

BRIEFS

Paper names new business editor

Matt Loeschman has been promoted to business editor at *The Williamson County Sun*.

Mr. Loeschman, who joined the paper in April 2014, has an extensive background in print and digital journalism. He has previously worked at *The Facts* in Clute and the *Surprise Independent* in Arizona.



Matt Loeschman

Mr. Loeschman will lead the publication's business coverage, maintaining the paper's standards of accuracy and fairness while expanding its scope and reach. He will also be responsible for enhancing the business page's graphics and photos.

Contact Mr. Loeschman by calling 512-930-4824 or emailing biz@wilcosun.com.

— Will Anderson

McLaughlin promoted at Embree Construction

Morgan McLaughlin has been promoted to senior director of construction at **Embree Construction Group, Inc.** of Georgetown.

Mr. McLaughlin will oversee project managers and be involved in operational and financial planning.



Morgan McLaughlin

"Morgan has managed some of the most complex projects in our company's history and is ready to face any challenge head on," Embree Senior Vice President Bill Paetznick said.

Mr. McLaughlin, a 1999 graduate of Georgetown High School, earned a construction science degree from Texas A&M.

Taylor chamber plans job fair, expo

The **Taylor Chamber of Commerce** is hosting its annual Business Expo and Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. September 19.

Also sponsored by the Taylor Economic Development Corporation, the business expo will be at Taylor Intermediate Campus, 3101 North Main Street off State Highway 95 north of downtown.

Businesses may participate by renting a furnished 10-foot exhibit booth or be featured as an expo sponsor.

The expo is free and open to the public. Door prizes, refreshments and promotional items will be given away.

Credit union contributes to education program

A+ Federal Credit Union and University Federal Credit Union are investing half a million dollars in the Central Texas expansion of RAISE-up Texas, a program run by the nonprofit E3 Alliance that helps middle school students learn career and college-readiness skills.

A+ has a Georgetown bank at 804 South Interstate 35 on the frontage road just north of University Avenue.

"A+FCU is honored to support an education model that helps children of all abilities learn more effectively," said Kerry Parker, CEO of A+FCU.

Wrap up

The Screen Door, 1003 South Austin Avenue three blocks south of the Square, closed Friday. The owners of the gift and clothing store said they would be opening a similar but smaller shop in Weimar, between San Antonio and Houston in the future.

Copiers ASAP, a one-stop copy machine store and photography studio, will hold a ribbon-cutting at 12:15 p.m. today at 604 East University Avenue, west of Southwestern University.

Divine Treasures, a gift and home decor shop at 809 South Main Street just off the Square, will hold a ribbon-cutting at 12:15 p.m. next Tuesday.

— Matt Loeschman

GTU Jet lands at Georgetown airport

By MATT LOESCHMAN

Georgetown Municipal Airport's newest fixed-base operator is also its largest.

GTU Jet opened June 1, rebranding itself to distinguish it from the former Georgetown Jet Center, which had declared bankruptcy.

The business is now owned by GAABT Aviation, Inc., "who have fully invested in this business," said Ken Mabe, GTU Jet acting general manager.

"They look at Georgetown and the growth happening in this community as a serious opportunity."

GTU Jet provides administrative and logistical support for clients and their planes at the airport.

"They may need a place to park," Mr. Mabe said.

"A client might want their aircraft out on the ramp at 7 a.m. fully fueled and ready to go. There are many services we can provide."

Other services include catering, cleaning, ground transportation arrangements and more. Aircraft can be fueled and get an oil check. GTU Jet offers pilots a "crew car" to drive into the city if they are experiencing a layover.

"From a customer perspective, if you are flying into Georgetown, it is very

streamlined," said Cassidy Berenato, marketing and business development director for Texas Aviation Partners, an aviation consulting firm based in San Marcos that is managing GTU Jet.

"Every day, we are adding more amenities and more services."

Mr. Mabe said there has historically never been a "strong" fixed-base operator at Georgetown Municipal Airport.

"In order to properly service aircraft in the way the customer expects, you have got to have good facilities," Mr. Mabe said.

"They are expecting a certain level of service that didn't exist at this airport in the past. But with our investors willing to step up, we will change that."

Texas Aviation Partners, established in 2007, manages San Marcos Regional Airport as well as Pearland Regional Airport south of Houston.

"Georgetown is really our third big location," Ms. Berenato said.

Prior to June 1, GTU Jet took time to get its services and amenities in place, Ms. Berenato said. The business occupies six buildings, including multiple large hangars, in addition to 21 T-hangars that were all occupied Monday.



Matt Loeschman

Ken Mabe, acting general manager of GTU Jet, stands near an aircraft in one of the firm's four large hangars at Georgetown Municipal Airport.

Mr. Mabe said company investors have put thousands of dollars into renovations and upgrades. A thorough evaluation was completed before rebranding to determine the highest priorities.

Leaks have been sealed, air conditioning systems have been repaired, fire suppression systems have been brought up to code and hangar doors have been repaired.

"We are making sure that safety is paramount," Mr.

Mabe said.

GTU Jet offers both jet fuel and aviation gasoline, or "avgas," the two types of fuel used to power aircraft.

Both Mr. Mabe and Ms. Berenato are pleased to be operating in a city where growth is on the horizon.

"Georgetown is attractive to investors across the nation," Mr. Mabe said.

"We have consistent traffic coming through."

The company is trying to

attract businesses to occupy portions of Building 3 and Building 4, each of which has substantial office space adjacent to the hangar.

So what's in a name? GTU is the navigational identifier for Georgetown's airport.

"You plug 'KGTU' into the GPS and it leads you here," Mr. Mabe said.

"Those letters mean a lot to pilots."

biz@wilcosun.com

Library becoming a business hub for entrepreneurs

By MATT LOESCHMAN

The stereotype of the old public library is fading away.

Gone are the long rows of dusty tables and the stern librarian sitting behind the counter.

In today's world, many people are using the Georgetown Public Library, 402 West Eighth Street a block west of the Square, as a hub to conduct business.

"I couldn't tell you exactly how many but we have quite a few people that come here and do their work on a regular basis," said Eric Lashley, the library's director.

"There are Realtors, attorneys, inventors, photographers — all kinds of different fields. A lot of people don't want to work at home or wherever so they utilize the library."

On any given weekday, business people take advantage of the library's open space, quiet atmosphere and many services that the staff provides.

There is a notary service on site. People can scan, fax and photocopy. Free WiFi instantly connects workers to the Internet.

Entrepreneurs can work in open areas of the library or use a study room for more privacy.

"A lot of people consider this their office," Mr. Lashley said.

"We try to accommodate



Matt Loeschman

Georgetown resident Ryan Hughes of USIC LLC, a utility locating firm, utilizes the Georgetown Public Library multiple times each week to get work done.

the people who are working as best we can. We don't have any limitations on food or drink — people can sit down, plug in their laptop and they are off and running."

A large conference room offers a place to hold meetings or talk with a client. The

library's Texas history room is a favorite spot for lawyers to do work away from their offices.

The library's central location, a short walk from the commercial hub of the Square and minutes by car to major roads, is also advanta-

geous, Mr. Lashley said.

The library opened in 2007. Mr. Lashley had a huge hand in designing the interior as he felt more and more people would utilize the facility for non-traditional uses.

There are limitations to what the library can offer:

"We have a philosophy to try to say yes to as much as we can," Mr. Lashley said.

"But that is to an extent. We are not going to be able to print out business cards."

Georgetown resident Ryan Hughes was occupying one of the library's study rooms Friday, working for his firm, **USIC LLC**, a utility locating service.

Mr. Hughes said the library provides a perfect environment to get away from the numerous distractions of home.

"I am up here three to five times per week," he said.

"I just don't like working from home. I have my own personal space here and the library provides just about everything you need to work efficiently."

Benita Walsh of Leander works for BCD Travel. Friday marked her first visit to Georgetown Public Library and she was working near Red Poppy Coffee on the first floor.

"I dropped off a friend who has a meeting in Georgetown and I know this is a good place to come and work," Ms. Walsh said.

"It is perfect for my needs I even did a conference call here this morning and felt very comfortable doing it."

That was no surprise to Mr. Lashley.

"We have adapted with the changing times," he said. "We are breaking old stereotypes."

WilCo sales tax revenue

From sales in June 2015

Cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts across Texas received \$760.2 million in sales tax returns from the state in August, an increase of 7.6 percent from August 2014, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week.

Mr. Hegar also said that state sales tax revenue in July was \$2.4 billion, up 2.7 percent compared to July 2014.

City	Tax rate	Net payment	Gross sales	Year-to-date refund	% change
Bartlett	1.5%	\$8,153.50	\$543,566.66	\$55,080.17	44.48
Cedar Park	2%	\$2,262,777.03	\$113,138,851.50	\$15,002,917.14	10.45
Coupland	1.25%	\$2,185.86	\$174,868.80	\$13,647.61	375.87
Florence	1.75%	\$24,710.65	\$1,412,037.14	\$135,467.31	11.20
Georgetown	2%	\$2,013,900.22	\$100,695,011.00	\$13,465,449.10	0.98
Granger	1%	\$7,874.21	\$787,421.00	\$39,278.10	0.26
Hutto	2%	\$341,712.49	\$17,085,624.50	\$2,079,784.27	15.36
Jarrell	2%	\$117,213.35	\$5,860,667.50	\$1,027,385.34	9.88
Leander	1%	\$378,020.05	\$37,802,005.00	\$2,287,549.55	16.85
Liberty Hill	1.75%	\$100,447.87	\$5,739,878.29	\$627,984.99	28.65
Round Rock	2%	\$6,464,699.35	\$323,234,967.50	\$45,641,259.93	-1.87
Taylor	2%	\$398,836.44	\$19,941,822.00	\$2,669,961.61	8.20
Thrall	1.25%	\$7,143.97	\$571,517.60	\$35,550.18	14.90
Weir	1%	\$2,246.19	\$224,619.00	\$15,371.36	45.28
WilCo		\$12,129,921.18	\$627,212,857.49	\$83,096,687.66	2.17

PERMITS

SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING

Filed 8/6-8/13
Combined value: \$2,803,888
510 Davis Mountain Circle, Pulte Group, 8/12/2015, 2015-26395

1228 Naranjo Drive, Ashton Woods Homes, 8/6/2015, 2015-26621

607 Mangrum Hill Road, Pulte Group, 8/12/2015, 2015-26657

417 Kickapoo Creek Lane, Pulte Group, 8/6/2015, 2015-26507

1105 Winding Way Drive, Scott Felder Homes LLC, 8/12/2015, 2015-26677

102 Coffee Mill Creek Road, Pulte Group, 8/6/2015, 2015-26400

609 Mangrum Hill Road, Pulte Group, 8/12/2015, 2015-26462

2707 Springwood Lane, Savage Custom Homes LLC, 8/10/2015, 2015-26475

1706 Railroad Street, Prince Development LLC, 8/12/2015, 2015-26519

226 Telluride, KB Home, 8/11/2015, 2015-26662

101 Pendent Drive, MHI, 8/10/2015, 2015-26622

Editor's note: Permitting information, such as new single-family housing and certificates of occupancy, is provided to help you find new businesses, new customers and identify the area's hottest residential and commercial location.

CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY

Filed 8/6-8/13
Boo 2 You/Spirit Halloween, 900 North Austin Avenue Suite 107, 8/7/2015, 2015-26770

PLANNING & ZONING

Filed 8/6-8/13
Mad Hatters, 308 West Eighth Street, Caleb Carrasio, 8/7/2015, CDC-2015-027

Sage Creek, Highway 29 West, Kevin Sawtelle, 8/10/2015, CON-2015-016

Sage Creek, Highway 29 West, Kevin Sawtelle, 8/12/2015, FP-2015-033

Saddlecreek, Sam Houston Avenue, Dustin Goss, 8/6/2015, PP-2015-016