases in your electric bill.”

Feb 2 Mr. Briggs shifts from managing the Public Works Department to concentrating on the utilities department, especially the electric problems. Wayne Reed, assistant city manager picks up the public works duties.
Sun 2-6-19

Feb 4 Former mayor MaryEllen Kersch makes an Open Records request for information regarding Mr. Ross’s out-of-state travel.
She says in spite of the city’s loss-making energy program, Ross is “still representing the city’s program as being cost-effective, and of course that’s not the case.”
Sun 2-10-19

Feb 13 The City starts looking for a manager for its energy portfolio and seeking proposals for a comprehensive review of how it buys and sells electricity.
Sun 2-13-19

Feb 14 In response to citizen questions about the money-losing energy contracts, the City releases new data on energy purchase and use.

Feb 18 The City responds to the Kersch Open Records request, releasing documents on 16 trips taken by Ross. Most are appearances at climate change events and film screenings.
Ross says, “For all my speaking engagements, the city has not covered any costs. I have not received any honorarium. Typically, I was provided an airline ticket and hotel room.”
Sun 2-24-19

Feb 20 Based on new information released Feb. 14, the *Sun* publishes an analysis of energy sources.
The data shows that the city was never powered by 100% renewable energy. During the three years since the 100% program began, fossil fuel sources provided up to 46% of the power used.
The city says the 100% claim is possible because the city uses the “Renewable Energy Credits” from the sale of surplus wind and solar power to claim renewable status for power generated by fossil fuels.
Sun 2-20-19

Mar 3 The City awards Schneider Engineering a \$30,000 contract to review the city’s purchasing and management practices for electricity.

Mar 8 After examining data from the U. S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the *Sun* discovers that production at Buckthorn fell from 48,845 megawatt hours in June, to 9,566 megawatt hours in December.
When asked about this drop, which was greater than other Texas solar farms, the City replied, via an email:
“Solar production falls off in the winter partly because the solar farm is built to maximize production in the summer. As the Earth tilts away from the Sun during the winter months, the productivity of the farm drops.”

Mar 12 Concerned that the \$1 million Bloomberg Philanthropies grant might commit the city to spending money after the grant expires, the council postpones a vote on accepting the grant.

Mar 20 The *Sun* publishes the EIA data referred to above, in chart form, showing the falloff at Buckthorn compared to other solar farms.
Although all solar farms show a natural decline from summer to winter, other Texas solar farms do not suffer the falloff that has occurred at Buckthorn.
Sun, 3-20-19

Solar production, 2018

Month	Texas average	Buckthorn
June	100%	100%
July	~90%	~90%
Aug	~85%	~85%
Sept	~60%	~20%
Oct	~65%	~15%
Nov	~68%	~10%
Dec	49.5%	19.6%

Mar 26 The Council votes 7-0 to send a “Notice of Event of Default” Buckthorn Westex LLC.
Council Minutes 3-26-19

Mar 26 & Apr 9 The council postpones a vote on the \$1 million Bloomberg grant.
Council minutes 3-26-19 & 4-9-19• Sun 4-3-19

Apr 23 The mayor is interviewed by Errol Barnett for a CBS podcast.
Ross: “We did have a bad year last year, and I think we lost about \$3 million.
“But in the five years that we’ve been doing this, the net is over \$15 million, so this is a 25-year plan not a 25-month plan.”
cbsnews.com/news/how-conservative-georgetown-texas-became-renewable-energy-leader-mayor-Mayor-ross-2019-04-23/

In 2018, the electric department lost \$10.5 million. In the previous five years, the loss was \$29.7 million. However, during two of years, 2014 and 2015, Georgetown was still on conventional power. Losses averaged \$1.6 million per year for those years.

May 4 Michael Triggs edges out incumbent John Hesser in the city council election. Incumbents Steve Fought and Tommy Gonzales are re-elected.

May 14 At the council workshop Steve Moffitt of Schneider Engineering briefs the council on the results of the study on the electric department’s power purchasing and management practices.
He recommends that the city:
• hire an energy management service
• appoint an oversight board for Georgetown Utility Systems
• improve oversight and accountability of management of the energy portfolio
• set an appropriate amount of cash in the rate stabilization fund, and adjust the PCA periodically to stabilize rates
• develop an improved risk management policy. (The current policy, set in 2013, has proved inadequate.)

May 14 At the first council meeting after the election, Mr. Hesser is absent and Mr. Triggs is not yet sworn in.
In a rushed vote, the council accepts the Bloomberg Grant, 4-2.
The council votes to send Buckthorn Westex a “tolling” letter extending the time for negotiations related to the March default notice.
Council minutes 5-14-19; Sun 5-19-19

May 20 At a town hall meeting, Triggs, in the audience, questions the May 4 vote to accept the Bloomberg grant, saying that had he been sworn in at that time, he would have voted against it.
Triggs: “When you currently have financial difficulties, it is not wise to enter into the unknown. We know this is filled with expenses and are not sure of the financial rewards.”
Sun 5-26-19

May 28 S&P lowers the city’s utility bond rating from AA to AA-. The company press release says the outlook is stable, adding:
“The rating action reflects our view of the challenges that GUS faces with the excess electricity that the utility has under contract.
“The stable outlook reflects our view of the financial strength of the combined electric, water, and wastewater pledge.”
S&P Global Ratings press release, May 28, 2019.

If the electric department fails to make payments on money borrowed to build electric infrastructure, the water and wastewater departments must make those payments.
In everyday terms, the electric, water and wastewater departments co-signed each other’s notes.

Jun 1 Electric bills rise again as the city increases the PCA to 2.375 cents per kilowatt hour.
The two PCA increases this year will pull in \$13 million. *City FY2020 budget • Sun 6-2-19*

Jul 23 The council votes 5-1 to reconsider the Bloomberg grant at a later meeting.
Mr. Triggs, now sworn in, says he would have voted against the grant in light of the problems in the electric department.
Steve Fought: “I think many of us have concluded it is a good idea, but maybe it’s not the right time for a good idea.”
Kevin Pitts: “I would love to withdraw from it today if we could.”

Aug 2 Bloomberg Philanthropies terminates the grant after learning that a council vote to with-

draw would likely pass.
“In response to local considerations communicated by us by the city that now is not the proper time to move forward ... we are terminating the grant agreement,” says Bloomberg.
Sun 8-11-19

Aug 13 The Council votes to hire Schneider Engineering to oversee the city’s energy portfolio management, develop a comprehensive risk policy for the electric department and monitor and forecast cost of purchased power. First year cost is \$180,000. *Council minutes 8-13-19 • Sun 8-21-19*

Aug 27 The Council votes to start negotiations with Shell Energy North America and Tenaska Power Services Company for management of the city’s electricity buying and selling activity. The first year cost will be around \$300,000.
Sun 8-1-19

Sept 18 City announces that Daniel Bethapudi, assistant director of College Station Utilities, will become general manager of the city’s electric utility. *City press release 9-18-19*

Sep 30 Fiscal year 2019 ends with Purchased Power \$11.1 million (25%) over budget. After four years, the total loss is \$38.6 million. At the council meeting on Nov. 26, the council will consider steps necessary to cover the loss.

Under Budget	Over Budget
2019	\$11.1M
2018	\$11.6M
2017	\$9.5M
2016	\$6.3M
2015	\$3.5M
2014	\$1.6M
2013	\$6M
2012	\$2.9M

Oct 7 A week after Briggs retires, Bethapudi starts as the new manager of the electric utility.

Oct 8 6:23 p.m. The city votes 6-0 to sue Buckthorn Westex, LLC, alleging:
• Fraud by Nondisclosure
• Breach of contract

6:27 p.m. The lawsuit is e-filed with the District Clerk, Williamson County.
The City alleges that:
• Buckthorn failed to disclose facts about the expected performance during and after contract negotiations and
• Georgetown was ignorant of those facts and did not have an equal opportunity to discover those facts.
City Council meeting video 10-8-19 • Plaintiff’s Original Petition, Cause 19-1614-C26, 26th Judicial District Court

Oct 11 Buckthorn officials dispute all claims made by Georgetown, saying:
“Buckthorn has and will continue to honor all terms of its contractual agreement with the City and any claims to the contrary are inaccurate. Rather than working in good faith, Georgetown elected to pursue litigation in a clear attempt to terminate its contractual obligations.” *Sun 10-16-19*

Nov 15 Buckthorn Westex answers Georgetown’s suit and makes counter claims, alleging:
• Georgetown did not identify the information it claimed Buckthorn had a duty to disclose, and
• did not explain why Buckthorn, as a contractual counterparty, owed any disclosure duty.
• that Georgetown stopped paying power invoices in March, 2019, and this constitutes a Breach of Contract.
Buckthorn asks the Court to declare:
• that Georgetown’s withholding of payment constitute an Event of Default.
• that Buckthorn did not commit any Event of Default.
Defendant’s Original Answer and Counterclaims.

Nov 26 To deal with the \$11.1 million over budget cost of wholesale electricity for 2018, the council votes to move \$4.3 million from other city departments into the electric department by:
• selling the department’s share of the Westside Service Center to the water department and reimbursing the electric department for money spent previously on it’s share of the building: \$2.6 million.
• sell the fiber network to the city’s IT department: \$645,000.
• sell unused land on FM 1460 to the fleet department: \$482,000.
• reduce the electric department’s payment to the General Fund: \$500,000.
• increase payments from the South Georgetown Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone: \$85,000.
The council also voted to sell \$722,000 worth of Renewable Energy Credits.

The city earns one Renewable Energy Credit for each megawatt hour of electricity produced by its solar and wind contracts.
These credits can be sold for cash or used to offset the city’s use of fossil fuel generated power.
In the past, Georgetown “retired” rather than sold these credits, and this allowed the city to say it was 100% renewable.
By selling these credits for cash, the city has abandoned its claim to be 100% renewable.

Nov 26 Later in the meeting, the council votes 5-1 to give the Citigroup data center in southeast Georgetown special pricing on electricity.

Nov 2019	6.24 ¢	per kilowatt hour
May 2019	5.3 ¢	" "
Nov 2020	3.3 ¢	" "

The 3.3 ¢ price is good to Nov. 2014.
City manager, David Morgan says the data-center is Georgetown’s largest electricity user and, “represents approximately 10 percent of our total electric demand.” *Sun 12-1-19*

Because Georgetown buys more power from the wind farm than it uses, it ends up selling much of the surplus at a loss.
The 3.3¢ price for Citigroup is about the same as the delivered price from the wind farm.
The Citigroup data center is in a dual service area and can buy power from either Georgetown or On-core. Because Citigroup has a choice, it has a strong negotiating position and can force Georgetown to sell at or near the delivered wholesale cost, especially since Georgetown would likely have to take a lower price on the spot market for its surplus electricity.



New Year brings promises of luck, joy

My granma had a lot of sayings she had heard from childhood, and she could whip one out in a nanosecond for whatever situation you might find yourself confronting. I am now regretful I can't recall more of her pithy asides. Many seem to hold more than a grain of truth. She said that eating salt would dry up my blood, and too much salt does cause you to retain fluid. The one about eating watermelon seeds and having a watermelon grow in your tummy is just not so. Right?



EGGS IN MY POCKET

Mary Fenoglio

Anyhow, Granma had several homilies that involved the New Year. A farm girl from South Missouri, she embraced the Southern belief that eating even a spoonful of black-eyed peas on New Year's Day would bring you luck all through the year. So did Papa's mother, a farm girl from North Texas. We have always had a pot of black-eyed peas on January 1. If nothing else, they're an excellent reason to have a big pan of cornbread, just in case you need one. Granma also said that whatever you do on New Year's Day, you will do all year. In her case, that was a pretty safe prediction. She cooked, cleaned and took care of us on the first day of the New Year, just like she did every day that followed.

New Year's Eve was a fun time for us when we were kids. It was a different time and culture, a small North Texas town, and what seemed to us to be fun and daring wouldn't be a patch on how lots of people celebrate now. Kids stayed up with parents to see the New Year in.

Most of us were with friends, either at their house or ours. There was lots of good stuff to eat and, at least in our crowd, minimal consumption of an alcoholic nature since the would-be imbibers of same had to travel to get the stuff. Our town was dry, so folks went to Punkin Center or maybe Altus, Oklahoma to get beer, wine and assorted spirits.

When I got older, it occurred to me how dangerous that law really was. Plenty of people who drove miles to get liquor consumed a considerable amount while there, and then hit the road to drive home.

On New Year's Eve our parents played cards or dominoes, shoved the furniture against the walls and danced to LP vinyl records, ate and laughed and kept one eye on the clock, waiting for the old year to exit and the New Year to strut in, fresh and new and full of promise.

It was the '40s and '50s and anything was possible. The younger kids ran around, in and out, underfoot, sometimes playing their own games when they got tired of aggravating any older siblings who might be present.

Siblings who were old enough were usually out in cars, dragging the main street and circling through Owens Drug Store to see who was parked under the big striped awning, drinking Cokes before we were told how poisonous they are. Town was bright and busy, what there was of it, much more alive than usual late at night.

Excitement built toward the magic hour: Celebration poised breathless on the cusp, awaiting the stroke of midnight. At that moment, not a second before or after, the ritual of passage from old to new took place.

If you were in the right place, and you certainly tried to be, you kissed or got kissed by a lover or a spouse.

That could be magical with the right person, as if that kiss sealed the relationship for the next year, at least, an expression of love and intimacy saved for just one person in that one special moment.

For older couples that kiss was an affirmation of the bond of years past and a promise for the future. Maybe not as thrilling as those young, incendiary pressings of lips together, but sweeter in its comforting familiarity.

As for the rest of us, our exuberant welcoming in of the New Year lit up the sky with all the fireworks we could afford to buy. From bottle rockets and Red Devil firecrackers to sparklers for the littlest among us, we put on a homemade show. The hunters among us, and there were many, shot off shotguns — they make lots of noise. Foolish? Probably.

Nobody thought anything about it, we just wanted to make noise and light up our little corner of the world. When all was spent and quiet, we went inside and ate at least a spoonful of blackeyed peas.

Times change, everything is different now. Thousands of people throng into venues to watch the elaborate, professional displays. Pretty, maybe, but I think we'll stick to nice, quiet blackeyed peas.

Happy New Year!

Pet therapy benefits young, old

By KATE THURMOND

When Ruth Olson and her dog Maggie joined the Sun City Pet Club they inspired members to develop closer bonds with their dogs and the community by providing pet therapy.

Tom Olson, president of the Sun City Pet Club, is passionate about the role pet therapy can play in the lives of those he visits. When he moved to the area in 2009, the Pet Club had fewer than 60 members and had no therapy component. His wife, Ruth, joined the club with their therapy-certified dog Maggie, who immediately became a hit.

“The dog is the transformative piece that allows us to communicate.”

Tom Olson
president, Sun City Pet Club

Many members expressed interest in pet therapy, and Ruth cobbled together a training program for them.

“We brought the certification process to Sun City,” Mr. Olson said.

The club now has close to 700 members, and has trained more than 100 therapy dogs. They also raise money for animal causes and donated almost \$12,000 to local shelters last year.

As the trainer for the club, Mrs. Olson works with members and their dogs to certify them to work in the community.

Pet Partners, an international nonprofit organization provides the training and determines if a dog is suitable to provide therapy. The organization provides an eight-hour classroom course and a 21-point physical exam that simulates the conditions the dog and owner might encounter on the job.

Once certified, the Sun City Pet Club members visit



Thelma, a therapy dog that works with Wesleyan Assisted Living visits with Helen Coffman.

communities ranging from kindergarten classrooms to assisted living facilities with their pets. Members provide services at sites such as Annunciation Maternity Home, Rock Springs Hospital and Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute.

Mr. Olson has a particular soft spot for the work he and his therapy partner Rascal do with children in the “Read With Me” program. They visit area schools so children who struggle with reading can grow more confident and start to enjoy the process as they read out loud to Rascal.

He said he has seen children

start to look forward to the opportunity to read to Rascal.

“It's all the dog,” Mr. Olson said. “The dog is the transformative piece that allows us to communicate. There's a commonality there.”

A similar program, The Dog Alliance, founded by Executive Director Debi Krakar, uses dog-and-owner teams to provide therapy to children and adults. Ms. Krakar works with around 15 pet therapy teams in Georgetown and the organization is working to expand its presence here.

The Dog Alliance was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from Seeds of Strength earlier

this year. Georgetown's philanthropic women's giving circle selected The Dog Alliance based on a presentation that outlined plans for the Bow Wow Team and the various schools, hospitals and assisted living facilities that want to receive its services.

The provider currently has several hospitals, schools and assisted living communities on its waitlist, and Ms. Krakar hopes to train enough teams to cover them.

Ms. Krakar said Georgetown was not always so receptive to the idea of pet therapy.

“The first school we went

Continued on 2B

Bring in the new year with appetizers

I have some wonderful new appetizer recipes this week, perfect for a New Year's Day open house or for football bowl game watching. They are varied in ingredients and flavors, but all are easy to do and delicious.

If you're thinking queso, here is a great recipe my hairdresser's daughter makes every Christmas. According to Karla, it's so popular, it's almost a cottage industry.

Deanna's Queso

*2 lbs. Velveeta
1 medium onion, grated (with all the juice that accumulate while grating)
1 (6 oz.) can evaporated milk... *use a little less than 1/2 a can*
2 cups Hellman's mayonnaise
1 (8 oz.) can seeded jalapeño peppers, chopped finely (San Marcos brand if you can find it)*

Tear Velveeta into smallish pieces. Put in heavy saucepan with other ingredients, using only half of the can of evaporated milk. Stir over low heat until cheese is melted and mixture is combined and smooth. Add more of the milk if you think it is too thick. Serve with chips.

These little individual bites are healthy and really delicious. I had them at a holiday



COOK'S CORNER

Laurie Locke

gathering recently and loved the flavor and the crunch. The original recipe calls for smoked salmon but the ones I had were topped with a single boiled shrimp. Either way is great.

Seafood Cucumber Bites

*2 t. sesame seeds, toasted
2 t. poppy seeds
1 t. dried minced onion
1 t. dried minced garlic
1/2 t. coarsely ground black pepper
1 1/2 t. flaky sea salt
1/4 cup sour cream
1 t. minced dill, plus little sprigs for garnish
Zest of 1 lemon
1 long, skinny English cucumber
one (4 oz.) package sliced smoked salmon, cut not 16*

*strips *OR* 16 small fresh boiled shrimp*

In small bowl, combine sesame seeds poppy seeds, onion, garlic, pepper and 1/2 t. of the sea salt. In another bowl, combine sour cream, dill, lemon zest and remaining 1 t. sea salt.

With vegetable peeler, peel strips from the length of the cucumber (just for looks). Slice cucumber into 16 slices, cut on the diagonal.

Put a dollop of sour cream mixture on each slice of cucumber. Top with smoked salmon or shrimp. Sprinkle of some of seasoning mix and garnish with dill sprig. Makes 16 bites. — *Janet Woods*

These appetizer bites are colorful and so tasty with the tartness of creamy goat cheese, the sweet apple crunch, and the pepper jelly's tang. Wonderful! By the way, I stopped into 18 Carrot Bakery last week and found the best pepper jellies made by a friend of the shop owner. They come in all flavors, too.

Jane's Layered Prosciutto Bites

*HEB brand Black Pepper and Sea Salt deli crackers (found in the deli)
goat cheese
pepper jelly
thinly sliced prosciutto*

thin slices of Granny Smith apple

arugula tossed with a little olive oil and lemon juice

Spread some goat cheese on each cracker and top with a little smear of pepper jelly. Layer on top of that a slice of prosciutto, a very thin slice of apple, and top with a tiny bit of arugula. Makes as many as you want. — *Jane Shepherd*

At our annual book club Christmas party, we do a gift exchange and this year it was all cookbooks since we all love to cook.

I was lucky enough to get the new Pioneer Woman cookbook, *The New Frontier*, and this recipe is right out of it. Perfect for a football or New Year's gathering.

Greek Guacamole

*3 large, ripe avocados (soft)
1 clove garlic
2 Roma tomatoes, diced
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
1/4 cup finely chopped jarred roasted red peppers
1/4 cup finely chopped kalamata olives
1/4 cup chopped parsley
3 T. chopped fresh dill
1/4 t. ground cumin
1/2 t. kosher salt
Juice of 1 lemon
3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese*

Continued on 4B

Start your resolutions New Year’s Eve with mocktails

If you’ve ever over-celebrated New Year’s Eve you might be ready to try an alcohol-alternative drink. Food/Bev Media reports alcohol consumption has fallen around the world. Austin-based Whole Foods predicts alcohol-free drinks will be a growing trend in 2020.

In 1920 the ratification of the 18th Amendment banned the sale of liquor. Prohibition didn’t work but now, 100 years later, people are choosing to give up alcohol for mental health and wellness.

Sober seekers are looking for carefully crafted non-alcoholic drinks. Some alternatives are distilled to keep the taste of classic cocktails and beverages. Examples include alt-gin for gin and tonics or botanical-infused faux spirits for a martini.

Traditional taverns are offering mocktails for a more inclusive bar



TASTES OF THE TOWN
Linda Dwyer

scene. A recent Forbes article, “Why The Non-Alcoholic Drinks Trend Is Here To Stay,” states, “It’s official: The biggest trend in bars are drinks without booze.” Brands are looking to capitalise on this trend and non-alcoholic beers have become more socially acceptable. MillerCoors acquired a kombucha maker

based in California and Anheuser-Busch is trying its hand at lightly spiked coconut water. Heineken is advertising its non-alcoholic beer on New York subway platforms.

Drinktek Blog asks, “What are the trend predictions for the non-alcoholic beverage industry in 2038?” The article suggests, “The nutrition products of the future will be aimed not only at physical but also increasingly at mental wellbeing. People want to be able to think faster, more creatively and in a more focused manner.” It goes on to say, “In the future, nutrition will be coordinated to individual needs. The key could be our DNA and nutrition tailored to our genetic profile.”

I can’t say what will happen in the new year: I don’t have 2020 vision!

If you don’t drink alcohol, or wish to cut back,

count yourself as part of a growing trend. President George W. Bush explained his decision to forgo intoxicating beverages. “Alcohol was becoming a love and it was beginning to crowd out my affections for the most important love — if you’re a dad — and that’s loving your little girls. Fatherhood meant sobriety from 1986 on.”

I am including a recipe for a mock Moscow Mule. There are alternate tales regarding the drink’s humble beginnings and the following is one of them.

Sophie Berezinski’s father owned a copper factory in Russia where she designed copper mugs. Sophie brought the mugs to America, the land of opportunity.

John Martin had purchased the floundering Smirnoff Vodka distillery in the 1930s but Americans had little interest in vodka at the time.

Non-Alcoholic-Moscow-Mule

1 lime (1-2 T. juice, fresh is best)
1 T. simple syrup
1/4 cup club soda
3-4 mint leaves (torn, optional)
3/4 cup Ginger Beer
crushed ice

In the bottom of the cup, pour juice from lime, simple syrup and club soda. Add mint leaves if desired. Fill the cup about halfway with ice. Pour about 3/4 cup of ginger beer over the ice.

Garnish with mint leaves and a lime wedge if desired, and serve.

Jack Morgan, owner of Cock ‘n’ Bull, a tavern on the Sunset Strip, was trying to introduce America to his own brand of ginger beer. The two men were good friends.

Sophie walked into the Cock ‘n’ Bull in 1941 to sell her copper mugs.

The trio put their heads together and developed a drink that would bring together the fizzy ginger beer; the punch of the vodka and the cold properties of copper to create a great cocktail.



PEC employees help those in need

More than 120 Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) employees volunteered a total of 360 hours at the Central Texas Food Bank to help feed neighbors in need this holiday season.

Volunteers helped inspect, sort, and package food donations for the fourth year. PEC employees processed 38,750 pounds of food, enough to prepare 32,975 meals.

“I think it’s important for members to see us outside of our usual roles and giving back to our community,” PEC Member Relations Employee Development Specialist Julissa Lehoski said. “It was very rewarding to work alongside other PEC employees to help make a difference in our community.”

The Central Texas Food Bank provided more than 39.2 million pounds of food to families in need last year, including 11 counties in the PEC service territory.

PEC employees also collected new toys, books and gifts for Travis County Brown Santa, which were donated to families across the Hill Country.

Pet therapy teams benefit young and old

Continued from 1B

to, it took me four months to convince the principal. Then after a week, they were asking how many more times we could come

in,” she said.

A large part of the services The Dog Alliance provides is in the courtroom, where therapy dogs provide emotional support

to children who are called to testify in family court. Ms. Krakar said a positive experience, like getting to play with a dog, often keeps the event from becoming

a scarring memory to the kids involved.

Ms. Krakar has witnessed the success of pet therapy in behavioral institutes as well, when her therapy dog Riley was able to provide comfort to a woman who hadn’t spoken in three months.



A therapy dog with The Dog Alliance provides comfort to children who are called to testify in court.

“She started petting Riley and talking to me,” Ms. Krakar said.

“I just thought ‘Wow, my dog did something really special today to help her mental state.’”

Melonie Martinez, director of Life Enrichment at the Delaney, has a particular soft spot for the pet therapy her residents receive from The Dog Alliance.

“It is an extremely effective form of therapy,” she said.

“It helps particularly with [resident] anxiety. They may be obsessing over something, but as soon as the dog comes in all they think about is petting them.”

She’s also seen a connection with residents in memory care.

“[They] might just be kind of shut down. But then the animal comes in and they just glow and smile. It opens up a chance to have a conversation with them, and gives them something to think about.”

Shawn Draper, Life En-



Therapy dog Maggie listens to a student read to her in the Read With Me Program.

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LEVEL 2

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LEVEL 4

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

Roundabout

music

TENORS UNLIMITED

The Palace Theatre will host the group Tenors Unlimited as they perform a combination of popular opera, musical theatre, crooner standards and original songs for an evening of entertainment for a good cause. All proceeds will benefit the Palace Theater in the upcoming season. Tickets are \$70 and area available at georgetownpalace.com. Address is 810 S. Austin

Ave. **January 17 - 19**

art

SUN CITY CHINESE BRUSH ART

The Sun City Chinese Brush stroke art will exhibit their work at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center. The art features traditional style Chinese ink brush strokes in celebration of the Year of the Pig in Chinese culture. The artist reception will be on November 17 at 2pm. Address is 1433 Cool

Springs Way. **Through January 14**

META GARDEN EXHIBIT

The Georgetown Art Center will show the work of Rebecca Bennett. The exhibit will have work that uses digitally manipulated images of her original paintings to create a new body of work that references growth, change, nourishment, seeds, and natural evolution. The artist reception will be January 11 at 6pm. This event is free to attend. Address is 816 S. Main St. **January 10 - February 9**

bulletin board

NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE

Make the trip to Garey Park for a guided 2 mile hike to start the New Year. The hikes are first-come, first-served and limited to 20 participants per guide. New trail maps will be debuted. Bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. The hikes are free to attend and all are welcome. Address is 6450 RM 2243. **January 1**, 1pm

PARANORMAL CIRCUS

Acrobats of the Air, Illusionists, freaks and mysterious creatures make up this show which is a fusion between Circus, theatre and cabaret. The show will take place at the Round Rock Premium Outlets and will be hosted by the Paranormal Cirque troupe. Tickets start at \$10.83 and can be purchased through Eventbrite. Address is 4401 N Interstate Hwy 35. **January 1**, 7:30pm

TAI CHI FOR NEUROPATHY PATIENTS

Neuropathy Alliance of Texas will host a Tai Chi class in the Georgetown Health Foundation building. The classes are specifically designed for neuropathy patients and will help with balance, circulation, muscle strength, stress release and general well-being. All levels are welcome. Address is 2423 Williams Dr. **January 2**, 9am

FAMILY MOVIE

The Cedar Park Public Library will host a showing of *Incredibles 2* for kids. Mr. Incredible must manage the house while his wife Elastigirl goes out to save the world. Food and drinks in closed containers are allowed. This event is free to attend and all ages are welcome. The movie has a PG-rating. Address is 550 Discovery Blvd., Cedar Park. **January 2**, 2:30pm

EXPLORERS CLUB

Grades K-3 are welcome to explore a set of rotating monthly programs at the Cedar Park Public Library. Program will last 30-45 minutes. Kids in grades K-3 are allowed to attend Explorers Club by themselves. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend. This event is free to attend. Address is 550 Discovery Blvd. **January 2**, 3:30pm

MIGHTY THOMAS CARNIVAL

Christmas continues at the Round Rock Dell Diamond parking lot. The Christmas Towne theme park will be operating through January 4 for those who can't get enough of Christmas. There will be full-scale carnival rides, a tunnel of lights, holiday themed foods and drinks and games. Tickets are \$1. This is a family-friendly event. Address is 3400 East Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. **January 2**, 5pm

WINTER ELITE CAMP

Lonestar Soccer Club is hosting a non-team specific soccer camp at Round Rock Sports Center to prepare kids for the upcoming season. The training will involve an emphasis on developing individual player technique and the application within a game scenario, as well a focus on decision making from a tactical standpoint. Address is 2400 Chisholm Trl. **January 2**, 5:30pm

Mayor dies at age 42; Highway 195 approved

January 2, 1920

There may be nothing in a name, as we have often heard, but the hundreds of victims of wood alcohol as reported by the press, would probably testify that some names are misleading and terrible disappointing.

The dead from the drinking of wood alcohol are infinitely better off than the living victims who are blind; perhaps neither were worth much to their friends or the country.

There may be comparatively innocent victims, and for those we have more pity.

The parties to the tragedies who deserve condemnation and public execution are the vouchers of the poison

Yesteryears

BARBARA YELVERTON

WANTED: A short biographical sketch of every citizen of Williamson county who is 70 years old or over that age, or who has lived in Williamson County 40 years or longer.

Both men and women are to be included in this group.

We prefer that these sketches be sent in by school children of the county.

All articles should be written on only one side of the paper and a margin of about one inch left on each side.

Will the teachers of the county assist in this effort to interest their pupils in this undertaking?

Others than children are invited to submit sketches. Address, W.W. Jenkins, Editor; Georgetown, Texas.

No teacher should think of teaching at all until he has established at between himself and his class a perfect understanding regarding the matter of Good Order, until he has clearly shown his pupils that it is necessary that one person should be the center of authority, and that he is the person entitled to that position by virtue of his office, his superior intelligence, experience and force of character.

Without the perfect order called discipline in an array, it is a disorganized mob, incapable, unmanageable and at the mercy of its foes.

Without order pupils can-

Submit your event!

Email a short write-up to

roundabout@wilcosun.com

by 12 p.m. Friday

to be considered for publication.

Live music

Thursday, January 2

6:00p **Frank Sinatra Tribute** at Tony and Luigi's

Friday, January 3

5:30p **Eric Hazel** at Barons Creek Wine Room
8:00p **X Factory** at Hardtails

Saturday, January 4

6:00p **Waitin' on Hayden with Michelle Kay** at Roots Bistro
8:00p **Dan Guevara** at Jack's Lounge

Wednesday, January 1

1:00a **New Year's Eve After Party** at Sky Hookah Lounge
10:00a **New Year's Jazz Brunch** hosted by the Vineyard at Florence
1:00p **New Year's Day Hike** at Garey Park
7:30p **Paranormal Circus** at the Round Rock Premium Outlets

Thursday, January 2

9:00a **Tai Chi for Neuropathy Patients** hosted by Neuropathy Alliance of Texas
2:30p **Georgetown Farmers Market** at the Monument Café parking lot
2:30p **Family Movie** at the Cedar Park Public Library
3:30p **Explorers Club** at the Cedar Park Public Library
5:00p **Mighty Thomas Carnival** at the Round Rock Dell Diamond
5:30p **Winter Elite Camp** hosted by Lonestar Soccer Club
6:30p **Thom the Poet** hosted by the San Gabriel Writers League

Friday, January 3

8:00a **Emancipet Mobile Clinic** at the Williamson County Regional Animal Clinic
1:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
2:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
3:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
5:30p **Drop in Meditation** hosted by Psychiatry Austin

Saturday, January 4

9:00a **Wolf Ranch Farmers Market** at Wolf Ranch Town Center
9:00a **Launch Class** hosted by REFIT
9:00a **Resolution Rush** hosted by Bodies Race Company
10:00a **Self Defense Seminar for Women** hosted by Soul Fighter BJJ
11:00a **Vision Boarding** hosted by Sanctuary Holistic Kitchen
11:30a **PFLAG meeting** at Masfajitas
1:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
1:30p **Polar Bear Plunge** at Robin Bledsoe Park
2:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
3:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum

Sunday, January 5

8:00a **Pistons in the Park** at Austin's Park in Pflugerville
12:30p **Ecotherapist meeting** at Berry Springs Park
7:30p **Paranormal Circus** at the Round Rock Premium Outlets

Tuesday, January 7

8:00a **Free Tuesdays** at Garey Park
9:00a **Sun City Farmers Market** at Sun City Georgetown
12:00p **Veterans group meeting** at the Community Center in the Heritage Vizcaya
5:30p **Expectant Family Open House** hosted by Family First Healthcare

Wednesday, January 8

9:00a **1 Million Cups meeting** at the Holiday Inn in Round Rock
6:00p **District 6 Coffee Talk** at Red Poppy Coffee Co.

Thursday, January 9

2:30p **Georgetown Farmers Market** at the Monument Café parking lot
7:00p **Green Thumbs Up Gardening** at the Cedar Park Public Library

Friday, January 10

1:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
2:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
3:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum

Saturday, January 11

9:00a **Wolf Ranch Farmers Market** at Wolf Ranch Town Center
1:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
2:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
3:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
6:00p **Meta Garden Art Reception** at the Georgetown Art Center

Tuesday, January 14

9:00a **Sun City Farmers Market** at Sun City Georgetown

Thursday, January 16

2:30p **Georgetown Farmers Market** at the Monument Café parking lot

Friday, January 17

1:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
2:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
3:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
7:30p **Tenors Unlimited** at the Palace Theatre

Saturday, January 18

9:00a **Wolf Ranch Farmers Market** at Wolf Ranch Town Center
1:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum
2:30p **Courthouse Tour** provided by The Williamson Museum

finally came.

April, John Doerfler is new mayor with Carl Doering and Dee Scott on council, Fred Hilgeman and Everette Williams on GISD Board, **May**, Bicentennial Tour of Homes built 1866-1900, **June**, Funds for area's new hospital approved by FHA, **July**, 4th of July festivities damp but carried out.

August, large marijuana crop found along North Gabriel, **September**, Draeger Motors new facility is 22,000 feet, McNeil Labs to be across Westinghouse Road, **October**, Cindy Howry is GHS Homecoming Queen, **November**, Second fire station opened, **December**, Swine flu vaccine possibly contaminated.

Voters to decide local op-

tion on beer/wine

December 31 & January 4, 2003-04

County Democrats poised to politic — Sharon Webster first to file for Precinct 3 commissioner

Kacie and Kirsten Coachran earn Bronze Award, highest possible honor to Junior Girl Scout

Filing for primary elections now closed

January 1 & 4, 2012

Primaries postponed until April until redistricting is settled

After 10 years, Highway 195 project finally approved by the feds

Bring in 2020 with appetizers

Continued from 1B

In large bowl, mash avocados about halfway, leaving some big chunks. Grate in the garlic using a microplane grater. Add tomatoes, onion, roasted pepper, olives, parsley and dill and stir to mix. Add cumin and salt, squeeze in the lemon. Stir until well-combined. Fold in the feta. Serve with pita chips, vegetable chips, or whatever feels right to you. Serves 6-8. *The Pioneer Woman Cooks The New Frontier* *** This “dip” can be eaten on a cracker or with a fork, and would be good also as

a topping for grilled fish, I think. It can be made ahead, has great texture and flavor, and has its own distinctive personality. **Denise’s Chunky Olive Dip** *2 cups large green olives, pitted and drained* *1 cup diced celery* *1/2 cup roasted almonds, roughly chopped* *2 oz. Parmesan, crumbled with a fork or knife point into 1/2 cup of “rubble”* *1 large garlic clove, very thinly sliced* *2 T. olive oil* *1 T. white wine vinegar, or more to taste* *Kosher salt and red pepper flakes, to taste* *Leaves from celery ribs,*

roughly chopped, for garnish Toss all ingredients together in medium bowl. Taste and adjust seasonings to your preference. Garnish with chopped celery leaves. Refrigerate until needed, and up to five days. Makes 2 cups. — *Denise Wade from Smitten Kitchen Every Day* *** I hope your holidays have been happy, and that you are ready to embrace 2020 ... the year of perfect vision and perception? Probably not, but my hopes are for a healthier, more peaceful and wiser year ... for myself and for our precious world. Happy New Year!

Shrub withstands our weather



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Kate Whitney

Nandina is an old-fashioned evergreen shrub that has become one of my favorite shrubs. The foliage is dark green, but can turn orange, red, or maroon in the fall with bright red berries in the winter. Also known as Heavenly Bamboo for its slender stems and spreading growth pattern, Nandina domestica is drought tolerant and cold hardy. Nandina is also great because it can grow in sun, part shade and shade.

Nandina requires very little care, but it does benefit from annual pruning to control its size. Nandina grows by sending up shoots from the base. They can grow quickly in the summer, some varieties reaching 6 to 8 feet tall. January and February are the best months to prune nandina. Nandina does not respond well to a hedge trimmer or pruning from the top. Too many years of being cut off at the top will make nandina look thin and leggy. Start by choosing the tallest shoots and cutting them with pruning shears or loppers about 1 inch from the ground. Continue to remove the tallest shoots out until you reach the height you want. The plant will send up new shoots from the base to make the nandina look full. Dwarf varieties of nandina have gained popularity in recent years for their compact size and brightly colored foliage. These are hybrid varieties that are not invasive to Central Texas. Blush Pink, Flirt, Lemon Lime and Obsession are



Nandina is an old-fashioned shrub with colorful fall leaves that is drought tolerant, cold hardy and requires very little care.

all beautiful varieties with bright color and a more compact form. Because of their smaller size, these varieties need little to no pruning each year. If you need a low-maintenance shrub that will add great color and shape to your landscape, try out a variety of nandina.

For more information about shrubs or landscaping, contact Kate Whitney, Williamson County Extension Horticulturist, at 512-943-3300.

LEVEL DIFFICULTY
1 2 3 4

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LEVEL DIFFICULTY
1 2 3 4

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6					1	8	7				

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.
Solutions found on Page 2B.

Charles E. Lance
Elder Law Attorney

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Veterans Benefits

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LanceElderLaw.com

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven....From the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him.”
— *Colossians 1:3-5a, 9-10 (ESV)*

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9:30 AM Traditional Worship
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11:00 AM Contemporary Worship
5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
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Saving Grace Christian Bible Fellowship, 411 College; 512-869-4111
SS Cyril & Methodius Catholic, 100 N Brazos; Granger; 512-859-2223
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 610 Martin Luther King; 512-863-3716
St. John's United Methodist Church, 311 E. University; 512-863-5886
Strickland Grove Church of Christ, 261 CR 234; 512-819-9457
Terranova, 5060 E State Highway 29, Georgetown; 512-763-1225.
T'Shuva Israel, 512-818-0233
Victory Tabernacle, 1192 N Patterson; Florence 254-307-7937
Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church, 504 4th St; 512-931-2305
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Berea Goshen Church Fairfield Inn North; 12536 North I-35 Austin; 512-864-5145
Calvary's Hill Baptist Church, 1802 Bridge St; 512-863-5767
Celebration Church, 1202 Rabbit Hill Rd; 512-763-3000
Chisholm Trail Cowboy Church, 1500 CR 120, Weir; 512-630-8283
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 218 Serenada Dr; 512-863-7173
Church of Christ, Florence, 101 E Tomlinson St; 210-870-4735
Church On The Rock, Georgetown 925 Golden Oaks Dr; 512-864-7173
Community Christian Church, 4255 Sam Bass Rd; 512-244-0310
Cornerstone Church, 224 E 8th St, Georgetown; 512-635-3002
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Faith Community Church Georgetown, 412 East 19th St; 512-966-7002
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Round Rock Christian Church, 22 Chalice Way; 512-244-3260
San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1322 E. University Ave; 512-688-5069
Saving Grace Christian Bible Fellowship, 411 College; 512-869-4111
SS Cyril & Methodius Catholic, 100 N Brazos; Granger; 512-859-2223
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 610 Martin Luther King; 512-863-3716
St. John's United Methodist Church, 311 E. University; 512-863-5886
Strickland Grove Church of Christ, 261 CR 234; 512-819-9457
Terranova, 5060 E State Highway 29, Georgetown; 512-763-1225.
T'Shuva Israel, 512-818-0233
Victory Tabernacle, 1192 N Patterson; Florence 254-307-7937
Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church, 504 4th St; 512-931-2305
The Worship Place, 811 Sun City Blvd or 375 CR 245; TWPTx.org

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Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Round Rock ISD will be accepting sealed bids for: CMAR Caraway Elementary School Expansion & Renovations Bid# 20-061 Opens 2:00 pm January 23, 2020 Solicitation will be opened at, and documents may be obtained from the RRISD Purchasing Dept, 16255 Great Oaks Dr Ste 200, Round Rock, TX 78681, (512) 464-6950 or at www.roundrockisd.org. Vendors are encouraged to register in the District's eROC Electronic Procurement Program online at https://purchasing.roundrockisd.org/vendors/vendor-registration/ for future bid opportunities.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Round Rock ISD will be accepting sealed bids for: Plumbing Service & Repair Bid# 20-080 Opens 2:00 pm January 16, 2020 Solicitation will be opened at, and documents may be obtained from the RRISD Purchasing Dept, 16255 Great Oaks Dr Ste 200, Round Rock, TX 78681, (512) 464-6950 or at www.roundrockisd.org. Vendors are encouraged to register in the District's eROC Electronic Procurement Program online at https://purchasing.roundrockisd.org/vendors/vendor-registration/ for future bid opportunities.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joanne Balas-Averitt, Deceased, were issued on December 11th, 2019, in Cause No. 19-0973-CP4, pending in the County Court of Williamson County, Texas, to: Robert Foster Averitt. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the following attorney within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Jennifer M. Dean Attorney at Law 222 Sidney Baker South, Suite 350-D Kerrville, Texas 78028 State Bar No.: 00790573 Telephone: (830) 257-9022 Facsimile: (830) 257-3588 E-mail: jenalouis@aol.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert John Haapanen (a/k/a Robert John Haapanen, Sr. and Bob Haapanen), Deceased, were issued on December 20, 2019 in Cause No. 19-1057-CP4 pending in the County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas, to: Lillian Kay Gleason as Independent Executor.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o May Yia Yang Probus Law Firm, PLLC 1701 Directors Blvd, Ste 290 Austin, TX 78744 DATED December 20, 2019 /s/ May Yia Yang (SBN: 24058190) 1701 Directors Blvd, Ste 290 Austin, TX 78744 Tel: (512) 480-9504 Fax: (512) 895-9890 Attorney for Lillian Kay Gleason

NOTICE OF UNITED STATES MARSHALS SALE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CIVIL ACTION NO. A-18-CV-491-LY

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2002, that by virtue of a Final Judgment for Judicial Foreclosure issued out of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, on the 11th day of June, 2019, in favor of Defendants Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. and U.S. Bank, N.A., successor trustee to LaSalle Bank National Association, on behalf of the holders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2007-HE3, Asset-Backed Certificates Series 207-HE3 (improperly named as US Bancorp), I have, on this 6th day of December, 2019 levied upon the following described real estate located at 2045 Ranch Lane, Round Rock, Texas 78664, situated in the County of Williamson and the State of Texas, more particularly described as: LOT 34, BLOCK D, THE ENCLAVE OF TOWNE CENTRE PHASE 1, A SUBDIVISION IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN CABINET 2, SLIDE 30, PLAT RECORDS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS. I will, accordingly, offer said real estate for sale, at public auction to the highest and best bidder, for certified check or cashier's check, on Tuesday, the 7th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 405 Martin Luther King Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626-4901 subject to the following terms and conditions: NO WARRANTIES BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. Real Property to be sold "AS IS" with no guarantees or warranties, express or implied, as to value, zoning, encumbrances, or conditions of the property. The buyer of the property shall

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pay the entire purchase price of a successful bid in full by close of business on the day of the sale. The U.S. Marshals Service will accept only cashier's or certified checks made payable to U.S. Marshals Service for these payments. The buyer is responsible for any and all fees associated with the sale, including but not limited to document recording fees, unpaid outstanding taxes, penalties and assessments. The United States Marshal reserves the right to reject any offer and to postpone the sale at any time. Confirmation of sale by Court Order and payment in full of all U.S. Marshals Service fees, expenses and commissions will be required before U.S. Marshal's (quitclaim) Deed is issued. Should the winner bidder fail to provide the remaining balance of the winning bid (as detailed above) by close of business on the day of the sale, that winning bidder will forfeit their deposit and The U.S. Marshals Service will award the sale to the next highest bidder. As per court order the creditor involved in this federal case (Defendants) have the right to credit bid during the auction should they chose to do so. Interested individuals should contact Defendants' counsel: Dominique Varner, Hughes, Watters & Askanase, LLP, 1201 Louisiana, 28th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, phone 713-328-2818, for more information. Dated this 04 day of December 2019. SUSAN L. PAMERLEAU United States Marshal Western District of Texas By: /s/B. L. Jil Supervisory Deputy United States Marshal

Buildlog Recovery, LLC (License 0648296V5F) 512-733-6600 has the following vehicle impounded at 1101 S Industrial Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78681. This vehicle was abandoned in LEANDER, Texas. 2007 DODGE CALIBER, VIN#1B3HB48B07D513781 Charges \$ 373.25 plus \$20 per day storage beginning on DECEMBER 9TH, 2019. Vehicles must be claimed, and charges paid by the registered owner by FEBRUARY 2ND, 2020 or the vehicle will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Failure of the owner or lienholder to claim the vehicle before the date of sale is a waiver of all right, title, and interest in the vehicle and said owner or lienholder consents the sale of the vehicle at a public sale. Lien holder further appoints Buildlog Recovery, LLC as agent to execute said release and any and all documents as may be required to dispose of the vehicle.

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Janome Memory Craft 11000 sewing/embroidery machine hoops and accessories \$1,100.0. Viking 940 \$400. 575-437-8240.

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Oreck canister vacuum. Price at \$50.00. Excellent condition 714-376-9752. Owner lives in Georgetown.

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Grande Storage - 130 near I-35. Parking for semi trucks, RVs, and boats. 8'x20' non-climatized storage available. Reserve at www.Grande-Storage.com

Admiral Storage 6608 Jim Hogg Drive. Self-storage, covered or open RV and boat storage. Closest to Lake Georgetown. 512-508-0492 for lowest rates in Georgetown.

Antiques

Antique radios repair & sales, models displayed at www.vadaxradio.com, 512-221-1335.

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Heavy Duty Newspaper Vending Machines For Sale. Newspaper machines/racks are slightly used and in good condition. \$50/each. Call Dawn 512-930-4824.

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