



PEOPLE OF THE YEAR



Andy Sharp

Doug Smith, a *Williamson County Sun* Person of the Year, poses for a photo at Georgetown's Palace Theatre. He offered \$1 million for the development of a new children's theater.

Former councilman donates to Palace

By JOYCE MAY

Doug Smith's contributions to Georgetown extend far beyond the generous \$1 million gift he gave to the Palace Theatre this year.

He and his late wife, Sue Smith, who died in November 2012, immediately began laying the foundation for their lasting legacy when they arrived here nearly two decades ago.

The couple had been in town less than a month when they heard about The Caring Place, then about a decade old, and its outreach to families in need.

"We found out about it and went down and asked to volunteer," Mr. Smith, 79, said.

As time passed and a need presented itself, Mr. and Ms. Smith, who were married for 55 years, rolled up their sleeves and joined the effort.

Of all the good causes Mr. Smith has helped along the way — and there are many — none hold sway over his heart like the Palace Theatre, which he and a group of like-minded individuals saved from certain financial ruin at the turn of the century.

Once the nonprofit was on sure footing, its leaders began looking to the future where they could see a robust children's program helping young people build confidence and leadership skills.

The program grew by leaps and bounds until it was clear it needed a home of its own. The only question was how to make that happen.

Earlier this year, Sam and Rebecca Pfister, longtime supporters of the Palace, donated a 10,000-square-foot tract of land at the corner of Second and Rock streets, across from El Monumento, on which to build a children's education center and black box theatre, and the Palace board set about fundraising.

In stepped Mr. Smith, who was on the committee to select an architect, with what initially was an anonymous donation and an "Envision Campaign" challenge: he would match dollar for dollar all donations up to \$1 million.

"It had been in the Palace's long-term plan for several years to enhance the children's program and have a

Continued on 2A



Andy Sharp

Jack Garey, one of the *Sun's* People of the Year, stands on his 525-acre spread, which he donated to Georgetown to be used as a public park. Construction on Garey Park could begin next year.

Millionaire kick-starts huge park's creation

By MICHAEL FREEMAN

Jack Garey and his late wife Camille loved visiting their 525-acre piece of land west of Georgetown on the South San Gabriel River. The couple owned it for more than four decades, running cattle, goats and sheep on its Hill Country pastures. They later lived there in a 6,500-square-foot Tuscan-style home, set by a pond stocked with catfish and bass.

"We thought it was such a beautiful property we wanted others to enjoy it," Mr. Garey said.

In 2004, they donated the land to Georgetown as a life estate gift worth \$21 million — the largest gift Georgetown had ever received — to convert it into a public park. Camille died in 2012, but Mr. Garey, now 85, wanted to see the park developed before he passed away.

"I hope to live long enough to see people using it," he said. "Hopefully, they'll move it along. I want to see this park."

Earlier this year, he pledged to give the city an extra \$5 million to speed up the project; he will move out of his

home next year so renovations can begin. Coupled with a \$10 million bond voters approved in 2008 and another \$5 million in his will, a total of \$20 million is earmarked for Garey Park. Construction could begin as early as fall 2016, and the park could be open a year later.

Superb park a'building

In honor of his efforts to expedite the park's development, the *Williamson County Sun* has selected Mr. Garey as one of our People of the Year in 2015.

"Garey Park will provide the residents of Georgetown unique and different park experiences with the equestrian and camping components," said Kimberly Garrett, Georgetown parks and recreation director.

"Future generations will treasure this park and open space and it will be a true asset for Georgetown as San Gabriel Park is today."

The park will be one of the largest city-owned parks in the state and will feature a horseback-riding center with a covered arena. In addition, there will

Continued on 2A

Christmas made merry thanks to volunteers

The kindness of more than 300 volunteers and three generous businesses made Christmas Day merrier for Georgetown residents facing loneliness and hunger.

Pilot's Choice Aviation, owned and operated by Beth Jenkins, partnered with The Monument Cafe, H-E-B and the Sun City organization Women Helping Others to distribute food and care packages to Meals on Wheels and certain Caring Place clients.

Roughly 30 volunteers gathered Christmas Eve in the hangar at Georgetown Municipal Airport to prepare the packages filled with breads, fresh fruit, cookies, treats, toiletry items and special gifts.

On Christmas Day, volunteers made 112 stops to deliver 417 Christmas dinners provided by The Monument Cafe as well as the goody bags.

H-E-B donated the bread while volunteers provided fresh fruit and other items. The ladies of WHO, led by Nina Stancil, baked cookies, knitted caps and lap warmers and purchased gifts for Meals on Wheels clients. They have collected soaps, shampoos and conditioners

throughout the year.

"We try to give some special gifts to everybody. The children for sure got gifts," Ms. Jenkins said.

"If they requested something special, we tried very hard to get it in their package."

About half of the recipients are seniors who rely on the Meals on Wheels program for a hot meal five days a week. The program does not deliver on Christmas Day.

"They would not have had any hot meals delivered to them so that was good for those who couldn't get out," said Ms. Jenkins, who oversees the distribution.

Ms. Jenkins first got involved with the project in 2000, a year after she had spent Christmas along the border, helping her aunt and uncle distribute food and presents to 2,500 Mexican children in Progreso, Mexico. The experience was an "eye-opener" for her and the next year she decided to volunteer closer to home, she said.

Pilot's Choice Aviation operates at 209 Corsair Drive near the Georgetown Municipal Airport.

- Joyce May



Christmas 'selfie'

Christian Garcia, 17, spends time with his mother, Nita Garcia, as they pose for a portrait together on a warm Christmas afternoon Friday at San Gabriel Park. The Georgetown residents were joined on their holiday outing by dad, Joe Garcia, and Christian's brother, Josh, 11.

Andy Sharp

Brotherly argument gets out of hand at hotel

Police were called to the La Quinta Inn on Interstate 35 after a man crashed through a room window during a fight early Saturday morning.

Lucio Lopez, Jr., 31, of Donna, is charged with aggravated assault causing serious injury, a second-degree felony. He faces between two and 20 years behind bars.

Georgetown police officers were called to the hotel by a patron stay-

ing in the room next to Mr. Lopez and others. The patron reported a fight outside his room and told police a man broke through the room's window, police said in a report filed Monday.

While officers raced to the hotel, several people left La Quinta in a black Chevrolet Suburban. When they arrived, officers found dozens of empty Budweiser cans, along with a wallet that had Mr. Lopez's state ID card in it.

Another officer found the Suburban and the suspects shortly after they left the hotel. One of the occupants — Mr. Lopez's 29-year-old brother — had severe lacerations on his body, so severe that officers escorted the group to St. David's Georgetown Hospital, the report said.

While the injured man was being admitted to the emergency

Continued on 3A





Jack Garey stands with his dogs, whose names are Duchess, Brady and Bella. He has two other dogs. Below, Mr. Garey.

Garey pushes for work on park

Continued from 1A

be an amphitheater, camping sites, hiking trails, a playground and a dog park. The Tuscan-style house will be repurposed for meetings, weddings and social events. Jack and his wife Doris are building a home, which should be finished in April, in the adjacent Escalera Ranch subdivision on Ranch-to-Market 2243, better known as Leander Road. Neighborhoods and the San Gabriel River will surround the original 525 Garey acres, but the land won't have any homes built on it.

Dogs, horses and law

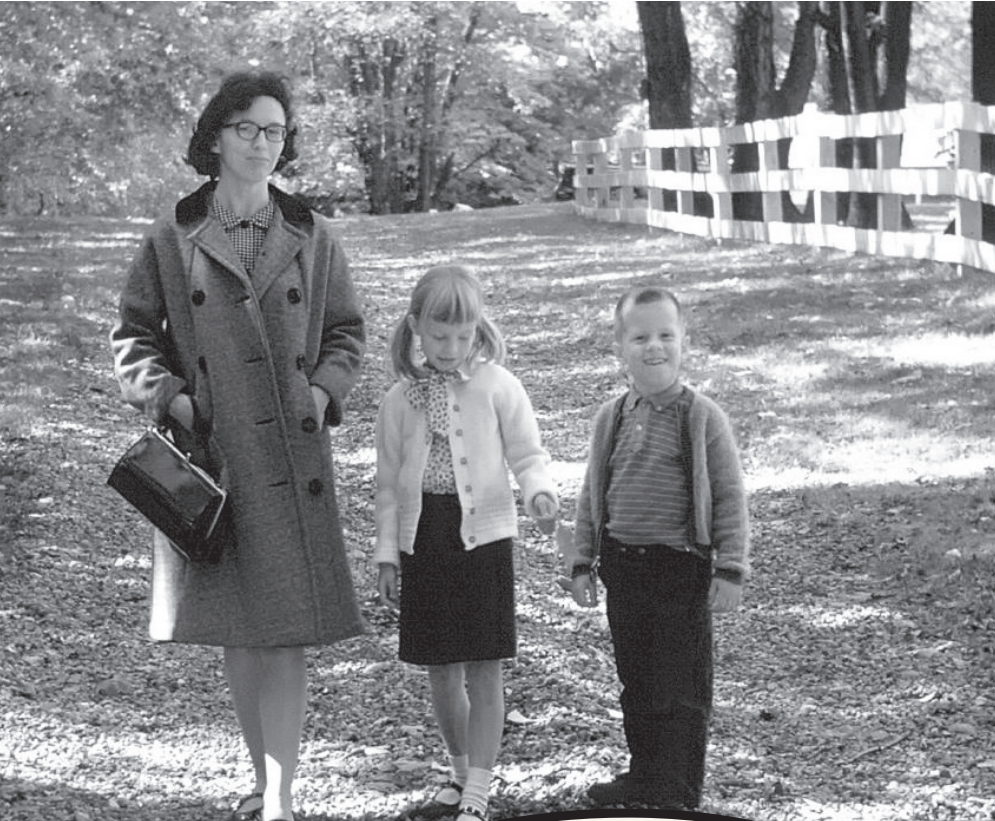
Mr. Garey hopes to use the park's features soon and run with his five dogs, three English pointers and two Labrador retrievers. Mr. Garey is also looking forward to seeing the equestrian center built. Ranching and horses were always a big part of his life; he got his first horse when he was six years old. He invested in racehorses, one of which, a



thoroughbred mare named Heritage of Gold, earned \$2.4 million in winnings in races around the country. Mr. Garey was born in Brady in 1930. After graduating high school, he served in the Navy from 1947 to 1949. Afterward, he went to the University of Texas and studied law. He practiced law in Austin for more than 20 years, owning a personal injury and worker's compen-

sation firm. He founded the Garey Construction Company and specialized in road and highway construction. He served on the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission for six years, Southwestern University's board of trustees and Lone Star Circle of Care's executive committee for nine years.

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Smith helps theatre's efforts

Continued from 1A

black box theater," Mr. Smith said. "It probably would have happened eventually, but probably 10 years from now. I wanted to do it before I die. I wanted to have it before I die. I want to live to see it." It is for this significant contribution and all the many ways the former city councilman has helped Georgetown over the years that the Sun names Mr. Smith as one of its most influential People of the Year in 2015.

An all-star

A native Floridian, Mr. Smith studied chemical engineering at the University of Florida and then spent his entire career with Shell Oil, which brought him to Houston.

He and his wife moved to Georgetown in 1996 after their retirement.

"We just loved the look of the Square and the community. It was a place we wanted to live. It looked like a real hometown," he said. Palace Artistic Director Mary Ellen Butler, one of our 2014 People of the Year, honored in part for her role in bringing life back to the Palace and in turn helping to revive the Square, was quick to point out it was a team effort. One might say Mr. Smith is an all-star on that team.

He served four years as Palace board president starting in 2003 when the community theatre was in dire straits. "The first thing we did was re-negotiate the bank loan. The second thing we did was hire Mary Ellen. The third thing we did was start the children's program," Mr. Smith said.

"We did those things right off the bat." The turning point for the Palace, Mr. Smith thinks, is when it purchased and renovated the Tin Barn in 2006, which gave the theatre a rehearsal stage, a set workshop, dressing rooms and costume storage space.

"To me, that is when I knew it was really going to be a going thing," Mr. Smith said. Lasting legacy Marissa Austin, the Palace's executive director, alone knew the identity of the million-dollar donor. Mr. Smith worked diligently alongside his fellow board members to raise the matching funds by an October 1



Doug Smith stands on stage in the Palace Theatre. He offered \$1 million to help build a children's theater.

deadline without ever letting on he was the benefactor. "Not even our board president knew it," Ms. Butler said. "He is absolutely dedicated to building something in Georgetown that will help the community for years to come. He is leaving an opportunity for cultural and individual growth that will be there for decades."

Thanks to his donation, the "Envision Campaign" has reached more than \$1.9 million. The goal is \$2.5 million.

City council service

Mr. Smith served six years as a city councilman and made an unsuccessful bid for mayor in 2008. During his tenure, the council guided Georgetown through three things he believes the community can be proud of: the recreation center expansion, a major overhaul of the community center in San Gabriel Park and the building of the new public library, one of the crown jewels of the city and a place Mr. Smith, an avid reader of biographies, finds himself often.

"Those three things really made a difference here in Georgetown. The community embraced all three," he said. "That is what is wonderful about this community. It took a bond issue, of course. But you don't find many communities of this size that have a

library as good as this one." 'A fine man'

Dr. Doug and Nell Benold, themselves prominent Georgetown philanthropists, met Doug and Sue Smith when they joined First United Methodist Church, where Mr. Smith remains an active member.

"They were a great couple," Dr. Benold said.

Ms. Benold served with Mr. Smith on the Palace Theatre board. Dr. Benold worked with both Mr. and Ms. Smith in forming Georgetown Community Clinic, which evolved into Lone Star Circle of Care, a clinic system that now serves as a safety net for thousands of low-income patients across Central Texas.

"She was a former nurse and worked with me in the clinic with no pay," Dr. Benold said.

Dr. Benold pointed to Mr. Smith's long history of community involvement, which also includes supporting Southwestern University, for his deserved recognition.

"I cannot say enough good things about him. He is certainly a good friend and I think a fine man," Dr. Benold said.

"They just pitched right in and became part of the community immediately."

Mrs. Benold added, "They are a great asset to the whole community."

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Mr. Smith sits in Georgetown's Palace Theatre.

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Deputy slapped at hospital

Early Christmas morning, an apparently intoxicated man attempted a pair of unlikely alleged assaults against a Williamson County sheriff's deputy.

WilCo EMS brought Robert Clark Jones, 32, of Cedar Park, to St. David's Round Rock Medical Center at 1:47 a.m. Christmas day. The deputy, who was working an extra job as security for the hospital, was told by hospital staff that Mr. Jones appeared to be drunk and had made homicidal statements, a police report filed Monday stated.

While watching the security feed from Mr. Jones' room, the deputy noticed Dr. Erik Strelnieks backing quickly away from Mr. Jones. The deputy went to the room and told Mr. Jones to calm down and lie down in bed.

At that point, Mr. Jones allegedly slapped the deputy across the face, police said.

The deputy pushed Mr. Jones onto the bed and began to walk away after Mr. Jones stopped trying to get up. As the deputy walked away, Mr. Jones allegedly urinated on the bed as he attempted to hit the deputy with his urine, police said.

Medical staff gave Mr. Jones medication to sedate him.

Mr. Jones is charged with assaulting a public servant, a third-degree felony punishable by between two and 10 years in prison. As of Tuesday, he remained in jail on a \$10,000 bond.

BLOTTER

Police recover stolen truck

A Georgetown police officer spotted a stolen truck on Williams Drive Saturday. The officer ran the white Ford F-150's license plate and found it was reported stolen by the Temple Police Department. Dispatch also confirmed the truck was stolen, police reported Monday. The officer stopped the truck in the parking lot at 610 North Austin Avenue.

Roberto Vega, 21, of Temple, was driving the truck along with a 16-year-old teenager, police said.

Mr. Vega was arrested and is being charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, a state jail felony. If convicted, he faces between six months and two years in jail. As of Tuesday, he remained in jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Man arrested on stalking, burglary charges

A San Antonio man allegedly created fake Facebook profiles and pretended to be a woman online to learn who his ex-girlfriend was dating and where she lived.

Miguel Angel Saldana was arrested Sunday by Georgetown police. He is charged with stalking, a third-degree felony, and burglary of a habitation, a second-degree felony.

On December 11, Mr. Saldana allegedly called his ex-girlfriend, demanding to meet at her home in Georgetown. She told him she was working and no one was home, police reported Monday.

At around 6 p.m. Mr. Saldana allegedly showed up at his ex's workplace, screaming that he knew she was married and had the pictures to prove it.

The victim told police her marriage had been a secret and the only way he could know was if he found the pictures hidden in her house, police said. She asked a family member to check on her house. The family member found it in "complete disarray;" it appeared someone had gone through the victim's things, police said.

The victim discovered the photos of her wedding were missing, along with documents relating to the custody of her child and her cell phone.

Police officers stopped Mr. Saldana December 12 as he attempted to follow his ex-girlfriend from work. During a search of his car, officers found the photos of his ex's wedding, custody documents and the missing cell phone, police said.

Mr. Saldana faces between two and 10 years in prison for stalking and between two and 20 years on the burglary charge. On Tuesday, he remained in jail with bail set at \$40,000.

— Mathew Wallace



Courtesy photo

EMS hands out awards

Williamson County Emergency Medical Services celebrated its 40th anniversary year with an award ceremony December 2. Field Training Officer Billy van de Plas, above, received the Paramedic of the Year award. The department also awarded 47 awards for 19 cardiac arrest saves. The honor is bestowed upon each paramedic who was involved in the care of a patient who had a cardiac arrest, had a return of pulse and was discharged from the hospital neurologically intact. Six awards were given to each paramedic who was involved in the field delivery of a baby.

Ring in the New Year safely

Health and safety officials caution revelers who are including fireworks in their New Year's celebrations.

The legal sale of fireworks began December 20 and continues through midnight January 1, but partygoers are reminded that fireworks are banned in Georgetown and within 5,000 feet outside its city limits. Violating the ordinance can lead to fines up to \$2,000.

There is not a fireworks ban in place for the county's unincorporated areas.

Because they can be dangerous and cause serious burns and eye injuries when used improperly, the Williamson County Office of Emergency Management suggests leaving the lighting of fireworks to trained pyrotechnicians.

The nearest public display is at Austin's New Year's Eve celebration on Auditorium Shores set for 10 p.m. Thursday.

Safety officials advise those viewing public displays to remain at least 500 feet away from the launch site.

Those discharging fireworks themselves should ensure there is a water source or fire extinguisher nearby. They should also read and follow directions and stand at least six feet away from each other when holding sparklers.

For young children, the most common fireworks-related injury involves sparklers, which can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees.

That is hot enough to melt some metals.

Other safety tips the office recommends:

- Do not heavily drink alcohol when handling fireworks.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks are intended for professional displays.

- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting them.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.

- In order to prevent a trash fire, douse spent fireworks with plenty of water before discarding it.

The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter sees an increase in lost dogs following the holidays and offers pet owners the following tips for their animals, which may become panicked by the sound of fireworks:

- Exercise pets during the day. If you exercise your pet

vigorously before the party begins, then pets may tend to sleep through the festivities.

- Keep pets indoors. Don't give them an opportunity to run away by leaving them outside. Make them feel safe by keeping them in a familiar, warm and cozy area and try playing soothing music, so the sound of fireworks is not as loud.
- If your pet is extremely anxious at the sound of fireworks, ask your veterinarian to prescribe a medication that will mildly sedate your dog or cat.
- Keep pets leashed or confined if outdoors.

In addition to areas within city limits, neighborhoods within 5,000 feet of the city limits that are also under the fireworks prohibition include:

- Cedar Hollow
- Crystal Knoll
- Escalera
- Fountainwood
- Indian Creek
- Logan Ranch Road
- Lost Rivers
- Oak Crest
- Olde Oak Estates
- Serenada
- Shady Oaks
- Turtle Bend
- Woodland Park
- Areas along D.B. Wood Road.

To report the unauthorized use of fireworks within the city limits, call Georgetown police at 512-930-3510.

— Joyce May

Rare moon

A Christmas full moon has a commanding presence as seen through the Christmas lights display at Heritage Square Park in Taylor. The next full moon on Christmas won't happen again until 2034.

Andy Sharp



Fight at hotel ends with one seriously hurt

Continued from 1A

room, officers began to question Mr. Lopez, who initially gave officers someone else's name and birth date. He later admitted giving the wrong name after police showed him they had his wallet and ID, police said.

The victim's girlfriend told police the two men were intoxicated and began arguing. During the argument, she said, Mr. Lopez allegedly pushed his brother through the window. Mr. Lopez's girlfriend told police the two men were arguing outside the room but that she didn't see anything. Police would later learn that Mr. Lopez allegedly assaulted his girlfriend earlier in the day.

As of Tuesday, Mr. Lopez remained in jail on a \$22,500 bond.

— Mathew Wallace

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Endings for the year 2015

Last paper of 2015. Gosh, what happened to the time? Not so long ago, we worried that Red China would have rockets strong enough to cross the Pacific by 1975. Only a few years away, it was, and a fearful thought. Reds on the right and left. But instead of rockets, the God-less Reds pummeled us with shipping containers, and each year, cheap Christmas lights, so cheap that we buy new ones rather than fix the old ones. So the time does go by without a fuss, and isn't it curious that we find ourselves in a world so different from the one we imagined. For one thing, would you have imagined this summer that we would see red poppies coming up so fast, so early? Tuesday morning in a vacant lot on Walnut Street they are thick, dew sprinkled and full of promise.

Time for Resolutions, 2016. Have you made yours? No? Then let's get crackin'. For myself, I resolve to be less selfish this year. In years past I've made resolutions only for myself. This year I will put those selfish thoughts aside and work to improve other people. My wife for instance. I will help her learn to open the screen door with her toe and bring in a double armload of groceries by herself. I'll take the time to show her how to select just the right pieces of firewood and how to build the fire each evening. And how to pick up a dog-mangled, dead squirrel in the back yard. She is pretty good on laundry, but she still needs work on folding exactly, precisely, underwear and socks and putting them in their exact places, exactly. She has made good progress, but she still doesn't use a ruler to get the tops even. So I'll work on that. Then the dogs. I'll work on making them stop



Winds Aloft
Clark Thurmond

barking when they're outside. That barking makes it very hard for me to improve the neighbors' dogs, who also bark. For myself this year, I will try not to be too smug about being so unselfish. Christmas Eve, at the invitation of Laurie Benold, who sings in the choir, we walked over to Grace Episcopal Church for the late service. Stopped in awe, or confusion, on the sidewalk in front of Sherwin Kahn's house on University Avenue and watched through the front window as Santa moved around a Victorian living room, checking his list, placing gifts, hiding behind the curtain when someone passed through. It took us a while to realize that this was not Sherwin in a Santa suit, but some sort of projection. We imagined children in passing cars, urging their parents to get home fast, Santa's already in Georgetown! At the church we were moved by a lovely and soul-easing service, filled with joy and beauty. We are not particularly good at church visiting, though. There's an awkwardness from not knowing how others worship, or how to join without distracting them with your missteps, minor as they are. Linda and I grew up in the Methodist Church, so the Episcopalian service, especially the Christmas service, was for us a different experience. Laurie had warned us, "There will be incense." On the way out, Doug Benold, Laurie's dad and another long-time Methodist, leaned over and said, "These Episcopalians sure know how to go to church!" Walking home at a quarter to one, we found Santa still at work at Sherwin's place. Sherwin must have been very, very good this year.

Other Views

Mother Teresa embodied humanity

This time of year, when the urge to do more and give more reaches a frenzy, Mother Teresa provides an interesting counterbalance and a wonderful recommendation about the best gift of all. The Vatican announcement late last week that she will likely be canonized into sainthood in September was a timely reminder of the real power inherent in every human being. For those who were directly touched by Mother Teresa as she worked in the poorest regions of Calcutta, there is no reason to make it official. She was already a saint. What's more, the title somehow diminishes her remarkable accomplishments. She worked her "miracles" with the help of a woman's grit and determination. She may have been divinely inspired, but her achievements were powered by old-fashioned elbow grease. What she said in her 1979 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech puts to rest the idea that the best of human accomplishments are out of reach for the average person in the work-a-day world. "We have a home for the dying in Calcutta," she said, "where we have picked up more than 36,000 people only from the streets of Calcutta, and out of that big number more than 18,000 have died a beautiful death. They have just gone home to God; and they came to our house and we talked of love, of compassion, and then one of them asked me: Say, Mother, please tell us something that we will remember, and I said to them: Smile at each other, make time for each

other in your family. Smile at each other." She was a woman of faith. Motivated and animated by her belief in God. But she was also a woman whose personal doubts were expressed in letters to confidants in which she lamented the fact that she did not feel the presence of God in her life. For the world, her actions were nothing short of divine. Yet the woman who spent her life in ministry to people whose disease-racked bodies she literally pulled from the gutters felt a deep longing for evidence of her connection with God. Mother Teresa's determination to carry on despite the doubts and fears represents the mystery of the human spirit. The best of the human spirit. Mother Teresa doesn't need sainthood. She earned her place of honor as one of the most remarkable and self-sacrificing human beings in historic memory. But the process of making her a saint provides another chance to look at her life and see the power of one person to change the world. Her example is not just something for Catholics who watch the carefully prescribed process by which a mere mortal is declared a saint. Mother Teresa has something to teach everyone. Perhaps most remarkable of all is her advice from that long-ago ceremony on Oslo: Smile at each other. Take the time. Smile at each other.

— Arizona Republic, December 23, 2015

Celebrate the New Year

By GARY MILLER



Letters

A special thank you from Bartlett

As we observe this season of Advent between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are thankful for the continued success of our annual Advent Fair. We are particularly grateful for everyone who attended and supported this year's event, thanks to the support your publication provided. We were delighted to welcome first-time attendees who had read about St. John's Advent Fair in the *Williamson County Sun*, decided to check it out, and told us they couldn't wait to return for next year's Advent affair. Thank you again for the role your publication played in this success. We also would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who attended and supported our 26th annual Advent Fair. We would love to cook dinner for you again at next year's Advent Fair. Information will be provided

ed the month before next year's event, always held the second Saturday in November. And, please, plan to bring your friends! **NELWYN PERSKY**
St. John Lutheran Church
Bartlett

About Letters

We welcome letters and so do our readers. Letters may be edited for length (250 words is ideal), clarity and to meet *Sun* style and fairness standards. Letters must include name, full street address and a telephone number where we can reach you during the day. To avoid confusion between people with similar names, we run street names but not complete addresses. Email to: letters@wilcosun.com

What is problem with Christmas?

It seems like people are afraid to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas because of the trend to not say "Merry Christmas." True, there are many of us who refuse to say "Happy Holidays," but it seems the "politically correct" people are pushing the issue. What is more concerning to me is that those same people have no problem with having a national, state and in our case a county lighting of a Menorah to celebrate Hanukkah. Please make sure you note that I support this 100 percent. I am simply trying to understand why people do not want a nativity scene on public property. Instead, we have the lighting of a Christmas tree, Rudolph, Frosty and others to begin the Christmas season. So it boils down to me that it isn't a problem with religion that the politically correct people have, it's with Christianity. **LOWELL G. GRAY**
Clear Spring Road

Regime change: will we ever learn?

The ancient Greeks warned, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Those words are as true today as they were 2,000 years ago. In an effort to spread democracy throughout the world, we have mistakenly deposed dictators, only to find the resultant political vacuum breeds even worst results. First it was the Shah of Iran; now we have a nuclear-armed Mullah and government-financed terrorists. Then it was Saddam Hussein in Iraq and his non-existent weapons of mass destruction, who no longer provides a military buffer to Iran. Then it was Muammar Gaddafi in Libya and the Benghazi attack, now a safe haven for terrorists. Currently it is Bashar al-Assad in Syria, lining up with the Russians, with the result that millions of refugees are fleeing their homeland and providing a convenient cover for terrorists. By creating this house of cards in the Middle East, we have emboldened Islamic terrorists to launch attacks around the world, including our homeland. When will we ever learn? **JERRY STEPHENS**
Penny Lane

A different picture on concealed carry

Mr. Craig Carver's letter of December 23 "clarifying campus carry" painted a rosy picture of how law-abiding concealed carry permit holders are. While that may be generally true, the evidence is that some of them are downright wacky. In the last paragraph of his letter Mr. Carver states, "not one has misused the law and shot someone outside the law." I don't know his source, if there be one, but I suggest that your readers discover the data at www.concealedcarrykillers.org. Just since 2007, they document over 500 deaths nationally at the hands of permit holders, unrelated to self defense. The victims include law enforcement officers. I do not feel safer if more people carry firearms around, concealed or open. **RANDALL D. CRAIG**
South Main Street

Road study problem: invisible night paths

The temporary closing of Majestic Oaks Lane from Williams Drive to Sun City was implemented to study the increase of traffic and to address the impact and concerns of Majestic Oaks residents. To achieve accurate results for the study, Majestic Oaks was closed and traffic was directed to Sun City via County Road 245. However, signage and lighting on Williams Drive and CR 245 are non-existent. There is no signage on Williams Drive indicating access to Sun City via CR 245. The safety issue for all of us who use the Rocky Hollow egress is the absence of any street lighting at Williams Drive and CR 245. Navigating that intersection at night is very dangerous and it is difficult to find, especially in the dark. There is no lighting from Williams Drive on CR 245 to Rocky Hollow. (Tire tracks in the shoulders on CR 245 reflect vehicles that lost sight of the road.) There is no street lighting at CR 245 and Rocky Hollow. Regardless of the outcome of the study, these safety issues should be resolved to ensure the safety of all who travel on Williams Drive, County Road 245 and Rocky Hollow. **MARLENE DENTON**
Coleto Creek Lane

December 2013

Ronny Tippelt, originally of Munich, Germany, plays the accordion and yodels in the new year with the rest of The Walburg Boys at the Walburg German Restaurant's annual New Year's Eve party.



Sun photo

Quotes of the week

- "There has never been a utility merger of this magnitude in the state."
— **JIM BRIGGS**, general manager of Georgetown Utility Systems, on the consolidation of the Chisholm Trail Special Utility District with the City of Georgetown
- "I like the story behind everything. There's so much that happened — I like the beauty of it."
— **SANDI HARRIS**, GHS senior; on her love for the study of history
- "This was probably one of the hardest

- things to cut at the time. It's exciting to be here tonight talking about the possibility of reinstating it."
— **KAREN DOOLEY**, superintendent of human resources for GISD, on discussions to reinstate full-day pre-kindergarten in the school district
- "His contributions, tenacity and knack for development will be missed."
— **DAVID MORGAN**, city manager, on the departure of Georgetown's economic development director; Mark Thomas

Joseph A. Phillips

Joseph A. Phillips, 79, of Sun City Georgetown, went home to be with the Lord on December 18, 2015, after a courageous two and a half year battle with pancreatic cancer. He died in his home under hospice care with his loving wife and family members at his side.

Col. Phillips was born October 16, 1936, in New Castle, Delaware, the fourth child of Frances and William Phillips. He attended Christ Our King & Salesianum (all boys) High School in Wilmington, Delaware, prior to graduating from the US Military Academy, West Point, New York, in 1959.

Col. Phillips completed graduate work at the University of Michigan, University of Northern Colorado and US War College. His military career combined electronic engineering and communications within the Signal Corp. He served overseas throughout Europe, based in Germany, then Korea, and Vietnam during the Tet Offensive. In 1969, he transferred to US Army Reserve to promote a more stable family life for his wife and two young children. He completed 27 years of total active duty and US Reserve service. His last assignments were at the Pentagon and as a deputy director prior to retiring as a Colonel, US Army.

Col. Phillips' civilian employment paralleled his military career. He served as a senior staff electrical engineer for 10 years with the US Army Strategic Communications Command and Tri Tactical Joint Test Element in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He then served as chief civilian army electronic warfare staff officer at the Pentagon and was the deputy director of the Combat Arms Support Lab at the Belvoir Research & Development Center in Virginia. He also was the manager of Advanced Systems Concepts until his retirement in 1987.

Upon retirement, Col. Phillips was adjunct faculty at Pima College for seven years in Tucson, Arizona. He participated in Evangelism Explosion Outreach Ministry, Prison Fellowship and related Christian activities in Arizona and Texas. His hobby was pursued by building a vacation home and



looking after land at the beach in Ocean View, Delaware. Prior to his illness, he served as a trustee member of the mission committee and was an active member of men's Bible study at The Worship Place, the local Interdenominational Church in Sun City where he was a loyal member for 16 years. He was a lifetime supporter of Salesian Missions and several evangelical ministries that promoted fundamental Bible beliefs. In the Book of Revelation, he discerned that 'dire' current events are being foretold, as they were in past history, as a Blessing for all to know that God is in control, so that we are to look-up and be comforted by all unfolding events that herald the return of Christ at a time of God's choosing. Praise Be To God!

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jane E. Phillips; son, Dr. Michael Phillips and wife Pamela and two grandsons, Matthew and Mark; daughter, Debra Phillips Wilkie, DM, and husband Aden Wilkie, LTC, USMC and three granddaughters, Shealyn, Kyleigh and Morgan. He is predeceased by his parents and siblings, Albert, Gloria and Marie. He also leaves behind four beloved nephews; a devoted Godson who joyfully shared God's Love; two special nieces and many dear cousins, most of whom reside in Delaware.

A Celebration of Life service for Col. Phillips will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 2, at The Worship Place in Sun City, Georgetown, Texas. Inurnment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in his memory to the charity of your choice or to The Worship Place Building Fund (811 Sun City Boulevard, Georgetown, Texas, 78633).

You may share a message or memory in the online memorial guestbook at www.Ramsey-Funeral.com.



Robert (Bob) Searcy Greer

Robert (Bob) Searcy Greer, 78, of Georgetown, died after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer at the Christopher House in Austin on Thursday, December 24.

Bob was born and raised in Dallas to Robert S. and Myrtle (Scoggins) Greer.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Harris Melton Greer; two children, Susannah Harding and Michael Greer; step-daughter, Melissa Brydson and spouses; five grandchildren; and two great grand-



children. Visitation was held Monday, December 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Cook-Walden Davis Funeral Home, Georgetown. A funeral service was held Tuesday, December 29, at 10:30 a.m. at San Gabriel Presbyterian Church, Georgetown followed by internment at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville.

To share your memories and condolences with Bob's family, please visit www.cookwalden-davis.com.

Dr. Carol Elizabeth Dodd

Dr. Carol Elizabeth Dodd, 90, of Georgetown, died Wednesday, December 16, 2015. Carol was born in Los Angeles, California, on February 25, 1925, and grew up in New York City and Upstate New York. She and her husband, Billy Ray Dodd, lived in Texas then Louisiana then back to Texas after retirement.

Carol's first degree was in fashion and she enjoyed an innate sense of style throughout her life. Carol held advanced degrees in social work from Fordham University and special education from University of Northern Colorado and was a life-long member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Her early career was with Catholic Charities facilitating adoptions and placing children into wonderful loving homes. Carol provided special education instruction, hope and nurturing for hundreds of children and adolescents at Mandeville State Hospital for many years, and it was from here that she retired her professional career after a life dedicated to helping people.

Carol was a communicator and caring listener par excellence. Those who knew and loved her will miss her universally cherished qualities of clarity, courage, boldness, intelligence, terrific sense of humor,

vast capacity for all things, her unconditional love and her beautiful constant Christian faith which was always at the ready.

Carol is survived by her sons, Greg and his wife, Katie Dodd, Vincent Dodd; daughters, Celeste Dodd, Bernadette Dodd, Angela Evans, Valerie and her husband, Malcolm Milburn; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and another due in February.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Evangeline and Charles Kent Gould; her sister, Grace Theresa Gould; her husband of 54 years, Billy Ray Dodd; and her grandson, Matthew Dodd.

Carol's life was celebrated Monday, December 21, at St. Helen's Church in Georgetown. Those wishing to make memorial contributions may do so to The Rise School of Austin, 4800 Manor Road, Austin, Texas, 78723.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." —Romans 8: 37-39

Obituaries may be e-mailed to obit@wilcosun.com through the address *The Williamson County Sun*

Dollie Mae Floyd

Funeral services for Dollie Mae Floyd, 51, of Jarrell, will be held 1 p.m. Friday, January 1, 2016, at Carlisle Cemetery in Trinity, Texas. A visitation will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, December 31, at The Gabriels Funeral Chapel in Georgetown.

Dollie passed away Tuesday, December 29, 2015, at Scott & White Hospital in Temple after a strong battle with cancer. She was born April 27, 1964, in Warren, Arkansas, the daughter of Roy and Eula Mae Worthington. Dollie married her loving husband, Joseph Floyd, in 2005 in Georgetown. She was a graduate of Centerville High School

and loved reading. She was a firm believer in Christ and was a good mother and wife who loved her family dearly.

She is preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph Floyd; one son, Justin Michael West; one daughter, Rebecca Nicole West; and two brothers.



Courtesy photo

Pilot's Choice Aviation volunteers hand out food and gift bags on Christmas. The Devil Dog is stored in the group's hangar in Georgetown.

Help feed the Devil Dog

Thursday is the deadline to donate to a matching grant campaign raising funds for needed restorations to The Devil Dog, a 71-year-old World War II B-25 bomber.

"We have a donor who for the last seven days of the year will match up to \$5,000," said Beth Jenkins, operations officer for the Commemorative Air Force's Georgetown-based Devil Dog Squadron.

"They can double their value by donating money now."

The Devil Dog Squadron has been participating in the "12 Planes of Christmas," a holiday giving campaign that encourages people to support the restoration of World War II aircraft.

People can log on to SupportCAForG to support the B-25J Mitchell, which is housed in a hangar at the Georgetown Municipal Airport, or any aircraft in the Commemorative Air Force's 165-plane collection.

Built in 1944, the B-25 could reach speeds of 274 mph and carry 4,000 pounds of bombs, which it would drop from low altitudes.

A flying memorial to the VMB-612 Ship No. 3, The Devil Dog has been housed in Georgetown for more than a decade.

The Devil Dog Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force is tasked with the plane's upkeep. Members fly it around the state for at least a dozen events each year.

—Joyce May



Sun photo

The Devil Dog.



Michael Freeman

Nice party

Kathy Sellers, Allan Barnes and Shirley Barnes Coleman enjoy the Georgetown Heritage Society's holiday home tour soiree earlier this month. See more photos on page 8B.

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BRIEFS

Pie Five Pizza coming to town

Wolf Ranch Town Center will add another restaurant in a few months as Pie Five Pizza announced they will open a Georgetown location this spring.

The company made the announcement on its website at www.piefivepizza.com.

The eatery offers handcrafted pizzas made entirely from fresh ingredients.

Pie Five Pizza will be located at 1043 West University Avenue Suite 105, north of Target and west of Carl's Jr. in the Wolf Ranch center.

Credit union provides 38 scholarships

The A+ Federal Credit Union Board of Directors announced last week it will award 38 \$2,000 scholarships to area high school seniors and college students for the 2016-17 academic year.

Students interested in applying can go to apulscfu.org/scholarships to access the online application.

Applications must be submitted by midnight Monday, February 15.

Winners will be selected for their outstanding academic achievement as well as for their community involvement.

"We're proud to provide scholarships to students within the communities we serve," said A+FCU CEO Kerry A. S. Parker.

The A+FCU Georgetown location is at 804 South Interstate 35 on the southbound frontage road between Williams Drive and University Avenue.

Planning department closed this week

Those doing business with the Georgetown planning department must wait until next week.

The department is closed Wednesday through Friday as it finishes a move to the Light and Waterworks building at the corner of Eighth and Martin Luther King streets.

The department will be open for business in its new location at 406 West Eighth Street on Monday morning.

The planning department entrance will be on the east side of the building.

Central Texas home sales drop in November

After increasing for five consecutive months, Austin-area home sales dipped four percent in November compared to the same month last year, according to a report released December 21 by the Austin Board of Realtors.

This is only the second decrease in home sales volume for 2015 to date, with the first decrease occurring in May. The report includes Georgetown home sales.

According to the report, the median price for Austin-area single-family homes increased 10 percent year-over-year to \$270,000 in November, setting a record for that month.

Also setting a record for November, the average home price increased 12 percent to \$347,292 during the same timeframe.

Tickets on sale for chamber banquet

Tickets are now on sale for the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet.

The banquet will be held 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, January 29, at the Sun City Grand Ballroom, 2 Texas Drive.

Tickets are \$50 each until January 8 and can be purchased at www.georgetownchamber.org. After January 8, tickets are \$60 each. Sponsorships are also available.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce welcomed one new member:

■ **Thirsty Mule Winery and Vineyard, Liberty Hill.**

■

A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Paint With Me Kimberly Keller, 1623 Rivery Boulevard, at 12:15 p.m. January 13. Ms. Keller is celebrating two years in business.

biz@wilcosun.com

Busy year for business in Georgetown

By MATT LOESCHMAN

The business climate in Georgetown mirrored the city's population growth this past year, with new companies opening and several landmark groundbreakings for future projects. Here is a brief review of the biggest business stories of 2015:

JANUARY

■ Ned Snead, the founder and chairman emeritus of Georgetown Rail Equipment Company, dies January 22 at the age of 85. Mr. Snead founded GREX in 1993. He was responsible for many patents including the DumpTrain and the Slot Train, which are both closely associated with the company.

■ Noted Chinese scientist Dr. Youmao Qi visits Georgetown with the intent of bringing a branch of Hangzhou Adamerck Pharmed, Inc. to the city. In China, Dr. Qi has directed research and development of more than 10 new drugs and the synthesis of almost 100 compounds.

FEBRUARY

■ The state awards Austin Community College nearly \$5 million to develop a biotechnology wet lab to address a regional shortage of research space and it is announced nearly \$800,000 of grant funding will support workforce development in Georgetown.

■ Ground is broken on the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center. The project, developed by Novak Brothers, will offer 220 rooms and a center for large gatherings such as conventions. The hotel is set to open in July 2016.

MARCH

■ The city hires parking



Courtesy photo

From left, Georgetown Mayor Dale Ross, James Chen of the Texas governor's office, Dr. Youmao Qi of Adamerck Pharmed, Inc. and Dr. Mike Douglas, executive director of the Texas Life-sciences Collaboration Center, negotiate during an April trip to China.

and engineering consultant Carl Walker, Inc. to assess the available parking in downtown and provide options for future parking needs. As the public chimes in with its opinion, the firm begins a detailed parking study and parking structure conceptual design.

APRIL

■ Eight organizations form the Williamson County Economic Development Partnership, aimed at broadening the tax base and bringing more new jobs to our area. Participating are Williamson County, Georgetown, Hutto, Jarrell, Leander, Round Rock, Taylor and Cedar Park.

■ The Delaney at Georgetown Village, a new senior living community, holds its groundbreaking with the expectation of bringing 100 new jobs to Georgetown. The facility, 359 Village Commons Drive, will feature more than 200 living units upon opening

in summer 2016.

■ Mayor Dale Ross and Dr. Mike Douglas, Texas Life-sciences Collaboration Center executive director, return from a business trip to China. The visit was aimed at bringing Chinese firms to Georgetown and further cultivating relationships initiated when Dr. Youmao Qi visited Georgetown in January.

JUNE

■ Georgetown Rail Equipment Company celebrates the official groundbreaking of its new headquarters at 111 Cooperative Way. The 15,000-plus-square-foot building is designed to accommodate the growing company as they continue to develop new technology for track inspection and material handling. The larger space will house all GREX departments under one roof.

■ Inner Visions Corporate Center has a ribbon cutting at its 60,500-square-foot office

complex at 285 Southeast Inner Loop near Snead Drive. Nearly 100 people gathered on the 8.4-acre site to see the two completed buildings that will provide flex office space for biotech companies and other firms.

JULY

■ Vice President for Development Dr. Dan Bonner retires from Wesleyan Homes. Dr. Bonner joined Wesleyan Homes in 2004 at a time when Georgetown was quickly becoming an epicenter of retirement growth. He was responsible for securing support for numerous capital projects.

■ The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce's 34th annual Bar-Bid-Cue draws 250 people to Reunion Ranch on July 24, raising more than \$30,000 for the Georgetown chamber and its programs. The annual event is the chamber's biggest fund-raiser of the year.

AUGUST

■ Impact fees for developers will rise 56 percent beginning in October after council votes to increase the upfront payments used to provide utilities and infrastructure for new development. The council votes to raise the fee from \$5,206 to \$8,136.

■ Rentsch Brewery on the Northwest Inner Loop attracts 2,000 people to its eight-hour grand opening party.

SEPTEMBER

■ Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar stops in Georgetown on his 27-city, two-month "Good For Texas" tour. The comptroller tells those in attendance that the Texas economy remains strong as the state's population continues to rapidly grow.

OCTOBER

■ TASUS Texas Corporation marks its 10th anniversary in Georgetown. TASUS Texas is a plastics injection-molder for automobiles located just west of Austin Avenue and south of Leander Road at 211 Tasus Road.

NOVEMBER

■ La Playa Mexican Restaurant becomes the first tenant in nine years to occupy the old Albertsons building near Interstate 35 and Williams Drive.

DECEMBER

■ Hillwood Communities breaks ground on the 2,500-home Wolf Ranch housing development.

■ Georgetown Economic Development Director Mark Thomas resigns after 13 years with the city to become president and CEO of the Taylor Economic Development Corporation.

GREX finishes year on high note with safety award

CEO joins national board

By MATT LOESCHMAN

It was a busy December for the Georgetown Rail Equipment Company.

First, the rail equipment company nabbed a notable safety award from the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association, then GREX President and CEO Wiggie Shell was elected to that same organization's board of directors.

For the eighth straight year, GREX was awarded a platinum safety award from the NRC. The award annually recognizes NRC contractor members with strong workplace safety programs in place.

"This speaks highly of our employees for the great job they do while performing their duties," Mr. Shell said.

GREX was one of several companies to score 100 out



Courtesy photo

of 100 points.

"This accomplishment is a result of the high standards GREX holds their field employees and staff to," the CEO added.

"The focus on safety at GREX is supported at all levels and at every position in the company."

NRC Vice President of Operations Matt Bell congratulated GREX on winning the platinum safety award for eight consecutive years.

"GREX should be commended for their extensive

efforts to promote and improve safety in the rail contracting industry and for subjecting their full safety program and range of practices to an exhaustive outside review," Mr. Bell said.

GREX, established in Georgetown in 1993, has been putting technology to use to develop solutions that solve some of the oldest track maintenance challenges in the railroad industry. The privately held company works in collaboration with customers across the globe to deliver

custom solutions designed around their specific needs.

Mr. Shell was elected to serve a three-year term on the NRC board of directors. He will begin his service next month.

"It came as a pleasant surprise. I feel honored to have been elected and look forward to working with others on the NRC board," Mr. Shell said.

The GREX leader brings nearly four decades of rail industry experience to the NRC board. He began his career in 1977 with George-

town Railroad Company where he held several positions over 21 years. Mr. Shell joined GREX in 1998 as director of mechanical safety and in 2001 was promoted to vice president of operations.

Since 2009, he has held the position of GREX president and CEO.

There was a high voter turnout this year and the board election was tightly contested, NRC officials noted.

"This was an extraordinarily strong group of candidates for the NRC board and the decisions were tough," said Chuck Baker, president of NRC, a trade association organized specifically to serve the needs of railroad contractors, suppliers and the entire railroad and rail transit construction industry.

As of January 15, the new GREX address will be 111 Cooperative Way, Suite 400. The company is occupying a new 15,000-square-foot headquarters designed to accommodate all of its departments under one roof.

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UPDATES

SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING PERMITS Filed 12/18-12/23

WHO	WHERE	SQ FT	\$ VALUE
DR Horton Inc.	440 Moulins Lane	2,651	227,986
MHI	1029 Winding Way Drive	2,511	215,946
Pulte Group	430 Davis Mountain Circle	3,718	319,748
Ashton Woods Homes	1041 Naranjo Drive	2,627	225,922
KB Home	460 Sheepshank Drive	3,653	314,158
KB Home	424 Sheepshank Drive	2,618	225,148
DR Horton Inc.	702 Pinnacle Drive	2,109	181,374
DR Horton Inc.	700 Pinnacle Drive	2,300	197,800
MHI	1013 Winding Way Drive	2,480	215,994
KB Home	1201 Half Hitch Trail	2,480	213,280
Tim Long Custom Homes	123 River Chase Boulevard	4,585	645,000
KB Home	1201 Toltec Trail	2,964	254,904
DR Horton Inc.	705 Pinnacle Drive	2,300	197,800
KB Home	270 Telluride	3,612	310,632
DR Horton Inc.	432 Moulins Lane	1,843	158,498
Pulte Group	316 Fairway Ridge Road	3,671	315,706
Ashton Woods Homes	1057 Naranjo Drive	4,310	198,260
DR Horton Inc.	706 Pinnacle Drive	2,109	181,374
DR Horton Inc.	707 Pinnacle Drive	2,580	221,880
Ashton Woods Homes	1113 Naranjo Drive	3,758	172,408
Wildwood Construction	216 Coopers Hill Road	5,710	491,060
Tim Long Custom Homes	104 Marcos Drive	10,924	1,383,777
TD Builders	1000 Jonathan Cove	4,265	499,999

WHO	WHERE	SQ FT	\$ VALUE
Highland Homes	1721 Cherry Glade Trail	3,682	428,490
Highland Homes	1725 Highland Ridge Road	4,176	427,490
Highland Homes	1717 Highland Ridge Road	3,095	355,990
Centerra Homes of Texas	233 Santa Maria Street	3,676	246,146
Pulte Group	308 Golden Butterfly Drive	2,078	178,708
Pulte Group	145 Marcheeta Way	2,231	191,866
Grand Haven Homes	205 Hedgerow Lane	3,520	379,590
Pulte Group	149 Marcheeta Way	1,920	165,120
Wildwood Construction	816 Jennings Branch Road	4,858	417,788
Centerra Homes of Texas	217 Santa Maria Street	3,656	246,146
Pulte Group	204 Golden Butterfly Drive	2,014	173,204
Drees Custom Homes	325 Bold Sundown	2,702	335,000
Combined value:			\$10,914,192

PLANNING & ZONING PERMITS Filed 12/10-12/17

WHO	WHERE	WHAT
Gatlin Crossing	County Road 110	Preliminary play for future housing development
Hogan Tract	County Road 263 at Highway 183	Utility evaluation for Hogan Tract

GEORGETOWN AWARDED BIDS Filed 10/21

WHO	WHAT	\$ AMOUNT
Porter Service Co. (Manchaca, Texas)	HVAC system repair	258,589

Astronomy internship prepares SU students for future

Southwestern University took a peek at the galaxy during the summer, which helped senior Raina Musso land an astronomy internship at Texas A&M University.

“The telescope research project helped prepare me for the internship as I had to do a lot of work on my own,” said Ms. Russo, whose internship finished in December.

“It helped teach me independence for problem-solving.”

During the summer, Ms. Russo joined Mark Bottorff, professor of physics and associate dean of natural science, and two fellow students to study super-massive black holes as part of the Summer Collaboratives Opportunities

research program.

Ms. Russo, Taylor Hutchison and Francis MacInnis spent late nights and early mornings at the Fountainwood Observatory on campus studying light variations inside super-massive black holes.

“I know a lot of research universities that study super-massive black holes, but there are relatively few liberal arts colleges that do this kind of work,” Mr. Bottorff said.

“It’s wonderful to have students who have a great interest in science and have a broader perspective on the world in which we live.”

The research will be used in collaboration with studies from the University of Copen-

hagen in Denmark and the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute in South Korea.

Mr. Bottorff feels the opportunity taught students how to work together and gave them a chance at a real world experience.

“It’s becoming more and more important for students entering graduate school in the sciences to have actually worked on some research projects,” he said.

“Many graduate schools ask how many papers you have co-authored, so this kind of thing will really help the students’ CVs.”

– Jonathan Adams

GEORGETOWN ISD

Holiday break

All district campuses and offices will be closed until January 4 for winter break. Students will return to school January 5.

District seeks volunteers

The Georgetown school district is looking for people to volunteer for the Destination Imagination program, which is a hands-on system of learning that encourages creativity, courage and curiosity.

The district needs 54 volunteers to serve as judges for Georgetown’s 27 teams at the Regional Tournament March 5 at Vista Ridge High School in Leander.

Appraiser training is February 6 at Henry Middle School in Leander from 8:30 a.m. to

NOTEBOOK

12:30 p.m.

PTSA scholarship opportunity

Graduating Georgetown High School students can apply for a \$500 scholarship in the annex office.

Applicants must be student members of the GHS Parent Teacher Student Association and must be planning to attend an institute of higher education in fall 2016.

Deadline is 4 p.m. February 29. Winners will be announced at the PTSA meeting at 9 a.m., April 6.

Get the GISD lowdown

Georgetown school district administrators will host the first-ever State of the District

Luncheon January 20.

The luncheon will give community leaders insight into the district’s plans and successes.

Guests will see a student-led showcase of programs. Superintendent Fred Brent will later discuss updates affecting students, parents, staff and community programs.

The event will cost \$250 for a table and eight tickets or \$25 for a single ticket. To order tickets, visit www.gisdedfound.org/state-of-the-district.html.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Madelyn Metzger was inducted to the dean’s list at Chadron State College in Nebraska by maintaining a 3.5 grade-point average in the fall semester:

Compiled by Jonathan Adams. Send education news to school@wilcosun.com.



Scootin' along

Georgetown District 6 City Council member Rachael Jonrowe has some fun with her family at Blue Hole Park earlier this month. Above, Ms. Jonrowe tries out one the scooters her kids got for their birthdays. Running alongside her is daughter Claire, 10. Left, Amelie Jonrowe, 10, enjoys a ride on her scooter.

Photos by Andy Sharp

Professors receive study grants

By JONATHAN ADAMS

Almost a dozen Southwestern University professors received extra money for research grants from the Sam Taylor Fellowship Fund.

This year, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which awards faculty members at United Methodist-related universities in Texas, gave Southwestern \$17,300 worth of research grants.

The money will pay for faculty to pursue graduate study or post-graduate research.

“I couldn’t be more thrilled, nor more honored, to receive a Sam Taylor Fellowship,” said Jessica Hower, assistant professor of history who received \$1,500 for archival research for a book project *Tudor Empire: The Making of Early Modern Britain and the British Atlantic World, 1485-1603*.

“This generous grant will allow me to spend several days in the archives in London this coming summer, researching the evolution of English rule in the city of Calais.”

Romi Burks, professor of biology, received \$1,700 and plans to use the grant money to develop student projects and skills in molecular ecology.

“My own grant funding provided for the collection of samples, in my case, apple snails from Uruguay, but this funding will permit the completion of analysis that helps

with species identification and quantifying biodiversity,” Ms. Burks said.

Other professors at SU who received the grants will use the funding similarly for research in their respective fields.

Erika Berroth, associate professor of German, received \$2,000 to make a German WWII documentary of eyewitness memory narratives.

Reginald Byron, associate professor of sociology, received \$2,000 to research low wage work and discriminatory firings.

Maria Cuevas, professor of biology, received \$2,000 to study the role of female sex hormones in certain malignant tumor cells.

Fay Guarraci, professor of psychology, received \$1,500 for research on chronic adolescent exposure to drugs that treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and long-term effects on female development.

Valerie Renegar, associate professor of communication studies, received \$1,900 for her research project *How To Make a (New) Feminist: Contemporary Feminism, Inclusivity, and the Necessity of Different Voices*.

“The funds will provide me with the opportunity to consult with my frequent collaborator and conduct important research,” Ms. Renegar said.

“This research will enable

me to publish research about the rhetoric of contemporary feminist movements.”

Omar Rivera, associate professor of philosophy, received \$700 for his book project *Beyond Redemption: Recovering Mariategui’s Indoamerican Thinking*.

Davi Johnson Thornton, associate professor of communication studies, received \$1,000 for a research project on *Social Justice, Mental Health and the Transformations of Stigma*.

Patrick Van Horn, assistant professor of economics, received \$1,800 for research on corporate governance and risk-taking in historical perspective.

Michael Saenger, associate professor of English, received \$1,200 for expenses in taking a course in the Spanish language.

“I teach a course on the idea and the practice of translation and I offer it to students of English, Spanish, Chinese and Latin. Many of the students who take it major in Spanish, so I’ve decided to improve my Spanish language skills by taking an immersion Spanish course,” Mr. Saenger said.

“I’m excited to be a pioneer in this field of study and I’m convinced that learning other languages can help us build a better world.”

school@wilcosun.com



Susan Gomez

Quack, quack

Ducks balance on one leg at Berry Creek earlier this month. See more photos on page 7B.

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Southwestern recognized as 'best value school'

Southwestern University received another national recognition for its educational prowess.

The 175-year-old Georgetown school was named in the Top 300 Best College Values of 2016 by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, a monthly business magazine based in Washington, D.C.

Southwestern, which has a student body of 1,538, placed 85th for it academic quality and affordability.

Kiplinger measures quality by admission rate, the percent of students who return sophomore year, the student-faculty ratio and four-year graduation rate.

At SU, the admission rate is about 50 percent; there are 12 students per faculty members; the school has an 82 percent retention rate and about 65 percent of students graduate in four years.

The cost criteria at Southwestern accounts for the school's annual tuition, financial aid offered and the average debt at graduation.

Tuition costs \$50,258 for students living on campus and graduates have an average debt of \$30,935.

A report from Southwestern released in June showed 70 percent of the graduates in the Class of 2014 are employed and 22 percent are in graduate school.

Kiplinger started ranking colleges in 1998 to highlight public schools for parents. The publication's staff also wanted to help students find private universities and liberal arts colleges that combine outstanding academics with affordable cost.

— Jonathan Adams



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MIDNIGHT SOIREE

New Year's Eve

Cancelled

Reverie Production Group sincerely regrets to announce the **CANCELLATION** of Midnight Soiree due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. Midnight Soiree was scheduled to take place at The Union on Eighth.

We look forward to bringing other new & exciting events to the Georgetown community in 2016! We wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year! Thank you for your support!

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Recycle your tree after the holidays

Drop off your natural, undecorated Christmas tree for recycling from Dec. 28 to Jan. 8 at any of the following PEC offices: Bertram, Canyon Lake, Cedar Park, Junction, Kyle, Liberty Hill, Manchaca, Marble Falls or Oak Hill.

PEC offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Southwestern University 2014 alumnus Augustus Crimm, center, poses with his award for making the top marks on the certified public accountant exam. With him are Texas State Board of Public Accountancy members Jonathan Cluck, left, Roselyn Morris, John Broadus and Phillip Worley.

SU alumnus earns top accounting score

Six months of study and preparation scored Augustus Crimm more than a certification in accounting. It turned him into an accounting rock star.

Mr. Crimm, a 2014 Southwestern University alumnus, scored the highest possible grade on the certified public accountant exam this winter.

His accomplishment was noticed by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, who asked Mr. Crimm to give a speech at the CPA swearing-in ceremony December 5 at the Palmer Events Center in Austin.

"As much as I try to avoid academic competition, it felt nice to get the top score," Mr. Crimm said. "It was a great validation of all the hard work I put into studying."

Thousands of students take the exam each year. This year, 1,100 students passed and were sworn in at the ceremony.

"When I got the letter asking me to give a speech, I was shocked," Mr. Crimm said.

"I was happy with how I did and very proud of my scores, but I was sure someone else would get a better score than I did."

Mr. Crimm attributes long study sessions — three hours each night and six hours on Saturdays — to his achievement, along with surrounding himself with dedicated and intelligent people.

"My fiancée made me take Sundays off so I wouldn't completely become a hermit," Mr. Crimm said. "I always had accounting on my mind."

Augustus Crimm
Certified public accountant

Southwestern was also instrumental in his accomplishment, he said.


"At Southwestern, there was more focus on concepts instead of memorizing facts," Mr. Crimm said.

"So when I got to the CPA exam, instead of just trying to memorize things — there's way too much on those exams to memorize and remember — I tried to understand how things fit together, why the rules were how they were and it worked out."

Mr. Crimm works at Faske, Lay & Co., an accounting firm with offices in Austin and Georgetown.

— Jonathan Adams





Here we go a'fishing

As the day's light faded on Christmas Day, and the lights came on at San Gabriel Park, Michael Brown, above, of Round Rock stayed the course on his holiday fly fishing expedition. Left, John Adair of Georgetown took advantage of the warmer weather on Christmas Day to try out one of his gifts, a new fly fishing rod given to him by his wife.

Photos by Andy Sharp



Michael Freeman

Larry Simpson hands a certificate honoring Jennifer Bollier, a longtime postal worker who served Sun City's Neighborhood 15. Attendees of the neighborhood party on December 19 thanked her for her service over the last 15 years. Below, residents give her a standing ovation.

Delivering more than the mail

Sun City neighborhood thanks postal carrier for years of service

By MICHAEL FREEMAN

A stack of letters sat on a table in the Sun City Ballroom. They were for Jennifer Bollier, but she didn't have to deliver them.

The Georgetown resident has worked for the post office for nearly 20 years, 15 of which were dedicated to serving more than 600 people on her route in Sun City. She retires at the end of the month, and the residents of Sun City's Neighborhood 15 wanted to thank her for her work.

They invited her to their joint neighborhood party with Neighborhood 9 in the Sun City Ballroom on December 19. Attendees gave her a standing ovation, followed by a showering of gifts, letters and

thank-yous.

Several neighbors commented Ms. Bollier's caring heart, recounting times when she went out of her way to help them. Like one time when she noticed a man passed out on a driveway and alerted his wife to call 911. Or the time she saw a resident's front door was mysteriously wide open and notified neighbors.

Her alertness she credits to her



previous job as a security guard at a prison in Gatesville. She worked there for six years before her sister Phyllis convinced her to move to Georgetown and work

with her at the post office. The job was a perfect fit since Ms. Bollier is a "people person." After working on a route along Leander Road, she took an assignment in Sun City.

"They are the most kindhearted

people you'll ever meet," she said. "They're great people."

Ms. Bollier got to know the neighbors, as well as their dogs. Although it's against protocol, she'd deliver treats for the pets. She owned a Boston Terrier named Shanda for 15 years. The residents appreciated the gesture, and noticed when it stopped recently.

Ms. Bollier needed to undergo surgery on her feet. Years of working 11 to 12 hours days took a toll on her body. She's now looking forward to retirement and spending more time with her family, but believes she'll find another position soon to keep herself busy.

society@wilcosun.com



WINE UNCORKED

Michael Walton

Pick wisely before the countdown

10, 9, 8, 7, 6...the countdown has begun and it's time to get ready to ring in the New Year with a party and a few bottles of bubbly. Before you run to the store and pick something out, I thought it might be helpful to have a few facts to help you decide.

As you know, Champagne is generally the most expensive type of sparkling wine. This is due to the fact that these wines are produced in the Champagne region of France and thus have to follow the official production rules set forth by the Comité Interprofessionnel du vin de Champagne, which also imparts the associated reputation of quality, exclusivity and prestige. If this is what you want, there are a few things to keep in mind.

According to the French rules, Champagne wines can only be made from grapes that are traditionally produced within the region. These include Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay. Yes, the first two are typically seen in red wines, but remember that the juice of almost all wine grapes is white. The red color comes from contact with the skins of the grape, so when Champagne is made from these grapes the skins play a very brief role in the process.

Bottles that are made with the red grapes may be labeled as Blanc de Noirs while those made with Chardonnay are labeled Blanc de Blanc. You may also see pink Champagnes, often labeled as Rosé, which get their color from leaving the skins in contact with the juice or by adding some still red wine to the blend.

There are differences between these wines in all aspects — color, aroma, taste and price. To add some fun to your party, you may consider buying a bottle of each and trying

Continued on 3B

Graduation not out of reach for grandma

If Frances Rodriguez has her way, she'll beat her grandson to graduation.

Ms. Rodriguez, 68, is a resident of the Stonehaven Apartments in Georgetown. She and Jean Malcolm, a volunteer with the Williamson County Literacy Council, have been working together for three years toward a goal of Ms. Rodriguez earning her GED, the equivalent of earning a high school diploma.

When I met Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Malcolm for one of their twice-a-week sessions, Ms. Rodriguez was working on the letter "V." She was carefully sounding out the syllables of words, "vacation, violet," and others, with occasional hints from Ms. Malcolm.

A retired teacher from the Texas School for the Deaf, Ms. Malcolm considers Ms. Rodriguez a star student because of her determination to learn how to read and write even as she approaches her seventh decade of life.

"If she wasn't innately intelligent, she wouldn't be learning," Ms. Malcolm said.

"She keeps turning on the light bulb in my head,"



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Katherine Kerr

Ms. Rodriguez responded, making a twisting motion near her ear. "She praises me a lot and that makes a difference."

Sassy, funny and obviously fun-loving, Ms. Rodriguez's demeanor masks a personal history of hardship, including devastating illness, homelessness and a divorce.

About 20 years ago, Ms. Rodriguez suffered a brain aneurysm, a bulge in an artery that supplies blood to the

Continued on 3B





Andy Sharp

Hung with care

The lights of the Christmas tree on the Williamson County Courthouse lawn were glowing brightly on a warm Christmas evening in Georgetown. Many families stopped by to take photos.

If you snapped some shots this holiday season, the Sun would love to share them. Submit photos to us by emailing them to society@wilcosun.com, or bring them by the office at 707 Main Street. Please include names of everyone pictured.

Roundabout

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

DEADLINES

Items are due noon Friday for the Wednesday paper and noon Wednesday for the Sunday paper. E-mail roundabout@wilcosun.com.



Sun photo

Last chance

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

“The costumes were spectacular, set was beautiful, and performances were “top shelf!” An absolute hit!” Tickets \$28 for general admission, \$26 for seniors, \$15 for students and active military, and \$11 for kids ages 9 and younger. Visit georgetownpalace.com for tickets. *The Palace Theatre, 810 South Austin Avenue, Georgetown, through Wed., Dec. 30; Fri. and Sat. at 7:30, Sun. at 2. Weekday performances Dec. 28 through Dec. 30 at 7:30.* Above, Creighton Moench, as Lumiere.

events

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycle those trees and help provide mulch for city residents. Trees can be dropped off for free. *Collection Station, 250 W.L. Walden Drive, Georgetown, Sat., Dec. 26 through Sat., Jan. 30, Mon. through Fri., 8 to 5; Sat., 8 to 3*

kids

WINTER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Sign up for Georgetown Parks and Recreation's Winter Girls Youth Volleyball League. \$45 for residents, \$55 for non-residents. Call 512-930-3596. *Registration open through Sat., Jan. 2; late registration Sun., Jan. 3 to Sat., Jan. 9.*

HOLIDAY TRAIN EXHIBIT

Watch up to four model trains travel through cities, villages, oil fields, farms and even a circus. Junior engineers can take a turn running a train for a \$5 donation. Admission is free. *ArtSpace, 231 East Main Street, Round Rock, open Wed. to Sun.; through Sat., Jan. 2, noon to 5*

philanthropy

EAST VIEW BAND FUNDRAISER



Sun photo

MLK Day volunteers

Join volunteers across the nation for the MLK Day of Service. Opportunities are available throughout Williamson County. Register at unitedway-wc.org/MLK_DOS. **Mon., Jan. 18, 9 to noon.** Above, volunteers Linda Davis, front, and Kelly Horner, stay busy sorting linens at The Caring Place during United Way's 2015 MLK Day of Service.

Get your organic Texas hardwood mulch and support the East View Patriot Band. Bags cost \$6 each and cover approximately four square feet. Order at EVBAnd.org. If you have questions, call 512-277-3847. **Mon., Jan. 4 to Mon., Feb. 29.**

learn

GAULT SITE TOUR

Visit an active archaeological dig site where more than 600,000 Clovis-age artifacts have been recovered. Tickets \$10, kids 10 and under are free. Call 512-943-1670. *3439 FM 2843, Florence, Sat., Jan. 16, 9*

SENIOR UNIVERSITY

James Haley, author of *Passionate Nation: The Epic History of Texas* and Sam Houston, presents the lecture *Angry Luas: Why the Hawaiians are so mad at us; or you thought Texas history has gone crazy*. Free and open to non-members. *Sun City Ballroom, 2 Texas Drive, Georgetown, Sun., Jan. 17, 3*

golden years

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

Sun City residents are invited to enrich their lives through language. Meet teachers fluent in Spanish, Italian, German, Hebrew and more.

Refreshments and door prizes will be given. *Cowen Creek Amenity Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Georgetown, Fri., Jan. 8, 3 to 4:30*

film

OF MICE AND MEN

Enjoy a free screening of the classic film “Of Mice and Men” directed by Gary Sinise. *Georgetown Public Library, 402 West Eighth Street, Fri., Jan. 8, 7 p.m.*

groups

TEAM RWB

A support group that helps veterans connect with the community through physical and social activity. *San Gabriel Park, 305 East Morrow Street, Georgetown, Sat., Jan. 2, 9 a.m.*

NEWCOMERS & FRIENDS

Chris Foster, manager of resource planning and integration, presents a talk on wind power for Georgetown. \$25 to join. Visit georgetownnewcomers.org. *Berry Creek Country Club, 30500 Berry Creek Drive, Georgetown, Thu., Jan. 7, 9:30*

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Jane Bowman, Williamson County Master Gardener, will discuss how to care for roses and perennials. \$16 for luncheon. Register by **Mon.,**

Jan. 4. Call 512-864-1352. *Berry Creek Country Club, 30500 Berry Creek Drive, Georgetown, Fri., Jan. 8, 11*

GRIEF SHARE

A support group for people who have lost loved ones through death. Sessions run for 13 weeks. \$20. Call 512-869-2586. *First Baptist Church, 1333 West University Avenue, Georgetown, Thu., Jan. 7, 1:30 and 6:30*

GARDEN CLUB

Barbara Wright, owner of Wright's Nursery, talks about the special needs for native plants in the shade. Call 512-863-7434. Free. *Georgetown Parks and Recreation Community Room, 1101 North College Street, Georgetown, Thu., Jan. 7, 1:30*

SISTERS IN CRIME

Mystery writer Janice Hamrick explains the elements of creating rich and memorable characters. *Yarborough Branch Public Library, 2200 Hancock Drive, Austin, Sun., Jan. 10, 2:15*

INTERNATIONAL AUTISM MINISTRY

Caregivers and parents of special needs children can meet in an informal setting where kids and teens can hang out. For more information, visit www.internationalautismministry.com. *Georgetown Public Library, 402 West Eighth Street, Mon., Jan. 11, 11 to 1*

NEUROPATHY SUPPORT

The Neuropathy Alliance of Texas invites people living with neuropathy and their caregivers to a free meeting. For more information, call Diane Ricklesen at 512-863-9293. *423 Williams Drive, Suite 101, Georgetown, Mon., Jan 11, 1 to 2:30 p.m.*

jaunts

MIDNIGHT MASQUERADE

Railroad and Heritage Museum presents a night full of treats and dancing in the grand lobby of the Santa Fe Depot. Guests are asked to wear cocktail attire and a masquerade mask. \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Call 254-298-5172. *315 West Avenue B, Temple, Thu., Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.*

DALE WATSON

Spend New Year's Eve with the Texas Music Hall of Fame performer. Enjoy BBQ tacos, a champagne toast, party favors and black-eyed peas. \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door. kendaliahalle.com. *Kendalia Halle, 1135 FM 3351 North, Kendalia, Thu., Dec. 31, 8:30 to 12:30*

MODERN LANGUAGE CONVENTION

The world's largest gathering of language and literature scholars including Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, National Endowment

for Humanities Chair William Adams and historian Jo Guldi. Visit apps.mla.org/public_sessions_2016 for free sessions. *Austin Convention Center, JW Marriott and Hilton Austin, Thu., Jan. 7 to Sun., Jan 10.*

theater

PILLOW TALK

Way Off Broadway Community Players presents a memorably funny comedy for the third show of their 19th season. Tickets: adults \$20; students, seniors and military \$15; children 10 and under \$10. Call 512-259-5878. *Way Off Broadway Community Players' Theater, 2243 Business Park, 11880 West Old FM 2243, Leander, Fri. and Sat., Jan. 8-30, 8; Sun., Jan. 17, 3*

ACTORS WANTED

Southwestern's theatre department is seeking age-appropriate actors for its upcoming production of *Dead Man Walking*. Actors must memorize a 60- to 90-second monologue from a contemporary play. Call 512-863-1368. *Jones Theater, 1001 East University Avenue, Georgetown, Mon., Jan. 11, 7*

health

JOINT PRE-OP EDUCATION

The patient education class is for people scheduled to have their knee or hip replaced. Learn the risks involved and how best to minimize them. *St. David's Georgetown, 2000 Scenic Drive, Tue., Jan. 5, Sat., Jan. 16 and Mon., Jan. 25, 10 to 11:30*

art

ABOVE OUR HEADS

The free exhibit featuring art created by David Chapman Lindsay showcases works that sit above the eye level. *Georgetown Art Center, 816 South Main Street, Fri., Dec. 11 through Sun., Jan. 24.*

ARTIST TALK

Don't miss a chance to meet and mingle with David Chapman Lindsay, the featured artist in the *Above Our Heads* exhibit. Wine and cheese will be served. \$30 per person. georgetownartworks.com. *Georgetown Art Center, 816 South Main Street, Sat., Jan. 16, 6:30*

AWARD WINNING ARTISTS

Sigi Field and Nancy Taylor exhibit their work at The Vineyard in Florence. *Via Francesco, Florence, exhibit runs through Thu., Dec. 31.*

ART ON DISPLAY

Artists Marty Brian, Bill Snelson, Sherry Adamo and Darrell Hutchinson share their latest creations. *Wildfire Restaurant, 812 South Austin Avenue, Georgetown, through Mon., Jan. 4.*

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Examining the theme “photographing today to preserve yesterday for tomorrow,” Wes Odell's exhibit spans his entire body of work. “It's my story as an artist, and since my photography is intertwined with my life, it is my story as a person, too.” *Georgetown Public Library, 402 West Eighth Street, Sun., Jan. 3 to Sat., Jan 30; artist reception Sat., Jan. 30, 2 to 4*

WATERCOLOR FOR BEGINNERS

No previous painting knowledge needed. \$10 per hour. Visit kimhoerster.com for the supply list. *915 Rockmoor Drive, Georgetown, Mon., Jan. 11, 5 to 7:30 p.m.*

biz

JOB FAIR

Job hunters should bring 10 to 15 resumes to the free management, sales and retail specific career fair. *Hilton Austin, 500 East Fourth Street, Austin, Thu., Jan. 14, 9 to 12:30*

on the horizon

TENORS UNLIMITED

The rat pack of Opera comes to Georgetown by way of London. Tickets are \$50 and benefit the Georgetown Symphony Society. Call 512-864-9591. *The Palace Theatre, 810 South Austin Avenue, Georgetown, Thu., Jan. 21.*

LYNYRD SKYNYRD

The cultural iconic and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band comes to Williamson County. Tickets range from \$40.75 to \$70.75. cedarparkcenter.com. *Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, Thu., Jan. 28.*

MARK SINGS

Enjoy singer Mark Thornton performing a genre-spanning collection of love songs. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door. *Sun City Atrium, 1 Texas Drive, Georgetown, Fri., Jan. 29, 7:30*

CUPID'S CHASE 5K

A flat-and-fast course takes runners through downtown Georgetown, Southwestern University and the scenic parks. The race also features a kid's fun run and costume contest. \$22 for 5K; \$10 for fun run. Proceeds benefit Georgetown Parks and Recreation. cupid.georgetown.org. *The Square, Georgetown, Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 a.m. for fun run; 8 a.m. for 5K*



The Rev. Jimmy Johnson Sr. points to an historical marker outside Macedonia Baptist Church, 206 Martin Luther King Street. The congregation has been meeting in its current church building since 1975.

Macedonia Baptist traces its roots to 1881



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Growing up across the street from Macedonia Baptist Church, the Rev. Jimmy Johnson Sr. was active in the small and tightly knit congregation's daily life. But he had no idea he would one day be its pastor.

Rev. Johnson's great-grandmother, "Mama Nealy" McFarlin — who lived to be 104 — lived catty-corner from the 206 Martin Luther King Street house of worship. Her home was at the corner of West Third and what used to be Timber Street, where Williamson County EMS now has facilities.

"As a kid, we used to sell soda pop and have different activities in the (church) basement," Rev. Johnson remembered. "Back in the day, I would come open the door and the soda man would come and deliver the pop."

Rev. Johnson grew up in close proximity to Macedonia Baptist's deacons and elders — folks such as Curtis Saterfield and Steiner Bass — whose names resonated for decades in Georgetown's black community. He sang in Willie Hall's Sunshine Band.

"I looked at them as pillars of the community when I was growing up," Rev. Johnson said.

He was born in San Antonio and came of age in Georgetown, before serving 12 years on active and reserve duty in the Army. Rev. Johnson and his wife of 47 years, Erma (a Taylor native) are the parents of three adult children; Shaniqua, Cassandra and Jimmy.

"We moved back to the area, reunited with the church," Rev. Johnson said.

By then, the current church building — with its cornerstone laid in 1975 — had been built. The Johnsons involved themselves in church life and Jimmy Sr. received his deacon training from Winfred Bonner, who would go on to be the first African-American elected to Georgetown City Council.

"Ministry and pastoring had not always been my desire," Rev. Johnson said. "I was involved with teaching Sunday school and Wednesday night prayer meetings, and along that route I received my call into the ministry."

Rev. Johnson, who holds a degree in Bible studies from Mount Olive Bible Institute in Austin, has been Macedonia Baptist's pastor for the past 15 years.

The church, founded in 1881 by nine families who initially met under an arbor, has always been on the smallish side. Today, about 100 people attend Sunday worship. That suits Rev. Johnson just fine.

"It all depends on the individual," he said. "I grew up with a small number; 50, 60 people. When it's small, you keep everything personal. We don't have a large number to brag on. But I believe in Scripture, where it says: 'When two or more are gathered in my name, I am in their midst.'"

Sunday school classes are held at 10 a.m., followed by worship at 11. Wednesday prayer services are at 6:30 p.m. The mid-day Bible study class meets from 11 a.m. to noon every Wednesday.

Macedonia Baptist sponsors a ministry that visits Wesleyan Nursing Home residents. The church hosts Vacation Bible School and a community Thanksgiving dinner. Individually and collectively, church members donate to The Caring Place, as well as other charitable and community organizations.

"We're small, but we try to do a lot of Christ-like things," Erma Johnson said.

"The most-important thing would be that we are Christ-oriented," Rev. Johnson said. "We express love. We're concerned with the saving of souls."

"There are so many kids, so many families, that don't have a good foundation," he said. "We've got to help them have a good foundation."

-Brad Stutzman


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GOLDEN CHICK

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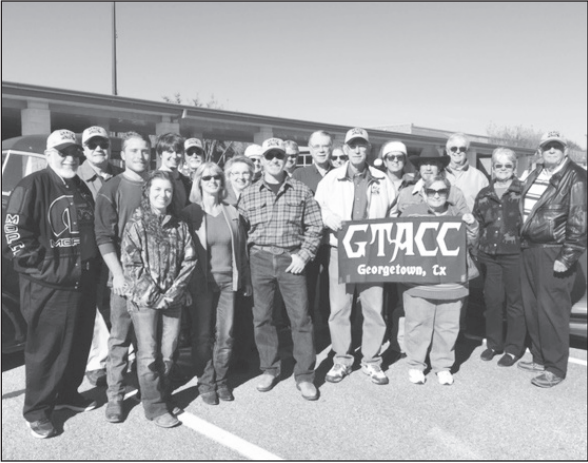
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Georgetown Texas Area Car Club members assembled at Benold Middle School before distributing gifts.

Christmas comes early for family

The Georgetown Texas Area Car Club, spearheaded by Ed and Deb Sanwaldt, again participated in the Williamson County Sheriff Department's Brown Santa this year.

The program provides assistance through toys, books and other gifts to families in Williamson County that does not provide a similar program.

"I'm really proud of how far our car club has come since we founded it in 2005," Ed said.

The non-profit social club gives scholarships every year and recently began contributing \$500 each quarter to a local charity.

On December 19, members drove in a convoy of classic cars and delivered almost \$900 in gifts to an area family. The family's mother was recovering from a serious car accident, and she was overwhelmed by the gesture, Ed said.

"They came with gifts for a needy family, oh so many gifts, that even I was overwhelmed," said Marie Hubble, apartment manager for Buffalo Springs Apartments, where the family lives.

For more information on the car club, visit www.gtacc.org.



Moon peeks through clouds

A day of clouds recently gave way long enough for a small sliver of the moon to make its presence known just above Grace Heritage Center, at the corner of Ninth and Main Streets in Georgetown.

Church begins two grief sessions

First Baptist Church of Georgetown, 1333 West University Avenue, is offering two sessions of Grief Share.

Both sessions will start on Thursday, January 7, one at 1:30 and the other at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$20. Anyone interested can register for a session by calling the church at 512-869-2586 or sending an email to Cindy Keefe at ckeefe@fbcgt.org or registering online at www.fbcgt.org/griefshare.

More information is available at www.fbcgt.org/griefshare.

Celebration Church changes times

Celebration Church, 1202 Rabbit Hill Road in Georgetown, will change its service times at its Westinghouse Campus on Sundays. The times will be 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 1 p.m. The Saturday service will remain at 5 p.m.

United Way needs volunteers

The United Way of Williamson County invites residents to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy by taking time to volunteer on MLK Day, January 18.



More than 150 volunteers are needed then to help with a variety of service projects across the county.

"We invite our friends and neighbors to answer Dr. King's call to serve and make a difference in the lives of Williamson County residents," said LeAnn Powers, chief professional officer at United Way of Williamson County.

Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, January 18, at work sites in Bartlett, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Leander, Round Rock and Taylor.

Registered participants will assist with projects, such as cleaning and restoring trails, sorting donations, painting and light construction, as well as other indoor and outdoor tasks.

Register at united-way-wc.org/MLK_DOS or call 512-255-6799.

churchnews@wilcosun.com

Prisoners enjoy Christmas dinner

DECEMBER 30, 1915

The county prisoners working on the Leander Road and the Liberty Hill Road were given a holiday Christmas and Commissioner May, for the county, provided a bountiful turkey dinner, which the men thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. Sheriff Allen provided a good Christmas dinner for the jail prisoners also.

New Year special at The Monarch: “The Plunderer” affords for William Farnum a real “Farnum Part” — big Bill Matthews of the Croix d’Or mine, a doughty splendid steel knit fellow, with a big, warm heart and a punch in each hand.

Hill and his partner are harassed by a secret enemy who imprisons them in a mineshaft, causes a strike among the workmen and blows up the reservoir upon which the power of the mine depends.

The final climax, where big Bill and his partner discover their enemy, is the most stirring of all. A pulse-stirring battle with bare fists in which big Bill bests a score of drunk crazed miners in a fight, that for sheer thrills and heart-catching excitement has never been excelled on the stage or screen, is one of the big features of this picture.

Then there is a splendid double love story, which leaves a happy glow to the spectator’s mind. At The Monarch, Saturday January 1.

DECEMBER 28, 1972

Davis Funeral Home to open new facility on Williams Drive in June.

Top Stories of 1972:

1. January – Ice storm; GHS dress code controversy
2. February – KGTN on the air
3. March – Building reaches all-time high; Round Rock and Georgetown finally agree on a boundary line on Interstate 35
4. April – Georgetown Square apartments open; City Hall moved from old fire station to the northeast corner of the Square
5. May – Becky Walden is Miss


ANGLICAN

Light of Christ Anglican Church 420 Wolf Ranch Pkwy; Pastors: The Rev’d Dr. Steven Pope & WM. J. Disch; 512-591-7183

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

River of Life Church 6040 Airport Rd; Pastor Paul Vincent; 512-863-0854
Georgetown Legacy Church 100 Stadium Dr; at Chamber offices; Robert Jones, Pastor; gtleague.com

BAPTIST



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Sundays
9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Worship Service

Wednesdays
7:00pm Prayer Meeting
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Blessed by the Best

Andice Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) 6570 FM 970; Daniel Crowther, Pastor; 254-793-2557.
Calvary’s Hill Baptist Church 1802 Bridge St; Richard A. Mauldin, Jr., Pastor; 512-863-5767.
First Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) 1333 W. University Ave.; 512-869-2586.
First Baptist Church (Granger) 301 E. Mesquite, Granger; Pastor Danny “Pat” Cole; 512-859-1389
Friendly Will Missionary Baptist Church - 706 West 14th St; Rudy Williams, Pastor; 512-863-2006.
Grace Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist) Pastor Kyle Tubbs, 1101 North Mays St., Round Rock; 512-402-8388
Main Street Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) 1001 Main St; Ernest Jones, Pastor; 512-869-7854.

Yesteryears

BARBARA YELVERTON

Georgetown; Tim Maresch is the new City Judge

6. June – Patti Wakefield and Kathy Anderson are Sheriff’s Posse Rodeo Sweethearts; preliminary plans for new GHS approved

7. July – Westinghouse Road will not turn back into Rabbit Hill Road

8. August - City mail delivery west of Interstate 35; longtime Democratic Chairman for Williamson County Wilson Fox resigns

9. September - Final grant for Urban Renewal received; Jerry Birkelbach kicked game-winning field goal to defeat Gatesville

10. October – Precincts realigned; Georgetown police get speed guns

11. November – Applications filed for off-premises consumption of alcohol election

12. December – Westinghouse begins production; ice storm

DECEMBER 26 & 29, 1999

Betty Jo Patterson and her five children are the first family to get a new home from the Greater Georgetown Habitat for Humanity.

City has Y2K under control.

Top Ten Stories of 1999:

1. Water park debated, details sparked a leadership change in the mayor’s office
2. Two new courts, three new restaurants, high-end homes
3. Duncum tragedy shocks city and renews domestic violence talks
4. Closed council meetings open can of worms
5. Liberty Hill incorporates
6. Voters say yes to \$30 million school bond
7. Community says good-bye to SU President Roy Shilling
8. Mother charged in death of her two children, ages 2 and 3
9. Mike McMaster; community

activist and candidate for mayor, died.

10. Jarrell and Bartlett make football history

DECEMBER 26 & 30, 2007

All-District14 5-A football team included Travis Kinchelo, Rees Crosby, Stevie Miller and Kyle Green.

Top Ten Stories of 2007:

1. Courthouse grand reopening
2. Recovery efforts from floods
3. Area growth brings dose of health-care choices
4. Residence requests before council in ‘07 could total 14,000 or more
5. Airport tower operational after 62 years
6. T. Don Hutto detention center sparks ongoing conflict
7. Georgetown, Jarrell will find new mayors
8. Job as new chief of schools is a return to Texas for Dr. Abbe Boring
9. Retired teacher Robert Kleen recovering after a fire in his home.
10. Regional animal shelter brings new base

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Mary Ellen Butler and Jim Briggs named People of the Year by *Williamson County Sun*.

Sean Alcott grows beard during No Shave November, a national cancer awareness movement. He raised more than \$700 during the month before shaving it off.

Georgetown Fireplace & Patio demonstrates some fireplaces the company showcases.

Notable letters from our readers in 2014.

East View High School student Steven Longoria coordinates gift drive for residents of Park Place Care Center.

Yesteryears is a compilation of headlines, photo captions and stories from Sun issues spanning the past century.

Spice up your peas as you celebrate the New Year

I am coming off a very busy few weeks, as I know many of you are as well, so today I’m just sharing two favorite ways to have your good luck

New Year’s Day black-eyed peas that are a little spicy and have a bit more personality than just a basic pot of Southern peas.

I got this first recipe years ago from the Food Network’s Emeril Lagasse.

Black-eyed Pea Salad

5 cups cooked and drained black-eyed peas (or use canned if you like)
4 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled, fat reserved separately
1/2 cup plus 2 T. red wine vinegar
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
3 T. finely chopped green onions
2 T. finely chopped fresh jalapeños
2 T. finely chopped parsley leaves
1 1/2 t. minced garlic
1 1/2 t. “essence”...recipe follows
3/4 t. salt
1/2 t. black pepper
1 T. sugar (my addition)

Combine peas, crumbled bacon, 3 T. of the reserved bacon fat, and all remaining ingredients in large bowl, and toss well to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or preferably overnight, stirring occasionally. Allow salad to come to room temperature 30 minutes before serving. Toss well before serving. Makes 6 cups.

Emeril’s Essence:

2 1/2 T. paprika
2 T. salt
1 T. black pepper
1 T. onion powder
1 T. cayenne pepper
1 T. dried oregano
1 T. dried thyme

Combine all thoroughly. Makes 2/3 cup. Use to season anything you like!

I got this recipe years ago from Rebecca Pfister and love to mix it up and have out with chips for dipping, or eat with a fork!

Hill Country Salsa



COOK'S CORNER

Laurie Locke

1 (15 oz.) can black beans (or black-eyed peas), rinsed and drained
1 (11 oz.) can whole kernel corn
4 large tomatoes (or equivalent of grape tomatoes this time of year), chopped
1-2 avocados, peeled and chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 bunch green onions, chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 large jalapeño pepper, chopped
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
2 T. olive oil
1 t. salt
2 t. ground cumin

Combine all and toss gently. Cover and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Makes 7 cups. *Rebecca Pfister.*

Everyone has their own tradition for good luck on New Year’s Day..for some it’s tamales, and others black-eyed peas. It changes depending on where you live, or where you’re “from,” but regardless, I hope 2016 holds much promise, possibility and peace for you and yours!

Laurie Locke is a psychotherapist in Georgetown, and was the original owner of the food businesses Laurie’s and Laurie’s Too. She continues to cook, entertain and stay involved in the foodie community. Contact her at laurienowjung@gmail.com.

BAPTIST

Continued

Macedonia Baptist Church 206 MLK Street; Jimmy Johnson, Sr., Pastor; 512-863-6044.

New Creation Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) 702 E. 15th St; David Balderas, Pastor; 512-762-9962


CATHOLIC

Holy Trinity of Corn Hill FM 1105 between Walburg and Schwertner; 512-863-3020.

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Sun City
512-943-4784

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 4051 E. Hwy. 29; Kevin Bell, Pastor; 512-869-0303

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 www.gabrieloakschurchofchrist.org

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Continued

Hutto Church of Christ 100 Mager Ln, Hutto Elementary, Hutto; Cort Laurence, Minister; 512-497-0143

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6613 Lakewoods Dr. South
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www.cofcnorthside.org
512-300-7452

Sunday 9:30 am Bible Class
10:30 am Worship
2:00 pm Worship
Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Class

Brad Helgerson, Preacher

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church 1314 E. University; Rev. Fr. Trey Garland, Rector; 512-863-2068

INTERDENOMINATIONAL

The Worship Place 811 Sun City Blvd; 512-869-1310
T'Shuva Israel Steve Hoelscher & Gabe Carrasco; 512-818-0233

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 1701 N. Austin Ave. 512-863-5435.

JEWISH

Congregation Havurah Shalom (CHS) Sun City Cowan Center Amenities Center; Linda Schaffer, President, president@chstx.org

LATTER DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 218 Serenada Dr; 512-863-7173

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Round Rock Christian Church 22 Chalice Way, Round Rock. Rev. Linda McWhorter 512-244-3260.

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 Sunday School & Bible Classes: 9:50am

www.flcms.org

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 www.clcgtn.org

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www.zionwalburg.org
512.863.3065
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 North IH-35 to Walburg, Exit 268, 3 miles east on FM 972, North on FM 1105.

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Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 am – McKinney Ministry Center
Sunday School – 9:45 am

410 E. University Ave., Georgetown
863-2370 • www.fumcgt.org

Wellspring United Methodist Church

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
 9:30 AM Traditional Worship
 Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship
 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship
 5:30 PM Youth Snack Supper

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 6200 Williams Drive, Georgetown
 512-930-5959 • www.wellumc.org

Florence United Methodist Church 300 Curry Street; Cynthia Moss, Pastor; 254-793-2535.
Jarrell United Methodist Church 404 1st St, Jarrell; Tommy Prud-Homme, Pastor; 512-826-6064
St. John's United Methodist Church 311 E. University; Rev. Travis Franklin; 512-863-5886
St. Paul United Methodist Church 610 Martin Luther King; Rev. Arcynthia Louie.
Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church 504 4th St; Silas Swint, Pastor; 512-931-2305.

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512-863-7690 Jack Ender, Pastor

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Continued



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Children Ministries 11:00 am

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869.9769 • www.newchurchgtown.org

Abundant Faith Church 3 Indian Dr., Round Rock. Pastor Art & Myrtie Cardenas. 512-258-8991
Church On The Rock - Georgetown 925 Golden Oaks Dr; Pas. Dennis Hattabaugh; 512-864-7713
Celebration Church Georgetown 1202 Rabbit Hill Rd; Joe and Lori Champion, Pastors; 512-763-3000
Community Christian Church 4255 Sam Bass Rd; 512-244-0310.
Chisholm Trail Cowboy Church 1500 CR 120, Weir; Pastor Alex Errios; 512-630-8283; chisholmtrailcowboychurch.org
Faith Community Church Georgetown 40201 Industrial Park Cir; Alton Sutter, Pastor; 512-966-7002.
Granger Brethren Church 306 W. Broadway, Granger; 903-265-2277
Open Road Biker Church 8420 North I-35, Exit 268 on the Northbound frontage road; Pastor Butch Horton 512-966-8817
Promiseland Georgetown Church 2806 Mesquite Ln; Darren and Edwina Jones, Pastors; 512-863-9012.
Saving Grace Christian Bible Fellowship 411 College; Leroy Jones, Pastor 512-869-4111
Sonshine Christian Church 2806 Mesquite Ln; Dr. David Trumble, Minister; 512-863-9012.
River Rock Bible Church 400 Village Commons Blvd; 512-763-4700.

PENTECOSTAL

Iglesia de Dios Comunidad de Esperanza 303 E. Morrow St; Pastores: Elias & Sonia Rivera www.cdegt.org

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512-868-0902
www.sgpcgeorgetown.org

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Continued

Oak Grove Church 12951 RR 2338; Rev. Walter Hoke, Pastor; pastoroakgrove@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church

Worship: 8:30am & 11:00am
Sunday School 9:40am

www.fpcgeorgetown.org
 Dr. Michael A. Roberts, Pastor
 703 Church St. • 863-3381





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Friends (Quakers) 4134 Williams Dr. Friendly Computers; www.georgetown-friendsmeeting.org

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Georgetown Seventh Day Adventist
 5105 S. I-35; Pastor Evgeni Kovachev; 512-569-3061.

UNITY



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 Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
 1 Chamber Way

www.unitygeorgetown.org
512.686.5432

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 1322 E. University Ave; Rev. Mark Skrabacz, 512-688-5069.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Hope United Church 4611 Verde Vista, Heritage Oaks Clubhouse; Pastor Ron Trimmer; 512-876-9097.

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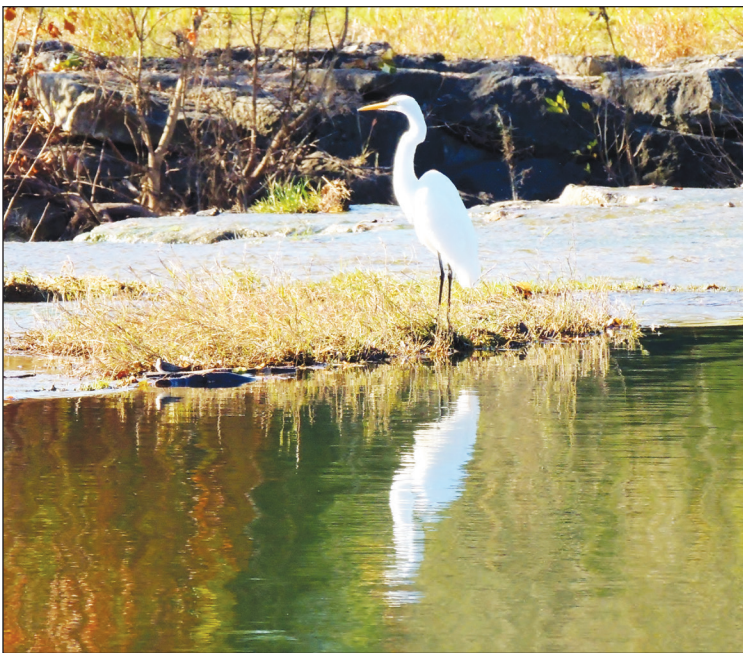
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Cobra Stone Inc. Class A CDLI! 512-746-5600, 1085 CR 239 Florence, TX 76527, full-time: Monday-Saturday, must live within 40 miles of Georgetown, TX, 3-5 years relevant & verifiable experience, must have experience driving flatbed and end dump, acceptable driving record, must pass pre-employment drug screen & DOT physical, regional carrier, return home each evening, excellent benefits: health insurance, workplace injury benefit plan.
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Florence ISD has the following positions available:
• Diesel Mechanic
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• Bus Drivers
Please visit www.florenceisd.net for an online application



Photos by Susan Gomez

Fantastic fall

Susan Gomez shot these photos around Berry Creek earlier this month of people sailing their boats, birds enjoying the cool weather and squirrels hanging out in the trees as the leaves changed colors and fell. *If you've snapped some shots around the county recently, the Sun wants to showcase your work. Submit photos to us by emailing them to society@wilcosun.com, or bring them by the office at 707 Main Street.*



Continued from 6B

Employment

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Seeking caring and dependable people to work in the homes of elderly and disabled clients. Will assist with preparing meals, shopping, personal care, errands, light housekeeping, and other assigned duties. We offer flexible day, evening, and weekend shifts. Must be at least 18 yrs of age with a clean criminal background. **MUST** have reliable transportation. No certifications or prior experience required.

Please fax resume to kbigler@girling.com or contact us at 512-344-4206 E.O.E / M.E.D.V.

PRESS OPERATOR

Full time opportunity at the *Williamson County Sun* in the crew that runs our Goss Community printing press.

Applicant must be able to demonstrate ability to read and follow written instructions, have a history of reliability on the job and be able to work cooperatively with others. Must have normal color vision.

Must be able to handle the physical requirements of the job which involve frequent walking, bending, stooping, climbing and moving heavy rolls of newsprint and driving a forklift. Occasional overtime.

Previous web printing experience and basic mechanical ability are a plus. However, we will train an inexperienced person who shows promise. Health and vacation benefits along with compensation commiserate with experience and degree of training needed to be an effective team member.

Please reply to:
Kathryn Manasco, Business Manager
accounting@wilcosun.com
707 S. Main Street, Georgetown

THE SUN

Wanted: Immediate opening! Part time Maintenance for 24 unit apartment community in Georgetown, Texas. Experience a plus! Must have own tools. 20 hours per week. Hourly rate based on experience. Apply in person at Northwest Apts 1623 E. Northwest Blvd in Georgetown M-F 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Office Assistant needed at Keller. Responsibilities to include clerical work, answering phones, scheduling, customer service, and various other office tasks. 1-3 years experience preferred. Temp-to-hire position. Starting at \$12-\$15/hr. Please send resumes to info@kltexas.com.

Jonah Water Special Utility District is seeking a qualified person for the position of Utility Tech I. Applicants must be able to obtain a Class C Ground Water Operator's License issued by the TCEQ after two years. Applicants must have, or be able to obtain, a Class A CDL License within ninety days. All applicants must have a clean driving record. Drug screening and background check required. Salary DOE. Applications available at 4050 FM 1660, Hutto, Texas 78634 or jonahwater.com.

Liberty Hill ISD Hiring Bus Drivers \$14.80-\$15.10/HR. Liberty Hill ISD is Now Hiring Bus Drivers for the 2015-2016 School Years. Great pay and benefits with summers off. No experience needed. Paid training to obtain Class B CDL with P and S endorsements. Must have safe driving record. Pass background check, drug test and DOT physical exam. Must have exceptional attendance and punctuality. Part-time schedule 20+ hours a week, great for retired individuals, college students or parents of school aged children. Please apply online (must be 21). www.libertyhill.txed.net under "Employment Tab". For further information contact the Transportation Department at 512-379-3250.

Library Aide Assist library operations, circulation, daily library functions, special programs, etc. Requires working evening/weekend. HS diploma/equiv. Salary \$10.12 to \$10.63/hr. DOQ; Closing Date: 01/11/2016. Contact: City of Taylor; 512-352-5993; www.taylor.tx.gov for job application. EOE.

Interviewing Massage and Acupuncture Therapists to share office space with Chiropractor in a Natural Health focused clinic which has an atmosphere of Texana Ranch-house with Natural Xeriscaped Grounds on the edge of Georgetown on Williams Dr. E-mail dloperdc@dloperdc.com.

Solomon Corporation, a Transformer Repair Facility is accepting applications for a Certified Welder/Fabricator. Must be willing to travel some to customer locations, Learn to Assemble and Teardown large Substation Transformers and work in a Team Environment. CDL is a plus but not required to operate a One Ton Dually Pickup Truck and Gooseneck Trailer rated as a Commercial Vehicle. Must have a clean Driving Record. Apply online at www.solomoncorp.com, email resume to ppenny@solomoncorp.com or pick up an application at 100 Cooperative Way Georgetown, Texas 78626. EOE

Communications Officer Ensures smooth operation of day-to-day telecommunication (911) and records functions for Police Dept. Flexible and willing to work days/evenings/nights/holidays/weekends as needed or assigned. HS/diploma/equiv. Salary \$13.60/hr. Closing Date: 01/15/2016. Contact: City of Taylor, 400 Porter St., Taylor, TX 76574, 512-352-5993 or www.taylor.tx.gov for application. EOE

Pre-School Aide at local church, Part-Time Monday-Friday \$9 hr. Start January 5, 2016. Call 512-863-4947 for additional information.

Cobra Stone Inc. Se solicita choferes con licencia Clase A CDL!! 512-914-3963, 1085 CR 239 Florence, TX 76527. Tiempo completo: Lunes-Sabado, Es necesario vivir 40 millas alrededor de Georgetown, TX, 3-5 años de experiencia y que puedan ser verificados. Con experiencia en manejar triler de volteo y remolque de superficie plana y experiencia operando monta cargas, Historia de manejo limpio, Debe pasar el examen de drogas y fjsico requerido por el DOT, Todas las entregas regionales Iran a casa cada noche, Se ofrecen planes de salud y beneficios de lesiones en el de lugar de trabajo.

Warehouse Position: Texas Electric Cooperatives www.texas-ec.org has an immediate opening for a dependable, experienced warehousemen/loader to join our team at our distribution center located in Georgetown, TX. The hours for this position are from 5am to 2pm. This job requires someone capable and willing to do physical, labor-intensive work in a warehouse environment subject to the elements of the weather. Forklift experience is a must. TEC offers a competitive salary and benefits package with a great opportunity for career development. Apply in person at 100 Cooperative Way, Georgetown, TX or download an application at http://www.texas-ec.org/content/tec_employment_application.pdf then fax or email it to 512-462-1934 or hr@texas-ec.org.

Police Officer Notice of Civil Service examination for Police Officer for the City of Taylor. Must be able to pass written exam/complete physical agility test. \$42,996.06 to \$54,875.08 annually/DOE, closing date 01/25/2016. Vacation/Sick Leave/Health/Dental and LTD Ins. paid for the employee and TMRS retirement benefits. Contact City of Taylor, 400 Porter St., Taylor, TX 76574, 512-352-5993 or download an application packet-www.taylor.tx.gov. EOE.

Concrete workers. Set forms, tie rebar, place & finish concrete. Start immediately. Pay depends on experience. 512-799-9095, ask for JR.

Keller Landscaping: Help Needed! Driver's License preferred, but not required. 512-930-4769.

Newspaper carriers wanted for the Georgetown/Weir/Granger areas. Carriers are Independent Contractors and are paid on a per piece basis. Route earnings average \$900 to \$1200 per month. Must have valid driver's license and current vehicle insurance. For information email your name, phone# and zip code to: greg@gnrds.com.

Animal Control Officer Part-Time 15-17 hrs/week. Performs tasks related to the enforcement of animal control laws within the City. Must be available for emergency call outs/work weekends/holidays. HS graduate/Equiv. Salary: \$12.33/hr.; 01/15/16. Contact: City of Taylor, 400 Porter St., Taylor, TX 76574, 512-352-5993 or download application: www.taylor.tx.gov. EOE.

Legal Notices

Construction Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Granger will receive bids for 2014 CDBG Drainage Improvements until 2:00 pm on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 303 S. Commerce, Granger, TX 76530. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 303 S. Commerce, Granger, TX 76530. Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

1. Demolition of 36-inch CMP Culvert on Pecan Street

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications can be obtained from the BSP Engineers, Inc. website at www.bspengineers.com. A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Granger or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions prior to submitting bids. Bidders are encouraged to attend a pre-bid conference on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm at the City of Granger City Hall, 303 S. Commerce, Granger, TX 76530.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate as issued by U.S. Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex age or national origin. Adherence to the City of Granger's Section 3 Policy is required for contract and sub-contracts in excess of \$100,000. The City of Granger reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Granger for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

Upon acceptance of successful bid and contract execution, the method of payment to the successful Contractor from the City of Granger for any work performed under this project shall be made by check.

City of Granger
Jerry Lalla, Mayor
December 17, 2015

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Round Rock ISD will be accepting sealed bids for:

Fire Alarm Replacement Wells Branch ES- Bid#912-16-092 Opens 2:00 pm, January 26, 2016.

Fire Alarm Replacement Cedar Valley MS- Bid#912-16-093 Opens 2:00 pm, January 28, 2016.

Solicitation will be opened at, and documents may be obtained from the RRISD Purchasing Dept., 16255 Great Oaks Dr Ste 200, Round Rock, TX 76881, (512) 464-6950 or at www.roundrockisd.org.

Vendors are encouraged to register in the District's eROC Electronic Procurement Program online at <http://www.roundrockisd.org/index.aspx?page=2348> for future bid opportunities.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of RICHARD GLEN CARTER, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2015, in Cause No. 15-0801-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. Four, Williamson County, Texas, to: WENDY FAULKNER. 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.

Estate of Richard Glen Carter co: **WENDY FAULKNER**
PO Box 766
Salado, Texas 76571
DATED the 23rd day of December, 2015
WENDI LESTER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
804 South Main Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626
Telephone: (512) 930-0529
Facsimile: (512) 930-0502
E-mail: wendi@wendilester.com
s/ Wendy Lester
State Bar No.: 24004401
Attorney for WENDY FAULKNER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Douglas Stuart Watson**, Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2015 in Docket No. 15-0965-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Williamson County, Texas, to:

Veronica Ann Armstrong and David Thomas Watson

The residence of the Independent Co-Executor, **Veronica Ann Armstrong**, is in Williamson County, Texas. The residence of the Independent Co-Executor, **David Thomas Watson**, is in Elk Grove, California, and his registered agent resides in Williamson County, Texas.

The post office address for notice is as follows:
c/o AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.
P. O. Box 249
Round Rock, TX 78680-0249

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 22nd day of December, 2015.
AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.
306 N. Lampasas Street
P. O. Box 249
Round Rock, Texas 78680
(512) 244-0001
FAX: (512) 244-9733
EMAIL: rakins@akinsnowlin.com
By: /s/ Rick Akins
State Bar No. 00962200
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Nice townhouse, 1BR with small office, fireplace, all appliances, W/D installed, quiet area, no pets. Ideal for tenants with good reference, \$650/mo. 512-869-2992.

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1 bd \$778, 2 bd \$927, 3 bd \$1061
512-688-5230, 1617 Northwest Blvd., mocel@txhf.org

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

AROUND TOWN

GEORGETOWN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Soiree harkens back to Main Street home's past

Beakers doubled as flower vases at the Georgetown Heritage Society's holiday home tour soiree. The repurposed medical décor hinted at the Main Street home's past owner, Doctor Walter Martin. He helped start a hospital in 1924 that served Georgetown for more than five decades. Dr. Martin has three sons, two of which became doctors and the other a dentist. Joe and Katie Burke now own the Hutton-Martin home, and they played host December 11 during the soiree. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail buffet and music by the Second Line Jazz Band. The following two days, other homeowners along Main Street invited guests for the annual holiday tour:

-Michael Freeman



Homeowners Katie and Joe Burke with Sarah Short, home tour chair.



The Second Line Jazz Band.



Dave Treadwell welcomes visitors to the Sherman Hotel at 1008 Main Street, which is now home to KPA Engineers. Left, Lyndee Munson shares the history of the Young Dairy House at 1243 Main Street.



TC Landers and Leslie Massey dressed as doctors for the soiree. Below, Terri Hall and Cindy Townsend.



Brent and Kelly Tidwell and Ron and Liz Weaver. Below, Rebecca Barnes and Dana Blair.



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