

San Marcos Daily Record

sanmarcosrecord.com

Gerald Castillo

102nd Year No. 185

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CITY COUNCIL...

Which way to go?

Council approves direction change for LBJ and Guadalupe

By DALTON SWEAT
 Staff Reporter

The days of one-way streets in San Marcos look to be coming to an end after the San Marcos City Council gave direction to begin the process of converting LBJ Drive and Guadalupe Street back to two ways for the first time in more than 40 years.

"Two way is the way two go,"

Council member John Thomaides said. "We've had one-way streets for 40 years, and we have tremendously under-utilized, one-way streets. It just hasn't worked."

A very general estimate from city staff was that it could be a year to two years before the switch is finally made. Agreements will have to be worked out with the Texas Department of Transportation.

See **Council**, Page 3

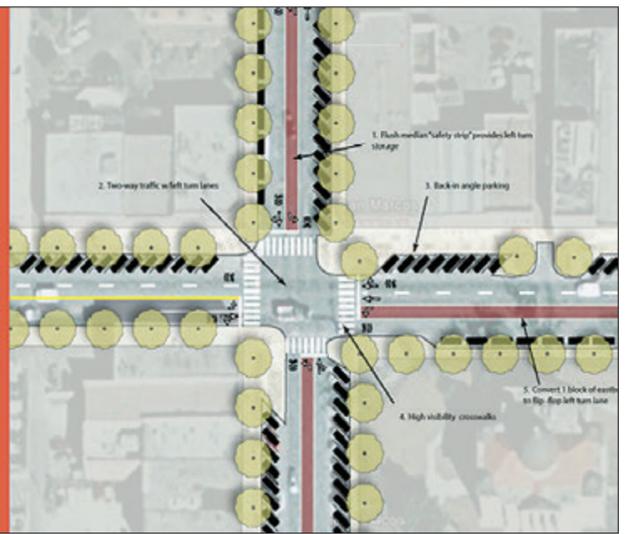
Benefits of Two Way conversion

Better access to downtown businesses

More intuitive for visitors

Slows down traffic

Encourages economic development



EDWARDS AQUIFER...

Back to Stage 3

From Staff Reports

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) declared Stage 3 pumping reductions for users within the San Antonio Pool on Monday.

Stage 3 of the EAA's drought plan requires Edwards groundwater permit holders in all of Bexar and Medina, and parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe and Hays counties to

See **Stage 3**, Page 3

POLITICS...

Tough road ahead for Narvaiz?

By DALTON SWEAT
 Staff Reporter

Former San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz is running for Texas Congressional District 35 against Lloyd Doggett for the second time.

Narvaiz, a Republican, ran against Doggett, a Democrat, in 2012.

See **Narvaiz**, Page 3

WIMBERLEY...

A Sensational Source

Jacob's Well gaining an eerie international reputation



Photo by Carl Griffin

This photo of kids jumping into Jacob's Well has created a bit of an international ruckus, fueling a sensationalistic article from the United Kingdom's *Daily Mail*.

By DALTON SWEAT
 Staff Reporter

Jacob's Well used to be one of the best kept secrets in Central Texas, but now it's known worldwide for an interesting reason.

The *Daily Mail*, a tabloid in the United Kingdom, ran an article online recently called "Texas dive of death STILL attracting thrill seekers (including children) into its bottomless black hole that has claimed eight lives so far."

The picture of two young boys jumping from the rocks above the well was taken by Carl Griffin of Spring Branch.

The article has gone viral with dozens of websites picking up the some version of the story and thousands of shares in countries all across the world.

"I think it's pretty amusing," Griffin said of the popularity of his photograph. "I never expected that to happen, because to me it's just a regular photograph. Apparently people see that and think these guys are diving into this deep hole, and they'll never return."

The *Daily Mail's* article

See **Well**, Page 3

LOCAL SCHOOLS...



SMCISD Photo

Goodnight orchestra students Paulina Medina and Jalen Ray play for those in attendance at Friday's "Snow Much FUN at Goodnight" celebration.

Snow much fun at Goodnight

By IRIS CAMPBELL
 San Marcos CISD

The Goodnight Middle School Parent and Community Engagement Team hosted its first ever "Snow Much FUN at Goodnight" last Friday.

The group's goal, according to Assistant Principal Kimberly Giesenschlag, was to invite community members into Goodnight to share with them the accomplishments of the students due to their hard work and dedication, to "really show them what Goodnight is all about," said Giesenschlag.

A total of 19 people represented

See **Goodnight**, Page 3



SMCISD Photo

Shea Flores and Alyssa Mendoza represented the Goodnight art department at Friday's event.



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Weather

Wednesday

Partly Cloudy

High: 68
 Low: 52



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We Deliver

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LOCAL EVENT...

SM Grounds Maintenance Conference set for Jan. 15

From Staff Reports

The 18th annual San Marcos Grounds Maintenance Conference will be held on Jan. 15 at the Hays County Government Center, located at 712 South Stagecoach Trail.

This will be an opportunity for TDA commercial, non-commercial and private applicators to receive five CEUs.

Educational topics will include tree loss and reestablishment; earth-kind practices in the landscape; insect identification and control in the landscape; management of turfgrass in drought conditions; and pesticide laws and regulations.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

Fee is \$30 per person with lunch included.

Registration applications are available on the Hays County Extension Agriculture blog at <http://haysagriculture.blogspot.com>, or at the Hays County Extension Office in San Marcos. RSVP by Jan. 10.



SMCISD Photo

Goodnight Geography Bee winners

Goodnight Middle School held its Geography Bee Friday, with 16 students advancing to the finals. Finalists answered at least six of seven questions correctly. Pictured from left are third-place finalist Elise Hartley,

first-place finalist Ben Murdoch and second-place finalist Jared Zavala.

Murdoch will now try to qualify for the state level contest.

Well...

(From Page 1)

alone has had more than 3,000 shares online. Griffin said that the story was very popular in Russia, but he wasn't sure why.

When a person from the UK called Griffin for permission to use the picture, he provided a bit of background about Jacob's Well including the fact that, over the years, eight scuba divers have died in the well. That was all the information needed to turn Jacob's Well into "the most dangerous diving spot in the world," according to the *Daily Mail*.

The pictures of people jumping into the well while talking about the real danger of scuba divers dying in the cave may have caused a bit of confusion. In reality, a jump from the cliffs into the well is only a few feet at its highest. According to Executive Director of the Wimberley Watershed Association David Baker, no diver has died in the caves since the 1980s which was not mentioned in the article.

The misrepresentation of facts gave Baker a laugh as he men-

tioned the sensationalism of media, but overall he said he didn't feel like it was too bad of a situation.

"I don't know if all publicity is good publicity, but in that case, it illustrates that it's a unique and one-of-a-kind geologic wonder and it's intriguing," Baker said.

From this one article, many more have been written. Most could be categorized as out of context as well. A Website called *bubbleus.com* says "People in Wimberley, Texas are dying because they are attempting to pull off a dangerous stunt, and these are not just adults, but children also." The article is also titled "Black Hole Death Dive Kills Eight."

Australia's *news.com.au* published the "dive of death" online also.

This isn't the first time Jacob's Well has gone viral recently. *Buzzfeed.com*, a Website dedicated to viral content, listed the well as one of the top 20 most unnerving places in the world on Halloween.

Both Baker and Griffin said that jumping

into the well was not particularly dangerous while Baker did note that, since Hays County made Jacob's Well into a regional park, jumping from the rocks is no longer allowed.

Baker also said that scuba diving in the well is dangerous which is why no recreational diving is allowed. Only expert divers who are cleared by the county are allowed to dive in the cave. He said about 90 feet into the cave, divers must slip through a small hole which increases the danger.

"In some ways, I think it certainly is a dangerous place to scuba dive, but for us it's more about the conservation and protection of that water source. I guess the scuba diving deaths are still a big part of the allure there. It's just amazing to me that it has become something that is shared globally, and I think that's probably a good thing to bring people awareness to what a special place it is."

For the record, Jacob's Well is a dangerous place to dive. Scuba dive, that is.

Man found with stolen electronics, car arrested

By DALTON SWEAT
Staff Reporter

A man was arrested with stolen electronics and a stolen car in San Marcos after police use a computer program to locate a stolen Mac laptop.

According to authorities, a person reported the stolen laptop at 11:09 p.m. Monday, and when police arrived at the Villagio apartments where the burglary occurred, they were told the laptop had a computer program that could find it.

Apple offers a program called Find My iPhone that can locate a Mac product using the device's GPS.

Authorities say that the victim

showed police where the program said it was, and computer hadn't even left the apartment complex.

Police went to the GPS location and found Derek Jackson, 19, of Wharton putting the laptop into a black Infinity car, which had a TV reported stolen in a separate burglary. Jackson was ordered to stop, and instead ran on foot.

According to police, he was quickly apprehended, and it was discovered that the car had been reported stolen about a week ago from the Retreat apartment complex in San Marcos.

Jackson was charged with burglary of a habitation, theft of property over \$20,000 but less than \$100,000 and evading arrest/detention.

Council...

(From Page 1)

ment of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroads before the change could start.

The argument largely centered around the statistics that show two-way streets help economic development downtown. An example given was the area between the square and the railroad crossing on Guadalupe Street. Compared to the two-way section of the road closer to IH-35, the one-way area has not developed.

With either new option presented, the roads would have lost a lane of traffic. Part of the intent was actually to slow down the traffic flow.

"All the methods show that we will have increased congestion with two ways," Planning and Development

Services Director Matthew Lewis said. "But to have a little bit of congestion downtown is actually a good thing."

The explanation given was that slower traffic sees and uses downtown more often. Also, it creates a more pedestrian friendly environment increasing the use of downtown.

The roads were initially changed to one-way in the early 1970s and Communications Director Melissa Millecam said that initially the switch was seen as a success until the mid 1990s.

The change comes along with an estimated \$2.5 million price tag since the railroad crossings will have to be upgraded. The newly striped roads will include a center turn lane, bike lanes and allow for added sidewalk space.

Narvaiz...

(From Page 1)

Though she lost by only receiving 32 percent of the vote, Narvaiz talked about why she is running against Doggett, who has served as member of the U.S. House of Representatives since 1995.

"I believe you should persevere," Narvaiz said. "I think the message that you should do something once and give up is not the kind of message you should give to anyone."

Narvaiz also said that she is running on the same principles as last time.

"I am running to serve my citizens and bring our viewpoints to Washington so that good policy could be implemented and bad policy could be stopped," she said.

Narvaiz didn't single out any one issue saying that representing the local constituents that she has long served and invested in is important and she was motivated to run to represent the people where she was raised and with similar views.

She said that the unopposed primary did not have an affect on her decision to run.

"In San Marcos, when people would come to me and say they were

running for mayor, I'd say, 'Great.' The best thing we can do is have more people running for government positions to have more viewpoints involved. I have always encouraged it even if I would gain an opponent," Narvaiz said. "That's our process. That's how our government was founded."

Narvaiz also addressed her questioned residency in District 35 after publicly announcing she had moved to New Mexico a few months ago. Officially, she does not have to live in the district to run for Congress, but admits it can be a controversial move.

Narvaiz said that her husband made a career decision to take a job in New Mexico, sold their house unexpectedly quick, but still works out of San Marcos.

"My work has been in Texas. I have lived with my son, friends and other family," Narvaiz said. "My work has always been in San Marcos and in Austin, so I don't believe I ever had an opportunity to unpack at our house."

The general election will be held Nov. 4.

Stage 3...

(From Page 1)

reduce their annual authorized pumping by 35 percent. The EAA declared Stage 3 based on declining water level readings at the J17 index well in Bexar County.

On Dec. 16, it was officially confirmed that the 10-day average dropped below the Stage 3 threshold of 640 feet above sea level. Stage 3 will remain in effect as long as the water level of the monitoring well stays below this threshold.

The San Antonio Pool was previously in Stage 3 from July 31 - Nov. 6 of this year. The purpose of mandatory pumping reductions is to stabilize aquifer levels and spring flow until rainfall replen-

ishes the aquifer.

Stage 3 reductions apply to all Edwards groundwater permit holders authorized to pump more than three acre-feet annually.

All affected permit holders also must report their pumping totals to the EAA on a monthly basis. Residents and businesses who receive their water from a public water system are encouraged to contact their water provider directly to find out how Stage 3 reductions may affect them.

More information on Stage 3 requirements is available by calling the EAA at (866) 931-3239 or by visiting www.edwardsaquifer.org.

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Goodnight...

(From Page 1)

senting 12 businesses were in attendance.

The morning started with breakfast in the library, while listening to music played by two of the Goodnight orchestras students.

Then two students from each club/organization stepped forward to talk about why they joined their club/organization, what they have gained from being a member and accom-

plishments the group or individual had achieved.

There was also a special performance from the Goodnight boys' and girls' choirs.

The guests went on a tour of the campus and met back in the auditorium where they enjoyed a performance by the award-winning Goodnight Dancing Stars officers, along with a slideshow and video-clip presentation

by campus technologist Kathy Fitzgibbons.

"It is evident that we have amazing students and amazing things happening at Goodnight," Giesenschlag said. "All of the students involved did an outstanding job. Thank you to all of the students, club sponsors, and parent and community Engagement Team members for making this special event such a success."

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