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Volume 15, Issue 5•8 pages

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 • 50 cents

County sets local 2018 street improvements | Vandegrift wins contest at LEEF gala

By LESLEE BASSMAN **Four Points News**

If you eye a road paving truck in your western Travis County neighborhood in the coming months, you can thank Travis County officials and its Transportation and Natural Resources division.

Travis County Commissioners Court approved the Transportation and Natural Resources Road & Bridge 2018 Work Plan Jan. 18, following a rescheduling of its Jan. 16 meeting

due to inclement weather. The plan, sponsored in part by Precinct Two Commissioner Brigid Shea, spans across the court's four precincts, with the Four Points area slated for overlay paving, rejuvenation, roadway striping and sidewalk repair projects over the next 12 months.

"We've got a computerized, metric system that we ask an independent contractor to run every five years," TNR Traffic Engineer Scott Lambert said. "The last one was done in

The 2018 list of projects was compiled from roads identified in a 2015 Pavement Conditions Study as needing maintenance and updated after some of the projects in the 2015 road document were completed in 2016 and 2017.

The goal of the program is to maintain 70 percent of the county's roads in "fair or better condition," Commissioners Court documents state. **But Commissioners Court**

STREET, 5

By LYNETTE HAALAND the gala was the 1970s' in-

Four Points News

The Vandegrift team of principals and administrators won the top prize of \$7,000 for Project Graduation at the Leander ISD Educational Excellence Foundation 3rd annual gala on Saturday.

LEEF's executive director, Gloria Gonzales estimates that \$125,000 was raised for LEEF programs and initiatives. More than 450 guests filled a ballroom at the Hilton Austin for the sold-out event on Jan. 27.

The highlight of

spired, lip sync battle between the six LISD high school principals and their feeder path middle and elementary school principals and administration.

These teams competed for \$15,000 in cash prizes for each school's Project Graduation.

The Vandegrift

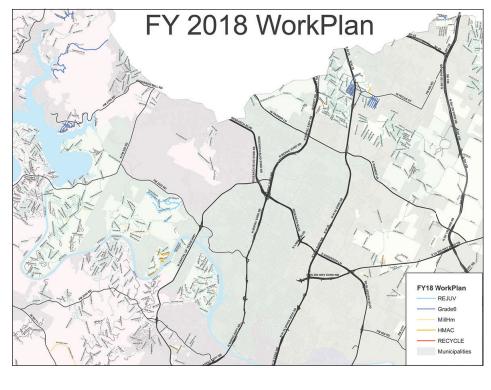
team took first place with their musical journey of a first-year teacher winning \$7,000 for Project Gradua-

"Project Graduation is unique in that, unlike booster clubs, the committee in charge of fundraising consists only of parents of seniors, and is a different group every year," said Charlie Little, VHS princi-

It can be a challenge for Project Graduation to consistently raise money for this important senior event, especially when they are competing with all of the other student organizations for donations, he added.

"So, winning \$7,000 is a huge infusion to their budget and will help ensure we can create a truly

CONTEST, 5





The Vandegrift team won the LEEF Gala "Drop the Mic Saturday Night Fever" lip sync battle on Saturday night. L-R Wendy Sturdevant, associate principal at VHS, Tina Pasak, River Place Elementary principal, Charlie Little, VHS principal, Rebecca Rainey, Steiner Ranch Elementary assistant principal, Alison Pennington, Four Points Middle School AP, Kristine Kline, Laura Bush Elementary School principal, Kristine Keel, Canyon Ridge Middle School AP, and Shelley Roberts, River Ridge Elementary principal. Kathy Sparks Goecke, principal at Grandview Elementary, was in the performance but not in the photo.

Steiner family raises over \$150,000 for T1 diabetes research

By SARAH DOOLITTLE **Four Points News**

The Davis family of Steiner Ranch has raised over \$150,000 dollars toward the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation One Walk since their son Parker was diagnosed five years

The family raises money as a team, named Team Parker, and in 2017 alone collected over \$51,000 in donations. Theirs is the first family in Austin to have done so.

Jaimie and Jason Davis first noticed something was wrong with Parker just before he started kindergarten.

"For about a week, Parker was extremely moody, had excessive thirst and urination, and I mean super excessive! Then he started puking, which unfortunately occurred on a Saturday," when doctors offices are closed, explained Jaimie.

When they were able to take Parker to see his pediatrician first thing Monday morning, Jaimie said, "his blood sugars were above 700 and we learned later he was super close to going into a diabetic ketoacidosis coma."

This was the family's terrifying introduction to Type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, an autoimmune disease triggered by genetic factors and some viruses and primarily diagnosed in children and adolescents.

For people with Type 1 diabetes, their bodies can no longer produce insulin, meaning they have



to monitor their insulin levels throughout the day and get insulin shots.

Parker remembers feeling at the time of his diagnosis, "scared, confused, and upset that I was going to have get shots for the rest of my life."

Now five years after his diagnosis, Parker is a 4th grader at Laura Welch Bush Elementary where his brother Luke attends the 2nd grade.

Instead of shots, Parker has an insulin pump, worn in a fanny pack, that administers insulin through a catheter inserted under his skin. "He has to change out his pump infusion site every three days, which is a big needle," said Parker's mom. "He also has to prick his finger 10-12 times per day to calibrate his pump."

Rather than letting Type 1 diabetes defeat them, the family has come out swinging against the disease. On Nov. 12, their friends Michael and Christina Underwood hosted a golf tournament at the University of Texas Golf Club where all proceeds went to Team Parker

JDRF.

thanked everyone for coming," said Parker of the tournament, which raised over \$3,000. "I also played with my friend Luke Underwood."

Parker's mom Jaimie is grateful too for those who supported the tournament and their family's team in the years since Parker's diagnosis.

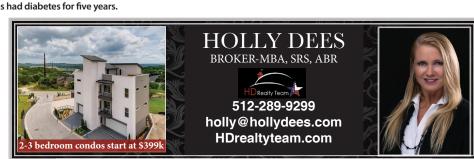
"I would like to thank all of our friends, family, coaches and teachers that have supported Team Parker over the past five years. The support is truly humbling," she said.

The family's dia-

DIABETES, 4



Jason and Jaimie Davis with their two sons: Parker, a 4th grader at Laura Welch Bush Elementary, and Luke, 2nd grader. Parker has had diabetes for five years.





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Four Points Middle School choir sings at game

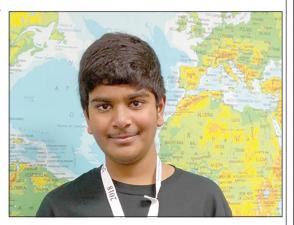
Members of the Four Points Middle School Varsity Treble Choir have been busy this January. They sang at the Vandegrift Lady Vipers basketball game on Jan. 5 before tipoff under the direction of choir director Megan Weston. FPMS students who sang: Sydney Benefiel, Kabrina Bowman, Maura Connors, Katelyn Dovich, Maggie Erdman, Savannah Filancia, Nia Jennings, Joylynn Jogee, Libby Johnson, Zoe Nichols, Avery Owens, Gabby Periera. Anjana Reddy and Alondra Sanchez.



Photo by Lynette Haaland

FPMS Geography Bee winners

The top three winners of the Four Points Middle School Geography Bee will go on to represent their school at the District Geo Bee. This year's current champion, Rohit Alamgari, will be going on to represent FPMS for the second year in the row. He will be accompanied by fellow students and runner ups, Forrest Broe and Zach Sarantakes. All three students are to compete at Vista Ridge High School on Feb. 9. Alamgari is also planning to go to Dallas in April to represent FPMS at the state level.



CRMS Geography Bee Winners

peted in Canyon Ridge Middle School's annual Geography Bee, with seventh grader Nihar Janga taking first followed up by 8th grade runner up Ethan Bernard. If Janga can qualify in the online test for the State Geography Bee, he will go on to represent his school in April.



Photo by Cheryl Kleffner



FPMS team advances in robotics



Ari Brar, Charlotte Allen, Emma Schumann, Kayla Kovar, Anjali Gorti, and Lily Orth

The Four Points Middle School girls robotics team, Hydra Jr., competed in the First Lego League Robotics Hydro Dynamics qualifiers on Jan. 13. Hydra Jr. was one of 27 robotic teams that competed that

day, going against other groups from around the Austin area. The team was one of few to be selected to move on, and the girls will go on to compete at the Alamo Regional Championships on Feb. 13.

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YMSL Four Points helps Lucy Read Pre-K



Members of the Four Points Young Men's Service League make a difference for young children of Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten.

Last fall, the YMSL chapter partnered with the United Way of Greater Austin to complete several improvement projects for the Austin ISD school in central Austin.

Approximately 120 mothers and sons from the local chapter volunteered for three hours on Oct. 28. They painted stencil hopscotch and other games on the play

court, painted walkway striping, organized the teacher and physical education supply rooms, and performed much-needed courtyard and playground landscaping improvements.

The physical transformation of Lucy Read was very impactful, and that the 300-plus children who attend, as well as the faculty, benefited greatly, said Tina Beamer, YMSL Four Points vice president of philanthropy elect and the Ultimate Gift chair who planned the event.



YMSL chapters hear "When Sean Speaks"

Sean Carter's life was devastated in Wichita Falls, Tex., during the wee hours of March 27, 2005. He was a student at Midwestern State University majoring in business administration when he decided to take a ride in a truck driven by a college friend who was drunk. The truck spun and slammed into a tree and Sean suffered multiple fractures, internal injuries, and a traumatic brain injury.

Although he cannot talk and has only some mobility in his extremities, Sean continues to make progress. He suffers no obvious cognitive deficits. Sean has immediate rapport with everyone he meets. People are drawn to Sean's radiant smile, his quick wit, and his power to communicate.

"When

Speaks" is a presentation by Sean and his mom, Jenny, to share their message about the effects drinking and driving. They've been sharing this message since

The Four Points Young Men's Service League hosted the Viper and Hill Country YMSL chapters to hear the presentation "When Sean Speaks" on Jan. 7. More than 330 YMSL members attended.



Three, local Young Men's Service League chapters heard the presentation "When Sean Speaks" earlier this month about the dangers of drunk driving.

sage to us is remarkable. it seems that fate played a hand in his life and Sean's purpose was made known

being able to bring his mes- president, YMSL Four said. "I hope that the boys to not drink and drive, not Points.

> "Just like our boys, Sean had everything ahead of him in life with hopes

"To witness Sean dent," said Dana Schwent, in the moment," Schwent twice and most importantly identified with Sean and to text and drive, not to get were impacted in a way to tell their friends about Sean, to make them think

into a car when the driver



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COMMUNITY

Letters to the Editor

Dear LEEF Board members and VHS administration:

I want to personally say thank you to both of these organizations for their support of each other and ultimately their support of Project Graduation at every high school here within Leander ISD. Project Graduation is the safe, all-night party for graduating seniors to attend right after the commencement.

For the students who attend it is a party; a last night to hang together as a class. For the parents, it is peace of mind knowing their teen is somewhere safe during the night they are celebrating their success - completing high school.

But Project Graduation serves a bigger community of people. It is also an event for all district elementary and middle schools; every parent in the district; every single business and community member of the district. How tragic would it be if one or more of our seniors were injured or died on graduation night while celebrating? The effect would

ripple far and wide through each area of Leander ISD.

The purpose of Project Graduation is to keep the seniors safe. It gives them a venue to celebrate and be safe from accidental injury or death from drugs, alcohol or other illegal activity and not just within their peer group, but from others who may be out on the road, driving drunk or engaging in illegal activity. Any student could suffer the consequences of someone else's poor decision.

Countless volunteers work tirelessly every year to fundraise and plan an event that their senior students will enjoy. From venue selection, fundraising, promoting, security, transportation, extra activities and prizes, each high school has parents who help achieve the goal of hosting a great party for their seniors.

LEEF's "Drop the Mic" Gala event on Saturday featured performances from each feeder pattern high school in the district. Each had the opportunity to compete for a winning prize



Dear Editor,

To the community of Steiner Ranch and UT Golf club, we want to give a huge thank you and shout out to those who sponsored and participated in our annual golf outing benefiting JDRF (type 1 diabetes research nonprofit) and Team Parker Davis.

Like so many Steiner stories, we met the Davis family when our son Luke was on Parker's soccer team with Neighborhood Sports about five years ago. When he was diagnosed with T1 diabetes that same year, we immediately wanted to get involved to support him and so many other kids that have this terrible disease. (Jason and Jaimie Davis have an article in today's paper to tell the full story).

We are very proud to be a part of the effort for JDRF and for the Four Points area for donating to this great cause. This

of money donated to their

Project Graduation. We, as

neighborhood is a community of families that band together to help each other in times of need and support and we know it is very special and important to pass these values on to the children we are raising

Lone Star Financing, Soleil Flooring Company, First American Title, Steiner Ranch Liquor and many families including: Anderson, Augustine, Collins, Cortez, Cottrell, Dunn, Fernadez, Farrell, Hardegree, Huett, Jones, Kinder, McKinley, Mercer, Peyret, Rider, Segars, Swopes, Bechtel, Tallman, Weiseman and Welch. They all came out and had and we absolute blast at the UT Golf Club at the Jordan Spieth Lower 40. Thanks to Jordan too!

THANK YOU! Michael, Christina, Luke and Beau Underwood

Steiner Ranch

Stop Racism, Start Peace



By AISHA RASHID RRE 5th grader

Racism is everywhere in the world, For hundreds of years, They've been bursting into tears, Yet some pretend they

don't hear.

So let's all come together with love and hope, Then we'll try our hardest And unite peace around the globe!

It's gonna be hard, So don't relax in your backyard. Do it for all the people dying, To stop all the colored ones from crying. So speak up! Don't be afraid! Be the one to make a change!

Racism is more than just a thought, In fact it can make someone's feelings rot.

It's not fair to judge some-By their color, they're still It's not fair to judge some-

'Cause on the inside we're still equals.

Racism is treating people unequal, 'Cause they're different (dif-er-ant),

The people who do it are

just arrogant.

So come on! Let's go one by one, Getting it outta people's minds,

Then our part will be done! The so called law stopped

But people never stopped

Some opinions just don't change,

That's why we're here, To lock racism in a cage.

It's gonna be hard, So don't relax in your backyard. Do it for all the people dying, To stop the colored ones from crying. So speak up! Don't be afraid! Be the one to make a change!

Students in Myra Harold's QUEST class at River Ridge Elementary were asked to pick a social issue of importance to them and write song lyrics/a poem about that issue. Aisha Rashid picked racism and wrote this poem.

DIABETES, FROM 1

betes challenge is ongoing. "You can't ever take a break from diabetes and every day it is struggle to keep (Parker) alive," said Jaimie. "We have to check him every night, sometimes multiple times, to make sure he isn't too high or too low. It's like having a newborn all over

At school, "Parker has to go to the nurse three to four times per day, and if (his insulin) is low he has to

take breaks from sports and recesses, which is his least favorite part of the disease,"

Educating others about Type 1 diabetes is also important to the family, and Jaimie shares that, "The prevalence of type 1 diabetes in children under the age of five has increased a staggering 70 percent in the past decade — which is super scary — possibly due to environmental triggers, or contact with new viruses.

No one really knows why we have seen such an increase." Despite the chal-

lenges, Jaimie wants people to know that, "You can live a totally normal life with diabetes." However, she added, "Your normal is very different from most people's nor-

tion about Type 1 diabetes and Parker, visit www.jdrf. org and search for Team Parker in Austin.

For more informa-



Vandegrift Project Graduation 2018 board members attended the Leander ISD Educational Excellence Foundation's 3rd annual Gala on Saturday including: Sally Banta (sitting, vice president of fundraising) with husband Mark, right, Geoff and Mary Scherer, (middle, treasurers), and Sareta Heath, right, president, with husband Brad, left

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the VHS Project Graduation committee, are honored that the administration and faculty of Vandegrift High School and all the schools that feed into VHS dedicated their time and talent to create the winning performance that earned a donation of \$7,000.00 to VHS Project Graduation.

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to you and to the entire community for their commitment to Project Graduation. Our graduating seniors will certainly have a safe night to cherish as they enter into the next steps of their journey.

Sincerely,

Sareta Heath

President, VHS Project Grad 2018



Parker Davis with his JDRF One Walk team which raised money for diabetes research.





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SpotCrime: sheriff's, police reports

Recent County Sheriff's Office and Austin Police Department SpotCrime reports in the Four Points area include a case of driving while intoxicated, assaults and theft.

01/12/2018 02:38 PM 47XX RIVER PLACE BLVD BURGLARY OF VEHICLE

01/15/2018 03:49 PM 112XX FM 2222 **THEFT**

01/19/2018 09:13 AM 112XX FM 2222 FAMILY DISTURBANCE

01/20/2018 05:01 PM 113XX FOUR POINTS DR ASSAULT BY CONTACT

01/22/2018 12:13 AM 110XX FM 2222 **DWI**

01/22/2018 06:29 AM 69XX N FM 620 **RECKLESS DRIVING**

01/22/2018 06:29 AM 69XX N FM 620 POSS MARIJUANA

01/22/2018 10:17 AM FM 2769 / RANDOLPH ST **COLLISION**

01/22/2018 12:06 PM 112XX FM 2222 THEFT/SHOPLIFTING

01/22/2018 05:01 PM

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01/22/2018 09:33 PM 45XX GOLF VISTA DR HARASSMENT

01/23/2018 01:30 AM 66XX SITIO DEL RIO

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

01/23/2018 09:32 PM 65XX RIVER PLACE BLVD TERRORISTIC THREAT

01/24/2018 08:12 PM 78XX FM 620 **THEFT**

01/25/2018 03:46 PM 139XX FM 2769 POSS C/S NARC

01/25/2018 04:47 PM 127XX RUSH CREEK LN **BURGLARY/VEHICLE**

01/25/2018 08:30 PM 70XX N FM 620 LIQ LAW VIOLAT

01/25/2018 08:31 PM 51XX N FM 620 PUBLIC INTOXICAT 01/26/2018 07:20 AM 26XX OLD COURSE DR FAMILY DISTURBANCE

01/26/2018 07:51 AM 139XX FM 2769 **EVADING ARREST**

01/26/2018 12:29 PM 11XXX FOUR POINTS DR BURGLARY OF VEHICLE

01/26/2018 02:44 PM 103XX FM 2222 BURGLARY OF VEHICLE

01/26/2018 04:13 PM 76XX FM 620 ASSAULT WITH INJURY

01/27/2018 07:48 AM 142XX FM 2769 FAMILY DISTURBANCE

01/27/2018 10:45 PM 158XX WILDWOOD TRL FAMILY DISTURBANCE

01/27/2018 05:38 PM 70XX COMANCHE TRL OPEN DOOR/WINDOW

01/28/2018 05:16 PM 45XX STEINER RANCH BLVD

ASSIST COMPLAINA

Madison Pharis compiled this report with a large por-

tion of the data gathered by SpotCrime at www.spotcrime.com.

STREET, FROM 1

Judge Sarah Eckhardt said she wants the county to do even better.

"I have asked staff to take a look at our trajectory with regard to our ability to meet or exceed 75 percent or better roadway standard countywide, to look at personnel resources and finance necessary to keep that projection tipping upward," she said.

Specifically, the 2018 plan includes adding a 1.5-inch paving overlay to portions of:

- Manana Street at Pearce Road;
- Oak Shores;
- Patio Circle;
- Portobella Drive (between Quinlan Park Road and Mira Vista Drive; and between Mira Vista Drive and Soledat Court);
- Robbins Road at Oak Shores;
- Smoky Ridge at Pearce Road; and
- Tydings Cove at Pearce Road.

The overlay-adding 1.5 inches of asphalt on top of the roadway—allows it to "last a little longer" and seals the pavement from allowing water to penetrate, TNR Assistant Public Works Director David Hunter said.

Funds for the overlay projects will become available in May or June, with an estimated start date in September or October, he said. However, since these projects will take up to a year to complete, the program will roll over to the following fiscal year, FY 2019, he said.

All of Precinct

Champion

Shepherd

Mountain

Tract

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Two's rejuvenation projects are located among streets in the Bell Mountain and Long Canyon areas adjacent to RM 2222 and City Park Road.

Rejuvenation is a process that adds a liquid to the road to soften the surface of the pavement, Lambert said. It is mainly used on the East Coast but has been implemented locally for the past six to seven years, he said.

"It's like a moisturizing condition(er) to the asphalt to make it pliable so it doesn't crack up and let water reach the pavement," Lambert said. "Each application is about 3/8 of an inch thick and adds about five years at a time to the life of the pavement."

He said the rejuvenation projects will begin in the spring and summer, with a completion date in the fall.

About 36 miles of Precinct Two's roadways will be restriped but officials have not yet determined which streets will receive the restriping.

Under the plan, Steiner Ranch will receive sidewalk repair projects. Although the projects focus on bringing the sidewalks up to compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards, the project may include other essential repairs.

The roads that will be restriped are those roads being repaved in the work plan but also include roads in the precinct "that have faded enough that they need to be restriped," Hunter

The sidewalk proj-

ect includes:

- Portobella Drive (from Mira Vista Drive to Soledat Court);
- Quinlan Park Road (from Country Trails Lane to University Club Drive);
- Steiner Ranch Boule vard;
- Mulberry Creek Drive;
- Runnels Court; Standfield Court;
- Wharton Court; and
- Caney Creek Road.

"If there is some missing sidewalk in an area we would probably add to it," Lambert said. "Some times you have a sidewall that ends, for whatever reason, and if we can tie it into another (sidewalk), we'll do

that." Sidewalk con struction will take place throughout the year, with most repairs completed by September, Hunter said.

The new plan posts more projects on the eastern side of the county.

'The western side (of Travis County) is or solid limestone rock," Lambert said. "The roads don' get as rough and bumpy as the ones on the east side because the east side has high plasticity soils...a challenge to maintain because of the moving soils below it."

Maintenance funds, used to facilitate the 2018 plan's projects, include vehicle registration fees and roadway fines, he said.

"We're trying to keep ahead of it and work as fast as we can to get this completed and have nice roads," Hunter said.

Environmental Commission rejects Champion tract amendments

By JESSI DEVENYNS **Austin Monitor**

After years of lawsuits related to the development of the Champion tract, proposed amendments to the original 1996 development agreement will go to City Council without the Environmental Commission's blessing.

"We are here to tell you what the best environmental thing to do for this land is," Commissioner Pam Thompson said to city staff on Jan. 17. "Anything else that you ask us to do is really compromising from our point of view."

The commission was the most recent entity to take a stance in the debate over whether Council should grant waivers that would allow a developer to cover more of the environmentally sensitive Hill Country site with impervious cover. The 45-acre tract of land at 6409 City Park Road has a steep topography and mature woodland, and it is a known habitat for the endangered goldencheeked warbler.

The commission voted 7-2 that the amendments to a settlement and city ordinances are "not necessarily environmentally superior" to the original agreement and "cannot be recommended as presented." Commissioners Andrew Creel and Hank Smith opposed the motion.

Council originally approved the variances in November 2016, but a Travis County judge found that Austin city leaders failed to provide proper public notice about what they intended to do on this tract and that any vote would be, therefore, void. Council requested the commission's recommenda-

tion last month. The commission's decision to not recommend the prevailing compromise to Council comes with a risk. City Environmental Officer Chuck Lesniak, who is at the center of developer negotiations, warned, "If Council does not approve (the amendment), the 1996 agreement stands."

He explained that the developer relinquished the right to build on 30 acres of the 45-acre tract in exchange for the city's proposed waivers. However, he did acknowledge that within

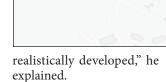
the 15 acres they will be able to develop, "the impacts are going to be much higher on a per-acre basis."

Commissioner Wendy Gordon expressed her consternation at the negotiated waivers, which she viewed as environmentally compromising. "You all have created that monster, not us," she said to city staff.

Commissioner Pam Thompson offered her solution to the legal predicament. "I think we should tell them to comply with current code," she said.

According to Lesniak, if the land was developed under current regulations, "most of the property under the current code is not developable."

Bobby Levinski, an environmental attorney helping area neighborhoods with this case, was more specific. "When you look at all of the development constraints on the property - the steep slopes, limited vehicular access, flood plains and zoning restrictions - you start to see that as much as 28 acres of the 30 acres can't even be



However, since recommending development under the modern, updated code was not on the table, Commissioner Hank Smith said that he felt the 2016 amended offer was the lesser of two evils. "When you get right down to it, I think the 2016 one is more protective," he said. "It's just not a huge amount better."

Unlike the 1996 agreement, which is valid in perpetuity, the 2016 solution has a timer. "This

cial event for our graduates,"

Little said. "On behalf of the

entire VHS community, we

appreciate LEEF's support."

lip sync contest prize of

\$4,000 was awarded to the

Rouse team. All other high

school teams were awarded

\$1,000 each for their perfor-

mances.

The second-place

"The LEEF board

CONTEST, FROM 1

particular agreement has a 10-year term," explained Richard Suttle, a development attorney who was representing the applicant. "Any redevelopment is subject to current code." Despite Suttle's

MonteVista

Condos

best efforts to allay the commissioners' fears, Commissioner Mary Ann Neely said, "The truth is, in my opinion, is it's not sufficiently superior to the original."

With questions being fired at city staff from all the commissioners, Commissioner Andrew Creel took a step back. "If we

is extremely appreciative to

our amazing school princi-

pals and administrators for

performing on stage with

so much enthusiasm - their

dedication to students in

unwavering," Gonzales said.

ensure that every student in

LISD has the opportunity to

succeed. The monies raised

from the gala will support

LEEF's district-wide pro-

LEEF strives to

take that uncompromising stance then they're going to assume that's always going to be our stance," he explained. He later addressed his fellow commissioners to say, "I want to make sure that we're looking at the facts and not being influenced by political whims."

This is a story by Austin Monitor, an online, nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit publication that covers local government and politics in and around Austin. Read more at AustinMonitor.com.

grams, such as early literacy

initiatives, innovative teach-

er grants, scholarships for

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VIPER NATION

Four Points News

www.FourPointsNews.com

VHS boys golf wins the Hill Country Shootout

In a 36-hole tournament at the Delaware Springs Golf Course in Burnet, the Vandegrift varsity silver team brought home the 1st place team award and the 1st place individual award.

The team finished the first round in 3rd place with a team score of 311, but shaved 9 strokes off on their team score on day two to land on top in first place.

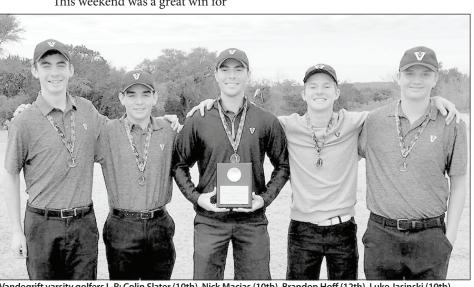
Senior Brandon Hoff had a great 2nd round, score of 70, finishing the tournament at 145 and putting him on top of the player leaderboard.

"This weekend was a great win for

our team," Hoff said. "It was a strong way to start off the spring season and a huge confidence booster. We've got a lot of talented players on our team and the sky's the limit for us when we all pay together as a team. I believe this win is the spark that will ignite the rest of our season."

The Vipers Varsity team has a couple of weeks to get ready for their next tournament, Feb. 16-17 at TPC San Antonio. Follow the latest Viper golf news on Twitter at @VandegriftGolf

Submitted by Viper Golf Boosters



VHS basketball teams 3rd in district

By SCOTT W. COLEMAN **Four Points News**

With time running out on the basketball regular season, both the VHS boys and girls teams are looking to solidify their positions in postseason play. Both squads fell to state-ranked Westlake teams last week, and both knocked off teams from Lehman.

Greg Brown led the boys with 24 points in a 71-35 beatdown of the Lobos on the road in Kyle on Friday. Justin Florence finished with 12 points, while Justin Moore and Isaiah Smallwood each had 10.

Jen Moore had a game-high 14 points in the Lady Vipers' 44-23 win over the Lady Lobos, with Bee Gonzales adding 13 points and Ella Drablos pitching in with eight.

Last week's split gave the Lady Vipers a 7-3 record in District 25-6A play, sealing a postseason bid for the second

consecutive year and just the third time in program history. The VHS girls finish off the regular season this week with a Tuesday match at Leander and a Friday regular season finale at home against Vista Ridge.

Westlake (10-0) sits atop the girls standings with Vista Ridge (8-2) in second place and Vandegrift in third at 7-3. Lake Travis and Leander each held 3-6 marks headed into the final week of the regular season.

The boys finished last week's action with a 4-4 record in district play, good for third place in the 25-6A standings behind Westlake (8-0) and Lake Travis (6-1). Meetings with Leander and Vista Ridge this week will help set the stage for the run into the final two weeks of the regular season where playoff seeding will be on the line with games at home against Hays on Feb. 9 and on the road at Lake Travis on Feb. 13 to end the regular season.

VHS soccer loses Westlake, beats Lehman

By SCOTT W. COLEMAN **Four Points News**

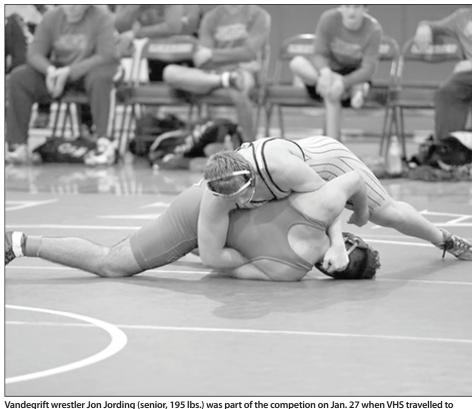
The Vandegrift boys and girls varsity soccer teams opened the 25-6A soccer schedule last week, splitting their contests with losses at Westlake and wins over

The boys lost 2-1 on the road at Westlake while the girls dropped their

march 3-0 at home.

The Lady Vipers beat Lehman 6-0 on Friday while the Vipers won their contest

The Vipers were set to play at Leander on Tuesday and will host Vista Ridge on Friday. The Lady Vipers hosted Leander Tuesday night and will play at Vista Ridge on Friday at 7:30 p.m.



Vandegrift wrestler Jon Jording (senior, 195 lbs.) was part of the competion on Jan. 27 when VHS travelled to Plano to compete in the Panther Classic when the Vipers finished second out of 16 teams from North and Central Texas. More details to come in next week's edition.

(Correction from last week's wrestling coverage. Noah Gochberg was photoed and not Jording.)

First Name

Last Name

81 State bound DECA students

Last Name

First Name

Agarwal Mahmud Zumanah Neel Avirneni Suhas Maknojia Rifa Betancourt Genevive Celine Maniwang McAfee Kayla Birlin Julianna Boddapu Akshita Mohan Kuvam/Ojas Patrick Boley Mongauzy Carter Branard Lauren Morris Eric Burch Macy Nichols Nate Bustamante Nickerson Amelia Monti Caldas Enzo Norman Paige Carvalho Michael Novit Kristen Chawla Akansha Novit Ashley Chintapalli Anya Pan Celina Panoff Chu Natalee Avery Patel Colgin Avery Eesha Cook Ally Patel Shaan Cooley Ross Patel Ami Izabela Perez Coto **Emily** Duffy Colin Puri Ishika Rashed Elwood Olivia Zia Reddy Preeti Evans **Emily** Codi Farmer Reis Cecilia Fletcher Madeleine Richtermeyer Natasha Foster **Jason** Rigney Jenna Gondi Vyshali Roach Alyssa Gondi Anjali Sanchez Alexa Green Daisy Schmeil Anna Gutierrez Camille Schmeil Thompson Hadjmani Lena Schwartz Quinn Held Shaffer Sierra Grant Jabbar Alexandra Faryal Spears Spinetta Jackson Hannah Lexi Kamepalli Spandana Spinetta Lauryn Sripathi Kancharla Priyal Lekha Kemmerer Kate Stahl Sarah Kodkani Tierney Spurthi Sarah Trujillo Bridget Li Karla Vedire Liang Rena Nidhi Lucas-Marinelli Kalei Wang Cindy Willmann Jett



Evan Durrill-Senior **Position- Forward**

How does VHS Basketball help to shape you as a person? Helps me to learn how to work with others on a team. Also teaches me that repetition and attention to details is the key to success on the court and in life



Josepg Ferrel - Senior Position- Point Guard

George

How does VHS basketball help to shape you as a person? It has taught me how to adjust to adversities and learn how to get back up after a tough knock down.

Young



Jen Moore-Junior Position- Shoot Guard, Small Forward

How does VHS Basketball help to shape you as a person? Vandegrift basketball has taught me the importance of working together as a unit rather than as individuals. It has also made me truly understand the saying 'Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard.

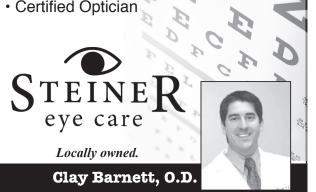


Shannon Bagnal - Freshman 100 back, 200 back

How does VHS swim help to shape you as a person? VHS Swim has made me realize that there is something bigger than me and it's an awesome feeling to win a meet with such an amazing team. I've loved the past few months and I can't wait until championship season starts!! GO VIPERS!!

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81 DECA students advance to State



By MADISON PHARIS **Four Points News**

A large number of Vandegrift DECA students - under the direction of advisors Erin Lucas and Erin Mathis - advance to state

after a successful District 5 competition in Copperas Cove recently.

District 5 includes the other high schools in Leander ISD, as well as schools throughout central Texas such as Lake Travis, West Lake, Smithville High School, Mexia High School, and many more.

DECA are members of an international association who deal with marketing, management, and entrepreneurship in

business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service.

This year will mark the largest group that Vandegrift will take to state, as 81 of the 91 students will advance to the state compe-

tition in Dallas. Less than half, or 430, of the 1,175 students at District were able to advance on.

VHS also has the honor of having their own Aditi Rao voted to be the president of District 5

DECA for 2018-2019. Rao was the first from Vandegrift to run for the position and was able to acquire the most votes to win her spot.

VHS swim teams: District runners up





The Vandegrift swim teams competed well at the District championship meet on Friday, Jan. 26 and both teams were District runners up.

'There were tons of exciting races and we had lots of personal bests," said Genevieve Walsh

VHS swim coach.

Captain Daniel Sarman said his favorite moments were "Tyler Cronin dropping 5 seconds to qualify for Region in 100 breaststroke, Tailyn winning the 100 breaststroke, Shannon winning the 100 backstroke, and Andrew Pickard and Kevin Hammer tying for first in the 50 free.

Coach Walsh was named boy's coach of the meet.

"We had 20 swimmers qualify for Regionals and are expecting awesome swims at Region and State," Walsh said.

Region is Feb. 2-3 in Rockwall, Tex. near Dallas.

Top 3 Finishes:

1st

Kevin Hammer (50 Free) Andrew Pickard (50 Free) Boys 200 Free Relay (Kevin Hammer, Andrew Pickard, Jared McArthur, Daniel Sarman) Shannon Bagnal (100 Backstroke) Tailyn Schaufelberger (100 Breaststroke)

Girls 200 Medley Relay (Shannon Bagnal, Julia York, Julia Roberto, Addie Orris) Daniel Sarman (200 IM)

Girls 200 Free Relay (Julianna Birlin, Mia Thompson, Sydney Srncik, Jasmine Bui)

Girls 400 Free Relay (Julianna Birlin, Mia Thompson, Addie Orris, Tailyn Schaufelberger)

Julia Roberto (200 IM) Connor Jones (100 Fly) Daniel Sarman (100 Backstroke) Julia York (100 Breaststroke) Boys Medley Relay (Kyle Sabuda, Andrew Pickard, Hunter Lee, Kevin Hammer)

Boys 400 Free Relay (Daniel Sarman, Andrew Osorio, Mason Wong, Jared McArthur)

SPRING BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Spring means the most competitive season for youth basketball in Texas. Registration is now open for Boys & Girls to compete against the strongest competition of the year. Players currently in grades 4th through JV-level of play are invited to tryout for our Select-level teams playing this Spring & Summer.

Dates

February 4th & February 11th

Location

Vandegrift High School

To register and see specific age group tryout times please visit

www.viperball.com

Four Points Rugby starts season

The Four Points Viper Rugby Club logged a win in its first game of the season vs. Leander-Cedar Park, 69-0.

Coach Eric Reed is satisfied with the progress of the young team, which consists of mostly new players to the game.

"To have only five out of the 15 players have one-year experience is pretty amazing to see how it looks like they have been playing for years," Reed said.

Four Points Viper Rugby, an open school club, is growing in numbers and giving opportunities to new players.

Reed said that their biggest challenges are awareness and open-mindedness of trying a new sport.

Four Points Viper Rugby has two players being considered for one of the highest levels of sevens rugby in the country.

"That would be great not only for Four Points Viper Rugby but also for representing Texas on a national level," Reed said. For this season, there is strong competi-

ion ahead.
"We have work to do every week but I

"We have work to do every week but I know my boys are ready for any type of challenge thrown their way," Reed said.



FP Viper Rugby roster:

Ben Brod Brandon Haley Carolos Florence Connor Murphy Dimitri Gillcrist Dominic Cinfio **Duncan Scott** Erik Engles James Collyer Jordan Cochran Joseph Clark Karson Sohrt Parker Morrison Sage Farmer Sebastian Jonckers Zack Gillcrist

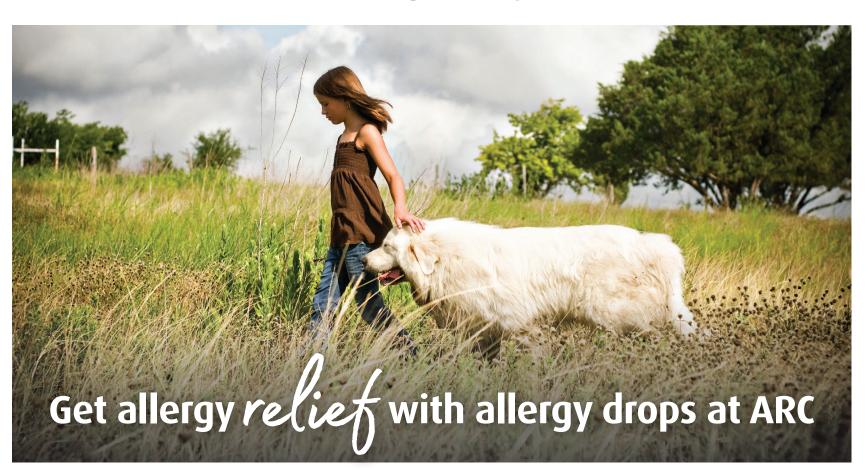


Ben Brod gets help from his teammates to catch the ball during the Four Points Viper Rugby Club's first game of the season.

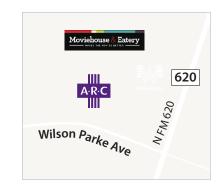


Jordan Cochran carries the ball and dodges Leander-Cedar Park rugby players.





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