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LISD schools learn district fate after UIL realignment, Vandegrift, Vista Ridge, Leander go to 9-team district

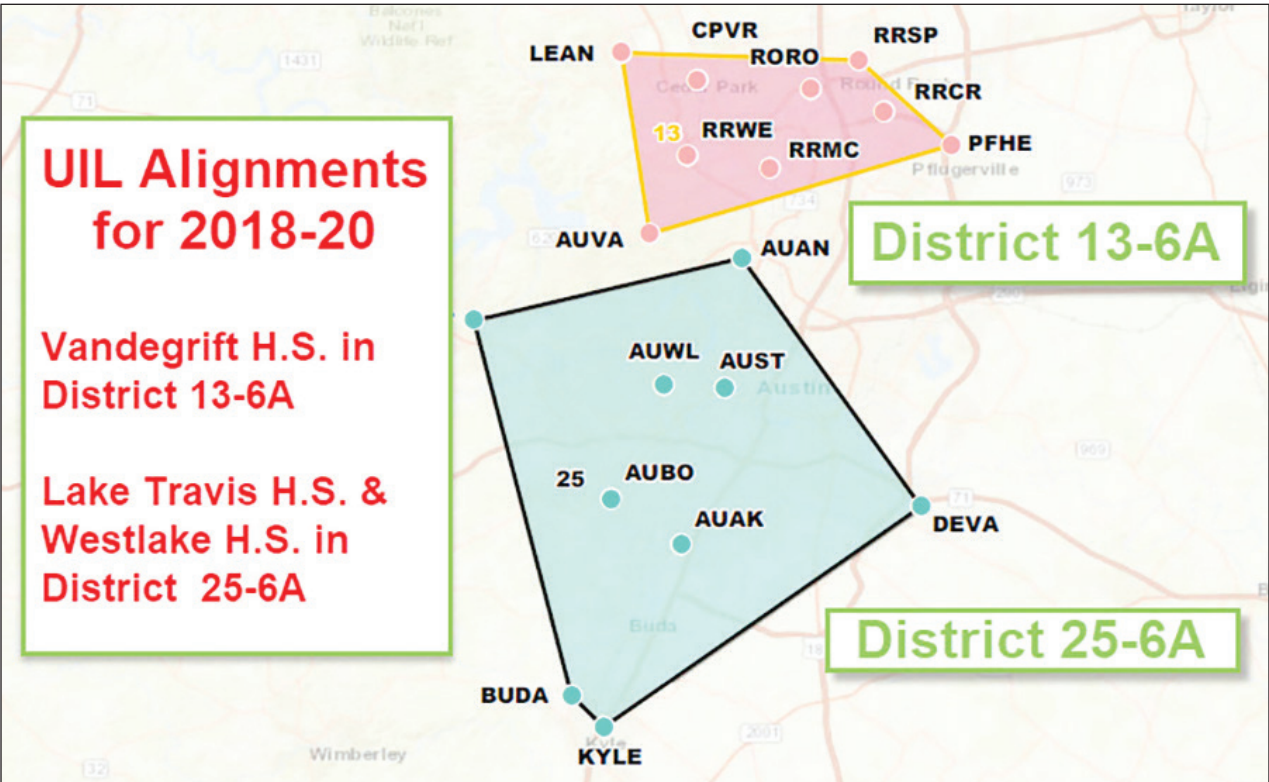
By ZACH SMITH, Hill Country News

The six LISD schools learned who they'll regularly play for the next two seasons when the UIL released its alignment Thursday morning.

Vandegrift, Leander and Vista Ridge will form District 13-6A, a nine-team district with all the schools from the Round Rock ISD and Hendrickson.

Class 5A will be split into two divisions based on enrollments for the first time this year. Cedar Park and Rouse are in District 11-5A, Division I with Hutto, Georgetown, Manor, Pflugerville and Connally, while Glenn is in District 14-5A, Division II with Bastrop, Cedar Creek, Elgin, East View, Marble Falls and Weiss.

"In the past, we've had a scrimmage and four games," Vandegrift head coach Drew Sanders said. "You had the chance to really figure out your team. Now that scrimmage becomes even more important. Thank goodness we're playing a couple good teams."



The Vipers will begin the regular season with non-district games against Cedar Park and Killeen Elison before jumping right into district play in week 3.

Vista Ridge will open the season against Rouse and face off with Killeen in Week 2. Leander

begins the season against Weiss and continues the rivalry with Pflugerville in the second week of the season.

With an enrollment of 2,199, Leander is one of the smallest Class 6A schools in the state, having missed the Class 5A cutoff number by nine students.

"It's going to be tough no matter what district you're in," Leander head coach Tim Smith said. "There are good coaches in Round Rock and at Hendrickson. We just have a couple weeks to evaluate our kids, but we'll get it done."

Leander ISD and

University Interscholastic League

Round Rock ISD were originally planning to be in the same district during the last realignment, but the LISD 6A schools went south instead.

Coaches were forced to scramble for non-district opponents and

LISD considers two calendar options

LISD
LEADING TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

One option: Aug. 16 school start

By NICK BROTHERS Hill Country News

Students in Leander ISD could be seeing their school year start on Thursday, Aug. 16 if the Board of Trustees approve a proposed 2018-19 academic calendar with a special state exemption.

After receiving public feedback for its District of Innovation calendar flexibility plan, LISD staff have put together two potential school calendars — one under the DOI plan, the other without — for the public to view. Ultimately, the Board of Trustees will determine whether to approve it at their Feb. 15 meeting.

"We gathered suggestions, recommendations and ideas from community members, staff and parents through a variety of committees, meetings and groups," said Chief Academic Officer Matt Bentz.

Another postponement for Champion case

By JACK CRAVER Austin Monitor

City Council decided Thursday that a legal and political battle surrounding the Champion tract in Northwest Austin that has spanned two decades will be extended yet another two weeks.

Council voted 7-4 to postpone action on an amendment to a settlement agreement from over 20 years ago that would allow a developer to build a major multifamily housing development.

Council voted in November 2016 to approve the same measure. However, a judge ruled in September 2017, in response to a lawsuit brought by a group opposed to the development, that the vote was invalid because city staff did not properly post the item, in violation of the state open meetings law.

In remarks to Council, Mark Stevenson, whose firm, Slate Real Estate Partners, purchased the property with the intent to develop it, urged Council to stand by the decision it

made in 2016. The only reason it has an opportunity to change its mind, he noted, was due to a mistake made by the city.

"We can't believe we're in this predicament," he said, noting that his firm had already spent more than \$2 million preparing plans for the development since Council's prior approval.

He also warned the city that it would be on the hook for millions in damages if it blocks a deal that it had previously approved.

As they have in

past hearings involving the development, neighbors showed up to oppose the new zoning entitlements, which they argue will damage the environmentally sensitive Hill Country area and bring an influx of traffic that existing roads aren't equipped to deal with.

Opponents repeatedly referenced a January recommendation by the Environmental Commission, which voted 7-2 that the proposed amendment was "not necessarily environmentally superior" to



On Thursday, Marisa Barreda Lipscher (left) and Susan Kimbrough from the Lake Austin Collective organized handwritten notes from neighbors to the mayor concerned about Champion Tract 3 at City Hall.

Local MLB players speak to fans, Vipers

Combined players won five World Series titles

By ZACH SMITH, LYNETTE HAALAND

It was Sept. 1, 2007. Clay Buchholz was making his second career start. Kevin Millar was entering the final few years of his big league career.

He finished with nine strikeouts, including sending Millar back to the dugout twice in the 10-0 win.

"It was a sick joke,"

Millar said. "Our scoring report said he had a fastball, curveball and changeup. It didn't say anything about him throwing to right-handers. Some organizations are good at scoring reports and some aren't. The Orioles, at that time, stunk."

Buchholz and Millar joined four other current and former professional baseball players at a question and answer session ahead of the Vandegrift Home Run Derby on Satur-

day morning. The baseball stars are also local residents.

Pitchers John Lackey and Chad Qualls and Buchholz who all played on a big league team last season while retired players Kelly Wunsch, Matt Hagen and Millar answered questions from the community during the Q&A.

"I get to play baseball for a living and that was my dream growing up," Buchholz said. "You're in a different city every three days. It's a grind that nobody really understands outside the game. Your body has to get used to all that."

He also mentioned that he has three kids now and that changes things.

The players shared about keeping the joy in the game and that sometimes with all of the statistics, research and showcase opportunities that are out there today, the love of the game is lost.

Qualls said he would play baseball nearly everyday growing up. He'd

get home from school, do homework and then go outside to play baseball until the street lights came on. This Christmas he bought wiffle balls and bats and had fun with his kids.

He advised those looking into baseball as a career to: "Have more than two pitches."

Qualls is a relief pitcher and throws two main pitches: a heavy sinker and a hard slider. He typically uses the sinker to get ahead in the count and the slider to get strikeouts.

Wunsch acted as the emcee, but Millar, a former World Series champion with the Boston Red Sox and current analyst on the MLB Network, took over the microphone at times. He is the prime example of grinding to make it to the big leagues. After playing



Kevin Millar is a former World Series champion and current analyst on the MLB Network.

college baseball at Lamar University in Beaumont, Millar wasn't picked in the MLB draft but played in an independent league. From there, he joined the Orioles minor league system and parlayed that into an 11-year career.


"The position players really grind it," Millar, a former first baseman, said. "Starting pitchers play 30 times a year. They've got

their golf clubs, they're usually the best looking guys and they get paid more than anybody else. I guess my advice would be learn to pitch."

Qualls had a 14-year big league career and spent time with the Astros, Diamondbacks, Rays, Padres, Phillies, Yankees, Pirates, Marlins and Rockies.



MLB starting pitcher Clay Buchholz signs autographs at Venom Field.



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YMSL Viper spruces up the Arc

The Young Men's Service League Viper Chapter improved facilities at the Arc of the Capital Area recently. The nonprofit empowers Central Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through compassionate case management and innovative programs.

Susan Child spearheaded the task for YMSL Viper Chapter. Over the course of a weekend in October, 170 volunteers (mothers and sons) served a total of 426 hours. They cleared out the main art room and repainted the walls a cheery yellow color, washed windows inside and out, deep cleaned the kitchen area, planted drought-resistant plants, mulched at the entrance,

and repaired and painted furniture. Members also donated new art canvases, storage containers and other supplies.

The Arc, founded in 1949, provides unique services to help families adapt to life with a child with a disability and to assist maturing adults with disabilities gain the skills they need to become independent.

"The many hours put in by our members helped to improve the facility where so many students go to feel safe, increase social skills, and gain a sense of independence through art and pet therapy programs facilitated by the Arc," said Lynn Galyen, YMSL Viper volunteer.



L-R Grant Shaffer, Nick Kunkel, Beckham Richmond, Colton Schnell, Sean Kunkel, Colby Buchanan



L-R Sam Galyen, Brandon Haley



L-R Christine Landry, Susan Child, Molly Rangel, Julie Walther, Marilou Webb

SRE Spelling Bee

Steiner Ranch Elementary held their annual Spelling Bee competition on Jan. 12, declaring their winner after nine rounds. Third grader Mary Kate Liechty won with the word 'nightcap', with fourth grader Duchess Idem coming in as the runner up.



Runner up Duchess Idem, fourth grade, and first place winner Mary Kate Liechty, third grade, after the annual spelling bee.



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MLB, FROM 1

He has a career ERA of 3.89 and made 19 appearances for Colorado last season.

The MLB stars each spent time on the disabled list. But Qualls' injury was more unique. When he twisted to get out the way of a line drive, his left leg didn't move and he dislocated his kneecap.

"It went right to my shortstop and I got my 24th save of the season and the team went on," he said. "Coming back from that

was easy. I was fortunate. I pitched for 14 seasons and didn't have any surgeries on my arm or shoulder."

The baseball stars also shared tips on what coaches and scouts look for. Coaches look for powerful hitting, good game intelligence, and being a respectful teammate on and off of the field, Hagen said. This season will be Hagen's third as a coach in the Rangers organization and his first season as Crawdads manager.

Millar echoed

those thoughts.

"It's how you carry yourself on the baseball field, hurry on and off the field, and your attitude," Millar said. He encouraged players to hit, throw and field and make adjustments. There is no one right way to hit, everyone is unique is height, frame and size.

The players also reminded the audience that baseball is a game of failures.

"Learn how to deal with failure with class and respect. Play hard, play

right and convey yourself like a pro," Millar said.

Lackey said you'll have games that don't go well.

"Get used to it. It's a hard game of failure. Learn to deal with it. Don't ride the highs too high or the lows to low," Lackey said.

"Learn from mistakes," Qualls added.

The group had combined to win five World Series rings.

Millar was on the 2004 Red Sox team that

ended the 86-year championship drought. While there were superstars on that team like Pedro Martinez, Curt Schilling, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, the many of players were journeymen like Millar.

"In the backyard, you've been doing that," Millar said. "It all comes back to it being a full team. There are certain teams that just have that special feeling. We weren't the best players, but we were the best team."

Lackey won the World Series in 2002 with

the Angles and against in 2013 with Boston. He helped the Cubs win their first World Series in 108 years in 2016, going 11-8 with a 3.35 ERA and winning the championship-clinching game.

"We got home (to Chicago) and there were fire trucks on the tarmac shootings in the air," Lackey said. "It was pretty cool. I had a couple cops look at me and say, 'You can do whatever the heck you want.'"



Vandegrift baseball players took a photo with local Major League Baseball current and former players at the Viper Baseball Home Run Derby on Saturday. Front row, L-R: VHS baseball head coach Allen McGee, John Lackey, Chad Qualls, Clay Buchholz, Matt Hagen, Kevin Millar, and Kelly Wunsch.



Chad Qualls, a free agent MLB relief pitcher, spoke to the community and Vandegrift baseball team about learning from your mistakes.

Photos by Lynette Haaland



John Lackey, starting MLB pitcher, is a free agent. On Saturday, when asked what team he planned to sign with, he said, "I don't know. I've been talking to some teams. I have to decide. My kids want me to stay home. We'll see what happens."

FOUR POINTS OF VIEW

What did you learn from MLB players?



Ryan Miller

I think it was funny. It's important to hit and catch.



Kevin Miller

He's funny. Scouts look at how good of a teammate you are.



Ryder Kelly

I learned that John Lackey kind of wants to stay home. It was cool to meet the players.



Karston Coffey

I thought it was cool that Millar was staying that major league players hit off the tee everyday.



MLB starting pitcher Clay Buchholz is a free agent who said he will be throwing in front of lots of teams on Tuesday of this week. He does not think the talk of a potential boycott of spring training will happen. "I love baseball. I want to play. I think the owners and unions will find a way to get everything going."

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Tuesday, February 13th
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DAN TROXELL
LISD Superintendent

Leander ISD operates schools with a lot of care and compassion. Our charge in public schools to provide a high-quality education to every child is a point of pride, especially in LISD. Our students come to us with various learning and social needs. Today, I would like to focus on the fantastic work our district does in supporting special education students.

When I walked one of our world-class elementary schools last month, I had the privilege of seeing our special education teachers firsthand. Our district supports several methods for meeting the needs of kids, including co-teaching, inclusion teachers and instructional spaces designed for students with communication and stimulation requirements.

Social Communication Supports and Services teachers provide students with Autism Spectrum Disorders or social communication disorders targeted social and behavioral instruction. Early Learning Environment teachers connect our pre-kindergarten special education students with an inclusive half day of learning with general edu-

cation students, preparing all kids for the school day. Adaptive physical education gives special education students an outlet to build motor skills and move with their peers.

Those are just a few examples of how LISD meets the needs of students. The teachers in these positions are some of the most caring you will encounter.

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Education and the Texas Education Agency have been in the news lately regarding the state's policies for special education. For Leander ISD, our teachers and administrators remain committed to finding education solutions for every child. We serve 10.4 percent of our student population through special education services, exceeding the state's previous arbitrary target of 8.5 percent.

We are proud of our special education program because we believe our students are receiving an excellent education and our teachers have done amazing work. Nevertheless, we can always improve. As TEA addresses the concerns of the USDE, we are excited for the opportunities for growth as we partner to serve students well.

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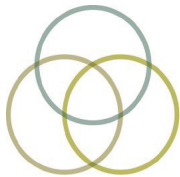
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Delysia's Valentine's chocolate & wine tasting

Delysia Chocolatier will be hosting a complimentary two day chocolate and wine tasting event for Valentine's Day. With two dates, Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., couples can come to try the chocolate, made locally, and drink with the wine pairings provided. The event will take place at the Delysia Chocolatier Culinary Center at 2000 Windy Terrace Ste. 2C, Austin,

TX 78613 near intersection of RM 620 and Anderson Mill Road. Those wishing to RSVP or ask for more information can contact the event coordinator, Laura Sather, at events@delysia.com or (402) 305-7953. Those who come by will have the chance to speak with Delysia staff members about the award-winning chocolate they create there.

Special Needs Forum Thurs.



SPECIAL NEEDS *forum*

The Special Needs Forum is continuing with another free workshop that will help families who have a loved one with special needs.

The live event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8 and will cover the topic: "SSI: You've Got Questions, We've Got Answers."

Families will have the chance to interact with other

families and find resources such as businesses that specialize in helping the special needs community.

The free event will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., on the second floor of Building IV at 6200 Bridgepoint Parkway in Austin. To register and to view upcoming sessions, visit specialneedsforum.org.

Bartlett hosts 8th blood drive

The 8th annual Bartlett Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17. Potential donors are encouraged to sign up either online at www.wrbdonor.org/donor/schedules/geo or to contact Marissa Radack at Mradack@me.com or (512) 913-4759. A silver Airstream will be sitting outside of the Bartlett Real Estate office on 6618 Sitio Del Rio between

the hours of 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Donors do not have to be signed up prior in order to give, but will have the advantage of getting in and out faster and getting to reserve a time slot. The Four Points Community Blood Drive goal is to achieve 20 sign-ups this year.

LISD, FROM 1

One of the main trends in the feedback gathered was a desire for winter break to begin Monday, Dec. 24 so there could be three weekends. For elementary schools, staff and parents expressed a need for an early release day to better facilitate elementary parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first nine weeks of school.

In the "Calendar B" DOI option, school could start Thursday, Aug. 16, and end earlier on Friday, May 31 with both the request for winter break starting on Dec. 24 and the

early elementary release day for parent-teacher conferences included, according to board documents. This makes for a shorter first week, and there will only be one bad weather day built in.

"Five days is a lot for a kindergartner," said Will Streit.

In the "Calendar A" non-DOI option, the calendar will essentially reflect the current calendar with the Monday, Aug. 27 start date and a Friday, June 7 end date with two bad weather days built in. However, the adjustment for winter break to begin on Monday, Dec.

24 is included.

In the "B" option, the calendar ends up with a more balanced amount of its 176 instructional days in both semesters for high schools at 83 days in the first semester, and 93 days in the second. For elementary schools, which operate in nine week groupings, there are 87 days in the fall and 89 days in the spring.

In the "A" option, there are 78 days in the fall, then 98 days in the spring. Bentz said he was unable to verify at the meeting how many

Both calendars have their spring breaks

aligned with the University of Texas, which is March 12 - 17.

"You're going to hear from both sides that may have concerns about either calendar," Superintendent Dan Troxell said to the board. "We believe very strongly the DOI sample is the superior model for a number of reasons, as we get out earlier in the summer and starting on Thursday is much better for our students. We believe balancing semesters is an advantage. We are open to changing what you think is best for our children."

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PERSONNEL

Publisher & Editor

LYNETTE HAALAND

Lynette@FourPointsNews.com

Senior Reporter

LESLIE BASSMAN

Leslee@FourPointsNews.com

Sports Editor

SCOTT COLEMAN

Reporters

SARAH DOOLITTLE,
VANDEGRIFT JOURNALISM DEPT.

Graphic Designer

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SpotCrime: sheriff’s, police reports

Recent Travis County Sheriff’s Office and Austin Police Department SpotCrime reports in the Four Points area include assault, collision and theft cases.	PURSE SNATCHING	
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01/26/2018 04:13 PM 76XX FM 620 ASSAULT W/INJURY	01/31/2018 09:42 PM 103XX FM 2222 DISTURBANCE	
01/27/2018 05:12 AM 125XX GLACIER PARKE CV FAMILY DISTURBANCE	02/01/2018 11:41 AM 52XX EAGLE TRACE CREDIT CARD ABUSE	
01/27/2018 05:31 AM CAPELLA/QUINLAN PARK COLLISION	02/01/2018 03:16 PM 1120XX FM 2222 CRIMINAL TRESPASS	
01/29/2018 11:23 AM 69XX FM 620	02/01/2018 03:16 PM 1120XX FM 2222 THEFT BY SHOPLIFTING	
	02/01/2018 10:03 PM 60XX N FM 620 WARRANT ARREST	
	02/02/2018 10:18 AM 00XX FM 620	
		02/02/2018 11:23 AM 73XX FM 620 FRAUD
		02/03/2018 12:08 PM 45XX STEINER RANCH THEFT
		02/03/2018 08:03 PM 82XX LIME CREEK RD INJURY ACCIDENT

Madison Pharis compiled this report with a large portion of the data gathered by SpotCrime at www.spotcrime.com.

ARC reports flu A cases high, Now flu B on rise

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Four Points News

There have been more cases of the H3N2 strain, part of Influenza A, which some say is a harder strain to vaccinate against, according to experts at Austin Regional Clinic. ARC reports that flu A has been high for several weeks and now there is a rise in flu B cases.

From Jan. 21 -27 at ARC, 4,886 tests were run and 2,067 were positive for flu, or 42 percent. For the same week in 2017 at ARC, 1,310 tests were run and just 312 were positive for flu, or 12 percent.

This year’s year’s flu is different than last year.

“Flu season started earlier than recent years. We have also seen more cases of the H3N2 strain, part of Influenza A, which is a harder strain to vaccinate against,” said Serena Hon, family medicine doctor at ARC Wilson Parke.

Hon offers some reminders to protect against getting the flu.

“Your best line of defense is the flu vaccine,” Hon said. “It can protect you enough so that, even if you get the flu, you are less likely to get seriously sick. And the sooner you get the shot, the better since it takes two weeks to build immunity.”

Hon also said to wash hands frequently, cover mouth with elbow when coughing or sneezing, keep away from anyone who may look sick and, most importantly, stay home if feeling sick.

“Flu is not abating. There will still be lots of flu in February,” Hon said.

ARC flu
Jan. 21 -27
Total tests = 4,886
Flu positive = 2,067
Flu A = 1354
Flu B = 713

CHAMPION, FROM 1

a development that would be allowed under the 1996 settlement.

“Demonstrate respect for our natural resources and your Environmental Commission’s thoughtful consideration,” said Carol Lee, who lives near the tract.

Those warnings stood in contrast to a presentation given by Chuck Lesniak, head of the city Watershed Protection Department, who said that the new amendment would impact the environment less than if the 1996 agreement conditions were maintained. Among other things, he said, fewer trees would be cut down and a smaller portion of the parcel could be developed.

Council Member Alison Alter, in whose district the tract is located, complained that the depart-



ment had not provided the information until the night before. Council members and neighbors had not had much opportunity to review the findings.

Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, who was not on Council when the amendment was approved in 2016, said he would support approving it again. The city might be putting itself at a major legal risk by reversing its decision, he said.

“I am concerned about what that might mean for the city and the taxpayers,” he said.

The threat of a lawsuit also led Mayor Steve Adler to speak in support of approving the amendment, although he said it was a hard decision he

had come to after hours of deliberation and watching video of the Environmental Commission meeting multiple times. In the end, Adler said he agreed with the city Watershed Protection Department that the amendment would provide an environmentally superior outcome.

Council Member Ann Kitchen insisted that a better deal could be negotiated.

“Now, I know no one wants more discussion, but I also know that I’m not comfortable with what’s on the table. It’s just not good enough,” she said.

Council Member Leslie Pool, noting the “dump of information” from the department, suggested a

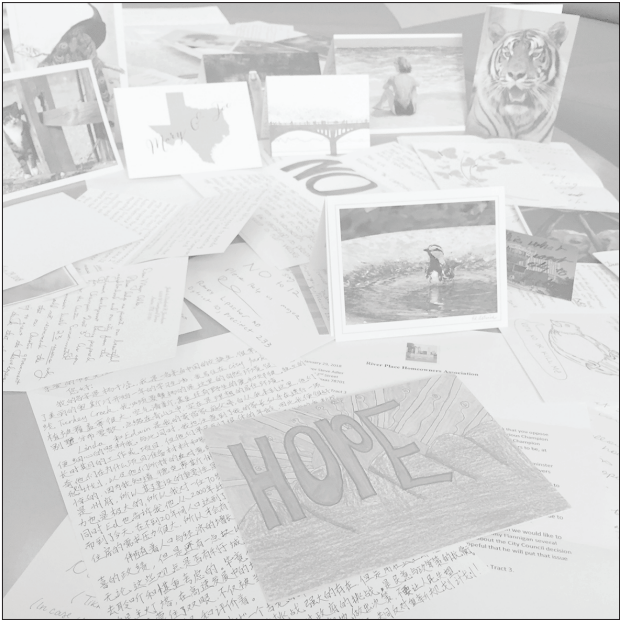
postponement to Feb. 15.

Despite Stevenson’s objection, Council voted to postpone. Flannigan and Council members Greg Casar, Pio Renteria and Delia Garza voted against.

Council Member Ellen Troxclair, who typically votes in favor of developments, demurred when asked whether she was inclined to support the amendment on Feb. 15.

“I guess we’ll see in two weeks,” she said.

Austin Monitor, an online, nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit publication that covers local government and politics in and around Austin. Read more at Austin-Monitor.com.



On behalf of the Lake Austin Collective, Linda Bailey, Susan Kimbrough and Marisa Barrera Lipscher delivered 100 handwritten notes to Mayor Adler’s office on Thursday. The notes were written by neighbors and people who oppose granting egregious environmental and land development waivers on Champion Tract 3, which was item 12 on the City Council agenda.



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Q&A

UIL realignment
Vandegrift Athletic Coordinator Drew Sanders

1. Is this new District 13-6A a major win for VHS? The Round Rock schools are good but not Lake Travis and Westlake good. In the final 6A rankings by MaxPreps, LT was 5th and Westlake 6th in the state while Hendrickson was 29th with a 10-4 record, Vandegrift 49th, and Stoney Point 57th with a 6-6 record.

Our new district provides some unique challenges in it. The first is 9 teams. So you must be excellent over an eight-game stretch if you want to be in the playoffs (not a six or seven game as in the past).



This will reward consistency. I feel like the Vipers have been a very consistent team over the years. There are several good teams in the district for sure. You look immediately at Cedar Ridge who made the 6A semi-finals and has won 46 games over the past five years. And of course Hendrickson and Round Rock have been perennially strong. And Stony Point had a strong season and is very athletic. In addition you have the great LISD programs of Vista and Leander. Top to bottom, it's a very deep district with teams that have been 6A for years with 6A depth and tal-

ent. It will be a tough road but one we are prepared for and we will do well.

2. Will there be fewer non-district games with the nine-team district vs. the current seven-team district?

With a nine-team district, that means you have to play eight games. So we are only allowed 10 games, so we will have two pre-district games.

3. Will you schedule Lake Travis or Westlake in non-conference games?

We attempted to schedule Westlake and had them in our schedule for week 3, but we were both placed in a nine-team district, so we couldn't play that game. And we already had scheduled Cedar Park game one and Killeen Ellison game two.

4. This new district looks like slightly less travel time to away games. Is that a plus?

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UIL, FROM 1

Vandegrift ended up facing Odessa Permian in a home-and-home.

"Geographically, this makes sense," Sanders said. "There are some really good teams there. It's exciting because we get to prepare for some new teams. It's nice to prepare for new tendencies and new coaches."

Five teams from I'm not sure if it's less travel as we have to go up 620 and we all know how that road is on a daily basis. Whatever it is, we will adapt and overcome and be ready to play!

5. This is a volleyball, football and basketball district alignment. What happens to the other Vandegrift sports?

The UIL alignment so far only covered volleyball, basketball and football. All other districts will be released later. They will stay the same with possible exception of soccer, swim and wrestling.

the district Cedar Park and Rouse are apart of made the playoffs last year, and Pflugerville — with an enrollment of 2,055 — will be one of the largest Class 5A schools in the state.

Rouse is familiar with both the Panthers and the Mustangs. They were in a district together with Pflugerville before dropping down to Class 5A and have played Manor in the first game of the season the last two years, going 1-1 in that span.

"From a familiarity standpoint, it's nice," Rouse head coach Josh Mann said. "It's a heck of a district. It's going to be a battle every week and we'll see how it falls."

The Raiders will face Vista Ridge, Anderson, Weiss and finish their non-district slate against A&M Consolidated.

Cedar Park will go up against Vandegrift, Cedar Ridge, San Angelo Central and Katy Cinco Ranch in the first four weeks of the

season.

"I like to have the multiple non-district games," Mann said. "Especially with the limited time we get. What we can't do in two-a-days like we used to, I like having extra games. It gives you more time to identify your team."

Glenn's first district alignment features another school, Weiss, which also received its first alignment and also the longest trip of any LISD team, a 100-mile drive to Brenham.

Grizzlies head coach Rob Schoenfeld said with the wealth of 5A, Division II teams in Houston, it was unknown which way the Cubs would fall.

"For the most part, the district is what I expected it to be," Schoenfeld said. "It feels great. I don't really like to worry about what I can't control. The addition of Brenham was a little surprise, but not a total shock."

While the 6A district will stay the same for volleyball and basketball, the 5A schools will condense geographically to form Division 17-5A, which will feature Cedar Park, Rouse, Glenn, Marble Falls, Pflugerville, Connally and Weiss.

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VHS band students part of Region Band

Several Vandegrift band students participated in the Region Band on Jan. 27. According to Katherine VanDoren, associate director of bands, some of these students will be moving on to Area Band, and a few will be moving on to State Band.

Region Band	
Drew Burky, Flute	Andrew Tang, Alto Saxophone
Nicole Parmelee, Flute	Katie Wokoek, Trumpet
Lauren Maunder, Flute	Madison O'Neil, Trumpet
Ella Jones, Flute	Paxon Porter, Trumpet
Laura Nunes, Flute	Katie Wills, Trumpet
Jack Doczy, Flute	William Fontana, Trumpet
Sarah Kutz, Oboe	Logan Spielman, Trumpet
Lauren Hallonquist, Bassoon	Riley Corder, Trumpet
Megan Tung, Bassoon	Carson Broe, French Horn
Megan Gordon, Bassoon	Evan Deragon, Trombone
Forrest Norrod, Bassoon	Kurt Wokoek, Trombone
Hunter Griesbach, Eb Clarinet	Noah Balarbar, Trombone
Zach Weiss, Clarinet	William Bryan, Bass Trombone
Zach MacDonald, Clarinet	Connor Koriath, Tuba
Rayhan Jhanji, Clarinet	Christopher Barreda, Tuba
Paige Norman, Clarinet	Richard Dang, Percussion
Annabelle Gruner, Clarinet	Tobias Spitz, Percussion
Jessica Luo, Clarinet	Jackson Hoopes, Percussion
Pranav Batra, Bass Clarinet	Benson Drablos, Percussion
Ryan Lea, Bass Clarinet	Amber Nguyen, Percussion
Rehaan Adhikary, Alto Saxophone	Luke Kemmerer, Percussion



Viper swimming at Region: Boys 4th, girls 5th

14 swimmers going to State
By LYNETTE HAALAND
Four Points News

Vandegrift swimmers had an awesome meet against some of the fastest teams in the state at the Region 3-6A Champs in Rockwall, Tex. Feb. 2-3, said Genevieve Walsh, VHS swim head coach.

The swimmers did well in the prelims on Friday, qualifying every swim back to for finals on Saturday. The Vandegrift boys were 4th overall, Vandegrift girls were 5th.

Kevin Hammer and Andrew Pickard went 1-2 in the 50 freestyle. Vandegrift was Region champs in the 200 freestyle relay which included Pickard, Hammer, Jared McArthur and Daniel Sarman.

Tailyn Schaufelberger set a new school record in the 200 individual medley with a 2:07.46.

"We are looking forward to race again at State in Austin Feb. 16-17," Walsh said.

State qualifiers are Schaufelberger, Hammer, Pickard, Sarman, McArthur, Shannon Bagnal, Julianna Birlin, Julia York, Julia Roberto, Addie Orris, Jasmine Bui, Sydney Srnck, Mia

Thompson and Mason Wong.

Top 8 finishes at Region:

- First:** Kevin Hammer (50 Free), Boys 200 Free Relay (Andrew Pickard, Jared McArthur, Daniel Sarman, Kevin Hammer)
- Second:** Pickard (50 Free), Shannon Bagnal (100 Back), Tailyn Schaufelberger (100 Breast)
- Third:** Sarman (200 IM)
- Fourth:** Girls 200 Medley Relay (Bagnal, Julia York, Julia Roberto, Addie Orris), Boys 400 Free Relay (Sarman, Mason Wong, McArthur, Hammer)
- Fifth:** Schaufelberger (200 IM), Connor Jones (100 Fly), York (100 Breast)
- Sixth:** Boys Medley Relay (Kyle Sabuda, Pickard, Hunter Lee, Hammer), Julianna Birlin (100 Free), Mason Wong (500 Free), Girls 200 Free Relay (Julianna Birlin, Jasmine Bui, Sydney Srnck, Mia Thompson)
- Seventh:** Pickard (100 Breast), Girls 400 Free Relay (Birlin, Orris, Schaufelberger, Bagnal)
- Eighth:** Birlin (200 Free), Roberto (200 IM), Andrew Osorio (100 Free), Sarman (100 Back)




Girls 200 Medley Relay Addie Orris, Julia York, Julia Roberto, Shannon Bagnal




Julianna Birlin represented Vandegrift at the Regional meet last weekend.



Kyle Sabuda, Andrew Pickard, Kevin Hammer, Hunter Lee



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VHS wrestlers beat LT to finish dual season



Vandegrift varsity wrestler junior Dawson Taylor (160 lbs.) placed 3rd at the Panther Classic.



Vandegrift varsity wrestler junior Matt Sanders (220 lbs.) placed 2nd at the Panther Classic.

By CHRIS TAYLOR
VHS Wrestling Booster Club

On Jan. 21, the Vandegrift varsity wrestling team completed its dual season, beating Lake Travis by the score of 51-21. Head Coach Paul Muck's team finished the dual season with a record of 22-1. Vandegrift's JV also squared off against Lake Travis, winning 10 out of 16 matches.

On Jan. 27, Vandegrift travelled to Plano to com-

pete in the Panther Classic. VHS's varsity finished second out of 16 teams from North and Central Texas, only three points behind the first place team. The team title was not decided until the last match of the tournament.

Eleven Viper wrestlers finished in the top three in the tournament: Noah Gochberg (Fr., 113 lbs.), Luke Sloan (So., 126 lbs.), Kendall Holmes (Sr., 182 lbs.), and Jon Jording (Sr., 195 lbs.) placed 1st; Cole Waters (Sr., 145 lbs.), Grant Riddle (Sr., 152 lbs.), and Matt Sanders (Jr., 220 lbs.)

placed 2nd; and Evan Ross (So., 106 lbs.), Charlie Trujillo (So., 120 lbs.), Dawson Taylor (Jr., 160 lbs.), and Dakota Kleffner (Sr., 170 lbs.) placed 3rd.

On Feb. 2, the JV Viper wrestlers won the district championship for the seventh consecutive year. Vandegrift's varsity hosts 12 teams for its district tournament on Feb. 8 and 9. VHS looks to defend its district title in the run towards the regional and state tournaments.

Photos by Jim Kleffner

VHS basketball teams head to postseason

By SCOTT W. COLEMAN
Four Points News

Both the Vandegrift girls and boys basketball teams have locked up postseason births, the girls team for just the second time since the 2011-12 season.

The boys beat Leander and Vista Ridge last week and enter the final two games of the regular season with a 23-9 overall record and a 6-4 mark in District 25-6A play. Friday's 55-48 win, led by Greg Brown's 31-point outing, gave the Vipers a new school record with 23 wins in a sea-

son.

Earlier in the week, the Vipers downed Leander 65-50, avenging a close loss to the Lions on Jan. 6. Brown scored 23 points in last Tuesday's victory, with Justin Florence adding 14 and Justin Moore with 10 points.

The Lady Vipers locked up a third-seed spot in the postseason last week, finishing the regular season with a 41-29 win over Leander on Tuesday before falling to Vista Ridge, 54-40, on Friday night.

"(We) lost to a talented Vista Ridge team last night," said Lady Vipers coach Jonathan Jones. "We fought

hard but ran out of gas late. We finish(ed) our regular season with an outstanding 23-13 record and 8-4 in district."

The rest of the 25-6A girls programs were set to play a final game on Tuesday, with Westlake entering that contest at 11-0 with the district title in hand. Vista Ridge (9-2) has the second seed.

Playoff matchups and schedules for the girls will be set later this week.

The 25-6A boys will wrap up the regular season next week. The Vipers will be on the road at Lake Travis on Feb. 13.



At the recent parent night, the Vandegrift varsity boys basketball players recognized their parents.

Photo by Jim Parker



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