



What's News



The Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority water treatment plant is under construction. The overall project is \$31.5 million under budget, which means savings for Cedar Park and Leander. | 32

Capital Metro's bus service will change in Leander beginning Jan. 16, 2011, with the consolidated 985 line. Citizens of Cedar Park could get a bus route and Capital Metro service. | 14



Big Lots opened mid-November in the old Albertsons building at 850 N. Bell Blvd., Ste. 401. Big Lots sells discount home items, including cleaners, furniture and interior décor. | 4

Julie Kiley, Williamson County's first assistant county auditor, was recently awarded the Denise Linch Assistant County Auditor Award for 2009–10 from the Texas Association of County Auditors. | 13

Cedar Park attracts hotels, more tourism

Number of rooms available more than doubles in one year

By Amy Deis

The number of hotels in Cedar Park has doubled since December 2009 and increased the amount of available rooms in Cedar Park from 160 to 395.

Cedar Park's tourism industry has grown significantly since July 2009 when the Cedar Park Recreation Center opened. In the following 16 months, the Cedar Park Center and three hotels followed, giving the city plenty of room to host large events and tournaments.

Some hotel owners welcome competition, but others worry how it will affect business.

"The competition is newer, and [guests] typically look for newer," said Jerry Anderson, general manager of the Comfort Inn at 300 E. Whitestone Blvd.

Business boom

The first Cedar Park hotel, the Comfort Inn, opened in March 1998. In November 1999,

CONTINUED ON | 20

HOTELS AND ATTRACTIONS

1 Comfort Inn	5 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites	7 Cedar Park Center
2 Best Western	6 Motel 6	2 Cedar Park Recreation Center
3 La Quinta	7 Gold Coat Inn, Leander	3 Future Schlitterbahn Water Resort
4 Candlewood Suites		

LISD board votes to delay opening of new middle school

Quality of education to remain the same

By Jenn Rains

After a month of discussions on rezoning attendance boundaries for middle and high schools, the Leander ISD board of trustees opted Nov. 4 to postpone the opening of the newest middle school until the 2012–13 school year.

At the Nov. 4 meeting, members of the board were supposed to determine new boundary lines because the opening of a new middle school next year would have changed attendance zones.

Instead, the board voted 6-0 for a one-year delay on opening middle school No. 8. Board member Grace Barber-Jordan was not present at the meeting.

The board's decision came on a recommendation from Superintendent Bret Champion to hold off for one year on opening the partially built school, located off CR 179 between Ronald Reagan Boulevard and CR 175 in Leander.

The delay will save the district about \$1.6 million in operating costs. The money will not go to savings but will be reallocated to areas that otherwise could have had cuts, Champion said.

He said being fiscally responsible played heavily into his recommendation, as the state has frozen per pupil spending and more budget cuts could take place.

"I have no doubt public education will be cut in this legislative session. We have to look for savings wherever

CONTINUED ON | 23

What's Inside

Capital Metro's new CEO, Linda Watson, faces questions on system-wide improvements, service additions and the public's response. | 35

A retail guide to the Leander-Cedar Park area provides shoppers a complete list of places to find the perfect holiday gift. | 29

The 2011 Annual Healthcare Directory

features local resources and stories about healthcare issues affecting our area.



What's Online
www.impactnews.com

The midterm elections are over and the results are in. Cynthia Long, the incumbent Precinct 2 Commissioner for Williamson County, was re-elected. more.impactnews.com/10391

Cedar Park Center aims to top first-year success



The Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, opened Sept. 25, 2009.

Story Highlights

- Cedar Park Center hosted more than 500,000 attendees in first year
- More shows, community partnerships and development in future plans

By Victor O'Brien

The Cedar Park Center exceeded the expectations of city officials and operators in its first year and is aiming to dodge any sophomore slumps by posting a better year in 2011 with more events.

The Sept. 25, 2009, opening

day sellout of George Strait's concert set the tone for a first year that ended with snagging the Austin Toros from the Austin Convention Center in August 2010.

In the first year, the Texas Stars hockey team reached the American Hockey League

championship, the Calder Cup Finals, and helped the center surpass more than 250,000 attendees, as it hosted more than 100 events.

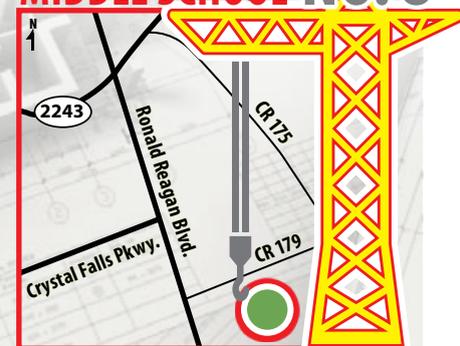
"It's a point of community pride to have these events in our city," City Councilman Matt Powell said. "That's a wonderful thing not only for the image of Cedar Park, but for how we're recognized around the state."

Phil Brewer, Cedar Park economic development director, said the amount of shows surpassed expectations for the first year, which is often a tough year for venues to garner the attention of booking agents.

Rick McLaughlin, Cedar Park Center general manager, said adding the Toros with a three-year agreement is another marker validating the market for family

CONTINUED ON | 27

Location of MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 8



LISD zoning

CONTINUED FROM | 1

we can find them,” Champion said.

LISD spokesman Dick Ellis said the board is going through budgetary workshops and is also waiting to find out what the Legislature will do before determining where the money will go.

The decision to delay the campus's opening comes after the district adopted the 2010–11 budget with a 3 cent tax rate increase in September.

Behind the decision

Talk about delaying the opening of the middle school was not made public until debate began about attendance boundary rezoning in October; however, Champion said the administration had discussed the idea already.

“The timing had more to do with the timing of the attendance zones, but this would have been the eventual outcome,” Champion said.

Although the decision to delay the school weighed heavily on the budgetary aspect, the impact to education was the other determining factor, he said.

By not opening middle school No. 8 next year, students from Henry and Wiley middle schools who will be rezoned to the new school will remain at their current campuses for the 2010–11 school year.

Wiley Middle School, which had a projected enrollment of 1,242 students for the current school year, will not see much impact with the delay, Champion said.

Henry Middle School has the most students, with its population projected at 1,387 this year. Ellis said the school is expected to have about 1,500 students next year and would be slightly over capacity for a year until the new middle school opens.

“We had to ask ourselves, ‘Do we have the capacity to support this for one year?’” Champion said. “In looking at all the numbers, I truly believe we can effectively manage this for another year with the attendance zones we currently have.”

He said the district has been in a similar situation before, when Cedar Park Middle School was over capacity during the construction of Henry Middle School. The student population was more than

what is expected for Henry next year.

Champion said when hiring new teachers, the district keeps constant pupil-to-teacher ratios, so classroom sizes will not be affected. He said the biggest impacts will be to common areas, such as cafeterias and hallways, along with extracurricular activities.

“We’re working to manage it. This is not the biggest we’ve ever had a middle school get in the district,” he said.

Eric Nothnagel, who has a sixth grade daughter attending Henry Middle School, said he is not concerned with the level of education changing, or that the numbers will be as high as they are projected.

“I feel like the numbers they are talking about, even though the demographics came out, are going to be well below what is projected,” he said.

Because there is no other new middle or high school set to open next year, the existing attendance boundaries will remain in place for the next school year.

Looking ahead

Though no students will be attending middle school No. 8 for the 2011–12 school year, construction plans for the building will continue as scheduled, Ellis said.

It does provide flexibility, Champion said, as crews will not have to work on weekends or overtime to get the campus complete by Aug. 1, 2011.

Putting construction of the new facility on hold was discussed Nov. 4, but the board decided construction should continue because costs could rise if the district waited until next year to complete the project.

If the campus is completed on time next year, the district could look at renting out some of the facilities, such as sports fields or gyms, for other uses, although Champion said the district is still looking at costs before they determine the best course of action.

As for rezoning, new attendance boundaries will be drawn next fall for the 2012–13 school year, when middle school No. 8 does open.

Ellis said a new demographic study will be done prior to rezoning and some of the recommendations from this year's committee will be taken into consideration.

▶ Comment at more.impactnews.com/10363

Elementary school ATTENDANCE REZONING UNDER WAY



With the opening of the district's 24th elementary school scheduled for the 2011–12 school year, new elementary school attendance boundaries must be redrawn.

The school will open at 1515 Orchid Trail, in the Red Oaks subdivision in Cedar Park.

An attendance boundary committee was formed in September, and public meetings were held Nov. 15 and 16. A formal presentation will be made to the LISD board of trustees at the Dec. 2 meeting.

Initial recommendations are to rezone certain neighborhoods currently zoned for Naumann, Cox and Rutledge elementary schools to the new school, as those elementary schools are over capacity or projected to be over capacity.

Several neighborhoods are outlined in the plan to be rezoned to other elementary schools to reallocate students and prevent overcrowding at other schools.

The recommendations can be found online at www.leanderisd.org.

ORIGINAL REZONING recommendations

A committee of 16 citizens who submitted nominations were chosen for the attendance zoning committee, which held four meetings from Sept. 8 to Oct. 4. The committee took public input at two meetings in September before determining a formal recommendation that was presented to the Leander ISD board of trustees Oct. 7.

Initial recommendations had neighborhoods in The Boulders subdivision in Leander rezoned for Leander Middle School, but the committee opted to leave the neighborhoods at Running Brushy Middle School, because the school is walking distance for students.

The Quest Village subdivision was recommended to stay at Henry Middle School, while Cedar Park Town Center, The Ranch at Brushy Creek and Avery Ranch were recommended for rezoning to middle school No. 8.

Parents in the Avery Ranch neighborhoods, including Eric Nothnagel, spoke against the rezoning. The neighborhood would be an additional 2.7 miles from its middle school, if rezoned.

Nothnagel and other parents in the neighborhood cited the extra driving time to get to the school, and, more importantly to them, that Henry Middle School is more of a community school.

“We feel that the community school for us, that we really feel we are a part of, is Henry,” he said. “When you take the community school out of the neighborhood, you disjoint it. It has an impact on the community.”

Some of these recommendations could be considered next year when the rezoning boundaries are looked at again, LISD spokesman Dick Ellis said.



FAST FACTS about ARTIE HENRY MIDDLE SCHOOL



- Population for the 2010–11 school year: **1,387**
- Projected population for the 2011–12 school year: **1,500**
- Henry Middle School has the highest population, with Cedar Park Middle School (1,326) having the next largest student population.
- The school takes students from Rutledge, Cox, Faubion and Reagan elementary schools.
- Students from Henry primarily attend Vista Ridge High School, located next to the middle school.
- Classroom sizes will not be affected by the population increase.

Unresolved symptoms?

- Fatigue/Low Energy
- Unexplained weight gain
- Difficulty losing weight
- Headaches
- Depression
- Brain Fog
- Fibromyalgia
- Anxiety
- Dizziness/Vertigo
- Can't stay asleep

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www.WhyAmISuffering.org



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